

A short drive from Quito brings you to the equator.



The Middle of the Earth monument (La Mitad Del Mundo).



On the grounds is a trapezoidal monument that commemorates the final calculations made in 1736 by French astronomers Louis Godin, Pierre Bouguer and Charles-Marie de la Condamine to determine the equator's location.

Today it is recognized that his calculations were about 700 feet off the actual equatorial line.





Located nearby is the
Intiñan Solar Museum
(Museo Solar Intiñan).

It is a cultural museum and
claims (also inaccurately) to
be at the actual equatorial
center of the world.



Group photo at the equatorial center.



This red line is claimed to be the exact location of the equator.



Shari



Olivia
and
Jamie

One foot in each hemisphere.



One foot in each hemisphere.



During the guided tour, a number of facts and non-facts were provided to entertain the tourists.



Kyle, get on the right side of the equator.



The spinning globe trick. It appears to spin in two directions at once depending on which side of the globe (equator) you are on.



Shari, Olivia and Matt
appear un-impressed.

There was actually a lot
of bad physics provided
on the tour. At times
entertaining, but not
very accurate.



The most obvious bit of deception involved the direction (clock-wise or counter clock-wise) of draining water from a sink that the guide moved from one side of the equator line to the other.



The balancing egg trick.

Apparently, you can only
balance an egg on a nail at
the equator!



Jamie appears intent on balancing her egg.



Delia and Olivia attempt to balance their eggs.



Olivia in intense
concentration.



Olivia is triumphant - an egg master.



Matt walking the equatorial line, eyes closed - oops.



The Intiñan Solar Museum was also a cultural center.



One of the highlights of
the museum was the
stories about the
indigenous Ecuadorian
Shuar people.

One story involved
shrunk heads.



Working a loom.

