

A crowded market in Saquisilí, Ecuador

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Several shoppers crowd an open-air market. Three women in the foreground investigate the contents of two large baskets. Women in the background can be seen conversing. One of the women in the foreground has a small child strapped to her back. Saquisilí has one of the largest daily markets in Ecuador. Everything from agricultural products to livestock to handcrafted goods can be found in Saquisilí. The active market makes the town a lively place to visit and is a popular tourist destination. Many anthropologists see the market of Saquisilí as a culturally significant because it represents a time in Ecuador's history that is increasingly hard to find. As the country becomes more industrialized and more land is becomes open to investors, traditional lifeways are beginning to disappear. By providing an arena for local craftsmen, markets like the one at Saquisilí help preserve a little bit of the country's traditions.



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