

## Weaving on a hand loom in Otavalo, Ecuador

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A man sits on the ground weaving a cloth with a hand loom. He is wearing white pants and a dark wool sweater. The hand loom is the more traditional, but much more labor-intensive, method of preparing wool.

Otavalo is in the highlands of Ecuador, between the rainforest and the coast. Many of the inhabitants of the area continue to practice traditional ways of life, including retaining their Quechua language, wearing traditional garments, and practicing age-old occupations. Otavalo in particular is known for its highly-skilled weavers. In a tradition that pre-dates the arrival of the Incas, Otavalo weavers are famous for their wool ponchos, blankets, and wall coverings. These products and more can be found in Otavalo's large market.



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