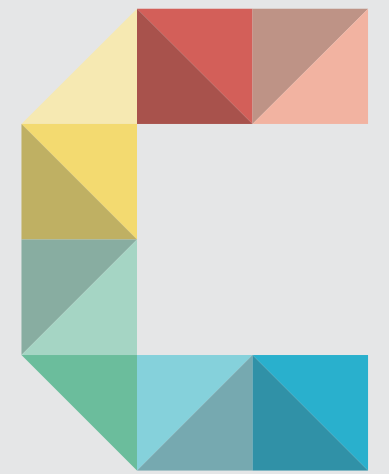


Travel Smart

Your Ultimate Travel Companion



by JENNYFER SAMANIEGO and YVONNE DARKO

Maps are potent tools to visualize the real world in new ways. They can be useful for travel information but are missing on most websites for travel. This project aimed to develop a Web page using customized maps to provide essential travel information focusing on two countries of the intake of MSc Cartography; Ecuador and Ghana. The travel tips are based on the topological regions of each country. Themes covered include health, security, and language. The target audience comprise of healthy adult travelers and focuses on delivering summarized insights for a user-friendly and informative resource for travelers.[1]

How we built it

The Web page comprises custom maps, information and links to sites for more information and complementary images. Map data was obtained as shapefiles from Instituto Geográfico Militar and Natural Earth Dataset. Custom maps were designed with a combination of QGIS 3.26 and GNU Image Manipulation Program (GIMP 2.10.38). Information on the tips were obtained from various sites including the country specific Ministry of Tourism pages and various health advisory pages for travelers. Complementary images used were publicly licensed images from pexels.com. The Web page architecture was designed with WordPress.

Challenges

New skills were required for making artistic map designs showing a realistic view of the various topological regions and designing a Web page.

Conclusion

Thus, they can be used on travel sites to enrich the understanding of the user on the places of interest.

Recommendation

The design of the maps could be improved to provide an interactive design.

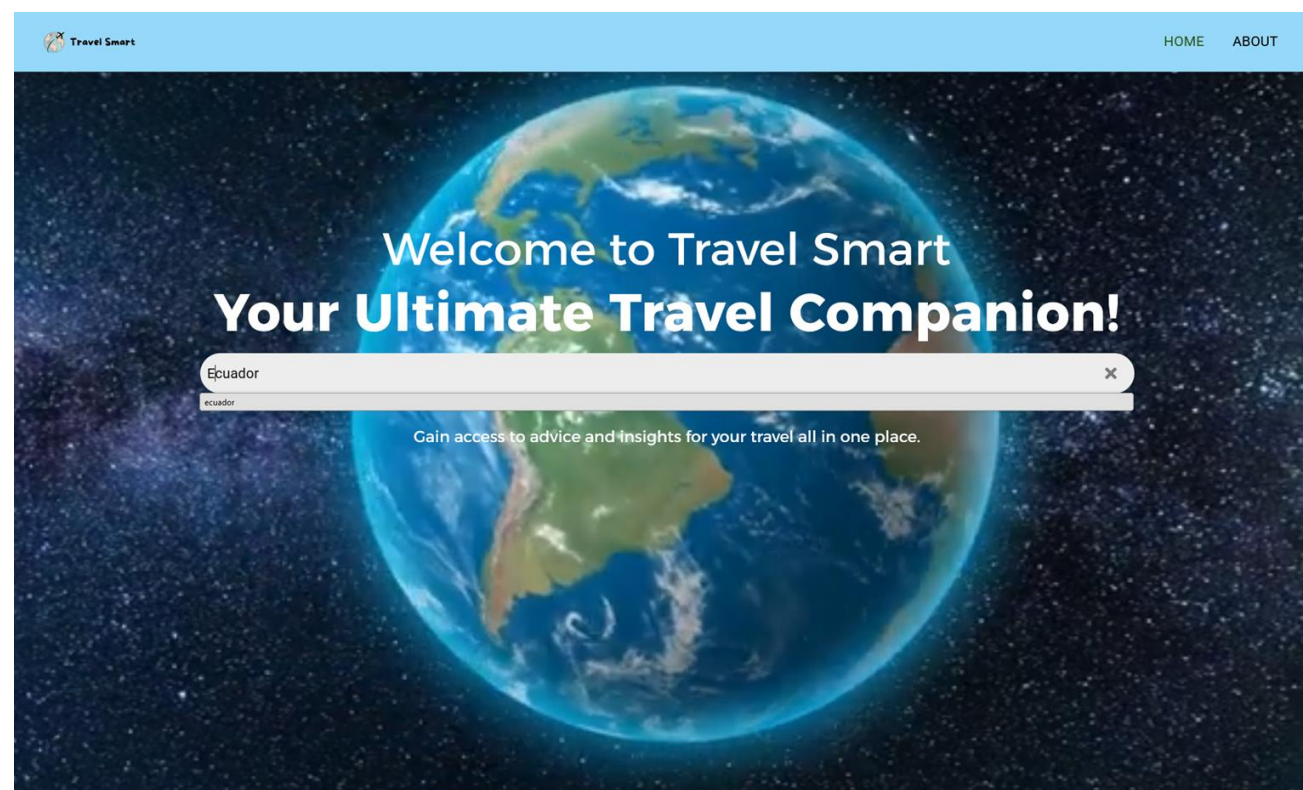


Fig. 1: Welcome page of the Web page

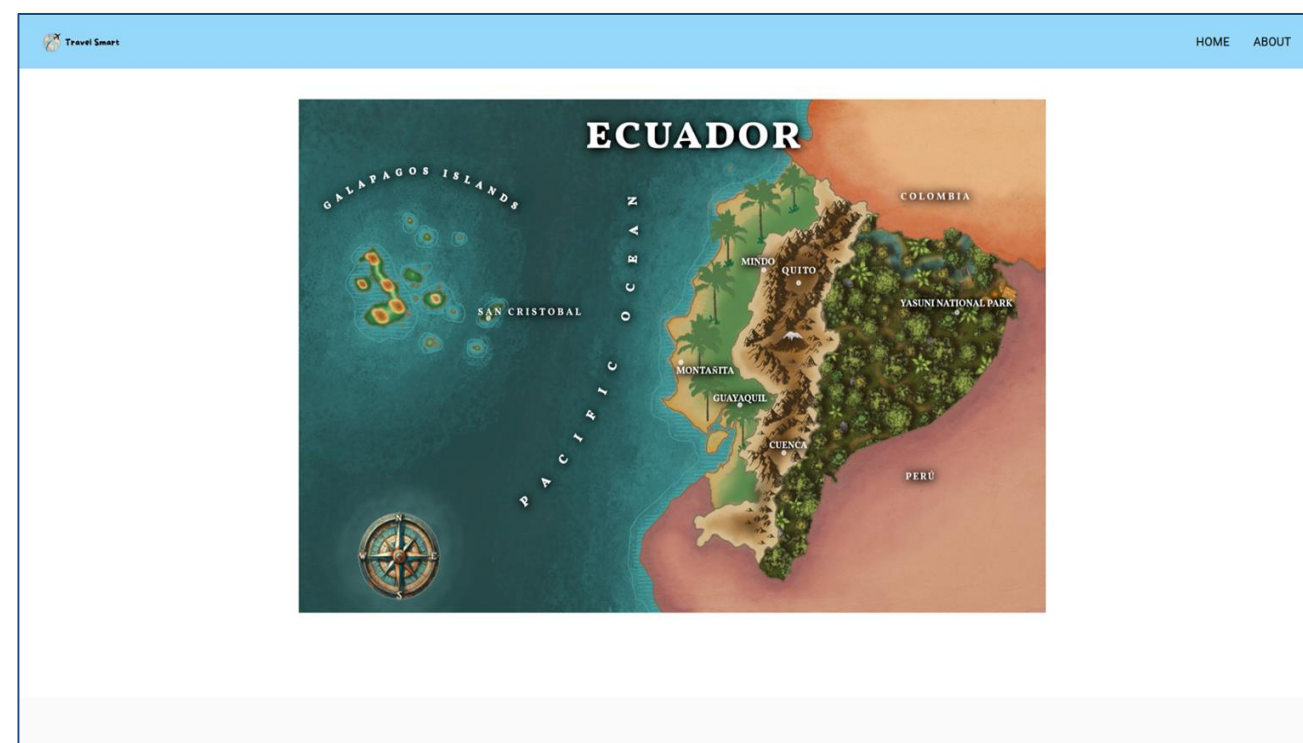


Fig. 2: Custom map of Ecuador showing the various topological regions

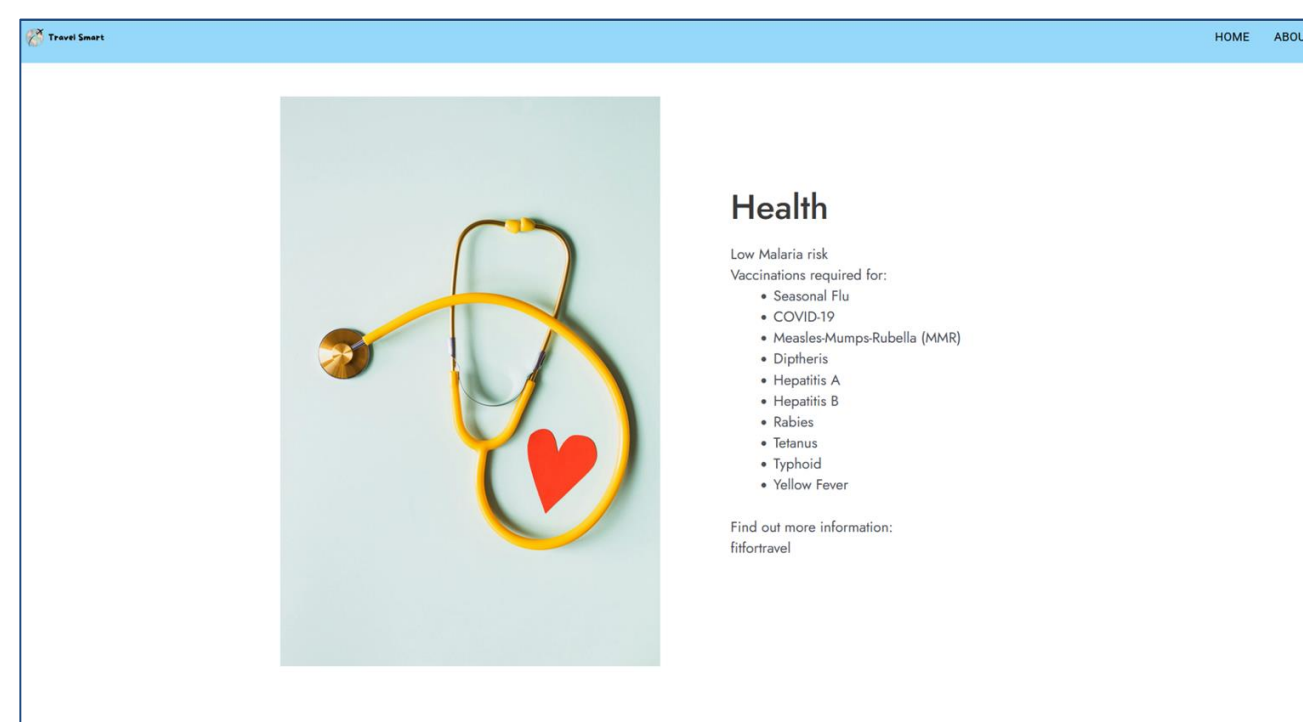


Fig. 3: Health Tips for the Galapagos Region of Ecuador [2]

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[1] Lonely Planet | Travel Guides & Travel Information. (n.d.). Lonely Planet. Retrieved 30 January 2025, from <https://www.lonelyplanet.com>

[2] Team, H. T. H. (n.d.). *Ecuador—Fit for Travel*. Retrieved 30 January 2025, from <https://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk/destinations/south-america-antarctica/ecuado>

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