

PERU

*LOCATION:

Central Pacific coast of South America.

*GEOGRAPHY

With 1,285,215 square km. Peru is the third-largest country in South America after Brazil and Argentina, ranking it amongst the world's 20 largest nations. Peru is divided into three regions: coast, mountains and jungle; also holds sway over the sea up to 200 miles from the coast and has territorial rights to an area of 60 million hectares in the Antarctic. It's divided into 24 departments, being Lima the capital of the country.

*POPULATION

29, 798, 000.

*OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

Spanish. Also English, French, spoken in most hotels and restaurants

*TIME ZONE

5 hours behind the Greenwich Meridian Time (-5 GMT).

*ELECTRICITY

220 V, 60Hz. It is recommendable to carry an adaptor for flat plugs.

*CURRENCY

The official currency in Peru is the Nuevo Sol (S/.), which is divided into 100 centimos. The currency includes coins for 5, 10, 20 and 50 centimos and 1, 2 and 5 sol coins. There are bills in the denomination of 10, 20, 50, 100 and 200 Nuevos Soles.

*EXCHANGE RATE

US\$ to S/. 3.40 aprox € to S/. 3.80

*WEATHER IN LIMA

°C: 22 – 18. °F 72 – 66. No precipitations.

*PHONES AND COMMUNICATION

Country area code: +51. Lima area code: 01. Peru features a far-reaching telephone network that provides services for national and international long-distance calls from private telephone lines and public cabins. There are also currently 1.3 million clients who have cellular phones, and satellite communications are currently being developed.

*AIRPORTS

Lima is 14 airports equipped to receive commercial flights and 10 ready for international flights: Lima, Arequipa, Chiclayo, Pisco, Pucallpa, Iquitos, Cusco, Trujillo, Tacna and Juliaca. 17 airlines operating international flights and 7 airline companies, offering domestic flights

*LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

Use of public transportation, such as taxis or buses is common in Peru. However, we encourage you to always use company owned taxis. Hotel personal should be able to provide you with information regarding certified companies. No tip is usually given to Taxi drivers.

***WATER AND FOODS**

Peruvian food has evolved tremendously in recent years; it is booming and has positioned itself as one of the best in the world. This phenomenon has given rise to many new and innovative restaurants where you can sample the variety of dishes available in Peru, from typical "Creole" to fusion, nouvelle-Andean and international cuisine. If you don't have an "adventurous" palate you will also find most of the world's fast-food chains represented.

Try a cebiche, fish marinated in lemon juice and chilli pepper; served with onion, sweet corn and sweet potato but this varies with the cook. And don't forget to taste "anticuchos", "lomo saltado", "causa", "ají de gallina", "rocoto relleno", the many different rice dishes (with shrimp, calamari, scallops, etc.) among many others.

To drink, try Peruvian pisco, a grape spirit used to make the famous pisco sour, the country's national cocktail.

The most complete restaurant guides in Peru are "Summum, Ranking of Peru's Top Restaurants", and "Guia Gastronomica del Peru, el Manual del Buen Gourmet".

Remember that you can drink the tap water in most Peruvian cities. Even so, we recommend that where possible you should drink bottled water or tap water that has been boiled for ten minutes or so.

The dollar and euro are the most widely accepted foreign currencies. The dollar exchange rate is variable, its value in nuevos soles has fallen considerably in recent years.

You can change foreign currency into soles in any bank with complete confidence. But if you use bureaux de change, be careful and ask at your hotel which are the most reliable. Avoid street money changers; especially at night.

*** SAFETY**

Although Peru is a country full of attractions, whose people are friendly towards visitors, you should still protect your money, valuables and credit cards, among other things, from thieves and bag snatchers.

Keep your valuables in the hotel safe and always write down the number of your credit or debit card company so that the cards can be cancelled if lost or stolen.

The Peruvian Police Force emergency number is 105, from anywhere in the country.

In the event of accidents and emergencies call 116 for the Fire Service in whichever city you happen to be.



