

General Information on Peru

Banking & Currency

The Peru currency is NUEVO SOL which is equivalent to 1 USD per 2.9 NUEVO SOLs.

Business Hours

General business hours are Mondays to Fridays, 9 AM–6PM. Shopping centers and stores are generally open from 10:00 am until 8:00 pm. Banks are open Monday to Friday from 9 AM to 6 PM with no lunch breaks. Some banks open Saturdays from 9 AM to 1 PM. Shops are also open on the Saturday and Sunday generally between 9 AM and 4 PM.

Customs & Quarantine

A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required of travelers over 6 months of age arriving from infected areas. Travelers arriving from non-endemic zones should note that vaccination is strongly recommended for travel to areas within the Amazon Basin, even if an outbreak has not been reported and they would normally not require a vaccination certificate to enter.

Following WHO guidelines issued in 1973, a cholera vaccination certificate is no longer a condition of entry to Peru. However, autochthonous cases of cholera were reported in 1996.

Falciparum malaria exists in all areas below 1500m and in the areas of Jaen, Lambayeque, Loreto, Luciano Castillo, Piura, San Martn, Tumbes and Ucayali.

Food drink -- Drink only bottled water. Pasteurised milk is widely available. Avoid dairy products that are likely to have been made from unboiled milk. Avoid street food vendors and the cheaper restaurants. Only eat well-cooked meat and fish, preferably served hot. Pork, salad and mayonnaise may carry increased risk. Vegetables should be cooked and fruit peeled. Always check the expiry date of processed food.

Other risks -- Hepatitis A occurs, and hepatitis B and D are a risk in the Amazon Basin. Dengue fever outbreaks are common in the Amazon Basin. The incidence of typhoid fever is very high. Immunization against typhoid is advised, as the incidence of typhoid is very high. Rabies is present. For those at high risk, vaccination before arrival should be considered. If you are bitten, seek medical advice without delay. For more information, consult the Health appendix. Altitude sickness can be a problem if visiting the highlands. Visitors should take time to acclimatize and avoid doing too much strenuous exercise on the day of arrival. Insect bites may be a problem in the jungle and the highlands. Insect repellent and long layers for the evening are recommended.

Health care -- International travelers are strongly advised to take out full health insurance and should be prepared to pay up front for medical services. (<http://www.peruvianembassy.us>)

Electricity

Peru's electrical system runs on 220Volts (60Watts).

Government

The capital is in Lima. There are 25 regions and 1 province. Peru liberated from Spain on 1821/07/28. Alan García Pérez is the president.

Official Language

Spanish

Population

28,674,757 (July 2007 est.)

Telephone

The international country code for Peru is 51. The international dialing code is 00.

Time

GMT/UTC -5 (Peru Time)

Tipping/Etiquette

Most restaurant and bar bills include a 10% gratuity. It's customary to add an extra 10% if the service has been satisfactory. Taxis do not expect tips. Fares are negotiated prior to initiating the trip. Hotel porters/bell boys expect a tip of \$1 per bag. The high end restaurants will expect you to wear something else than jeans or Bermudas. A nice pair of pants and a long sleeve shirt will do much better.

Be sure you make reservations ahead of time, especially for dinner at well known restaurants. You will be surprised at how crowded they get. Unless you are going to a restaurant frequented by tourists, you will be expected for lunch between 1:30 and 3:30 and for dinner between 8:30 and 11:30.

Transportation

The lack of an adequate transportation system is still a major obstacle to economic integration and development. Peru has 11 deepwater ports, and its merchant fleet consisted of 5 vessels over 1,000 tons, with a total GRT of 29,470. Only Peruvian ships may engage in coastal shipping. Callao, Peru's chief port, and Salaverry, Pisco, and Ilo have been expanded.

Much of Peru would be inaccessible without air transport. In 2001 there were an estimated 239 airports, 49 of which had paved runways. The two principal airports are Col. Fco. Secada at Iquitos and Jorge Chavez at Lima. Faucett Airlines is the older of the two main domestic air carriers, which serve 40 airports and landing fields. The recently privatized Aeroperú, created in May 1973, provides both domestic and international services. In 2001, 1,604,900 passengers were carried on scheduled domestic and international flights. The Peruvian Air Force also operates some commercial freight and passenger flights in rainforest areas. (<http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Americas/Peru-TRANSPORTATION.html>)

Visa & Immigration

All foreigners require a visa to enter Peru. (<http://www.peru-tours.info>)

Weather/Climate

It varies from tropical in east to dry desert in west; temperate to frigid in Andes.

Arequipa:

Month	Avg. High	Avg. Low	Avg. Precip.
January	30.0° C	23.9° C	45.47 cm
February	29.4° C	24.4° C	38.61 cm
March	30.0° C	23.3° C	35.81 cm
April	30.0° C	23.9° C	25.40 cm
May	29.4° C	23.3° C	16.00 cm
June	29.4° C	23.3° C	12.95 cm
July	29.4° C	23.3° C	8.13 cm
August	28.9° C	23.9° C	8.89 cm
September	28.9° C	23.3° C	13.21 cm
October	29.4° C	23.9° C	17.02 cm
November	30.0° C	23.3° C	26.67 cm
December	29.4° C	23.3° C	37.08 cm

Arequipa is dry and sunny all year long. During August, the weather gets slightly cold at night and at dawn, but the mornings and afternoons are warmed by bright sunshine. Generally speaking, the weather in Arequipa is mild with temperatures fluctuating between 10 and 24°C. The rainy season lasts from January to March but rainfall is reasonably moderate. (<http://www.weather.com>)

Lima:

Month	Avg. High	Avg. Low	Avg. Precip.
January	26.1° C	20.0° C	0.00 cm
February	26.7° C	20.6° C	0.00 cm
March	26.7° C	20.6° C	0.00 cm
April	24.4° C	18.9° C	0.00 cm
May	22.2° C	17.2° C	0.00 cm
June	20.6° C	16.1° C	0.25 cm
July	19.4° C	15.6° C	0.51 cm
August	18.9° C	15.6° C	0.25 cm
September	19.4° C	15.0° C	0.25 cm
October	20.6° C	16.1° C	0.25 cm
November	22.2° C	17.2° C	0.00 cm
December	24.4° C	18.9° C	0.00 cm

Lima's climate is quite mild, despite being located in the Tropics. Lima has a subtropical and desert climate, yet the microclimate also makes it very humid. The temperatures vary from mild to warm (neither very cold or hot). The average temperature is 18 °C to 19 °C (60–65 °F). The lowest temperatures vary from 12 °C (50 °F) to around 20 °C (68 °F) and the high average is around 25 °C (78 °F), with 30 °C (86 °F) in the warmest of days.

(<http://www.weather.com>)