

Peru

Worth knowing from A – Z

Airport pick up

Cusco airport pick up is arranged by the school. In case of a delayed arrival in Cusco you should take a taxi directly to your host family.

Additional airport pick up is available in Lima for students who have to spend the night in Lima due to connecting flights or if the student cannot obtain his or her flight to Cusco. This "Lima service Package" includes: Lima airport pick-up, transfer to hotel, one night in hotel and transfer back to airport, Lima to Cusco one-way airfare and Lima airport assistance. Extra hotel nights are available.

Airport tax

There is a \$30,25 airport tax on international flight departures from Peru.

Business Hours

Shops are open from 9:00 or 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and again from 3:00 or 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. In the main cities, supermarkets do not close for lunch. Some shops are closed on Saturdays and most are closed Sundays.

Banks open from 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and from 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Closed on Saturdays.

Business offices: 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and from 3:00 – 6 p.m. (some from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.).

Government offices:

January – March: Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

The rest of the year: Monday – Friday, 9:00 a. m. – 12:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Opening hours change frequently!

Climate

Climate seasons, south hemisphere (Peru):

- Summer: December 22nd to March 21st
- Autumn: March 22nd to June 21st
- Winter: June 22nd to September 22nd
- Spring: September 23rd to December 21st

Peru is located in the equatorial area of South America. However, its climate does not correspond to its geographical location but is influenced by two fundamental factors, the Andean Mountain Range and the cold marine current of Humboldt, also called Peruvian current.

Cultural events, festivals

June 2nd & 3rd Corpus Christi (Catholic event with indigenous influences), June 24th Inti Raymi (Theater spectacle based on Old Inca tradition of adoration of the sun, the winter solstice), July 16th La Virgin de Paucartambo (local cultural religious event close to Cusco), November 2nd & 3rd Todos los Santos, Dia de la Muertos, December 24th Christmas Eve

Currency

The official currency is Nuevo Sol (S/.), the sub units are the cents. You may find currencies of 0,05, 0,10, 0,20 and 0,50 cents, also currencies of 1, 2 and 5 Nuevos Soles, and bills with denomination of 10, 20, 50, 100 and 200 Nuevos Soles.

Documents

☞ Visa

Drinks

If you like beer, the Cusquena and Arequipa brands are probably the best. Cristal and Pilsner are good too.

- Pisco sour - made from the national grape brandy, lemon, sugar, egg white, nutmeg; sweet and very potent.
- Chicha de jora - corn beer (usually homemade)
- Chicha morada - softdrink with purple maize.
- Some of the local wines are ok – e. g. the Ica wines Tacama and Ocucaje.
- Guinda - sweet cherry brandy
- Aguardiente - sugar cane alcohol

Electricity

220V, AC, 60Hz throughout the country (except Arequipa – 50Hz).

Take the caution of verifying the voltage of your electronic devices like hair dryer, razors, sound systems, etc.; most of this equipment is auto voltage.

If this is not the case, you will require a transformer 220 / 110 volt for its correct use in Peru. It is very common to find this type of transformers at the stores in Peru.

Email

In order to keep in touch with your family and friends at home, please make sure you have an e-

mail address before you leave (gmx, yahoo, arcor, web.de are free of charge). There is an internet café close to the school. 1 hour costs approx. 1 USD.

Finances

☞ Money

Food

- Ceviche - raw fish, shrimp etc. marinated in lemon juice with onions and red peppers.
- Parinada - popular bouillabaisse with yuyo de mar (a tangy seaweed)
- Á la Huancaína - sauce made with eggs, milk, cheese, served with a meat or potato dish.
- Chupe de camarones - shrimp stew
- Caus and Carapulca - potato dishes
- Ollucus con charqui - A kind of potato with dried meat.
- Cancau - tripe, potatoes, peppers and parsley served with rice.
- Anticuchos - hearts of beef with garlic, peppers, cumin and vinegar.
- Carne en adobo - cut and seasoned steak
- Fritos - fried pork

Health

You should not drink tap water unless it has been boiled or treated with iodine.

☞ Vaccination

Important advice

Cusco is a hopping city with a happening night life, enjoyed by many international tourists. Use commonsense, beware of petty theft in crowded places and don't walk alone late at night. The most common theft is done by fraudulent travel agencies conning naïve tourists for nonexistent services.

Insurance

It is compulsory to have travel insurance. Please contact your local insurance company and explain the destination and reason for your stay.

Languages

☞ Population

Money

Since 1991 the Peruvian currency is the new "Sol" (S/). In more expensive establishments, prices are sometimes quoted in dollars.

Try to break down large notes whenever you can. Taxi drivers are notorious for conning tourists often

they tell you that they don't have any change (many times this is not true).

Traveller checks can be changed into Soles or Dollars at banks.

You can change money into Soles at banks and casas de cambio (exchange). There is usually no difference in the exchange rate given by banks and casas de cambio. You can exchange money 24 hours a day in Lima airport.

It is common that nobody wants to accept Dollars that are old or torn. Not even banks!

Credit cards - Visa (most common), Diners Club and MasterCard are widely accepted in main cities.

Cash can be withdrawn from your credit card at some banks, in Soles only.

Passport and other important documents

When travelling anywhere in Latin America you should always carry your passport or a copy of it on your person. It is a good idea to bring photocopies of other essential documents (airline tickets, important prescriptions, etc.) stored in a separate location.

Population

The literacy rate is 85.1%. The indigenous population of Peru is about 3 million and about two million indigenous people speak no Spanish. Their main language is Quechua, the language of the Incas.

Post

The mail service has improved since the private company Serpost took over. For an extra 50 cents, letters can be sent "con certificado," which we recommend. Sending parcels abroad is expensive. Staff in the post office will help with all checking and then sew parcels into sacks for a small charge. If you need to send parcels by post to Peru, taxes can be up to 200% of the value.

Religion

Mainly Roman Catholics. Indigenous ceremonies and traditional beliefs are often blended with Catholicism.

Telephone

- Collect calls can be made to some European countries at the Telefonica offices.
- You can buy tokens and phone cards for international and long distance calls at the Telefonica offices.

Things to bring

We recommend that you bring the following:

- Lightweight layerable clothing

- Jacket and sweater
- Warm clothes to sleep in (it gets cold at night in the mountains & most homes don't use heaters)
- Bath towel
- Comfortable walking shoes (tough to find shoes larger than 10 1/2)
- Umbrella (during rainy season)
- Small knapsack
- Tampons (expensive) and contraceptives if necessary
- Camera
- Extra film (can be expensive)
- Money Belt
- Swimsuit
- Insect repellent (with DEET)
- Sun screen lotion
- Sunglasses
- Torch
- Small alarm clock
- Walkman (if you like music)
- Vitamins
- Medical supplies (antiseptic, aspirin, Imodium/Lomotil, antacid)
- Complete Spanish Dictionary, Pocket Spanish Verbs & Grammar
- Guide book on Peru

Time

- May – December: 5 hours behind GMT
- January – April: 4 hours behind GMT.

Exact dates vary each year.)

Tipping

- Hotels - 10% in addition to the 10% on the bill.
- Restaurants - Service is included in the bill, but if somebody is going out of his or her way for you, then tip!
- Tips are not normally given to taxi drivers.

Vaccination

Vaccination is not required to enter to Peru.

If you have planned to carry out a trip to the Amazon area or jungle of Peru, it is advisable to be vaccinated against the yellow fever.

Visa

- No visa is necessary for citizens of Western European countries, the US, South American countries (except Chile and Venezuela), Canada and Japan.
- Obtain a tourist card from the immigration authorities when you arrive in Peru.
- The tourist card is valid for visits up to 90 days, but make sure they don't stamp for less at immigration!
- Tourist cards can be renewed at Migraciones, Paseo de la Republica 585, Lima. Also, you can renew tourist cards in major towns such as Cuzco or Arequipa.
- A return ticket is officially required for entry to Peru.
- Always call your Peruvian Embassy or Consulate and double check on entry requirements, since they change frequently.

Weather

For an up-to-date weather forecast, please take a look at the following link.

<http://www.wunderground.com/global/PR.html>

Work permit

It is not necessary to apply for a work permit, as you receive no wages for the voluntary work, it is considered as a cultural exchange.

All suggestions to improve and give advice when considered relevant to this document are very welcome. We are well aware of the limited content and kindly ask you to participate in improving it. Send us an e-mail with your suggestions to: info@global-volunteers.de