## PERU

### FACTS & FIGURES

| Capital          | Lima
|------------------|------------------|
| Largest City     | Lima
| Official Languages | Spanish, Quechua, Aymara |
| Official Script  | Latin (Spanish) |
| Currency         | Sol (PEN) |

### Geography (estimates)

- **Population**: 33.1 million
- **Pop. Density**: 23/km²
- **Area**: 1,285,000 km²
- **Time Zone**: EST + 0

### Government

- **President**: Pedro Pablo Kuczynski
- **Legislature**: Congress
- **Declared and Recognized Independence**: 1821, 1879

### HISTORY OF PERU

- Early evidence of human presence on Peruvian land have been dated to 9,000 BC.
- In the 15th century, the Incas emerged as a powerful stage, forming the largest empire in pre-Columbian America with their capital in Cusco.
- Spanish conquistador Pizarro led an expedition into Peru, founding Lima in 1535.
- Napoleon overthrows the king of Spain in the early 1800’s and Peru soon after declares independence from Spain in 1821.
- Peru and Bolivia join in a short-lived confederation in 1836.
- Modern day Peru is a presidential representative democratic republic, with the current President PPK as the head of state and government.
Language & Religion

- The three official languages of Peru according to their constitution are Spanish, Quechua and Aymara. Other indigenous languages/dialects exist.
- The major religious belief in Peru is Christianity, with Catholicism and Protestantism being the most prominent.
  - The Baha faith, Buddhism and Islam would be considered minority faiths in Peru.

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Cuisine

- Regional differences in Peruvian cuisine consist of a wide range of ethnic mixes.
  - Coastal Areas center their diet around aquaculture.
  - Andes staples are corn/potatoes and imported livestock.
  - Amazonian cuisine is considered the mosaic of taste palates.
- Traditional dishes include: Charqui, Chairo, Ocopa, Crema de tarwi, Alfajores.

Music & Art

- Peruvian music is a combination of sounds and styles from Peru’s Andean music roots, influenced by the Spanish, Quechua and Aymara.
- Inca civilization relics are considered historic art forms found in architectural remains such as Sacsayhuaman and Machu Picchu.
- Colonial Art consists of early Peruvian sculptures and paintings, in addition to modern/contemporary art.

Important Dates & Holidays

- New Years Day (Jan 1)
- March Equinox (Mar 20)
- Good Fri/Easter (Apr 14/16)
- Labor Day (May 1)
- St Peter and St Paul (Jun 29)
- Independence Day Holiday (Jul 28-29)
- Santa Rosa De Lima (Aug 30)
- September Equinox (Sep 22)
- All Saints Day (Nov 1)
- Feast of Immaculate Conception (Dec 8)
- Christmas (Dec 25)