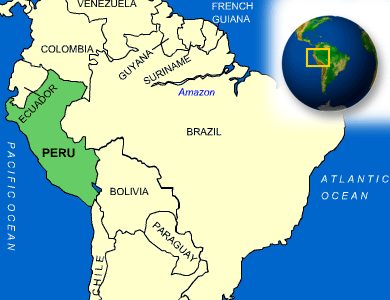
**Peru Facts and Culture**

* [Food and Recipes:](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Peru/recipes.htm) A polite guest eats all the food that is offered. Table manners are important in Peru. The continental style of... [More](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Peru/recipes.htm)
* [Family:](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Peru/family.htm) The family is important in Peru. The father is the undisputed head of the family, while the mother spends... [More](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Peru/family.htm)
* [Fashion:](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Peru/fashion.htm) Although Western-style clothing is worn regularly in Lima, the capital, and other urban areas, rural campesinos (farmers) often wear traditional... [More](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Peru/fashion.htm)
* [Visiting:](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Peru/visiting.htm) The most common ways to socialize with people doesn't  necessarily involve food and drinks. Any person can socialize by talking.... [More](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Peru/visiting.htm)

**Peru Facts**

Peru stats

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Capital | Lima |
| Government Type | constitutional republic |
| Population | 29,849,303 |
| Total Area | 496,222 Square Miles 1,285,216 Square Kilometers |
| Location | Western South America, bordering the South Pacific Ocean, between Chile and Ecuador |
| Language | Spanish (official) 84.1%, Quechua (official) 13%, Aymara (official) 1.7%, Ashaninka 0.3%, other native languages (includes a large number of minor Amazonian languages) 0.7%, other 0.2% |



**Peru Geography**

**Terrain and geography**

Peru is on the West Coast of South America, south of the Equator, between 0 and 18 degrees south latitude and, 70 degrees and 81 degrees west longitude. With a population of about 27.94 million people, Peru is the fifth most populated country in Latin America.

The country has four distinct geographic areas: the narrow coastal desert region (about 25 to 40 miles wide), barren except for irrigated valleys; the Andean highlands or sierra, containing some of the world's highest mountains; the "ceja de montana" (eyebrow of the mountain), a long narrow strip of mountainous jungle on the eastern slope of the Andes; and the selva or rain forest area which covers over half the country, including the vast Amazon River Basin and the Madre de Dios River Basin.

The sierra, covering one-fourth of Peru, is an area of uneven population distribution, rich in mineral wealth. Many of its inhabitants live at elevations above 10,000 feet. The selva region is sparsely populated and only partially explored. The climate in the "ceja de montana" varies with the elevation from temperate to tropical.

Because Lima lies on an axis of instability in the Earth's crust, seismic activity is common. Light earthquakes called "temblores" occur but seldom cause damage. A strong earthquake occurred in Lima, Callao and environs on May 24, 1940, causing major damage with over 2,000 casualties. Serious earthquakes also occurred in Cuzco (1950), Arequipa (1958 and 1960), the Lima-Callao area (1966-74), and Chimbote and the Callejon de Huaylas (1970).

Between May 1998 and May 1999, 85 light earthquakes occurred and the strongest of these earthquakes were in Arequipa, Lima and Huancayo.

**Geography - note**

shares control of Lago Titicaca, world's highest navigable lake, with Bolivia; a remote slope of Nevado Mismi, a 5,316 m peak, is the ultimate source of the Amazon River

**Peru Geography**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Geographic Location | South America |
| Total Area | 496,222 Square Miles 1,285,216 Square Kilometers |
| Land Area | 494,206 Square Miles 1,279,996 Square Kilometers |
| Water Area | 2,015 Square Miles 5,220 Square Kilometers |
| Land Boundaries | 4,636 Miles 7,461 Kilometers |
| Irrigated Land | 4,618 Square Miles 11,960 Square Kilometers |
| Border Countries | Bolivia 1,075 km, Brazil 2,995 km, Chile 171 km, Colombia 1,800 km, Ecuador 1,420 km |
| Coastline | 1,500 Miles 2,414 Kilometers |
| Geographic Coordinates | 10 00 S, 76 00 W |
| Terrain | western coastal plain (costa), high and rugged Andes in center (sierra), eastern lowland jungle of Amazon Basin (selva) |
| Highest Point | 6,768 Meters |
| Highest Point Location | Nevado Huascaran 6,768 m |
| Lowest Point Location | Pacific Ocean 0 m |
| Natural Resources | copper, silver, gold, petroleum, timber, fish, iron ore, coal, phosphate, potash, hydropower, natural gas |
| Time Zone | UTC-5 (same time as Washington, DC during Standard Time) |

**Peru Weather and Climate**

**Climate and Weather**

Peru lies below the Equator, therefore, its seasons along the Pacific Coast, which includes Lima, are the reverse of those in the Northern Hemisphere. Summer lasts from about mid-December through April in that region and is generally pleasant, with warm, sunny days and cool, comfortable nights. February is usually the warmest month, with an average temperature of 79 (F) and humidity of 83%. Temperatures rarely range above the mid-80s. Only two distinct seasons occur in the highlands/sierra: the rainy season from December to April and a dry period the rest of the year. Temperatures fluctuate considerably depending on the weather and altitude.

Winter along the coast lasts from May or June to November and the weather is chilly and damp. Sunny days in Lima's winter are rare, particularly in July, August and September. Rain is virtually unknown; however, a fine mist often falls and fog is common. The coolest, dampest months are July and August, with average temperatures about 60(F), rarely falling below the low 50s.

**Peru Environmental Issues**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Climate | Peru lies below the Equator, therefore, its seasons along the Pacific Coast, which includes Lima, are the reverse of those in the Northern Hemisphere. Summer lasts from about mid-December through April in that region and is generally pleasant, with warm, sunny days and cool, comfortable nights. February is usually the warmest month, with an average temperature of 79 (F) and humidity of 83%. Temperatures rarely range above the mid-80s. Only two distinct seasons occur in the highlands/sierra: the rainy season from December to April and a dry period the rest of the year. Temperatures fluctuate considerably depending on the weather and altitude.  Winter along the coast lasts from May or June to November and the weather is chilly and damp. Sunny days in Lima's winter are rare, particularly in July, August and September. Rain is virtually unknown; however, a fine mist often falls and fog is common. The coolest, dampest months are July and August, with average temperatures about 60(F), rarely falling below the low 50s. |
| Terrain | western coastal plain (costa), high and rugged Andes in center (sierra), eastern lowland jungle of Amazon Basin (selva) |
| Natural Resources | copper, silver, gold, petroleum, timber, fish, iron ore, coal, phosphate, potash, hydropower, natural gas |
| Natural Hazards | earthquakes, tsunamis, flooding, landslides, mild volcanic activity  volcanism: volcanic activity in the Andes Mountains; Ubinas (elev. 5,672 m), which last erupted in 2009, is the country's most active volcano; other historically active volcanoes include El Misti, Huaynaputina, Sabancaya, and Yucamane |
| Irrigated Land | 4,618 Square Miles 11,960 Square Kilometers |
| Environmental Issues | deforestation (some the result of illegal logging); overgrazing of the slopes of the costa and sierra leading to soil erosion; desertification; air pollution in Lima; pollution of rivers and coastal waters from municipal and mining wastes |
| Environment - International Agreements | party to: Antarctic-Environmental Protocol, Antarctic-Marine Living Resources, Antarctic Treaty, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Hazardous Wastes, Marine Dumping, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Tropical Timber 83, Tropical Timber 94, Wetlands, Whaling   signed, but not ratified: none of the selected agreements |

**Peru Population Details**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Population | 29,849,303 |
| Population Growth Rate | 1% |
| Urban Population | 77.3% |
| Population in Major Urban Areas | LIMA (capital) 9.13 million; Arequipa 804,000 |
| Nationality Noun | Peruvian(s) |
| Nationality Adjective | Peruvian |
| Ethnic Groups | Amerindian 45%, mestizo (mixed Amerindian and white) 37%, white 15%, black, Japanese, Chinese, and other 3% |
| Languages | Spanish (official) 84.1%, Quechua (official) 13%, Aymara (official) 1.7%, Ashaninka 0.3%, other native languages (includes a large number of minor Amazonian languages) 0.7%, other 0.2% |
| Rate of Urbanization- annual rate of change | 1.55% |

**Peru Medical Information**

Medical care is generally good in Lima and usually adequate in other major cities, but it is less so elsewhere in Peru. Urban private health care facilities are often better staffed and equipped than public or rural ones. Public hospital facilities in Cusco, the prime tourist destination, are generally inadequate to handle serious medical conditions. Although some private hospital facilities in Cuscomay be able to treat acute medical problems, in general the seriously ill traveler should return to Lima for further care as soon as is medically feasible.  
  
Visitors to high-altitude Andean destinations such as Cusco(11,000 feet), Machu Picchu (8,000 feet), or Lake Titicaca (13,000 feet) should discuss the trip with their personal physician prior to departing the United States. Travel to high altitudes could pose a serious risk of illness, hospitalization, and even death, particularly if the traveler has a medical condition that affects blood circulation or breathing. Several U.S. citizens have died in Peru from medical conditions exacerbated by altitude. Tourists or business visitors, particularly those who suffer from cardiac-related problems or high blood pressure, who wish to travel to high-altitude areas in Peru should undergo a medical examination before traveling. New arrivals, even healthy and fit persons, will feel symptoms of hypoxia (lack of oxygen) at high-altitude, and most will need time to adjust to the altitude. Most people will have increased respiration and heart rate. Many will have headaches, difficulty sleeping, lack of appetite, minor gastric and intestinal upsets, and mood changes. To help prevent these complications, consult your personal physician, avoid alcohol and smoking for at least one week after arrival at high altitudes, and limit physical activity for the first 36 to 48 hours after arrival at high altitudes.  
  
In jungle areas east of the Andes mountain range (cordillera), chloroquine-resistant malaria is a serious problem. Cholera, yellow fever, hepatitis, dengue fever, and other exotic and contagious diseases are also present. Yellow fever is endemic in certain areas of Peru; in general, those areas are located on the eastern side of the cordillera and at lower elevations in jungle areas. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Peruvian government recommend that travelers to Peru receive a yellow fever vaccination and carry documentation of the vaccination with them on their trip. Diarrhea caused by contaminated food or water is very common in Peru and is potentially serious. If suffering from persistent symptoms, seek medical attention. Local tap water in Peru is not considered potable. Only bottled or treated (disinfected) water should be used for drinking. Fruits and vegetables should be washed and/or disinfected with care, and meats and fish should be thoroughly cooked. Eggs, meat, unpasteurized cheese, and seafood are common sources of the bacteria that can cause travelers' diarrhea, and they should be properly prepared or avoided.   
  
Philanthropic groups and individuals planning to enter Peru with medical supplies in quantities greater than for personal use are strongly advised to consult with a Peruvian consulate in the United States prior to arrival in Peru. Medical, dental and other kinds of charitable donations are subject to confiscation by Peruvian authorities for failure to comply with Peruvian regulations. Medical teams, non-profit organizationsor visitors to Peru who plan to donate medical supplies, medicines or other similar items may wish to review Peruvian regulations governing such donations (Spanish only) or contact Agencia Peruana de Cooperacion Internacional (APCI) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 51-1-319-3632 before proceeding. The U.S. Embassy cannot accept such items by mail, assist in evading customs requirements, or provide a broker to secure their release if they are held.

**Peru Health Information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Health Expenditures (% of GDP) | 4.8% |
| Death Rate/1,000 population | 5.97 |
| Obesity- adult prevalence rate | 15.7% |
| Hospital Bed Density/1,000 population | 1.5 |
| Physicians Density/1,000 population | .92 |
| Infant Mortality Rate/1,000 population | 20.85 |
| Infant Mortality Rate- Female/1,000 population | 18.49 |
| Infant Mortality Rate- Male/1,000 population | 23.1 |
| Underweight - percent of children under five years | 4.5% |
| Total Fertility Rate | 2.25 |
| Age of Mother's First Birth | 22.3 |
| Contraceptive prevalance rate (female 15-49) | 68.9% |
| Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births | 67 |
| HIV Adult Prevalence Rate | 0.4% |
| HIV Aids Deaths | 4,100 |
| HIV Aids People Living With | 75,000 |
| Drinking Water Source: unimproved | 13.2% |
| Drinking Water Source - percent of rural population improved | 71.6% |
| Drinking Water Source - percent of urban population improved | 91.2% |
| Sanitation Facility Access: unimproved | 26.9% |
| Sanitation Facility Access - percent of urban population improved | 81.2% |
| Sanitation Facitlity Access - percent of rural population improved | 44.8% |
| Major Infectious Diseases - degree of risk | very high |
| Food or Waterborne Disease (s) | bacterial diarrhea, hepatitis A, and typhoid fever |
| Vectorborne Disease (s) | dengue fever, malaria, and Bartonellosis (Oroya fever) |

**Peru Crime**

**Crime Information**

Approximately 350,000 trips are made by U.S. citizens through Peru each year. A small but growing number of U.S. travelers have been victims of serious crimes. The information below is intended to raise awareness of the potential for crime and suggest measures visitors can take to avoid becoming a victim.   
  
Violent Crime: Violent crime, including carjacking, assault, sexual assault, and armed robbery is common in Lima and other large cities. The Embassy is aware of reports of women being sexually assaulted in their place of lodging, or after their drinks were drugged while visiting bars or nightclubs. Women travelling alone should be especially careful to avoid situations in which they are vulnerable due to impaired judgment or isolation. Resistance to attempted robberies often provokes greater violence, while victims who do not resist usually do not suffer serious physical harm. "Express kidnappings," in which criminals kidnap victims and seek to obtain funds from their bank accounts via automatic teller machines, occur frequently.  
  
In the recent past, there have been a number of cases of armed robbery, rape, other sexual assault, and attempted rape of U.S. citizens and other foreign tourists in Arequipa and in Cuscocity, as well as in the outlying areas in the vicinity of various Incan ruins. These assaults have occurred both during daylight hours and at night.  
  
Taxis and Road Crime: Passengers who hail taxis on the street have been assaulted and robbed. Street taxis are not well regulated and are often used as a front by criminals to rob unsuspecting victims. The Embassy’s Regional Security Officer recommends that all Embassy personnel use telephone-dispatched radio taxis or car services associated with major hotels and not hail taxis on the street.  
  
In the city of Arequipa, express kidnappings have become such a problem that all U.S. government personnel are prohibited from hailing taxis off the street. U.S. government personnel there must utilize cabs from well-established dispatch taxi companies. The Embassy’s Regional Security Officer recommends that all U.S. citizens visiting Arequipa also use dispatch taxi companies.  
  
Some crimes in the city of Cuscoand in Arequipa have involved the drivers of rogue (or unregistered) taxis. Travelers should use only licensed, registered taxis such as those available from taxi stands in Cuscodisplaying a blue decal issued by the municipal government on the windshield of the vehicle. Visitors should not accept offers of transportation or guide services from individuals seeking clients on the streets. In recent years there have been several reports of U.S. citizens falling victim to so-called “express kidnappings” in Arequipa after taking taxis hailed on the street. On occasion, the victim was bound, beaten, and held for over 24 hours as the assailants attempted to empty cash from bank accounts with the victim’s stolen ATM card.  
  
Theft: Travelers should guard against the theft of luggage and other belongings, particularly U.S. passports, at the Lima airport. Passengers arriving at Lima’s Jorge Chavez International Airport should be cautious in making arrangements for ground transportation. Upon exiting the airport, travelers may be approached by persons seeming to know them, or who claim that a pre-arranged taxi has been sent to take them to their hotel. Some travelers have been charged exorbitant rates or been taken to marginal hotels in unsafe parts of town. Travelers who are not being met by a known party or by a reputable travel agent or hotel shuttle are advised to arrange for a taxi inside the airport. At least two taxi companies maintain counters inside the international arrival area (between immigration clearance and baggage claim). An additional two companies have agents at the information kiosk just before the exit from the passenger arrival area.  
  
Travelers should not leave any valuables in sight or unattended in parked vehicles as these become inviting targets for thieves. Visitors should also ensure they secure purses and other personal belongings when in cafés and restaurants as street criminals are adept at surreptitiously removing items of value from purses or clothing slung over chairs.  
  
Street Crime: Thieves often smash car windows at traffic lights to grab jewelry, purses, backpacks, or other visible items from a car. This type of assault is very common on main roads leading to and from Lima's Jorge Chavez International Airport, specifically along De la Marina and Faucett Avenues and Via de Evitamiento, but it can occur anywhere in congested traffic, particularly in downtown Lima. Travelers are encouraged to put all belongings, including purses, in the trunk of a car or taxi.  
  
The threat of street crime is greatest in areas that attract large crowds, particularly crowds of tourists or wealthy Peruvians. A crowd allows a thief (or thieves, since petty thieves often operate in a group) the opportunity to select and approach the potential victim without attracting attention. Visitors should be especially careful when visiting tourist areas in Lima such as the Plaza de Armas (Government Square), the Plaza San Martin, Acho Bullring, Pachacamac, and any location in downtown Lima. Additionally, visitors to municipal markets as well as the Gamarra textile district of La Victoria should be extremely cautious. Street crime is also prevalent in cities in Peru's interior, including Cusco, Arequipa, Puno, and Juliaca. U.S. citizens traveling alone or in unescorted groups are more vulnerable to street crime.  
  
Visitors are advised to keep cash and identification in their front pockets and to limit their cash on hand and unnecessary credit cards. Replacing items such as credit cards, U.S. driver’s licenses, and other identification while in Peru can be difficult and time-consuming. Handbags should not be carried, but if they are, they should be tucked into the crook of an arm or, if carrying a bag with a shoulder strap, do not allow the bag to hang freely, but keep a hand over the clasp. It is generally recommended that all jewelry be removed prior to going to a market or other crowded areas.  
  
Visitors are advised not to carry their U.S. passports if they are not needed. If the police request identification, a copy of the passport is acceptable. A copy of the data page, the page with the Peruvian visa, and a copy of the page with the Peruvian entry stamp should be carried.  
  
Tourists should be particularly cautious when visiting the Sacsayhuaman ruins outside Cusco. They should not travel alone, but ratherin as large a group as possible. Visitors should also avoid these areas at dawn, dusk, or nighttime, since roving gangs are known to frequent these areas and prey on unsuspecting tourists. There have also been reports of tourists hiking near the ruins of Choquequirao being robbed by armed men who may be affiliated with politically motivated terrorist groups. U.S. citizen backpackers have also been victims of armed robbery while hiking on trails other than the Inca Trail.  
  
Crime also occurs on roads, particularly at night and outside urban areas. Clandestine, impromptu roadblocks can appear on even major highways, where bus and automobile passengers are robbed. The risk is even greater on rural roads after dark. In addition, numerous U.S. citizens have reported the theft of passports, cameras, and other valuables on overnight bus rides, by thieves who take advantage of sleeping passengers or their stowed luggage in the cargo area underneath when opened during scheduled stops for passengers to disembark or enter the bus.  
  
Fraud: Counterfeit U.S. currency is a growing and serious problem in Peru. In many areas of Lima, moneychangers openly change money on the street. These individuals should be avoided as they are a conduit for counterfeit currency, and in many cases, work togetherwith pickpockets by pointing out potential victims. In addition, these individuals have frequently been the victims of violent robberies in which bystanders have been injured. There have also been several reported incidents of counterfeit currency being paid out as winnings by casinos, though the Embassy has not received reports of this happening at larger, well-known casinos.  
  
Incidents of credit card fraud are on the rise, particularly the electronic “skimming” of credit card data. Travelers should keep their credit cards within their sight while making transactions.  
  
Don't buy counterfeit and pirated goods, even if they are widely available. Not only are the bootlegs illegal in the United States, you may also be breaking local law.  
  
One increasingly common extortion technique is known as the “grandparent scam.” It involves calls placed by persons alleging to be attorneys, local law enforcement or U.S. government employees claiming that a person’s relative—nearly always a grandchild—has been in a car accident (or other ruse) in Peru and has been arrested/detained. Often the caller will put another person on the line purporting to be the grandchild, who claims he doesn’t sound like himself because he has a cold or has been crying. The caller asks for a large sum of money to be sent by Western Union to ensure the subject’s release and admonishes the relative not to speak to any other family members. If you receive a call like this, BEFORE YOU SEND ANY MONEY, contact family members to confirm the actual whereabouts of the supposedly detained grandchild. If it turns out he or she might actually have traveled to Peru, contact the State Department's Office of Overseas Citizens Services at 1-888-407-4747 or the U.S. Embassy in Lima for assistance.

**Peru Penalties for Crime**

**Criminal Penalties**

While you are traveling in Peru, you are subject to its laws even if you are a U.S. citizen. Foreign laws and legal systems can be vastly different than our own. In some places you may be taken in for questioning if you don’t have a copy of your passport with you. In some places, it is illegal to take pictures of certain buildings. In some places driving under the influence could land you immediately in jail. These criminal penalties will vary from country to country. There are also some things that might be legal in the country you visit, but still illegal in the United States, and you can be prosecuted under U.S. law if you buy pirated goods. Engaging in sexual conduct with children or using or disseminating child pornography in a foreign country is a crime prosecutable in the United States. If you break local laws in Peru, your U.S. passport won’t help you avoid arrest or prosecution. It’s very important to know what’s legal and what’s not wherever you go.  
  
Based on the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, bilateral agreements with certain countries, and customary international law, if you are arrested in Peru, you have the option to request that the police, prison officials, or other authorities alert the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate of your arrest, and to have communications from you forwarded to the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

**Peru Life Expectancy**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Life Expectancy At Birth | 72 Years |
| Life Expectancy At Birth- Female | 75 Years |
| Life Expectancy At Birth- Male | 71 Years |
| Median Age (female) | 27 Years |
| Median Age (male) | 26 Years |
| Median Age | 26 Years |

**Peru Literacy**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Predominant Language | Spanish (official) 84.1%, Quechua (official) 13%, Aymara (official) 1.7%, Ashaninka 0.3%, other native languages (includes a large number of minor Amazonian languages) 0.7%, other 0.2% |
| Literacy Definition | age 15 and over can read and write |
| Literacy Female | 89.4% |
| Literacy Male | 96.4% |
| Literacy Total | 92.9% |

**Peru Education**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Education Expenditures - percent of GDP | 2.8% |
| Literacy - female | 89.4% |
| Literacy - male | 96.4% |
| Literacy - total population | 92.9% |
| Literacy Definition | age 15 and over can read and write |
| School Life Expectancy - female | 13 Years |
| School Life Expectancy - male | 13 Years |
| Total School Life Expectancy - (primary to tertiary) | 13 Years |

**Peru Age of Population**

Age 0-14: 27.6 %Age 15-24: 19.4 %Age 25-54: 39.2 %Age 55-64: 7.1 %Over 64: 6.7 %Highcharts.com

**Classroom**

Peruvian schools are very careful to teach the importance of knowing the national identity as a Peruvian. In connection with that strong feeling of nationalism, the school uniform is a sort of military cadet-looking uniform.   
Elementary schools are found throughout the country. Peruvians feel very strongly that the younger children must get an education in order to improve their life situation. However, secondary schools are much less available. The educational ministry simply does not have enough resources to build all the secondary schools that are needed, and many children drop out of school after elementary in order to work.

Most schools will have a plaza or courtyard where the students gather at the beginning of the day. On the positive side, the government has done a very good job of building schools; however, they have not done well at maintaining them. Therefore, many schools and the teaching resources in them are in poor condition.

In rural areas, school buildings are often simple and poorly equipped. Students might sit around sawed-off tree stumps instead of at desks, and often only the teacher will have a book—no students. The poorest families cannot afford to give their children notebooks and pencils, and computers cannot even be thought of. Fortunately, for these children, the school tries to often provide a simple breakfast, which they would otherwise not have.

Interestingly, sometimes when temperatures in parts of Peru become unseasonably cold, school schedules will move to later in the day in order to avoid early morning cold hours.

**Education Culture**

Like much of Latin America, education has been on the rise for several decades. The adult literacy rate has risen from approximately 40 percent in 1940 to over 90 percent in 2005.   
Public education is free and required for children between the ages of 6 and 16. However, many rural children stop attending after elementary school because of too few schools and too great a need to work to support their families. The drop out rate nationally after elementary school is nearly 50 percent. Also, although Peru does a fairly good job of getting their children into the schools, the teachers there are not as successful at teaching the children. In 2000, Peru entered a 43-country education test—and came out at the bottom, lower than any other Latin American country by a significant amount. Since then, the educational leaders of the country are slowly trying to improve the quality of schooling in Peru. They still have a long way to go, however, to catch up to the rest of Latin America.

Besides the public school system, there are a number of private schools, primarily in the larger cities. However, these are often too expensive for most families.

Several decades ago, nearly 40% of all Peruvians spoke only a Native American language. Frequently, Spanish-speakers were better educated and received better-paying jobs. Others were looked down on. As a result, people in rural and largely native areas looked to schools as a way of learning Spanish and avoiding prejudice. Perhaps because of this, an important part of each school’s mission is to teach nationalism and a common national identity, in addition to standard subjects taught throughout the world.

Well educated people are viewed highly in today’s society, and people are often addressed by their advanced degrees (Doctor So-and-So, Engineer So-and-So, Profesora So-and-So).

The school year in Peru, as in many Latin American countries, runs from April through December, with no school being held during the hotter summer months.

**Learning**

Children are required to attend elementary school for six years (ages 6-11), followed by five years of attendance in secondary school (ages 12-16). Classes are usually taught in Spanish, although that depends to some extent on where the school is. In some areas with high populations of native peoples, their local language is also taught in school. These tend to be in rural areas removed from cities and larger towns.   
There are five major subjects taught in Peruvian schools: communication (writing, speaking, etc.), math, social studies, science, and religion. Until recently, the Roman Catholic church was the official religion of Peru; it no longer has that status, but it is viewed as being very influential nevertheless. If non-Catholics want their children to be taught in their own religion, they must provide their own teachers for doing so.

There are three national languages in Peru—Spanish (spoken by 70 percent of the people), Quecha (one of the main languages of Native Americans in the country), and Aymara (another Native American language). English is also learned and spoken in much of Peru. The biggest source of revenue in Peru is tourism, so being able to speak English is valued as a way to make money.

Because of poorly trained teachers, large class sizes, and inadequate teaching resources, the quality of education in Peru tends to be lower than what is available in most other Latin American countries.

**To School**

School generally begins at 8:00 in the morning and is done at around 2:00 in the afternoon. Kids will usually walk or ride a public transportation bus to school, depending on how far from the school they live. Parents who can afford to do so might either drive their children to school, organize car pools, or participate with others in the community in hiring a private transportation company to take their children to and from school for a monthly fee.

In the most rural areas, native Indian children may walk as far as two or three hours in mountainous areas in order to get to school, which means they must leave home before 6:00 a.m. In these cases, where possible the children will stay with a family who lives closer to the school during the week, and return home on the weekends. However, school is important to improving living circumstances, so parents try to do whatever they can to ensure that their children get to school somehow.

**Peru Government**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Capital Name | Lima |
| Country Name | Peru |
| Local - Long | Republica del Peru |
| Full Country Name | Republic of Peru |
| Local - Short | Peru |
| Government Type | constitutional republic |
| Capital - geographic coordinate | 12 03 S, 77 03 W |
| Capital Time Difference | UTC-5 (same time as Washington, DC during Standard Time) |
| National Holiday | Independence Day, 28 July (1821) |
| Constitution | 29 December 1993 |
| Legal System | civil law system |
| Suffrage | 18 years of age; universal and compulsory until the age of 70 |

**Peru Government and Politics**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Government Executive Branch | chief of state: President Ollanta HUMALA Tasso (since 28 July 2011); First Vice President Marisol ESPINOZA Cruz (since 28 July 2011); Second Vice President (vacant); note - the president is both chief of state and head of government   head of government: President Ollanta HUMALA Tasso (since 28 July 2011); First Vice President Marisol ESPINOZA Cruz (since 28 July 2011); Second Vice President (vacant)   note: Prime Minister Rene CORNEJO (since 24 February 2014) does not exercise executive power; this power rests with the president   cabinet: Council of Ministers appointed by the president   elections: president elected by popular vote for a five-year term (eligible for nonconsecutive reelection); presidential election last held on 10 April 2011 with run-off election held on 6 June 2011 (next to be held in April 2016)   election results: Ollanta HUMALA Tasso elected president; percent of vote - Ollanta HUMALA Tasso 51.5%, Keiko FUJIMORI Higuchi 48.5% |
| Legislative Branch | unicameral Congress of the Republic of Peru or Congreso de la Republica del Peru (130 seats; members are elected by popular vote to serve five-year terms)  elections: last held on 10 April 2011 (next to be held in April 2016)  election results: percent of vote by party - Gana Peru 25.3%, Fuerza 2011 23%, PP 14.8%, Alliance for Great Change 14.4%, National Solidarity 10.2%, Peruvian Aprista Party 6.4%, other 5.9%; seats by party - Gana Peru 47, Fuerza 2011 37, PP 21, Alliance for Great Change 12, National Solidarity 9, Peruvian Aprista Party 4; note - defections by members of National Assembly are commonplace, resulting in frequent changes in the numbers of seats held by the various parties |
| Judicial Branch | Supreme Court of Justice or Corte Suprema de Justicia (judges are appointed by the National Council of the Judiciary) |
| Regions or States | 25 regions (regiones, singular - region) and 1 province\* (provincia); Amazonas, Ancash, Apurimac, Arequipa, Ayacucho, Cajamarca, Callao, Cusco, Huancavelica, Huanuco, Ica, Junin, La Libertad, Lambayeque, Lima, Lima\*, Loreto, Madre de Dios, Moquegua, Pasco, Piura, Puno, San Martin, Tacna, Tumbes, Ucayali |
| Political Parties and Leaders | Alliance for Great Change (Alianza por el Gran Cambio) (a coalition of the Alliance for Progress, Humanist Party, National Restoration Party, and Popular Christian Party) [Pedro Pablo KUCZYNSKI]; Fuerza 2011 [Keiko FUJIMORI Higuchi]; Gana Peru (a coalition of Lima Para Todos, Peruvian Communist Party, Peruvian Nationalist Party, and Peruvian Socialist Party) [Ollanta HUMALA Tasso]; National Solidarity (Solidaridad Nacional) or SN (a coalition of Cambio 90, Siempre Unidos, Todos por el Peru, and Union for Peru or UPP) [Luis CASTANEDA Lossio]; Peru Posible or PP (a coalition of Accion Popular and Somos Peru) [Alejandro TOLEDO Manrique]; Peruvian Aprista Party (Partido Aprista Peruano) or PAP [Alan GARCIA Perez] (also referred to by its original name Alianza Popular Revolucionaria Americana or APRA) |
| International Law Organization Participation | accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations; accepts ICCt jurisdiction |
| International Organization Participation | APEC, BIS, CAN, CD, CELAC, EITI (compliant country), FAO, G-24, G-77, IADB, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC (NGOs), ICRM, IDA, IFAD, IFC, IFRCS, IHO, ILO, IMF, IMO, IMSO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO, ITSO, ITU, ITUC (NGOs), LAES, LAIA, Mercosur (associate), MIGA, MINURSO, MINUSTAH, MONUSCO, NAM, OAS, OPANAL, OPCW, PCA, SICA (observer), UN, UNASUR, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, Union Latina, UNISFA, UNMIL, UNMISS, UNOCI, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WFTU (NGOs), WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO |
| Politicial Pressure Groups and Leaders | General Workers Confederation of Peru (Confederacion General de Trabajadores del Peru) or CGTP [Mario HUAMAN]; Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso) or SL [Abimael GUZMAN Reynoso (imprisoned), Victor QUISPE Palomino (top leader at-large)] (leftist guerrilla group) |

**Peru Economy Data**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| GDP - Gross Domestic Product | $344,000,000,000 (USD) |
| GDP - official exchange rate | $210,300,000,000 (USD) |
| GDP - real growth rate | 5.1% |
| GDP Per Capita | $11,100.00 (USD) |
| GDP by Sector- agriculture | 6.2% |
| GDP by Sector- Industry | 37.5% |
| GDP by Sector- services | 56.3% |
| Population Below Poverty Line | 31.3% |
| Inflation Rate | 3.6% |
| Labor Force | 16,200,000 |
| Labor Force By Occupation- agriculture | 25.8% |
| Labor Force By Occupation- industry | 17.4% |
| Labor Force By Occupation- services | 56.8% |
| Unemployment Rate | 7.7% |
| Unemployment - note | data are for metropolitan Lima; widespread underemployment |
| Fiscal Year | calendar year |
| Annual Budget | $58,150,000,000 (USD) |
| Budget Surplus or Deficit - percent of GDP | 1% |
| Public Debt (% of GDP) | 18.3% |
| Taxes and other revenues - percent of GDP | 29% |
| Major Industries | mining and refining of minerals; steel, metal fabrication; petroleum extraction and refining, natural gas and natural gas liquefaction; fishing and fish processing, cement, glass, textiles, clothing, food processing, beer, soft drinks, rubber, machinery, electrical machinery, chemicals, furniture |
| Industrial Growth Rate | 5% |
| Agriculture Products | asparagus, coffee, cocoa, cotton, sugarcane, rice, potatoes, corn, plantains, grapes, oranges, pineapples, guavas, bananas, apples, lemons, pears, coca, tomatoes, mangoes, barley, medicinal plants, palm oil, marigold, onion, wheat, dry beans; poultry, beef, pork, dairy products; guinea pigs; fish |
| Currency Code | nuevo sol (PEN) |
| Child Labor - % of children ages 5-14 | 34% |
| Child Labor - # of children ages 5-14 | 2,545,855 |
| Child Labor - note | note: data represents children ages 5-17 |
| Commercial Bank Prime Lending Rate | 20.3% |
| Commercial Bank Prime Lending Rate - note | note: domestic currency lending rate, 90 day maturity |

**Peru Economy**

**Economic Overview**

Peru's economy reflects its varied geography - an arid lowland coastal region, the central high sierra of the Andes, the dense forest of the Amazon, with tropical lands bordering Colombia and Brazil. A wide range of important mineral resources are found in the mountainous and coastal areas, and Peru's coastal waters provide excellent fishing grounds. The Peruvian economy has been growing by an average of 6.4% per year since 2002 with a stable/slightly appreciating exchange rate and low inflation, which in 2013 is expected to be below the upper limit of the Central Bank target range of 1 to 3%. Growth has been in the 6-9% range for the last three years, due partly to a leap in private investment, especially in the extractive sector, which accounts for more than 60% of Peru's total exports. Despite Peru's strong macroeconomic performance, dependence on minerals and metals exports and imported foodstuffs subjects the economy to fluctuations in world prices. Poor infrastructure hinders the spread of growth to Peru's non-coastal areas. Peru's rapid expansion coupled with cash transfers and other programs have helped to reduce the national poverty rate by 23 percentage points since 2002, but inequality persists and continues to pose a challenge for the new Ollanta HUMALA administration, which has championed a policy of social inclusion and a more equitable distribution of income. Peru's free trade policy has continued under the HUMALA administration; since 2006, Peru has signed trade deals with the US, Canada, Singapore, China, Korea, Mexico, Japan, the European Free Trade Association, Chile, and four other countries; concluded negotiations with Venezuela, Costa Rica, and Guatemala; and begun trade talks with two other Central American countries and the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Peru also has signed a trade pact with Chile, Colombia, and Mexico called the Pacific Alliance that rivals Mercosur in combined population, GDP, and trade. The US-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement entered into force 1 February 2009, opening the way to greater trade and investment between the two economies. Although Peru has continued to attract foreign investment, political activism and protests are hampering development of some projects related to natural resource extraction.

**Peru Exports**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Exports | $47,380,000,000 (USD) |
| Major Exports | copper, gold, lead, zinc, tin, iron ore, molybdenum, silver; crude petroleum and petroleum products, natural gas; coffee, asparagus and other vegetables, fruit, apparel and textiles, fishmeal, fish, chemicals, fabricated metal products and machinery, alloys |
| Top Export Partners | China 18.3%, US 15.2%, Canada 11.4%, Japan 5.4%, Spain 5.3%, Chile 4.8%, South Korea 4.6%, Germany 4.1% |

**Peru Imports**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Imports | $41,150,000,000 (USD) |
| Major Imports | petroleum and petroleum products, chemicals, plastics, machinery, vehicles, color TV sets, power shovels, front-end loaders, telephones and telecommunication equipment, iron and steel, wheat, corn, soybean products, paper, cotton, vaccines and medicines |
| Top Import Partners | US 24.5%, China 13.7%, Brazil 6.7%, Chile 5.9%, Ecuador 4.4%, South Korea 4% |

**Peru Flag**

According to legend, General Jose de San Martin saw a great number of flamingos when he arrived in Peru in 1820. Taking this as a good omen, he decided that white and red should be the colors of the Peruvian Legion that he founded to liberate Peru. The white represents peace, dignity, and progress. The red symbolizes war and courage. In the state flag the arms show symbols of the animal kingdom, vegetable kingdom, and mineral kingdom. The laurel wreath above the shield is a symbol of the republic. The palm and laurel wreath around the shield is a symbol of peace and the will to defend the country.

**Peru Flag Description**

three equal, vertical bands of red (hoist side), white, and red. The state flag also has a coat of arms centered in the white band; the coat of arms features a shield bearing a vicuna, cinchona tree (the source of quinine), and a yellow cornucopia spilling out gold coins, all framed by a green wreath

Peru flag



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Anthem History | "Somos libres, seámoslo siempre" is the national anthem of Perú and was written by José de La Torre Ugarte and composed by José Bernardo Alcedo, who won a contest run by Don José de San Martín, known for being the liberator of Perú , in 1821. It was performed for the first time by Rosa Merino in the Municipal Theater of Lima |
| Anthem Lyrics English | CHORUS  We are free, let's always be so  and may the sun deny its light  if we fail the solemn vow  that the motherland swore to the Eternal One.  For a long time the oppresed Peruvian  dragged the ominous chain;  condemned to a cruel servitude  for a long time he cried in silence.  But once the sacred cry  Freedom! in its coasts it was heard  the slave's indolence shakes,  the humilliated neck he raised. |

**Peru National Anthem History**

The History of the Peru National Anthem

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | "Somos libres, seámoslo siempre" is the national anthem of Perú and was written by José de La Torre Ugarte and composed by José Bernardo Alcedo, who won a contest run by Don José de San Martín, known for being the liberator of Perú , in 1821. It was performed for the first time by Rosa Merino in the Municipal Theater of Lima |

**Peru Interesting Facts**

* An important day on a Native Peruvian's calendar is November 2, the Day of the Dead, when spirits are believed to walk the earth again, visiting their relatives.
* For Peruvians an evening of socializing often includes lively music and salsa dancing.
* Peru has the world's highest navigable body of water. Lake Titicaca is 3800 meters above sea level.
* Peru is considered to be the archeological capital of South America. The Lost City of the Incas, called Machu Picchu, is located in the Andes Mountains. It is called lost because the Incas abandoned it and the city remained unknown to explorers for several centuries.
* Peruvians will offer you an item enthusiastically if you admire it and might be offended if you don't accept it.
* Several English words actually derive from Quechua, including the following: alpaca, condor, gaucho, jerky, lima (as in the lima bean), llama, pampa, puma, quinine, quinoa and vicuna.
* The Andean cultures have produced their own oral tradition of Quechuan jokes with elaborate beginnings.
* The Andes have more people living in them than any other mountain range in the world. The highest home in the world is a shepherd's hut in the Andes at 17,000 feet (5,180meters)
* The infant mortality rate of 80 per 1000 live births ranks among the highest in South America. One in ten children will not survive to age five.
* The Roman Catholicism of the Spaniards and the Native Peruvian belief in many gods combined to produce a mixture of Roman Catholic and Native rituals.
* The world's largest canyon is in Colca Canyon. The depth is 11,00 feet and it is 37.3 miles long.

**Peru Lost Tooth Traditions**

At night a child must place a tooth in their shoes so  
  
that a mouse takes it and a member of the family must  
  
leave a gift for them in the morning before the child wakes up. So they will believe that the mouse left the gift.

**History of Peru**

*Machu picchu ruins*

AS THE CRADLE of South America’s most advanced native American civilizations, Peru has a rich and unique heritage among the nations of the southern continent. It encompasses a past that reaches back over 10,000 years in one of the most harsh and inhospitable, if spectacular, environments in the world--the high Andes of South America. The culmination of Andean civilization was the construction by the Incas, in little more than one hundred years, of an empire that spanned a third of the South American continent and achieved a level of general material wellbeing and cultural sophistication that rivaled and surpassed many of the great empires in world history.

Paradoxically, Peruvian history is also unique in another, less glorious, way. The Andean peoples engaged the invading Spaniards in 1532 in one of the first clashes between Western and non-Western civilizations in history. The ensuing Spanish conquest and colonialism rent the rich fabric of Andean society and created the enormous gulf between victors and vanquished that has characterized Peru down through the centuries. Indeed, Peru’s postconquest, colonial past established a historic division--a unique Andean "dualism"--that formed the hallmark of its subsequent underdevelopment. Peru, like its geography, became divided economically, socially, and politically between a semifeudal, largely native American highland interior and a more modernized, capitalistic, urbanized, and peru/pe\_glos.asp#mestizo">mestizo (see Glossary) coast. At the apex of its social structure, a small, wealthy, educated elite came to dominate the vast majority of Peruvians who, by contrast, subsisted in poverty, isolation, ignorance, and disease. The persistence of this dualism and the inability of the Peruvian state in more recent times to overcome it have prevented not only the development but also the effective integration and consolidation of the Peruvian nation to this day.

Another unique feature of Peru is the role that outsiders have played in its history. Peru’s formal independence from Spain in 1824 (proclaimed on July 28, 1821) was largely the work of "outsiders," such as the Venezuelan Simón Bolívar Palacios and the Argentine José de San Martín. In 1879 Chile invaded Peru, precipitating the War of the Pacific (1879-83), and destroyed or carried off much of its wealth, as well as annexing a portion of its territory. Foreigners have also exploited Peru’s natural resources, from silver in the colonial period to guano and nitrates in the nineteenth century and copper, oil, and various industrial metals in the twentieth century. This exploitation, among other things, led advocates of the dependency theory to argue that Peru’s export-dependent economy was created and manipulated by foreign interests in a nefarious alliance with a domestic oligarchy.

Although foreigners have played controversial roles throughout Peruvian history, internal demographic changes since the middle of the twentieth century have shaped contemporary Peru in other fundamental ways. For example, the total population grew almost threefold from over 7 million in 1950 to nearly 20 million in 1985, despite slowing down in the 1970s. This reflected a sharp jump after World War II in fertility rates that led to an average annual increase in the population of 2.5 percent. At the same time, a great wave of out-migration swept the Sierra. Over the next quarter century, Peru moved from a rural to an essentially urban society. In 1980 over 60 percent of its work force was located in towns and cities, principally the capital, Lima (one-third of the total population), and the coast (threefifths ). This monumental population shift resulted in a dramatic increase in the informal economy, as Peru’s formal economy was unable to expand fast enough to accommodate the newcomers. In 1985 half of Lima’s nearly 7 million inhabitants lived in informal housing, and at least half of the country’s population was employed or underemployed in the informal sector.

These demographic changes during the previous quarter century led anthropologist José Matos Mar to describe the 1980s as a great *desborde popular* (overflowing of the masses). Once the proud bastion of the dominant creole (American born) classes, Lima became increasingly Andeanized in ways that have made it virtually unrecognizable to a previous generation of inhabitants. In some ways, this trend of Andeanization suggests that the old dualism may now be beginning to erode, at least in an ethnic sense. Urbanization and *desborde popular* also tended to overwhelm the capacity of the state, already weak by historical standards, to deliver even the basic minimum of governmental services to the vast majority of the population.

As these demographic changes unfolded, Peru experienced an increasing "hegemonic" crisis--the dispersion of power away from the traditional triumvirate of oligarchy, church, and armed forces. This occurred when the longstanding power of the oligarchy came to an abrupt end in the 1968 military "revolution." The ensuing agrarian reform of 1969 destroyed the economic base of both the export elite and the peru/pe\_glos.asp#gamonales">*gamonales* (sing. *gamonal*; rural bosses--see Glossary) in the Sierra. Then, after more than a decade, the military, in growing public disfavor, returned to the barracks, opening the way, once again, to the democratic process.

With the resumption of elections in 1980, a process that was reaffirmed in 1985 (and again in 1990), "redemocratization" confronted a number of problems. The end of military rule left in its wake an enormous political vacuum that the political parties- -absent for twelve years and historically weak--and a proliferating number of new groups were hard-pressed to fill. Even under the best of circumstances, given Peru’s highly fragmented and heterogeneous society, as well as its long history of authoritarian and oligarchical rule, effective democratic government would have been difficult to accomplish. Even more serious, redemocratization faced an increasingly grave threat from a deepening economic crisis that began in the mid-1960s. Various economic factors caused the country’s main engine for sustained economic growth to stall. As a result of the ensuing economic stagnation and decline, real wages by 1985 approached mid-1960 levels.

Finally, redemocratization was also threatened from another quarter--the emergence, also in 1980, of the Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso--SL) guerilla movement, Latin America’s most violent and radical ongoing insurgency. By 1985 its so-called "people’s war" had claimed about 6,000 victims, most of them innocent civilians killed by the guerrillas or the army. Resorting to extraordinarily violent means, the Shining Path succeeded in challenging the authority of the state, particularly in the more remote areas of the interior, where the presence of the state had always been tenuous--the more so now because of the absence of the *gamonal* class. Violence, however, was a thread that ran throughout Andean history, from Inca expansion, the Spanish conquest and colonialism, and countless native American insurrections and their suppression to the struggle for independence in the 1820s, the War of the Pacific, and the longterm nature of underdevelopment itself.

**Peru History Timeline**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Peru Year in History | Peru Timeline |
| 1200 | **The Incan Indians built a great empire in Peru.** The Incan Indians built a great empire in Peru. |
| 1520 | **The Spanish conquistador Francisco Pizarro led an expedition into Peru.** The Spanish conquistador Francisco Pizarro led an expedition into Peru. |
| 1530 | **Pizarro conquered the Inca and made Peru a Spanish colony.** Pizarro conquered the Inca and made Peru a Spanish colony. |
| 1535 | **Pizarro founded Lima.** Pizarro founded Lima. |
| 1780 | **The Mestizos, led by Tupac Amaru, revolted against the rule of Spain.** The Mestizos, led by Tupac Amaru, revolted against the rule of Spain. |
| 1781 | **The Spanish captured and executed Tupac Amaru and crushed the uprising.** The Spanish captured and executed Tupac Amaru and crushed the uprising. |
| 1810 | **Overthrow of the king of Spain by Napoleon.** Overthrow of the king of Spain by Napoleon. |
| 1820 | **Jose de San Martin of Argentina invaded Peru to free the Peruvians from the Spanish rule.** Jose de San Martin of Argentina invaded Peru to free the Peruvians from the Spanish rule. |
| 1821 | **Peru declared its independence from Spain.** Peru declared its independence from Spain. General Jose de San Martin captures Lima from Spanish and proclaims Peru independent. |
| 1823 | **Simon Bolivar led an army from Venezuela and Colombia into Peru to help fight the Spanish.** Simon Bolivar led an army from Venezuela and Colombia into Peru to help fight the Spanish. |
| 1824 | **Antonio Jose de Sucre defeated the Spanish at Ayacucho.** Antonio Jose de Sucre defeated the Spanish at Ayacucho. Peru defeats Spain and becomes the last colony in Latin America to gain its independence. |
| 1827 | **General Jose de la Mar became the first Peruvian president.** General Jose de la Mar became the first Peruvian president. |
| 1836 | **Peru and Bolivia join in short-lived confederation.** Peru and Bolivia join in short-lived confederation. |
| 1849 | **Chinese workers numbering up to 100,000 arrive in Peru as menial laborers.** Chinese workers numbering up to 100,000 arrive in Peru as menial laborers. |
| 1866 | **Peruvian-Spanish war.** Peruvian-Spanish war.  Peru wins war with Spain. |
| 1879 | **Peru and Bolivia are defeated by Chile during the Pacific War.** Peru and Bolivia are defeated by Chile during the Pacific War in which Peru loses territory in the south to Chile. |
| 1879 | **Spain recognizes the independence of Peru.** Spain recognizes the independence of Peru. |
| 1881 | **Chile occupied Lima.** Chile occupied Lima. |
| 1929 | **Chile returned Tacna to Peru.** Chile returned Tacna to Peru. |
| 1975 | **Quechua, the language of the Inca, was made an official language along with Spanish of Peru.** Quechua, the language of the Inca, was made an official language along with Spanish of Peru. |
| 1981 | **Peru fights border war with Ecuador .** Peru fights border war with Ecuador over Cordillera del Condor, which a 1942 protocol had given to Peru. |
| 1982 | **Deaths** Deaths and "disappearances" begin to escalate following army crackdown on guerrillas and drug traffickers. |
| 1998 | **Border agreement with Ecuador.** Border agreement with Ecuador. |
| 2002 | **Nine people killed by bomb blast near US embassy in Lima .** Nine people killed by bomb blast near US embassy in Lima.  This is seen as attempt to disrupt forthcoming visit by President George W Bush. |
| 2003 | **Atrocities Shining Path rebels** Commission inquiry into atrocities during 20-year war against Shining Path rebels concludes that an estimated 69,280 people were killed. |
| 2005 | **President Fujimori arrested** Former President Fujimori is arrested in Chile, after arriving there from Japan, pending extradition proceedings. |
| 2007 | **Earthquake** Earthquake hits coastal areas, killing hundreds and destroying churches and houses. |
| 2009 | **54 people killed** 54 people are killed in clashes in the Amazon between government forces and indigenous people protesting against land ownership laws opening up oil and gas resources to foreign companies. |
| 2012 | **Comrade Artemio captured** Shining Path rebel Comrade Artemio - one of the original central committee - is captured. |
| 2012 | **Machu Picchu artifacts** The last of the artifacts taken from Machu Picchu by United States archaeologist Hiram Bingham are returned to Peru. Mr Bingham brought the site to international attention in 1911. |

**Peru Holidays and Events**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Display Date | Title |
| July 28th | **Independence Day** |
| December 25th | **Christmas** A *retablo* (a personal portable nativity scene) are a three-dimensional box with a triangular top and one or two doors that open. *Retablos* range from 1 to 2 inches to several feet. They are usually divided in half with the top symbolizing heaven and the bottom symbolizing earth. Many of the figures are molded from a potato paste and varnished. The triangle and the doors often have floral patterns.  Children open gifts on Christmas eve and afterwords the family has Christmas dinner consisting of turkey and stuffing, *panetón* (bread with raisins and glazed fruit), *biblia con pisco* (eggnog made with pomace brandy) hot chocolate, and champagne.  On Christmas day many people attend a grand bullfight. |

**Peru Meals and Food**

Recipes from Peru

* [Cupos (Ground Beef Peruvian Dish) - Main Dish](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Peru/recipe/cupos-ground-beef-peruvian-dish.htm)
* [Paneton - Dessert](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Peru/recipe/paneton.htm)
* [Arroz Chaufa (Chaufa Rice) - Main Dish](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Peru/recipe/arroz-chaufa-chaufa-rice.htm)
* [Arroz con Leche (Rice and Milk) - Dessert](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Peru/recipe/arroz-con-leche-rice-and-milk.htm)
* [Cebiche de Pescado - Main Dish](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Peru/recipe/cebiche-de-pescado.htm)
* [Ceviche Peruano (Fish Marinated in Lime and Lemon Juice) - Main Dish](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Peru/recipe/ceviche-peruano-fish-marinated-in-lime-and-lemon-juice.htm)
* [Ocopa Arequipeña (Potatoes with Peanut, Chili and Cheese Sauce) - Main Dish](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Peru/recipe/ocopa-arequipena-potatoes-with-peanut-chili-and-cheese-sauce.htm)
* [Papa a la Huancaina (Huancaina Potatoes) - Main Dish](http://www.countryreports.org/country/Peru/recipe/papa-a-la-huancaina-huancaina-potatoes.htm)

**Peru Recipes and Diet**

Peru food and meal customs

**Diet**

The main staples in the diet include rice, beans, fish, and a variety of tropical fruits. Soups are common. Corn, native to Peru, is the main staple among the Indians. Cebiche (raw fish seasoned with lemon and vinegar) is popular on the coast.

**Meals**

A polite guest eats all the food that is offered. Table manners are important in Peru. The continental style of eating is followed with both hands being kept above the table. A typical family will have three meals: breakfast, lunch and dinner. Some have a kind of pre-dinner at about 6:00 PM with dinner served at about 8 PM .The average family eats at home. Manners are practiced but not strictly. The arms can go on the table but not the elbows. The whole family is supposed to eat at the table, but if someone of the members can't stay it is not compulsory.

Food in Peru

**Peru Languages**

**Languages**

Spanish (official) 84.1%, Quechua (official) 13%, Aymara (official) 1.7%, Ashaninka 0.3%, other native languages (includes a large number of minor Amazonian languages) 0.7%, other 0.2%

**Language Translations:**

**Greetings in Spanish**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Do you speak English? | Habla usted ingles? |
| Do you speak Spanish? | Habla usted espanol? |
| Excuse me | Dispenseme |
| Fine / Good | Bien |
| Good afternoon | Buenas tardes |
| Good evening | Buenas tardes |
| Good morning | Buenos diás |
| Good night | Buenas noches |
| Goodbye | Adios |
| Happy New Year! | ¡Felíz año nuevo! |
| Hello | ¡Hóla! |
| How are you? | Como esta usted? |
| I'm pleased to meet you | Encantado de conocerle |
| Merry Christmas | Feliz Navidad |
| Please | Por favor |
| See you later | Hasta luego |
| Thank you | Gracias |
| Welcome | Bienvenido |
| What is your name? | Como se llama? / Deme su nombre |
| Yes / No | Si / No |

**Days in Spanish**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Sunday | Domingo |
| Monday | Lunes |
| Tuesday | Martes |
| Wednesday | Miercoles |
| Thursday | Jueves |
| Friday | Viernes |
| Saturday | Sabado |

**Months in Spanish**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| January | Enero |
| February | Febrero |
| March | marzo |
| April | Abril |
| May | Mayo |
| June | Junio |
| July | Julio |
| August | Agosto |
| September | Septiembre |
| October | Octubre |
| November | Noviembre |
| December | Diciembre |

**Colors in Spanish**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Black | Negro |
| Blue | Azul |
| Green | Verde |
| Orange | Anaranjado |
| Pink | Rosado |
| Red | Rojo |
| White | Blanco |
| Yellow | Amarillo |

**Numbers in Spanish**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| One | Uno |
| Two | Dos |
| Three | Tres |
| Four | Cuatro |
| Five | Cinco |
| Six | Seis |
| Seven | Siete |
| Eight | Ocho |
| Nine | Nueve |
| Ten | Diez |
| Fifty | Cincuenta |
| one Hundred | Cien |
| One Thousand | mil |

**Peru Clothing and Fashion**

Although Western-style clothing is worn regularly in Lima, the capital, and other urban areas, rural campesinos (farmers) often wear traditional clothing related to their ethnic background. Hand woven fabrics are commonly used to make their clothes.

TRANSLATE

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[](http://d2z7bzwflv7old.cloudfront.net/cdn_image/maxW_1200/images/photos/pe/peruwomen.jpg)

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**Dating, Family and Children Peru**

**Dating and Marriage**

Some group dating occurs in the late teen years, but dating in couples is almost strictly reserved for courtship. Common-law marriage is not uncommon and is widely accepted, except in the upper class.

**Family and Children**

The family is important in Peru. The father is the undisputed head of the family, while the mother spends most of her time directing and performing household duties. Families on average have three children.

**Peru Gestures and Greetings**

**Greetings**

Both men and women shake hands when meeting and parting. Close friends often greet each other with a kiss on one cheek. First names are used among friends, but elderly people and officials are referred to by their title and last name.   
  
Between teenagers a kiss on the check between girls and boys is common. Never a kiss between boys. Boys usually do a slap with the hands or a hand touch on the shoulder followed by a nickname said in an aloud and friendly way. There are many gestures accompanying the typical greetings. The more confidence or younger the age, the more gestures(and it is even more in low-economical classes). For example, between male teenagers it is common a hand-slap or hugs when greeting someone.  If you needed to get someone's attention to call them over to you, It is typical to just try to talk to the person or just stare them at the eyes which is very common. With teenagers it is common to try to talk out loud and about funny things or smile at the person. Nice clothing is always the trend and a happy attitude to try to call someone's attention to yourself

**Gestures**

People stand close to each other during conversation and constant eye contact is important. When seated, placing the ankle of one leg on the knee of the other is inappropriate for women, but is okay for men. Hand gestures are used a great deal during conversation.

**Visiting**

The most common ways to socialize with people doesn't  necessarily involve food and drinks. Any person can socialize by talking. If a closer socialization is wished, then the interested person may invite someone over for something to eat or invite them to go out. Peruvians enjoy visiting one another. Between friends and relatives, most visits are unannounced. In other cases, it is polite to make advance arrangements. Special acknowledgment of children in the home is appreciated by the hosts. Gifts are not expected when one visits the home, but small gifts such as fruit or wine are welcome on any occasion.  If someone visits impromptu, the host may politely decline the visit. It would depend on the host's attitude. Instead of meeting indoors, most people meet outdoors like at campuses, on the way to home, other public places (restaurants, pubs, shops, etc) or while using public transportation like public buses as cars are not owned by everybody.

**Cultural Attributes**

Appointments and other meetings may not begin on time and Peruvians generally consider people to be more important than schedules.  
  
Wealth is defined by having a house and car. Good food and clothing are things that many people would like to enjoy. Middle class people enjoy an education in addition to the basic necessities.  
  
Basic services are not available in many areas of the country, especially in the cities borders and in the countryside. In rural areas, wealth is defined by extensive land holdings, a big house, a big and healthy family and lots of livestock.  
  
The higher social classes consider expensive properties and expensive education to be important.

**Peru Church and Religion**

Historically, evangelicals resided in areas outside of Lima, the capital, and in rural rather than urban areas; however, in the last fifteen years, their numbers in urban areas increased significantly. There were small Jewish populations in Lima and Cuzco and small Muslim populations in Lima (mostly of Palestinian origin) and Tacna (predominantly of Pakistani origin).   
  
Some Catholics combined indigenous worship with Catholic traditions. This type of syncretistic religion was practiced most often in the Andean mountain highlands. Indigenous peoples in the remote eastern jungles also practiced traditional faiths. The founder of the Israelites of the New Universal Pact organized the group in 1960 in Junin Department; most adherents were concentrated in and near Lima.   
  
Foreign missionary groups, including Mormons and several evangelical organizations, operated freely throughout the country, although they did not receive the same treatment in the areas of customs, immigration, and taxation given to the Catholic Church.   
  
The constitution provides for freedom of religion, and the Government generally respected this right in practice. Article 50 of the constitution establishes separation of church and state but recognizes the Catholic Church's role as "an important element in the historical, cultural, and moral development of the nation." The government acts independently of Catholic Church policy. Nonetheless, it maintains a close relationship with the Church, and a concordat signed with the Vatican in 1980 grants the Catholic Church special status. Non-Catholic critics complain that the concordat was executed between the Vatican and the last military government and thus does not reflect the current democratic vision of equality. Officials of the Church sometimes play a high profile role in the public sector.   
  
The constitution specifically prohibits discrimination based on religion; however, preferential treatment is given to the Catholic Church in education, tax benefits, immigration of religious workers, and other areas in accordance with the concordat. All work-related earnings of Catholic priests and bishops are exempt from income taxes. Real estate, buildings, and houses owned by the Catholic Church are exempt from property taxes; other religious groups (depending on the municipal jurisdiction) must pay property taxes for schools and clergy residences. Some Catholic clergy receive state remuneration in addition to the stipends paid to them by the Catholic Church. This applies to the country's fifty-two bishops as well as priests whose ministries are located in towns and villages along the country's borders. In addition, each diocese receives a monthly institutional subsidy from the Government. According to Catholic Church officials, none of these payments are substantial.   
  
The executive branch formally interacts with religious communities on issues of religious freedom through the Ministry of Justice. The ministry issues resolutions that implement laws, and interacts with the public through an office of relations with the Catholic Church and an office for non-Catholic religions. Both offices, constituting a Religious Affairs Unit, maintain a continuing dialog with the Catholic Church and other organized religious groups on concerns of religious freedom. The primary functions of the Religious Affairs Unit are to process complaints of religious discrimination and to assist religious groups in relations with the state, such as seeking exemptions from import taxes and customs duties.   
  
All religious groups are free to establish places of worship, train clergy, and proselytize.  
  
The law mandates that all schools, public and private, impart religious education as part of the curriculum throughout the education process (primary and secondary), "without violating the freedom of conscience of the student, parents, or teachers." Catholicism is the only religion taught in public schools. Many non-Catholic religious or secular private schools have been granted exemptions from this requirement. The Education Ministry has made it mandatory for public school authorities to appoint religious education teachers upon individual recommendations and approval by the presiding Catholic bishop of the area.   
  
Parents who do not wish their public school children to participate in the mandatory religion classes must request an exemption in writing from the school principal. Non-Catholics who wish their children to receive a religious education in their own faith are free to organize such classes, at their own expense, during the weekly hour allotted by the school for religious education; however, they must supply their own teacher.

**Students Life in Peru**

**Mornings**

In urban areas, children eat a light breakfast of bread and jam before going to school. In poor rural areas, children are more likely to have nothing for breakfast before leaving early to walk to school. (Many families live on the equivalent of US$1.00 a day, so food is scarce for them.)

**School**

School generally begins at 8:00 in the morning and is done at around 2:00 in the afternoon. Kids will usually walk or ride a public transportation bus to school, depending on how far from the school they live. Parents who can afford to do so might either drive their children to school, organize car pools, or participate with others in the community in hiring a private transportation company to take their children to and from school for a monthly fee.

In the most rural areas, native Indian children may walk as far as two or three hours in mountainous areas in order to get to school, which means they must leave home before 6:00 a.m. In these cases, where possible the children will stay with a family who lives closer to the school during the week, and return home on the weekends. However, school is important to improving living circumstances, so parents try to do whatever they can to ensure that their children get to school somehow.

**Classroom**

Peruvian schools are very careful to teach the importance of knowing the national identity as a Peruvian. In connection with that strong feeling of nationalism, the school uniform is a sort of military cadet-looking uniform.   
Elementary schools are found throughout the country. Peruvians feel very strongly that the younger children must get an education in order to improve their life situation. However, secondary schools are much less available. The educational ministry simply does not have enough resources to build all the secondary schools that are needed, and many children drop out of school after elementary in order to work.

Most schools will have a plaza or courtyard where the students gather at the beginning of the day. On the positive side, the government has done a very good job of building schools; however, they have not done well at maintaining them. Therefore, many schools and the teaching resources in them are in poor condition.

In rural areas, school buildings are often simple and poorly equipped. Students might sit around sawed-off tree stumps instead of at desks, and often only the teacher will have a book—no students. The poorest families cannot afford to give their children notebooks and pencils, and computers cannot even be thought of. Fortunately, for these children, the school tries to often provide a simple breakfast, which they would otherwise not have.

Interestingly, sometimes when temperatures in parts of Peru become unseasonably cold, school schedules will move to later in the day in order to avoid early morning cold hours.

**Student Learning**

Children are required to attend elementary school for six years (ages 6-11), followed by five years of attendance in secondary school (ages 12-16). Classes are usually taught in Spanish, although that depends to some extent on where the school is. In some areas with high populations of native peoples, their local language is also taught in school. These tend to be in rural areas removed from cities and larger towns.   
There are five major subjects taught in Peruvian schools: communication (writing, speaking, etc.), math, social studies, science, and religion. Until recently, the Roman Catholic church was the official religion of Peru; it no longer has that status, but it is viewed as being very influential nevertheless. If non-Catholics want their children to be taught in their own religion, they must provide their own teachers for doing so.

There are three national languages in Peru—Spanish (spoken by 70 percent of the people), Quecha (one of the main languages of Native Americans in the country), and Aymara (another Native American language). English is also learned and spoken in much of Peru. The biggest source of revenue in Peru is tourism, so being able to speak English is valued as a way to make money.

Because of poorly trained teachers, large class sizes, and inadequate teaching resources, the quality of education in Peru tends to be lower than what is available in most other Latin American countries.

**After School Activities**

Most schools do not have the resources to offer extracurricular activities. Sports are organized by clubs rather than by schools, and even academic clubs are rare in Peru’s public school system.

**Evenings**

What children do in the evening at home will depend on their family economic situation, for the most part. Children in upper income families spend time with friends playing sports or, as they get older, hanging out in local social centers (café’s, movies, etc.). However, for many of Peru’s families, the children will have jobs of various kinds as soon as they get out of school. Much of their energy will be spent on supporting the family in any way they can just so they can get food to eat and maintain a place to live. Families are therefore important social and economic units throughout Peru at all levels.

**Education Culture**

Like much of Latin America, education has been on the rise for several decades. The adult literacy rate has risen from approximately 40 percent in 1940 to over 90 percent in 2005.   
Public education is free and required for children between the ages of 6 and 16. However, many rural children stop attending after elementary school because of too few schools and too great a need to work to support their families. The drop out rate nationally after elementary school is nearly 50 percent. Also, although Peru does a fairly good job of getting their children into the schools, the teachers there are not as successful at teaching the children. In 2000, Peru entered a 43-country education test—and came out at the bottom, lower than any other Latin American country by a significant amount. Since then, the educational leaders of the country are slowly trying to improve the quality of schooling in Peru. They still have a long way to go, however, to catch up to the rest of Latin America.

Besides the public school system, there are a number of private schools, primarily in the larger cities. However, these are often too expensive for most families.

Several decades ago, nearly 40% of all Peruvians spoke only a Native American language. Frequently, Spanish-speakers were better educated and received better-paying jobs. Others were looked down on. As a result, people in rural and largely native areas looked to schools as a way of learning Spanish and avoiding prejudice. Perhaps because of this, an important part of each school’s mission is to teach nationalism and a common national identity, in addition to standard subjects taught throughout the world.

Well educated people are viewed highly in today’s society, and people are often addressed by their advanced degrees (Doctor So-and-So, Engineer So-and-So, Profesora So-and-So).

The school year in Peru, as in many Latin American countries, runs from April through December, with no school being held during the hotter summer months.

**Peru Sport and Recreation**

Soccer is the most popular sport. In the evening young people go to peñas where traditional Peruvian folk music is played.