



The Republic of Peru

(GMT - 5 hours)

Geographic Overview: Peru located in South America's central pacific coast is divided into three distinct geographic regions with a narrow, arid coast, steep Andes Mountains running north to south and the Amazon jungle to the east. Peru's rich and varied heritage includes the ancient Inca capital of Cuzco and the lost city of Macchu Picchu. Facing the Pacific, Peru is an important link between Asia and Brazil.

Area: 1,285,220 sq km (496,225 sq miles)

Capital City: Lima

Languages: Spanish (Official), Quechua (Official) Aymara and a number of minority Amazonian languages.

People: Indigenous (45%), Mestizo (37%), European/White (15%), African, Japanese, Chinese, and other 3%

Religion: Roman Catholic (90%)

Currency: Nuevo Sol (PEN)

Major Political Parties: Unión por el Perú (UPP), Partido Aprista Peruano (APRA), Unidad Nacional (UN), Alianza Frente de Centro, Alianza para el Futuro, Restauración Nacional, Peru Posible

Government: Constitutional system of presidential democracy. The 1993 constitution, approved by referendum, provides for an executive for five years. The principal executive body is the Council of Ministers, headed by the Prime Minister, appointed by the President. A unicameral 120-member Congress is elected at the same time as the President and also sits for five years. It is the main legislative branch of government with the President holding a veto. An 18 member Supreme Court based in Lima heads the judicial branch.

International Direct Dialling Codes

Peru 00 51; Lima 00 51 14

Fixed Date National Holidays

1 January, 1 May, 24 June, 29 June, 28-29 July, 30 August, 1 November, 8 December, 25 December

Variable Date National Holidays

Easter, 1 day holiday around 8 October

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British-Peruvian Chamber of Commerce (Peru)

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Peru Newspapers

<http://www.elcomercioperu.com.pe> - El Comercio

<http://www.larepublica.com.pe> - La Republica

<http://www.expreso.com.pe> - Expreso

<http://www.gestion.com.pe/> - Gestion

<http://www.ojo.com.pe/> - Ojo

<http://www.elbocon.com.pe/> - El Bocon

<http://www.correoperu.com.pe/> - Correo de Arequipa

Peru - other useful sites

<http://www.bcrp.gob.pe> - Central Bank of Peru

<http://www.mef.gob.pe> - Peruvian Ministry of Economy & Finance

<http://www.minem.gob.pe> - Peruvian Ministry of Energy and Mines