

DESTINATION INFORMATION FOR PERU

What You Need to Know Before You Go

DEPARTURE TAX

Most of the time, departure tax is included in your flight ticket but in some cities this is not possible and you will need to put aside some money for this requirement. We have indicated below, current amounts although these can change at any time.

Domestic flights departure tax is included from Lima and Cusco. Otherwise it costs US\$ 6.10 dollars or nuevo soles for domestic flights from the airports.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We strongly recommend you to get a travel insurance. FacePeru Tour operator, its agents, operators, suppliers and its associates cannot be held responsible or liable for loss, damage, or theft of personal luggage and belongings, nor can they be held liable for personal injury, accident or illness. Please ensure that you have yourself and your belongings adequately insured before you depart for your Peru Tour. Insurance is compulsory for all our trips. If you do not possess a policy, we can issue insurance at competitive rates. It is, however, better to purchase your policy locally as this will cover you for repatriation back to your home country. We cannot be held liable for any losses or damages incurred during your Peruvian holiday.

PASSPORTS

Please double check your Passport is valid for six months beyond the date of return from your trip.

Make sure your passport has enough blank visa pages available for entry and exit stamps.

We recommend that you take photocopies of your Passports, driving licenses, insurance and other special documents and keep them separately from the originals. This can be helpful if the originals are lost while abroad.

VISAS

The following information was current at time of writing however entry requirements can change at a moment's notice. It remains the responsibility of the client to check with their local embassy prior to departure and have the proper documentation in hand:

Most travelers do not currently require a visa to visit Peru. Tourists are permitted a 30- to 90-day stay, which is stamped into their passports and onto a tourist card, called a Tarjeta Andina de Migración (Andean Immigration Card) that must be returned upon leaving the country. The actual length of stay is determined by the immigration officer at the port of entry. If you lose your tourist card, you'll have to line up at an immigration office for a replacement. Carry your passport and tourist card on your person at all times, especially when traveling in remote areas (it's required by law on the Inca Trail).

CLIMATE

Peru can be divided into three regions which each have distinct weather patterns. The coastal desert strip tends to be quite clear throughout the year, although some cloud and mist (especially in Lima) is common from June until November. In the Andes, we have wet and dry seasons; the dry season lasts from April through 'til October, but the shorter days with clear skies make the nights especially cold above 10 000 ft. Then the rains normally start in November, with January and February being the wettest months, when daily showers are common all along the Andes. The hottest temperatures are found the Amazon region of Peru, when midday temperatures often go above 86°F and humidity is 100%. Rains are frequent especially from November to March.

LANGUAGE

Spanish is the official language. English is spoken in tourist areas. Many indigenous communities in the highlands still have the ancient languages of Quechua and Aymara as their mother tongue.

TIPPING

Tipping for good service is an accepted fact. Amounts are obviously discretionary, but as a rough guide we recommend.

Brief airport transfer with driver only: \$5-\$8 per couple

Longer land transfer with driver only: \$10-\$12 per couple

Half day tour with guide and driver: \$15-\$20 (guide). \$8-\$10 (driver) per couple

Full day tour with guide and driver: \$20-\$30 (guide). \$10-\$20 (driver) per couple

Additional couples please add on 50% to these guidelines and single travelers should use their discretion.

TIME

GMT minus 5 hours

FOOD AND DRINK

Seafood is a speciality in the coastal areas, especially the traditional "ceviche", fish marinated in lemon juice and hot peppers. Highland cuisine is based around corn and potatoes, there are many nutritious and tasty soups and the main delicacy is roasted guinea pig ("cuy"). The most famous drink is Pisco, a White grape brandy with a unique taste. Coca tea is made from an infusion of coca leaves and helps to Ward of altitude sickness; the most popular soft drink is the national institution of Inca-Kola, a luminous yellow drink that is probably best avoided.

Please note that in Peru VAT of 18% will be added to your bill, this often appears as IGV.

COMMUNICATIONS

The phone code for Peru is 0051. Major tourist centers have numerous internet centers where you can also make reasonably priced international phone calls, and send faxes.

Contact your cellular telephone provider to determine if your phone operates on the Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) and what, if any, activation may be required.

If your phone is not GSM-enabled, you may find that renting a phone specifically designed for use overseas is the most practical option.

MONEY AND EXPENSE

The Peruvian currency is the new sol; it is currently worth approximately 3.25 soles to a dollar. Change is always in short supply. ATM's are available in the major cities and towns. Most machines take all debit cards, as well as Cirrus and Plus cards. Visa and Amex are widely accepted (MasterCard to a lesser degree so it should not be absolutely relied upon). If you want to bring traveler's cheques, they should be in US dollars although in general the rate of Exchange and commission charges will not be favorable as that received with cash or cards. Allow about \$40 per person a day for meal and drink expenses (bear in mind that one's appetite usually diminishes at altitude), a local beer will normally cost \$2-3, a 2 course lunch \$10-15 per person and a 2 course dinner \$20-25 per person. (Prices based on good local restaurants).

We recommend not taking US\$100 bills, as there is currently a problem with forgeries, meaning that many Banks and Bureaus de Change will not change them.

Please also note that Peruvian currency cannot be changed back in the USA, and so any soles should be changed into US dollars before you return.

HEALTH

No vaccinations are compulsory but tetanus, polio, typhoid, hepatitis A are advisable. If traveling to Amazon areas, Yellow Fever and Malaria are recommended although not currently a legal requirement. Please check with a Doctor or Travel Clinic for other up-to-date immunization advice. Do not drink the tap water.

Altitude sickness ("soroche") is a possibility in the Highland areas, precautions include resting when you first arrive, avoiding caffeine and alcohol and drinking coca tea. Nearly everyone will have a headache and feel out of breath and possibly nauseous for at least the first day at altitude, if symptoms worsen hotels and guides will have oxygen Handy, the only cure for acute sickness is to descend to a lower altitude. The power of the sun at high altitudes is magnified, take sunglasses and sun cream.

SHOPPING

Many FACEPERU guests enjoy the chance to purchase items that reflect their destination, and so as a courtesy, your guide may recommend a particular shop or arrange a shopping visit. Please note, however, that these recommendations should not be taken as FACEPERU's

endorsement of the shop, merchandise and/or pricing. You assume all responsibility for any transactions that take place, including shipping arrangements that are made.

The decision to shop while travelling is a personal choice and shopping is never compulsory. If at any point during your journey you feel pressured to shop or make purchases, please immediately discuss the matter with your FACEPERU representative.

Throughout Peru, prices at hotel shops and tourist shops are generally fixed; however, when shopping at the local markets, bargaining is expected.

To avoid disappointment, we suggest the following guidelines:

- Compute the exchange rate and thoroughly review credit card receipts before signing.
- Take your purchases home with you whenever possible. Airfreight can take many months and actual shipping charges can be excessive. Customs delays, fees and regulations can further complicate the issue. If you choose to ship purchases, we suggest taking a picture of the item(s) and/or marking them in some way to ensure you receive what was purchased. For example, you could write your name on the backside of a rug. Determine if your shipment will be delivered door-to-door or to the nearest customs facility, as is often the case.

Most goods shipped from other countries to the United States are subject to Customs duty.

- Duty taxes, if applicable, are paid as you re-enter the United States. Regardless of assurances by merchants, these cannot be prepaid on your behalf. Currently, each person is entitled to an \$800 duty-free exemption, however, may only bring one liter of alcoholic beverages, 200 cigarettes and 100 cigars.
- Keep all sales receipts for items purchased throughout your trip and try to pack all items that you will need to declare together. This will ease the Customs process upon re-entry into the U.S.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS & FESTIVALS

As in the rest of Latin America, the week from Palm Sunday to Easter weekend is Semana Santa and the locals will be on Holiday. Other national holidays include:

1st May – Labor day, 29th June – Saint Peter’s Day, 28th & 29th July – Independence Day. 30th August – Santa Rosa of Lima’s Day, 8th Oct – Battle of Angamos, 1st November – All Saint’s Day, 8th December – Immaculate Conception.

WHAT TO PACK

- Daytime attire: Pack comfortable, casual clothing in natural, breathable fabrics. Temperatures will change as altitudes and time of day change, so it’s best to bring shorts as well as long trousers, and clothing you can layer.
- Evening attire: Somewhat smarter clothing is appropriate for evening dining in city restaurants.
- Formal clothing is not necessary.

- If visiting the Peruvian Amazon: expedition-type ventilated long-sleeved shirts and pants (including some pants with zip-off legs that convert long-pants into shorts). Light and neutral colors are best; black, navy or other dark colors tend to attract insects.
- Comfortable, walking shoes with low or no heels
- Lightweight, waterproof and well broken-in hiking boots that provide ankle support for hiking in the
- Andes or for trekking-related activities in Amazon rainforest regions. Optional: river sandals such as Tevas®.
- Sweater or lightweight jacket
- Lightweight raincoat or poncho
- Swimming suit
- Sunglasses, sun block and a sunhat
- Mosquito repellent with DEET
- Lightweight binoculars (optional)
- Optional items: a waterproof daypack, a small flashlight, and a lightweight collapsible walking stick.
- Simple first-aid kit
- Prescriptions and medications (We recommend you carry these in their original bottles and/or packaging.)
- Charging cables for electronics
- Voltage converter and adapter plugs

Note: Laundry service is available at your hotels.

BAGGAGE RESTRICTIONS

On internal flights in Peru, checked baggage is limited to 50 lbs. per person. Carry-on luggage is limited to 17 lbs.

Baggage on trains to and from Machu Picchu is limited to 1 bag or backpack not to exceed 11 lbs. and/or 62 inches (length + height + width). Luggage storage may be arranged, if necessary, with your guide. Depending on your itinerary, tagged luggage can be stored at your hotel in Cusco until you return from Machu Picchu. (Additional costs may apply.)

As a preventative measure, it is recommended that all luggage be secured with a TSA approved lock.

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