Destino Perú
EL MUNDO ES TUYO



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Peru travel guide

In this guide

The honest, practical essentials for a trip to Peru: money, visas, getting around, the best time to visit, the altitude, health, safety and what to pack. Five pages, read in ten minutes.

The quick facts · How much will I need? · Visas & entry · Getting around · Timing your trip
Altitude — take it easy · Health & water · Staying safe & connected · What to pack









PERU AT A GLANCE

The quick facts

CURRENCY
Peruvian Sol (S/ · PEN)

LANGUAGES
Spanish & Quechua

TIME ZONE
GMT-5 (PET)

POWER
220V · plugs A & C

BEST MONTHS
May–September (dry)

TOURIST VISA
Not needed for most

WHEN TO GO

Timing your trip

Peru is a year-round destination — it just depends which Peru you're after.

Dry season · May–Sep

Best for the Andes, Inca Trail and Machu Picchu — clear skies, cool nights, peak crowds.

Wet season · Nov–Mar

Green landscapes and fewer people; afternoon rain in the highlands. Inca Trail closed in February.

Coast summer · Dec–Mar

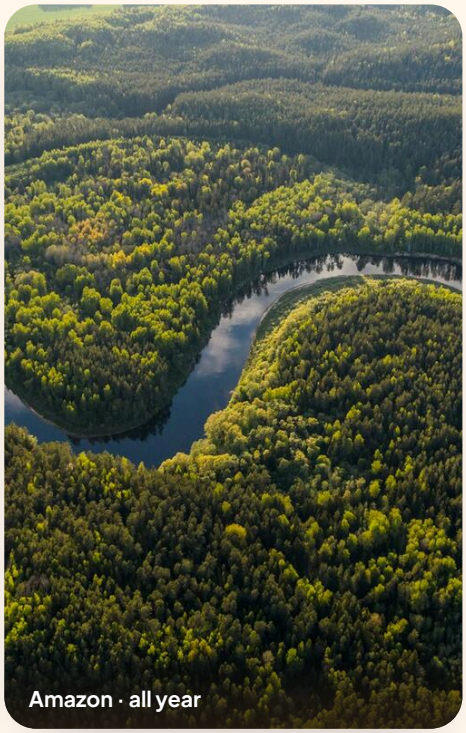
Hot, sunny beach weather in Lima and the north — perfect for surf and seafood.

Amazon · year-round

Warm and humid always; drier June–Oct, higher rivers and great wildlife Nov–May.


Inca Trail · May–Sep


Máncora · Dec–Mar


Amazon · all year

MONEY

How much will I need?

Peru is wonderfully good value. Your daily spend depends on your style — here's a rough guide per person, per day (excluding international flights).

STYLE	PER DAY	WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE
Backpacker	US$40–55	Hostels, set-menu lunches (menú del día), public transport.
Mid-range	US$90–160	Boutique hotels, guided day tours, nice restaurants, the odd flight.
Comfort	US$220+	Top hotels, private guides, premium trains and domestic flights.

Money tips

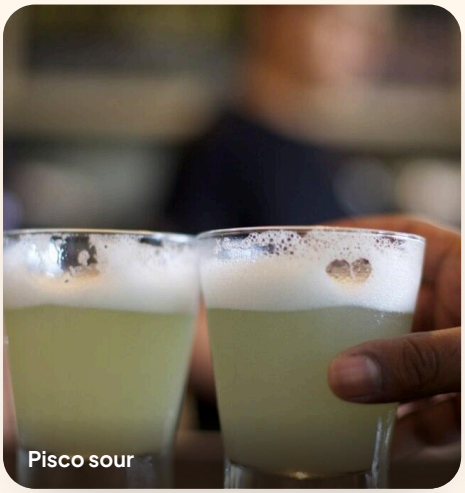
- Pay in soles; USD is taken at some hotels but rates are poor.
- Cards work in cities; carry cash for markets, taxis and rural areas.
- Use ATMs inside banks; keep small notes — change for S/100 can be tricky.
- Tipping: ~10% in restaurants, and a little for guides and drivers.

Visas & entry

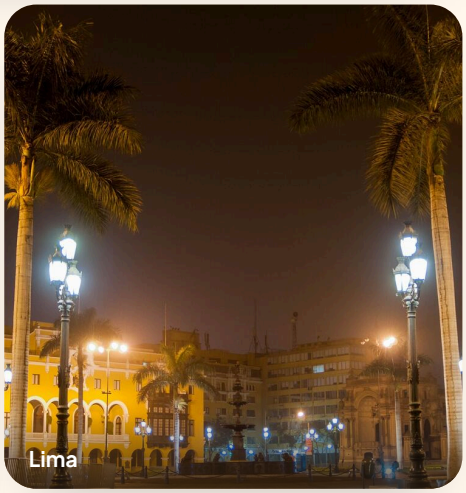
Most visitors — including the US, UK, EU, Canada, Australia and New Zealand — don't need a visa for tourism and can stay up to 90–183 days. Your passport should be valid for at least 6 months. You'll get an entry stamp (or digital record) on arrival; keep it for check-out.

> **Rules change — always confirm with the official Peruvian immigration site or your embassy before you fly.**


Pisac


Pisco sour


Ceviche


Lima

ON THE ROAD

Getting around, altitude and health

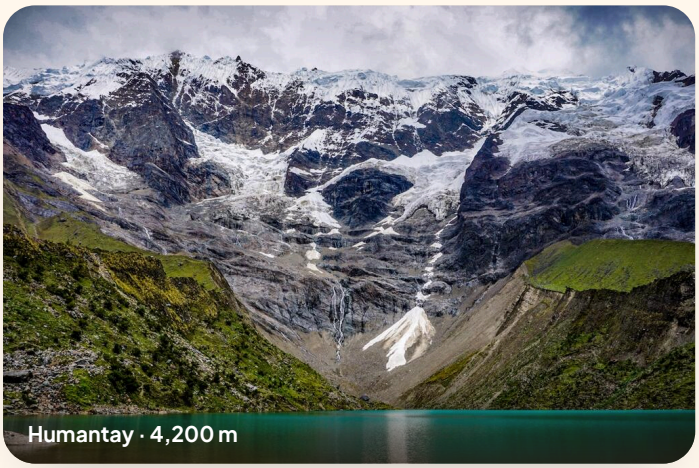
Getting around

- Flights (LATAM, Sky, JetSmart) save days on long hops like Lima–Cusco.
- Comfy long-distance buses (Cruz del Sur, Oltursa) connect every city.
- Scenic trains (PeruRail, Inca Rail) to Machu Picchu.
- In cities use Uber/Cabify or agree the fare before you ride.


PeruRail

Altitude — take it easy

Cusco sits at 3,400m and Lake Titicaca higher still. Spend your first day or two taking it slow, drink plenty of water, go easy on alcohol, and sip coca tea like the locals. If you can, acclimatise in the Sacred Valley (lower than Cusco) before Machu Picchu.


Humantay · 4,200 m

Health & water

- Drink bottled or filtered water, not tap.
- Ask your doctor about Hep A & typhoid; yellow-fever shot for the jungle.
- Pack sunscreen — the high-altitude sun is fierce.
- Bring any personal meds; travel insurance is a must.


Cusco · 3,400 m


Sacred Valley · 2,800 m


Titicaca · 3,800 m

BEFORE YOU GO

Safety, packing and how to reach us

Staying safe & connected

Peru is welcoming and safe for travellers who use common sense — watch your bag in crowds and markets, use registered taxis or apps at night, and keep valuables out of sight. A local SIM (Claro, Movistar or Entel) is cheap, and Wi-Fi is widespread in hotels and cafés.

What to pack

Layers! Andean days are warm and nights cold. Bring a light down jacket, rain shell, comfy hiking shoes, sun hat and sunglasses, a refillable water bottle, a power adapter, and a small daypack. Throw in flip-flops for the coast and jungle.



Salkantay



Lima



Still have questions?

We answer these all day long — ask us anything and we'll help you plan a smooth, sunny, stress-free trip.

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By Destino Perú (destinoperu.net), a Lima travel agency since 1997. General information for planning, checked October 2026; entry rules, prices and schedules change, so confirm before you travel. Photos: Wikimedia Commons (CC) and Destino Perú.