Destino Perú
EL MUNDO ES TUYO



COAST · ANDES · AMAZON

When to go to Peru: month by month

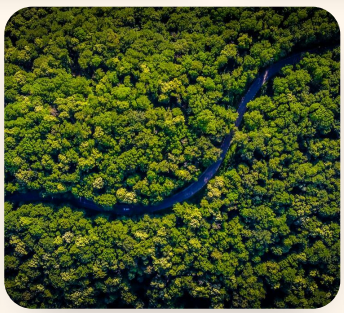
Peru is a year-round country. The best month depends on where you are going.

Three climates, two seasons and a calendar full of festivals. This guide shows what the weather is like each month on the coast, in the Andes and in the Amazon, when the crowds come, and the best time for each place on your list.

Dry season May–Sep | Rain Nov–Mar | Inca Trail closed in February | Festival calendar









THE SHORT ANSWER

Three climates in one country

Peru sits just south of the Equator, but the Andes split it in three. The desert coast, the high mountains and the rainforest each have their own weather, so there is no single "best month" for the whole country.

The coast

Desert: it almost never rains. Summer (Dec–Apr) is sunny and warm. From June to October Lima sits under a grey sky with fine drizzle (*garúa*) and feels cool and damp. The far north is sunny all year.

The Andes

Cusco, Machu Picchu, Titicaca, Colca. Dry from May to September: blue skies, warm sun by day and cold nights, near freezing at altitude. Rain from November to March, heaviest in January and February.

The Amazon

Hot and humid every month, with rain at any time. The wetter months (about Dec–May) bring high rivers; the drier months (about Jun–Oct) bring lower water, more beaches on the riverbanks and easier trails.

THE ANDES, MONTH BY MONTH

Most trips are planned around this strip

Machu Picchu and Cusco are on almost every itinerary, so the mountain seasons decide most trips.

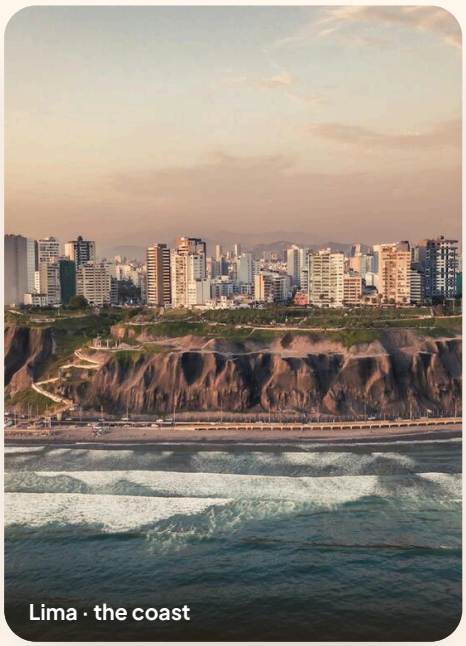
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
rain	trail shut	rain	green	dry	dry · busy	dry · busy	dry · busy	dry	mild	showers	rain

Dry season · Shoulder months · Rainy season · Inca Trail closed

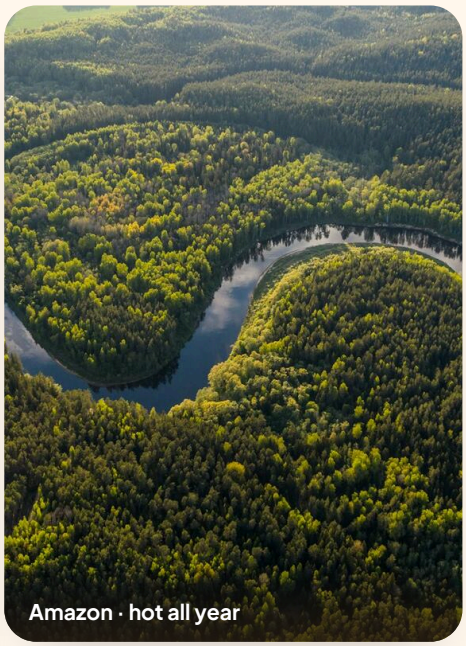
Rule of thumb: May to September for the Andes, December to April for the beaches, any month for the Amazon. One trip can combine them: in July, sunny Cusco pairs well with the dry-season jungle.



Cusco · dry season skies



Lima · the coast



Amazon · hot all year

MONTH BY MONTH

What the weather is like, in words

Typical conditions, not a forecast. Mountain weather changes fast at any time of year, so pack a layer and a rain jacket.

MONTH	ANDES (CUSCO, MACHU PICCHU)	COAST (LIMA, PARACAS)	AMAZON
January	Rainy Wettest stretch; daily showers, mild days	Summer: sunny, hot, beach season	Rainy, rivers high
February	Rainy Heavy rain; Inca Trail closed all month	Hottest, sunniest month	Rainy, rivers high
March	Rainy Still rainy; landscapes very green	Sunny and warm	Rainy, highest water
April	Shoulder Rain fading, green hills, fewer people	Warm, summer ending	Wet, water still high
May	Dry Clear and sunny; colder nights begin	Turning cool, clouds arrive	Rain easing
June	Dry Sunny days, frosty nights; Inti Raymi	Grey and cool, drizzle	Drier; cool spells possible
July	Dry Driest and coldest nights; busiest month	Grey and cool	Dry season, low rivers
August	Dry Dry, sunny, windy afternoons; very busy	Grey and cool; windy in Paracas	Dry season, low rivers
September	Dry Dry and clear, nights a little milder	Grey, first sunny breaks	Dry, hot
October	Shoulder Mostly dry, first showers late in the month	Clouds lifting slowly	Hot; rain returning
November	Shoulder Afternoon showers, mornings often clear	Sun returning, warming up	Rains building
December	Rainy Rainy season under way	Summer starts: sunny and warm	Rainy, rivers rising

Layers for the Andes

Hot sun at midday, near freezing after dark. A fleece, a warm jacket, a hat and sunscreen, in any month.

A rain jacket from November

In the rainy months a light waterproof and quick-dry clothes keep the afternoon showers from spoiling the day.

Long sleeves for the jungle

Light long sleeves and repellent all year. In June and July a cold front can cool the southern Amazon for a few days.

A sweater for Lima's winter

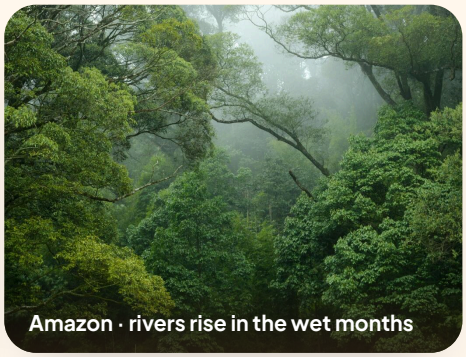
Between June and October the coast is cool and damp rather than cold. Summer calls for beachwear and a hat.



Sacred Valley · green after the rains



Paracas · desert, dry all year



Amazon · rivers rise in the wet months

CHOOSING YOUR SEASON

Dry, rainy or in between

Dry season · May to September

- Best weather for Cusco, Machu Picchu, treks and Titicaca
- Clear mountain views and dry trails
- Cold nights: bring a warm jacket
- Peak season: book early, pay more

Rainy season · November to March

- Green valleys and far fewer visitors
- Rain often comes in the afternoon
- Summer on the coast: the best beach months
- Trains or roads can be cut by landslides

Our favourite months: April, May, September and October

Around the edges of the dry season you get most of the good weather with fewer people and easier bookings. April is green after the rain; May and September are dry with lighter crowds; October is mostly dry and calm. Early November can still be a good bet in the mountains.

The Inca Trail closes every February for maintenance and conservation. Machu Picchu itself stays open, reached by train. In very wet years the reopening has been pushed back into March.

CROWDS AND PRICES

When to book early

JUNE, JULY, AUGUST

Dry weather and northern summer holidays meet. The busiest and most expensive months.

PERUVIAN HOLIDAYS

Semana Santa, Fiestas Patrias (28–29 July) and Christmas to New Year: Peruvians travel too, flights and hotels fill up.

PERMITS AND TICKETS

Inca Trail permits and Machu Picchu entry have daily limits. For May to August, book months ahead.

BETTER VALUE

Outside the peak months and holidays, hotels have more choice and the main sites are calmer.



Machu Picchu · open all year



Titicaca · sunny, cold nights in the dry season



North beaches · summer is December to April

FESTIVAL CALENDAR

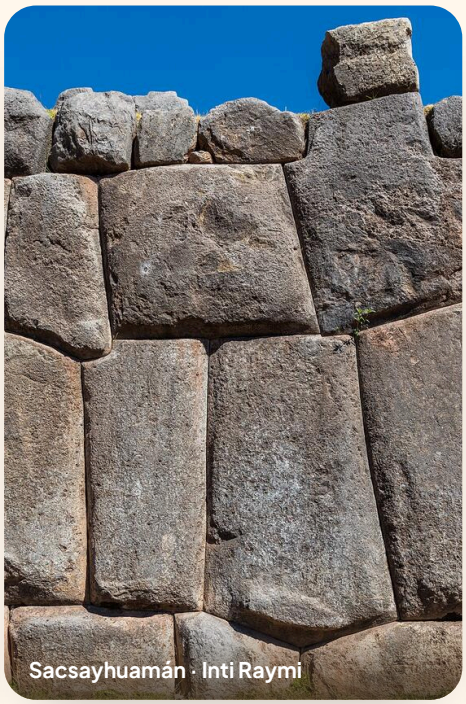
Plan around a celebration

Peru's big festivals are reasons to travel in themselves. They also fill hotels fast, so if you want one, tell us early.

1. **February · Virgen de la Candelaria, Puno**
   Thousands of dancers in masks and costumes fill Puno by Lake Titicaca in the first half of February. On UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage.
2. **March or April · Semana Santa (Holy Week)**
   Processions all over the country, with famous celebrations in Ayacucho and Cusco. The date moves with Easter; a national holiday.
3. **May or June · Corpus Christi, Cusco**
   Saints from Cusco's churches are carried to the cathedral and around the Plaza de Armas. About two months after Easter.
4. **24 June · Inti Raymi, Cusco**
   The Inca festival of the Sun, staged in Qorikancha, the Plaza de Armas and Sacsayhuamán. Cusco's busiest week of the year.
5. **28–29 July · Fiestas Patrias, all of Peru**
   Independence Day, 28 and 29 July: flags, parades and the year's busiest domestic travel.
6. **October · Señor de los Milagros, Lima**
   Lima turns purple: huge processions of the Lord of Miracles cross the city centre on several days in October. Try the turrón de Doña Pepa, the sweet of the month.
7. **December · Christmas and New Year**
   Cusco's Santurantikuy craft market fills the main square on 24 December. New Year's Eve is a beach party on the coast.

Going for a festival? Cusco around 24 June and Puno in early February fill up first, so we book those dates months ahead. Semana Santa and Corpus Christi move every year; we confirm the exact days for your trip.


Puno · Candelaria in February


Sacsayhuamán · Inti Raymi


Lima · October processions

AT A GLANCE

The best time for each place

DESTINATION	BEST MONTHS	GOOD TO KNOW
Machu Picchu	May–Sep	Open all year. April and October are a sweet spot. Inca Trail closed in February.
Cusco & Sacred Valley	May–Sep	June for Inti Raymi and Corpus Christi; book well ahead.
Lima	Dec–Apr	Sunny summer. Grey but mild the rest of the year; the food is great in any month.
Paracas & Nazca	All year	Desert, dry every month. Sunniest from December to March.
Amazon	Jun–Oct	Drier, easier walking. Dec–May: high water, more travel by boat.
Lake Titicaca	May–Oct	Sunny and very cold at night. February for Candelaria.
Arequipa & Colca	Apr–Dec	Arequipa is sunny most of the year; Jan–Mar can bring rain to the canyon roads.
North beaches	Dec–Apr	Sunny all year; the hottest months are summer. Whales about Jul–Oct.

A trip in July

- Lima, then Cusco and the Sacred Valley in sunshine
- Machu Picchu by train or on the Inca Trail
- Lake Titicaca, or a few days in the dry-season Amazon
- Book early: it is the busiest month

A trip in February

- Lima, Paracas and Nazca in full summer
- Beach days in the north
- Machu Picchu by train, with a rain jacket
- Puno for the Candelaria festival



Not sure which month suits your trip?

Tell us your dates and what you want to see. We will tell you honestly what the weather will be like, and plan the route around the season.

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Seasons describe the usual pattern, not a forecast; festival dates that follow Easter change every year. Inca Trail closure: Ministry of Culture, Cusco. Photos: Wikimedia Commons (CC), see the credits on destinoperu.net.