



PERU



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1 CONTACT ADDRESSES

Location: Western South America.

PromPerú

(Commission for the Promotion of Peru)

Calle 1 Oeste 50, Edificio Mitinci, 14th Floor, Urb. Córpac, San Isidro, Lima 27, Peru

Tel: (1) 224 3279 or 224 3125 or 224 3271. Fax: (1) 224 3323.

E-mail: postmaster@promperu.gob.pe

Web site: <http://www.peruonline.net>

Embassy of the Republic of Peru

52 Sloane Street, London SW1X 9SP

Tel: (020) 7235 1917 or 7235 2545. Fax: (020) 7235 4463. Opening hours: 0900-1600 Monday to Friday.

Consular section: Tel: (020) 7838 9223. Fax: (020) 7823 2789. Opening hours: 0930-1300 (general enquiries), 1430-1530 (collection point only) Monday to Friday.

E-mail: consulate@peruembassy-uk.com

Web site: <http://www.peruembassy-uk.com>

British Embassy

Street address: Natalio Sanchez 125, 12th Floor, Plaza Washington, Lima 100, Peru

Postal address: PO Box 854, Lima, Peru

Tel: (1) 433 4738. Fax: (1) 433 4735.

E-mail: britemb@mail.terra.com.pe

Web site: <http://www.fco.gov.uk>

Honorary Consulates in: Arequipa, Cusco, Iquitos, Piura and Trujillo.

Embassy of the Republic of Peru

1700 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036

Tel: (202) 833 9860 or 833 9867. Fax: (202) 659 8124 or 785 0933. E-mail: lepruwash@aol.com

Embassy of the United States of America

Street address: Avenida La Encalada cuadra 17 s/n, Lima 33, Peru

Postal address: PO Box 1995, Lima, Peru

Tel: (1) 434 3000. Fax: (1) 434 3037. Web site: <http://www.rcp.net.pe/usa/>

Embassy of the Republic of Peru

130 Albert Street, Suite 1901, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5G4

Tel: (613) 238 1777 (embassy) or 233 2721 (consulate). Fax: (613) 232 3062. E-mail: emperuca@esprint.ca

Consulates in: Montréal, Toronto and Vancouver.

Canadian Embassy

Calle Libertad 130, Miraflores, Lima 18, Peru

Tel: (1) 444 4015. Fax: (1) 444 4347. E-mail: lima-gr@dfait-maeci.gc.ca

Country Dialling Code: 51

2 GENERAL

Area: 1,285,216 sq km (496,225 sq miles).

Population: 25,662,000 (2000).

Population Density: 20.0 per sq km.

Capital: Lima. Population: 7,497,000 (2000).

Geography: Peru is a large, mountainous country on the Pacific coast of South America. It has borders with Ecuador and Colombia to the north, Brazil and Bolivia to the east, and Chile to the south. The Pacific Ocean lies to the west. There are three natural zones, running roughly north to south: Costa (Coast), Sierra (the Highlands) and Selva (Amazonian Jungle). The Costa region, which contains Lima (the capital) is a narrow coastal plain consisting of large tracts of desert broken by fertile valleys. The cotton, sugar and rice plantations and most of the so far exploited oil fields lie in this area. The Sierra contains the Andes, with peaks over 6000m (20,000ft), most of the country's mineral resources (silver, zinc, lead, copper and gold) and the greater part of its livestock. The Selva, an area of fertile, subtropical uplands, lies between the Andes and the border with Brazil. Sections of a proposed international highway are at present being built through it, with some sections already in use. The Amazonian jungle has vast natural resources. The absence of land communications, however, left the area largely uncharted until full-scale oil exploration began in 1973. The population is largely Indian and Mestizos with a noticeable influence from European (mainly Spanish), Chinese and African settlers.

Government: Republic. Gained independence from Spain in 1824. Head of State: President Valentin Paniagua until July 28 2001.

Language: Spanish and Quechua are the official languages. Aymará is spoken in some areas of the department of Puno. Many other dialects exist in the jungle regions. English is spoken in major tourist areas.

Religion: 89% Roman Catholic, 7% Evangelical and 4% other denominations.

Time: GMT - 5

Electricity: 220 volts AC, 60Hz.

Communications:

Telephone: IDD is available. Country code: 51. Outgoing international code: 00. City code for Amazonas: 44, Arequipa: 54, Ayacucho: 64, Cajamarca: 44, Chiclayo: 74, Cusco: 84, Huaraz: 44, Ica: 34, Iquitos: 94, Lima: 1, Piura: 74, Puerto Maldonado: 84, Puno: 54, Tacna: 54, Tarapoto: 94, Trujillo: 44 and Tumbes: 74. Direct calls are possible from public phones. Telephone cards are available in the main cities. Cellular phones can be rented in Lima and the main cities.

Internet: Public internet booths are widely available in the main cities.

Fax: Telefónica del Peru offers a fax service throughout the country. Small public booths and services are found in commercial areas. The majority of hotels in Lima and the main cities also have facilities.

Telegram: Facilities are available at Lima and main hotels (for guests), with services run by Telefónica del Peru. Their offices are at Pasaje Piura #25, Lima and are open 0800-2000 Monday to Saturday and 0800-1400 Sunday.

Post: Airmail to Western Europe takes up to one week. Postal facilities are limited outside Lima. First class airmail from Europe or North America addressed to PO boxes in Peru usually takes four days, but may be subject to delay. The main post office (Correo Central de Lima) is near the Plaza de Armas.

Press: Newspapers are in Spanish. Morning dailies include El Comercio, Expreso, La República and El Peruano. The English-language monthly, The Lima Times, is available in main hotels and bookstores, as are major international newspapers and magazines.

BBC World Service and Voice of America frequencies: From time to time these change.

BBC:

MHz17.8415.229.9159.590

Voice of America:

MHz9.4557.4055.9951.530

3 PASSPORT

<i>Passport Required?</i>	<i>Visa Required?</i>	<i>Return Ticket Required?</i>
<i>British</i>		
<i>Australian</i>		
<i>Canadian</i>		
<i>USA</i>		
<i>OtherEU</i>		
<i>Japanese</i>		

PASSPORTS: Valid passport required by all except nationals of Bolivia, Chile and Ecuador entering certain regions of Peru. Citizens of these countries are advised to contact their nearest Peruvian Consulate before travelling.

VISAS: Required by all except the following:

- (a) 1. nationals of countries shown in the chart above travelling as tourists for stays of up to 90 days;
- (b) nationals of Andorra, Antigua & Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei, Chile, Colombia, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Fiji, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hong Kong, Iceland, Indonesia, Israel, Jamaica, Kiribati, Korea (Rep. of), Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (FS), Monaco, Nauru, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niue, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines, St Kitts & Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent & the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Surinam, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Tonga, Trinidad & Tobago, Tuvalu, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Vatican City and Venezuela, provided travelling as tourists, for stays of up to 90 days;

(c) transit passengers continuing their journey by the same or first connecting aircraft within 24 hours provided holding valid onward or return documentation and not leaving the airport.

Note: All visitors must hold tickets and other documents for their onward or return journey and sufficient funds for their stay.

Types of visa and cost: Tourist: £9.60. Business: £21.60. Costs are subject to change according to exchange rates.

Note for business travellers: A Business visa is required for all nationals if the purpose of the visit is business. Any business-related unpaid work can be made on a tourist visa. Upon arrival in Peru, the Business visa holder must register at the Dirección General de Contribuciones for taxation purposes. Business visa holders can remain in Peru for 90 days. If wishing to extend the visit, an application must be lodged with the Dirección General de Migraciones.

Application to: Consulate (or Consular section at Embassy); see address section for details.

Application requirements: (a) Valid passport. (b) Return or through ticket to show the visitor will be leaving Peru. (c) 2 passport-size, colour photographs. (d) Fee. (e) Completed application form (2 for Business visas). (f) Proof of economic solvency. (g) For Business visa, a company letter specifying the reason for the trip and the length of stay.

Note: (a) All nationals are advised to check with the Peruvian Consulate prior to departure to obtain current details of any documentation which might be required. Postal visa applications are not accepted unless submitted through a travel agency. (b) Visitors travelling to areas with a tropical climate are advised to have yellow fever, smallpox and malaria vaccinations.

Working days required: Usually 24 hours. Longer, if authorisation from the Immigration Office in Lima is required.

4 MONEY

Currency: New Sol (S/.) = 100 céntimos. New Sol notes are in denominations of S/200, 100, 50, 20 and 10. Coins are in denominations of S/.5, 2 and 1, and 50, 20 and 10 céntimos.

Currency exchange: Only a few bureaux de change in Lima will exchange currencies other than US Dollars. Outside Lima, it is virtually impossible. US Dollars can be exchanged everywhere and banks, hotels and shops also readily accept US Dollars (although torn or damaged notes are usually rejected). It is not recommended to exchange money from street vendors.

Credit cards: American Express, MasterCard, Diners Club and Visa are all accepted, but usage facilities may be limited outside of Lima. Check with your credit card company for details of merchant acceptability and other services which may be available.

Travellers cheques: Banks will exchange travellers cheques although it can be a slow process outside Lima. To avoid additional exchange rate charges, travellers are advised to take travellers cheques in US Dollars.

Exchange rate indicators

The following figures are included as a guide to the movements of the New Sol against Sterling and the US Dollar:

Date May '00 Aug '00 Nov '00 Feb '01 £1.00=5.215.204.705.15 \$1.00=3.513.503.523.53

Currency restrictions: There are no restrictions on the import and export of local currency. The import of foreign currency is unrestricted. The export of foreign currency is limited to the amount imported.

Banking hours: 0900-1700 Monday to Friday; 0900-1300 Saturday (may vary during the summer).

5 DUTY FREE

The following items may be imported into Peru without incurring customs duty: 400 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 50g of tobacco; 3 litres of alcoholic beverage; a reasonable amount of perfume for personal use; gifts or new articles for personal use up to a value of US\$300; 2kg of processed food.

Restricted Items: If importing sausages, salami, ham or cheese, a certificate from the manufacturer is required.

6 PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Jan 1 2001 New Year's Day. Apr 12 Maundy Thursday. Apr 13 Good Friday. May 1 Labour Day. Jun 24 Peasant Day. Jun 29 St Peter's and St Paul's Day. Jul 28-29 Independence Days. Aug 30 St Rosa of Lima Day. Oct 8 Battle of Angamos. Nov 1 All Saints' Day. Dec 8 Immaculate Conception. Dec 25 Christmas Day. Jan 1 2002 New Year's Day. Mar 28 Maundy Thursday. Mar 29 Good Friday. May 1 Labour Day. Jun 24 Peasant Day. Jun 29 St Peter's and St Paul's Day. Jul 28-29 Independence Days. Aug 30 St Rosa of Lima Day. Oct 8 Battle of Angamos. Nov 1 All Saints' Day. Dec 8 Immaculate Conception. Dec 25 Christmas Day.

Note: The holidays on Maundy Thursday and Christmas Eve are for half a day.

7 HEALTH

	<i>Special Precautions</i>	<i>Certificate Required</i>
Yellow Fever	Yes	1
Cholera	3	No
Typhoid and Polio	Yes	-
Malaria	2	-
Food and Drink	3	-

1: A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required of travellers over six months of age arriving from infected areas. Travellers arriving from non-endemic zones should note that vaccination is strongly recommended for travel to areas within the Amazon Basin, even if an outbreak has not been reported and they would normally not require a vaccination certificate to enter the country.

2: Falciparum malaria exists in the areas of Bagua, Cajamarca, Jaen, La Libertad, Lambayeque, Loreto, Piura, San Martin, Tumbes and Ucayali. All health centres, which are controlled by the Ministry of Health, will provide free information and medication to anyone entering a high risk area.

3: Drink only bottled water. Pasteurised milk is widely available. Avoid dairy products that are likely to have been made from unboiled milk. Avoid street food vendors and the cheaper restaurants. Only eat well-cooked meat and fish, preferably served hot. Pork, salad and mayonnaise may carry increased risk. Vegetables should be cooked and fruit peeled. Always check the expiry date of processed food.

Rabies is present. For those at high risk, vaccination before arrival should be considered. If you are bitten, seek medical advice without delay. For more information, consult the Health appendix. Hepatitis A occurs, and hepatitis B and D are a risk in the Amazon Basin.

Health care: International travellers are strongly advised to take out full health insurance and should be prepared to pay upfront for medical services.

Travel - International

AIR: Peru's national airlines are Aero Condor (Q6), Aero Continente (N6), Lan Perú (LP)*, and Taca Perú (TA).

Note*: Lan Peru is expected to resume international flights in the near future.

Other airlines with regular services to Peru include Aces, Aeroflot, Aerolíneas Argentinas, Aeroméxico, AeroPostal, Alitalia, American Airlines, Avianca, Continental, Copa, Delta Airlines, Iberia, KLM, Lacsá, Lan Chile, Lloyd Aéreo Boliviano, Lufthansa, Servivensa, United Airlines and Varig.

Airlines with representatives in Peru include Air Canada, Air France, Air New Zealand, Austrian Airlines, British Airways, Cathay Pacific, Cayman Airways, China Airlines, Cubana de Aviación, El Al Israel Airlines, Japan Airlines, Korean Air, Philippine Airlines, Qantas, Scandinavian Airlines and Singapore Airlines.

APPROXIMATE FLIGHT TIMES: From Lima to London is 15 hours (including stopover in Madrid), to Los Angeles is 6 hours, to Miami is 5 hours and to New York is 9 hours. Direct flights from Europe take between 12 (from Madrid) and 14 hours (from Frankfurt).

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS: Lima (LIM) (Jorge Chávez International) airport is 16km (10 miles) northwest of the city centre (travel time - 25 minutes). Taxis to the city centre are available. Airport facilities include a duty-free and handicrafts shop, banks, coffee shops and restaurants.

Cusco (CUZ), located in the south, receives flights from La Paz (Bolivia).

DEPARTURE TAX: US\$25 from Lima's airport; US\$10 from other airports. Transit passengers are exempt.

SEA: Some international cruises occasionally call at Callao, the main seaport.

ROAD: The main international highway is the Pan-American Highway running north-south through the coastal desert of Peru from Tumbes to Tacna. Transport from Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Brazil is available through companies like Ormeño, El Rápido, Rutas de América, Bus Tas Choapa Internacional and Empresa Paraguaya de Transporte. It is also possible to go from La Paz in Bolivia to Puno on Lake Titicaca (south Peru).

Travel - Internal

AIR: Aero Continente, Aerocondor, Aviandina, Lan Perú, Taca Perú and TANS handle virtually all domestic air traffic linking Lima to Arequipa, Ayacucho, Cajamarca, Chiclayo, Cusco, Iquitos, Juliaca-Puno, Piura, Pucallpa, Puerto Maldonado, Tacna, Tarapoto, Trujillo, Tumbes and other cities.

DEPARTURE TAX: S/.12.

RIVER: Transportation is available between Pucallpa and Iquitos (approximately 5 days) and from Iquitos to the border with Brazil and Colombia (2.5 days, about three times a week).

RAIL: PeruRails's South Route runs overnight from Arequipa to Juliaca and Puno on Lake Titicaca (three times a week). There is a daytime connection from Puno and Juliaca to Cusco (four times a week). From Cusco there is a daily train to Machu Picchu, which takes approximately 4 hours. Always check for revised schedules.

There are no connections between Lima and Cusco. Fast and comfortable electric autovagons operate on some routes.

Apart from the attractive landscape along the route from Lima to Huancayo, it is also fascinating to travel on the Ferrocarril Central Railroad (momentarily suspended due to its recent privatisation), the highest in the world (up to 4781m/15,685ft), which runs through 50 tunnel and bridges.

ROAD: The Central Highway connects Lima with La Oroya and Huancayo. From La Oroya there is a road connecting Cerro de Pasco, Huánuco, Tingo María and Pucallpa on the Ucayali River. Landslides are frequent in the rainy season (December-March) making for slow travel. The Peruvian Touring Club and the Instituto Geográfico Nacional sell maps. Travel guides like Guía Toyota and Guía Inca del Perú include good road maps. Traffic drives on the right. Bus: Operated extensively, providing a very cheap means of travel. Greyhound-type buses are operated by Ormeño, Cruz del Sur, Ittsa, Enlaces, Perú Bus, Oltursa and many others. Quality of service varies according to prices. Taxi: There are taxis at the main hotels and airports. Taxis do not have meters and fares should be agreed before departure (they are relatively inexpensive). There is an extensive and safe taxi service available by telephone in the main cities. Car hire: Avis, Budget, National, Dollar, Hertz, Mitsui, Rentandina, AAA, American and others have offices in Lima and provide service to all main cities. Documentation: Foreign driving permits are valid for 30 days starting the date of arrival. An International Driving Permit is required in case of longer stays. International driving permits in Peru can be obtained through the Touring y Automóvil Club del Peru. All foreign vehicles must display a 'Customs Duty Payment Voucher'.

URBAN: Public transport in Lima is provided by conventional buses and by minibuses (combis). The minimum rate is US\$0.30.

JOURNEY TIMES: The following chart gives approximate journey times (in hours and minutes) from Lima to other major cities/towns in Peru.

CLASS="DATATABLE">	Air	Road	Rail	Arequipa	1.10	14.00	Ayacucho	0.40	
9.00	Cajamarca	1.20	16.00	Chachapoyas	1.20**	24.00	Chiclayo	1.00	
10.00	Cusco	1.00	20.00/28.00	Huancayo	-	6.00	10.00***	Huánuco	0.50
8.00	Huaraz	0.50**	8.00	Ica	-	4.00	Iquitos	1.30	-
Nazca	1.00	6.00	Piura	1.15	18.00	Pucallpa	1.00	16.00	
Puerto Maldonado	2.00****	-				Puno (Juliaca)	1.20****		
26.00	Tacna	1.30	20.00	Tarapoto	1.00	27.00	Trujillo	1.00	8.00
2.15****	20.00					Tumbes			

Note: (a)* Approximate travel times are given for travel by bus. (b)** Only charter flights available. (c)*** Temporarily suspended due to recent privatisation. (d)**** Includes one stopover.

8 ACCOMMODATION

HOTELS: Lima has the largest choice of hotels in Peru. Other cities where 5- and 4-star hotels can be found are Cusco, Arequipa, Cajamarca, Chiclayo, Trujillo, Puno, Iquitos and Ica (the grading does not always match international standards). Throughout Lima and in most major towns, there are many economical pensiones (guest houses) to be found. The quality of accommodation in the provinces varies considerably, but hotels are frequently of a good standard. Hotel prices in the provinces are lower than in the capital. Grading: Hotels are classified by the star system, the highest and most luxurious being 5 stars. The level of comfort, quality of service and general infrastructure are the criteria for inclusion in each grade. Prices vary accordingly. All accommodation prices are subject to 18% tax (IGV). Hotels of the higher categories might also add 1-13% service charges. For further information, contact Asociación Peruana de Hoteles, Restaurantes y Afines (AHORA), Elías Aguirre 580, Miraflores, Lima 18 (tel/fax: (1) 444 4303; e-mail: ahora@superred.com.pe).

CAMPING/CARAVANNING: No formal arrangements exist in Peru.

Youth Hostels: There are 38 youth hostels in the country with dormitory, single or twin rooms. They usually have a bar or cafeteria and a kitchen. For information contact Asociación Peruana de Albergues Turísticos Juveniles (Peruvian Association of Youth Hostels), Avenida Casimiro Ulloa 328, San Antonio, Miraflores, Lima 18 (tel: (1) 242 3068; fax: (1) 444 8187; e-mail: hostell@terra.com.pe).

9 RESORTS & EXCURSIONS

Peru offers touristic diversity to the visitor: history, archaeology, sports, beaches, mountains, adventure, mystery, medicinal springs, nature, fantastic landscapes, friendly people, music, colour and fun. To indicate to visitors something of the flavour of Peru, a selection of towns and notable areas, described from north to south, is included below.

The Coast

Tumbes and Piura: Tumbes and Piura are the most northerly Peruvian coastal departments and are Peru's most important beach, surfing, sporting and deep-sea fishing centres. There are small resort-type hotels and small fishing villages and beaches.

Chiclayo: Chiclayo is a northern city with a hot and sunny climate, distinctive cuisine and musical tradition as well as an unparalleled archaeological heritage. Among the most important discoveries are Tucume (35km/22 miles north of Chiclayo), where one has a panoramic view of a 26-pyramid archaeological complex; and Huaca Rajada (or the 'Tomb of the Lord of Sipan'), a distinguished personage of the Moche culture who was buried together with funerary objects made of gold, silver and semi-precious stones, considered to rank among the finest examples of pre-Columbian art. Many of the fascinating ceramics, metal objects and textiles from the region are on view at the Bruning Museum in the town of Lambayeque (11k/6.8 miles north of Chiclayo).

Trujillo: Trujillo is known as 'the City of the Eternal Spring'. Its brightly coloured colonial mansions - such as the Casa Bracamonte, Casa del Almirante Del Risco and Palacio Itúrrgui - are well worth visiting, as are the archaeological sites nearby such as Chan Chan, the largest pre-Inca mud city (20 sq km/7.7 sq miles); and the huacas (religious centres) of the Sun and the Moon (the latter has painted mud walls depicting one of the main deities of the Moche culture). Huanchaco (15km/9.4 miles northwest of Trujillo) is famous for its Caballitos de Totorá, which are fishing rafts made of totora reeds and used since pre-Columbian times.

Lima: Lima, the country's capital, was founded on January 6 1535 by Francisco Pizarro. As this was also the important Christian feast day of Epiphany, the city was also known as Los Reyes - 'The City of Kings' - and its emblem incorporated three crowns to signify the three Magi. It is a city of contrasts, where visitors can see the ruins of pre-Inca temples and graceful colonial mansions with their latticed wooden balconies. Situated halfway along Peru's desert coastline, Lima looks out on the Pacific Ocean, with the foothills of the Andes at its back.

In common with many of the main squares in South American cities, the Plaza de Armas is large in scale (140 sq metres/ 1550 square ft) with many impressive public buildings and has been declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. More than four hundred years ago bullfights were held in this square - the current Bullring is a ten-minute walk away. Surrounding the central plaza, with its paths, gardens and graceful bronze fountain (1650), are the Palacio de Gobierno, Cathedral, Club Unión, Archbishop's Palace and Municipalidad (Town Hall). The Palacio de Gobierno (Government Palace) is situated on the north side of the main square. Many of the principal state rooms, with their lavish use of Carrera marble, cedar and mahogany wood carvings, French glass and Czech crystal, have been restored. Highlights are the grand public salon, which was modelled on the Hall of Mirrors at the Palace of Versailles; the former dining room - with its friezes depicting scenes from Inca history; the private theatre and two fine examples of French and English state carriages that were once used in official processions. The distinctive blue and gold uniforms of the presidential guards can be admired at the Changing of the Guard ceremony that takes place each day at 1145 and 1745. The Baroque Cathedral stands on the site of two previous churches. Constructed in 1550, it was replaced by a larger edifice nearly 100 years later. Despite being destroyed by an earthquake in 1746, an almost exact replica was built in 1758. The interior is graced with a high nave and choir stalls beautifully carved from coca bola (coca wood). The side chapels - dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary, John the Baptist and the second Archbishop of Lima, Santo Toribio Alfonso de Mogro Vejo - have delicate silver-covered altars and fine wooden carving. Adjacent to the Cathedral is the Archbishop's Palace (1924), again a faithful replica of the original building, complete with Moorish wooden balcony. One of the few buildings to withstand the 1746 earthquake is the Church of San Francisco. Recently renovated with the help of UNESCO, this exquisite church has several highlights, which include the terracotta and white Moorish designs on the nave and aisles of the main church; the extraordinary early 17th-century domed cedarwood roof above the broad staircase leading to the cloisters; and the library, which in its thin, rectangular two-story salon with twin delicate wooden spiral staircases, houses a collection of some 20,000 volumes. Underneath the church are the catacombs with their ghoulish circular displays of skulls and bones.

The downtown area of Lima also houses some historic colonial mansions which, in some cases, still have connections with the original Spanish families who constructed them. Now occupied by the Foreign Ministry, the Palacio Torre Tagle (1735) is notable for its wrought ironwork, gilded 16th-century carriage and Moorish influenced balconies and tiling. Less opulent but of equal historical importance is the Casa Aliaga. The house was built by Don Jerónimo de Aliaga who, along with Pizarro's 12 other commanders, was given land around the main square. It is still occupied by the Aliaga family. Close by is the striking salmon pink and white stuccoed Post Office which, with its wrought iron gates and arcade roof, was built in the 1920s.

Lima is also Peru's cultural centre containing important modern and traditional art galleries and historic and archaeological museums. Unmissable are the Museo de Oro del Peru (Gold Museum), Museo Rafael Larco Herrera, Museo Amano and Museo Nacional de Antropología. The Museo Rafael Larco Herrera is situated on the first floor of a colonial house with attractive gardens of cacti, bougainvillea and banana trees. There is a particularly extensive collection of ceramic water jugs that depict all aspects of life from hunting and cooking scenes, to realistic models of mythical and real creatures, fruits and flora. Other artefacts on display include fine examples of early weaving, funerary containers, and gold, silver, quartz and turquoise jewellery. A separate collection of ceramic erotica is housed in a room leading off the gardens.

Cultural attractions aside, areas such as San Isidro, Miraflores and Barranco have much to offer the visitor in the way of shopping, restaurants and nightlife. Malls and department stores are expanding within the city, and the downtown area, particularly the streets around the Plaza de Armas, were remodelled a few years ago. There is a wide variety of smart restaurants offering typical food from every region as well as international cuisine.

The Paracas National Reserve, situated 250km (156 miles) south of Lima via the Pan-American highway is home to a large concentration of sea fauna and marine birds. The Nazca Lines - 200km (125 miles) ahead towards the South - are a set of large geoglyphs thought to be made by three different cultures between 200BC to 600AD. These spectacular drawings of animals (birds, felines and reptiles), geometric shapes and straight lines can be seen from an observation tower but are best viewed from a plane. Prices of overflights start from US\$55 and can be booked from Lima or in the town of Nasca.

The Highlands

Cajamarca: Cajamarca, in the northern highlands, is famed for its typical highland town centre, its churches, medicinal hot springs and beautiful countryside. Declared a Historical and Cultural Heritage of the Americas by the Organisation of American States (OAS) in 1986, it contains many well-preserved examples of 17th- and 18th-century colonial Spanish buildings. The most outstanding mansions are those which belonged to the Beruel, Castañeda, NORia and Uceda families.

The Huaraz area has been nicknamed the 'Peruvian Switzerland' for its glacial lakes and snow-capped peaks, and it is the point of departure to most treks and expeditions to the Callejón de Huaylas. There are many archaeological sites nearby. Especially remarkable is the pre-Inca stone complex of Chavín de Huántar (110km/69 miles from Huaraz), dating from approximately 600BC. The site - of which the highlight is the Castillo (which translates as castle but is, in fact, a temple) - consists of a series of plazas, pyramidal buildings and terraces.

Ayacucho: Ayacucho appears to have more churches than houses from some viewpoints and the Holy Week celebration is the most important event of the year for the locals who, in the most part, are very faithful Catholics. It is also famous as a source of exquisite handicrafts, including pottery, leatherwork, textiles and jewellery.

Cusco: Cusco was the capital of the Inca Empire (founded circa 1100AD), and today it is a fascinating mix of Inca and colonial Spanish architecture. Almost every central street has remains of Inca walls, arches and doorways that serve as the foundation for the colonial and modern buildings. More archaeological sites are abundant in the nearby area and towns. Narrow alleys of whitewashed houses with sky-blue and bottle-green shutters open out onto elegant squares with stone-hewn fountains and elegant restaurants and posadas (inns). Colourful murals depicting historical scenes from Inca and colonial times can be seen on countless walls and indigenous women with braids and embroidered shawls set up makeshift stalls selling woven blankets and hand-made crafts and jewellery. Shops around the main square are open all week from very early in the morning to midnight, but close for about two hours during lunch. There is a wide array of

hotels, hostels, pensions and family houses, as well as restaurants and other services related to tourism. Cusco also has a busy nightlife.

The Church of Santo Domingo was built on the foundations of Qoricancha, the Inca Temple of the Sun. Heavy doors leading into the cloisters display Moorish influences in their star and diamond-shape patterns. The cloisters are lined with oil paintings in heavy gilt frames that depict scenes from the life of St Dominic. Remains of the original Inca temple walls are found inside the main courtyard. The Incas built these walls tapering upwards so that they would withstand earthquake tremors. Huge blocks of green and grey diorite stone were placed together in a perfect fit, without mortar, displaying the sophisticated Inca engineering and architectural skills. A further example of Inca skill with polygonal masonry is seen in the Stone of Twelve Angles, part of the palace wall belonging to the sixth Inca, Inca Roca, on the street of Hatunrumiyoc. The elegant Plaza de Armas, or main square, is lined with arcades and houses with ornately carved wooden balconies and terracotta tiled roofs. Dominating the square is the Cathedral, which is flanked on the left hand side by the Church of Jesús María. Its altar is elaborately carved from cedar wood that is covered in gold and silver plate (plateresco) and mirrors. In the cathedral there are several notable features, from the 400kg (882lbs) main altar fashioned from silver mined in Portosí, Bolivia to the 1958 silver-plated truck that carries some 14 statues in the annual Corpus Christi procession. The early 17th-century cedarwood choir stalls bear testimony to the skill of the principal carver, Tomas Tuero Tupac, and are some of the finest in Peru. Marcos Zapata's painting, *La Ultima Cena* (The Last Supper) has the apostles with ghostly white pallor, while Judas is given the darker skin colouring of an Indian and, stretched out in the centre of the table, is a local Inca delicacy - cuy, or roast guinea pig. On the right hand side of the cathedral is the Church of El Triunfo. Here, a painting by Alonso Cortes de Monroy shows the great earthquake of 1650 with the inhabitants praying to El Señor de los Tremblores (the Lord of the Earthquakes). This crucifix can be seen today, its original pale wood figure now blackened from the smoke of countless votive candles over the years. Underneath the chapel are commemorative plaques to Garcilaso Inca de la Vega Chimu Oqlo, Pizarro's principal, Inca chronicler. His remains were returned from Spain to Cusco several years ago.

Outside Cusco are four further sites of Inca ruins - Sacsayhuamán, Qenko, Puca Pucara and Tambo Machay, of which the first is the most impressive. This magnificent ceremonial centre, with its three vast ramparts that run parallel for more than 350 metres (1148ft), was the site of the famous battle between Manco Inca and Juan Pizarro, Francisco's younger brother, in 1536. The boulders used to construct the walls are immense, weighing up to 360 tons and measuring up to 10m (33ft) in height and 4m (13ft) in depth.

Cusco is the ideal starting point from which to explore the marvels of the Urubamba, or Sacred Valley of the Incas. Key sites to visit include the Inca ruins and popular Sunday market at Pisac, as well as the extensive complex of ruins at Ollantaytambo. Urubamba, the main town in the valley, is a good base from which to explore the surrounding region. Worth a detour is the pottery belonging to Pablo Seminario, whose distinctive work shows preconquest influences. About 6km (4 miles) from here are the salt pans of Salinas. These pre-Inca salt pools were constructed during the Chanapata culture between c.200-300AD until 900AD, from a natural salt spring. The Chanapata and other pre-Inca cultures considered salt to be sacred because it is produced naturally and has many uses, for example in medicinal processes, or to preserve and flavour food. Terraces were carved from the hillside and through a system of natural irrigation and gravity (still in use today) the water coursed along channels to collect and form pools of water, which evaporated in the sun to leave salt desposits behind. There are over 3000 pools still in use, which are owned by a co-operative of some 400 families who each own several pools. The salt is scraped by hand from the sides of the pools into sacks which are carried up the hillside by mules. Concensus dictates on which days the water will be diverted along channels to collect in a certain group of pools. About 8km (5 miles) from Salinas, are the remote Inca agricultural terraces at Moray. Excavations are still underway but it is possible to see three large bowl-shaped arenas that contain a series of circular, step terraces. It is thought that these terraces acted as an experimental research station, where different crops were grown at varying altitudes.

Ollantaytambo is an important stop-off point, not only as the last key point in the Sacred Valley and the site of the famous Inca ruins and town, but also as the second main place, after Cusco, from which to take the train to Machu Picchu, 40km (25 miles) away. The Spanish referred to the huge, steep terraces and walls as The Fortress but, as with Sacsayhuamán, the site is more likely to have been ceremonial than military in purpose. In the midst of the modern town, it is possible to see the original Inca kanchas, or single-family dwellings that centred around a courtyard. On the western edge above the town is Pinkuylluna Hill, where the Incas constructed their storehouses at high altitude to guarantee that the crops were well ventilated.

For most visitors, the Inca city of Machu Picchu is the highlight of their visit. Revealed to the Western world by the American Hiram Bingham on July 24 1919, it is probably the most important archaeological site of South America and a spectacle that requires at least a day to explore fully. Buried beneath jungle vegetation for centuries, excavations revealed a myriad of staircases, terraces, temples, palaces, towers and fountains. Highlights of the site include the ceremonial baths, the Temple of the Sun, Temple of the Three Windows and the Intihuatana, or carved rock pillar used by Inca astronomers to gauge the time of year and solstices. A thirty-minute walk south from the main complex takes the visitor to the Inca Bridge, carved into the vertiginous cliff-face. Also recommended for the fit and agile, is an early start to climb the peak of Huayna Picchu, which towers over the city. From the summit, it is a breathtaking experience to watch the early morning mist roll back to reveal the city beneath and the ideal place from which to contemplate the architectural marvels of the Inca citadel.

Puno: Puno (3800m/12,464ft above sea level) is the greater centre of Peruvian folklore. Handicraft like alpaca wool textiles, local pottery and silver artefacts is available. Spaniards were lured to the region by the vast mineral wealth and the area is dotted with colonial churches and pre-Columbian remains such as the Chullpas de Sillustani, a complex of tombs in the form of towers built on the banks of the Lake Titicaca by the Tiahuanaco people. The lake is the highest navigable one in the world and was the home of the Uros people who, like their descendants today, built small islands and boats using Totorá reeds. Extending over a total surface area of 8379 sq km (3235 sq miles), Lake Titicaca is 180km (112 miles) long and 69km (43 miles) across, at its widest point. Around the lake can be found 1st to 10th-century remains from the Pucara and Tiwanaku (or Tiahuanaco) cultures.

Arequipa: Arequipa is the second largest city in Peru and is also known as the 'white city', since the most important colonial buildings were built of a white volcanic rock (ashlar) from a nearby quarry. Both Spanish colonial and Andalusian influences are visible everywhere. Especially remarkable is the Santa Catalina Convent - a beautiful 'city within a city'. Other highlights include the Casa del Moral (House of the Mulberry Tree), with its elegant wrought-iron windows and sculptured portico and the Casa de la Moneda (the former mint). Excursions to the Cotahuasi and Colca Canyons depart from Arequipa.

Chachapoyas: Chachapoyas, contains many little-known but worth-the-visit archaeological sites including Kuelap, a fortress built by the Sachapuyos on a rocky ridge at 3000m/9840ft above sea level, over the Utcubamba River.

The Amazon Basin

Iquitos: Iquitos is Peru's largest jungle city. Once a booming rubber town in the late 19th century, tourism and oil are now Iquitos' main industries. It is a major base for excursions to the Amazon basin and has numerous hotels of varying standards as well as nearby jungle lodges and camps.

Manu National Park: Manu National Park, located in the rainforests of the Cusco and Madre de Dios departments, is Peru's greatest natural treasure for the number of species it shelters and the

diversity of the ecosystems it features. Extending to some 20,000 sq km (7722 sq miles) of tropical rainforest, the area was first earmarked for protection in 1973, declared a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 1977 and a World Natural Heritage Site in 1987. The park is divided into three distinct areas: the Parque Nacional Manu, which can only be entered by scientists and researchers on special permits; the Zona Reservada, which is accessible to tourists who are part of a group led by a licensed operator, and the Zona Cultura, consisting of a few villages that are outside restricted areas. The park is also inhabited by indigenous ethnic groups including the Amahuaca, Huachipaire, Machiguenga, Piro, Yora and Yaminagua. Tourist infrastructure in the Zona Reservada is rustic and made from sustainable materials such as local timber and woven palm fronds for roofing material. Few of the lodges have hot water or electricity and, as such, are packaged as eco-friendly and follow strict environmental practices.

Scientists believe that there are over 20,000 species of plants, 1200 species of butterflies, around 1000 types of birds and 200 different mammals. The dense carpet of tropical rainforest is irrigated and dissected by several great rivers, including the Ucayali, Madre de Dios, Manu and Panagua. Over time, several marshy swamp areas and cochas (oxbow lakes) have formed, which sustain their own types of flora and fauna. In the Manu region, a whole host of birds can be spotted including the Amazon kingfisher, the scarlet, red-and-green and blue-and-yellow macaws, harpy eagle, hoatzin, Orinoco goose and tiger heron. It is possible to spot various primate groups in the dense tree cover, such as the emperor tamarin, spider and howler monkeys, but much less common to see the larger predator and mammal groups of lowland tapir, sloth, jaguar or capybaras. For this reason, a stay of seven to eight days is recommended in order to observe a representative sample of the flora and fauna available. Outside the Reserve Zone is the Blanquillo Ecological Reserve, a private reserve that extends to almost 14,000 hectares (34,595 acres). The Tambo Blanquillo Lodge owns a floating catamaran hide, which is ideally situated to view the spectacular early morning sight of hundreds of brightly coloured macaws and parrots descending to feed off the 6m- (20ft-) high clay lick, or cliff known as a ccollpa. A ten-minute motorised canoe ride from the lodge connects with a trail that leads to the Cocha Camunga, which is home to a family of giant river otters. Even greater wildlife spotting opportunities can be gained from a magnificent 40m- (130ft-) high viewing platform that has been carefully constructed in the boughs of a magnificent kapok tree.

Tambopata-Candamo Reserved Zone: Tambopata-Candamo Reserved Zone is 58km (36 miles) from Puerto Maldonado by river. Specialists say that it contains the largest and richest biodiversity of the world. The flora and fauna within includes more than 2000 flower varieties, 1000 birds and 900 butterflies and dragonflies.

For further information on any of the topics mentioned above, please contact the Tourist **Information Service, Edif. Mitinci, piso 14, Calle Uno Oeste s/n, Urb. Córpac, San Isidro (tel: 224 9355 or 224 3113; fax: 224 3323; e-mail: infoperu@promperu.gob.pe).**

Tourism Protection Scheme

The Tourist Bureau of Complaints exists to protect the rights of tourists visiting Peru by helping them solve any problem that may rise from unsatisfactory services. There is a 24-hour hotline in **Lima (tel: (1) 574 8000)**. In other cities outside the capital there is a toll-free number (tel: (0800) 4 2579), which is operational 0830-1800 Monday to Friday.

10 SPORT & ACTIVITIES

Mountain trekking: Mountain trekking: Practically all of the highlands and some parts of the jungle include trekking circuits, although only a few are being used commercially. Hikes are possible all year round, but the easiest period is the dry season (June to September). Hiking

equipment can be bought or hired in Cusco and Huaraz which are the starting points to the most important treks in Peru, listed below.

Inca Trail to Machu Picchu: Probably the most famous trekking route in South America, the trail offers views of snow-capped mountains, high cloud forests and the opportunity to walk past several magnificent ancient Inca ceremonial centres, such as those at Wiñay Wayna and Phuyupatamarca. Completion of the 48-km (30-mile) trek takes 3 to 5 days. The trail fee is US\$17 per person, which includes a one-day entrance ticket to Machu Picchu.

Cordillera Blanca: The highest tropical mountain range is a 180km- (112.5-mile) long paradise of snow-capped mountains, glaciers, emerald-green lakes and archaeological sites. It also contains a wide variety of flora and fauna. Practically the entire range is a protected area within the Huascarán National Park. The entrance fee for adventure sports is US\$20. Routes vary from 2 to 12 days.

Olleros-Chavín Llama Trek: This is a 4-day trek between the attractive town of Olleros and the spectacular archaeological site of Chavín de Huántar. Llama 2000, as it is known, is an initiative launched by a group of campesino farmers to promote ecotourism while protecting their traditional way of life.

Other trekking areas: These include the Cordillera Huayhuash (Huaraz), Colca Valley (150km/94 miles north of Arequipa), where major attractions include snow/capped volcanoes; Mount Ausangate (south of Cusco), a physically demanding 8- to 12-day walk, which requires climbing through high mountain passes and being exposed to changing weather conditions.

Mountaineering: Mountaineering: The Cordillera Blanca (23 summits above 6000m/19,686ft above sea level) and Huayhuash (6 summits above 6000m/19,686ft above sea level) are the best known ranges for mountaineering activities - a unique concentration of mountains and relatively few mountain climbers. There is mild weather almost all year-long and relatively easy access to sites that are nevertheless cut off from hectic city life.

Surfing: Surfing: This is a particular favourite as the beaches of Lima (constant waves from April to September) and the north (heavy seas between October and March) rank alongside the best in Hawaii or California. Top spots include Chicama (or Malabrigo), the world's longest wave, Cabo Blanco or Pico Alto.

Sea fishing: Sea fishing: Tuna fish, drums, flounder, Pacific croaker, grunts, groupers and large black marlins can be found in the coast of Peru. The most renowned spot is Punta Sal in Tumbes (North coast).

Lake and river fishing: Lake and river fishing: This is good in both the highlands and the jungle.

Whitewater rafting: Whitewater rafting: Rafting in Peru combines amazing landscapes with some tough rapids. Some rivers can be run in one-day trips (mostly in the coast and the highlands), and expeditions lasting from 3 to 12 days can be arranged to run others (mostly in the highlands and the jungle). The Colca River is rated as Peru's premier rafting river.

Mountain biking: Mountain biking: Any part of the country, except the coastal desert and the jungle plains, is suitable for mountain biking. Some of the best circuits include those in the Pachacámac Valley and the Paracas Reserve.

Other sports: Other sports: Other sports and activities practised in Peru are paragliding, hang gliding, rock climbing, windsurfing, horse riding, marathon (annual competitions at challenging heights), snowboarding, hot air ballooning, underwater fishing and scuba diving. Tennis facilities are available in Lima. Golf facilities are usually available to non-members only.

11 SOCIAL PROFILE

Food & Drink: The hot and spicy nature of Peruvian food, created by ají and ajo (hot pepper and garlic), has become celebrated at home and abroad. Peruvians enjoy a wide variety of vegetables; there are over 2000 kinds of indigenous and cultivated potatoes alone. Tropical fruits are abundant, as are avocados. Ceviche is a local speciality (uncooked fish marinated in lemon juice and hot chili pepper, served with fried corn, sweet potatoes, onions and flavoured with coriander). Escabeche is a cooked fish appetiser eaten cold, served with peppers and onions. Corvina is sea bass, which can be prepared in a variety of ways, and is always an excellent choice. Typical dishes made with scallops (conchitas), mussels (choros), octopus (pulpo) and shrimps (camarones) are plentiful and delicious. Chupe de camarones is a chowder-type soup made with shrimps, milk, eggs, potatoes and peppers. Other staple dishes include papa a la huancaína (yellow potato with cheese and chili sauce), arroz con choclo (rice with corn), cau cau (tripe cooked with potato, peppers and parsley), causa ralleña (potato cakes with chicken in the centre, but also cooked with avocado or crabmeat) and tamales (boiled corn dumplings filled with meat and wrapped in a banana leaf). Specialities include sopa criolla (spicy soup with beef and noodles), ají de gallina (shredded chicken in a piquant cream sauce), anticuchos (strips of beef or fish marinated in vinegar and spices, then barbecued on skewers) and lomo saltado (pieces of beef sautéed with onions and peppers, served with fried potatoes and rice). Rice and potatoes accompany virtually every dish. Traditional desserts are arroz con leche (rice pudding), alfajores (wafer-thin spirals of shortbread dusted with icing sugar) and served with manjar blanco (a caramel sauce), picarones (doughnuts served with syrup) and maza morra (purple maize and sweet potato starch jelly cooked with lemons, dried fruits, cinnamon and cloves). Table service is the norm in hotels and restaurants and many of them also offer buffet type lunch. Drink: The most famous drink is pisco sour, made from a potent grape brandy. Other pisco-based drinks are algarrobina (pisco and carob syrup), chilcano (pisco and ginger ale) and capitán (pisco and vermouth). Chicha de jora (fermented) and chicha morada (non-alcoholic) are popular drinks dating from Inca times. Peruvian beers and national wines are good.

Nightlife: There are many good bars, pubs, discotheques and casinos in the major towns and tourist resorts. Peñas always serve snacks and some serve full meals. Here one can enjoy criolla or folk music, especially at the weekends. Nightlife in Lima and Cusco has a wide array of choices. Most discotheques, peñas, pubs and karaokes are open until 0300 or 0400 in the morning.

Shopping: There are many attractive Peruvian handicrafts such as alpaca wool sweaters, alpaca and llama rugs, Indian masks, weaving, jewellery and much more. Galleries and handicraft shops abound in the Miraflores, Pueblo Libre and downtown districts of Lima. Handicrafts markets are located in Miraflores (Petit Thouars Ave, blocks 52-53) and Pueblo Libre (La Marina Ave, blocks 8-10). Shopping hours: 1000-1300 and 1600-2000 Monday to Saturday.

Special Events: The following is a selection of the major festivals held throughout Peru in 2001. Check with the Embassy for details:

Jan Lima Foundation Week (a week of celebrations marking the foundation of Lima). Feb La Virgen de la Candelaria, Puno; Carnival (carnival is celebrated throughout the country, but particularly in Cajamarca and Puno). Mar La Vendimia (wine festival), Ica. Mar/Apr Holy Week (celebrated across the country, but particularly in Ayacucho, Cusco, Huaraz and Tarma); Peruvian Paso Horse Contest, Mamacona, near Lima. Jun Corpus Christi Festivities and Inti Raymi (Festival of the Sun), Cusco. Jul 28 Independence Day (celebrated countrywide but with the largest festivals in Lima). Aug Festidanza (traditional folklore festival with modern music and dance), Arequipa; Rose of Lima Day. Sep International Spring Festival, Trujillo (parades, handicraft and

art exhibits, folk music and gastronomy contests). Oct 18-20 Procession of the Lord of the Miracles, Lima. Nov Bullfighting Festival, Lima; Puno Jubilee Week.

Social Conventions: Shaking hands is the customary form of greeting. Visitors should follow normal social courtesies and the atmosphere is generally informal. A small gift from a company or home country is sufficient. Dress is usually informal, although for some business meetings and social occasions men wear a jacket and tie. Life is conducted at a leisurely pace. Tipping: Service charges of 15% are added to all bills. Additional tips of 5% are expected. Taxi drivers do not generally expect tips.

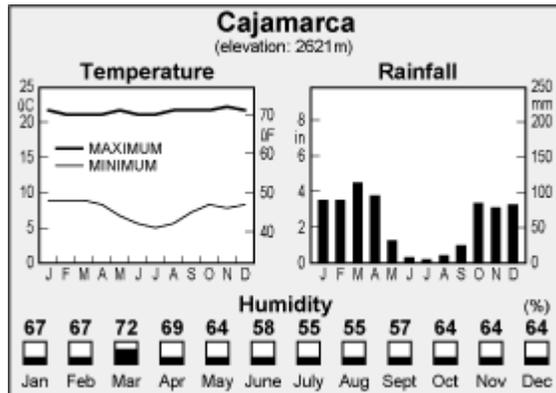
12 BUSINESS PROFILE

Economy: Since 1990, the Fujimori government has implemented market-oriented reforms, including drastic fiscal and monetary stability, as well as the privatisation of several industries and the opening up of trade and investment opportunities. As a result, the last five years have seen Peru become one of the most dynamic economies in Latin America, with GDP growing at an average of 4% annually. The economy has been further boosted with the growth in exports and the inflow of important amounts of foreign capital. Owing both to upward growth in the economy and resultant social welfare reforms, living standards have improved over the last decade. Poverty fell from 57% to 50.7% between 1991 and 1997, while extreme poverty was reduced from almost 27% to 14.7% during the same period. Key industries are mining - which accounted for 50% of export earnings in 1999 - fishing and agriculture. Manufacturing is concentrated in processed foods, chemicals, metal products, machinery and textiles. Tourism has become increasingly important, a fact reflected in rapid growth over the last two decades, as well as an upsurge in foreign investment. Like other emerging markets, Peru was seriously affected during 1998-99 by external crises (the Asian financial crisis and collapse of the Russian economy), both of which led to a slowing in the domestic economy. International analysts are confident, however, that Peru's solid macroeconomic foundations and the government's commitment to sound economic management spell out rosy prospects for continuing growth in the future. Peru is a member of the Andean Treaty and the Latin American Integration Association, ALADI, which promotes trade and economic development in Latin America. Peru's major trading partners are the USA, Japan, Brazil and Germany.

Business: Although the majority speak Spanish, many business people speak English. Office hours: 0900-1700 Monday to Friday.

Commercial Information: The following organisation can offer advice: Cámara de Comercio de Lima, Avenida Gregorio Escobedo 396, Jesus Maria, Lima 11 (tel: (1) 463 0842 or 463 8080; fax: (1) 463 3686; e-mail: info@camaralima.org.pe; web site: <http://www.camaralima.org.pe>).
CONFERENCES/CONVENTIONS: For further information contact Promperu (see address section for details).

13 CLIMATE



Varies according to area. On the coast winter lasts from June to September. During this period, the mountainous areas are often sunny during the day but cold at night. Heavy rains in the mountains and jungle last from December to April. It never rains in Lima nor most of the coast, except for Tumbes and Piura, which have tropical climates.

Required clothing: Lightweights during summer with warmer clothes worn in upland areas. Mediumweights are advised during cooler months.

14 HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT

History: The indigenous Inca civilisation of what is now Peru was conquered by Spain in the early 16th century. The city of Lima was founded in 1535 and became the effective capital of the viceroyalty of Peru, established seven years later. Spain ruled the country until the early 19th century, using the rich silver reserves to finance its costly imperialist struggles with France, England and The Netherlands. The wars of independence, which expelled the Spanish from virtually the entire South American continent, reached Peru in the early 1820s. After the 1821 declaration of independence, Peru was challenged by the royalists. The new Government appealed to the revolutionary leader Simon Bolivar for assistance. Arriving from Colombia, Bolivar defeated the royalists at the Battle of Ayacucho in December 1824, after which he became head of state. Relations between Peru and its neighbours were difficult in the early years of independence. There were border disputes with Brazil and Ecuador (which have not been settled to this day) but especially with Chile. The War of the Pacific, which broke out between Peru, supported by Bolivia, and Chile in 1879 ended after five years with a complete victory for Chile and the loss to Peru of some southern territories. Internal problems dominated the agenda for the next 30 years as a series of governments struggled to keep the economy, which was almost completely destroyed as a result of the Pacific War, from disintegrating. The first of Peru's many military coups was in 1914. The junta lasted five years before giving way to the civilian Government of Augusto Leguia. Between 1919 and 1930, despite rampant corruption, Leguia instituted important reforms in education and social services. His tenure ended with another military take-over. While the military has always been a powerful force in Peruvian politics, its principal opponent and the country's largest political party for much of the 20th century has been the Alianza Popular Revolucionaria Americana (APRA), founded by Dr Victor Raul Haya de la Torre in 1924 as a continent-wide anti-imperialist movement, but increasingly moderate and Peruvian-centred in its appeal. APRA has nevertheless been illegal for much of its history. Civilian administrations from 1963-67 and 1980-85 were headed by the right-wing President Belaunde

Terry of the Accion Popular Party, although APRA was usually the largest party in the Chamber of Deputies. Under Alan Garcia, APRA took power for the first time in 1985. Garcia's administration was a failure on both the political and economic front. On the political front, Garcia was faced with the continuing growth of the Maoist guerrilla movement Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path), which benefited substantially from the deteriorating economic situation. The failure of the Garcia government froze APRA out of the 1990 presidential election which developed into a two-way race between Mario Vargas Llosa, the world-renowned author who led the Democratic Front coalition, and the comparatively unknown independent centrist candidate, Alberto Fujimori, an agricultural engineer of Japanese extraction, who was the surprise landslide winner. The new Government followed the trend on the Latin American continent for economic shock treatment, although continuing capital flight and the distorting effects of the illegal cocaine economy have proved insoluble problems. The 'war on drugs' is at the heart of relations between Peru and the USA, which has concluded a number of agreements with Lima. Otherwise, Peru's foreign policy under Fujimori has been devoted to economic matters - principally trade agreements and aid commitments - and the resolution of border disputes. There was a bitter disagreement with Ecuador over access to the Amazonian river system and control of the potentially mineral-rich Condor mountain range. Full-scale fighting broke out in early 1995 after long-running bilateral talks broke down. This continued intermittently until a settlement was reached in 1999. At home, the security forces made a major breakthrough in September 1992 by capturing Sendero leader Abimael Guzman and his deputy and partner Elena Iparraguirre. This was the beginning of the end for Sendero which, though still active in a few coca-growing regions, is now a pale shadow of its former self. The capture of Guzman helped to bolster Fujimori's position at a time when he was under severe criticism at home and abroad for the 'constitutional coup' which he had launched, with the backing of the security forces, six months earlier: congress was suspended indefinitely while Fujimori ruled by decree. In 1993, Fujimori unveiled a new constitution which, once accepted by a national referendum, returned Peru to constitutional Government. This, plus the mild economic recovery and the demise of Sendero Luminoso gave Fujimori victory in the April 1995 presidential election over the former United Nations Secretary-General, Javier Perez de Cuellar. Any assumption of victory on the part of the state was premature, as shown by the take-over, a week before Christmas 1997, of the residence of the Japanese ambassador by guerrillas of the leftist MRTA. The guerrillas held the complex for four months until it was stormed by Peruvian troops. In early 1998, large areas of the country were devastated and hundreds of lives lost in storms associated with the El Niño climatic system. The recent political agenda has been dominated by Fujimori's constitutional machinations, geared to his attempt to engineer an unprecedented third term of office. The necessary amendments were passed before the presidential election scheduled for May 2000. The ensuing controversy plus widespread irregularities which accompanied the poll itself undermined the integrity of the election to the point where the principal opposition candidate, Alejandro Toledo, had no option but to withdraw and leave Fujimori to 'win' by default. Despite international criticism and domestic discontent, Fujimori shows no sign of relinquishing office.

Government: Under the new constitution introduced at the end of 1993, executive power is held by the president and legislative power by a 120-member single-chamber Assembly. Both are elected for 5-year terms.

15 OVERVIEW

Country Overview: Peru is a large, mountainous country on the Pacific coast of South America. It has borders with Ecuador, Colombia, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile and the Pacific Ocean. The Sierra contains the Andes, with peaks of over 6000m (20,000ft). The Selva, an area of fertile, subtropical uplands, lies between the Andes and the jungles of eastern Peru.

Peru offers diversity: history, archaeology, sports, beaches, mountains, medicinal springs, nature, fantastic landscapes, friendly people and music.

Tumbes and Piura are the most northerly Peruvian coastal departments and are major beach, surfing, sporting and deep-sea fishing centres.

Lima, the capital, is an ancient Spanish city founded by Francisco Pizarro in 1535 and known as the 'City of Kings'. The city's splendid museums, galleries and monuments are juxtaposed with modern suburbs.

Cusco, situated 3360m (11,024 feet) above sea level, was once the capital of the Inca Empire. Remains of the granite stone walls of the Inca Palace and temples can still be seen.

Peru's most famous archaeological site is Machu Picchu, the 'Lost City of the Incas', and the final destination and the famous three-day Inca Trail.

Ceviche is a local speciality (uncooked fish marinated in lemon juice and hot pepper, served with corn-on-the-cob, potatoes and onions).

There are many bars, pubs, discotheques and casinos in the major towns and tourist resorts.

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