Peru grows more than 55 varieties of corn, and you can just about find it in any color  including yellow, purple, white and black.

The potato is originally from Peru, and there are over 3,000 different varieties. Proud Peruvians use the phrase “Soy mas Peruano que la papa” (I am more Peruvian than the potato).

Cuy or Guinea Pig is a traditional dish eaten in Peru

Peru is the 6th largest producer of gold.

The National University of San Marcos is the oldest in the Americas and was founded on the 12th of May of 1551.

Peru has the second largest amount of Shamans in the world, second only to India.

The inventor of the first modern rocket propulsion system was a Peruvian named Pedro Paulet.

The finest cottons in the world, Pima and Tanguis are Peruvian.

Peru’s capital Lima was once the most powerful city in South America, but fell into decline when the Spanish created a viceroyalty in Rio de la Plata.

Peru’s Independence Day is celebrated on July 28, and is known as ‘Fiestas Patrias.’

Peru is a surfer’s paradise. Chicama has the world’s longest left-handed wave at 4km’s long, and Mancora (close by) has the world’s largest left-handed point-break.

Cotahuasi Canyon in the Arequipa region is considered one of the world’s deepest canyon at 3,535 meters (11,597 feet) deep – twice as deep as the Grand Canyon USA.

The oldest occupation of man in the America’s is traced back to the sacred City of Caral-Supe a few hours north of the capital Lima. The 626 hectare (1546 acre) site dates back 5000 years.

Peruvian engineer Carlos Villachica invented a simple machine to isolate gold from sand without using mercury. The small machine instead uses water and biodegradable chemicals to isolate the gold. They also invented the artificial tree, that cleans the air from pollution.

Peru’s Huascarán National Park has more has 27 snow-capped peaks 6,000 meters (19,685 feet) above sea level, of which El Huascarán (6,768 meters / 22,204 feet) is the highest.

Peru has 1625 types of orchids of-which 425 can be found growing naturally close to Machu Picchu. The Inkaterra Hotel in Machu Picchu has South America’s largest privately owned collection at 500 varieties.

Cusco in Peru was the most important city in the whole of the Inca Empire, and governed as far north as Quito in Ecuador and as far south as Santiago in Chile.

Here are 3 official languages in Peru: Spanish, Quechua and Aymara, but east of the Andes in Amazon Jungle regions it is thought that natives speak a further 13 different languages.

The Inca citadel of Machu Picchu was lost to the Amazon Jungle for hundreds of years, until it was re-discovered by Hiram Bingham the American explorer.

The Pisco Sour is Peru’s national drink and is made using Pisco brandy, lemons, sugar water, egg whites, ice and finished with bitters.

Lake Titicaca in Southern Peru is the world’s highest navigable lake, and South America largest lake.

In Peru, it is tradition to give friends and family yellow underpants on New Year’s Eve.

Peru’s is the 8th largest producer of coffee in the world, and is the 5th largest producer of the Arabica bean.

There are some 90 different micro-climates in Peru, making it one of the most bio-diverse countries on the planet.

Peru is home to the highest sand dune in the world. Cerro Blanco located in the Sechura Desert near the Nazca Lines measures 3,860 feet (1,176 meters) from the base to the summit.