General Information   
  
Location: Peru covers 1,285,216 km2 (496,225 sq mi) of western South America. It borders Ecuador and Colombia to the north, Brazil to the east, Bolivia to the southeast, Chile to the south, and the Pacific Ocean to the west.

Area: 1.28 million sq.km.   
  
Relief: The Andes mountains run parallel to the Pacific Ocean; they define the three regions traditionally used to describe the country geographically. The *costa* (coast), to the west, is a narrow plain, largely arid except for valleys created by seasonal rivers. The *sierra* (highlands) is the region of the Andes; it includes the Altiplano plateau as well as the highest peak of the country, the 6,768 m (22,205 ft) Huascarán. The third region is the selva(jungle), a wide expanse of flat terrain covered by the Amazon rainforest that extends east. Almost 60 percent of the country's area is located within this region.

**Climate:** Coastal area, arid and mild; Andes, temperate to frigid; eastern lowlands, tropically warm and humid.

**Population:** 31,151,643 The ethnic composition of the population is estimated as: indian 45-47 percent, mestizos 32-37 percent, unmixed Europeans 12-15 percent, blacks and mulattos 2 percent, and Asian (Japanese and Chinese) about 1 percent.

**Language:** An 80,3% of the populations speak Spanish, a 16,2% Quechua and 3% other dialects.

**Alphabet:** Latin, Aymara

**Religion:** An 89, 03% of the population are Catholics, 6,73% Evangelical, a 2,56% profess other religions and 1,65% are atheists.

**State government:** Peru is a democratic republic.

**Capital:** Lima (population 8,852,000)   
  
**Large Cities:** Arequipa, La Libertad, Lambayeque, Loreto, Piura.