

Puno

Puno is a city in the southeast highlands of Peru, capital of the district, province, and department of the same name. It was initially inhabited by the Puquina and Uros people around the year 1000. With the fall of the Tiahuanaco culture, the Aymara people arrived, and with the expansion of the Inca Empire in 1472, the Quechua population settled in the area. The first documented mention of Puno is in the "Cédula de Encomienda" on August 1, 1535, where Francisco Pizarro grants the Encomienda of Puno to Gómez de Mazuelas. In 1543, the chronicler Pedro Gutiérrez de Santa Clara describes the "tambo" of Puno in the "Ordenanzas de Tambos" dictated by the governor of Peru, Don Cristóbal Vaca de Castro. Later, in 1563, the first native Catholic parish was built with the name "San Juan Bautista de Puñuypampa," from Quechua meaning "place of rest."

Its festival of the Virgen de la Candelaria was declared Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO on November 27, 2014.

Puno is the twentieth most populated city in Peru, according to the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics, and had a population of approximately 139,096 inhabitants in 2017. Its extension ranges from the populated center of Uros Chulluni to the northeast, the urban area of the Paucarcolla district to the north, the Ciudad de la Humanidad Totorani urbanization to the northwest (road to Arequipa), and extends to the populated center of Ichu to the south and the community of Mi Perú to the southwest (road to Moquegua).