



Gobierno del Perú

PROGRESO PARA TODOS

A VIEW OF OUR COUNTRY

Peru is a democratic, social, independent and sovereign republic. Its legal system is ruled by the Constitution, promulgated on December 29, 1993.

The Peruvian state is divided into three independent branches: Executive, Legislative (composed of a 130-member unicameral parliament) and Judicial. The authorities of the Executive and Legislative branches are elected by universal suffrage.

The current constitutional president of Peru is Ollanta Humala Tasso, who took office on July 28, 2011. His term ends on July 28, 2016.

Geographic Location

Peru is located in the central and western part of South America. It has an area of 1,285,216 km² or 496,223 miles. It is the third largest country in South America.

Population

According to the 2007 National Population Census, Peru has approximately 28.2 million inhabitants.

History

Peru is the cradle of great cultures that astound the world today. Caral, the oldest city in the Americas and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, was built in its territory. The remains of this complex pre-Inca civilization are located in the Supe Valley, some 200 kilometers north of Lima, the country's capital. Caral, which is approximately 5,000 years old, was a contemporary of other civilizations such as China, Egypt, India and Mesopotamia.

Peru is also home for other pre-Inca cultures that achieved great knowledge and development in areas such as agriculture, livestock, textiles and construction. Chavin (1000 BC), Cupisnique (900 BC), Vicus (100 BC) and Paracas (400 BC), for example, stood out worldwide for the high quality of their textiles whose colors remain intact to this day. The Mochica (0-600 AD), Nazca (0-800 AD) Tiahuanaco (200-800 AD), Chimú (AD 900-1440) also showed the world their greatness in developing techniques to build their towns, buildings, aqueducts, irrigation systems and create sophisticated jewelry.

Subsequently, the Inca culture (thirteenth to sixteenth centuries), one of the most remarkable in history, left an important legacy of knowledge, advanced for their time, which today continue to awaken the astonishment of humanity.



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Economy and Human Development

Peru's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) expanded by 6% in the period between July 2011 and June 2012, a figure higher than the target goal of 5.7%, considering that the 2011 GDP increased by 6.9%. In this way, and following the positive economic trend, the GDP over 2012 and 2013 is expected to grow 6% per year.

Productivity

The Peruvian territory has almost every climate on the planet, with remarkable natural, mining and energy resources. In the world, Peru is the largest exporter of asparagus, paprika, fishmeal and fish oil, alpaca and vicuna fibers, and the second largest producer of copper and third of silver. Its extensive natural forests positions Peru ninth in the world and second in South America.

In Latin America it is the largest producer of gold, silver, zinc, tin, lead; the second largest producer of copper and molybdenum, a major textile exporters and the third largest country in South America.

Peru is considered a mega-diverse country given that it contains 84 of the 104 "living zones" possible in the world. Peru is ranked among the top 10 tourist destinations in the world.

The Peruvian area of natural forests, including fine wood trees such as cedar and mahogany, is estimated at just less than 80 million hectares.

Peru is one of the countries that have contributed the most species to feed world, with now "globalized" products like potatoes, tomatoes, the sweet potato, maize, the avocado, achiote, and many others. It has nearly 4,400 species of native plants with known uses, emphasizing those with nutritional, medicinal, ornamental, dyeing, gynecological, gastronomical, aromatic, and cosmetic properties, among others. And still there are numerous genetic resources to investigate and take advantage of.

Peruvian cuisine stands out for the quality and diversity of its ingredients; while its national drink, Pisco, has won numerous international awards.

Religion

In Peru, there is freedom of worship, but most of its population is Catholic (81%).



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Languages

The official language is Spanish, spoken by 84% of the population. However, there are 51 languages from 16 language families, the most important is the Quechua.