

Peru

Continent: South America

Languages Spoken: Spanish, Quechua, Aymara

Population: 33,000,000

Currency: Peruvian Sol (PEN)

Area: 1,285,216

Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Machu Picchu', 'writeup': 'An ancient Incan city set high in the Andes Mountains, renowned for its archaeological significance and stunning panoramic views.'}
- {'name': 'Nazca Lines', 'writeup': 'A series of large ancient geoglyphs in the Nazca Desert, depicting various animals and shapes, visible from the air.'}
- {'name': 'Lake Titicaca', 'writeup': 'The highest navigable lake in the world, shared with Bolivia, known for its cultural heritage and floating reed islands.'}
- {'name': 'Colca Canyon', 'writeup': 'One of the deepest canyons in the world, famous for condor sightings and traditional Andean villages.'}
- {'name': 'Historic Centre of Lima', 'writeup': 'The capital city's colonial core, featuring Spanish Baroque architecture and significant cultural landmarks.'}

Head of State / Government:

Dina Boluarte (President as of 2024)

Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Inti Raymi', 'writeup': 'A traditional Incan festival celebrating the winter solstice and the Sun God, held annually in Cusco.'}
- {'name': 'Fiesta de la Candelaria', 'writeup': 'A vibrant religious and cultural festival in Puno featuring music, dance, and colorful costumes.'}
- {'name': 'Semana Santa', 'writeup': 'Holy Week celebrations with processions and religious ceremonies across the country.'}

Food & Cuisine:

Peruvian cuisine is diverse, blending indigenous ingredients with Spanish, African, and Asian influences. Signature dishes include ceviche, lomo saltado, and ají de gallina, showcasing fresh seafood, potatoes, and native spices.

Brief History:

Peru was home to the Inca Empire before Spanish conquest in the 16th century. It gained independence in 1821 and has since developed a rich cultural heritage influenced by indigenous and colonial histories.

Important People:

- Simón Bolívar - Liberator and key figure in South American independence
- Mario Vargas Llosa - Nobel Prize-winning author

- Túpac Amaru II - Leader of indigenous uprising against Spanish rule
- Clorinda Matto de Turner - Influential writer and advocate for indigenous rights

Current Conflicts:

Peru faces internal challenges including political instability and social protests related to governance and economic inequality, but no active armed conflicts.

Youtube Links:

- Discover Peru: Machu Picchu and Beyond
- Peruvian Cuisine: A Culinary Journey
- The History of the Inca Empire
- Exploring the Nazca Lines
- Cultural Festivals of Peru