

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW WHEN TRAVELLING TO PERU

### SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- December to March – Summer
- April – Autumn
- May to September – Winter
- October to November – Spring

### WHAT TO PACK

As you plan what to wear, keep in mind that the trick is to pack and wear layers. We suggest layering like this: tank top or t-shirt, long sleeve shirt, jersey and then jacket. Always pack something to protect yourself against rain showers.

### RETAIL HOURS

Stores, shopping malls and craftsmanship's markets, work every day from 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

### MONEY MATTERS

The Peruvian local currency is the Peruvian Sol (PEN) ATMs are readily accessible in urban areas. The use of traveler's checks is not common as businesses and hotels generally do not accept them, and banks will charge a commission fee to cash them.

**Currency:** Peruvian Sol (PEN) PEN = 100 Cents.

**Credit Cards :** Visa is the most widely accepted card in Peru, and nearly all ATMs accept Visa for cash withdrawals. You'll also find some ATMs that accept Cirrus/MasterCard, but Visa is the most common.

### DRINKING WATER

Tap water in Peru is not safe to drink. Boiling water vigorously for one minute is the most effective means of water purification. At altitudes over 2000m (6500ft), boil for three minutes. You can also disinfect water with iodine or water-purification pills or use a water filter or Steripen.

### TIPPING / PORTERAGE

- **Hotels** porters at the hotel 3 soles per bag they carry. If you use the concierge services, 5-10 soles is appropriate. For housekeeping staff or maids, 1-3 soles per person, per night is a nice gesture.
- **Restaurants & Bars** A base of 10% should be given. For great service, you can stretch that to 15%.
- **Taxis** Taxis are not commonly tipped in Peru. You will negotiate the price with your driver, which will be the total. It already includes the tip and any other necessary charges. Make sure to be upfront about the total to ensure there are no misunderstandings upon arrival.

### TRAVEL RESPONSIBILITY

- Learn a few words of the local language so you know what's considered polite in terms of eating, greeting and local values.
- Appropriate behaviours by travellers helps ensure local communities continue to be hospital and friendly.
- Respect other people's cultures and avoid imposing your beliefs.
- Adhere to the hotel's water or energy conservation policies.
- Buy locally made crafts and support local skills.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Spanish** is the official language. English isn't spoken widely.
- South African citizens do not require a visa to enter Peru, Visa free entry into Peru is valid for 90 days.
- Peru is located on the continent of South America. They are 7 hours behind S.A
- There are two types of electrical outlets in Peru. One accepts two-pronged plugs with flat, parallel blades (Type A), while the other takes plugs with two round prongs (Type C), and many Peruvian electrical outlets are designed to accept both types
- Peru operates on a 220V supply voltage and 60Hz.

### WHAT THINGS COST

- Inexpensive restaurant meal : +- 11.00 PEN
- Meal for 2 people Mid-range Restaurant, 3 Course : +- 82.84 PEN
- McMeal at McDonalds (or Equivalent Combo Meal): +- 15.00 CLP
- Domestic Beer (0.5 Lt Draught) : +- 6.00 PEN
- Imported Beer (0.33 Lit Bottle) : +- 12.00 PEN
- Cappuccino (Regular) : +- 8.00 PEN
- Coke/Pepsi (0.33 Lt Bottle) : +- 2.48 PEN
- Water (0.33 Lt Bottle) : +- 1.68 PEN

### OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

- A lot of public restrooms will charge you a small fee to use them, so just keep some change on hand to pay the fee.
- Lock valuables away while travelling and always be vigilant of your belongings. Never leave them unattended.
- Always be aware of pick pockets irrespective of where you are in the world.