DISCLAIMER

The Country Orientation Guides are provided as a service for faculty travelling to international destinations for teaching purposes. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in the Country Orientation Guides, neither the Office of Training nor the Fischler School of Education and Human Services at Nova Southeastern University can accept responsibility for any errors that may appear in information, editorial content, maps, text, representation, or illustrations as printed. The publisher does accept any responsibility for content of editorial. Additional copies of this publication may be obtained in the Office of International Affairs at the Fischler School of Education and Human Services in North Miami Beach.
# Table of Contents

Disclaimer .......................................................................................................................... 1  

Welcome ............................................................................................................................ 3  

- NSU Emergency Contact ................................................................................................. 4  
- Passport Issues .................................................................................................................. 5  
- Weather Information ........................................................................................................ 6  
- Central Intelligence Agency-The World Factbook .......................................................... 6  
- TSA Travel Tips ............................................................................................................... 7  
- Useful Phone Numbers ..................................................................................................... 8  
- Lost & Found ................................................................................................................... 8  
- US Department of State - Tips for Traveling Abroad ...................................................... 9  
- U.S. Customs Restrictions – What You Cannot Bring Back With You .............................. 10  

Country Overview ............................................................................................................. 11  

- Banking ........................................................................................................................... 11  
- Communication ................................................................................................................ 11  
- Documents Needed .......................................................................................................... 12  
- Electricity .......................................................................................................................... 13  
- Emergencies .................................................................................................................... 13  
- Holidays ............................................................................................................................ 14  
- Safety ............................................................................................................................... 15  
- Time Zone ........................................................................................................................ 18  
- Transportation .................................................................................................................. 18  
- Water ............................................................................................................................... 19  

Academic System ............................................................................................................. 19  

- Structure of School System ............................................................................................. 19  
- K-12 .................................................................................................................................. 20  
- Higher Education ............................................................................................................. 20  
- Professor/Student Relationship ......................................................................................... 20  
- Teacher Education ........................................................................................................... 21  

Etiquette ............................................................................................................................. 21  

- Cultural Orientation ........................................................................................................ 21  
- Business Practices .......................................................................................................... 21  
- Protocol ............................................................................................................................ 22  
- Tipping ............................................................................................................................. 22  

References ......................................................................................................................... 23
**Welcome**

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you very much for accepting to teach in Peru!

The Office of International Affairs (OIA) at the Fischler School of Education and Human Services has prepared this country guide to provide you with basic and general information on the country you are about to visit.

This guide is intended to help you prepare for your trip. As you travel in the country, please let us know if you find that there are details that need to be added or changed so that we can keep our guides updated. Although we have tried to make it as comprehensive as possible, all of us know that our world moves very rapidly and changes happen everyday; however, we have tried our best to include all of the details you need to make sure you are comfortable in your new environment.

This information has been compiled with the help of the Office of Strategic Initiatives and Global Enterprises for Academic Development (SIGEAD), and the contribution from the OIA team members and our Field Associates and Regional Liaisons around the world. To all of them, and to you, thank you very much for helping these programs become as successful as they are today, and as a result, for making a difference in our students' lives, wherever they are located.

Have a wonderful experience and please be sure to meet with us upon your return so we can discuss your experience and solicit your input for future cohorts. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be any assistance to your prior to your departure, or while you are teaching.

Bon voyage!

Anthony DeNapoli, Dean of International Affairs

Alejandra Parra, Associate Dean of International Affairs
## NSU Emergency Contact

### Contact at the Office of International Affairs

<table>
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### Travel Office Numbers

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Travel Office 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.</th>
<th>Office-954-262-8888</th>
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Travel Office (ONLY after contacting airline or hotel directly)- 1-800-809-8858

There is a charge of $20 if you contact this number.
Passport Issues
A passport is an internationally recognized travel document that verifies the identity and nationality of the bearer. A valid U.S. passport is required to enter and leave most foreign countries. Only the U.S. Department of State has the authority to grant, issue, or verify United States passports.

The Passport Services Office provides information and services to American citizens about how to obtain, replace or change a passport.

To obtain a passport for the first time, you need to go in person to one of over 9,000 passport acceptance facilities located throughout the United States with two photographs of yourself, proof of U.S. citizenship, and a valid form of photo identification such as a driver’s license.

Acceptance facilities include many Federal, state and probate courts, post offices, some public libraries and a number of county and municipal offices. There are also 13 regional passport agencies, and 1 Gateway City Agency, which serve customers who are traveling within 2 weeks (14 days), or who need foreign visas for travel. Appointments are required in such cases.

You will need to apply in person if you are applying for a U.S. passport for the first time:

- If your expired U.S. passport is not in your possession;
- If your previous U.S. passport has expired and was issued more than 15 years ago;
- If your previous U.S. passport was issued when you were under age 16;
- Or if your current valid U.S. passport has been lost or stolen.

*To obtain more information on obtaining a passport please visit
http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/first/first_832.html

*To renew an existing passport please visit
http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/renew/renew_833.html
Weather Information
For weather information on specific countries please visit:
http://worldweather.wmo.int/

Central Intelligence Agency-The World Factbook

The World Factbook provides valuable geographic and demographic information. For more information on individual countries, please visit:

TSA Travel Tips

3-1-1 for Carry-Ons

Make Your Trip Better Using 3-1-1

3-1-1 for carry-ons =

- 3 ounce bottle or less (by volume);
- 1 quart-sized, clear, plastic, zip-top bag;
- 1 bag per passenger placed in screening bin.

One-quart bag per person limits the total liquid volume each traveler can bring. 3 oz. container size is a security measure.

Consolidate bottles into one bag and X-ray separately to speed screening.

Be prepared. Each time TSA searches a carry-on it slows down the line. Practicing 3-1-1 will ensure a faster and easier checkpoint experience.

3-1-1 is for short trips. If in doubt, put your liquids in checked luggage.

Declare larger liquids. Medications, baby formula and food, breast milk, and juice are allowed in reasonable quantities exceeding three ounces and are not required to be in the zip-top bag. Declare these items for inspection at the checkpoint.

Come early and be patient. Heavy travel volumes and the enhanced security process may mean longer lines at security checkpoints.

TSA working with our partners. TSA works with airlines and airports to anticipate peak traffic and be ready for the traveling public.
Useful Phone Numbers
Sources of information include:

U.S. Dept. of State Travel Advisory: tel. 202-647-5225 (manned 24 hr.)

U.S. Passport Agency: tel. 202-647-0518

U.S. Centers for Disease Control International Traveler's Hotline: tel. 404-332-4559

Lost & Found

Be sure to tell all of your credit card companies the minute you discover your wallet has been lost or stolen, and file a report at the nearest police precinct. Your credit card company or insurer may require a police report number or record of the loss. Most credit card companies have an emergency toll-free number to call if your card is lost or stolen; they may be able to wire you a cash advance immediately or deliver an emergency credit card in a day or two. To report a lost or stolen

American Express - To protect your information, you can only report a lost or stolen card by calling American Express Customer Service at 1-800-992-3404. Outside the United States call, collect 336-393-1111.

Diners Club - Call Diners Club Customer Service at 1-800-234-6377. Outside the United States call, collect 702-797-5532.


If you need emergency cash over the weekend when all banks and American Express offices are closed, you can have money wired to you via Western Union. Call tel. 1-800-325-6000 www.westernunion.com.

Identity theft and fraud are potential complications of losing your wallet, especially if you have lost your driver's license along with your cash and credit cards. Notify the major credit-reporting bureaus immediately; placing a fraud alert on your records may protect you against liability for criminal activity. The three major U.S. credit-reporting agencies are Equifax (tel. 800-766-0008; www.equifax.com), Experian (tel. 888-397-3742; www.experian.com), and TransUnion (tel. 800-680-7289; www.transunion.com). Finally, if you have lost all forms of photo ID, call your airline and explain the situation; they might allow you to board the plane if you have a copy of your passport or birth certificate and a copy of the police report you have filed.
Here are some quick tips to make your travel easier and safer:

- **Register so the State Department can better assist you in an emergency:** Register your travel plans with the State Department through a free online service at [https://travelregistration.state.gov](https://travelregistration.state.gov). This will help us contact you if there is a family emergency in the U.S., or if there is a crisis where you are traveling. In accordance with the Privacy Act, information on your welfare and whereabouts will not be released to others without your express authorization.

- **Sign passport, and fill in the emergency information:** Make sure you have a signed, valid passport, and a visa, if required, and fill in the emergency information page of your passport.

- **Leave copies of itinerary and passport data page:** Leave copies of your itinerary, passport data page and visas with family or friends, so you can be contacted in case of an emergency.

- **Check your overseas medical insurance coverage:** Ask your medical insurance company if your policy applies overseas, and if it covers emergency expenses such as medical evacuation. If it does not, consider supplemental insurance.

- **Familiarize yourself with local conditions and laws:** While in a foreign country, you are subject to its laws. The State Department web site at [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1765.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1765.html) has useful safety and other information about the countries you will visit.

- **Take precautions to avoid being a target of crime:** To avoid being a target of crime, do not wear conspicuous clothing or jewelry and do not carry excessive amounts of money. Also, do not leave unattended luggage in public areas and do not accept packages from strangers.

- **Contact us in an emergency:** Consular personnel at U.S. Embassies and Consulates abroad and in the U.S. are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to provide emergency assistance to U.S. citizens. Contact information for U.S. Embassies and Consulates appears on the Bureau of Consular Affairs website at [http://travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov). Also, note that the Office of Overseas Citizen Services in the State Department’s Bureau of Consular Affairs may be reached for assistance with emergencies at 1-888-407-4747, if calling from the U.S. or Canada, or 202-501-4444, if calling from overseas.
U.S. Customs Restrictions – What You Cannot Bring Back With You

Some items may not be brought into the U.S., or may only be brought in under certain restrictions. For information on U.S. customs regulations and procedures, see the Customs and Border Protection booklet “Know Before You Go,” available at http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/vacation/kbyg.

Customs and Border Patrol Top 10 Travelers Tips

1. Have all required travel documents for the countries you are visiting, as well as identification for re-entry to the U.S.
2. Declare everything you are bringing in from abroad, even if you bought it in a duty-free shop. This merchandise is also subject to U.S. duty fees and other restrictions.
3. Be cautious when buying something from a street vendor. Keep in mind that the merchandise may be counterfeit and/or unsafe and you might have to surrender it to U.S. Customs and Border Protection when you get home.
4. Know that the things bought abroad for personal use or as gifts are eligible for duty exemptions. If you are bringing them back for resale, they are not.
5. Know the difference between prohibited merchandise (such as ivory, tortoise shell products, absinthe, and counterfeit items) and restricted merchandise.
6. Be aware that many foreign-made medications are not FDA-approved, and you cannot bring them into the U.S. Also, when traveling abroad, bring only the amount of medication you will need during the trip.
7. Do not bring any Cuban-made products into the U.S., not matter where you purchased them.
8. Do not bring any food into the U.S. without first checking to see if it is permitted. Also, any and all live birds and bird products, whether for personal or commercial use, may be restricted and/or quarantined.
9. Understand that CBP officers can inspect you and your belongings without a warrant. This may include your luggage, vehicle, and personal searches, and is meant to enforce our laws as well as protect legitimate travelers.
10. Read our helpful brochure, “Know Before You Go,” before traveling. Print copies may be requested online, or view the web version at www.cpg.gov under the Travel section.
Country Overview

Peru is a developing country with an expanding tourism sector. A wide variety of tourist facilities and services is available, with quality varying according to price and location. Peru is the fifth most populous country in Latin America (after Brazil, Mexico, Colombia and Argentina). Twenty-one cities have a population of 100,000 or more. Rural migration has increased the urban population from 35.4% of the total population in 1940 to an estimated 74.6% as of 2005.

Most Peruvians are either Spanish-speaking mestizos--a term that usually refers to a mixture of indigenous and European/Caucasian--or Amerindians, largely Quechua-speaking indigenous people. Peruvians of European descent make up about 15% of the population. There also are small numbers of persons of African, Japanese, and Chinese ancestry. Socioeconomic and cultural indicators are increasingly important as identifiers. For example, Peruvians of Amerindian descent who have adopted aspects of Hispanic culture also are considered mestizo. With economic development, access to education, intermarriage, and large-scale migration from rural to urban areas, a more homogeneous national culture is developing, mainly along the relatively more prosperous coast. Peru's distinct geographical regions are mirrored in a socioeconomic divide between the coast's mestizo-Hispanic culture and the more diverse, traditional Andean cultures of the mountains and highlands.

Banking

Banking hours - The opening hours of Peruvian banks varies from region to region. In the weekdays, Peru Banks remains open from 9am until 5pm. From January to March the banks in Lima remain closed in the afternoon at around 1pm.

Currency - Peru's currency is the Nuevo Sol (S/.). One Nuevo Sol is broken down into 100 céntimos (cents). Banknotes currently circulating include 200, 100, 50, 20 and 10 Nuevos Soles, while there are coins for 1, 2 and 5 Nuevos Soles and 50, 20, 10 and 5 cents.

Communication

Language - Peru's official languages are Spanish and Quechua. Spanish is spoken in practically every city and town in the country, while Quechua is mainly spoken in a few places of the
Andes. In the highland plains, called altiplano, in the department of Puno, Aymara is also spoken, although it is not held to be an official language.

**Internet** - Peru is well connected to the Internet with a proliferation of inexpensive Internet kiosks, called *cabinas pública*, available on street corners in most towns and cities.

**Postal Service** - In recent times, the Peruvian postal service has improved a great deal. However, it can be more expensive than sending mail from a more developed country. Sending a letter from Peru to the U.S.A. may take from one to two weeks, depending on the city from which you mail it. The fastest service is from Lima.

In most cities, post offices are open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. during weekdays, and half a day on Saturdays and Sundays. Sending packages from Peru is expensive, thus, not highly recommended.

**Telephone** - The international access code for Peru is +51, and the outgoing code is 00, followed by the relevant country code (e.g. 0044 for the UK). City/area codes are in use, e.g. (0)1) for Lima. A mobile phone operator provides a GSM 1900 network with coverage limited to major towns and cities.

**Documents Needed**

A valid passport is required to enter and depart Peru. Tourists must also provide evidence of return or onward travel. U.S. citizens may enter Peru for short-term tourist- or business-related visits of up to 90 days; however, the actual period authorized is determined by the Peruvian immigration officer at the time of entry into Peru. After admission, travelers may apply to extend their visa for an additional three months. Persons who remain beyond their period of authorized stay without obtaining a visa extension or a residence visa will have to pay a fine to depart Peru. Visitors for other than tourist or short-term business visit purposes must obtain a Peruvian visa in advance. Business workers (under contract) should ascertain the tax and exit regulations that apply to the specific visa they are granted. Peru does not require any immunizations for entry, although it recommends vaccination against Yellow Fever.

An international flight airport fee, payable in U.S. or local currency and assessed on a per-person basis, must be paid when departing Peru. There are also separate airport taxes for domestic flights charged at most domestic airports that must be paid before embarking. U.S. citizens whose passports are lost or stolen in Peru must obtain a new passport from the U.S. Embassy and present it, together with a police report on the loss or theft, to the main immigration office in downtown Lima, located at Prolongacion Espana 734, Brena, to obtain permission to depart. An additional immigration office is located within Lima’s Jorge Chavez International Airport international departure terminal. For further information regarding entry
requirements, travelers should contact the Peruvian Embassy at 1700 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20036; telephone (202) 833-9860; http://www.peruvianembassy.us.

Electricity
Electricity in Peru is 220 Volts, alternating at 60 cycles per second. If you travel to Peru with a device that does not accept 220 Volts at 60 Hertz, you will need a voltage converter.

Emergencies

Embassies & Consulates - Americans living or traveling in Peru are encouraged to register with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate through the State Department’s travel registration web site so that they can obtain updated information on travel and security within Peru. Americans without Internet access may register directly with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. By registering, American citizens make it easier for the Embassy or Consulate to contact them in case of emergency. The U.S. Embassy is located in Surco, Monterraico, a suburb of Lima, at Avenida Encalada, Block Seventeen; telephone 51-1-434-3000 during business hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) or 51-1-434-3032 for after-hours emergencies; fax 51-1-618-2397, or 51-1-618-2724 (American Citizen Services Unit); web site - http://lima.usembassy.gov. The Consular Section is open for American Citizens Services, including registration, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. weekdays, excluding U.S. and Peruvian holidays.

The U.S. Consular Agent in Cuzco may be reached at 51-84-231-474; or by email at consagentcuzco@terra.com.pe. The Consular Agency can provide information and assistance to U.S. citizen travelers who are victims of crime or need other assistance in Cuzco.

Hospitals - Medical care is generally good in Lima and usually adequate in other major cities, but it is less so elsewhere in Peru. Urban private health care facilities are often better staffed and equipped than public or rural ones. Public hospital facilities in Cuzco, the prime tourist destination, are generally inadequate to handle serious medical conditions. Although some private hospital facilities in Cuzco may be able to treat acute medical problems, in general the seriously ill traveler should return to Lima for further care as soon as is medically feasible. Visitors to high-altitude Andean destinations such as Cuzco (11,000 feet), Machu Picchu (8,000 feet), or Lake Titicaca (13,000 feet) should discuss the trip with their personal physician prior to departing the United States. Travel to high altitudes could pose a serious risk of illness, hospitalization, and even death, particularly if the traveler has a medical condition that affects blood circulation or breathing. Several U.S. citizens have died in Peru from medical conditions exacerbated by altitude. Tourists or business visitors, particularly those who suffer from cardiac-related problems or high blood pressure, who wish to travel to high-altitude areas in Peru, should undergo
a medical examination before traveling. New arrivals, even healthy and fit persons, will feel symptoms of hypoxia (lack of oxygen) at high-altitude, and most will need time to adjust to the altitude. Most people will have increased respiration and heart rate. Many will have headaches, difficulty sleeping, lack of appetite, minor gastric and intestinal upsets, and mood changes. To help prevent these complications, consult your personal physician, avoid alcohol and smoking for at least one week after arrival at high altitudes, and limit physical activity for the first 36 to 48 hours after arrival at high altitudes.

In jungle areas east of the Andes mountain range (cordillera), chloroquine-resistant malaria is a serious problem. Cholera, yellow fever, hepatitis, dengue fever, and other exotic and contagious diseases are also present. Yellow fever is endemic in certain areas of Peru; in general, those areas are located on the eastern side of the cordillera and at lower elevations in jungle areas. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Peruvian government recommend that travelers to Peru receive a yellow fever vaccination and carry documentation of the vaccination with them on their trip. Diarrhea caused by contaminated food or water is very common in Peru, and is potentially serious if suffering from persistent symptoms, seek medical attention. Local tap water in Peru is not considered potable. Only bottled or treated (disinfected) water should be used for drinking. Fruits and vegetables should be washed and/or disinfected with care, and meats and fish should be thoroughly cooked. Eggs, meat, unpasteurized cheese, and seafood are common sources of the bacteria that can cause travelers' diarrhea, and they should be properly prepared or avoided.

Over the last few years, at least five American citizen visitors have died during liposuction operations in Peru. While some of these deaths occurred in ill-equipped, makeshift clinics, travelers are urged to carefully assess the risks of having this type of surgery performed overseas, even when opting for a treatment at one of the better-known clinics. Information on vaccinations and other health precautions, such as safe food and water precautions and insect bite protection, may be obtained from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s hotline for international travelers at 1-877-FYI-TRIP (1-877-394-8747) or via the CDC’s web site at http://www.cdc.gov/travel/default.aspx. For information about outbreaks of infectious diseases abroad consult the World Health Organization’s (WHO) web site at http://www.who.int/en. Further health information for travelers is available at http://www.who.int/ith/en.

Police – Tourist Police are available by calling 476-9896. Emergency police service is available by calling 106.

Holidays
The following are official holidays in Peru:

- January 1 – New Year
- February or March – Carnaval
- March or April – Semana Santa
May 1 – Labor Day
June – Corpus Cristi
June 24 – Inti Rayni
June 29 – San Pedro y San Pablo
July 16 – La Virgen del Carmen
July 28-29 – Fiestas Patrias Independence Celebrations
August 30 – Santa Rosa de Lima
October 8 – Batalla de Angamos
October 18 – El Senor de los Milagros
November 1 – All Saints Day
November 2 – All Souls Day
November 5 – Puno Day
December 8 – Immaculate Conception
December 25 – Christmas Day

Safety
The Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso) terrorist group is still active, and sporadic incidents of Shining Path violence have occurred in the recent past in rural provinces of Ayacucho, Huancavelica, Huanuco, Junin, and San Martin. The Shining Path has previously targeted U.S. interests and there are indications that it continues to do so. Other incidents have included attacks by large, heavily armed groups believed to be members of Shining Path on Peruvian army and police patrols in remote areas, as well as kidnappings of Peruvian and foreign aid workers. None of these incidents occurred in areas normally visited by tourists. Mining prospectors, adventure travelers, and others considering travel to remote areas of Peru are strongly advised to contact the U.S. Embassy in Lima for current security information.

A peace treaty ending the Peru/Ecuador border conflict was signed on October 26, 1998. The Peruvian government is working to remove mines and unexploded ordnance left over from the conflict, but crossing or approaching the Peru-Ecuador border anywhere except at official checkpoints can still be dangerous. The entire Peru/Colombia border area is very dangerous because of narcotics trafficking and the occasional incursions of armed guerrilla forces from Colombia into Peru’s remote areas.

Political demonstrations and labor-related strikes and marches regularly occur in urban and some rural areas and sometimes affect major highways. They can also cause serious disruptions to road, air, and rail transportation. Demonstrations are often – but not always – announced in advance. While these activities are usually peaceful, they can escalate into violent confrontations. As a general rule, it is best to avoid large crowds and demonstrations. Visitors are encouraged to keep informed by following the local news and consulting hotel personnel and tour guides.

The U.S. Embassy restricts travel of U.S. government employees where terrorist groups and narcotics traffickers have recently resorted to violent actions, usually directed against local security forces, local government authorities, and some civilians. Overland travel in or near these areas, particularly at night, is risky.
Apart from the following list of locations restricted because of the danger from terrorist and narcotics groups, Embassy employees are prohibited from nighttime overland travel anywhere outside major urban areas because of the risks posed from robbery and unsafe road conditions. The only exception is that nighttime travel by commercial bus on the Pan-American Highway is permitted for official or personal travel. Road travel along this route, by means other than commercial bus service, and nighttime travel via commercial bus service along other routes anywhere in Peru, continue to be prohibited for Embassy employees.

Of the approximately 260,000 Americans who visit Peru each year, a small but growing number have been victims of serious crimes. The information below is intended to raise awareness of the potential for crime and suggest measures visitors can take to avoid becoming a victim. Violent crime, including carjacking, assault, and armed robbery is common in Lima and other large cities. Resistance to violent crime often provokes greater violence, while victims who do not resist usually do not suffer serious physical harm. "Express kidnappings," in which criminals kidnap victims and seek to obtain funds from their bank accounts via automatic teller machines, occur frequently. Thieves often smash car windows at traffic lights to grab jewelry, purses, backpacks, or other visible items from a car. This type of assault is very common on main roads leading to Lima's Jorge Chavez International Airport, specifically along De la Marina and Faucett Avenues and Via de Evitamiento, but it can occur anywhere in congested traffic, particularly in downtown Lima. Travelers are encouraged to put all belongings, including purses, in the trunk of a car or taxi. Passengers who hail Taxi on the street have been assaulted. Following the April 2007 armed robbery of a U.S. Embassy employee by a taxi driver, the Embassy's Regional Security Officer advised all Embassy personnel not to hail Taxi on the street. It is safer to use telephone-dispatched radio Taxi or car services associated with major hotels. Travelers should guard against the theft of luggage and other belongings, particularly U.S. passports, at the Lima airport.

Passengers arriving at Lima’s Jorge Chavez International Airport should be cautious in making arrangements for ground transportation. Upon exiting the airport, travelers may be approached by persons seeming to know them, or who claim that a pre-arranged taxi has been sent to take them to their hotel. Some travelers have been charged exorbitant rates or taken to marginal hotels in unsafe parts of town. Travelers who are not being met by a known party or by a reputable travel agent or hotel shuttle are advised to arrange for a taxi inside the airport. At least two taxi companies maintain counters inside the international arrival area (between immigration clearance and baggage claim). An additional two companies have agents at the information kiosk just before the exit from the passenger arrival area.

The threat of street crime is greatest in areas that attract large crowds, particularly crowds of tourists or wealthy Peruvians. A crowd allows a thief (or thieves, since petty thieves often operate in a group) the opportunity to select and approach the potential victim without attracting attention. Visitors should be especially careful when visiting tourist areas in Lima such as the
Plaza de Armas (Government Square), the Plaza San Martin, Acho Bullring, Pachacamac, and any location in downtown Lima. Additionally, visitors to municipal markets as well as the Gamarra textile district of La Victoria should be extremely cautious. Street crime is also prevalent in cities in Peru’s interior, including Cuzco, Arequipa, Puno, and Juliaca. American citizens traveling alone or in unescorted groups are more vulnerable to street crime.

Visitors are advised to keep cash and identification in their front pockets and to limit their cash on hand and unnecessary credit cards. Replacing items such as credit cards, U.S. driver’s licenses, and other identification while in Peru can be difficult and time-consuming. Handbags should not be carried, but if they are, they should be tucked into the crook of an arm or, if carrying a bag with a shoulder strap, do not allow the bag to hang freely, but keep a hand over the clasp. It is generally recommended that all jewelry be removed prior to going to a market or other crowded areas.

Theft of U.S. passports is quite common in Peru. Visitors are advised not to carry their U.S. passports if they are not needed. If the police request identification, a copy of the passport is acceptable. A copy of the data page, the page with the Peruvian visa, and a copy of the page with the Peruvian entry stamp should be carried.

Counterfeit U.S. currency is a growing and serious problem in Peru. In many areas of the city, moneychangers openly change money on the street. These individuals should be avoided as they are a conduit for counterfeit currency and in many cases, work in leagues with pickpockets by pointing out potential victims. In addition, these individuals have frequently been the victims of violent robberies in which bystanders have been injured. There have also been several reported incidents of counterfeit currency being paid out as winnings by casinos, though the Embassy has not received reports of this happening at larger, well-known casinos. In the recent past, there have been a number of cases of armed robberies, rapes, other sexual assaults, and attempted rapes of U.S. citizens and other foreign tourists in Arequipa and in Cuzco city, as well as in the outlying areas in the vicinity of various Incan ruins. These assaults have occurred both during daylight hours and at night.

Some crimes in the city of Cuzco and in Arequipa have involved the drivers of rogue (or unregistered) Taxi. Travelers should use only licensed, registered Taxi such as those available from taxi stands in Cuzco displaying a blue decal issued by the municipal government on the windshield of the vehicle. Visitors should not accept offers of transportation or guide services from individuals seeking clients on the streets. In late 2006 there were several reports of U.S. citizens falling victim to so-called express kidnappings in Arequipa after taking Taxi hailed on the street. On occasion, the victim was bound, beaten, and held for over 24 hours as the assailants attempted to empty cash from bank accounts with the victim’s stolen ATM card. Tourists should be particularly cautious when visiting the Sacsahuayman ruins outside Cuzco.
They should not travel alone, but do so in as large a group as possible. Visitors should also avoid these areas at dawn, dusk, or nighttime, since roving gangs are known to frequent these areas and prey on unsuspecting tourists. U.S. citizen backpackers have also been victims of armed robbery while hiking on trails other than the Inca Trail.

Peruvian law enforcement authorities have responded to rising crime by increasing the number of tourist police officers patrolling Cuzco and its outskirts on horseback and motorcycles. The officers have been dispatched to bus and train terminals, taxi stands, automatic teller machine locations, and other sites frequented by tourists, such as discotheques, restaurants, and craft fairs and shops.

Crime also occurs on roads, particularly at night and outside urban areas. Clandestine, impromptu roadblocks can appear on even major highways, where bus and automobile passengers are robbed. The risk is even greater on rural roads after dark. A number of Americans have been robbed on the road between Tarapoto and Yuriguaymas in recent months. In addition, numerous Americans have reported the theft of passports, cameras, and other valuables on overnight bus rides, by thieves who take advantage of sleeping passengers. In many countries around the world, counterfeit and pirated goods are widely available. Transactions involving such products may be illegal under local law. In addition, bringing them back to the United States may result in forfeitures and/or fines. More information on this serious problem is available at http://www.cybercrime.gov/18usc2320.htm.

U.S. citizen visitors to Peru should immediately report any criminal activity perpetrated against them to the nearest police station or tourist police ("POLTUR") office. Immediate action may result in the capture of the thieves and the recovery of stolen property. U.S. citizens should also report crimes to the U.S. Embassy in Lima (telephone 434-3000 during business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or 434-3032 for after-hours emergencies if calling from within Lima; add the prefix 01 if calling from the provinces). Victims of crime in Cuzco should contact the Consular Agent there (while in Cuzco, telephone 231-474; from Lima, callers must dial the prefix 084 for Cuzco).

**Time Zone**
The time zone in Peru is -5 hour GMT or equivalent to EST. Peru does not observe Daylight Savings Time.

**Transportation**

**Airports** - The Jorge Chavez International Airport in Lima, receives most of the international traffic and serves as a connecting point for flights between Europe, North America and the Andean countries. It provides all the necessary facilities such as: International Police services, immigration, customs as well as restaurants, bathrooms, stores selling traveling articles, magazine stands, and waiting rooms.

The airport of Iquitos, capital of the Loreto District (Peruvian jungle) also receives some international flights.
Taxi - Taxis are a highly recommended method of transportation within the city, especially in Lima given the size of the city and the mess of traffic. You should decide on the cost of the ride with the taxi driver before heading out. It should not cost more than US $ 5 in the big cities, so haggle over the price if necessary. In the larger cities, there are some radio taxi companies which offer more security and can pick you up when and where you prefer, but prices are a bit higher.

Driving - Driving in Peru, whether in the city or on the highway, can be an adventure. Transit in this country is chaotic for anybody who is not used to it: Peruvian drivers are very aggressive and there are not many signs (the signs you do see can be ambiguous). In addition, be careful with thefts of windshield wipers, hubcaps and even the wheels themselves; it is not a good idea to park in the streets. If you are going to drive at night, be very careful, because the roads are not in good conditions, the buses drive at high speeds and the trucks do not have lights.

Water
Only drink bottled water or previously boiled water.

Academic System

Structure of School System

Pre-Primary
Type of school providing this education: Educación inicial
Length of program in years: 1
Age level from: 5 to 6

Primary
Type of school providing this education: Educación Primaria
Length of program in years: 6
Age level from: 6 to 11

General Secondary
Type of school providing this education: Ciclo General
Length of program in years: 2
Age level from: 12 to 14

Academic Secondary
Type of school providing this education: Ciclo Diversificado (Científico-Humanista y Técnico)
Length of program in years: 3
Age level from: 14 to 16
Certificate/diploma awarded: Certificado de Educación Secundaria Común Completa

Technical Secondary
Type of school providing this education: Escuela Superior de Educación Profesional
Length of program in years: 3
Age level from: 14 to 17
Certificate/diploma awarded: Diploma de Aptitud Profesional

K-12
Primary education lasts for six years and is compulsory. A year of pre-primary education is also compulsory. Secondary education covers five years divided into two cycles and, according to the constitution, is also compulsory. The first cycle covers two years of general studies and the second three years of specialization. In the second cycle, pupils choose between academic and technical branches. In the academic branch, pupils choose between Arts and Science. On successful completion of the second cycle, pupils obtain a certificado with the specialization they have followed. In the technical branch, the qualification received is the Diploma de Aptitud Profesional. Although pupils may take the university entrance examinations directly after secondary school, most follow a one-year course of study (curso preparatorio). The system of secondary education is currently being revised.

Higher Education
Higher education is provided by universities, both public and private, schools, higher institutes and postgraduate centers. Higher education is regulated by the Constitution of 1980, the General Law of Education of 1982 and the University Law of 1983. Universities are autonomous. Each has a University Assembly made up of the Rector, the Vice-Rectors, the Deans of the faculties, the Director of the graduate school and representatives from teaching and student groups. The Assembly is the ultimate authority. It elects the Rector and the Vice-Rectors. State universities are publicly funded. They are coordinated by the Asemblea Nacional de Rectores which defines the objectives of university activities, ensures their coordination and oversees their economic development. Private universities, teaching institutes and technological institutes receive subsidies. In 1995, a Consejo Nacional para la Autorización de Funcionamiento de Universidades (CONUFA) was created to oversee the creation and functioning of universities and deal with the problems of private universities. Peru is to create a university that will cater to indigenous peoples in the Northern Amazon region. It will draw on both public and private support. The institution will offer programs in fields linked to the life of the Amazon Basin, such as forestry management and medicinal plants. The languages of instruction will include Aguarana, Ashaninka and Shipibo-Conibo. The new university will be located on the grounds of the Summer Institute of Linguistics.

Professor/Student Relationship
University professors symbolize a high order of achievement, and they are addressed as profesor or profesora. The same recognition of educational achievement is given to other fields as well. The titles are prestigious and valued and permanently identify one as an educated person to be rewarded with respect. The concept of education is infused with high intrinsic value, and educated people by definition
are more cultivated (*culto*), worthy, and qualified to be admired as role models than others. Educated persons are thought to have the duty to speak out and address public issues on behalf of others less privileged; many students have accepted this responsibility as part of their student role.

**Teacher Education**

**Training of pre-primary and primary/basic school teachers** - Primary school teachers are trained in universities and Institutos Superiores Pedagógicos (ISP) for ten academic semesters. In-service training is offered over six years, partly residential, partly through distance courses.

**Training of secondary school teachers** - Secondary school teachers (profesores) are trained in the Institutos Superiores Pedagógicos in five years and in the universities. Studies lead to the award of the professional qualification of Profesor with mention of the educational level and specialization. Teachers in technical education are trained at the Institutos Superiores Tecnológicos for three years and they obtain the Título de Profesional técnico.

**Training of higher education teachers** - University teachers are trained at the higher education level by successive integration and promotion from one category to the next. They are appointed to one of the professional categories through open competitions conducted by the educational councils of each university. The time of tenure in each category and promotion to a higher level varies. A common tendency is as follows: an academic evaluation is conducted every three years for auxiliary professors, four years for associate professors and six years for principal professors.

**Etiquette**

**Cultural Orientation**

The value systems of Peru were built around ideologies of an elitist system in which each level was controlled by the next step in the hierarchy. A small upper class of elite oligarchy still controls most of the resources of the country. At every level of society, the family is the cornerstone of relationships. Kinships define the principal areas of trust and cooperation. At the highest level of society, kinship and marriage reinforce and solidify political and economic alliances.

**Business Practices**

Men and women shake hand both in greeting and in parting. Once a friendship has been established, men may greet each other with a hug, and women may kiss one another on the cheek. Titles are very important in Peru. Address a person directly by using his or her title, such as “Professor” or “Doctor,” and last name or surname. Wait for your counterpart to initiate a switch to first names. For business meetings, men should wear well-tailored suits. Female executives generally wear suits, but it may depend upon the environment.
Protocol
Peruvians communicate in close proximity. When they stand nearby, do not back away; you will offend them. Do not be surprised if your Peruvian associates take your arm as you walk. Men sometimes walk arm in arm with other men, as do women with other women. Crossing your legs by resting the ankle of one leg on the knee of the other is inappropriate; however, you may cross your legs at the knee.

Tipping
Whether or not you tip in a restaurant usually depends on what is included on the bill—check for surcharges ahead of time for entertainment and the like, and tip up to 10%. Tipping is recommended for services performed but not required, such as those of a porter, guide, restroom or gas station attendant, barkeeper, etc.
References


