

Foreign Clearance Guide

SECTION VII: TRAVEL INFORMATION

A. STATE DEPARTMENT TRAVEL ADVISORIES

1. Travel Warning:
 - a. None.
2. Travel Alert:
 - a. None.
3. Travel Warnings, Alerts and Country Specific Information: The Department of State Bureau of Consular available at <http://www.travel.state.gov>.
4. Registration:
 - a. US citizens living or traveling abroad are encouraged to register with the nearest US Embassy or Consulate through the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP). The STEP enrollment website is located at State Department's travel registration website.

B. US EMBASSY AND CONSULATES 1.US Embassy Lima

- a. Location: Avenida La Encalada cdra. 17 s/n, Surco, Lima 33, Peru
 - b. Contact Information:
 - (1) Phone: (i) Switchboard: 011-51-1-618-2000 (ii) After Duty Hours/Emergency: 011-51-1-618-2000
 - (2) Email: (i) Unclassified: LimaACS@state.gov
 - (3) Fax: (i) Unclassified: 011-51-1-618-2724
 - (4) Website: (i) <http://lima.usembassy.gov/>
 - c. Hours:
 - (1) US Embassy Lima: Monday - Friday 0800L - 1700L
2. Holidays:
- a. The US Embassy is closed on the following 2015 US and Peruvian holidays: 1 Jan. (New Year's Day), 19 Jan. (Martin Luther King Day), 16 Feb. (President's Day), 2 Apr. (Holy Thursday), 3 Apr. (Good Friday), 1 May (International Labor Day), 25 May (Memorial Day), 29 Jun. (St. Peter and St. Paul Day), 3 Jul. (US Independence Day), 28-29 Jul. (Peruvian Independence Day), 30 Aug. (Saint Rose of Lima Day), 7 Sep. (US Labor Day), 8 Oct. (Battle of Angamos), 12 Oct. (Columbus Day), 1 Nov. (All Saints Day), 11 Nov. (Veterans Day), 26 Nov. (Thanksgiving Day), 8 Dec. (Immaculate Conception), 25 Dec. (Christmas Day).

C. TIME CONVERSION

1. Local Standard Time is Z - 5.
2. Peru does not observe Daylight Savings Time.

D. CUSTOMS REGULATIONS

1. Refer to the following website for information on customs requirements and import restrictions:
 - a. The Personal Property Consignment Instruction Guide – Online (PPCIG-OL): <https://tops.ppcigweb.sddc.army.mil/ppcig/menu/query/country.do>
2. Travelers are allowed to carry the following items into the country duty-free for personal use: personal effects (including jewelry), one laptop, one camera and film/memory card, one electric razor, one cigarette lighter, 25 cigars, 20 packs of cigarettes, and half a pound of tobacco.

3. Travelers must have any unconsumed duty-free imports in their possession when they depart.
4. Peruvian customs regulations require that many electronic items or items for commercial use be declared upon entering the country. Failure to make a full and accurate declaration can lead to arrest and incarceration or significant fines. Undeclared items, including personal laptop computers, may be seized and held.
5. Vendors in some regional cities and airports sell live animals and birds, as well as handicrafts made from insects, feathers, or other natural products. Under Peruvian law, it is illegal to remove certain flora and fauna items from their place of origin to another part of Peru or to export them to a foreign country. Travelers have been detained and arrested by the Ecology Police in Lima for carrying such items.
6. The government of Peru prohibits the exportation of archaeological artifacts, colonial art and some natural artifacts such as fossils. These restrictions include archaeological material from the pre-Hispanic cultures and certain ethnological materials from the colonial period of Peru, which are considered protected Peruvian cultural patrimony. US law enforcement authorities can take action even after importation into the United States has occurred. For more information, contact the Ministerio de Cultura (Ministry of Culture – in Spanish with limited English). Travelers buying art should be aware that unscrupulous traders might try to sell them articles that cannot be exported from Peru. Peruvian customs authorities may seize such articles, and the traveler may be subject to criminal penalties.
7. Travelers who purchase reproductions of colonial or pre-colonial art should buy only from reputable dealers, and they should insist on documentation from the Peru's National Institute of Culture (INC) showing that the object is a reproduction and may be exported. Peruvian customs authorities may retain articles lacking such documentation and forward them to the INC for evaluation. If found to be reproductions, the objects eventually may be returned to the purchaser, but only after the purchaser pays all storage and shipping charges.

E. HEALTH PRECAUTIONS

1. TRICARE eligible personnel (including eligible family members) requiring overseas emergency medical care, should contact the nearest TRICARE International SOS assistance center via the following website: <http://www.tricare-overseas.com/ContactUs/default.htm>. Select the applicable country from the drop-down menu for the International SOS assistance center name and 24-hour phone number.
2. Medical care is generally good in Lima and usually adequate in other major cities, but it is less so elsewhere in Peru. Urban private healthcare 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.
3. Diarrheal illness 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.
4. Malaria, cholera, yellow fever, hepatitis, dengue fever, and other exotic and contagious diseases are also present in Peru. To prevent insect borne illness such as malaria, dengue, yellow fever and other illnesses, travelers should carry and use insect repellents containing either 20% DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR3535. Treating clothing and tents with permethrin and sleeping in screened or air conditioned rooms under insecticide-impregnated mosquito nets will help diminish bites from mosquitoes as well ticks, fleas, chiggers, etc, some of which may also carry infections.

- a. Chloroquine-resistant malaria is a serious problem in the jungle areas east of the Andes mountain range (cordillera). Travelers are advised to check the CDC Website to determine if they are going to a malarious area in Peru. Most tourist destinations such as Lima, Cusco, Macchu Picchu, Arequipa and Lake Titicaca do not have malaria, but many areas in rainforest destinations in Loreto, Madre de Dios and other provinces east of the Andes have malaria risk.
 - b. 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.
5. Rabies immunization is recommended for all travelers staying for more than four (4) weeks or who will have remote, rural travel or expect animal exposure. Although canine rabies is uncommon in Peru, there are many bat associated rabies cases in the rainforest areas. Bites and scratches from bats, dogs or other mammals should be immediately cleaned with soap and water and medical evaluation sought to determine if additional rabies immunization is warranted.
 6. Travelers should be aware that some drugs and other products readily available over the counter or by prescription in Peru are illegal in the United States. The prescription sedative flumitrapezan (Rohypnol) is one such drug; others may come on the market at any time. Although coca-leaf tea is a popular beverage and folk remedy for altitude sickness in Peru, possession of these tea bags, which are sold in most Peruvian supermarkets, is illegal in the United States.
 7. Visitors to high-altitude Andean destinations such as Cusco (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 US citizens have died in Peru from medical conditions exacerbated by altitude. Visitors, particularly those who suffer from cardiac-related problems or pulmonary diseases, who wish to travel to high-altitude areas in Peru should undergo a medical examination before traveling. Travelers who just arrived in Peru, even healthy and fit persons, will feel symptoms of hypoxia (lack of oxygen) upon arrival 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 (1) week after arrival at high altitudes, and limit physical activity for the first 36 to 48 hours after arrival at high altitudes.
 8. DoD civilians OCONUS on TDY orders who become ill or injured while performing their duties are authorized MEDEVAC/Patient Movement to their home station per the Joint Travel Regulation (JTR) C7370 - Employee's Incapacitating Illness or Injury - Change 567. The same fund cite used by the traveler to deploy OCONUS will be used to fund the return travel by the most appropriate means (e.g. civilian air ambulance or commercial air). If a civilian air ambulance is used, coordination and approval by the fund certifying official identified on the employee's travel order is required.

F. CURRENCY INFORMATION

1. The national currency is the Peruvian Sol (PEN).
2. For the currency exchange rate, visit the following websites: MSN Money at <http://investing.money.msn.com/investments/currency-converter-calculator> or <http://www.xe.com/>
3. There are no restrictions on currency imports or exports. Local currency may be obtained at hotels, banks, or US Embassy Lima.
4. Only change as much currency as necessary; it is difficult to reconvert currency in Peru.
5. Counterfeit US currency is a growing and serious problem in Peru. In many areas of Lima, 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 together 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, although the US Embassy Lima has not received reports of this happening at larger, well-known casinos.

6. Incidents of credit card fraud are on the rise, particularly the electronic “skimming” of credit card data. Travelers should keep their credit cards within their sight while making transactions.

G. CLOTHING RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Bring lightweight clothing for December through April and medium and heavy-weight clothing for the cold, damp winter from May through November.

H. TRANSIENT ACCOMMODATIONS

1. Hotels and restaurants are available in Arequipa, Chiclayo, Iquitos, Lima, Puerto Maldonado, Pisco, and Tacna. Limited lodging in Talara; prior arrangements are required.
2. USMAAG Lima normally handles personnel support issues for ongoing military missions in Peru.

I. TRAVEL PRECAUTIONS AND INFORMATION

1. Force Protection Condition (FPCON) levels can be viewed via the SIPRnet Joint Risk Assessment Management Program (JRAMP) site via <http://jramp.smil.mil>.
2. There are no legal restrictions on same-sex sexual relations or the organization of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) events in Peru. For more detailed information about LGBT rights around the world, review the State Department’s Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2013. For further information on LGBT travel, read the LGBT Travel Information page.
3. Country Clearance is granted for travel to non-Embassy restricted areas only. Visitors who plan to travel to US Embassy Lima restricted areas must request Post approval upon arrival. A list of these areas can be obtained from the RSO through FPD Lima and/or USMAAG Lima. It is imperative that the Mission be notified immediately of delays or changes in plans or itinerary. Personnel must not change hotels without first notifying control officer. The State Department has designated Peru as medium threat for transnational terrorism, high threat for indigenous terrorism and political violence, and critical threat for crime. Two terrorist groups operate in Peru: Sendero Luminoso (SL) and Movimiento Revolucionario Tupac Amaru (MRTA). Both organizations continue to be potential threats and have targeted US facilities in the past. Due to the Peruvian Government’s efforts, the activities of SL and MRTA have been greatly reduced and are largely confined to rural areas. Overland travel outside of Lima and other large cities at night is prohibited due to unsafe road conditions and the threat of armed criminals. Terrorist groups operate with relative impunity in some interior areas and are known to target vehicular traffic. Crime is a serious problem in metropolitan Lima and popular tourist areas such as Arequipa, Cuzco, and Machu Picchu. Most crimes involve petty theft, pick pocketing, bag slashing, grab-and-run, and theft from occupied and unoccupied vehicles. More violent crimes include armed robbery, carjacking, and choke-and-rob. Criminals frequently react violently when resistance is encountered. In almost all instances it is advisable not to offer resistance. Most areas of downtown Lima are dangerous and should be avoided at night. Visitors are cautioned to remain alert to their surroundings at all times, particularly when in crowded areas, such as on public transportation, at outdoor markets, and at tourist sites. Countermeasures against crime also protect against terrorism. Special care should be exercised at the Jorge Chavez International Airport in Callao. Criminals frequent this area, especially at night, and are known to target foreigners both inside and outside the terminal. Security briefings are mandatory for all official visitors to Peru. Briefings are given in the RSO conference room at the US Embassy Lima, on Tuesdays and Fridays, promptly at 9:30 AM or on day of arrival at NAMRU-6.
4. Peruvian authorities consider all airports, police stations, oil installations, harbors, mines, bridges, and military installations to be security related: do not photograph these areas.

5. Theft of US passports is quite common in Peru. Visitors are advised not to carry their US passport if it is not needed. If the police request identification, a copy of the passport is acceptable. A copy of the data page, a copy of the page with the Peruvian visa, and a copy of the page with the Peruvian entry stamp should be carried.
6. The phone number for the tourist police in Lima is 011-51-1-423-3500 (Lima North) or 011-51-1-243-2190 (Lima South). There are also tourist police offices in 15 other cities, including all major tourist destinations, such as Cusco, Arequipa, and Puno.
7. Emergency number: 105. For tourist assistance and information, IPERU can be reached 24 hours a day at 01-574-8000 or e-mail: iperu@promperu.gob.pe if an immediate response is not needed.