



EMBASSY OF PERU IN INDIA  
CONCURRENT TO BANGLADESH,  
MALDIVES, NEPAL AND SRI LANKA

# A CULTURAL TOUR



## AROUND FABULOUS PERU

*A Cultural Tour Around Fabulous Peru*



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Foreword   | 03 |
| Peru, General Information  | 05 |
| Peru, Millennial Culture   | 07 |
| Symbols that Identify Peru   | 11 |
| Peru's Pre-Columbian Art   | 15 |
| Peru's Colonial Art  | 21 |
| Peru, Melting Pot of Races   | 25 |
| Peru's Dresses   | 27 |
| Peru's Folklore - Songs, Music<br>and Dances : Coast                     | 31 |
| Peru's Folklore - Songs, Music<br>and Dances : Highlands                 | 35 |
| Peru's Folklore - Songs, Music<br>and Dances : Amazon Region             | 38 |
| Peru's Folklore - Songs, Peruvians Believers<br>by Nature                | 39 |
| Peru, Gourmet's Paradise : Coast   | 44 |
| Peru, Gourmet's Paradise : Highlands                                     | 49 |
| Peru, Gourmet's Paradise: Sweets<br>and Desserts                         | 51 |
| Peru, Gourmet's Paradise: Beverages                                      | 55 |
| Peru's Architecture  | 57 |
| Peru's Handicrafts   | 66 |
| Peru's Modern Culture : Photography,<br>Cinema, Theater, Music and Dance | 74 |
| Peru's Modern Culture : Literature,<br>Poetry, Painting, Sculpture       | 78 |
| Major Festivals and Holidays   | 87 |

## FOREWORD

Peru is an extraordinary country with a rich and diverse historical background and is known for its ancient culture as cradle of civilization. The purpose of this booklet is to provide a panoramic cultural overview of Peru, the archaeological, cultural and ecological jewel of America. From the pre-Columbian cultures, the Inca splendor of Machu Picchu, its coastal desert region, the towering mountains, the verdant jungle waterways of the majestic Amazon River, to the rich artistic expressions of its people — Peru has something for everyone to enjoy.

Talk to any scientists and they will tell you that Peru is one of the most exciting destinations for archaeologists today. From Caral, the oldest city in the Americas, to the mysterious Inca ruins of Machu Picchu and the Sacred Valley, to the spectacular gold, silver and jewel encrusted artifacts recently uncovered in the tombs of the Lords of Sipan, to ongoing digs along the Northern coast and highlands, Peru is an ever-expanding open-air museum. And for tourists, that's a treat!

For thousands of years, indigenous Peruvians have believed in the spiritual forces of nature and today the country has become a world center for healing and personal growth. From the enigmatic Nazca Lines etched in the desert sand, to the herbal lore of the Amazon, to ancient religious rituals in the Andes — Peru resounds with spiritual history and power. And there is no better time to feel the energy of Peru, than at this Millennium.

Peru has the most celebrated cuisine in the Americas. A blend of Spanish, African and oriental flavors seasoned with local flair, Peruvian food has been written up from Manhattan to Paris. There's succulent shellfish and fresh ceviche on the coast, freshwater shrimp, Andean trout and an infinite variety of corn and potatoes in the highlands, delicate hearts of palm in the Amazon and exotic fruits and rich desserts throughout the country. If you like fine dining, you're in for a treat!

The diversity of Peru's people and culture is reflected in a rich tradition of festivals, dance and music. In the Andes, the plaintive wail of the flute and beat of the drum accompany songs depicting indigenous life while dancers masked as devils and spirits are a marriage of pagan and Christian beliefs. In the jungle, ceremonial music and dance are a window into tribal life. And along the coast, a blend of elegant Spanish sounds and vibrant African rhythms reflect the Conquest and later slave labor of the New World.

# PERU



*A Cultural Tour Around Fabulous Peru*

## PERU: GENERAL INFORMATION

Peru's position in west central South America coast has made it the meeting place of numerous cultures for thousands of years. Bordered by the Pacific Ocean to the west. Chile to the south, Bolivia and Brazil to the east, Colombia and Ecuador to the north. Currently, is the natural gateway for Asia tourism and trade with South America of 300 million people.

With a total land area of 1.28 sq. km, Peru is a country of tropical coastline, highlands and Amazon jungle. The Andes Mountain Range separates a narrow coastal strip of 70 to 200 kilometers in width from the Amazon jungle.

Nature has endowed Peru with an enormous variety of climates, landscapes and ecosystems. Eighty-four of the world's 103 known ecological zones and 28 different climates are present in Peru, which place it among the 5 countries with the greatest biological diversity in the world. This variation allows to produce -among others- the world's largest-grained and most tender corn, the smoothest avocado, the finest cotton fiber and the most refreshing passion fruit juice.

The landscape is punctuated by 50 mountains of 6,000 meters or more above sea level and 1,679 glaciers. There are 12,000 lakes of varying sizes and depths, and 262 river basins.

Throughout its history Peru has also been the place where different races and culture met. To the native population were added in 1535, first, the Spaniards, then later migrations of Africans, Asians and Europeans. Today, Peru is inhabited by 25 million descendants of all these races. Half the population is under 18.

Peruvian history, for many people, begins in the XIV century when the Incas conquered the powerful Chimu kingdom. In fact, Peruvian civilization has been evolving since 10,000 BC. Long before the Incas, the Chavin (1,500-400 BC) and the Mochica (200 BC-700AD), and others, made significant achievements in agriculture, engineering and architecture. All these early civilizations left impressive remnants that can be seen today.

## *Caral*



## *Chavin*



## PERU MILLENNIAL CULTURE: AN OVERVIEW

Peru's position in west central coast of South America, has made it the meeting place of numerous cultures for thousands of years. Nature has endowed Peru with an enormous variety of climates, landscapes and ecosystems making it a varied and diverse country. There are three natural regions: coast, sierra (highlands) and jungle. Hence, Peru is a spectacular combination of nature and culture, of ancient and modern, of mountains and sea, of sand and snow, of different ethnological groups and ecological zones.

Peru's pre-Columbian history is very old, rich and diverse. Man presence in Peru dates back 9500 years with the Lauricocha man in the center highlands of Peru. Since then many cultures developed in ancient Peru as revealed by major civil, military and religious archeological sites as well as by the production of ceramics, textiles and other artifacts. Chavin, Paracas (1500-400 B.C), Moche, Nazca (200 BC-700 AD), Tiahuanaco (800 A.D.), Chimu (1200 AD), Inca (1400 A.D.) are only the most important Peruvian civilizations within a long series.

Throughout its history Peru has also been the place where different races and cultures met. To the native population were added, first the Spaniards, then later migrations of Europeans, black and Asians (mainly Chinese and Japanese). Today, 25 million descendants of all these races inhabit Peru.

Like most of Latin America, Peru's official language is Spanish, inherited through the Spanish conquest, and Quechua, the language of the Incas. Nevertheless, other Andean native's language such as Aymara and dozens of Amazon languages make Peru a country of linguistic diversity. English and other languages are frequently spoken by businessmen, or used in the tourist trade.

The country is predominantly Roman Catholic another legacy of the Colonial period. This has not kept Sierra populations, however, from maintaining some Inca rituals and mixing them with Catholic festivals. Jews, Protestants and another religious groups have also established places of worship.

Few countries can boast a larger cultural diversity than Peru, a melting pot of races, languages and cultures that have







adapted to an extremely diverse and complex geography. But just as Peru is the meeting place of different races and cultures, it is also a country where the ancient and the modern meet in perfect symbiosis as integral parts of a modern country with its eyes on the future.

Any Peru's Cultural overview would be incomplete without referring to:

- Its ancient and Colonial architecture which meet together with modern constructions, offers visitors a showcase of: Pre-Columbian citadels such as Machu Picchu and Chan Chan and Colonial churches, convents, monasteries and aristocratic houses of unsurpassed quality.

- The country's culinary and beverages offerings. Peruvian cuisine is one of the tastiest and most varied around the world. Its personality stems from the skillful blend of native ingredients and art cuisine plus a share of foreign influence. For that reason, Peru is the Gastronomic Capital of all the Americas.

- Its beautiful handicrafts. Peruvian artisans produce the most interesting and varied handicrafts on the continent. Textiles, gold and silver objects as well as ceramics are main examples of pieces created with the same techniques used by ancient Peruvians.

- Its folklore and festivals reflected in colorful typical dresses, music, dances, customs and traditions, not only exhibits this culture mixture but also preserve its ancient culture as well as to entertain locals and foreigners.

- Its religiosity. Peru's religious activities are imbued with faith and devotion, but at the same time by color and noisy celebration, trading and amusement. Holy Week in Ayacucho, Corpus Christi in Cuzco and Lord of Miracles in Lima, are some of the religious festivals and rituals that draw people from all over the world, attracted by the gaiety and healing powers of an endless list of saints.

In following articles, a series of topics such as: symbols that identify Peru, people, dresses, music and dances, gastronomy, religiosity, architecture, Pre-Columbian and Colonial art, handicrafts, will be addressed on an individual basis.



***Kuelap***



***Moray (Inca)***



***Kero (Inca)***

## SYMBOLS THAT IDENTIFY PERU

**Peru is commonly associated by foreigners by some of the following symbols.**

The Andes, The Inca Empire, Machu Picchu, gold and silver, are a set of interlinked images related to nature, history and mining wealth, that is immediately identified with Peru by everybody. The Andes, with peaks over 6000 meters above sea level, are undoubtedly the most important articulate hub of Peruvian culture. From one of its valleys, emerged The Inca Empire, the most powerful civilization in South America that extended in the XIV century from Cusco, its Capital, towards a great part of what is today, Ecuador, Colombia, Bolivia, northern part of Argentina and central Chile. Among, their highlights are, Machu-Picchu, the most awe-inspiring pre-Columbian site on the American Continent; the Inca's terraces, impressive agriculture engineering; and, gold and silver works, that reached with the Incas its highest point. The expression "VALE UN PERU" (Worth a Peru) for many centuries has meant abundance of gold and silver.

The mysterious Nasca Lines, The Lord of Sipan, Chan-Chan, Chavin de Huantar, Huari, Tiahuanaco are a second set of symbols, related to Pre-Incas civilizations, that all persons automatically identify with Peru. Their existence evidence that Peru is not only the land of the Incas but that before them, for thousands of years, a long series of rich and highly developed civilizations, spanned on the Peruvian coast and highlands, making Peru one of the few countries in the world, with so many civilizations in its history. The ruins of these earlier civilizations can also be visited.

The Peruvian sea and the Peruvian Amazon, are a third set of symbols linked to nature, that due to their richness, make Peru very well known around the world for its mega-diversity. Peru is not only the third fishing producer and first fishmeal producer in the globe but also the one that has the greatest biological diversity and 84 of the 103 microclimates in the world.

The potato, corn, the condor and the South American camels, are a fourth set of symbols associated with, agriculture products and animals, that being originated from ancient Peru, are



commonly associated with current Peru. Highlights, among them, the potato and corn. The most valuable legacies of ancient Peruvians to humanity that has saved millions of human beings from hunger and malnutrition and of which exist hundreds of genetic varieties in Peru.

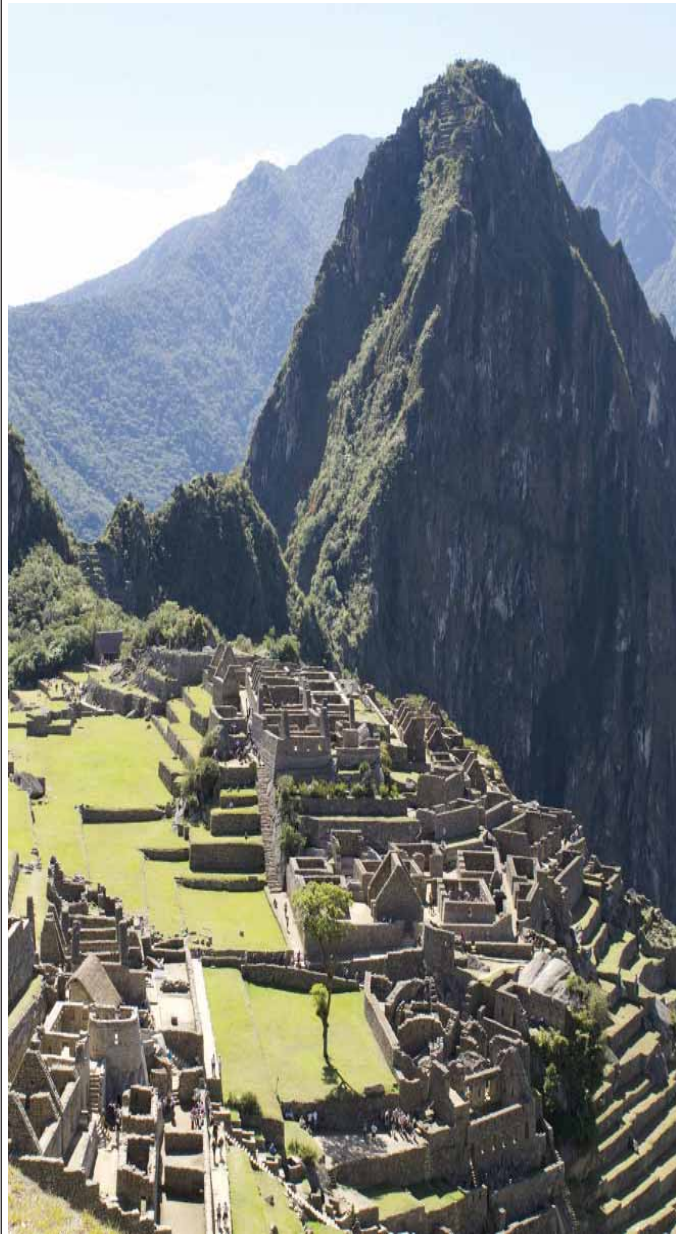
The ceviche and pisco are a fifth set of symbols related to gastronomy that highlights Peruvian food. Peru is famous for its seafood. There is no doubt that ceviche (raw fish marinated with sour green lemon, spiced with chili pepper, a pinch of salt and thin sliced onion) is the star of the local cuisine and has been the trailblazer in making Peru's cooking famous the world over. Equally, the pisco-sour, a grape alcohol cocktail (pisco, lemon juice, sugar, egg white, crushed ice, angostura bitter and ground cinnamon), has won a name for Peru and itself in the best bars in the world.

Finally, the marinera, huayno, handicrafts and cultural diversity, are a sixth set of symbols that highlights the richness of Peruvian culture. Few countries can boast a larger cultural diversity than Peru, a melting pot of races, languages and cultures that have adapted to an extremely diverse and complex geography.



## *Incan-Sundial*

# *MACHU-PICCHU*





## PERU'S PRE-COLUMBIAN ART

Peru's Pre-Columbian art highlights for its astonishing textiles, pottery, metal work and stone carving. Must be pointed that for ancient Peruvians gold and silver works lack economic value and were fundamentally associated with worship and religious relief.

The first great art style of the geographical area that is now Peru was that of the civilization that flourished at Chavin de Huantar in the northern highlands (1500-400B.C.). They developed a highly-stylized stone carving art form based especially on jaguar motifs, other animal faces, some mythical, as well as human faces. Most importantly, this period represents the greatest early development on the northern Peruvian Andes of gold working, weaving, agriculture, religion, architecture and a pottery, often human in form but with animal attributes, such as bird feet, reptilian eyes, or feline designs.

The Paracas culture of the south coast, of the same era than Chavin, left some of the most beautiful textiles of pre-Inca Peru as well as fine pottery decorated with resin paint, that have astonished the world. The textiles consist of a wool or cotton background embroidered with multi-coloured and exceptionally detailed small figures. These are repeated, until the entire weaving is covered by a pattern of embroidered designs. Motifs such as fish and seabirds, reflecting the proximity to the ocean, are popular, as are other zoomorphic and geometric designs. The Paracas used several materials in the manufacture of these textiles, including dyes, which were cold and hot set with natural substances, difficult to reproduce. These textiles, admirably preserved, are found in important museums in Peru, and other countries around the world.

Excellent painted ceramics and beautiful weavings were also characteristic of the Nasca civilization (c.200 B.C.-700 A.D.) to the south, which also produced the huge and



*Paracas*



*Nazca Lines - Colibri*



*Moche*

mysterious “Nasca lines”. The designs of the Nasca ceramics depict their plants and animals, fetishes and divinities, musical instruments and household items, as well as the people themselves. The early Nasca ceramics were very colourful and showed a greater variety of naturalistic designs than later periods. Pots with double necks joined by a stirrup handle have often been found, as well as shallow cups and plates. In the late period, the decoration was more stylized.

The Nasca’s contemporaries on the north coast, the Mochica people, about 200 BC-700 AD, were among the best finest metal workers in ancient America. Their vast production included idols, masks, garments, decorative objects in silver and gold inlaid with precious stones, such as earrings, bracelets, breastplates and sandals, as well as utilitarian objects such as tweezers, drinking vessels and tumis, the famous ceremonial knives. They also produced an art of singular characteristics. Delightful portrait pottery in the form of human heads is the high point of realism in pre-Columbian art. Altogether, with wall paintings and textiles, which while achieving a highly realistic effect, portrayed masterfully and profusely their ceremonies, battle scenes, mythological beings and religious practices, are just only part of the impressive legacy that the Mochica have left us. Monumental adobe constructions and complex irrigation systems complete such a rich legacy. Currently, the funerary chamber of the Lord of Sipan, discovered in 1987, stands out as the fascinating most well-known testimony of the Mochica Culture.

During the following period (c.600-800), the Huari-Tiahuanaco culture gained ascendancy. The culture centred on Tiahuanaco near Lake Titicaca. The Huari-Tiahuanaco culture is unique in its sculpture and its style of stone construction. The figures depicted in statues have a rather square head with some covering like a helmet; they have square eyes and a rectangular mouth. They built massive architectural works with giant stones cut with extreme precision. Scholars believe that the architecture and the social and political structure of the Incas ultimately derive from Huari-Tiahuanaco.



*Lord of Sipan*

With the decline of Tiahuanaco, the kingdom of the Chimu flourished (1200-1400 AD). Their capital, **Chan Chan**, declared a World Cultural Heritage by UNESCO in 1986, has long been considered one of the great centres of ancient Peru. Important attractions in this monumental complex include its magnificent walls, profusely decorated with bas-reliefs of geometrical figures and stylizations of zoomorphic and mythological beings. Another outstanding example of this culture is its ceramics, in which black and sometimes-red colours predominate on vases representing people, animals, fruits and even architectural models. Additionally, the gold work of the Chimu was exceptional.

Chan Chan was surpassed only by the colossal achievements of the **Inca**, about AD 1400-1535, who conquered the Chimu in the latter part of the 15th century. As engineers the Inca were unsurpassed in ancient America. Their agricultural terraces are still in use, and the extensive network of roads and bridges that spanned their empire would merit the envy of modern road builders. However, their cities and fortresses remain their towering achievement. The great cities of **Cuzco** and **Machu Picchu** and the imposing fortresses of **Sacsahuamán** and Ollantaytambo are typical examples of their skill. The Inca also excelled in the quality of its ceramics and textiles, at stone carving and metalwork, achieving in this latter art a degree of perfection comparable to that reached anywhere in the world. Their civilizations fell to the Spanish invaders in 1535.



## *Chan Chan*



*Moche Portrait Vessel*



*Wari*



## PERU'S COLONIAL ART

Once the Inca's Empire was conquered, western art styles and techniques started to prevail in Ancient Peru. Peru's colonial art is known for its painting and silver work.

### PAINTING

Statues and paintings carved or painted by native artists with strong Sevillian and Flemish influence, gave rise to the "Lima School" and "Cusco School" art form – colonial art blending local Peruvian and Spanish ideas. The latter was the most important of the continent. Nevertheless, Arequipa, Trujillo, Huamanga, Chachapoyas and towns surrounding Lake Titicaca were also artistic centres with schools of their own.

Spanish artists brought technical novelties such as tempera and oil painting, as well as decorative schemes such as the Byzantine-rooted gilded or golden backgrounds; the repainting of those backgrounds; and the inclusion of brocade adornments on the paintings. The local artists, who easily incorporated them into their own patterns of pictorial expression, quickly accepted these novel techniques.

Starting in Lima, the various artistic influences find their way to the rest of the country. Interestingly, the preservation of ancestral traditions in the interior of the country is what gives birth to a true mixture of the art forms, whereas in the Lima School the tendency was to continue echoing the European artistic patterns.

The Cusco School of Art is the most genuine expression of Peruvian colonial art produced mainly by anonymous native artists. It is composed of several periods beginning in the sixteenth century and the early seventeenth century in blending the Spanish baroque style with native art themes and sensitivities, the followers of this movement, produced what art critics have termed as the Latin American Baroque, Diego Quispe Tito is the school's best-known representative.

Commonly, within the Cusco School, two or more painters would generally contribute to the same work, and each



*Cuzco Cathedral*



*Colonial Vase, Santo Domingo Church & Convent in Cusco*

one would focus on a particular part of the figure's body. Among the most salient aspects of Cusco School works are the marvellous handmade frames, which appear to have received as much time and consideration as the painting itself. Churches are full of marvellous works from the Cusco School of painting, distinguished by its mix of Catholic and pagan imagery.

#### SILVER WORK

As discussed in the previous article, metallurgy, as well as silver works, were some of the activities at which the men of ancient Peru excelled. Thus, during colonial times the techniques and abilities displayed by ancient Peruvians in silver works were practiced side by side those techniques contributed by Spanish, Flemish and Nordic masters. The result was a mixture of techniques and symbols leading to new forms and themes, which made silver work an outstanding art, further resulting in unique expressions of ingenuity and creativity.

Objects of great beauty were created through embossing, chiselling, engraving and filigree. It is, therefore, difficult to determine if the value of such objects resides in the materials used or in the techniques employed to create them. Perhaps the presence of both elements has contributed so the unique and outstanding artistry displayed in the silver works produced during colonial times.

The objects in silver created/produced during the colonial period can be best categorized by their functions: ecclesiastic, religious, civil and domestic. Objects such as crucifixes, chalices, tabernacles, candelabra, and altars show clear evidence that the use of silver served the interests of the Catholic Church, facilitating the introduction and diffusion of its faith through the grandeur of the objects created.

For use in daily life, the silversmiths produced, plates, jars, etc. The filigree was a recurring technique in the elaboration or design of delicate items such as small baskets, chests and jewellery boxes, etc. Although this technique was already known at the time, it reached its maximum expression during the colonial period.



*Colonial Art ( Silver work)*



*The Mayor of Lima's Door-Knocker*

## PERU, A MELTING POT OF RACES

As a fact, Peru's population is a melting pot of races, languages and cultures that have adapted to an extremely diverse, very rich and complex geography, as reflected by its ethnic composition.

Currently Peru's population is over 25 million. Almost half of which is concentrated in the narrow coastal desert and speak mainly Spanish. 45% lives in the highlands. Most of them are Quechua speaking and a few speak Aymara in the Lake Titicaca region. About 5% live in the Amazon basin (60% of Peru's territory). Amazon Indians groups speak a plethora of native languages (more than sixty). Nevertheless, Spanish and Quechua are the official languages but the former dominates.

About 45% of the population is Indian, 37% mestizo, 18% Caucasian, Negroid, Asian or other groups. From the beginning of the Colonial period (1535 AD), an extensive process of *mestizaje* picked up speed. Started for more than three centuries among Indians, Spaniards and Africans. Later, in the XIX century, a flux of Europeans and Asians contributed vigorously and significantly to the current melting pot of races.

But beyond the mix of blood, there is certainly a mestizo culture view about every act of Peruvian lives. The desire to differentiate themselves from parents (or stepparents) who arrived from across the sea (Caucasians, Africans and Asians) and from the most ancient parents (the pre-Columbian Civilizations). Nevertheless, the presence of the latter is a powerful signal of Peruvian identity and of their uniqueness.

As a result, Peruvians have a pluralistic face just like their history. A taste for good living and good food, entertainment and culture, is common denominator in daily life. These qualities, together with renowned Peruvian hospitality and friendliness, make for foreigners a cordial atmosphere in which to enjoy the country's interesting tourist attractions and many opportunities for fun and pleasure.

The racial and cultural mix has enriched the expression of artists and artisans since pre-Hispanic times. Traditions and beliefs as diverse as those of Caucasians, Africans and Asians have been added to ancient skills in ceramics, textiles and metallurgy as well in music, dances and cooking. The resulting *mestiza* tradition is charged with plenty of mysticism, colour and flavour that shape the creative force of Peru, boosting the country's capacity to communicate with other cultures.

Ensuring that this legacy or harmony lasts for many more centuries is a challenge to future Peruvian's generations. Peruvians realize that their utopia is part of the history of a series of great civilizations, but one that still exists, which hasn't ceased to imagine and to build its future as an integrated nation. For this reason, after 180 years of independence and Republican existence, we, Peruvians, know that we have a glorious past and a common destiny.

*Coast, Highlands, Amazon People*





## PERU'S DRESSES

Because of Peru's varied topography, its climate is varied also. The meeting of millenary Peruvian cultures with Caucasians, Africans and Asians as well as the climate factor have engendered through the centuries a wealth of great diversity in Peru's dresses.

Throughout Peru, traditional dress and decorations flaunt major regional variations. The history, culture, beliefs and customs of the Peruvian people are evident in their dress. Through centuries, world famous Peruvian cotton (long and fine fibre) Tanguis and Pima and the very fine fibres of the Vicuna (finer than cashmere), alpaca, suri wool continue to be the main raw materials of Peruvian dresses.

In the coast, where average temperature, runs from 14°-22°C except in the summer, when temperature rises up to 28°C at daytime, and in the Jungle, where it is hot averaging 28°C. Dresses are mainly cotton made. On the contrary, in the Sierra, where temperatures range between 3° C at night and 18° C during the day, dresses are usually made from wool.

Due to the variety of dresses there is not a Peruvian national dress but a long series of regional dresses that reflects not only the climate conditions but also the local beliefs and customs.

### COAST

Coastal settlers wear light western clothes during the summer months (December to April); and during the winter months (June to September), light coat. Nevertheless, "Chalan" symbolizes the typical dress of the Peruvian coastal male mestizo, consisting of a wide-brimmed hat, made of palmetto fibre, white trousers, shirt and poncho. The latter is a male item of clothing (some sort of cloak), made of linen, cotton or extremely fine vicuna wool. Plantation owners and their foremen used to wear ponchos when mounted on their horses and thus converted their clothing as the traditional coastal dress and inspired one of the best loved song waltzes of Peruvian coastal music: Jose Antonio.



*Tapada*



*Lambayeque*

#### SIERRA (HIGHLANDS)

Peruvian Indians wear heavy clothes. Despite centuries of cultural imposition by the West, Peruvian Indians have kept alive many Inca and even pre-Inca elements in their daily dress, forging a sense of continuity, but still adding a series of details which over the course of time has evolved into a special syncretism that differs according to the area. Some daily wear differentiates married women from single, the common peasant and the upper-ranked, the local major from other local authorities, and the common man who decorates his clothing with jewels and gold and silver decorations to state his authority, prestige or power.

Females, usually wear many layers of skirts, on top of another, but not all are alike in shape and color; a jacket, which hangs to the waist, is embroidered and decorated with flourishes and ribbons at the cuffs and around the body; a shawl they wear from their heads to the edge of the skirt and a hat.



### *Dresses from the Andes*

## JUNGLE

Peruvian Amazon natives in average wear a loose light tunic made from cotton and sewn along the sides. Colours and decorations vary among tribes. The latter usually have geometric patterns or printed with horizontal back stripes.



*Shipibo girl*

## PERU'S FOLKLORE: SONGS, MUSIC AND DANCES : COAST

The rich and varied Peruvian songs, music and dance expressions brightly reflect mainly the cultural mixture of millenary Peruvian cultures with Caucasians and Africans. In Peru, the art of song, like music and dance is all prevailing. It undergoes major variations from region to region.

Over the past two decades, the roots of Peru's folklore have spread and mixed with practically every major current of international contemporary music, revealing its permeable spirit and the depth of its message.

### COASTAL MUSIC AND DANCE

The coastal Creole music and dances have their root in Spain and Africa. The main instrumentation is Spanish guitars and a Cajon, a wooden box on which the player sits and pounds out a rhythm solely with his hands. The latter as well as the donkey's jawbone was developed by the descendants of African slaves and combine to create rhythms such as the festejo and lando.

The most popular of the coastal dances is the marinera, a graceful romantic dance employing much waving of handkerchiefs. It is a dance performed by couples but does not feature physical contact. The marinera is made-up of specific steps and routines for both sexes. There are local variations such as the northern marinera (which includes other genres of greater movement like the tondero) and the subtler Lima marinera.

The Festival of the Marinera takes place during the third week of January. Even Peru's famous Paso (Gait) horses dance the marinera during the Festival week when Trujillo brings together the country's most accomplished dancers.

The Creole Waltz, which is also very popular, epitomizes the process of combination of foreign genres and styles of music with Afro-Peruvian rhythms to such a point that the new form is now clearly different from their original source. The African influence is perceptible within the Creole waltz in



*Coastal music and dance - Marinera*



several aspects; the incorporation of percussion instruments (Cajon), syncopated rhythm, agile choreography and a certain emphasis on shoulder and hip movements. As in the Viennese version it is danced in pairs, holding on the hands and semi-embraced, with more approach and sensuous than in its Viennese ancestor, without choreographic synchronism with the rest of the pairs.

Afro-Peruvian music and dances are unique and quite different from Caribbean or Brazilian Styles. They draw on Hispanic and Andean influences. **Festejo** is the most popular and representative. It is danced in pairs but without permanent contact between the dancers it is a very joyful dance, shaky and roguish because its choreography alludes in different forms the sexual act. Its basic form requires a soloist, chorus, guitars and Cajon.

Another popular Afro-Peruvian performance dance is the Alcatraz, during which one dancer carrying a candle attempts to light a paper flag tucked into the back of the partners waist. This leads to plenty of fast and rhythmic moving of the hips in an attempt to avoid getting burned.



## *Vals Criollo*

*Coastal music and  
dance - festejo*



*Coastal music and dance  
- Playing Cajon*

## PERU'S FOLKLORE - SONGS, MUSIC AND DANCES : HIGHLANDS

### ANDEAN MUSIC AND DANCE

Pre-Columbian Andean music was based on the pentatonic scale of D-F-G-A-C and used wind and percussion instruments. Some of the latter dates as far back as 5000BC and have different forms based on regional differences. The most representative are quenas and zampona. The quena is the most popular pre-Hispanic wind instrument. It is a flute usually made of bamboo of varying lengths, depending of the pitch desired. The zampona is a version of the universal panpipe. It is a set of panpipes with two rows of bamboo canes, seven in one and six in the other.

Percussion instruments include the drum, called bombo, usually made from a hollowed-out segment of cedar, walnut or other tree, and using stretched goatskin for the pounding surface. Almost all of today's Andean music use string instruments, such as the charango (local guitar/mandolin/lute variation), harps, violin and a variety of brass instruments.

The many forms of Andean music and dances change from region to region. The music varies from melancholy and soulful to upbeat and festive. Hundreds of dances are known and performed. Many have a religious and ceremonial, as well as social significance.

The most representative and diffused is huayno, which is associated with a dance of the same name. Dancing in pairs but with a little physical contact. Choreography change according to the region. Much regional variety in music, but always with binary rhythm melodies with pentatonic base, incorporates some semitones of the European musical scale. The harmonic structure alternate basic variations of the minor and its related greater. The Condor Pasa is a classic Huayno composition that the reader will probably have heard.



# *Andean music and dance*

HUAYLARSH is the liveliest dance in the central highlands. The choreography is lively, energetic movements marked by constant shoe stepping and near acrobatics. Couples that take turns to carry out the various dance steps that are different for each sex dance it. The music is gay and full of life. The lyrics can often be bawdy.

YARAVI is the oldest musical genre still existing in Peru. It expresses melancholy, sadness and pain. It is sung not danced. The music is very slow and split by frequent pauses to add drama and feeling.

CARNIVALS are celebrated all over Peru. Brought over from Spain by the Conquerors, the Carnival rapidly adopted and adapted to the popular customs, evolving gradually into its own original version. The festivals stand out for the richly embroidered and colourful costumes and variety of dance steps. The most famous Carnivals are celebrated in Puno and Cajamarca.



## *Diablada de Puno*



## PERU'S FOLKLORE - SONGS, MUSIC AND DANCES : AMAZON REGION

### THE AMAZON MUSIC AND DANCES

The Amazon is the birthplace of many wind and percussion instruments many of which are linked to the jungle tribe's vision of the world, their work and their ritual ceremonies. Amazon instruments include semiotic drums, which are used by Bora natives. The drums got their name from the fact the Bora have developed a musical language capable of transmitting messages. Made from large tree trunks, these drums make communication possible over surprising distances.

### MODERN MUSIC AND DANCE

Traditional music continues to play a major part in Peru's musical scene. Nevertheless, modern popular music such as rock, pop, blues, reggae, salsa, cumbia etc, is also widely played and some of them adapted to a local version, like Chicha music or Peruvian Cumbia, which combine traditional huayno melodies with tropical rhythms, especially the Colombian Cumbia.



*Music and dance from  
the Amazon rainforest*



## PERU'S RELIGIOSITY: PERUVIANS, BELIEVERS BY NATURE

The country is predominantly Roman Catholic another legacy of the Colonial period. Over 90% of the population at least nominally professes that faith. This has not kept Sierra populations, however, from maintaining their traditional beliefs and mixing them with Catholicism. Although Roman Catholicism is the official religion, Jews, Protestants another religious groups have also established places of worship. But these terms by themselves do not explain the vitality and diversity of the religious phenomenon in Peru.

Peru's religious festivals both alongside the Coast and Sierra are imbued with faith and devotion, but at the same time colour and noisy celebration, trading and amusement. The festivals draw people from all over the world, attracted by the gaiety and healing powers of an endless list of saints. The masses are determined to sing and dance in homage to life against a backdrop of magical enchantment. Some of the most important festivals are, Virgin of the Candelaria, Puno (February 2-14), Lord of the Earthquakes, Cusco, and Holy Week, Ayacucho (March-April), Virgin of Chapi, Arequipa (May 1), The Lord of the Miracles, Lima (October, 18-28, The Virgin of the Getaway, La Libertad (December 12-15).

In a country like Peru, with millenary cultures, the relations among man, nature and the supernatural have been a constant point of reference for myths, beliefs and religious practices of a very distinct nature from their western equivalents. It is worth to say, that ancient Peruvians had a sense of the cosmos that was totally different from occidental thinking. Their cosmogony gave special attention to land conformation and water distribution, decisive elements for life-conservation in the Andes. The energies concentrated in the Andes valleys and



*Lord Of Miracles Procession*

peaks are still considered sacred. The attitude of harmony and adaptation to nature's constant change is reflected in their social organization and buildings. Remains of these sites, unique spots chosen as cosmic centers of energy are here for us to know and admire. Many of them are located in the Cusco region. Among the places of ritual transcendence are Q'enqo, Tambomachay, Písaq, Machu Picchu, Marcahuasi, and Cachiche.

Ancient Peruvians developed an attitude extremely open with relation to other religions considering all of them, without exception as different ways to near the supernatural but in the same way valid and legitimate. Therefore, with regards a new religion, they not only tolerate it, but they incorporated it in the main religious system with all its liturgy and particular and peculiar beliefs.

Pre-Columbian religious crashed against the occidental Christian religion in the 16th century and was dominated by the Spaniards. However, due to its acceptability to different religions it has been able to assimilate the essential of Christianity, especially in relation to the mystic, and survived.

Among the great cultural wealth of Peru, magic has always had a preponderant place in customs and life. Magic rituals related, in some cases, to folk medicine are practiced up to day in several regions of the country in order to make extraordinary cures, to those still devoted to magic rituals.

To the north of Peru, the "HUARINGAS", divine lagoons, located in the highlands of Piura, flows to believers' magic energy. The "shamans" (folk healers), using that energy - through rituals with the participation of herbs, stones, wands, winds, water, the sun and natives canticles of the region, they affirmed they are able to cure different illnesses, physical or physic, suffered by occasional patients. Even the folk doctors offer the change of luck and fortune.



*Virgin of Candelaria Procession*



*Traditional Healer*

## JUNGLE

Each native Amazon group has its myths governing the creation of the world, the stars and the first couple. The Amazon man links his beliefs to the environment. He is a pragmatic character who, without knowing much about modern technology, is dotted with enormous curiosity and a rich cosmic vision that explains the origin of the sun, the stars - which at times turn into men - and of the animals that give them life.

The Amazon natives believe there are two realities. one that is day-to-day and another that is extraordinary. The former comes to light through our senses; while the latter is hidden from our eyes, but is a parallel reality that can only be glimpsed through the windows of communication, such as hallucinogens and dreams. With the use of cactus, tobacco and other hallucinogens, one enters the supernatural world and makes contact with supernatural beings whose actions have decisive effects on our lives and our future.



## *Ayahuasca - Ritual*

## PERU, GOURMET'S PARADISE : COAST

The art of good cooking, eating and drinking is possibly the most widespread custom in Peru. Following in three sections a brief overview about Peruvian cuisine, sweets and desserts and beverages.

### Cuisine

It is said that every great culture has a great cuisine. This is especially true in Peru. Historically, the Ancient Peruvian civilization enriched the world with significant contribution by domesticating a great variety of plants for human consumption. The most notable species domesticated were several varieties of the potato and corn, and to this day are an integral part of the Peruvian's diet.

From ancient times, the Peruvian were not frugal with their food. This can be seen in their varied diet and in the recipes, which have been handed down.

With the arrival of the Spaniards, America in general and Peru in particular, were favoured with the introduction of new species of animals and plants, which have enriched the Peruvian cuisine.



*Ceviche*



The good food of Peru is also a product of other culinary influences spread unevenly over several centuries and gave birth to a rich gastronomical identity without parallel in the American continent. The descendants of Africans, Chinese, Japanese and Europeans immigrants, contributed to the diversification of kitchen techniques and the exoticism in the creation of dishes, which, although of foreign origin, maintain their local flavour.

The visitor is able to enjoy Peruvian cuisine composed of dishes based on the products of cold, temperate and tropical climates. Typical Peruvian dishes are tasty, varied and regional.

#### COAST

The Northern cooking and Lima's Creole cuisine are the two main expressions of the Coastal cuisine. The former, which encloses Piura-Lambayeque-La Libertad triangle, with Chiclayo as a hub, has in "ARROZ CON PATO A LA CHICLAYANA" (rice with duck) and "CABRITO A LA NORTEA" (roast goat kid) its highlights. The latter, which adopts various regional dishes as well as foreign influences, has with "CEVICHE" (raw fish marinated in lemon juice, chili and onions), "ANTICUCHOS" (spiced grilled beef heart brochettes), both served with the famous "CHOCLOS" (corn on the cob), and, "AJI DE GALLINA" (shredded chicken in a spicy milk sauce), its highlights.

Lima, is without any doubt the gastronomic capital of the Americas as well as the melting pot where all regional cuisines, and emerging gastronomies flourish such as Nikkei or Peruvian-Japanese, side by side with barbecue, Chinese, pizza, roast chicken and universal fast food restaurants catering to exploding demand.



***Papa Rellena (Stuffed Potatoes)***



***Causa Limena***



***Anticuchos***



***Humitas verdes***

*Aji de gallina.*



*Arroz con pato*



*Seco con frejoles*



*Lomo saltado*

## PERU, GOURMET'S PARADISE : HIGHLANDS

In the Sierra (highlands), dishes are based on products of the mountain region: potato, corn and meats. Among the best-known dishes of this area are "ROCOTOS RELLENOS" (chili peppers stuffed with meat), "ADOBO" (marinated pork). Besides the few named here, there are many other dishes well worth trying, "OCOPA" (boiled potatoes in a seasoned sauce of cheese and nuts) and "PAPA A LA HUANCAINA" (a platter of boiled potatoes drenched in a sauce).



*Papa a la huancaína*



*Cuy Chactado*



## **JUNGLE**

The exuberant jungle undergrowth and the simplicity of the region's cooking appear to be a contradiction. However, there are specialties, such as TACACHO (slices of green bananas cooked with jungle species, served with stewed pork and/or beef from the region) and PAICHE WITH CHONTA SALAD (exotic dish from the jungle). Paiche is a large fish of the Amazon River with a very mild taste and chonta, also called "palmitos" are tender palm tree roots.

The so called Nouvelle Peruvian cuisine, which combines native ingredients and authentic local culinary styles with modern techniques and more sophisticated ways of presenting the dishes, is increasingly getting Peruvian cuisine abroad following the path of the Indian cuisine.



*Tacacho*



## PERU, GOURMET'S PARADISE SWEETS AND DESSERTS

The Peruvian dessert tradition is inherited from the Colonial era and through centuries has survived in delectable regional variations, according to the varied geography and cultures, Catholic convents have played a key role in preserving such tradition. Nevertheless, it mainly developed in the Coast. The Highlands and jungle regions are less prone to sweets than the coast, possibly because they are further from main sugar producing areas.

### COAST

Starting at the north coast, the visitor will encounter, among others, fruit preserves in syrup as well as "NATILLAS" (molasses fudge), "KING KONG" (solid multi-layered pastry filled with "MANJARBLANCO" (a sweet and thick Hispanic version of blancmange), "MACHACADO DE MEMBRILLO" (quince compote),

Along the coastline, the sweet tooth is most keen in Lima. Varied Traditional desserts highlights, such as. "PICARONES" (deep fried doughnuts made with sweet potato and pumpkin flour and covered in carob syrup), "ALFAJORES" (pastries filled with manjarblanco), "SUSPIRO A LA LIMENA" (a whipped cream-like-dessert), "DULCE DE CAMOTE" (a sweet potato, also made with quince), "MAZAMORRA MORADA" (custard made of purple corn, sweet potato and fruits), and "TURRON DE DONA PEPA" (a dense honey-drenched cake covered with candies). The Turrón it is a dessert traditionally linked to the massive Lord of the Miracles religious procession in October.

Heading south down from Lima, is Ica, with a tradition of its own. The best-know sweets of the area are "TEJAS" (sweets made of candied-lemon peel or pecans filled with manjarblanco, dipped in icing sugar and wrapped in paper). Ica is also the home of the "MANJARBLANCO DE PALLARES" (lima bean manjarblanco), typically sweet originally from Spain.

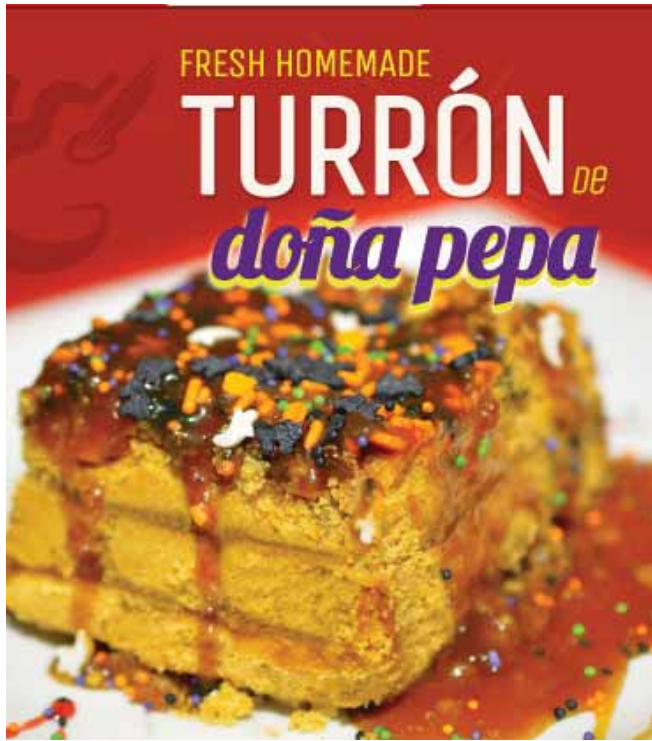
Further south, the sweets made in Moquegua include a wide range of manjarblanco-filled pastries like the "ALFAJORES DE PENCO", "GUARGUEROS" and "ROSQUETAS DE TARATA".



*Mazamorra Morada*



*Picarones*



***Dona Pepa***



***Tejas***

#### SIERRA (HIGHLANDS)

The Andes region, have their sweet specialties such as goat cheese drenched in honey made in the northern city of Cajamarca, the “CAJASCUARTEADAS” of the city of Huaraz, the central Andean town of Tarma’s with its “PEACH SWEETS” and “FRUIT MANJARBLANCO” and the “MIXTURAS” of Ayacucho to the South.

Cuzco, the ancient Capital of the Incas, offers some unique contributions to Peru’s dessert collection, such as “GUAGUAS” (sweet bread decorated like a baby and offered guests at baptisms). In Easter, filled pasties such as “EMPANADITAS” and “GAZNATE” are common.

#### JUNGLE

The locals make their desserts of Amazon fruits, although some are also made of manioc or corn, called “CHAPANAS” “BUNUELOS” OR “HUMITAS”.



*Guaguas*

## PERU, GOURMET'S PARADISE

### BEVERAGES

#### COAST

The Spaniards introduce grapevines and, since 1620, the production of wine in the Ica region has been notable. After the eighteenth century, a new beverage, "PISCO", was created and produced in Peru from the distillation of the fermented juice of a type of grape called Quebranta. Pisco is a clear alcoholic drink with a unique taste. Its name comes from the Quechua word Pesco, or bird, which was the name of the valley, where the majority of this beverage is produced. The most popular drink among Peruvians, as well as visitors, is the Pisco Sour. It is made with pisco, lemon juice, egg white, sugar, chopped ice, cinnamon powder and syrup or Angostura bitter.

Within refreshing non-alcoholic drink, "CHICHA MORADA", made from boiling dry purple corn on the cob; lemon juice, sugar and chopped fruit, tops the list.

#### SIERRA (HIGHLANDS)

"CHICHA", made from fermented corn, was drunk by the Incas and continues to be one of the most popular drinks of the inhabitants of the Peruvian highlands as well as in the coast and Jungle. Texture and scent help identify many types of chicha. In northern Peru, in Catacaos (Piura) is Chicha Clarito, which is light and sweet tasting. In Lima, chicha is thick and made with apples. In Arequipa, Guinapo is an essential ingredient together with peppercorns. Chicha makers in Ayacucho mix boiled corn with yeast while in Puno; chicha is prepared with corn pulp. In the Amazonian department of Loreto, Chicha is prepared with flour and figs leaves.

Besides the fermented drinks mentioned above, there are other traditional festive and amazingly varied drinks known as "PONCHES". Their range includes drinks made from quinoa rice, cinnamon, milk, several fruits, almonds, morello cherries and even broad beans. Punches are prepared with brandy of various types and taken hot to fool the cold weather of the high Andes.

Herbal teas are varied and the most popular are camomile, anis, hierba Luisa, bold, mint, eucalyptus and mate de coca (coca tea). The mate is an infusion of natural coca leaves. It is drunk for medicinal purposes helping avoid headaches, dizziness, sleeplessness, and some other feelings caused by high altitudes.

#### JUNGLE

In the Amazon jungle, local beverages have inherited the mysterious legacy of "CHUCHUHUASI" and "MASATO", the former made by macerating the chuchuhuasi tree bark in some type of brandy. Amazon women diligently prepare Masato beer by chewing yucca roots before fermenting the juices.

The Amazon region also boasts typical drinks made from native "AGUAJE FRUIT" and "CHAPO", boiled bananas and milk shake that substitutes for breakfast when taken hot in the morning, or provides a well-received refreshment when taken as a moon-time watered down, cold drink.

*Chicha de jora y  
coctail de algarrobina*



*Pisco sour*



## PERU'S ARCHITECTURE

Just as Peru is the meeting place of different races and cultures, it is also a country where pre-Columbian, Colonial and modern architecture meet to offer visitors a historical excursion around a variety of styles and tendencies applied throughout its history including the Baroque, the Churrigueresque, the Rococo, the neo-classic, and the neo-colonial, up to the modern functional style. To those who are particularly interested in archaeology, Peru also offers a unique assortment of major civil, military and religious construction sites worth to be visited.

### PRE-COLUMBIAN ARCHITECTURE

The geographical position of Peru with its often-impenetrable regions, geological formations, diverse climates and existence of various civilizations through its history were key factors in the development of the most varied and sophisticated forms of pre-Hispanic architecture. Ancient architecture in Peru was expressed in urban complexes of palaces, temples, and houses; public works such as streets, aqueducts, and major roads, military fortresses, agricultural terraces. Magnificent examples of their architecture are:



*Caral*

# *Sacsayhuaman*



Chavin de Huantar, the 2500-year-old stone complex, which is probably the oldest ceremonial center in Ancient Peru, located in Conchucos Corridor (Ancash Department). Most of the site's more interesting parts were built underground which gives uniqueness. Declared a World Heritage by UNESCO in 1985.

Sechin, one of the oldest cultures in Peru (about 1600 BC), located in Casma (Ancash Department) is among the most unusual architectural sites because of its unique configuration of six structures built in six different periods.

Chan Chan (the impressive capital of the Chi mu), an immense labyrinth of 12-meter high walls as well as Moche Pyramids. both in the vicinity of Trujillo, are exquisite and unique architectural adobe works on the northern coast.

Kuelap, pre-inca high buildings stone walled city and fortress, is the best-preserved ruins of the Chachapoyans kingdom, located in the eastern Andes part of the Amazon Department (2,334 meters above sea level).

Nevertheless, the Inca Architecture of Machu Picchu's citadel is the greatest architectural attraction of Peru, though there



## *Pachacamac*

is more Inca stone architecture worth to see around Cuzco. Among them the great ruins of fortress at Sacsayhuaman, the Q'enko amphitheatre and the remains of the Koricancha Temple.

#### **COLONIAL ARCHITECTURE**

Once Spanish rule was established in Peru, western urbanism and architecture arrived, along with a changed social order, different religious beliefs and a new way of life. Builders and architects from Spain taught their styles and skills to local craft-men and new colonial cities replaced many of the ancient centers.

In their eagerness to dominate the local culture, the Spaniards often superimposed their most imposing buildings over the important structures of the native people. This happened particularly in Cuzco where great Catholic churches were built on the foundations of ancient temples and palaces and many notable pre-Columbian structures were destroyed to make way for the new order. The combination of styles, materials, techniques and embellishments of both pre- and



*Santa Catalina -  
Arequipa*

*Palace - Torre - Tagle*



## *Lima Cathedral*



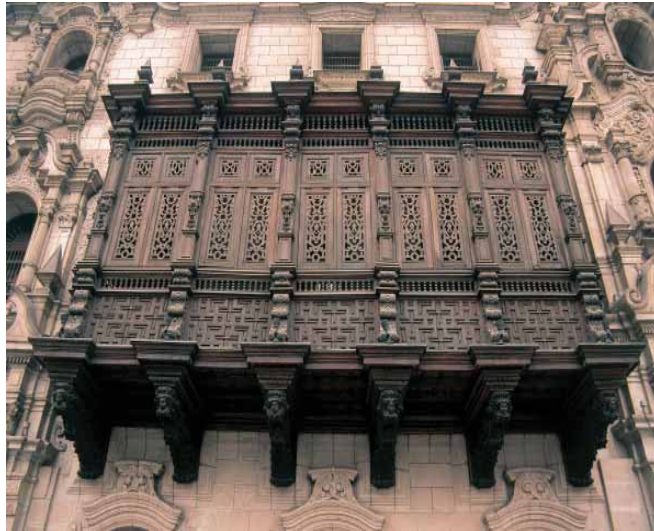


Hispanic building produced a uniquely Peruvian colonial architecture.

The many imposing cathedrals, churches, monasteries, convents and aristocratic houses of unsurpassed quality, built during the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, specially represent colonial architecture. They are extremely ornate, both outside and inside. Among cities that display such rich showcase are Arequipa, Ayacucho, Cajamarca, Cuzco, Lima and Trujillo. Lima and Cuzco colonial architecture is so rich that UNESCO has awarded them status as Cultural Heritage of Mankind.

#### **MODERN ARCHITECTURE**

Currently we can appreciate the changes in domestic construction. Modern structures like the Petro-Peru building, the Credit Bank in La Molina, and the Larco Mar Complex in Lima display modern functional style prevailing around the world.



*Archbishop's Palace balcony*



*Government Palace*



*Miraflores*



*Lima by night*

## PERU'S HANDICRAFTS

As a multi-cultural country, Peru is a nation with an enormous legacy of popular art, which added to its fascinating archaeological monuments, colonial churches and diverse landscapes, rises as one of Peru's major cultural attractions and window to every corner of the country's varied geography.

Local art in Peru dates from the pre-Columbian times. Textiles, gold and silver objects as well as ceramics are examples of the rich creativity of ancient craftsmen. The arrival of the Spaniards and their religious zeal caused the destruction of many objects and designs, which embodied the religion of the inhabitants. Many native artists ceased producing traditional objects, and rapidly adapted to the new techniques and forms imported from Europe. Examples are the sculptures of stone and wood, as well as the paintings, which adorned houses and colonial churches.

The artwork of the twenty-first century is not only a result of the original encounter with Europe, but of the evolution and development of society in each of the regions of Peru.

Although some artistic lines have disappeared, others have been maintained, and yet others have been modified substantially as a result of modernization and the increase of tourism. Until recently, artisan activity was a result of family need and an activity complimentary to agriculture. With the passage of time, however, as rural has given way to urbanization, the handicrafts have become not so much utilitarian as commercial in character.

Handicrafts production in Peru is by local craftsmen and by organizations or communal factories, or workshops. These produce objects that are utilitarian (pots, blankets, clothes etc.) as well as decorative items for national and international tourism consumption. It is estimated that there are more than 300,000 workshops in the country.

The majority of handicrafts are produced in the following departments: Lima, Piura, La Libertad, Cajamarca, Junin, Huancavelica, Ayacucho, Cuzco, Puno and Ucayali. Lima is the site of the greatest concentration of artisans due to migration from provinces all over Peru. Direct contact with the artisans is



*Ceramist Craftsman Walter Acosta*



*Moche Portrait Vessel*

possible through handicrafts markets, called Indian markets as well as traditional fairs, such as those in Huancayo, Pisac, and Chinchero, the last two in the department of Cuzco.

It would be very difficult to list the many handicrafts, which can be found in the markets. What follows is a brief summary of Peru's most representative regional handicrafts expressions:

#### TEXTILES

Andean textiles have so preserved their styles over time that even at present each village can be recognized by the subtleties of their weaving techniques and aesthetics, the types of garments and weaving patterns, and the symbols they depict. A wide variety of high quality textile products made from cotton and alpaca and llama wool, continue to be produced using ancient techniques. Among them are the traditional ponchos, chullos, belts and other clothes worn by Andean Peruvians. Weaving, mostly performed by women, has extended to cover a variety of rugs and tapestries that are popular souvenirs. The traditional made alpaca wool is in great demand for sweaters and other items.



## *Textiles*





*Artisan from Olave*

### CERAMICS

Pottery, very important and well developed by many pre-Columbian cultures in Peru, is still important today for household purposes as well as a popular souvenir item. The best are often based on ancient designs, shapes and motifs that go back to the typical patterns of ancient Peruvian Cultures.

### SILVER WORKS

A vast production of silver objects for religious and household use, jewellery as well as objects of gold filigree, replicating pre-Columbian and colonial gold and silver works, are made by master goldsmiths and silversmiths, with the same techniques of the past.

### BASKETRY

Straw and Totora reeds are used to make remarkably fine hats and baskets. Totora, in particular, is used to make the "CABALLITOS" (little horses), one-man fishing boats resembling kayaks that have served Peruvian fishermen for thousands of years and are still in use.

### MAGICAL AND RELIGIOUS IMAGERY

Ritual altar boxes, called RETABLOS, made with paste and wood, housing patron saints, and the so-called peasant "passions" or crosses that recall Christ Calvary during Holy Week, are some expressions of the syncretism spirit of the Andean Universe.



## *Basketry*

*Silver work*



*Gold work*

#### MATE BURILADO OR CARVED GOURDS

Central highlands most representative artisan craft, made from the drying of a certain type of pumpkin, which is then carved with exquisitely minute portraits of farm chores and local dances is perhaps the best expression of what has been most skilful in spontaneously blending images of what is new in the Andean world with ancient traditions of community life.

#### STONE FIGURINES

Carving Huamanga stone figurines, commonly representing profane imagery and rural scenes.



*Stone figurines*



*Retablo*

*Mate burilado or  
carved gourds*



*Magical and Religious  
imagery - Retablo*

## PERU'S MODERN CULTURE

Modern arts have long occupied positions of esteem among Peru's educated minority.

### PHOTOGRAPHY

Development of Photography in Peru has international standards. Eugenio Courret and Emilio Garreaud, singular French artists, gave a great impulse to the photographic industry in Peru, which goes back around 1840. Nevertheless, photographers from the inner part of the country at the beginning of XX century, like Martin Chambi in Cuzco (1891-1973), Max T. Vargas in Arequipa and Sebastian Rodriguez in Morococha, all of them singular portraitists and scenic painters that knew how to capture the most eloquent images, also contributed greatly to the development of the photographic industry in Peru.



*Photography -  
Martin Chambi*



Most recently acclaimed national photographers such as Billy Hare, oriented towards natural landscapes and the cultural traditions of the country; Herman Schwarz, with a similar style; the naturalist Heinz Plenge, better known for his unquestionable perception of the crucial moments of vegetable and animal life in Peru, are among a new generation of Peruvian photographers that know how to graphically express daily happenings and cultural aspects of Peruvian reality.

#### CINEMA

The Peruvian film industry is still in its infancy although it started in 1897 with incipient short mute productions and that in July 1934 exhibited its first voice film called *Resaca* (Alberto Santana). Full-length film production started in 1937. Nowadays documentaries and shorts productions overwhelmingly surpass those of full-length. Going to the movies is a popular pastime and major cities have cinemas screening imported films with Spanish subtitles. In recent years, cinemas have been renovated in accordance with modern standards. Also video pubs or video clubs, where you can rent a film, and take it home to watch, or watch it right there, have appeared in great numbers.



## *Cinema - Peruvian films*

## *Theatre - Teatro Municipal de Lima*



### **THEATER**

Ancient Peruvians also cultivated the dramatic gender. Nevertheless, theatrical activity has its origins in the first colonial times, with comedy assemblies and sacramental acts. Drama is quite popular in Lima, less so outside of the Capital. National professional companies perform in major productions at the Municipal Theatre, which was built in Lima at the site of a colonial theatre dating to 1604. The concerts of the National Symphony Orchestra are also presented there, as are the performances of the main national and touring ballet and folk-dance companies.

## MODERN MUSIC AND DANCE

Traditional music continues to play a major part in Peru's musical scene. Relatively few people enjoy classical music. Jose Maria Valle-Riestra's opera Ollanta and Vicente Stea's Sinfonia Autoctona (Aboriginal Symphony) were the major musical works of 19th-century Peru. Later, Luis Duncker Lavalle incorporated Peruvian motifs into Western forms.

Modern popular music includes rock, pop, blues, reggae and punk, all usually imported though there are a few Peruvian rock bands and compositions. Protest songs and jazz also enjoyed a limited popularity. Much more popular are other forms of Latin American dance music, such as the omnipresent salsa, cumbia, chicha and techno-cumbia, the last two, a syncretism of cumbia and salsa with Peruvian Andean music.

Modern dance and dance-theatre have evolved and given place to a wide scope in this area since the eighties. Nowadays, national dancers exhibit diverse proposals that are constantly under exploration and feedback.



## *Modern music and dance*

# PERU'S MODERN CULTURE

## LITERATURE

Satire and the literature of manners (“costumbrismo”) dominated Peruvian literature until 1850. The satire, present since the beginning of the conquest, is festive and, fundamentally political. The literature of manners, on the other hand, is critical of the local customs, generally through humour. Two authors who achieved recognition during the “gestation” period of Peruvian literature was Felipe Pardo y Aliaga (1806-1868) and Manuel Ascencio Segura (1805-1871).

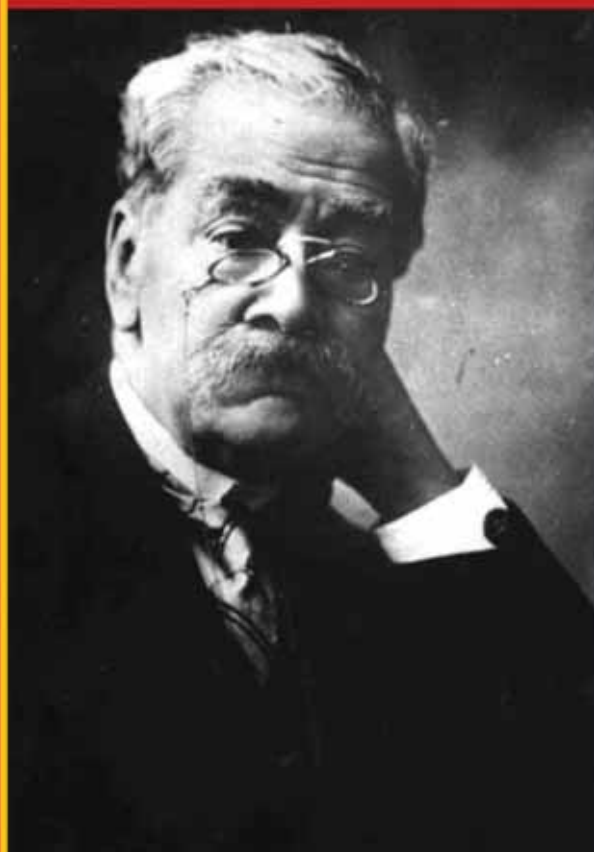
European romanticism arrived late in Peru, where it was imitated. During this period, the poems of Carlos Augusto Salaverry (1830-1891) are noteworthy, as well as the works of Ricardo Palma (1833-1919) famous for his book “Peruvian Traditions”, which present in a humoristic way an event which may or not be connected to the actual facts, but because of its context within the period’s way of life, it has acquired an air of “truth”.

The narrative of the 20th century begins with the literary works of Clemente Palma (“Cuentos Malévolos”-Evil Stories) and Enrique A. Carrillo (“Cartas a un turista”-Letters to a Tourist), which have close stylistic links to modernism. This literary production in a way heralds the works of Ventura Garcia Calderon, who is considered the most important Peruvian modernist prose writer. In the 1920’s and 1930’s the theme of the narrative prose is predominantly regionalist, giving origin to indigenous literature, in which we can distinguish three periods.

The first is influenced by modernism and is marked by a rapprochement to the indigenous people. This stylistic period is represented by Enrique Lopes Albuja (1912-1966) in “Cuentos Andinos” (Andean Stories). The second period/style is represented by the “novella de la tierra” (novel of the land), which achieves its highest expression in the literary production of Ciro Alegria (1900-1967).

# RICARDO PALMA

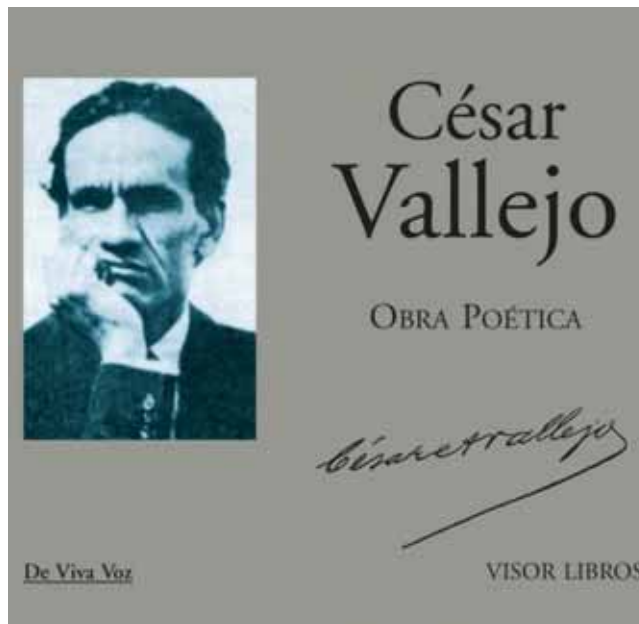
Obras – Colección  
de Ricardo Palma



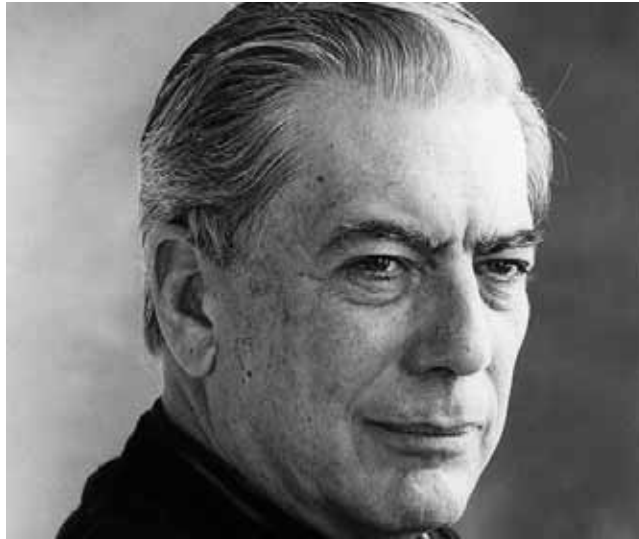
*Jose Maria Arguedas*



*Cesar Vallejo*







*Mario Vargas Llosa*

The third period corresponds to Jose Maria Arguedas (1911-1969), whose works incorporate two distinctive features. First, the inclusion of the Andean very own cosmogony and a magical mentality. The other feature is the incorporation of the indigenous language, Quechua. This “quechua-iced” version of Spanish achieves a more precise description of the Andean world. The novel as a genre acquires renewed importance with the works of Mario Vargas Llosa (1936) and Alfredo Bryce Echenique (1939).

#### POETRY

As pointed out earlier, European literary romanticism arrived late in Peru where it continued to be imitated. From this period, the poetry of Carlos Augusto Salverry (1830-1891) is worth a special place. Modernism gave a sense of renewal to poetry in Spanish, thanks largely to Nicaraguan poet Ruben Dario. The two most important representatives of modernism in Peru are Jose Santos Chocano (1875-1934) and Cesar Vallejo (1892-1938). Vallejo, in particular, considered the greatest voice not only of Peruvian poetry, but also of the country’s avant-garde movement. The avant-garde movement gives way to three tendencies in Peruvian poetry.

Vallejo’s “Social Poetry”, emerged right after the Spanish Civil war. A second expression is the “nativism” or native poetry, which expresses Peruvian things in earthy/terrestrial terms. This

gives way to indigenous poetry. Finally. "Pure Poetry (poesia pura)" emerges, which is removed from any "action", and reaffirms the non-instrumental/functional character of poetry. This rivalry (or opposing views) between pure poetry and social poetry remained until the late 1940s (1945 - 1950).

Poets of the 1970's generation were linked to hispanic, French and Italian influences, particularly Javier Heraud (1942-1968), Cesar Calvo, Antonio Cisneros. Towards the end of the 1970's, feminine poetry, with characteristics of its own, begins what is to become a significant development within the genre. Carmen Olle, Doris Moromisato, and Giovanna Pollarollos are representatives of this expression.

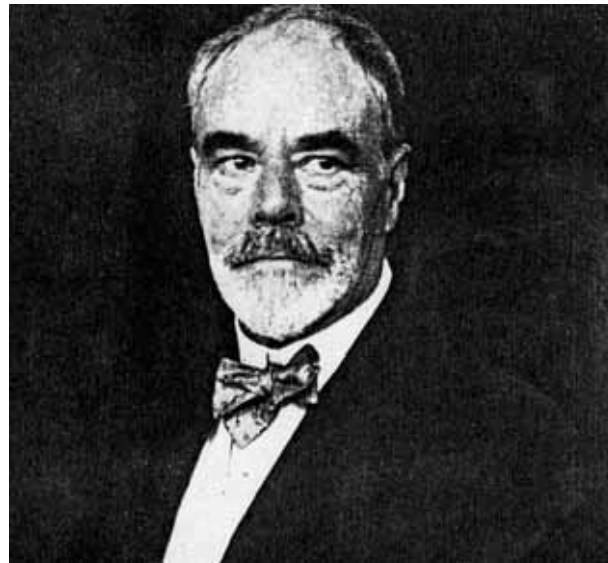
### PAINTING

During the 19th and 20th centuries the political and economic changes in Peru after independence in 1821, are reflected in the paintings. From the American Baroque, there is a transition to a more demanding and academic neoclassic art. The first group of Peruvian painters was mostly self-taught. Among them, Ignacio Marino (1817-1876), Francisco Laso (1823-1869) and Luis Montero (1826-1869) achieved fame. Among the painters who achieved recognition towards the end of the 19th century and beginning of the 20th, is Carlos Baca Flor, who captured in his paintings the most prominent personalities of the period.

With the advent of the 20th century, Peruvian painting goes through important changes and reaches a period of new creations based on nationalistic feelings, which are a product of a collective legacy. This indigenism gives way to a cultural movement of which Mario Urteaga is one of its maximum representatives. Along with him, Jose Sabogal, Enrique Camino Brent And Julia Codesido created a style with which the Peruvian common man can identify. The School of Fine Arts became the most highly regarded artistic institution in the field of painting during the first decades of the 20th century. The school of Fine Arts and, later, the Faculty of Arts at the Catholic University, continued to encourage and promote young artists who broke away from the purely academic and traditional artistic forms.

*Painting - Jose Sabogal*





*Daniel Hernandez Morillo*



*Painting - Fernando de Szyszlo*

### SCULPTURE

During the 20th century, with the founding of the Escuela de Artes y Oficios (1905) and the arrival of Spanish Sculptor Manuel Piqueras, a nurtured group of Peruvian sculptors including Ismael Pozo, Raul Pro, Luis Valdetaro and Miguel Baca Rossi, is formed. More modern sculptures like the ones done by Joaquin Roca Rey become popular half a century ago. Nowadays, there are varied trends. The works of Victor Delfin, Ana Maccagno, Cristina Galvez and Hernan Piscocoya, among others, stand out.



*Sculpture - Joaquin Roca Rey*



*Victor Delfin*



## MAJOR FESTIVALS AND HOLIDAYS

Festivals in Peru have deep, popular roots and are the product of the fusion of European and native cultures and religions. They are the best way for visitors to directly experience authentic Peruvian customs. Music and dances, magnificent traditional costumes, customs and traditions from the different regions of the country can be enjoyed. The following are the most important festivals which would be of interest to the visitor.

### Festival of the Marinera

In Trujillo, the sensuous courting dance of Spanish and African roots, takes place during the third week of January. Even Peru's famous pacing horses dance the marinera during this festival week when Trujillo brings together the country's most accomplished dancers.

### Virgin of the Candelaria

The Festival of the Candlemas of the Virgin takes place in the city of Puno the first two weeks of February and commemorates the Patron Saint of the city. It involves religious celebrations.

In addition to the religious celebrations, a great number of groups walk through the streets performing dances from the altiplano (high plateau). The dancers dress in magnificent and colourful costumes derived from both popular culture and traditions that have been passed from generation to generation. The rich folklore of this region, with more than 100 different dances, has contributed to Puno being known as the folklore capital of Peru.

### Semana Santa

Holy Week is the Catholic feast which is celebrated throughout the country. Due to the solemnity and originality of their processions, those of Ayacucho, Huaraz and Cuzco, stand out. The rituals preserve ancient medieval customs interwoven with pre-Columbian religions.

### Corpus Christi

Celebrated in the city of Cusco, Corpus Christi best represents the fusion of two cultures, Spanish and indigenous. The original ritual has remained almost unchanged to date. When the Spaniards arrived in Cusco, they observed that the people celebrated a big feast dedicated to the Sun God (Inti Raymi) in June of each

*Festival de la Marinera*



*Semana Santa Ayacucho*

year at the winter solstice. In this feast, nobles of the city, led by their priests parades their mummies and idols through the streets. The Conquistadors were surprised because they noticed the similarities with the Spanish celebration of Corpus Christi. Due to the fact that both celebrations were held in June and both honored idols, they decided to replace the Inca feast with their own, Corpus Christi.

The procession has approximately 14 richly-attired images of the Virgin and Patron Saints of Cusco's quarters and surrounding towns. These images are paraded on enormous silver platforms carried on the shoulders of people and accompanied by musicians. It is an exceptionally colourful and original spectacle.

#### Inti Raymi- Revival of the Inca Sun Festival

Approximately fifty-five years ago, several local scholars reconstructed the feast of Inti Raymi as it was originally celebrated. This great Inca winter solstice festival, which now takes place on June 24th in the city of Cusco, officially opens the sowing season, and is currently a main event which attracts thousands of visitors from all over the world.

Inca rites, customs and dances are realistically portrayed by hundreds of actors, musicians, and dancers which come from all the provinces of Cusco to participate in this internationally renowned festival.

#### Festidanza

Festidanza is one of the most popular annual events of the beautiful city of Arequipa and takes place during the second week of August.

Visitors enjoy the excellent regional folklore, as well as the latest music and dances. Internationally famous musical groups and singers perform over several days and the festive environment is enriched with handicraft fairs and fireworks.

#### Procesion del Señor de los Milagros

The Procession of our Lord of Miracles is celebrated in Lima on October 18th through the 20th. This is one of the longest and most attended processions in the Americas. For three days, the image is taken on the shoulders of the pious through the main streets in the historic centre of the capital city.

*Sican Culture*





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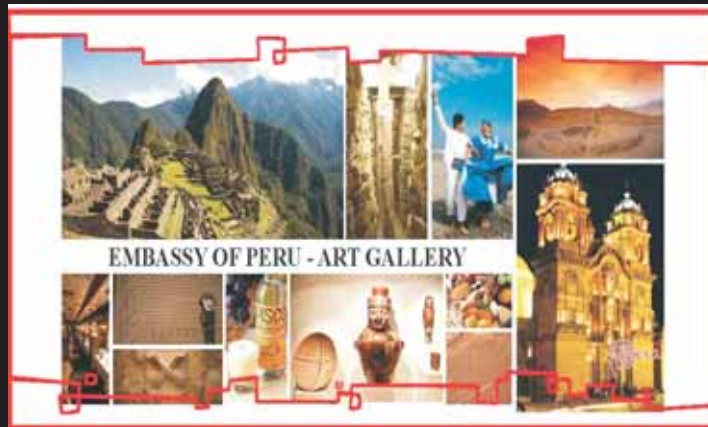
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