



# Trekking the Planet

Discovering the Cultural and Natural Significance of the World



## Where are we now?

- Darren and Sandy are in Lima, Peru, located at 12° S and 77° W.
- We have traveled approximately 69,712 miles (112,236 kilometers) from our starting point in California.



## People and Culture

- The Incas ruled Peru for hundreds of years before the Spanish arrived in the 1530s. Cusco (now in Peru) was the Incan capital and nearby Machu Picchu was an ancient city. At the height of the Incan Empire, it controlled greater territory than the size of any other current country in South America today.
- Peru became a Spanish Viceroyalty in 1542 and a major source of silver and gold to Spain. It gained independence in 1821, although Spain did not finally recognize it until 1879.
- Lima is the largest city in Peru, with about 7.5 million people. More than 70% of the 29 million Peruvians live in cities.
- Quechuas are an indigenous group found in several South American countries. Many women wear traditional colorful clothing. The Quechua language was spoken by the Incas and about 13% of Peruvians speak it as their first language.
- Ceviche is a popular Peruvian dish. The raw fish marinates in lemon juice, making it look cooked. It is served with vegetables and chilies.



*Ceviche* (source: [Flickr.com/Alt1040](https://www.flickr.com/photos/Alt1040/))



*Machu Picchu and map of Incan Empire territory* (sources: [OurDistantJourney.com](http://OurDistantJourney.com), [Latinamericanstudies.org](http://Latinamericanstudies.org))

## Did you know?

- Peru is the third largest country in South America
- Has seven times more unpaved roads than paved roads
- Has the largest protected rainforests in the world

source:  
[Perufacts.org](http://Perufacts.org)



*Peruvian market colorful dress*  
(source: [OurDistantJourney.com](http://OurDistantJourney.com))

## Nature and Environment

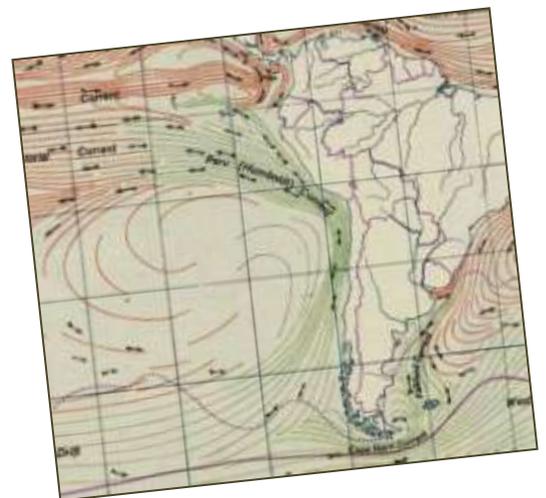
- Peru is slightly smaller than the U.S. state of Alaska or almost twice as big as France. The Amazon region is an important part of Peru, comprising almost half the country. The Amazon city of Iquitos is the largest city in the world not reachable by car.
- The Andes Mountains cut through Peru, separating the Amazon region from the coastal plains along the Pacific Ocean. The Inca city of Cusco (elevation 10,912 feet / 3,326 meters) is located in the Andes.
- A high plateau called the Altiplano is located in southeastern Peru and western Bolivia. It extends for about 600 miles (935 kilometers) and lies at about 12,000 feet (3,650 meters). Vegetation is comprised of grass and shrubs and wildlife includes llamas and alpacas.
- Peru is one of the richest countries in the world with natural resources of gold, silver, copper, zinc, lead and iron.
- The Humboldt Current is a Pacific Ocean current running from south to north along the South American continent. It is named after the Prussian naturalist Alexander von Humboldt. The cold current makes for good fishing grounds and giant squid, anchovies, sardines and mackerel are caught in these waters.

### Lake Titicaca

The highest navigable lake in the world, Lake Titicaca sits at an altitude of about 12,500 feet (3,810 meters). Located on the border of Peru and Bolivia, it stretches for 118 miles (190 kilometers) in length and is 49 miles (80 kilometers) wide. According to Incan legend, this lake is the point where the world was created and an Incan god emerged to make the first people.



sources: [Discover-Peru.org](http://Discover-Peru.org), [Travels.com](http://Travels.com)



Map showing the Humboldt Current in green (source: [Wikipedia.org](http://Wikipedia.org))

## Our Plans

- We have begun our voyage home from Chile. It will take us 16 days to reach Los Angeles, California, and we will make stops in six countries as we travel.
- We are spending two days in Lima and will be visiting several places in the city, as well as sampling some ceviche.
- Ecuador will be our last stop in South America before we continue north to Central America. Contact us on Facebook, Twitter or by email with any questions you may have.

## Scarlet Macaws

Macaws are a type of parrot and the Scarlet Macaw is one of the most colorful of these birds. They are found from south-eastern Mexico to the Amazon in Peru. A typical bird is about 32 inches (81 centimeters) long, with a weight of about 2.2 pounds (1 kilogram). Although the birds are mostly scarlet in color, their wings are yellow and blue.



sources: [Wikipedia.org](http://Wikipedia.org),  
[Flickr.com/ShebaAlso](http://Flickr.com/ShebaAlso)

## More Information

- [http://www.exitotravel.com/destinations/peru\\_machu\\_picchu\\_cusco.htm](http://www.exitotravel.com/destinations/peru_machu_picchu_cusco.htm)
- <http://www.funtrivia.com/en/Geography/Peru-9697.html>
- [http://www.theperuguide.com/facts\\_about\\_peru/peru\\_history.html](http://www.theperuguide.com/facts_about_peru/peru_history.html)
- <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/places/find/peru/>
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quechua\\_people](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quechua_people)
- [http://www.scienceandthesea.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=265&Itemid=10](http://www.scienceandthesea.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=265&Itemid=10)
- <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/17727/Altiplano>

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