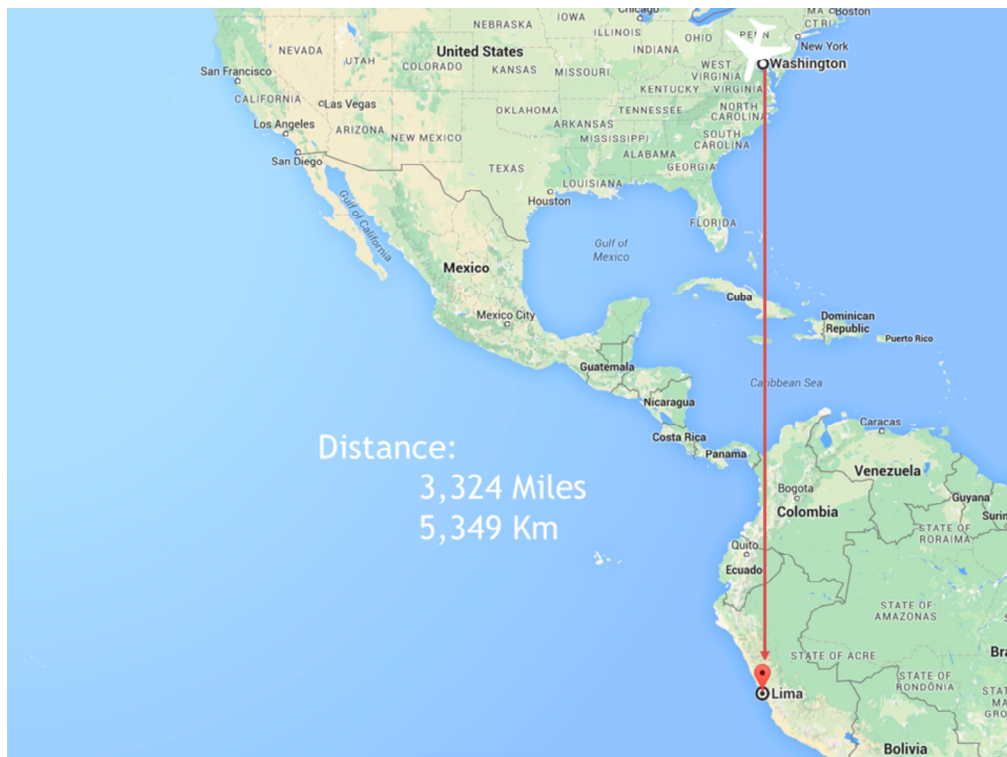
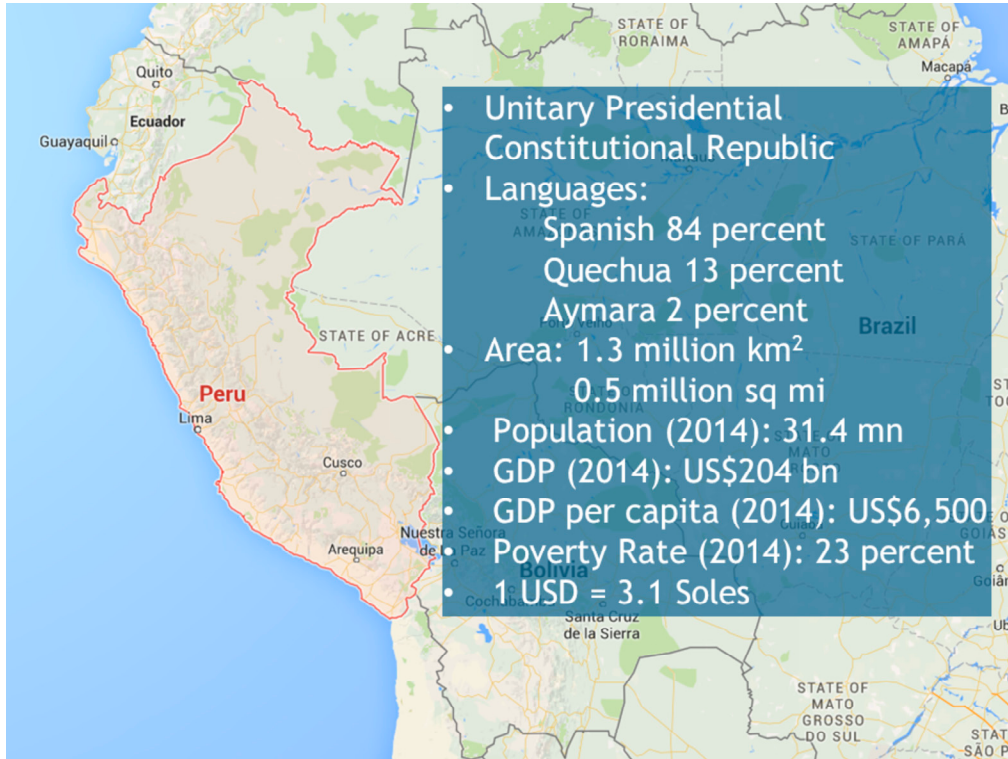


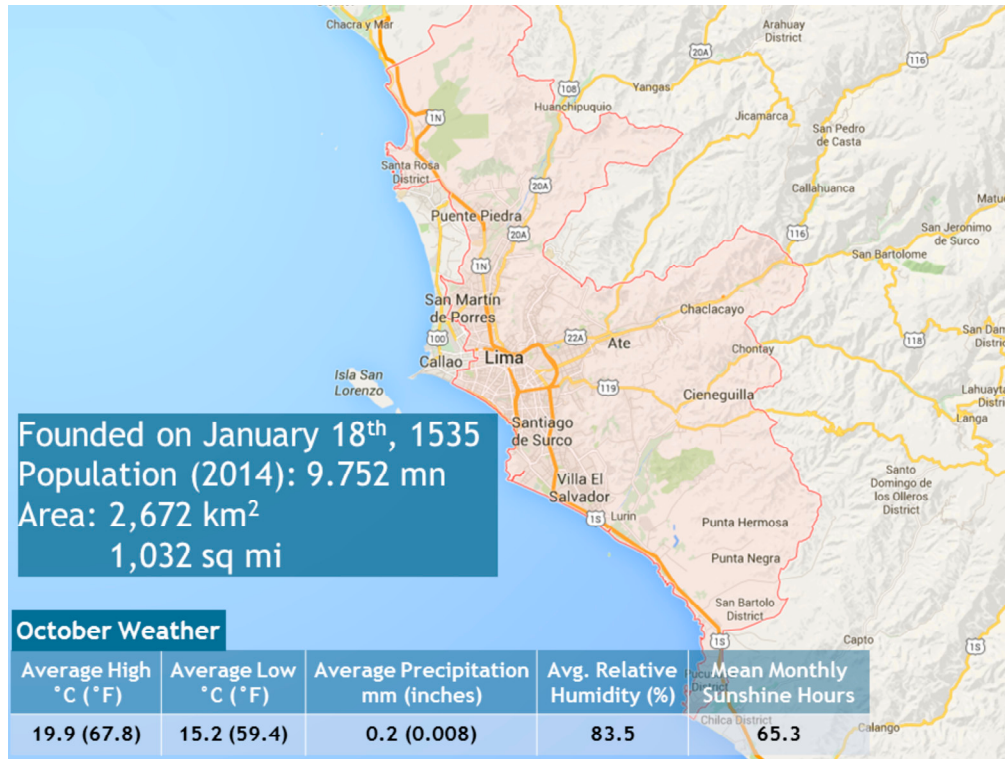


What to visit in Peru?



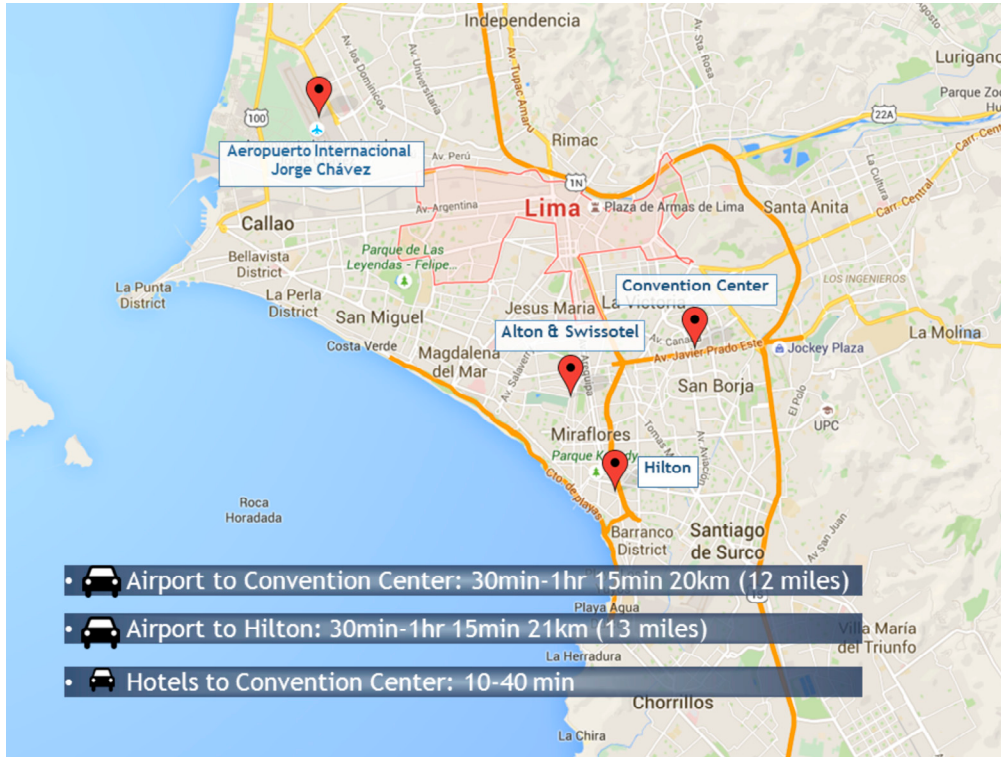


In terms of area, Peru is the 20th biggest country. Slightly smaller than Alaska; or slightly bigger than France and Spain together.



Lima is the capital and largest city of Peru; it was founded by Spanish *conquistador* Francisco Pizarro on January 18, 1535, as the City of the Kings and it quickly became the capital and most important city in the original Spanish Viceroyalty of Peru, which covered from parts of Colombia, in the North, to parts of Chile in the South.

Lima is home to the National University of San Marcos, which was founded in 1551 and is the oldest continuously functioning university in the Americas.



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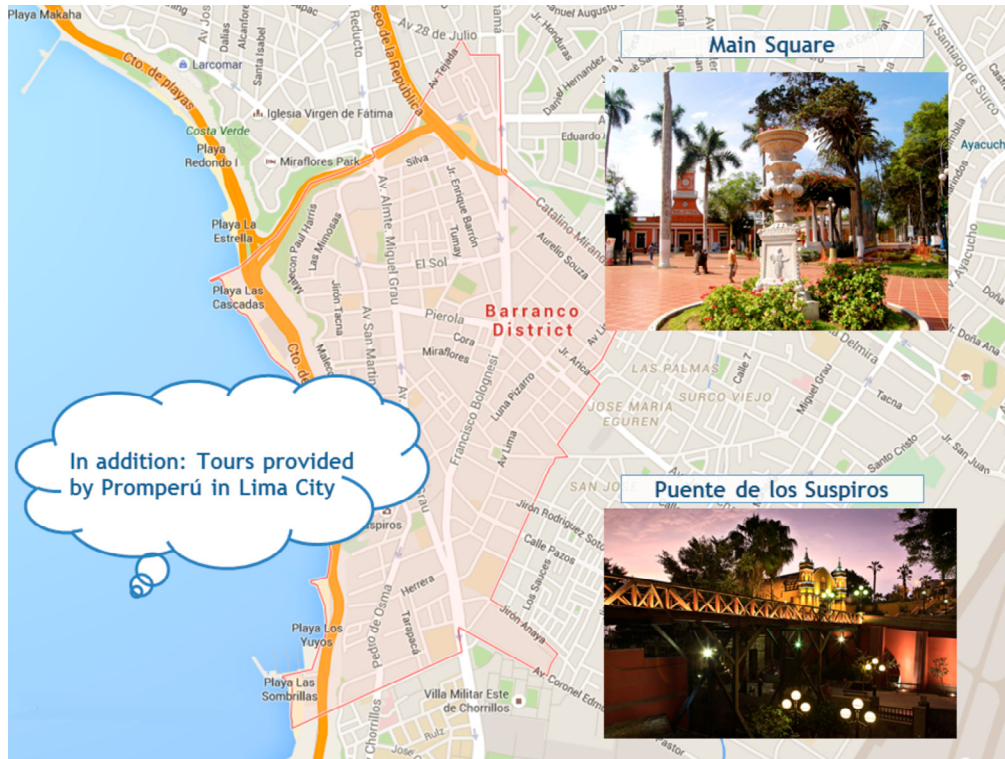
Things to do in Lima



The Historic Centre of Lima (mainly Lima downtown) was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1988. Some examples of colonial architecture include the Main Square and the Cathedral, the Torre Tagle Palace, and Santo Domingo Church and Convent, among many others. In Santo Domingo, the Palace of Torre Tagle, and much more. Magic Water Circuit, located on the Reserve Park, a neo-classical site completed in 1929.



Miraflores is a residential district known for thriving night life, restaurants, and shopping centers. The district is also home to some museums and archeological sites like the Huaca Pucllana, a pre-Inca truncated pyramid.



Barranco was originally a beach resort for Lima's middle and upper classes and was annexed to the city in 1874. In addition to its beautiful Main Square, the district is home to European styled mansions and the famous Puente de los Suspiros or Bridge of Sighs, a sort of Lover's Lane. It is also Lima's Bohemian neighborhood, with many art galleries, bars, and restaurants.



Things to do around Lima



Some 200 km (124 mi) north of Lima is Caral (2600 BCE and 2000 BCE), the oldest city of the Americas, contemporary to ancient Egypt.

About 30 km (19 mi) south of Lima is Pachacamac; and 40km (25 mi) south of Lima is Punta Hermosa, famous among world surfers for its beaches and waves.

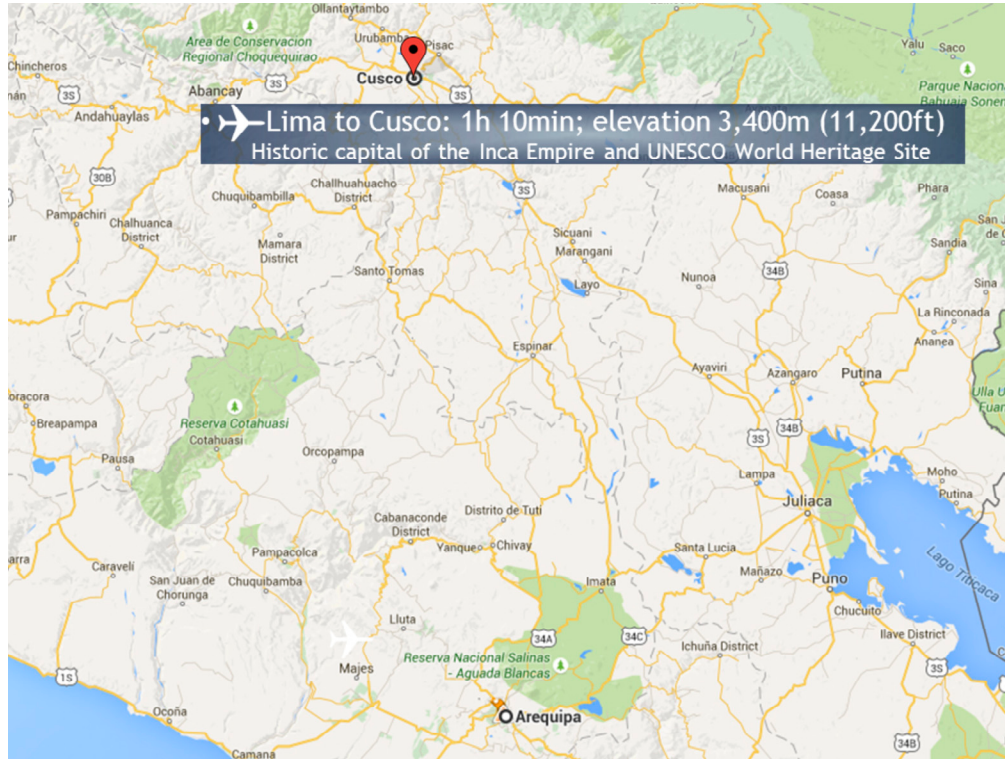
Less than 190 km (118 mi) south of Lima is a small village called Lunahuana, where you can do rafting, drink pisco, and taste river shrimp dishes.

About 207 km (129 mi) south of Lima, the Paracas Peninsula, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is a desert peninsula with the only marine reserve in Peru, including the Ballestas Islands.

Some 420 km (260 mi) south of Lima are the Nazca lines, also a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Nazca lines are from pre-Inca times, their designs have animals such as birds, fish, and monkeys, or human figures, and are best seen from the sky.



Other things to see in Peru



Cuzco was the historic capital of the Inca Empire from the 13th into the 16th century until the Spanish conquest. In 1983 Cusco was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. It has become a major tourist destination, receiving nearly 2 million visitors a year. The Constitution of Peru designates it as the Historical Capital of Peru.

Cuzco



Main Square



Saqsaywaman



Sacred Valley



Ollantaytambo



Machu Picchu



Arequipa was founded on August 15, 1540 and today is the second most populous city in Peru, with almost 1ml people. It is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Arequipa



Arequipa Cathedral



The Society of Jesus Church and Complex



Santa Catalina Monastery



Sumbay Caves - Cave Art



Cotahuasi and Colca Canyons

The Cotahuasi Canyon, near the city of Arequipa is the deepest canyon in the world.

The Colca Canyon, which is located about 160 km (100 mi) northwest of Arequipa, has a depth of 3,270 m (10,725 ft) and is one of the deepest in the world, second in Peru after the Cotahuasi Canyon and more than twice as deep as the Grand Canyon in the United States. The Colca Valley is a colorful Andean valley with pre-Inca roots, and towns founded in Spanish colonial times. The canyon is home to the Andean condor, which can be seen at close range as they fly past the canyon walls, and are a popular attraction. 'Cruz del Condor' is a popular tourist stop to view the condors.



Iquitos is the largest metropolis in the Peruvian Amazon, and is the sixth most populous city of Peru. It was founded around the year 1757.

Puerto Maldonado is a city in Southeastern Peru in the Amazon forest. Nearby are the Manú National Park, Tambopata National Reserve, and Bahuaja-Sonene National Park, which have been established to protect natural resources. These are some of the most pristine primary rain forests in the world.