

Planning your travel to / in Peru

Pre-reservations and pre-payments

We would recommend not making (too many) reservations (and prepayments), e.g. for your Colca Canyon Tour, your visit to Puno/Lake Titicaca and to the Cuzco region (incl. Machu Picchu and the “Sacred Valley”). You can make the corresponding reservations and payments on the spot, i.e. when you are here in Arequipa, and later in Puno, Cuzco, etc. – Why?

1.

Most likely you will find, once here in Peru, less expensive options, and we can also provide pertinent advice.

2.

Our experience says that travellers of all age groups and origins, once in Peru, tend to change their plans or would like to do so, i.e. changing the route/itinerary, or staying more time in one place and less in another. But having booked and prepaid services (accommodations, tours, flights, bus tickets, car rentals) from home, it would be a difficult undertaking to cancel or change something and get a refund for something already paid. One of the exceptions in this respect is the EDEAQ: no pre-payment is required, and you can change, in principle, your arrival and/or departure dates, also at short notice.

Important. Should you plan to attend an event that normally attracts thousands of visitors (for example the “Inti Raymi” celebration in Cuzco/Sacsayhuamán, every year from 21 to 24 June – or the “Festividad de la Virgen de la Candelaria” in Puno, every year from 02 to 17 February), or should you plan to visit Machu Picchu with or without Inka Trail (in particular during peak season, i.e. July and August), then we recommend to take into consideration reservations (entrance tickets, accommodation, tours, flights, bus tickets, car rentals, etc.) well in advance. The same is true for the “Semana Santa” (Easter Week), in particular Holy/Maundy Thursday to Easter Monday, for the Independence Days (28 and 29 July), and the Christmas/New Year holiday period.

From Lima to Arequipa by plane

There are four airlines operating scheduled flights between Lima and Arequipa: LATAM, Peruvian Airlines, SkyAirline, and Viva Air Peru. – Passengers arriving in Lima not later than approx. two and a half hours prior to the departure of the last flight to Arequipa (which leaves between approx. 19:00 h and approx. 22:00 h) can thus continue their journey to Arequipa on the same day. – **Very important.** Do not plan a (too) tight connection at Lima Airport. Between the scheduled time of arrival in Lima and the scheduled time of departure of your connecting flight to Arequipa you must plan enough time, i.e. at least three hours.

From Lima to Arequipa by bus

The students of our School recommend the bus company Cruz del Sur [www.cruzdelsur.com.pe]. There is one day-time connection (departing Lima at 06:40 h, travel time approx. 17 hours), plus seven or eight afternoon/evening departures between 14:30 h to 21:00 h (travel time between 15½ and 17 hours), arriving in Arequipa on the following day (morning/forenoon). – Fares: between USD 34.00 and USD 48.00, to be paid in Soles.

If you interrupt your bus journey in Parácas, Ica, Nazca, etc.: the staff of your hotel/hostel can advise you how to continue your journey to Arequipa.

Colca Canyon Tour and then to Puno (or vice versa)

Do not book your Colca Canyon Tour in advance, do it when you are here in Arequipa. – The are, in principle, four options (A + B plus C + D):

- A.** “Conventional Tourism One Day”: departure at approx. 03:00 h, return/arrival in Arequipa at approx. 17:00 h.
- B.** “Conventional Tourism Two Days”: departure Day 01 at approx. 08:00 h, return/arrival in Arequipa Day 02 at approx. 17:00 h.
- C.** “Trekking Two Days”: departure Day 01 at approx. 03:00 h, return/arrival in Arequipa Day 02 at approx. 17:00 h.
- D.** “Trekking Three Days”: departure Day 01 at approx. 03:00 h, return/arrival in Arequipa Day 03 at approx. 17:00 h.

On the last day of your Colca Canyon Tour (B, C, or D) you do not have to return to Arequipa (of course you can, if you wish so) – you can travel directly to Puno. There is a daily bus connection from Chivay to Puno (dep 13:30 h) [www.4m-express.com]. The Puno arrival time (19:30 h) allows you to still make pertinent arrangements for the following day (Lake Titicaca excursion), since the agencies/tour operators are open until about 21:00 h/21:30 h. – From Puno to Arequipa (via Colca Canyon): dep. Puno 06:30 h.

From Puno to Cuzco (or vice versa)

A good alternative to the (fairly expensive) train [www.perurail.com/en] and to overcrowded public buses is the “Inka Express [www.inkaexpress.com.pe].

Travelling in South America/Peru With Your Own Vehicle

If you plan to drive your own vehicle (camper, motor home, etc.) in South America, please be aware that you (the driver) must be the legal owner of the vehicle, according to the vehicle/registration documents. This means: do not travel to/in South America with a vehicle registered in anyone else’s name (including relatives) – the vehicle must be registered in your (i.e. the driver’s/user’s) name. Be aware that even a notarised statement from the owner will not satisfy Peruvian authorities. The name(s) on the car documents and the name(s) in the user’s/driver’s passport must be identical.

According to Peru’s Ministerio de Transportaciones y Comunicaciones (“Decreto Supremo N° 040-2008-MTC”): driving licenses from other countries may be used for a maximum period of six months from the date of entry into the country.

If you happen to stay in Arequipa, one of the few appropriate places to park your car overnight is the

Hostal Las Mercedes
Avenida La Marina 1001
Arequipa (Peru)
+51 54 21 36 01
reservas@hostal_lasmercedes.com
www.lasmercedeshostal.com

which comes with all the necessary facilities (shower, WC, electric outlets, WiFi, etc.). The Hostal Las Mercedes is a co-operation partner of the EDEAQ, and is located approx. ten minutes walking from the Plaza de Armas (Main Square)/our School. Tariffs (per day/night): one person S/. 30.00, two persons S/. 50.00, three S/. 75, four S/. 100.00.

We do our utmost to provide correct information. However, no responsibility is accepted for the accuracy of this information, and all legal claims will be denied.