

Planning your travel to / in Peru

Pre-reservations and pre-payments

We would recommend not making (too many) pre-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 for accommodations, transport, tours, trekking etc. on the spot, i.e. when you are here in Arequipa, and later in Puno, Cuzco, etc. – Why is this more recommendable?

1.

It is most likely that you 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 between 21 and 24 June), 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 (accommodations, 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 three airlines operating scheduled flights between Lima and Arequipa: LAN, Peruvian Airlines, and TACA/Avianca. – 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 19:00 h and 20:00 h) can thus continue their journey to Arequipa on the same day.

From Lima to Arequipa by bus

We recommend the bus company Cruz del Sur [www.cruzdelsur.com.pe]. Travel time according to the timetable between 16 and 17 hours. There is one day-time connection (departing Lima at 06:30 h, travel time between 18 a 19 hours) and six afternoon/evening departures between 14:30 h to 21:00 h (travel time between 17 and 18 hours, arriving in Arequipa on the following day). – Fares: between USD 25.00 and USD 60.00, 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 in the opposite direction)

Do not book your Colca Canyon Tour in advance: do it when you are here in Arequipa. On the last day of your Colca Canyon Tour, 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/arr 19:30 h) [www.4m-express.com]. The Puno arrival time allows you to still make pertinent arrangements for the coming 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].

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.