

Peru

Peru, located in northwestern South America, is the third largest country on the continent. It is a country of environmental contrasts with the Amazon Rainforest and the headwaters of the Amazon River, the Andes Mountains, and the coastal deserts. Peru is bordered to the north by Ecuador and Colombia, to the east by Brazil and Bolivia, to the south by Chile, and the west by the Pacific Ocean. The total area of this country is 1,285,220 sq km which is two times larger than the state of Texas.

- The official languages are Spanish, Quechua, and Aymara.
- The average family size is 5.
- The total population of Peru is 28,302,600.
- Three-quarters of the population have no electricity; most housing lacks water and sewage.
- 54% of the population lives in poverty. Many come to the cities for refuge and work.
- The average yearly income in Peru is equivalent to \$2,400 US.
- Health care is poor in rural areas, and the nation continues to be plagued by such diseases as typhoid, tuberculosis, malaria, and whooping cough.
- Malnutrition is prevalent, particularly among children. Many children are refugees or orphans.