



PERU FESTIVAL CALENDAR

Festivity	Location	2017	2018
Año Nuevo (New Year)	Throughout Peru	Sunday, January 1	Monday, January 1
Bajada de Reyes (The Epiphany) commemorating the arrival of the Magi to confirm Jesus as son of God.	Ollantaytambo	Friday, January 6	Saturday, January 6
Carnaval (Carnival) is a popular celebration in Peru that happens in anticipation of the Catholic season of Lent. There are parades and parties in the streets, and one of the traditions involves water fights. Visitors during this time are forewarned that they may be soaked if caught in the midst of one of these parties and that the crowds can be chaotic.	Throughout Peru	February 25-28	February 10-13
Candelaria is a colorful dance festival celebrates the patron saint, the Virgin of Candelaria, of Puno, on the shores of Lake Titicaca.	Puno	Week of February 2	Week of February 2
Ash Wednesday Church going and special service in all Catholic Churches to mark the official start of Lent.	Throughout Peru	Wednesday, March 1	Wednesday, February 14
Semana Santa (Holy Week)	Throughout Peru, best in Ayacucho	Week of April 9	Week of March 25
Palm Sunday Processions in all villages and towns of Peru with decorated floats, leading up to Easter Sunday. In Ayacucho the festivities are especially elaborate.	Lima and Ayacucho	Sunday, April 9	Sunday, March 25
Señor de los Temblores (Lord of Earthquakes) is a major festival where Cusco's most venerated image of Christ is taken out in procession in the afternoon on Holy Monday. The entire city participates making it quite a spectacle to behold.	Cusco	Monday, April 10	Monday, March 26
Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper as described in the Bible. There are special services in Catholic Churches all over Peru, which remain open for longer hours.	Throughout Peru	Thursday, April 13	Thursday, March 29
Good Friday Major, although somber, processions in most villages and towns. The processions of Our lady of Dolours and the Holy Sepulcher are particularly important in the villages in the Colca Valley.	Throughout Peru, best in Colca Valley	Friday, April 14	Friday, March 30
Easter Sunday services are longer and more colorful than regular services.	Throughout Peru	Sunday, April 16	Sunday, April 1
Día del Trabajo (Labor Day)	Throughout Peru	Monday, May 1	Tuesday, May 1
Fiesta De Las Cruces (The Festival of the Cross) is a colorful celebration where decorated crosses are carried during processions. In Lima, the processions lead up to a cross on a hillside that overlooks the entire city. There are processions from the first of May until a few days later on a day called "Central" day.	Lima and provinces	Wednesday, May 3	Thursday, May 3
Pentecost is celebrated with four days of non-stop ethnic dances in Ollantaytambo in honor of their patron saint, Señor de Choquekillka.	Ollantaytambo	Sunday, June 4	Sunday, May 20
Qoyllur Riti is a world-renowned pilgrimage entailing a rigorous trek and 2 or 3 nights camping at high altitudes. It revolves around the worship of the "Apu" (mountain) and the Lord of Qoyllur R'iti.	Cusco	Sunday, June 11 to Wednesday, Jun 14	Sunday, May 27 to Wednesday, May 30
Corpus Christi is Cusco's most important religious festivity and is celebrated with fervor. A total of fourteen saints and Madonnas from each of Cusco's churches participate in this	Cusco and Lima	Thursday, June 15	Thursday, May 31

colorful procession. Members of each brotherhood (cofradia) prepare for a full year for the procession and money is raised to provide the most sumptuous attire for the saint or Madonna of their devotion. The result is a spectacular parade of bejeweled and bedecked statues, making their way from their "home" church to the Cathedral on litters carried by devotees. All of the saints and Madonnas are left on display overnight in the Cathedral and for a few days after Corpus and the doors to the temple remain open to all who want to come in and admire this magnificent sight.			
Inti Raymi is a reenactment of what contemporary scholars have interpreted must have been the Festival of the Sun in Inca times. It now takes place in the Inca site of Sacsayhuaman near Cusco. It stopped being performed in the eighteenth century and was re-established in the 1940's.	Cusco	Saturday, June 24	Sunday, June 24
Festividad de San Pedro y San Pablo	Throughout Peru	Thursday, June 29	Friday, June 29
Virgen del Carmen "Mamacha Carmen", as she is commonly known, defeats the demons who climb up on rooftops and balconies during her procession around the streets of Paucartambo. Non-stop masked dancing carries on for three full days. Crowded with locals and limeños alike, the festivity of the Virgen del Carmen can involve some heavy drinking and partying in Paucartambo, but it is an enjoyable experience and worth a stop, especially in Pisac where visitors can see a milder but equally colourful version of the Paucartambo processions and festivities.	Paucartambo, near Cusco and Pisac, Urubamba Valley	Sunday, July 16	Monday, July 16
Fiestas Patrias (Peruvian Independence Day)	Throughout Peru	Friday July 28, Saturday, July 29	Saturday, July 28, Sunday, July 29
Fiesta de Santa Rosa de Lima	Lima	Wednesday, August 30	Thursday, August 30
Virgen De La Almudena Y De Las Nieves is one of Cusco's most venerated and "richest" Madonnas, hence the importance of her procession. On the same day in the Sacred Valley, many villages such as Maras (Church of Tiobamba), Huayllabamba and Chinchero have the feast day of their Madonna.	Cusco and Chinchero	Friday, September 8	Saturday, September 8
Señor De Huanca is one of the Andes' most venerated Christ figures and the pilgrimage involves people coming from far and wide.	Cusco	Thursday, September 14	Friday, September 14
San Jeronimo is celebrated around this church in the vicinity of Cusco with dances and processions.	Cusco	Saturday, September 30	Sunday, September 30
Celebración de la Batalla de Angamos (Celebration of the Battle of Angamos)	Throughout Peru	Sunday, October 8	Monday, October 8
Señor de los Milagros (Lord of the Miracles)	Lima	October 18, 19, 28	October 18, 19, 28
Día de Todos los Santos (All Saints' Day)	Throughout Peru	Wednesday, November 1	Thursday, November 1
Fiesta de la Inmaculada Concepción (Immaculate Conception)	Throughout Peru	Friday, December 8	Saturday, December 8
Christmas Eve The market of Santuranticuy is a wonderful craft market in the main square of Cusco. The Plaza comes alive on the morning of Christmas Eve with artisans selling images for their nativity scenes.	Cusco	Sunday, December 24	Monday, December 24
Navidad (Christmas Day)	Throughout Peru	Monday, December 25	Tuesday, December 25