

A photograph of three dancers in traditional Peruvian festival costumes, likely from the Huayno or similar regional dances. They are wearing elaborate headpieces with colorful beads and feathers, and multi-layered tunics with intricate embroidery and fringe. The dancer in the center is wearing a red tunic with a large embroidered emblem. They are walking on a cobblestone street, and a crowd of spectators is visible in the background.

ARACARI
TRAVEL

PERU FESTIVAL
&
EVENTS CALENDAR

FESTIVITY OR EVENT

AÑO NUEVO (New Year) is, like in other countries, a midnight party with friends or family. Most businesses are closed.

Location: Throughout Peru

Date: Tuesday, January 1

BAJADA DE REYES (The Epiphany) commemorating the arrival of the Magi to confirm Jesus as son of God. The day is celebrated with a procession, native dances, costumes, food and fruit.

Location: Ollantaytambo

Date: Sunday, January 6

CANDELARIA is a colorful dance festival celebrates the patron saint, the Virgin of Candelaria, of Puno, on the shores of Lake Titicaca. It is one of the largest festivals in Peru each year.

Location: Puno

Date: February 2-11



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.

Location: Throughout Peru

Date: March 2-5

ASH WEDNESDAY marks the official start of Lent with church going and special service in all Catholic Churches.

Location: Throughout Peru

Date: Wednesday, March 6

SEMANA SANTA (Holy Week) is one of Peru's most important religious celebrations, with a week of reverent processions leading up to Easter Sunday.

Location: Throughout Peru, best in Ayacucho

Date: Week of April 14

PALM SUNDAY features processions in all villages and towns of Peru with decorated floats, leading up to Easter Sunday. In Ayacucho the festivities are especially elaborate.

Location: Lima and Ayacucho

Date: Sunday, April 14

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.

Location: Cusco

Date: Monday, April 22



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.

Location: Throughout Peru

Date: Thursday, April 18

GOOD FRIDAY is observed with major, although somber, processions in most villages and towns. The processions of Our lady of Dolours and the Holy Sepulcher are particularly important in villages in the Colca Valley.

Location: Throughout Peru, best in Colca Valley

Date: Friday, April 19

EASTER SUNDAY services are longer and more colorful than regular services

Location: Throughout Peru

Date: Sunday, April 21

DÍA DEL TRABAJO (Labor Day) is a national holiday honoring the worker. Most businesses are closed.

Location: Throughout Peru

Date: Wednesday, 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.

Location: Lima and provinces

Date: Friday, May 3

PENTECOST is celebrated with four days of non-stop ethnic dances in Ollantaytambo in honor of their patron saint, Señor de Choquekillka.

Location: Ollantaytambo

Date: Sunday, June 9

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.

Location: Cusco

Date: June 16 - 19

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 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.

Location: Cusco and Lima

Date: Thursday, June 20



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. The festival as it is celebrated now is a bit of a contrived experience in our view, but it is popular among visitors.

Location: Cusco

Date: Monday, June 24

FESTIVIDAD DE SAN PEDRO Y SAN PABLO (Feast of Saints Paul and Peter) is a religious holiday with processions. Most businesses are closed.

Location: Throughout Peru

Date: Saturday, June 29

VIRGEN DEL CARMEN or “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 colorful version of the Paucartambo processions and festivities.

Location: Paucartambo, near Cusco and Pisac, Urubamba Valley

Date: Tuesday, July 16

FIESTAS PATRIAS (Peruvian Independence Day) is celebrated with family, food, and lots of national spirit. Expect shops to be closed.

Location: Throughout Peru

Date: July 28 - 29

FIESTA DE SANTA ROSA DE LIMA is a religious holiday in Lima with processions, parades, and brass music. Most businesses are closed for the day.

Location: Lima

Date: Friday, 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.

Location: Cusco and Chinchero

Date: Monday, September 9

SEÑOR DE HUANCA is one of the Andes' most venerated Christ figures and the pilgrimage involves people coming from far and wide.

Location: Cusco

Date: Saturday, September 14

SAN JERONIMO is celebrated around this church in the vicinity of Cusco with dances and processions.

Location: Cusco

Date: Monday, September 30

CELEBRACIÓN DE LA BATALLA DE ANGAMOS (Celebration of the Battle of Angamos) is a national holiday and military and civil parades are held across Peru. Expect shops to be closed.

Location: Throughout Peru

Date: Tuesday, October 8

SEÑOR DE LOS MILAGROS (Lord of the Miracles) is a religious procession through the streets of Lima. Lots of purple decorations adorn the city, and street vendors are characteristic of the celebrations. Expect traffic.

Location: Lima

Date: October 18, 19, 28



DÍA DE LA CANCIÓN CRIOLLA (Day of the Creole Song) is a celebration of Afro-Peruvian culture filled with lively music, instruments, and dancing.

Location: Throughout Peru

Date: Thursday, October 31

DÍA DE TODOS LOS SANTOS (All Saints' Day)

Location: Throughout Peru

Date: Friday, November 1

THE HAY FESTIVAL is an illuminative gathering of thinkers from around the world. The sister festival in Arequipa, Peru gathers some of the intellectual minds of South America for lectures, readings, and workshops.

Location: Arequipa

Date: November 7-10

FIESTA DE LA INMACULADA CONCEPCIÓN (Immaculate Conception) is a national religious holiday in Peru. Expect shops to be closed.

Location: Throughout Peru

Date: Sunday, December 8

CHRISTMAS EVE in Peru is wonderful, especially at the craft market of Santuranticuy in the main square of Cusco. The Plaza comes alive on the morning of Christmas Eve with artisans selling images for their nativity scenes.

Location: Cusco

Date: Tuesday, December 24

NAVIDAD (Christmas Day) is celebrated in the company of family and most businesses are closed.

Location: Throughout Peru

Date: Wednesday, December 25