



# PERU FESTIVALS CALENDAR

Festivity	● Highlights ● National Holidays	Location	2015	2016
<b>Año Nuevo (New Year)</b>		Throughout Peru	Thursday, January 1	Friday, January 1
<b>Bajada de Reyes (The Epiphany)</b> commemorating the arrival of the Magi to confirm Jesus as son of God.		Ollantaytambo	Tuesday, January 6	Wednesday, January 6
<b>Carnaval (Carnival)</b> is a widely popular and widely known, week-long 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	Week of February 14	Week of February 6
<b>Candelaria</b> 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
<b>Ash Wednesday</b> – Church going and special service in all Catholic Churches to mark the official start of Lent.		Throughout Peru	Wednesday, February 18	Wednesday, February 10
<b>Semana Santa (Holy Week)</b>		Throughout Peru, best in Ayacucho	Sunday, March 29 to Sunday, April 5	Sunday, March 20 to Sunday, March 27
<b>Palm Sunday</b> – 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, March 29	Sunday, March 20
<b>Señor de los Temblores (Lord of Earthquakes)</b> 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. Well worth a visit.		Cusco	Monday, March 30	Monday, March 21
<b>Maundy Thursday</b> commemorates the Last Supper as described in the Bible. There are special services in Catholic Churches which remain open for longer hours.		Throughout Peru	Thursday, April 2	Thursday, March 24
<b>Good Friday</b> there are major, although somber, processions in most villages and towns. The processions of Our lady of Dolours and the Holy Sepulchre are particularly important in the villages in the Colca Valley.		Throughout Peru, best in Colca Valley	Friday, April 3	Friday, March 25
<b>Easter Sunday</b> services are longer and more colourful than regular services.		Throughout Peru	Sunday, April 5	Sunday, March 27
<b>Día del Trabajo (Labor Day)</b>		Throughout Peru	Friday, May 1	Sunday, May 1

<p><b>Fiesta De Las Cruces</b> (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.</p>	Lima and provinces	Saturday, May 2	Tuesday, May 3
<p><b>Pentecost</b> is celebrated with four days of non-stop ethnic dances in Ollantaytambo in honor of their patron saint, Señor de Choquekillka. Well worth a visit.</p>	Ollantaytambo	Sunday, May 24	Sunday, May 15
<p><b>Qoyllur Riti</b> 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.</p>	Cusco	Saturday, May 31 to Tuesday June 2	Tuesday, May 24
<p><b>Corpus Christi</b> 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.</p>	Cusco and Lima	Thursday, June 4	Thursday, May 26
<p><b>Inti Raymi</b> 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.</p>	Cusco	Wednesday, June 24	Thursday, June 24
<p><b>Festividad de San Pedro y San Pablo</b></p>	Throughout Peru	Monday, June 29	Wednesday, June 29
<p><b>Virgen del Carmen</b> “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.</p>	Paucartambo, near Cusco and Pisac, Urubamba Valley	Thursday, July 16	Saturday, July 16
<p><b>Fiestas Patrias</b> (Peruvian Independence Day)</p>	Throughout Peru	Tuesday, July 28 and Wednesday, July 29	Thursday, July 28 and Friday, July 29
<p><b>Fiesta de Santa Rosa de Lima</b></p>	Lima	Sunday, August 30	Tuesday, August 30
<p><b>Virgen De La Almudena Y De Las Nieves</b> – The Almudena is one of Cusco’s most venerated and “richest” Madonnas, hence the importance of her procession. On the same day in the Urubamba (Sacred) Valley, many villages such as Maras (Church of Tiobamba), Huayllabamba and Chinchero have the feast day of their Madonna.</p>	Cusco and Chinchero	Tuesday, September 8	Wednesday, September 14
<p><b>Señor De Huanca</b> is one of the Andes’ most venerated Christ figures and the pilgrimage involves people coming from far and wide.</p>	Cusco	Monday, September 14	Wednesday, September 14

<b>San Jeronimo</b> is celebrated around this church in the vicinity of Cusco with dances and processions.	Cusco	Wednesday, September 30	Friday, September 30
<b>Celebración de la Batalla de Angamos</b> (Celebration of the Battle of Angamos)	Throughout Peru	Thursday, October 8	Saturday, October 8
<b>Señor de los Milagros</b> (Lord of the Miracles)	Lima	October 18, 19, 28	October 18, 19, 28
<b>Día de Todos los Santos</b> (All Saints' Day)	Throughout Peru	Sunday, November 1	Tuesday, November 1
<b>Fiesta de la Inmaculada Concepción</b> (Immaculate Conception)	Throughout Peru	Tuesday, December 8	Thursday, December 8
<b>Christmas Eve</b> – The market of Santuranticuy is a wonderful crafts markets on the main square of Cusco. The Plaza comes alive on the morning of Christmas eve with artisans selling images for their nativity scenes.	Cusco	Thursday, December 24	Saturday, December 24
<b>Christmas Day</b>	Throughout Peru	Friday, December 25	Sunday, December 25

