

## Fun Coffee Facts About Peru and More!

Written by {ga=timothy-s-collins}

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By Timothy S. Collins

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Peru offers a great deal of diversity in terms of flora, wildlife, environment, climate, language, cultural traditions and much more! It is fun stopping to review some of the fun and interesting things about this country that is dominant in the Organic Coffee category and is working hard to promote greater coffee consumption among Peruvians.

Coffee is a very versatile beverage that offers the opportunity for sensory enjoyment and to learn about the world, the peoples and the cultures that cultivate the beans. Fun facts offer glimpses into the history and traditions of Peru that can become the reason to do greater research and gain more knowledge.

For example, let's take a look at some weather, geographic and historical facts.

- You can find 28 different climates in Peru.
- El Nino and La Nina are two phenomena that cause rising temperatures and erratic weather patterns in Peru.
- "Guano" is useful and beneficial excrement from millions of seabirds, sea lions and bats. It is used as farming fertilizer and it is a beneficial source of fungi and bacteria to protect plants from disease.
- Peruvians are among the lowest coffee consumers in South America consuming only about 250 grams of coffee per year per capita.
- The tradition of "technified shade coffee growing" uses the Inga, a tree in the bean family, planted to provide the shade that coffee needs.

Some facts about the Incas,

- Cajamarca, Peru, is where the Inca Empire came to an end with the Battle of Cajamarca when the Inca Emperor Atahualpa was captured by Francisco Pizarro and murdered.
- Peru has the world's largest flying bird, the Andean Condor and the next-to-smallest bee hummingbird, the Little Woodstar.
- Peru celebrates some 3,000 festivals a year. Most of them are held in homage to a patron saint and are part of the Christian calendar adopted in colonial times, although they have blended with the magical beliefs of ancient forms of worship.

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- Before the Incas, Peru was ruled by other civilizations such as the Chavin, Paracas, Nazca, Wari, Chimor and Chachapoyas.
- The landscape throughout Peru is terraced: this is not natural but entirely man-made by the Incas.
- At the time of the Spanish conquest the Inca Empire was the largest in the world.
- Machu Picchu was discovered in 1911 by Hiram Bingham, the famous American explorer.
- The Incans were not considered married unless they exchanged sandals.

Some facts about Peruvian foods,

- The most famous Peruvian dish is "Ceviche:" a seafood dish usually of White Sea Bass, cooked in lemon and served with hot peppers or chilies and onions.
- Peruvian hot peppers are probably Peru's most popular ingredient.
- The tomato, the avocado and the potato are all original Peruvian foods that have become worldwide staples.
- Peru's corn has the biggest kernels in the world.
- Four (4) out of ten (10) cereals are from Peru: quinoa, corn, canihua and kiwicha. The kiwicha is the cereal that the NASA astronauts take on their trips.

Some general facts,

- In some regions of Peru, tribal peoples have lived in almost complete isolation.
- Spanish and Quetchua (the main Inca language) are the two official languages of Peru.
- A type of weeping willow tree from Peru produces the base to make aspirin.
- The Peruvian root "Maca" is used to make Viagra and has been available for hundreds of years.
- The Spanish conquistador Francisco Pizarro conquered Peru and died in the country. His body is preserved in the main square in Lima to this day in a glass casket for public viewing at no charge.
- The Amazon River, which starts in Peru, has a total river flow of 3 million cubic feet per second which is greater than the next eight largest rivers in the world combined. It is also one of the two cleanest rivers in the world, the other one is the Congo River.
- The "zampona" is one of the most famous and known musical instruments of Peru. This wind instrument belongs to the pan-pipe family. It is made up of a series of cane tubes of varying sizes bound together, forming one or two rows. The size of the tube determines the musical note. The zampona comes in a wide range of variations, depending on the region, where the length, location and quantity of cane tubes vary. It is frequently played in nearly all the festivities in southern Peru, particularly in the department of Puno.

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So, what about a cup of delicious Peruvian Shade Grown Organic coffee?

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Article by Timothy S. Collins

Timothy ("Tim") S. Collins, the author, is called by those who know him "The Gourmet Coffee Guy." He is an expert in article writing who has done extensive research online and offline in his area of expertise, coffee marketing, as well as in other areas of personal and professional interest. Come visit the author's website: [www.ourgourmetcoffee.com](http://www.ourgourmetcoffee.com) .

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