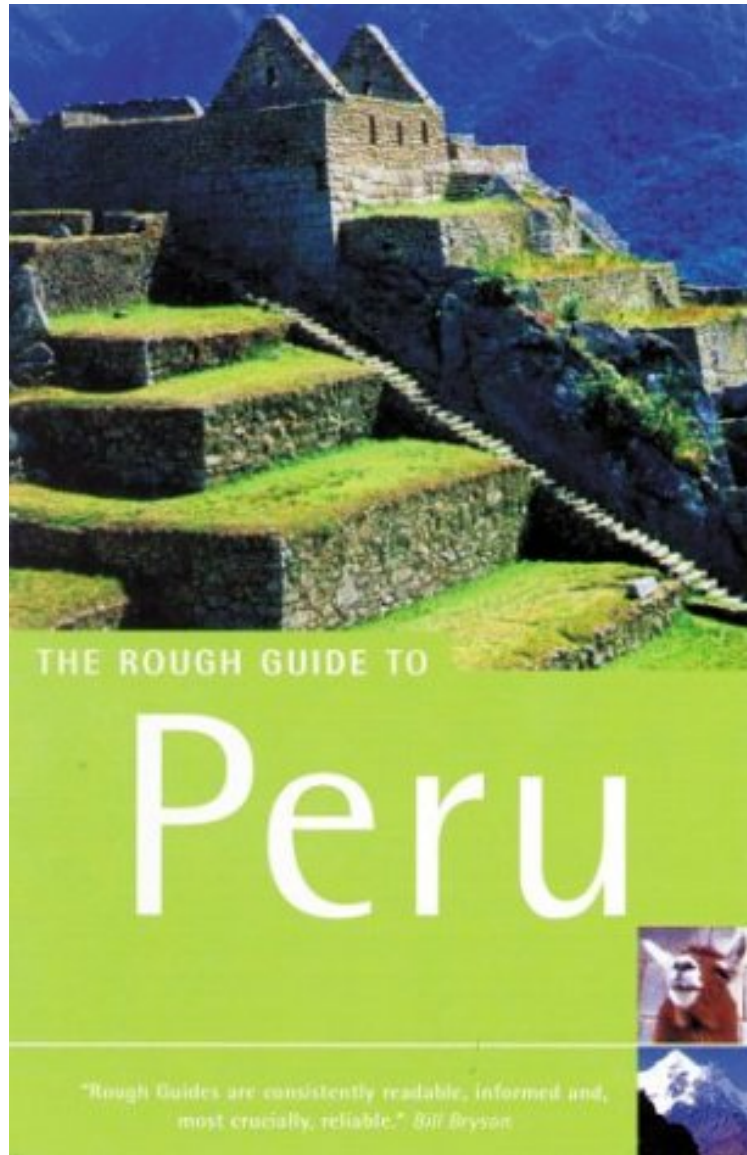


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ROUGH GUIDES : The Rough Guide to Peru 5 (Rough Guide Travel Guides) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Rough Guide to Peru 5 (Rough Guide Travel Guides):

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. I thought it was really good!By chpI'm surprised by the negative reviews of this book.While staying in a great hostel (that did happen to be recommended in this book)two of my

roommates traveling together begged me to let them keep my Rough Guide To Peru 6. They were carrying Lonely Planet. Also, while traveling with friends whom I had met carrying different Peru guides (LP included) I always was curious to read how various guides wrote-up a Peru site that I had visited already. With limited exceptions, I felt the Rough Guide to be superior. (I never ran across anyone with a Moon guide and I used them in Costa Rica and was very impressed). To address some of the negative reviews - I do agree that some things are out-of-date. For example in Arequipa a highly recommended vegetarian restaurant had closed down months earlier. But this happens, no guide book can be perfect; there's always a time lag. And about hostels - I heard anecdotes from LP toting travelers that they kept running into the same travelers city after city because they simply go to the hostels LP recommends. That's fine, but I'd start to feel like I'm on a package tour. Only as a last resort do I rely on guide book recommendations for accommodation. The internet, as we all know, is by far a better resource for this. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. editors need to review accuracy of recommendations By underwater girl Although some of the recommendations were excellent, other recommended restaurants or lodgings were closed or did not seem to exist. This was not a problem with the Lonely Planet or Moon guidebooks. I had the annoying experience of trying to go to eat at a place recommended by this guide book and then finding out it did not exist or was closed. I wish the editors spent more time verifying that their recommended places were still open and in the same locations on the publication date. The maps and side information were decent. I would definitely go with the Peru guidebooks from Lonely Planet, Moon, or Let's Go over this guide. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Looks good on the surface... By Aaires This guide seems more complete than the newest edition of Lonely Planet Peru by my comparison. But I haven't had the opportunity to use it in the 'field'. Until then, I will estimate it as 4 stars. Of course, this an interim evaluation until I actually get to use it in Peru - bearing in mind that wrong information is worst than useless.

The Rough Guide to Peru is the ultimate guide to one of the most thrilling countries in South America. It includes comprehensive coverage of Peru's great sights from the soaring Inca citadel of Machu Picchu to the high altitude Central Railway. There are incisive reviews of all the best places to stay, eat and drink, plus the lowdown on some of the liveliest nightlife in the Americas. Throughout the guide practical advice is given on a range of activities, including rafting and trekking in the Amazon jungle.

"Rough Guides are consistently readable, informed and, most crucially, reliable" - Bill Bryson
About the Author Dilwyn Jenkins has been visiting Peru most years since his first trip in 1976. During his time living in South America, he has worked as a journalist, teacher, film-maker, tour leader, fundraiser and rainforest development consultant. He now lives with his family on a smallholding in Wales. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.
WHERE TO GO With each region offering so many different attractions, it's hard to generalize about the places you should visit first: the specific attractions of each part of Peru are discussed in greater detail in the chapter highlights and introductions. Apart from the hot and largely unattractive capital, Lima, where you are most likely to arrive, Cusco is perhaps the most obvious place to start. It's a beautiful and bustling colonial city, the ancient heart of the Inca Empire, surrounded by some of the most spectacular mountain landscapes and palatial ruins in Peru, and by magnificent hiking country. A particularly tough but rewarding journey is the trek along the long and winding Inca Trail, which culminates at the high, fog-shrouded Inca citadel of Machu Picchu. Yet along the coast, too, there are fascinating archeological sites the bizarre Nazca Lines south of Lima, the great adobe city of Chan Chan in the north and a rich crop of sea life, most accessible around the Paracas National Park. Almost all of the coastal towns come replete with superb beaches, plentiful nightlife and great food. If all that sounds too exhausting, one can always duck away to spend a day lazily sipping wine at the many Ica Valley bodegas. For mountains and long-distance treks there are the stunning glacial lakes, snowy peaks and little-known ruins of the sierra north of Lima, above all around Huaraz and Cajamarca. If its wildlife you're interested in, there's plenty to see almost everywhere. But the jungle provides startling opportunities for close and exotic encounters. From the comfort of tourist lodges in Iquitos to exciting river excursions around Puerto Maldonado, the fauna and flora of the world's largest tropical forest can be experienced first-hand perhaps more easily than in any other -rim country. Not too far from Iquitos there's the Pacaya Samiria National Reserve, a remote and stunningly beautiful region which is one of the least-visited parts of the Peruvian rainforest; in the South there's the newly created Tambopata-Candamo Reserved Zone which incorporates around 600,000 hectares of the upper Tambopata plus Candamo river and tributaries, containing some of the most exciting jungle and richest flora and fauna in the world.
WHEN TO GO Picking the best time to visit Peru's various regions is complicated by the country's physical characteristics. Summer along the desert coast more or less fits the expected image of the southern hemisphere extremely hot and sunny between December and March (especially in the north), cooler and with a frequent hazy mist between April and November although only in the polluted environs of Lima does the coastal winter ever get cold enough to necessitate a sweater. Swimming is possible all year round, though the water itself (thanks to the Humboldt Current) is cool-to-cold at the best of times. To swim or surf for any length of time you'd need to follow local custom and wear a wet suit. Apart from the occasional shower over Lima it hardly ever rains in the desert. The freak exception, every ten years or so, is when the shift in ocean currents of El Niño causes torrential

downpours, devastating crops, roads and communities all down the coast. It last broke in 1983. In the Andes, the seasons are more clearly marked, with heavy rains from December to March and a warm, relatively dry period from June to September. Inevitably, though, there are always some sunny weeks in the rainy season and wet ones in the dry. A similar pattern dominates the jungle, though rainfall here is heavier and more frequent, and its hot and humid all year round. Ideally, then, the coast should be visited around January while its hot, and the mountains and jungle are at their best after the rains, from May until September. Since this is unlikely to be possible on a single trip theres little point in worrying about it the countrys attractions are invariably enough to override the need for guarantees of good weather.