

# Planning your travel to / in Peru

## Pre-reservations and pre-payments

We would recommend not making (too many) pre-reservations (and prepayments), e.g. for your Colca Canyon Tour, your visit to Puno/Lake Titicaca and to the Cuzco region (incl. Machu Picchu and the Sacred Valley). You can make the corresponding reservations for accommodations, transport, tours, trekking etc. on the spot, i.e. when you are here in Arequipa, and later in Puno, Cuzco, etc. – Why is this more recommendable?

1.

Most likely you will find, once here in Peru, less expensive options, and we can also provide pertinent advice.

2.

Our experience says that travellers of all age groups and origins, once in Peru, tend to change their plans or would like to do so, i.e. changing the route/itinerary, or staying more time in one place and less in another. But having booked and prepaid services (accommodations, tours, flights, bus transports, car rentals) from home, it would be a difficult undertaking to cancel or change something and get a refund for something already paid. One of the exceptions in this respect is Lula's B&B: no pre-payment is required, and you can change, in principle, your arrival and/or departure dates, also at short notice. – *Important:* Should you plan to attend an event that normally attracts thousands of visitors (for example the Inti Raymi celebration in Cuzco/Sacsayhuamán, every year between 21 and 24 June), or to visit Machu Picchu with or without Inca Trail (in particular during high season, i.e. July/August) then we recommend to make reservations (accommodations, tours, flights, bus transports, car rentals, etc.) well in advance. – The same applies to the "Semana Santa" (Easter week), in particular Holy/Maundy Thursday to Easter Monday.

## From Lima to Arequipa by plane

There are four airlines operating scheduled flights between Lima and Arequipa (flying time: one hour and twenty minutes): LAN, TACA, Peruvian Airlines, and Star Peru. LAN is the largest and most reliable Peruvian airline (and also the most expensive one) and offers up to nine flights per day between Lima and Arequipa. – Air France, IBERIA or KLM passengers, arriving from Europe not later than approximately two and a half hours prior to the departures of the last flights to Arequipa (which leave between 19:00 h and 20:00 h), can thus continue their journey to Arequipa on the same day.

## From Lima to Arequipa by bus

We recommend the bus company Cruz del Sur [[www.cruzdelsur.com.pe](http://www.cruzdelsur.com.pe)]. There is one day-time connection (departing Lima at 06:30 h, travel time between 15 and 17 hours). There are six afternoon/evening departures from 14:30 h to 21:00 h (travel time between 15 and 16 hours), arriving in Arequipa on the following day. – Fares: between USD 22.00 and USD 52.00, to be paid in Soles. – If you interrupt your bus journey in Parácas/Ica or Nazca, the staff of your hotel/hostel can advise you how to continue your journey to Arequipa.

## Colca Canyon Tour and then to Puno

Do not book your Colca Tour in advance; do it when you are here in Arequipa. On the last day of your Colca Canyon Tour, you do not have to return to Arequipa (of course you can, if you wish so) - you can travel directly to Puno [[www.4m-express.com](http://www.4m-express.com)]. There is a daily bus connection from Chivay (dep. 13:30 h) to Puno (arr. 19:30 h). The Puno arrival time allows you to still make pertinent arrangements for the coming day (Lake Titicaca excursion), since the agencies/tour operators are open until about 21:00 h/21:30 h.

## **From Puno to Cuzco (or vice versa)**

A good alternative to the (fairly expensive) train [[www.perurail.com/en](http://www.perurail.com/en)] and to overcrowded public buses is the “Inka Express” [[www.inkaexpress.com.pe](http://www.inkaexpress.com.pe)].

**We do our utmost to provide correct information. However, no responsibility is accepted for the accuracy of this information, and all legal claims will be denied.**

Lula's B&B  
Arequipa - Peru  
31 October 2011