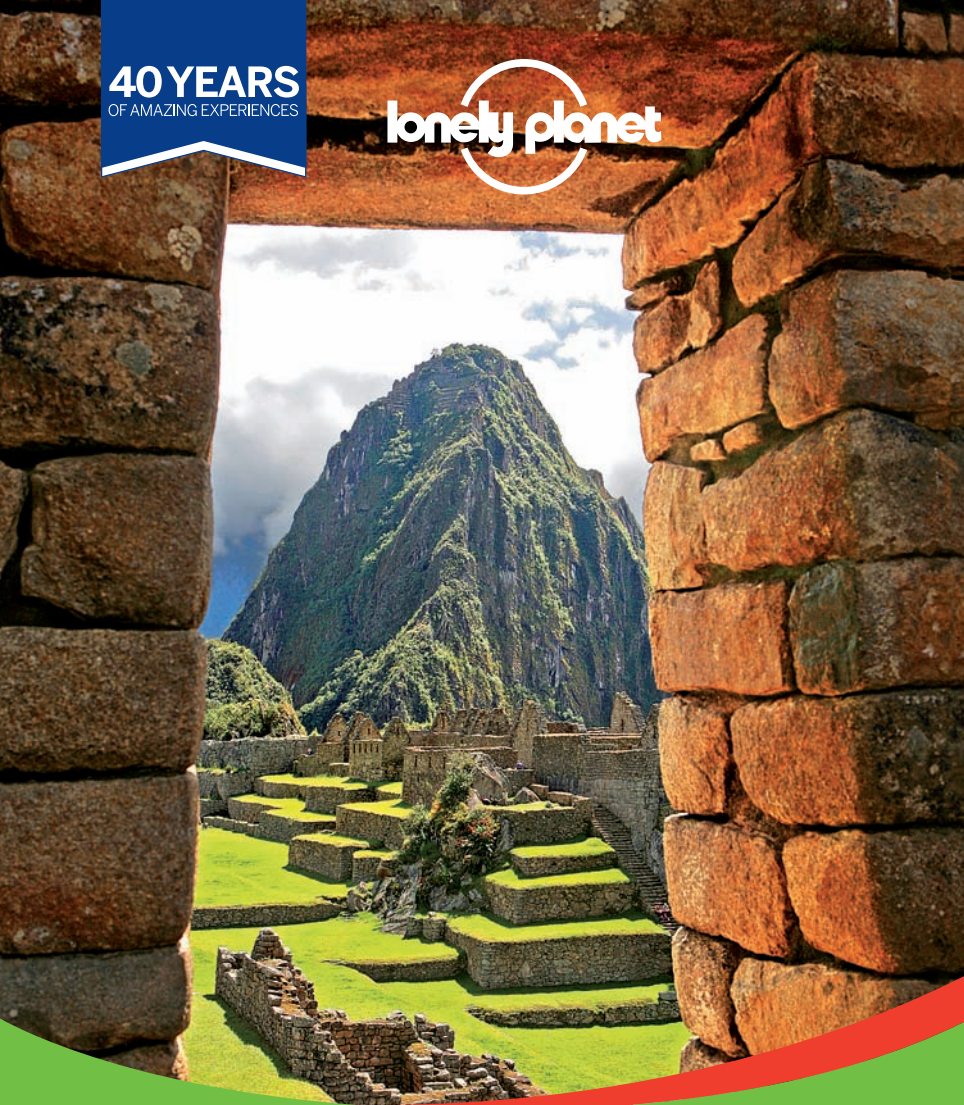


**40 YEARS**

OF AMAZING EXPERIENCES



# Discover Peru

Experience the best of Peru

# Discover Peru

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Throughout this book, we use these icons to highlight special recommendations:



## The Best...

Lists for everything from bars to wildlife – to make sure you don't miss out



## Don't Miss

A must-see – don't go home until you've been there

### Local Knowledge

Local experts reveal their top picks and secret highlights



## Detour

Special places a little off the beaten track



## If you like...

Lesser-known alternatives to world-famous attractions

These icons help you quickly identify reviews in the text and on the map:



Sights



Eating



Drinking



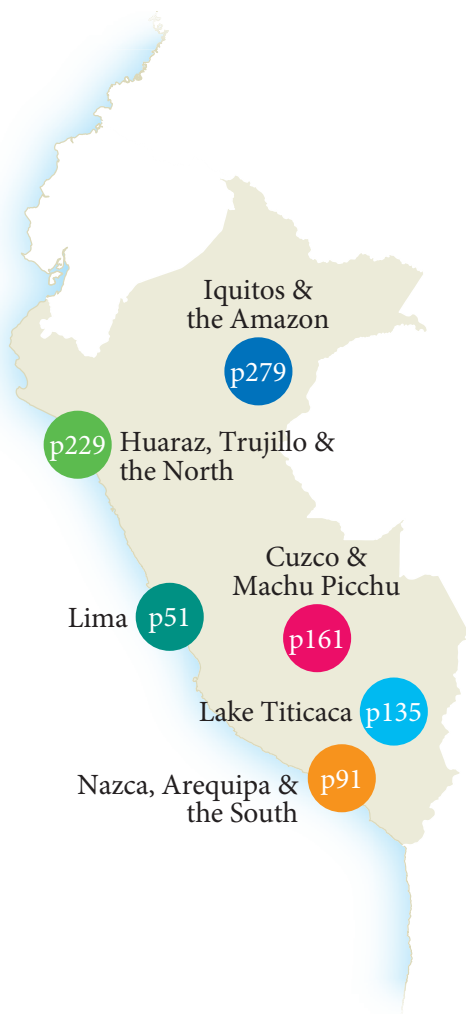
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Information

This edition written and researched by

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# This Is Peru

Luminous archaeological sites? Check. Lush rainforest? Check. An arid coast lapped by a highly surfable Pacific swell? Check. Peru, it seems, has it all.

**Every cranny of the Andes offers a unique glimpse into singular cultures.**

Not to mention incredible foods and enough natural wonders to keep a *National Geographic* photographer employed for decades. On the coast, adobe pyramids and ancient temples sit quietly amid shifting desert sands and bulging seaside cities. Here, the culture is boisterous – infused with African soulfulness, indigenous know-how and the feistiness of the Spanish. The people are effusive and the music is bound to get your hips shaking.

**To the east lie the Andes.** This mountain range has served as the heart of countless empires. Its sights are staggering: mountains that seem to erupt from the earth into the heavens, plunging gorges, icy pinnacles and steamy cloud forest. Plus, of course, the masterful ruins of a civilization that could be put on par with ancient Rome in terms of size and infrastructure: the Incas. This is a place of chilly windswept plains and coffee-colored soil, where Catholic ritual veils indigenous belief, where the culture is stoic and the music is laced with pre-Columbian instrumentation. In comparison to the coast, it might as well be another planet.

**Lastly, there is the Amazon – the earth's most fabled rainforest.** It is in this tangled jungle that Peru fuses with the lowland cultures of so many other South American countries. This sprawling lowland area is home to companies of cackling macaws and playful pink river dolphins, as well as remote ethnicities that maintain a deep knowledge of the forest. Scattered about are old rubber boomtowns, where a previous century's entrepreneurs left behind town squares dotted with tropical architecture.

**All of this, combined, comes together to make up Peru.** It is a wondrous, surreal mix of peoples, cultures, geographies, languages and food. Enjoy the trip. It's going to be an adventure.

---

Playing a traditional bamboo flute

PHOTOGRAPHER: RALPH LEE HOPKINS/GETTY IMAGES ©

“  
plunging  
gorges, icy  
pinnacles  
and steamy  
cloud  
forest  
”



