

APURIMAC

GENERAL DATA

Location: The department of Apurimac is located in the southeast of Peru. .

Area: 20 895 Km²

Capital: Abancay

Altitude: 2 378 m.a.s.l.

Average annual temperature: 18° C (25° C maximum, 12° C minimum). Rainy Season: November to March.

ACCESS ROUTES

By land: The most advisable route is Lima-Nasca-Abancay (897 km), about 17 h by car.

An alternative route is Lima-Huancayo-Ayacucho-Andahuaylas-Abancay (905 km) via Los Libertadores, about 22 h by car.

By air: Lima-Cusco (1 h flight) then by road on the Cusco-Abancay highway, about 6 h by car.

HISTORICAL OVERLOOK

In etymological terms, Apurimac means Talking God (In Quechua, Apu = God, rímac = To Talk).

Abancay, capital of the department of Apurimac is situated in the Mariño river valley at the foot of the snowcapped mountain Ampay, eternal guardian of the city. This inter-Andean valley enjoys a pleasant climate, which is why Abancay is referred to as The City of Eternal Spring. This was the home town of many historical figures, including Doña Micaela Bastidas. According to chroniclers and historians, Abancay was founded in 1 574 by foreign visitor Ruiz de Estrada, under the name Santiago de Abancay. Seventy-one years later, the Dominican Domingo de Lartaun designed the first plan of the city and dedicated it to Our Lady of the Rosary, building a temple in her honor, now the main church in Abancay, situated at the front of the Main Square.

OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY OF ABANCAY

Ampay National Sanctuary

Located 6 km north of Abancay. Access is by car as far as Arocopunco, then down a dirt road to the Sahuanay reservoir, descending in the midst of the forest to the Ampay foothills (Camping is allowed).

Comprised of natural forests, lakes and snow-capped mountains, it is an excellent area for Ecological and Adventure Tourism. Predominant among the diversity of trees is the Intimpa (*Podocarpus olifolius*), the only coniferous species of its kind in the country, currently in the process of extinction.



Yawar Fiesta, Apurímac
Luis Pílares / PromPerú

Apurímac River Canyon

90 km northwest of Abancay, about 2 h by car.

Considered to be one of the deepest and most beautiful canyons in the world, with enormous rock walls, it has become a favorite spot for trekking and white water rafting.

Cconoc Thermal-medicinal Baths

Located in the Curahuasi district, 135 km from Abancay along the Abancay-Cuzco highway, about 3 h by car. 7 km from the Curahuasi district (about 45 minutes). These thermal baths, located on the left bank of the Apurimac river at 1 970 m.a.s.l., are very popular due to their medicinal properties. Lodging and restaurant facilities available.

Saywite Archaeological Complex

47 km from the city of Abancay (about 1 h by car) in the Conchaca community, Curahuasi district. The Saywite Monolith is one of the best examples of Inca sculptures.

Choquequirao Archaeological Complex

Geographically located in Vilcabamba, department of Cuzco. Thanks to the construction of a footbridge over the Apurimac river, the most direct access is through the Cachora district, department of Apurimac, 93 km from Abancay. The journey from Cachora to Choquequirao is on foot, a distance of 30 km, (an average of 15 h). Choquequirao is referred to locally as the other Machu Picchu.

OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST

Kilkata thermal baths, the Pachachaca colonial bridge, Pincahuacho thermal baths, Lakes Occocho and Lliullita, among others

GASTRONOMY

Typical dishes:

- Rocoto relleno (Bell pepper stuffed with chopped meat, cheese, milk and potatoes).
- Kapchi (Broad bean or mushroom stew or soup, with potatoes, milk, eggs and cheese).
- Uchullachua Potatoes (boiled potatoes with a hot chili and *huacataysauce*).
- Trigo atamalado (Stewed wheat with shrimps, cheese, boiled egg, potatoes and olives).
- Huatia (different types of meat and potatoes cooked with aromatic herbs on hot stones)
- *Cuy relleno* (Guinea pig stuffed with chopped meat, herbs and nuts).

FESTIVITIES

Yawar Fiesta (July)

In Ccoyllurqui (province of Cotabambas) the national holiday celebrations begin with a type of bullfight that has become a ritual. The fight is between a bull and a condor, representing the Spanish and Andean people. Once the condor kills the bull, thus ending the ritual, dancers parade the streets all night carrying torches, and there are firework displays.

Abancay and Apurimac Carnival (April)

The population organizes and participates in various programmed activities, particularly the so-called Corte de la Yunza, to the tune of the local band and music, dressed in their brightly colored typical costumes. Carnival celebrations are similar in all province capitals, where the ceremonies are in honor of Mother Earth (Pachamama) and the animals, with much singing and dancing. The Rica-pallana or flower picking carnival is outstanding.

SERVICES

Airport

Andahuaylas

17 km from the town of Andahuaylas.

Land Transport

Abancay

Inter-provincial bus terminal

Av. Arenas 200.

Phone: (064) 32-1288.

Andahuaylas

Inter.-provincial bus stop

Av. Lázaro Carrillo block 1.

Health Centers

Abancay

Guillermo Días de la Vega Regional Hospital

Av. Daniel A. Carrión s/n

Phone: (064) 32-1117.

24 hour service

Andahuaylas

Auxiliary Hospital

Av. Hugo Pesce 180.

Phone: (064) 72-1706.

24 hour service.

Police Stations

Abancay

National Police Force Headquarters

Jr. Lima s/n.

24 hour service.

Abancay Police Station

Jr. Puno 209.

Phone: (064) 32-1222.

24 hour service.

Andahuaylas

Police Station

Av. Perú s/n.

Phone: (064) 72-1185.

24 hour service.

Handicrafts Markets

Abancay

Jr. Arequipa s/n, wholesale marketplace.

Post Office

Abancay

Jr. Arequipa 213.

Phone: (084) 32-1088.

Open: Monday-Friday 8:00-20:00, Sunday 8:00-15:00.

Andahuaylas
Av. Perú 243.
Phone: (084) 72-1062 / 72-1120.
Open: Monday to Saturday 8:00-20:00, Sunday 8:00-15:00.

INFORMATION

Regional Tourism and Industry Office

Av. Arenas 121 (1er. Piso CEO Abancay).
Phone/fax: (084) 32-1664.

PromPerú

Tourism Information Service

Phone/fax: (511) 224-9355.
Open: Monday to Friday 9:00-17:30.
Phone: (511) 574-8000.
24 hour service
E-mail: iperu@promperu.gob.pe
<http://www.peru.org.pe>

PromPerú / Indecopi

Tourist Protection Bureau

Pone/fax: (511) 574-8000.
24 hour service
Phone: 0-800-42579 (free call from the provinces).
Open: Monday to Friday 8:30-16:30.
E-mail: tour@indecopi.gob.pe

WEBSITES

<http://touristik.freepage.de/peru-apurimac/index.html>⁽¹⁾
<http://www.allperu.com/PERU1F0.htm>⁽¹⁾

(1) Private and/or foreign web page