

## TACNA, PERU

### CASA FRED GREEN

JV Presence in Peru since 1996

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## Overview

Peru's rich heritage and varied scenery includes the ancient Incan capital of Cuzco, the lost city of Machu Picchu, the arid Atacama Desert, and the world's highest navigable lake, Lake Titicaca.

Rich in copper, silver, lead, zinc, oil, and gold, mining companies have both divided Peru and exploited its natural resources. In addition, corruption and the failure of governments dealing with social and economic inequality have impeded Peru's progress.

In its recent past, Peru has alternated between democracy and military dictatorship. This contributes to its divisive politics and unequal economics. A small elite of Spanish descent controls most of the wealth and political power. Meanwhile, indigenous Peruvians remain largely excluded from power and make up many of the millions who still live in poverty.

Because of these problems, foreign investors have often given Peru a wide berth. In addition, a preoccupation with political power affected the economic and structural circumstances, which has then led to Peru's guerrilla insurgencies.

Peru endured a brutal war against Maoist rebels, *El Sendero Luminoso*, which killed 69,000 people in the 1980s and 1990s. Investigators have blamed the rebels for many of the killings, but the military has also been implicated. Despite the near destruction of *El Sendero Luminoso* and Tupac Amaru guerrilla groups, violence - in the form of murders and gang warfare - is still a problem and has been linked to the worldwide drug trade. For example, Peru is one of South America's biggest producers of coca - the raw material for cocaine.

Peru is, as of 2011, one of the world's fastest-growing economies. It subsequently has a high Human Development Index of .74. However, over 30% of its total population still lives in poverty.

The Coast, the Sierra, and the Jungle separate Peru into three parts. And within these three areas, Peru is divided into 25 regions. With 25 regions, there is so much mixture of cultural traditions through different expressions of art, dance, food, and music.

All country specific information from: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/country\\_profiles/1224656.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/country_profiles/1224656.stm)  
<http://www.international.gc.ca/cfsi-icse/cil-cai/magazine/v07n02/3-2-eng.asp>  
<http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/stories/peru404/links.html>  
<http://newint.org/columns/country/2012/12/01/country-profile-peru/#details>

### **History of Service in this Country**

**Past:** The Jesuits historically have had an enormous presence in Peru and have established some of the best educational institutions in the country serving a broad range of constituencies but with a commitment for the most impoverished and marginalized. Jesuit Volunteers have been serving in Peru since the 1980s through the invitation of Father Fred Green from the California Province, who through his relationship with Boston College and JVC began receiving volunteers to serve in Tacna, Peru. In 2010, JVC opened another JV community in Andahuaylillas (or "Anda"), about 45 minutes from Cuzco, through an invitation by the Provincial of Peru who had designated this region as demonstrating the greatest need for JVs and the Jesuit community.

**Present Communities:** Currently, JVC has a total of 8 JVs in Peru, who live in 2 JV communities in Tacna (4) and Andahuaylillas (4). We will have a community of 4 in Tacna and 4 in Andahuaylillas by sending 2 new JVs to each site at the end of 2019.

### **Tacna**

**Casa Fred Green:** With deep roots and stories, Tacna is one of the oldest JV sites. The Jesuit relationship with Casa Fred Green and the larger Tacna community remains strong through its presence with the volunteers and various social service centers and schools. Jesuits and JVs work with the whole range of Tacneñ@s, from the working to the wealthy classes. The dynamics of the region itself have changed greatly since JVs first arrived. In the center of the city, need is certainly present but not as apparent as in the past. Elsewhere in Tacna, new communities of in-country migrants develop rapidly but frequently lack basic services and resources. Tacna is a border town, meaning it acts as a stopping for many Colombian and Venezuelan immigrants trying to get to Chile. Tacna owes much of its economic development to Chileans who enjoy shopping in Tacna with the lower Peruvian exchange rate. These dynamics create varied nuances, some are explicitly seen, others are only uncovered by paying attention to the "unseen" or the silences of those often made "invisible" in this context.

### **JVC Partner Agencies**

Colegio Cristo Rey

Colegio Miguel Pro

Fe y Alegria N° 40 – San Jose

Centro Cristo Rey

Centro Loyola

### **Country Specific Resources**

#### **Websites:**

- General Resources on current events in Peru: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/peru>
- Trade Agreement and role of civil society against its given impact on most impoverished and marginalized. <http://www.nonegociable.pe/>
- Scene from Peru pictures during the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the scientific discovery of the citadel of Machu Picchu. <http://www.theatlantic.com/infocus/2011/09/scenes-from-peru/100149/>

- Peruvian Protesters face Police Brutality: <http://newint.org/blog/2013/01/25/police-powers-protesters/> (This is also a good alternative news source that is worth exploring around Latin America)
- *Intercambio* is a magazine published by the Jesuits in Peru that discusses social, political, and other topics in Peru. Find all editions here (in Spanish): <http://www.socialsjperu.org/>

#### **Books:**

##### **Radio Ciudad Perdida/ Lost City Radio (2007), Daniel Alarcón.**

*His novel "Lost City Radio" is a fictionalized account of a Peruvian phenomenon in which families of the disappeared send messages to their missing loved ones over the airwaves.*

##### **Adios to Tears: The Memoirs of a Japanese-Peruvian Internee in U.S. Concentration Camps (2000), Seiichi Higashide.**

*A memoir of Seiichi Higashide a leader in the effort to obtain redress from the American government for the violation of the human rights of the Peruvian Japanese internees during World War II. His moving memoir tells the story of a bizarre and little-known episode in the history of World War II when he and other Latin American Japanese were seized by police and forcibly deported to the U.S.*

##### **Food, Power, and Resistance in the Andes: Exploring Quechua Verbal and Visual Narratives (2010), Alison Krögel**

*Food, Power, and Resistance in the Andes is a dynamic, interdisciplinary study of how food's symbolic and pragmatic meanings influence access to power and the possibility of resistance in the Andes. In the Andes, cooking often provides Quechua women with a discursive space for achieving economic self-reliance, creative expression, and for maintaining socio-cultural identities and practices.*

##### **Bound Lives: Africans, Indians, and the Making of Race in Colonial Peru (2012), Rachel Sarah O'Toole.**

*Bound Lives chronicles the lived experience of race relations in northern coastal Peru during the colonial era. Rachel Sarah O'Toole examines the construction of a *casta* (caste) system under the Spanish government, and how this system was negotiated and employed by Andeans and Africans.*

##### **Religion and Revolution in Peru 1823-1976 (1977) & La Iglesia en el Peru (1992), Jeffery Klaiber, SJ.**

*The author is a well respected expert of Peruvian culture and history. He has taught at Peru's major university, El Pacifico, and Georgetown University*

##### **Volunteering With the Poor in Peru (1991), Jeff Thielman, Raymond A. Schrot, SJ.**

*The story of a Jesuit Volunteer encountering the realities of Tacna, Peru in the 1980s, gives good historical context.*

##### **Corrupt Circles: A History of Unbound Graft in Peru (2008), Alfonso W. Quiroz**

*A history of Peruvian corruption that dates back to the country's colonial period. Discusses how corruption has been deeply embedded in Peru's state institutions and has damaged the country's prospects, and offers a comprehensive estimate of the costs of corruption to Peru's development.*

##### **In the Company of the Poor (2013), Dr. Paul Farmer, Fr. Gustavo Gutierrez**

*This book reflects intersection between the lives, commitments, and strategies of two highly respected figures Dr. Paul Farmer and Fr. Gustavo Gutierrez (a Dominican priest from Peru) joined in their option for the poor, their defense of life, and their commitment to liberation. Farmer has credited liberation theology as the inspiration for his effort to do social justice medicine, while Gutierrez has recognized Farmer's work as particularly compelling example of the option for the poor, and the impact that*

*theology can have outside the church. Draws on their respective writings, major addresses by both at Notre Dame, and a transcript of a dialogue between them*  
Turn Right at Macchu Picchu (2012), Mark Adams  
*Rediscover the tale of the Incas, part adventure part history.*

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