The U.S. Department of State rates Peru “critical” for crime due in part to the country having one of the highest reported crime rates in Latin America. Crime is a constant problem in Lima and most other parts of Peru. Street crime is prevalent in most urban areas, especially in Lima. Residential burglaries, mostly of single-family homes, occur on a regular basis. Residential burglaries are most common during the day, on weekends, or holidays when houses are left vacant. Thieves often gain entry by exploiting unsecured entryways, tricking domestic employees, or forcing access to perimeter doors when the home is vacant (or appears vacant). Pickpocketing, purse snatching, “smash and grab” robberies, the theft of items from unoccupied vehicles, and the theft of vehicle parts (mirrors, lights, etc.) are common crimes. Electronics (especially cameras, laptops, GPSs, smart phones, I-Pods, etc.) rank high on the list of items that criminals target. Armed robberies, assaults, express kidnappings, carjackings, burglaries, and petty theft are a daily fact of life throughout the country.

Violent crime, especially crimes of opportunity such as robbery, carjacking, vehicle thefts, and kidnapping, has been on the increase over the last few years. While gratuitous violence committed against foreigners is infrequent, according to Peruvian National Police (PNP) statistics, assaults and robberies involving violence have been on the rise over the last five years. Peru’s murder rate is also climbing with a total of 1,421 murders committed in 2012, approximately 200 more than 2011.

All U.S. and foreign visitors are vulnerable to crime, as they are often perceived to be wealthier than the local populace and more likely to be carrying greater amounts of cash and other valuables. While U.S. Embassy personnel and foreign residents normally reside in
affluent areas where private security and local police are more effective, they can still find themselves victims of crime.

**Overall Road Safety Situation**

*Road Safety and Road Conditions*

Vehicle theft (including carjacking) and theft of parts from parked vehicles occur frequently throughout the country. Sport utility vehicles and sedans with expensive upgrades are the most common types of vehicles targeted by carjackers.

In addition, numerous Americans have reported the theft of passports, cameras, and other valuables on overnight bus rides by thieves taking advantage of sleeping passengers or accessing their stowed luggage in the cargo area during scheduled stops for passengers to disembark or enter the bus.

Traveling outside of Lima by road at night is considered hazardous due to potential domestic terrorist and/or criminal activity. The U.S. Embassy prohibits night time travel via road outside the greater Lima area and other cities for U.S. government personnel and contractors due to poor highway safety and the threat of criminals.

Peru has one of the highest road fatality rates in Latin America. Information on road conditions and road safety can be found on Peru’s Consular Information Sheet at [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_998.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_998.html). Crime occurs on roads, particularly at night and outside urban areas. Clandestine, impromptu roadblocks can appear on even major highways, where bus and automobile passengers are robbed. The risk is even greater on rural roads after dark.

**Political, Economic, Religious and Ethnic Violence**

*Local, Regional, and International Terrorism Threats/Concerns*

The government has made strides in its fight against domestic terrorism, but the threat of attacks in certain parts of the country still exists. The Embassy’s Regional Security Office (RSO) advises visitors to take every precaution to avoid traveling to these particular areas whenever possible. Embassy personnel must abide by the Embassy’s Restricted Travel Policy.
The government continues its campaign to eliminate violent terrorist groups. Documented terrorist activities in Peru increased from 74 in 2011 to 86 in 2012.

In 2012, the government arrested members of Sendero Luminoso (SL or Shining Path), Peru’s largest and most active domestic terrorist group, which is now entwined with narcotics trafficking. Most significant was the arrest of Comrade Artemio, SL leader for the Upper Huallaga Valley, that occurred in February 2012. This arrest was the culmination of a drastic reduction in SL activity in the Upper Huallaga; however, there was an increase in activity in Apurímac & Ene River Valleys (VRAE). These interior areas are known as primary sites for substantial narcotics production and trafficking. A total of 13 Peruvian soldiers and five police officers were killed during counter-terrorism operations conducted in the VRAE and another 30 wounded.

There were no significant terrorist attacks in any major city or tourist destination in 2012. However, in April 2012 in the Department of Cusco, the Shining Path took 36 gas mining workers hostage for six days in Camisea, approximately one day’s travel from Cusco city. While the hostages were eventually released, the government’s attempt at a rescue resulted in the death of a number of police and military personnel, including the female co-pilot of a helicopter that was shot down by SL while conducting a search for the hostages.

The last noteworthy SL terrorist attack in Lima occurred in March 2002, when a car bomb detonated in the parking lot of a shopping mall across the street from the U.S. Embassy in the Monterrico district of the city.

The terrorist group Movimiento Revolucionario Tupac Amaru (MRTA) is not presently considered a militarily viable terrorist organization. Its last major action resulted in the 1997 Japanese Embassy hostage crisis in which 14 MRTA members occupied the Japanese Ambassador’s residence in Lima, holding 72 hostages for more than four months. Following this hostage-taking, the majority of their leadership was killed, and no major activity has been reported since.

Notably, members of Colombia’s largest terrorist group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), have reportedly crossed the remote border area along the Putumayo River into Peru. However, there is no information that suggests or indicates that the FARC are conducting terrorist activities or otherwise pose a security threat to Americans in Peru.

Civil Unrest
There is little anti-American sentiment in Peru; however, certain sectors of Peruvian society, including illegal coca growers, resent U.S. counter-narcotics policies. Others blame U.S. foreign and economic policies for their difficult economic situation. Unrest and civil disorder usually last from a few days to a few weeks and is usually manifested by political demonstrations that at times become violent.

Travelers are reminded of the possibility of spontaneous protests and that public demonstrations occur frequently in Lima and other cities in the interior of the country. Most demonstrations in Lima take place in and around the historic downtown area near the Presidential Palace and the Congress, although some do occur in other areas of the city. Marching groups of demonstrators often force the temporary closure of streets until they pass. Transportation strikes can occur at a moment’s notice and can affect travelers for short periods. Political demonstrations take place in cities throughout the country, sometimes paralyzing road traffic for a few days. Demonstrators often block areas of the PanAmerican Highway, the main north-south thoroughfare located along the western coastal area of the country. The RSO is normally notified in advance if the police expect road closures during protests.

Anti-mining groups are a primary source of civil unrest and are known to organize demonstrations and road blockades. Not infrequently, such disruptions have later turned violent against private property and local government installations, as witnessed during civil unrest in Celedin where three Peruvians were killed during protests in July 2012. In October 2012, two Peruvians died and over 100 were injured when protestors clashed with police who were trying to shut down a popular market.

Religious or Ethnic Violence

In 2012, there were several national protests against the government or their governmental policies by a wide variety of labor and indigenous groups.

Post-specific Concerns

Environmental Hazards

Earthquakes are common throughout the year, and visitors should be prepared to deal with these and other natural disasters. There have been several devastating earthquakes throughout Peru’s history, and Peru has the highest rating for seismic activity assigned by the U.S. Department of State. In August 2007, the southern part of Peru experienced an 8.0 earthquake that killed 510 individuals and injured thousands. As a result, telephone
communications were disrupted, and drinking water and electricity services were interrupted in many cities, including several locations in Lima. According to the Instituto de Defensa Civil del Peru (INDICE), in 2012 there were 225 recorded seismic events with the largest being a 6.4 magnitude earthquake in August with the epicenter in Pucallpa. In 2011, there were 183 recorded seismic events, with the most severe having a magnitude of 7.0 in the department of Ucayali.

The most basic advice for earthquake preparedness includes three steps: Plan, Prepare, and Practice. For disaster readiness, residents should think about what supplies, tools, information, and resources they will need in the event of an earthquake. There are six basic elements people should have as part of their preparedness kit: water, food, first aid supplies, clothing and bedding, tools and emergency supplies (e.g., candles, gloves, hard hats, pry bar, flashlights, matches, sanitation supplies), and specialty items for medical conditions.

When developing an emergency plan, write down exactly what you will do and make a record of critical information (addresses, contact numbers, bank information, etc.). There are two tools that can be downloaded and used to help you plan effectively: the Emergency Financial First Aid Kit and the Personal Disaster Preparedness Guide, both available at: http://www.operationhope.org/smdev/lf1.php?id=187.

Once you have your plan prepared and your emergency supplies assembled, practice your emergency plans. Consider the following:

- What would you do if an earthquake occurred during the workday? Where would you meet? Does everyone have an emergency kit he can use if they are away from home?
- A good way to check how prepared you are for an emergency is to attempt to evacuate your home with only 10 minutes’ notice.
- Observe how many essential items (emergency supplies, important papers, food, and clothing) you are able to assemble and depart with in this short time frame.
- Be honest with yourself and correct deficiencies in the location, accessibility, and quantities of your emergency supplies.
- Practice your emergency plan at least once every six months. Consider running a practice drill during the night or early morning to see if everyone can respond to an emergency effectively at an inconvenient time.

A final reminder is to keep track of the food and water supplies you have on hand and rotate them on a regular basis. It is essential to be familiar with how to prepare and store the food you have selected as part of your emergency supplies. A useful reference is an article entitled

Additional References


Drop Cover Hold On: http://www.dropcoverholdon.org/

Terremotos- A California-specific site containing useful guidance in Spanish for earthquake preparedness: http://www.terremotos.org/

Red Cross – Earthquake Preparedness:
http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/0,1082,0_583_,00.html

Red Cross – Earthquake Preparedness (Spanish):
http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/foreignmat/earthspn.html

Floods, mud, and landslides are other issues to be aware of when in Peru. They occur with frequency during the rainy season and often result in road closures for extended periods. Although the west coastal region does not receive much precipitation, the mountainous Andes and jungle regions to the east experience significant precipitation during the rainy season. One only needs to look at the massive floods that left thousands stranded in Aguas Calientes (base of the Machu Picchu Mountain) in January 2010 to understand how quickly the weather can turn dangerous in Peru.

Economic Espionage/Intellectual Property Thefts

Counterfeiting and piracy are illicit businesses in which criminal networks thrive. Items produced and distributed by counterfeiters are often substandard and can even be dangerous, posing health and safety risks that range from mild to life-threatening. Counterfeit and pirated goods are widely available throughout Peru. These items may be illegal in the United States and contribute negatively to social and labor issues.

Counterfeit currency, to include Euros, Nuevo Soles, Bolivianos, and Pesos Chilenos, is a significant problem in Peru. According to the U.S. Secret Service, Peru now ranks as one of the top producers of counterfeit U.S. currency in the world. The PNP seized close to $23 million in counterfeit U.S. dollars in the past two years.
Regional Travel Concerns and Restricted Travel Areas/Zones

Many areas of Peru are considered dangerous due to potential domestic terrorist and/or criminal activity. Traveling by road at night is especially hazardous. As a result, the U.S. Embassy in Lima enforces a Restricted Travel Policy, which is based on the government's declared emergency zones. This policy governs the travel of official U.S. government employees and restricts or prohibits their travel to certain areas of Peru. The following areas have regular security problems and are considered restricted for Embassy employees, who need prior approval for travel, and should be avoided by prudent travelers:

Department of Ayacucho:
Restricted: Provinces of La Mar and Huanta. Overland travel from Ayacucho to San Francisco is prohibited.
Permitted: Daylight road travel from Ayacucho to Huanta; stay within the Huanta city limits.
Daylight road travel from Pisco to Ayacucho City.

Department of Cusco:
Restricted: 20-kilometer swath of territory contiguous to the Apurímac River and the department of Ayacucho (Specifically: the Kimbiri, Pichari and Vilcabamba provinces).
Permitted: Everywhere else, including Machu Picchu, the Sacred Valley, and Cusco.

Department of Huánuco:
Restricted: All zones; no ground travel is permitted.
Permitted: Flying into and staying within the city limits of Huánuco and Tingo Maria.

Department of Huancavelica:
Restricted: Provinces of Pampa, Churcampa, Acobamba, and Tayacaja
Permitted: Traveling by train from Huancayo to Huancavelica City is permitted, and daylight road travel from Pisco to Ayacucho City.

Department of Junín:
Restricted: Provinces of Satipo and Concepcion east of the Rio Mantaro.
Permitted: Daylight travel from La Merced to Satipo

Department of Loreto:
Restricted: A 20-kilometer strip along the entire Peru/Colombian frontier. Travel on the Putumayo River is also restricted.
Department of San Martin:
Restricted: Provinces of Tocache, Mariscal Caceres, Huallaga, Bellavista
Permitted: Flying only into and remaining within the city limits of Tocache, Saposa, Juanjui, and Bellavista.

Department of Ucayali:
Restricted: Provinces of Padre Abad and Coronel Portillo west of Pucallpa City and west of Ucayali River. Road travel from Pucallpa to Aguaytia and all cities west of Aguaytia.
Permitted: Flying into and remaining within the city limits of Pucallpa and Aguaytia. The province of Coronel Portillo east of the Ucayali River.

A popular attraction in southern Peru is the Nazca Lines. The best way to view this site is by plane. Due to safety and security concerns, the Maria Reiche Airport in Nazca has been declared off-limits to all personnel working at the Embassy. Consular and RSO advise U.S. citizens desiring to fly over the Nazca Lines to use the airports in either Ica or Pisco. The Embassy is aware of at least 10 airplane emergencies resulting in 17 deaths since December 2007, most recently in October 2010.

Nighttime travel via road outside the greater Lima area and other cities is prohibited for government personnel and contractors due to poor highway safety and the threat of criminals. The only exceptions to this regulation are:
- Travel by commercial bus on the Pan-American Highway is permitted for official or personal travel during the nighttime hours.
- Travel by personal or official vehicle on the Pan-American Highway south from Lima to Paracas or north from Lima to Huacho during nighttime hours.

There are many contributing factors to this prohibition. Criminal gangs are known to use roadblocks and rob passengers in passing cars and buses. Furthermore, highways and other roads are in overall poor condition, creating a serious safety threat to drivers.

There is no standing travel restriction within Lima. The RSO considers the following neighborhoods to be relatively safe: Miraflores, San Isidro, Barranco, La Molina, Camacho, San Borja, Montrerrico, and the eastern section of Surco. As with any major city, there is no guarantee that crime will not occur in these areas, and care must still be exercised, particularly at night.

Drug-related Crimes
Narcotics production and trafficking continues to be a problem; Peru is the world’s number one producer of cocaine. The vast majority of the refined product is exported, but the widespread production of cocaine in the Huallaga and VRAE areas have contributed to a growing illegal drug presence in the cities. Moreover, the high productivity level has created a steady supply of the cheaper intermediate product, cocaine paste, for sale domestically. Cocaine paste, also known as coca paste or “paco” (short for pasta de cocaína) is a collective name given to several different cocaine products. Cocaine paste includes crude intermediate stages of the cocaine preparation process and their freebase forms, as well as "crack cocaine" prepared from pure cocaine hydrochloride. Often combined with marijuana and smoked like a cigarette, it provides a cheaper and shorter-lived drug-induced high. The increased drug use may contribute to a higher incidence of petty theft and violent crime.

According to recent statistics from the Anti-Drug Police, approximately 19.5 metric tons of cocaine paste were seized in 2012. This is in addition to approximately 12.3 metric tons of cocaine and 2.7 metric tons of marijuana. This was an increase in the overall amounts seized from 2011.

Kidnapping Threats

The number of kidnappings for ransom country-wide is underreported, based on anecdotal information received at the U.S. Embassy. The targets are usually the wealthy or assumed wealthy persons residing in affluent areas.

“Express kidnappings,” primarily short-term and geared toward robbery of personal possessions and ATM and bank withdrawals, are a problem throughout Peru. Often the criminals are taxi drivers working as part of an organized criminal group. In Arequipa, express kidnappings have become such a problem that all U.S. Embassy personnel are prohibited from hailing taxis off of the street. U.S. Embassy personnel TDY or on personal travel to Arequipa must utilize cabs from well-established dispatch taxi companies. It is the RSO’s recommendation that all U.S. citizens visiting Arequipa also use dispatch taxi companies. Some of these include:

Taxi Turismo Arequipa 054-45-8080
Taxi Alfredo Pimental 054-23-5050
Taxitel 054-45-2020
Taxi Megatur 054-40-4040
Taxi Maldonado 054-28-6933
Panataxi 054-42-7878
Taxi Turismo Cayma 054-45-8989
Fono Taxi 054-45-3737  
Arequpa Movil Taxi 054-26-5959  
Imperial Tours 054-27-3434  
American Express 054-45-6464  
Inca Tour 054-45-2121  
Taxi Libre 054-45-1515  

The use of taxi cabs with telephone/radio dispatch does not guarantee the safety of the passenger. It is, however, a means of risk mitigation that will decrease the probability of being the victim of an express kidnapping or other crime associated with unlicensed taxi cabs.

**Police Response**

Peru has a national police force with nationwide jurisdiction. The Peruvian National Police (PNP) averages 106,000 members between officers and non-commissioned officers. This number is insufficient to cover the internal security of the country and its more than 30 million inhabitants. At the conclusion of 2011, the government carried out a restructuring of the PNP, including taking steps to change what was considered by many as a top heavy organization. This included reducing the number of general officers from 48 at the beginning of the year to 28 at the end of December. However, the end of 2012 saw a reversal of this philosophy with the promotion of 23 coronels bringing the number of general officers to 47. A total of 195 generals, coronels, lieutenant coronels (comandantes), and majors were forcibly retired at the conclusion of 2012.

With the exception of several specialized units, the PNP lacks professionalism by comparison to U.S. standards. Many police are eager to serve but do not have the training and equipment necessary to do so effectively. Morale is poor, pay is low, and corruption is rumored to be extensive, all of which creates an overall negative image of the police in the minds of the populace. Police response to reported crimes is slow and in many cases largely ineffective. There is a police presence in all major cities and towns, but they are often unable to respond to calls for service, and they can be unable to proactively deter, investigate, and reduce crime.

It is important to mention the significant assistance provided by the Serenazgo Service, composed of municipal security officers and assisted by off-duty police officers who work in most districts of Lima. While not having law enforcement authority, i.e. the ability to make arrests, Serenazgo play a significant role in maintaining order and deterring crime in Lima and are often the first line of defense in case of emergencies.
The Criminal Investigative Directorate unit is tasked with investigating cases involving violent crimes including homicide, kidnapping, sexual assaults, organized crime, carjackings and vehicle theft, fraud, counterfeiting, cyber crimes, and other complex criminal investigations.

How to Handle Incidents of Police Detention or Harassment

Police have been known to either solicit bribes in order to supplement their salaries or may accept bribes when offered. There are also allegations that payoffs to corrupt police officers can be a “get out of jail free card” for criminals that are arrested.

Where to Turn to for Assistance if you Become a Victim of Crime

Any circumstance involving a violation of the law, including traffic accidents, must be reported to the local police station. Police will not initiate an investigation of any incident until a report has been filed. According to many crime victims, the police often limit their response to taking crime reports and are incapable or unwilling in most instances to conduct meaningful investigations and rarely arrest perpetrators.

Foreign visitors who become victims of a crime should contact the Policía de Turismo (tourist police) whenever possible. The tourist police, which can be found in major tourist areas, are among the more knowledgeable and helpful of police units and more likely to speak English. The Policía de Turismo, in charge of the crime prevention and investigation of crimes against foreign tourists, is assigned to the main tourist areas and hotels in Lima and also in the principal provinces of Peru. These officers receive training on how to interact with tourists and some of them are fluent in English and other languages.

In case of emergency, a 105 line (similar to the U.S. 911 system) is available 24 hours; however, the response time is not optimal due to the lack of personnel, vehicles, and coverage.

American Citizen Services Emergency Hotline: 618-2000

Various Police/Security Agencies

Police Emergency Numbers
Central 105
Office: 332-3222
Fax: 431-1668
Bomb Squad (Udex): 431-3040

Lima
Central Operations: 460-1060
Tourism: 423-3500 (Downtown Police)

VII Lima Sur
Central Operations: 431-1668
Fax: 4317859

Police Stations in Lima
San Isidro 441-0222
Orrantia 264-1932
Miraflores 445-7943
Monterrico 435-0688
La Molina 368-1871, 368-1789
Santa Felicia 348-7213, 349-2370
Chacarilla 372-6614, 372-6596
San Borja 225-5188, 225-5181, 225-5184

Trujillo
Región: (044) 222-034
Subregión: 221-908
Fax: 207-054
Police Department: 044-232-811

Iquitos
Región: (065) 232-509
Police Department: 065-231-852

Cusco
Región: (084) 242-611
Fax: 227-783
Comisaría de Cusco: 249-654
Turismo: 235-123, 084-235123
Police Department: 084231788

Chiclayo
Región: (074) 235-740
Fax: 235-534
Central: 235-534
Turismo: 206-366
Police Department: 074-235-740

Cajamarca
Subregión: (076) 340-584
Fax: 362-832

Huaraz
Región: (043) 421-592, 427-814
Fax: 422-920
Police Department: 043-427-814, 422-920

Chimbote
Región: (043) 321-651
Fax: 329-205

Huancayo
Región: (064) 200-091
Fax: 234-651

Ica
Región: (056) 218-456

Ilo
Provincial: (053) 481-331
Fax: 481-212

Huánuco
Provincial: (062) 513-262, 513-480
Fax: 781-220

Piura
Región: (730) 305-455, 326-071
Police Department: 073-326-071
Tumbes
Police Department: 072-523-515, 523-888

Arequipa
Police Department: 054-252-688, 251-277

Ayacucho
Police Department: 066-312-055, 311-907

Puno
Police Department: 051-353-988

Medical Emergencies

Emergency medical service is generally not reliable in Peru. The U.S. Embassy health unit recommends the use of private ambulance services whenever possible. Telephone numbers for these services can be found in local telephone directories. The quality of medical facilities also varies from location to location, and U.S. health insurance is almost never taken. For this reason, treatment may be held up until proof of ability to pay is shown, either by cash or credit card.

Contact Information for Recommended Local Hospitals and Clinics

The following is a list of clinics, many of which have staff who are familiar with American health care and speak some basic English:
Clínica Anglo American
Tel: 616-8900
Av. Salazar s/n
Cuadra 3
San Isidro District

Clínica San Felipe
Tel: 219-0000
Av. Gregorio Escobedo 650
Jesús María

Clínica San Borja
Tel: 702-4300
Av. Guardia Civil 337
San Borja District

Clínica El Golf
Tel: 631-0000
Av. Aurelio Miro Quesada 1030
San Isidro District

Clínica Anglo American Urgent Care Center
Tel: 616-8990
Av. La Fontana 362, La Molina

Clínica San Felipe Urgent Care Center
Tel: 219-0000 Ext. 718
Av. Javier Prado Este 4841
La Molina

Peruvian National Police’s High Mountain Rescue Unit ("USAM")
Tel: 51-1-575-4696, 51-1-575-4698, 51-1-575-1555
Fax: 51-1-575-3036
E-mail: ceopol_diravpol@hotmail.com

Cusco and Iquitos clinics can be found at this link:
http://photos.state.gov/libraries/peru/5/resources/2012-10_doctor_list.pdf

Tips on How to Avoid Becoming a Victim

Travelers should maintain a low profile where possible. They should attempt to dress down and avoid carrying large sums of cash, credit cards, ATM cards, cameras, and expensive jewelry.

Credit card fraud is rampant, and many travelers have reported the theft of their card numbers while traveling in Peru. The Embassy recommends that travelers limit their use of credit cards to paying only for hotel expenses or purchases at well-established businesses; most reputable locations have portable card devices and slide the credit card in full view of the card owner. Travelers should keep their credit cards within their sight while making transactions. Travelers should exercise caution when withdrawing money from ATM machines. It is recommended that money be changed at local banks or at established hotels, rather than through the numerous money-changers that operate along city streets. Many of these money-changers
deal in counterfeit currency. Criminals have been known to stake out banks and, after identifying an individual who has withdrawn cash, either immediately assault them or follow them to another location before committing the robbery.

Under Peruvian law, all persons must carry one form of valid photo identification. Due to the large trade in stolen U.S. passports, travelers are cautioned to avoid carrying their passports whenever possible. Original passports should be locked in a hotel safe or another secure location. Travelers should carry a photocopy of the data/biographic page, the page containing the visa (if needed), and a copy of the Peruvian immigration form received at the port of entry. Additionally, some type of valid original photo identification must also be carried, such as a driver’s license.

Tourists should travel in groups whenever possible and use radio-dispatched taxicabs rather than public transportation. There are a number of radio-dispatched taxi services available in Lima, all of which provide generally reliable service in late model sedans. These “radio taxis” offer a higher degree of security since criminals, operating in groups or individually, have been known to pose as taxi drivers and prey on unsuspecting individuals. Particular care should be exercised when traveling to and from Jorge Chavez International Airport. The Embassy has seen a rash of crimes in which thieves smash the car windows of slowly passing or stopped vehicles and steal items of real or perceived value, such as purses, laptops, backpacks, and luggage, from unsuspecting travelers. Caution should also be used when placing valuables, specifically electronic items, into checked luggage when traveling through the airports, as several U.S. visitors have reported items being stolen from their checked luggage.

While demonstrations in Peru are often peaceful, they can escalate quickly into violent confrontations. American citizens are advised to avoid large crowds and demonstrations and are strongly encouraged to maintain a high level of vigilance, maintain awareness of local events and their surroundings, and take the appropriate steps to bolster their personal security. It is illegal for foreigners to participate in demonstrations. American citizens who have been caught up in political demonstrations have been detained and expelled.

Incidents involving incapacitating agents have been reported in the Lima area. This tactic is used by criminals to debilitate the victim, allowing them to steal belongings and/or sexually assault the victim. It is advised to purchase one’s own drink and never leave it unattended. If for any reason the beverage is left unattended, drinking it is strongly discouraged.

There are several competent private security businesses operating in Peru, many of which offer a wide variety of services such as executive protection, private investigations, guard
services for large events, armored car services, and physical security for both work and residential locations.

**U.S. Embassy/Consulate Location and Contact Information**

Embassy Address and Hours of Operation

Avenida La Encalada cdra. 17 s/n  
Surco, Lima 33, Peru  
Mon-Fri 7:30am-5pm

Travelers should be sure to consult the U.S. Embassy’s Consular Information Sheet, either through the U.S. Department of State’s webpage at http://www.state.gov/ or the Embassy’s webpage at http://lima.usembassy.gov/.

Embassy Contact Numbers

Regional Security Officers: 618-2469  
RSO: David Hall  
DRSO: Julia Hawley  
ARSO: Chris Gruber  
ARSO: Jim Bloomer  
ARSO: Kory Turnbow  
ARSO: Dennis Jones  
ARSO/I: Brian Sultzbaugh

The RSO at the U.S. Embassy is available to discuss security concerns with U.S. organizations contemplating a trip to Peru, provide information on security companies, or to otherwise be of assistance to OSAC members while in country.

Embassy Operator: 618-2000  
Consular Affairs: 618-2518  
Political Section: 618-2410  
Economic Section: 618-2410  
Marine Post One: 618-2436

For further information regarding security issues in Peru, visit the Regional Security Office’s website at http://lima.usembassy.gov/regional_security_office.html or contact the Regional Security Office of the U.S. Embassy at 011- 511- 618- 2469, fax 011- 511- 618-2278, or
e-mail RSOLIMA@state.gov. More information is available by calling the U.S. Department of State’s consular information number (202-647-4000) or visiting its website at http://travel.state.gov/.

OSAC Country Council Information

There is an active OSAC Country Council in Lima that encourages all eligible companies to join. Prospective members can obtain further information on how to enroll by contacting the OSAC Country Council at the American Chamber of Commerce at 011-511 241-0708.