



## Llamas and Peru

**L**lamas are synonymous with Peruvian culture and have been at the forefront of the Peruvian way of life for centuries. That's why we thought we'd share with you just why we love them so much.

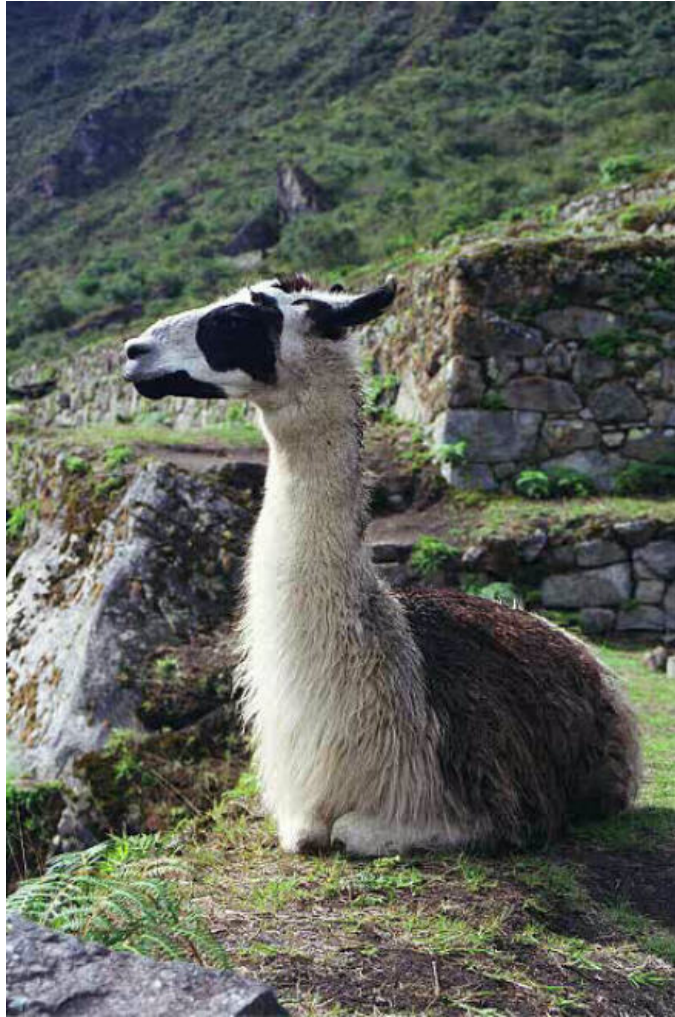


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The llama was one of the only domesticated animals for the Incas and were considered a lifeline for them. They were used as a main source of food, transportation and wool. Llamas almost became extinct with the fall of the Incan Empire, however some managed to survive the harsh conditions high in the Andes, which cemented the llama as a focal point of Peruvian society and culture to this day.

Travel to Peru and you will find young children with their llamas: it is common for children to be

given their own llama to raise for their wool, raising them by hand until the llama (and child) reaches adulthood.



**Quick Facts:**

- Llamas have two toed feet which is why they are so good at being pack animals
- The llama was so significant to the Incas, that the mountain gods were offered a gold llama which they believed could be used to show the sun's regenerative powers
- If their load is too heavy, llamas will lie on the floor and kick their owner until they are unburdened
- The current population of llamas in South America is up to 7 million

