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## CELEBRATING FIESTAS PATRIAS IN PERU

**T**he 28<sup>th</sup> July is a significant date in the Peruvian calendar. Known as *Fiestas Patrias*, this national holiday marks the anniversary of Peru's independence from the Spanish Empire in 1821 by José de San Martín.



Martín was a Spanish-Argentine general and freedom fighter that lead a Liberating Expedition in 1820. After a series of military conflicts across Latin America in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Peruvian Act of Independence was drafted on July



15<sup>th</sup> 1821, with Martín officially declaring Peru's independence from Spanish rule on July 28<sup>th</sup> in the Plaza Mayor.

This proclamation of independence resulted in a national holiday that has continued to be celebrated by the citizens of Peru over 100 years later. As part of these celebrations, people gather in Plazas across Peru in order to partake in the festivities. These are most prominent in the capital, Lima, where the official celebration begins with the sound of 21 cannons and the raising of the Peruvian flag. Following a mass held by the archbishop of Lima, the day features delicious foods and live music, concluding with grand fireworks displays across the country.



The celebrations continue on the following day, and are dedicated to honoring the Armed Forces and National Police of Peru. This day features a grand procession where representatives of these forces partake in the Great Military Parade. This too begins with the raising of the flag and the playing of the National Anthem. The streets are decorated with patriotic colours and the procession begins with the president of Peru, who gives permission for the parade to commence.







An ideal place to visit during these festivities is [Machu Picchu](#), the gorgeous Peruvian mountain range northwest of the city of Cusco. Numerous vibrant celebrations take place in Machu Picchu Pueblo (commonly names *Agua Calientes* for its nearby thermal baths) where Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel is situated. As one of Peru's top hotels, you can enjoy the luxury UNU Spa facilities and other in-house activities and beautiful views whilst engaging in the nearby celebrations.



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