

Image: Lima, Peru as seen from orbit

July 16 2021



Credit: contains modified Copernicus Sentinel data (2020), processed by ESA,

The commercial and industrial center of Peru, Lima is located on the mostly flat terrain in the Peruvian coastal plain, within the valleys of the Chillón, Rímac and Lurín rivers. The city is bordered on the east by the foothills of the Andes Mountains and on the west by the Pacific Ocean.

Lima can be seen directly on the south bank of the Rímac River, which flows for around 200 km through the Lima Region, before emptying near Callao—a seaside [city](#) and port in the Lima metropolitan area (the largest [metropolitan area](#) of Peru).

Lima's historical center was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1988 owing to its large number of historical buildings dating from the Spanish colonial era. One of the most notable characteristics of Lima is the barren desert that surrounds the city, with the sand supporting little to no plant life, with the exception of where water has been artificially provided.

Although Lima is located at a tropical latitude, the cool offshore Humboldt Current (also known as the Peru Current) produces a year-round temperate climate. The cooling of the coastal air mass produces thick cloud cover throughout winter and the dense sea mist, known locally as garúa, often rolls in to blanket the city. In this image, captured on 20 April 2020, several cloud formations can be seen dotted along the coast.

Callao is Peru's main seaport and home to its main airport, Jorge Chávez International Airport. Several small boats and vessels can be seen near the port. Callao has several [islands](#): San Lorenzo Island (currently used as a military base), El Frontón (a former high security prison), the Cavinzas

Islands, and the Palomino Islands, where numerous sea lions and sea birds live.

The Copernicus Sentinel-2 mission consists of a pair of twin satellites that orbit Earth once every 100 minutes, together imaging a path on Earth's surface 580 kilometers wide. The satellites observe in 13 spectral bands—from visible to infrared light—giving various perspectives on land and vegetation. This means that the mission can be used to retrieve a wealth of different information about Earth's surface.

Provided by European Space Agency

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