

# PERU DIARIES

## ARRIVING IN PERU

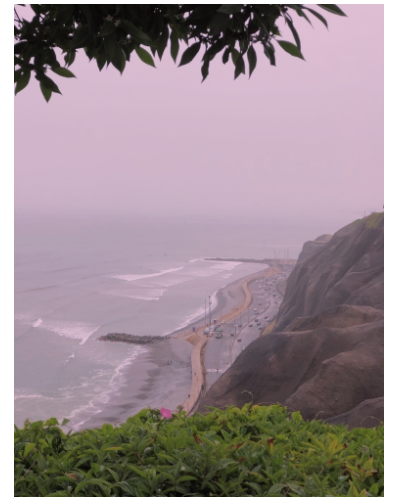
OCTOBER

Hello! Or I should now say hola!

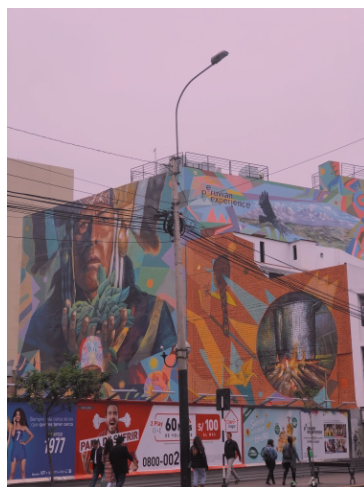
My team and I have safely arrived in Peru, after a 12 hour flight we arrived in Lima! The flight was very long but I had plenty of naps, films and snacks to keep me going. A few Visa hiccups but besides Peru is now my home for six months, crazy!

### LIMA

We were greeted by Laura Lee Lovering a BMS worker who lives and works in Peru she helped us settle in for the first week, we had a day in Lima before our flight to Arequipa to start language learning. Being able to explore Lima was just such an amazing experience! Lima is such a big city, a third of Peru live in Lima, but being able to get a taste of this was so exciting. We stayed two nights in a guest house in Mira Flores a quieter part of the city. Laura took us down to the beach in which we had tea and cake, it was so helpful having her around as she speaks Spanish fluently. After exploring the city we had lunch and then headed back for a deserved rest. Being six hours behind messed our body clock up so napping was essential! Later we headed out to 'Fuente Magica' a fountain water park which had colourful lit up fountains and it was beautiful to watch, we also saw a Peruvian drumming band which was awesome! So ... Lima certainly was an experience, especially the traffic! The roads were so busy it was rather hectic. Despite this Lima was definitely a memory that will stick with me!



*Pictures from the coast*

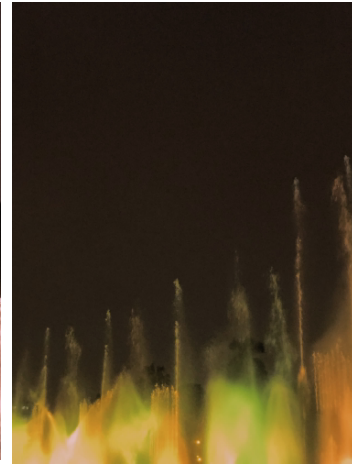
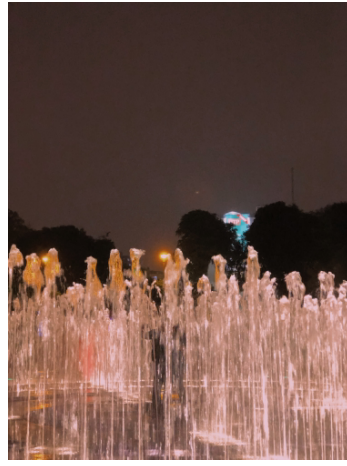


*The wall murals were so pretty*

*Team Peru !!*



*The fountains at night was by far my favourite experience*



*A snippet of Peruvian traffic*



*Peruvian drumming*



*Erin and I loving the fountains*

## **WEEK ONE AREQUIPA**

Where do I start! Arequipa is one wonderful city and having the opportunity to be here for a month is a given. We are spending a month in Arequipa, in southern Peru, to have four weeks at an intensive language school. The language school is a Christian institution helping us to learn Spanish for mission work. As part of this, to help with language learning, we are living with a Peruvian family who don't speak English so we are having to pick up the language quite quickly. At first this was all quite overwhelming but within a week we felt more settled in our new home. The family have hearts of gold and are so kind and patient with us. We have attended church with the family too and many of the language school teachers attend this church too so getting to know other people is exciting!

Arequipa is 2328 m above sea level so its pretty high up, meaning we have struggled a bit with the altitude it makes us quite tired and drained at times. The area is very mountainous and we have great views of the mountains from our roof. The main mountains in Arequipa are Misti, Chahani and Picchu Picchu which is an inactive eroded volcano.

As a team we have been able to explore Arequipa, and the views are beautiful. We enjoy walking around the city, there is so much to do here. So on our weekends we always have something planned to look forward too! Previously, we have been to a museum about the Incas. This weekend we were went to Chaqchauo, a chocolate café! We went with two German girls who we have met at the language school. And the chocolate was so rich it definitely was a hit and will be going back. Also we have had our first try of a Peruvian McDonald's which we all enjoyed! Being able to share memories like this makes us so close as a team!

One of the best things about the house we are staying in is the roof! We love it, the views are just crazy! Seeing the sunsets in the evenings are beautiful and being able to do our team devotions up on the roof just gives us some time to just breathe and take in the day as a team.

Although we have had obvious difficulties of missing home, struggling with the language and adjusting to the altitude. We LOVE Arequipa and I am excited for the next three weeks to see the plan God has for us.



Some of Arequipa's finest views and the Mountains !!



Exploring the city

More exploring

We met some alpacas! Team selfie



Delicious hot chocolate.



Roof top views



## WEEK TWO AREQUIPA

We have been in Arequipa now for two weeks and are really loving it! This week has gone so fast but have enjoyed it so much. Learning Spanish can still be difficult at times but we are beginning to feel more confident using the language with the family we are living with. We have still been able to explore Arequipa and we have tried new things. Peruvian Mcflurries are definitely a hit amongst the team and many other sweet treats we have discovered. We went to a 'Chifa restaurant on Tuesday which was a fusion of Chinese and Peruvian food which was lush! We have really enjoyed exploring pockets of this city. We have been meeting up with friends from the language school and met up and played football with them on Friday. Another experience was getting a combi (Peruvian Bus) to and from football which was a hectic experience to say the least. On Friday we went to a free music concert which we enjoyed. On Sunday we visited a Peruvian Market and there was so much fruit it was crazy. We are regularly keeping in contact with our supervisors which is helpful as we are receiving advice and news on the plans when we arrive in Iquitos. We are now planning a holiday club for a group of children who are coming to Nauta in the second week when we start our projects. This being a big prayer point, as it is quite scary planning this with little resources but we have been having help from the

language school and are learning some Spanish songs so we are ready for what shall come! We have only two more weeks left here in Arequipa but are sure looking forward to being together and spending more memories here.



*Team Peru posing!*



*Exploring Arequipa*



*The fruit market!*



*More of Arequipa*



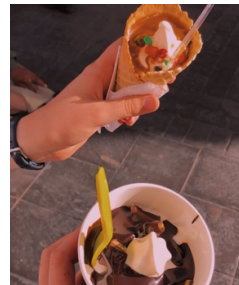
*Yellow camouflage*



*Football fun*



*Friday nights concert*



*Some of the sweet treats we have had*

I shall probably sign of this newsletter here! We have two more weeks left in Arequipa and I shall include those in my November copy, we have a few things planned on the weekends as we love exploring but are set for what God will provide. God is one truly amazing force he continues to provide for me and my team and we are excited for the next five months we have in Peru.

If you are praying for my team, it would be great if you can pray on these things!

- **Prayer that we will grow in confidence using the language**
- **Prayer that we can feel prepared for our work in Iquitos**
- **Prayer that we can 'live in the moment' that our focus is set on what we are doing at the moment and that we can enjoy what we are doing here instead of looking for the future**

Your love and prayers are appreciated always,

Thank you!

Sophie