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EMERGENCY CONTACT & AIRPORT INFORMATION

The best laid plans of men and mice sometimes go astray! If there is an emergency, a flight delayed or cancelled, or you miss a flight for ANY reason, contact us at one of the numbers below, so that we will know where you are, and how best to help you! We won't leave you in Iquitos for a week if you don't arrive as planned, but if we don't know where you are or when you are arriving, it is difficult to make appropriate arrangements! We will know if a Lima-Iquitos flight is delayed and when it is scheduled to arrive, so there is no need to contact us in the event of a delayed within-Peru flight unless it is seriously delayed and you are making alternate arrangements on another airline.

Contacting Margarita Tours:

USA: If you are still in the US: call Devon (if you know he is in the USA) at **1-786-232-2674** (Eastern Standard Time) or Lorrie at **1-619-562-2422** (9 AM to 5 PM, Pacific Standard Time) (if calling from Peru dial 001 – the US country code, then the area code and 7-digit number).

PERU: If you are in Lima or elsewhere in Peru: you can also call us at **51-65-965-67-3809** (Devon's Peru cell) or Guillermo Guerra (our transfer agent) at **51-65-965-67-0516**. If you are in Iquitos, you just need to dial the last 9 digits. To call either of the last two numbers from locations outside of Peru, dial the international dialing code "011" first. You can also send email to Guillermo (at gaguerra2003@yahoo.es) if the trip has already departed downriver. We have a satellite phone for emergency use and also to check in with Iquitos on a daily or near daily basis.

The international country code for the USA is "001", the international country code for Peru is "011-51 (international dialing code and then Peru country code)".

In the event that you are unable to contact us in person, please leave a message telling us the problem and where we can get in contact with you – please give phone numbers or email addresses slowly and clearly. We will respond as soon as possible.

Contacting Hotels in Peru: The desk personnel at the hotels noted below speak English.

Hotel Manhattan Inn (Lima): If for any reason you do need a hotel in Lima, this is the hotel that we recommend and use ourselves. It is clean, comfortable, secure, reasonably priced, and best of all, less than 5 minutes from the airport if you are getting in late or departing very early. The hotel address is Jr. Luna Pizarro 168, Urb. La Colonial, Callao, Peru. Telephone is: 011-51-1-464-5811 (if calling from the US), or 464-5811 (if calling from Lima) or 01-464-5811 (if calling from Iquitos). The hotel can be contacted by email at reservas@hmanhattan.com, and is good at responding with a confirmation. Airport transfer service is available upon request, and is recommended. For airport pickup, a hotel driver waits for you outside of immigration (or the exit gate for local flights) with a placard with your name on it. Singles=\$37-\$40, doubles=\$50, triples=\$65; airport transfer is \$15 (for 1-2 pax), \$17 for 3 pax.

Victoria Regia Hotel (Iquitos): This is the hotel that we use for regularly scheduled expeditions – it is midway between the city center and the Belen Market (5 blocks either way) and two blocks from the riverfront. The street address in Iquitos is Ricardo Palma 252. The local phone number is 23-1983 (if calling from US, first dial 011-51-65...). Email is info@victoriaregiahotel.com.

Hospedaje La Pascana (Iquitos): The hostel we use for school and service groups – it is two blocks from the city center on a dead-end street leading to the river, and consequently is one of the quietest hotels in town. The street

address is 133 Pevas (“Pevas, primera cuadra” if you’re telling taxi drivers where to go). Local phone number is 23-3466 (if calling from US, first dial 011-51-65...). Email is pascana@tsi.com.pe.

Other Information:

Photocopy your passport photo page prior to departure, leave a copy at home and bring another copy kept apart from your passport. Double-check to see that your passport is current and not about to expire. Also, carefully check the information on your flight ticket itself to ensure that the dates and times are what you wanted! **This is very important!** The airline agents at the counter will be going by what your ticket actually says, not the itinerary that your travel agent printed out for you, and which could contain an error.

Navigating Airports

Common sense and taking the time to look around you will be your best tool. When packing, remember that your bags will all undergo security checks, so you may need to open them for inspection – don’t have them so tied/locked/taped/bundled up that it will be difficult to do so. Likewise, when you go through airport security with your carry-on luggage, remember that you will need to remove all metal objects from your person – loose coins, belt buckles, watches, etc., and may also be requested to remove your shoes (many have metal in the heels). If in doubt about what to do, just ask, be polite and you’ll have no problems. Remember the restrictions on liquids and gels in hand-luggage: items must be 3 ounces in size or less, and placed in a clear re-sealable 1-quart bag, limit 1 bag per person (the 3-1-1 bag rule).

Lima Airport

This is your entry point into Peru. On your flight down, you will be given immigration and customs declaration cards to fill out – be sure to have a pen with you so that you can do this easily on the flight. The immigration card is straightforward and simple – just provide the requested information which will include your passport # and flight information. Mark that you are coming in as a tourist, and for the address in Peru, just put “Iquitos”. Be sure to fill out the bottom (detachable) portion of the card as well – this will be returned to you, and should be kept with your passport – you will need to give that detachable portion to the immigration officer when you depart Peru.

The customs declaration form should be likewise filled out. You will check “no” for most or all of the boxes provided. There is no need to give an itemized list of the items that you have with you – just put down “personal items” and leave it at that, unless you are bringing things that you are planning on selling in Peru and whose individual item value is greater than \$100. This probably does NOT apply to you, however! You are a tourist bringing in regular tourist stuff, and will be taking most or all of it out with you again, so you will have no problems.

Clearing Immigration

Depending on your time of arrival, there may be long lines at immigration. Be patient. Just get in a line, and when you get to the immigration officer, give him/her your passport and the filled out immigration and customs forms. The officer will scan your passport, check your forms for completeness and stamp your passport with an entry visa for 60 or 90 days, depending on the mood they are in. There is no fee. They may ask how long you will be in Peru, but apart from that, there should be no questions.

Getting Luggage & Clearing Customs

Once through immigration, you proceed to baggage claim – there are several belts – check the screens to see which belt has luggage from your flight. Free carts are available for use. Once you find your luggage, proceed to the customs checkpoint – you will need your customs declaration in hand, and also need to have your baggage claim tickets ready as they will be checked to make sure that you actually have your own bags. When you get to the customs checkpoint, you’ll be asked for your declaration card, and asked to push a button. If you get a green light, head straight out of customs – you’re free to go. If you get a red light, you’ll need to put your bags through a scanner – this will be no problem and after scanning the bags, you’ll be waved on. The only potential holdup here is if you have some weird item in your luggage or a lot of electronic stuff (apart from what a tourist would normally carry) that you didn’t declare on your customs form. If you are bringing in high-end electronics for sale or as gifts in Peru, you will need to pay 30% customs duties, and have the bill of sale handy as proof of the price. This shouldn’t apply to most of you, however.

Making your Connecting flight to Iquitos

As you leave the customs area, there will be a large crowd of people waiting for loved ones, and you'll also have to run the gauntlet of taxi-drivers trying to get fares. Just keep repeating "No Gracias - Connection" and you'll be able to clear the gauntlet without problem. If you are going to a hotel in Lima and have pickup waiting for you, look for a hotel placard with your name on it. If you won't be leaving the airport, head straight onward to the airline check-in counters directly opposite the Customs exit. All the airline counters are in the same area so you only have to walk down the length of the concourse until you find yours. LAN counters are located close to the far end of the concourse. Only ticketed passengers are allowed in the check-in area (keeps it a lot more orderly and less crowded), so you may need to show your onward ticket to security at the entrance to the check-in area.

If you are flying to Iquitos on LAN (as most/all of you are), it doesn't matter what time you arrive and how long it is until your flight to Iquitos – you can proceed to the LAN counter and check in your bags for the flight. This is a huge plus, since if you have several hours to wait in the airport (for that 5:15 AM flight, for instance), you don't have to keep watch over your luggage. Once you have your luggage checked and boarding pass in hand, you can either wait in check-in area (there are comfortable seats) or proceed upstairs to the domestic and international departure area. On the upstairs level there are shops, an internet café, and restaurants – all of which are open 24/7. There are also ATM's and money changing booths, though you are unlikely to need to use the latter. Payment at all businesses can be made either in Peruvian currency (solis), in US dollars, or in Euros.

To get to the actual departure gates for your flight to Iquitos, you will need to pay the Peru domestic flight tax (\$6.05 – a sticker will be put on your boarding pass), and then pass through security to the actual departure gates. The domestic flight departure area may not open until 3-4 AM, however, so you may need to wait in the restaurant/shopping area until that time. Once through security and in the departure lounges, there are some more shops and coffee spots, and best of all, some very comfortable seats that you can actually stretch out on for some quality napping. TV screens and intercom announcements will keep you up to date on the status of your flight.

Airport Security, Etc.

The Lima airport is very secure and very clean. Most airline personnel and many of the security persons and other employees of the airport will also speak English, so you'll have no problem navigating around the airport. Services are good and bathrooms are very clean. There is no reason at all to feel uneasy about spending time in the Lima Airport – quite likely it is the safest spot in town! As anywhere, however, don't leave your hand luggage unattended, your wallet and passport out on a table, and so forth. Use common sense.

Making Alternate Arrangements to get to Iquitos

In the event that your flight is cancelled and that you can't re-book on the same airline for a later flight (due to lack of space or lack of other flights), you may wish to make alternate arrangements for getting to Iquitos. Several airlines other than LAN also offer Lima-Iquitos flights, but unfortunately their tickets can't be bought outside of Peru as they aren't in travel agents computers. Nevertheless, the following airline does provide quality service from Lima to Iquitos: StarPeru. A one-way ticket from Lima to Iquitos can be purchased in cash at any of their check-in counters (if space is available, of course). If you do have to purchase another ticket for any reason, be sure to keep all receipts and documentation so that you can be reimbursed by flight insurance (assuming that you have it), or be credited for the unused portion of your ticket by the airline that cancelled the flight. Taking a picture of the TV monitor that states that the flight has been cancelled might not be a bad idea as well (additional proof that the flight was cancelled and that you didn't just "miss" your flight by not being there on time).

Travel Happy and Smart

Don't stress! You'll make it with minimal or no problems, and as previously mentioned, we'll be watching for you! Some final suggestions for more relaxing travel – bring a good novel/i-pod/puzzle book/etc. to help pass the time. If you want to catch some sleep on the flight, ear-plugs would be good to have (great for on the boats as well), as well as eyeshades. A sweater or light jacket can come in handy – planes (and the Lima airport) can be quite chilly at times. If you can't sleep on flights, an *Ambion* or *Lunesta* might do the trick for you! Happy and safe travels!

Bring a hardcopy of this info with you! It won't do you any good sitting in a file at home...