

Geography and Climate of Arequipa

Arequipa city has an extremely sunny, dry climate influenced by its altitude of 2325 metres above sea level. The annual rainfall is barely 100mm, with the months March-December being virtually rainless. The temperature range is between 5 and 25 degrees celcius, although during the day it often feels warmer in the extremely strong sunshine. In Arequipa you should dress lightly during the day, but always keep a warm sweater handy! The temperature drops rapidly in the later afternoon.

Arequipa - Annual Temperature and Rainfall

Month	Mean Temperature _°C			Mean Total Rainfall (mm)
	Daily Minimum	Daily Maximum		
Jan	8.6	21.5	28.0	
Feb	8.8	21.0	35.6	
Mar	8.5	21.4	21.3	
Apr	6.9	21.7	0.7	
May	6.3	21.8	0.2	
Jun	5.5	21.3	0.0	
Jul	5.5	21.4	0.0	
Aug	5.5	21.9	1.8	
Sep	6.4	22.3	1.4	
Oct	6.6	22.6	0.2	
Nov	6.6	22.5	1.1	
Dec	7.7	22.1	4.3	

In the highlands of the Arequipa department, including the area around the Colca Canyon, the temperature extremes are even more pronounced. By day the temperature rises into the twenties but is cold by night, and can drop below freezing in the winter months of June-July. The wet season is more pronounced, with annual rainfall reaching 300-400 mm. See the automatic weather stations for Chivay and Cotahuasi.

On the Arequipan coast, the climate is virtually rainless but during the months May-November it is often cloudy and some moisture is provided by the thick coastal cloud and fog. The temperature ranges from 13-21 degrees in the winter to 18-27 degrees in the summer. See the automatic weather station of Matarani and the climate records for Ilo.

The inland desert and riverside oases (between 500 and 2000 metres) are also virtually rainless but are warm and sunny most of the year. Average annual temperature is 22 degrees, and the temperature frequently rises into the thirties in the summer months. For comparison, see the weather stations of Moquegua (1450 metres) and Ocucaje (450 metres) in the neighbouring departments.

" Travel Arequipa tours, trekking Colca Canyon "