

PERU - ORCHID LOVERS PARADISE



Peru is very popular among wildlife lovers. The country is home to more than 10% of the planet's plant and animal species. The country has rich sea, practically unexplored Amazon forests and the world's highest tropical mountain range. The possibilities for nature tourism are huge in the country. The government is aware of that and they are making steps to make more money from the natural beauties Peru offers. According to the Deputy Minister of Tourism, new tourist routes will be created. The aim is to promote the nature tourism and to bring more foreign and domestic tourists to the country.

Peru is home to some 3,000 orchid species, most of which grows in the tropical jungle on the eastern slopes of the Andes. Local cloud forests are ideal place for the plants. There are numerous places in Peru an orchid fan should visit. For example species of orchids such as the *Cattleya maxima* can be found in the departments of Tumbes y Piura. In another department, The Mayo River Valley, you can find the *Cattleya rex*.

The wonderful nature and the biodiversity is the reason why many tourist travel to this South American country. The fact is that many people from all over the world come here because they can study numerous species some of which can be found only in Peru.

Nevertheless, the country's nature is no the only thing that lures tourists here. There are numerous sights in Peru. Among them is the famous Machu Picchu known also as The Lost City of the Incas. It has been a World Heritage Site since 1983. This ancient site is a major attraction for its architecture but it is also popular with nature lovers. The fact is that it is home to more than 200 orchid varieties. Among these is e.g. *Masdevalia vetchiana* or *Epidendrum secundum*.

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