

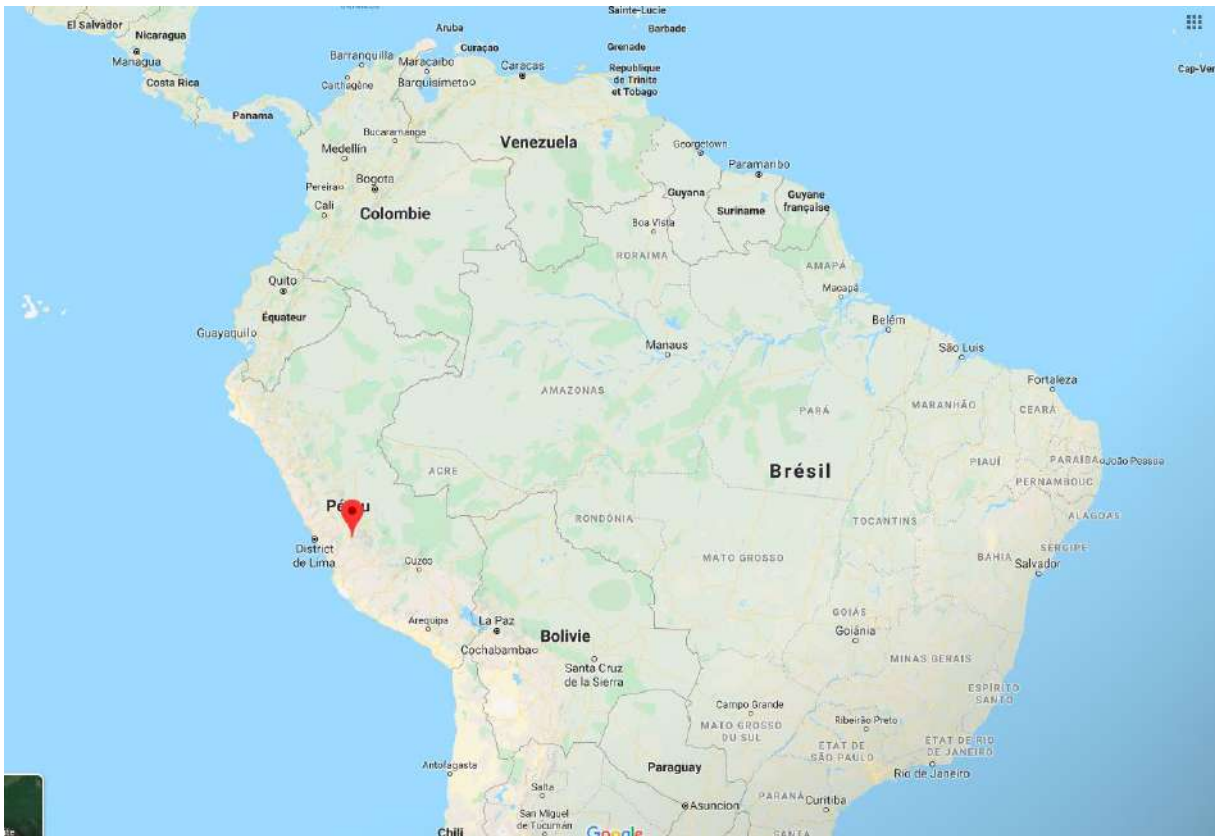
Hi everyone!

How are you? Back to school went well for you? On our side we are currently in Bolivia but for a moment we'll speak back on our passage in Peru which was colorful! The parents of Sylvain (Pascale and Gauthier) and his sister Muriel came to see us for 2 weeks during which we made a road trip from **Churin** to **Huancayo**!

Location of **Churin**:



Location of **Huancayo**:



What happiness to see the family after a year of absence ... We missed them so much. They did not really want to drive in the chaotic traffic of Peru so we went to Lima airport by bus and leave all together by car being their driver. Reunion loaded with emotions!



Location of **Lima**:



We started by visiting the mountainous region of Peru where we enjoy the breathtaking spectacle of the Andes. To reach the stone forest from Churin we went through a first pass at **15,750ft**. We had already gone cycling there on our side but it was a first for our family: they loved the view.



Up there, we discover breathtaking high altitude lakes where llamas and alpacas are playing!  
But do you know the difference between **llamas** and **alpacas**?

This is an alpaca:



This one is a llama:



Direction the stone forest (**bosque de piedras**), a treeless forest where we walk through rocky peaks that have been eroded by wind, rain and frost. We spend a half day to walk in this unusual landscape.



Then head to the rainforest, on the edge of the Amazon where we will spend a few days enjoying the nature and animals of the region. We arrive at **Oxapampa**, a strange city that was founded by Germans in the 19th century. Unlike the rest of the continent that was colonized mostly by Spaniards (that's why most Latin American countries speak Spanish except for Brazil who speaks Portuguese and Belize who speaks English) Oxapampa is impregnated of a strong German culture in the heart of Peru! Buildings, food, everything is quite different from the rest of the country.



We are disoriented within the country where we have been traveling for a month and a half. We take the opportunity to eat German dishes like **Goulash** (although it's more Hungarian).

The next day we visit the reserve of San Alberto to observe monkeys and birds in the middle of nature. Unfortunately the rain is at the rendezvous and we do not see many animals. We are just lucky to see a dozen **choros monkeys** in the trees eating fruit.



Our last stop is located in Huancayo at the foot of the sacred mountain of **Huaytapallana**.

We leave all 5 for a hike that will take us to **16,080ft** at the foot of a glacier that flows into a turquoise blue lake. This particular color is due to the suspension in water of fine mineral particles produced by glacial erosion.

Sylvain's mother, Pascale, arrives with difficulty at the end of the hike because she suffers from altitude and lacks breath. Fortunately we are all 4 around her to help her somehow to finish. In the evening Kalima returns with Pascal and Gauthier to the house we rent and Sylvain and Muriel stay in the mountains.

This is an opportunity for them two to spend 24 hours walking, camping and meditating at over 4500 m! A unique moment to share between brother and sister before the next meeting!

Written on October 30, 2019