

ALPACA GOLD OF THE ANDES



allpa



Since ancient times, alpaca (*Vicugna pacos*) has been part of Andean cultures, as we can tell from archaeological findings composed by different objects, such as ceramics, textiles, metal and stone where this animal has been represented.

During the Inca empire, alpaca and vicugna were used only by the royalty because it was valued as the finest clothing material.

The breeding of camelids, where alpaca, llama, guanaco and vicugna belong, was part of the daily life for Andean people, especially in the higher altitudes, as these animals were able to live over 4000 meters above sea level, dealing with temperatures that can go from 30 °C to minus 20 °C .

There has been always a natural harmony between man and alpaca, being this small camelid (1.30 m high), always present in traditional rituals and offerings for Mother Earth Pachamama.

Indian peasants live with alpacas and llamas: shepherds take them every day to where they gently graze the local grass with no harm for the soil, and every year they shear their fiber for the industry.

Today Peru has 80% of the world alpaca's population which is around 4 million animals, and it has been only in the last decades that the world started appreciating the extraordinary value of this material, which belongs to the fine hairs group, together with cashmere, angora, yak, camel, mohair and vicugna.



ALPACA BREED

There are two Alpaca races: huacaya and suri, and the difference between them lies in the length, shine and fineness of the fiber.

Suri has very long fiber, usually attaining lengths of over 15cm in one year's growth, which form ringlets and fall to the side of the body, giving the animal a similarity in appearance to a Lincoln sheep.

Huacaya has a more compact fleece, with shorter fibers, easier to transform for industrial purposes, while Suri is softer and shinier. This is why there is a predominance of huacaya vs suri animals in alpaca farms.

Alpacas are normally sheared every two years, the suris yielding fine fleeces of about 3kg (6.5 pounds) per animal and the huacayas giving coarser fleeces weighing about 2.5kg (5.5 pounds). Hair growth in two years is about 30cm (12 inches) in huacaya and 60cm (23.6 inches) in suri.

Alpacas have a natural life span of 15–20 years.





HUACAYA



SURI



HUACAYA & SURI



WHAT MAKES ALPACA SO SPECIAL?

- its fineness, with micronnage starting from 17mm, and even less
- it is hypoallergenic, and contains no oil or lanolin
- it is lightweight, breathable, soft, non-flammable
- it has thermal regulating properties, due to microscopic air pockets in its structure
- its durability and softness to the touch

TECHNIQUES USED IN ALLPA TEXTILES MANUFACTURING

Our textiles are hand woven in Andean workshops and hand Knitted in domestic machines in Lima neighborhoods. We have a laboratory in our facilities where we develop new designs and prototypes all year round, according to our clients needs and to international trends. These prototypes are then launched in our catalogues and produced in the associated workshops.



WHICH QUALITIES CAN WE FIND IN ALPACA YARNS?

Depending on several factors, such as age, sheared part of the body and variety, it is possible to find these qualities in the yarn:

- Imperial, 17 microns
- Royal alpaca or Super Baby Alpaca (BL-SUPER): 19-20 microns
- Baby alpaca (BL): 21-22.5 microns
- Superfine or FS Alpaca (FS): 25.5-26.5 microns
- Baby suri (SU_BL): 22.5 microns
- Suri (SU): 27.5 microns
- Huarizo, 29 – 31.5 mic
- Coarse alpaca (AG): +30 microns

Our textiles are made using mostly baby and Superfine alpaca, according to our customer`s demand.

The thicker quality, huarizo and coarse alpaca can be blend with llama to be used in rugs. Our products are made with the yarns provided by the industry who have the highest technology to spin also different blends with wool, merino, cotton, silk, etc.

These yarns are made with the certifications required by the market and are now in the process of obtaining the RAS (Responsible Alpaca Standard), developed in collaboration with Textile Exchange during 2020 and 2021. The launching of RAS started in April 2021 and will take 5 years during which 10,000 alpaca farms are expected to be RAS certified.







SUSTAINABILITY

Allpa is a team committed with Fair Trade as members of WFTO and sustainability is part of it.

This involves our concern for the environment, for the people and for the economy. All our products need to show this concern for the 3 levels, in agreement with the United Nations goals defined years ago.

SUSTAINABILITY MEANS FOR US:

- Make sure we leave a healthy planet for future generations
- Use renewable materials, resources and energy
- Create job and income opportunities for the younger generations through permanent orders
- Work towards a process of social and economic development
- Empowering our producers and collaborators to make sure we all grow in our capacities

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