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The Elegance of Wearing Andean Alpaca Knitwear by [Tracy Narvaez](#)

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Durable and smooth, alpaca knitwear is definitely worth the investment. It is warm and comfortable. This is a lovely animal from Peru who is known as the "Gold of the Andes". It produces a lovely fur which can be made into multiple garments such as sweaters, scarves, and blankets.

There is a large bond between alpaca and human in Peru. They almost treat them like family. They carry cargo in addition to producing the wool. They are quite an asset there. This is quite unique and many countries only see the relationship between animal and man as only for its results which are usually money. It is good to know there is more than that in the Peruvian culture.

At one time the material was exclusively worn by royalty. It was a symbol of status and wealth. Being more widely accessible and because it is aesthetically pleasing you can still resemble royalty if you wear it.

The wool is actually hollow on the inside which makes it lightweight even though it provides much warmth. It has a soft, fine texture that makes it comfortable to wear even as it provides great warmth.

They resemble llamas, but tend to be smaller in size. They are found in many areas of South America and they graze upon grass along the alpine slopes that run along the Andes mountain range. They tend to be gregarious herd animals and they have a reputation for being quite social animals. When they are shaved for their wool on an annual basis, specific methods are used to do the shaving. One needs to have the proper equipment and the right expertise to ensure that both the animal and the person remain safe during the process.

Shearing them on an annual basis is crucial. Without this, diseases can result. Two people must be present to perform the shearing. The animal needs to be restrained. It is large and nervous around the shears. It can be dangerous to shear without the right equipment and knowledge to handle this animal. It can be quite volatile if it is scared. One must take precautions. If one is not certain on how to do this correctly and safely, they should get advice from a professional. Be wise and do the right thing.

This industry is spreading throughout the world as other countries are joining in such as China, Australia, Canada, and Japan. The United States is also included in this. Their wool has a large market as well as breeding. Perhaps in the next decade or so, it will spread to everywhere in the world.

The Industrial Revolution significantly altered things for the industry during the 1800s. The Industrial Revolution enabled the fibers to become more widely accessible to a larger number of potential customers. Thousands of dollars have been exchanged between countries for the wool provided by this remarkable creature. Alpaca knitwear and related materials made from its wool will delight many people for years to come.

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