

MOM'S JOY ROOM

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CERTIFICATE OF DESCRIPTION & VALUATION

Handmade Alpaca Fur Teddy Bear — Genuine Baby Alpaca — Peru — 14"



MARKET VALUE

\$40–70

Realistic quick-sale price via shop, site, or collector market

ESTIMATED WORTH

\$75–110

Ceiling for a well-preserved genuine alpaca fur bear with soft, clean coat



14" handmade teddy bear in natural cream/white genuine baby alpaca fur, individually hand-sewn facial features, Peruvian craftsmanship.

DESCRIPTION

A handmade teddy bear measuring approximately 14 inches in height, crafted from genuine baby alpaca fur in a natural cream and white coloration. The bear features individually hand-sewn facial features — dark eyes, stitched nose and mouth — with a soft, plush body characteristic of Peruvian alpaca fur handicraft. No maker's label or tag is visible, which is typical of these pieces as they are produced by individual artisans and small workshops rather than branded manufacturers.

HISTORY & CONTEXT

The alpaca has been central to Andean culture for thousands of years. Native to the high-altitude regions of Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, and Chile, alpacas were domesticated by pre-Incan civilizations and revered for their extraordinarily soft, warm, and hypoallergenic fleece. Baby alpaca fur — the first shearing of a young alpaca, or the exceptionally soft fiber from the animal's underbelly and chest — is considered the finest grade of alpaca fiber, prized for its silky texture and natural luster.

The tradition of crafting stuffed animals from genuine alpaca fur emerged as a significant Peruvian handicraft industry in

the late 20th century, driven by both domestic tourism and international demand for ethically sourced, natural-fiber products. Artisans in the Peruvian highlands — particularly around Cusco, Puno, and Arequipa — began creating teddy bears, alpacas, llamas, and other animal figures from tanned alpaca hides, sewing each face individually by hand. These pieces are produced in small workshops and Fair Trade cooperatives, with each artisan giving every bear a slightly different expression, making each one effectively **unique despite being part of a craft tradition** rather than a numbered limited edition.

The craft gained international visibility through online marketplaces (Etsy, eBay, specialty alpaca retailers) and fair trade shops, with prices reflecting the quality of the fur, the size of the piece, and the level of detail in the handwork. New retail prices for 14-inch alpaca fur bears typically range from **\$47 to \$68** from specialty retailers such as The Alpaca Unlimited and LaNallama, with some premium examples reaching higher. The natural cream and white coloration — as seen on this bear — is the most common and traditional, though dyed examples in brown, grey, and black are also produced. The fur is naturally hypoallergenic, water-resistant, and remarkably soft, which gives these bears enduring appeal as both children's gifts and collector display pieces.

It is worth noting that alpaca fur bears occupy a distinctive niche in the teddy bear collecting world. They are not artist bears in the traditional sense (like R. John Wright or Steiff), nor are they mass-market plush toys. They are **folk craft pieces** — handmade using traditional Andean materials and techniques, each one slightly different, with a cultural heritage that connects them to one of the oldest textile traditions in the Americas. This positions them as affordable entry-level collectibles for buyers drawn to natural materials, ethical sourcing, and handmade craftsmanship.

NOTABLE FEATURES

- ◆ **Genuine baby alpaca fur** — not synthetic or faux; natural cream and white coloration
- ◆ **Handmade in Peru** — part of the Andean alpaca fur handicraft tradition
- ◆ **14 inches** — standard medium size for alpaca fur bears
- ◆ **Individually hand-sewn facial features** — each bear is unique in expression
- ◆ **Naturally hypoallergenic** — alpaca fiber contains no lanolin and is resistant to dust mites
- ◆ **Folk craft, not mass production** — small workshop / artisan-made, not factory-branded
- ◆ **Cultural heritage** — connected to one of the oldest textile traditions in the Americas

"Soft as a cloud that drifted down from the Andes — and just as likely to make you smile."

Collector's note: Alpaca fur teddy bears are a well-established Peruvian folk craft, not branded limited editions. Each is individually handmade, so no two are exactly alike — the hand-sewn face on this bear is unique to the artisan who made it. Value is driven by the genuineness of the fur (baby alpaca vs. adult vs. synthetic), the softness and cleanliness of the coat, and the size. This 14-inch cream example falls squarely in the standard retail range for genuine alpaca bears. New equivalents sell for \$47–\$68 from specialty retailers; used examples on eBay typically run \$25–\$35 plus shipping. Attribution is to the Peruvian alpaca fur handicraft tradition generally, as no individual maker's label is present — typical for this craft category.