Lima Travel Guide

Lima: City of Kings and Gastronomic Capital

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Things to do in Lima

Landmarks & Monuments

Lima's architectural treasures showcase centuries of history, from colonial-era masterpieces to pre-Columbian ruins nestled between modern skyscrapers. The city's UNESCO-listed Historic Center preserves Spanish colonial heritage while coastal monuments celebrate contemporary Peru.



Must See

Plaza de Armas (Plaza Mayor)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

The historic heart of Lima since its founding by Francisco Pizarro in 1535. This grand square features a magnificent **bronze fountain from 1650** and is surrounded by architectural gems including the **Cathedral of Lima**, the **Government Palace** (Palacio de Gobierno), the **Archbishop's Palace**, and the **Municipal Palace**. The plaza represents the nerve center of Peru's capital where important historical events have unfolded for nearly 500 years. On the last Sunday of July each year, the water fountain is filled with Pisco to celebrate National Pisco Day.



Top Pick

Cathedral of Lima

1-1.5 hours No Booking Needed

Map

An impressive **baroque masterpiece** dominating the Plaza de Armas' east side. Despite being rebuilt numerous times after earthquakes, it retains its magnificent facade and houses a dozen gold-decked chapels. The cathedral sits on the plot designated by Pizarro for Lima's first church in 1535 and contains his tomb. **Guided tours available** in Spanish and English, including access to the connected religious art museum featuring colonial paintings and sculptures.



Top Pick

Huaca Pucllana

1.5-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

A spectacular **pre-Inca ceremonial site** built from millions of adobe bricks by the Lima culture between 200-700 AD. This seven-tiered pyramid served as an administrative center and was dedicated to the god Pachacamac. Located in the modern Miraflores district, it offers a fascinating glimpse into ancient Peruvian civilizations. **Guided tours available** explaining the site's archaeological significance. The adjacent upscale restaurant allows dining with views of the illuminated ruins at night.



Notable

Archbishop's Palace

15-30 minutes (exterior) No Booking Needed

Map

A stunning example of **neo-colonial architecture** completed in 1924, featuring intricately carved dark cedar and mahogany balconies on either side of an ornate stone portico. The interior showcases **Mudejar-style balconies** overlooking airy courtyards decorated with Sevillian azulejos tiles. Currently serves as the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. While not generally open for interior visits, the incredible exterior architecture makes it a must-see when visiting Plaza de Armas.

Tips for Landmarks & Monuments

- Visit Plaza de Armas early morning or late afternoon to avoid crowds and heat
- The changing of the guard at Government Palace occurs daily at noon
- Huaca Pucllana is spectacular when illuminated at night - consider dining at the on-site restaurant
- Dress modestly when visiting religious sites

Museums & Galleries

Lima's museums house extraordinary collections spanning 5,000 years of Peruvian history, from pre-Columbian artifacts to contemporary art. World-class institutions preserve golden treasures, colonial art, and innovative exhibitions that tell Peru's cultural story.



Must See

Museo Larco

2-3 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Housed in an exquisite **18th-century vice-royal mansion** built over a 7th-century pre-Columbian pyramid, the Larco Museum showcases Peru's finest archaeological collection. Founded in 1926, it displays over **45,000 ceramic pieces** covering 5,000 years of pre-Columbian art. Highlights include the Gallery of Cultures, spectacular Gold and Silver Galleries with five specialized rooms, and the famous collection of erotic pottery. Set in beautiful gardens in the Pueblo Libre neighborhood, the museum offers chronological exhibits featuring Moche, Chimu, Nazca, and other ancient cultures. An excellent restaurant is located on-site.



Top Pick

Museum of Art of Lima (MALI)

2-3 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Located in the beautiful **Palacio de la Exposición** in Exposition Park, MALI showcases **3,000 years of Peruvian art history** with over 18,000 pieces in its collection. The museum covers 4,500 square meters with 34 exhibition rooms displaying pre-Columbian, Colonial, Republican, and Modern art. Highlights include Luis Montero's monumental painting 'The Funerals of Inca Atahualpa,' traditional Khipu weaving, colorful Inca textiles, and works by photographer Martin Chambi. The building itself is an outstanding restoration of a 19th-century exhibition hall. Features a library, shop, café, and offers courses and workshops.



Notable

Museum of Contemporary Art (MAC)

1.5-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Located on the border between Barranco and Miraflores, **MAC Lima is the only museum dedicated exclusively to modern and contemporary art** in the city. Founded in 2013, it promotes Peruvian and international contemporary art through thought-provoking exhibitions featuring paintings, sculptures, installations, and multimedia works. The museum sits beside a peaceful lagoon, making it perfect for cultural events, live shows, and workshops that highlight the creativity of Peru's artists. The exhibitions often explore themes of Peruvian society, politics, and history through contemporary lenses.



Notable

Pedro de Osma Museum

1-1.5 hours No Booking Needed

Map

This elegant colonial mansion in Barranco houses an exceptional collection of **Peruvian colonial art and decorative arts**. Visitors can admire period furnishings, stunning religious artworks, silver and gold pieces, paintings, and delicate textiles that celebrate the artistic legacy of colonial Peru. The museum provides an immersive experience into the lifestyle and art of colonial-era aristocrats, with well-preserved sculptures, furniture, and religious artifacts beautifully displayed to transport visitors back in time to Lima's colonial period.

Tips for Museums & Galleries

- The first-Sunday free-entry offer for state-run museums does not apply at Museo Larco; check each museum’s own policy.
- Museo Larco is open daily from 10am-7pm
- Allow at least 2-3 hours for Larco and MALI to fully appreciate the collections
- English-speaking guided tours are available at major museums
- Museum restaurants often offer excellent dining with cultural ambiance

Religious Sites

Lima's churches and convents are masterpieces of colonial architecture, adorned with baroque altars, religious art, and historical artifacts. These sacred spaces tell the story of Spanish colonization and the birth of Christianity in Peru.



Must See

Monastery and Church of San Francisco (Convento de San Francisco)

1.5-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

One of Lima's most important colonial monuments featuring **spectacular baroque architecture** and religious art. The complex includes a library with over 25,000 antique volumes, gorgeous courtyards and cloisters, and a unique wooden dome built in 1546 in early Iberian Mudejar style. The main attraction is the **famous catacombs** dating back to the 1600s, which served as a cemetery until 1810 and house the remains of approximately 70,000 people. The detailed bone classification and legends of connecting corridors to government buildings make this a captivating tour. Guided tours in Spanish and English are available.



Notable

Church of Santo Domingo

1 hour No Booking Needed

Map

A significant colonial church that dates back to the Spanish era and is closely associated with **three Peruvian saints**: San Martin de Porres, Santa Rosa de Lima, and San Francisco de Solano. This church holds special historical importance as the site where the **first university in South America**, the University of San Marcos, was founded in 1560. Located between Jirón Camaná and Jirón Conde de Superunda in the historic center, the church offers insights into Peru's religious heritage and the lives of its most revered saints.



Optional

Iglesia de la Virgen Milagrosa (Miraflores)

30 minutes No Booking Needed

Map

A beautiful Catholic church with **neo-colonial architecture** facing Parque Kennedy in the heart of Miraflores. This church serves as a spiritual center for the district and is notable for its elegant design and location in one of Lima's most vibrant neighborhoods. The church is easily accessible and provides a peaceful respite from the bustling park and shopping areas surrounding it.

Tips for Religious Sites

- Check the current entrance fee before visiting.
- Guided tours are highly recommended to understand the historical context
- Dress respectfully when visiting churches (covered shoulders and knees)
- Photography may be restricted in some areas - always ask permission
- Churches are most atmospheric during early morning or evening services

Neighborhoods & Districts

Each Lima neighborhood offers its own distinct personality, from the upscale coastal charm of Miraflores to the bohemian streets of Barranco. Exploring these districts reveals the city's diverse character and local life.



Must See

Miraflores

Half day to full day No Booking Needed

Map

Known as **Ciudad Heroica** (the Heroic City), Miraflores is Lima's premier tourist district perched on cliffs overlooking the Pacific Ocean. This upscale neighborhood features beautiful parks and gardens, high-rise buildings, world-class hotels, and countless restaurants and shops. The district is home to **Parque Kennedy** (famous for its stray cat population), the coastal Malecón promenade perfect for walking and cycling, **Larcomar** shopping center built into the cliffside, and the romantic **Parque del Amor** with its iconic 'El Beso' sculpture. Miraflores offers a perfect blend of cosmopolitan life with stunning coastal views, making it the heart of modern Lima and one of the safest, most walkable areas for visitors.



Must See

Barranco

Half day to full day No Booking Needed

Map

Lima's most **bohemian and artistic neighborhood**, originally a beach community for the city's wealthy that evolved into the center of art, music, and creative culture. The district is filled with colorful colonial architecture, street murals, art galleries, intimate cafes, and vibrant nightlife. Key attractions include the iconic **Bridge of Sighs** (Puente de los Suspiros), the ocean walk at Plazuela Chabuca Granda with beautiful murals, the **Jade Rivera Museum** showcasing one of Peru's most famous street artists, and numerous art studios like José Antonio Galería. Barranco's streets come alive at night with bars, live music venues, and restaurants. The neighborhood offers an authentic glimpse into Lima's artistic soul and contemporary cultural scene.



Top Pick

Historic Center (Centro Histórico)

Half day No Booking Needed

Map

A **UNESCO World Heritage Site** and one of South America's most important colonial legacies. Founded in 1535, the Historic Center preserves centuries of Spanish colonial architecture alongside republican-era buildings. Beyond the Plaza de Armas, explore the narrow streets lined with ornate balconies, traditional shops, and historic buildings. The area includes the **Jirón de la Unión** pedestrian street, multiple colonial churches, historic casas (mansions), and traditional markets. While parts of the center show wear, ongoing restoration efforts are bringing new life to this culturally rich area. Best visited with a guide or organized tour for safety and historical context.



Notable

San Isidro

2-4 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Lima's most **upscale residential and business district**, known for its tree-lined streets, elegant mansions, golf courses, and high-end hotels. San Isidro offers a more tranquil, refined atmosphere compared to bustling Miraflores. The neighborhood features excellent restaurants, luxury shopping, and the archaeological site of Huaca Huallamarca. It's a safe, walkable area perfect for those seeking a sophisticated base with easy access to Lima's attractions. The district is also home to many embassies and corporate offices.

Tips for Neighborhoods & Districts

- Use registered taxis or ride-sharing apps (Uber, Cabify) when traveling between neighborhoods

- Miraflores and San Isidro are the safest areas for tourists, well-policed and walkable
- Visit Barranco in the late afternoon to see street art, then stay for dinner and nightlife
- The Historic Center is best explored during daylight hours with a guide
- Each neighborhood has its own character - spend time in multiple districts to experience Lima's diversity

Parks & Gardens

Lima's green spaces offer respite from urban life, from cliff-top parks with ocean views to magical water fountain displays. These parks blend natural beauty with cultural significance and recreational opportunities.



Must See

El Malecón de Miraflores

1-3 hours No Booking Needed

Map

A spectacular **six-mile-long cliffside promenade** offering breathtaking panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean. This beautifully landscaped path runs along the entire Miraflores coastline and is perfect for walking, jogging, cycling, or simply relaxing while watching paragliders soar over the coast. The Malecón connects several scenic parks including Parque del Amor, features the Miraflores Lighthouse, and provides access to the beaches of Costa Verde below. Along the way, you'll find cafes, restaurants, exercise equipment, and numerous benches to sit and enjoy the ocean breeze and sunset views. It's one of Lima's most beloved recreational spaces.



Top Pick

Parque del Amor (Love Park)

30 minutes to 1 hour No Booking Needed

Map

A romantic oceanfront park along the Malecón in Miraflores, famous for its iconic sculpture **'El Beso' (The Kiss)** by Peruvian sculptor Víctor Delfín, showing two lovers in an embrace. The park features colorful **Gaudí-style mosaic benches** decorated with romantic phrases in Spanish, inspired by Antoni Gaudí's work in Barcelona. Set high on the cliffs, it offers stunning panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean, especially beautiful at sunset. On Valentine's Day (February 14), the park fills with locals celebrating love. It's one of Lima's most photographed locations and a favorite spot for couples and families alike.



Top Pick

Parque Kennedy

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

The heart of Miraflores and a central gathering place for locals and tourists. This park is **famous for its large population of friendly stray cats** - dozens of cats that were originally brought in for pest control and are now fed and cared for, becoming a tourist attraction in their own right. The park is surrounded by cafes, restaurants, craft markets, and street performers. Notable nearby attractions include the Iglesia de la Virgen Milagrosa church and Avenida Larco, the main shopping and entertainment avenue. It's a perfect spot for people-watching, trying local street food, and experiencing daily Limeño life.



Top Pick

Circuito Mágico del Agua (Magic Water Circuit)

1.5-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

The world's **largest fountain complex** located in Parque de la Reserva, featuring thirteen interactive and illuminated fountains that create a spectacular nighttime show. Unveiled in 2007, the fountains constantly change colors and play a medley of Peruvian hits and international classics. The highlight is the **Fantasy Fountain** stretching 120 meters in length, with lasers creating stunning visual effects. One fountain shoots water up to 80 meters into the air! The Magic Water Circuit combines technology, light, music, and water into an unforgettable family-friendly experience. The interactive fountains allow visitors to walk through the water displays.

Tips for Parks & Gardens

- Visit the Magic Water Circuit after dark (opens around 3pm, best after 6pm) for the full illuminated experience
- General admission is S/5.
- Parque del Amor is most romantic at sunset - arrive early to secure a good viewing spot

- The Malecón is perfect for early morning exercise or evening strolls
- Bring a light jacket as coastal areas can be cool and windy, especially in winter

Food & Dining

Real, highly-rated Restaurants in Lima, sourced from Google Places (rating above 4★).

Awicha Santa luisa★★★★★ 4.9 (361)

1-2 hours

Map

Awicha Santa luisa is a highly-rated restaurant in Lima, rated 4.9★ from 361 reviews. Located at C. Sta. Luisa 240, San Isidro 15073, Peru.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:00 – 10:30 PM
- Tuesday: 12:00 – 10:30 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 10:30 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 10:30 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 10:30 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 10:30 PM
- Sunday: Closed

LIMANÁ - PERUVIAN SUPERFOOD RESTAURANT★★★★★ 4.8 (1,455)

1-2 hours

Map

LIMANÁ - PERUVIAN SUPERFOOD RESTAURANT is a highly-rated restaurant in Lima, rated 4.8★ from 1455 reviews. Located at Av. Augusto Pérez Araníbar 2011, San Isidro 27, Peru.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 12:00 – 4:00 PM, 6:00 – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 4:00 PM, 6:00 – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 4:00 PM, 6:00 – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 4:00 PM, 6:00 – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 12:00 – 4:00 PM

Chicho★★★★★ 4.8 (2,267)

1-2 hours

Map

Chicho | Cocina de Raiz | Miraflores is a highly-rated restaurant in Lima, rated 4.8★ from 2267 reviews. Located at Av. Comandante Espinar 663, Miraflores 15074, Peru.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 12:00 – 8:00 PM

Cevichería Barra Maretazo★★★★★ 4.8 (2,347)

1-2 hours

Map

Cevichería Barra Maretazo | Peruvian Food is a highly-rated restaurant in Lima, rated 4.8★ from 2347 reviews. Located at C. Berlín 340, Miraflores 15074, Peru.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM

Maido★★★★★ 4.7 (5,033)

1-2 hours

Map

Maido is a highly-rated restaurant in Lima, rated 4.7★ from 5033 reviews. Located at Ca. San Martín No. 399, Miraflores 15074, Peru.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 1:00 – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 1:00 – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 1:00 – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 1:00 – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 1:00 – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 1:00 – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: Closed

Osaka Pardo y Aliaga★★★★★ 4.7 (4,919)

1-2 hours

Map

Osaka Pardo y Aliaga is a highly-rated restaurant in Lima, rated 4.7★ from 4919 reviews. Located at Av. Felipe Pardo y Aliaga 660, San Isidro 15073, Peru.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:30 – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 12:30 – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 12:30 – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 12:30 – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 12:30 PM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 12:30 PM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 12:30 – 10:00 PM

Kjolle★★★★★ 4.7 (1,200)

1-2 hours

Map

Kjolle is a highly-rated restaurant in Lima, rated 4.7★ from 1200 reviews. Located at Av. Pedro de Osma 301, Barranco 15063, Peru.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 12:45 – 2:30 PM, 7:00 – 8:30 PM
- Wednesday: 12:45 – 2:30 PM, 7:00 – 8:30 PM
- Thursday: 12:45 – 2:30 PM, 7:00 – 8:30 PM
- Friday: 12:45 – 2:30 PM, 7:00 – 8:30 PM
- Saturday: 12:45 – 2:30 PM, 7:00 – 8:30 PM
- Sunday: Closed

Mérito★★★★★ 4.7 (1,057)

1-2 hours

Map

Mérito is a highly-rated restaurant in Lima, rated 4.7★ from 1057 reviews. Located at Jr, 28 De Julio 206, Barranco 15063, Peru.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 5:30 – 9:00 PM
- Wednesday: 5:30 – 9:00 PM
- Thursday: 5:30 – 9:00 PM
- Friday: 5:30 – 9:00 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 3:00 PM, 5:30 – 9:00 PM
- Sunday: Closed

Restaurant "El Pacífico"★★★★★ 4.7 (3,881)

1-2 hours

Map

Restaurant "El Pacífico" is a highly-rated restaurant in Lima, rated 4.7★ from 3881 reviews. Located at Pje. de José Olaya 114, Lima 15001, Peru.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 8:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 8:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 8:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 8:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 8:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 8:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 8:30 AM – 6:00 PM

Casa Tambo Restaurant★★★★★ 4.6 (3,769)

1-2 hours

Map

Casa Tambo Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Lima, rated 4.6★ from 3769 reviews. Located at Jr. de la Unión 1066, Lima 15001, Peru.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:30 – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 12:30 – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 12:30 – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 12:30 – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 12:30 – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 12:30 – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 12:30 – 9:00 PM

Central★★★★★ 4.6 (3,474)

1-2 hours

Map

Central is a highly-rated restaurant in Lima, rated 4.6★ from 3474 reviews. Located at Av. Pedro de Osma 301, Barranco 15063, Peru.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:45 – 1:45 PM, 7:00 – 8:30 PM
- Tuesday: 12:45 – 1:45 PM, 7:00 – 8:30 PM
- Wednesday: 12:45 – 1:45 PM, 7:00 – 8:30 PM
- Thursday: 12:45 – 1:45 PM, 7:00 – 8:30 PM
- Friday: 12:45 – 1:45 PM, 7:00 – 8:30 PM
- Saturday: 12:45 – 1:45 PM, 7:00 – 8:30 PM
- Sunday: Closed

Panchita - Miraflores★★★★★ 4.6 (14,099)

1-2 hours

Map

Panchita - Miraflores is a highly-rated restaurant in Lima, rated 4.6★ from 14099 reviews. Located at C. 2 de Mayo 298, Miraflores 15074, Peru.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 12:00 – 6:00 PM

El Mercado★★★★★ 4.6 (2,705)

1-2 hours

Map

El Mercado is a highly-rated restaurant in Lima, rated 4.6★ from 2705 reviews. Located at Av. Hipólito Unanue 203, Miraflores 15074, Peru.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 12:30 – 5:00 PM
- Wednesday: 12:30 – 5:00 PM
- Thursday: 12:30 – 5:00 PM
- Friday: 12:30 – 5:00 PM
- Saturday: 12:30 – 5:00 PM
- Sunday: 12:30 – 5:00 PM

La Mar Cevichería Peruana★★★★★ 4.6 (8,526)

1-2 hours

Map

La Mar Cevichería Peruana is a highly-rated restaurant in Lima, rated 4.6★ from 8526 reviews. Located at Av. Mariscal La Mar 770, Miraflores 15074, Peru.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:00 – 5:00 PM
- Tuesday: 12:00 – 5:00 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 5:00 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 5:00 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 7:00 PM
- Saturday: 11:30 AM – 5:30 PM
- Sunday: 11:30 AM – 5:30 PM

Isolina★★★★★ 4.6 (7,734)

1-2 hours

Map

Isolina is a highly-rated restaurant in Lima, rated 4.6★ from 7734 reviews. Located at Av. San Martín 101, Lima 15063, Peru.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 9:00 – 11:00 AM, 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 9:00 – 11:00 AM, 12:00 – 10:00 PM

Practical Information

Optimal Travel Seasons

Summer (December to April): The absolute best time to visit Lima. Expect warm, sunny weather with temperatures ranging from 19°C to 28°C (66°F to 82°F). This is beach season with clear skies, perfect for outdoor activities, coastal walks, and enjoying Lima's beaches. Hotels and restaurants are busier, so book in advance.

Winter (May to November): Lima experiences 'la garua' - a thick misty sea fog that hangs over the city with overcast skies. Temperatures are cooler, ranging from 12°C to 19°C (54°F to 66°F). Despite the gray weather, this is actually peak tourist season because it coincides with the dry season in the Andes (ideal for visiting Machu Picchu). Excellent time for museums, indoor activities, and Lima's renowned restaurants. Prices are higher during June-August.

Shoulder Seasons (March-May and September-November): These transitional periods offer the best of both worlds - moderate weather, fewer international visitors, easier restaurant reservations, and slightly lower hotel prices. Great for budget travelers and those seeking a more relaxed experience. Temperatures are mild and there's little rain.

Climate Considerations

- **Rainfall:** Lima receives very little rain year-round, making it one of the driest capitals. February is the wettest month, but rain is still minimal.
- **Humidity:** High humidity throughout the year (80-90%), particularly during winter months when the garua fog is present.
- **Sun:** October has the longest daylight hours, while June-July have the shortest days.
- **Temperature:** Lima's coastal desert location means moderate temperatures year-round with minimal variation.

Special Events to Consider

- **Fiestas Patrias (July 28-29):** Peru's Independence Day celebrations with parades, concerts, and festivities throughout Lima
- **Lima Food Festival (September):** Mistura, one of Latin America's largest food festivals
- **Holy Week (April):** Religious processions and ceremonies
- **Lima Pride Week (late June-early July):** Vibrant celebrations of diversity
- **National Pisco Day (last Sunday of July):** The Plaza de Armas fountain flows with Pisco!

Getting Around Lima

Lima offers multiple transportation options for visitors, though traffic congestion can be challenging, especially during rush hours (7:30-9:00 AM and 5:00-8:00 PM).

Public Transportation

Metropolitano Bus: Lima's modern Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system is the most efficient public transport option, serving nearly 10 million passengers daily. Operates from 6:00 AM to 9:50 PM with fares starting at S/2.50. Requires a rechargeable card (S/5 deposit). Connects major areas but has limited routes.

Metro de Lima: The underground metro now connects more areas including parts of Miraflores and San Isidro. Clean, safe, and affordable. Additional metro lines are under construction.

Local Buses (Micros/Colectivos): Extensive network covering all areas but can be crowded, confusing for tourists, and uncomfortable. Not recommended for first-time visitors.

Taxis & Ride-Sharing

Uber and Cabify: The safest and most convenient option for tourists. Available throughout Lima, particularly in Miraflores, San Isidro, and Barranco. Fares are reasonable and displayed upfront. Download apps before arrival.

Licensed Taxis: Available but **NEVER hail taxis on the street**. Only use taxis called by your hotel or official taxi companies. Fares typically range from S/5 to S/25 depending on distance. Agree on price before starting journey or ensure meter is used. A ride from Miraflores to downtown costs approximately S/20-25.

Cycling

City Bike Lima: Bike-sharing system gaining popularity. The Malecón in Miraflores has dedicated bike paths perfect for cycling along the coast. Several bike rental shops in tourist areas.

✈ Airport Transfer

Jorge Chávez International Airport (LIM) is located in Callao, about 30-45 minutes from Miraflores depending on traffic.

- **Airport Express Bus:** Connects airport to Miraflores, affordable and reliable
- **Hotel Shuttles:** Many hotels offer shuttle services - arrange in advance
- **Check the app for the current fare.**
- **Official Airport Taxis:** Available at designated stands inside airport, more expensive but safe
- Avoid unofficial taxi drivers approaching you inside or outside the airport

Important Transportation Tips

- Download Uber and Cabify apps before arrival
- Always use registered transportation - never hail cabs on the street
- Keep small change for public transport
- Traffic is worst 7:30-9:00 AM and 5:00-8:00 PM - plan accordingly
- Renting a car is NOT recommended due to chaotic traffic and limited parking
- Walking is safe and pleasant in Miraflores, San Isidro, and Barranco during daylight

Shopping in Lima

What to Buy

- **Alpaca Products:** Sweaters, scarves, blankets, and clothing made from soft alpaca wool - warmer and softer than sheep's wool
- **Silver Jewelry:** Peru is a major silver producer; find beautiful handcrafted jewelry at excellent prices
- **Textiles:** Colorful woven textiles, blankets, and tapestries featuring traditional Andean patterns
- **Ceramics & Pottery:** Replicas of pre-Columbian designs or contemporary Peruvian pottery

- **Pisco:** Peru's national spirit - perfect for cocktails or as a gift
- **Coffee & Chocolate:** High-quality Peruvian coffee and cacao products
- **Retablos:** Traditional folk art boxes with three-dimensional scenes

Shopping Areas

Larcomar Shopping Center (Miraflores): Three-level mall built into the cliffside with stunning Pacific Ocean views. Features international brands, restaurants, movie theater, and is open 9:00 AM - 10:00 PM. Perfect for combining shopping with sunset views.

Avenida Larco (Miraflores): Main shopping and entertainment avenue connecting Parque Kennedy to the cliffs. Lined with shops, boutiques, cafes, and restaurants.

Indian Market (Mercado Indio - Miraflores): Excellent for handcrafts, textiles, alpaca products, and souvenirs. Located near Avenida Petit Thouars. Bargaining expected.

Mercado de Surquillo: Vibrant local market for fresh produce, traditional Peruvian ingredients, and authentic food experiences. Some stalls sell crafts.

Mercado 28: Trendy food hall featuring gourmet takes on Peruvian street food.

Mundo Alpaca: Shop and educational museum showing the alpaca wool process from shearing to finished products.

Bargaining Tips

- Bargaining is expected and accepted at markets and with street vendors
- Fixed prices in malls and established shops - no bargaining
- Start by offering 50-60% of the asking price
- Be polite and friendly - aggressive bargaining is frowned upon
- If vendor won't budge, walking away often brings them down
- Buy multiple items from same vendor for better overall price
- Cash is king - carrying exact change helps negotiations

Annual Events & National Holidays

Major Celebrations

Fiestas Patrias (July 28-29): Peru's Independence Day is the biggest national celebration. Lima hosts grand military parades near Plaza de Armas, concerts, fireworks, and festivities throughout the city. Streets are decorated with red and white flags. Expect businesses to close and heavy traffic. Experience incredible patriotic spirit.

Mistura is not a current annual September event; its last edition was in 2017. Showcases Peru's diverse cuisine with hundreds of restaurants, chefs, and food vendors. Features cooking demonstrations, traditional dishes, and innovative culinary creations. A must for food lovers.

Lima Art Week (Various dates): Contemporary art festival featuring exhibitions, gallery openings, and events throughout the city.

Holy Week/Semana Santa (March/April): Religious processions and ceremonies, particularly in the Historic Center. Señor de Los Milagros church hosts important services.

Lima Pride Week (Late June-Early July): Vibrant LGBTQ+ celebrations including parades, parties, and cultural events.

National Pisco Day is the fourth Sunday of July: Celebration of Peru's national drink. The fountain in Plaza de Armas is filled with Pisco! Bars and restaurants offer special promotions.

Festival de Barriletes (Kite Festival): Colorful kite festival celebrating Peruvian culture.

The major Candelaria festival is held in Puno, not Lima.

Cultural Events Year-Round

- Live music performances in Barranco's bars and venues
- Theater productions and concerts at various cultural centers
- Art gallery openings, particularly in Barranco on Friday evenings
- Food markets and culinary events
- Free walking tours daily from Miraflores

National Holidays (Businesses Closed)

- New Year's Day (January 1)
- Holy Thursday and Good Friday (March/April - dates vary)
- Labor Day (May 1)
- Feast of Saints Peter and Paul (June 29)
- Independence Day (July 28-29)
- Battle of Angamos (October 8)
- All Saints' Day (November 1)
- Immaculate Conception (December 8)
- Christmas Day (December 25)

Sample Itineraries for Lima

Day 1: Historic Lima & Colonial Heritage

Morning (9:00 AM - 12:30 PM): Start with a free walking tour from Parque Kennedy at 10:00 AM or take a taxi to Plaza de Armas. Explore the historic square, visit Cathedral of Lima (guided tour), see Archbishop's Palace exterior, and watch the changing of guard at Government Palace (noon). Walk through the historic streets to Monastery of San Francisco for a tour including the famous catacombs.

Lunch (12:30 - 2:00 PM): Try traditional Peruvian cuisine near the Plaza or return to Miraflores.

Afternoon (2:30 - 6:00 PM): Visit Museo Larco in Pueblo Libre (taxi recommended). Spend 2-3 hours exploring the pre-Columbian art collection. Have coffee or early dinner at the museum's beautiful garden restaurant.

Evening (7:00 - 10:00 PM): Head to Magic Water Circuit for the illuminated fountain show. Return to Miraflores for dinner at one of the neighborhood's many restaurants.

Day 2: Miraflores & Coastal Lima

Morning (9:00 AM - 12:00 PM): Start at Parque Kennedy, observe the famous cats, and grab coffee at a nearby café. Walk down Avenida Larco to the Malecón coastal promenade. Stroll along the cliffs, stopping at Parque del Amor to see El Beso sculpture and enjoy Pacific Ocean views. Continue to Larcomar shopping center.

Lunch (12:00 - 2:00 PM): Lunch at Larcomar with ocean views or try authentic ceviche at La Mar, Mi Barrunto, or another renowned cevichería. Remember: ceviche is traditionally a lunch dish in Peru!

Afternoon (2:30 - 6:00 PM): Visit Huaca Pucllana archaeological site in Miraflores (guided tour). Explore Indian Market for shopping and souvenirs. Alternatively, visit MALI (Museum of Art of Lima) if interested in Peruvian art history.

Evening (7:00 PM onwards): Experience Lima's culinary scene at a top restaurant (reservations essential for places like Central, Maido, Astrid y Gastón) or enjoy casual dining in Miraflores.

Day 3: Barranco Arts District

Morning (10:00 AM - 1:00 PM): Take Uber/taxi to Barranco. Join a Barranco walking tour to discover street art, murals, and bohemian culture. Visit Jade Rivera Museum, walk across the Bridge of Sighs (Puente de los Suspiros), and explore art galleries along the way. Stop at cafes for coffee and pastries.

Lunch (1:00 - 3:00 PM): Try Barranco's eclectic dining scene - from casual cevicherías to trendy bistros.

Afternoon (3:00 - 6:00 PM): Visit MAC (Museum of Contemporary Art) on the Barranco-Miraflores border or Pedro de Osma Museum for colonial art. Alternatively, relax at a Barranco café, people-watch, and soak in the artistic atmosphere.

Evening (7:00 PM onwards): Return for dinner in Barranco or Miraflores. Barranco comes alive at night - explore bars, live music venues, and restaurants. Try Ayahuasca Resto-Bar for cocktails in a beautifully restored mansion.

Day 4: Day Trip to Paracas & Ballestas Islands

Very Early Morning (4:00 - 8:30 AM): Hotel pickup around 4:30 AM for luxury bus to Paracas (3.5 hours). Arrive in Paracas, enjoy breakfast, use restrooms.

Morning (9:00 - 11:00 AM): 2-hour speedboat tour to Ballestas Islands - Peru's 'mini-Galapagos.' See sea lions, Humboldt penguins, diverse seabirds, and the mysterious Candelabra geoglyph. Bring windbreaker - it's windy!

Midday (11:00 AM - 2:00 PM): Guided tour of Paracas National Reserve - stunning desert-meets-ocean landscapes, Red Beach, and unique ecosystem. Buffet lunch with ocean views.

Afternoon (2:30 - 4:00 PM): Optional: Visit hacienda with colonial slave tunnels or have free time in Paracas.

Late Afternoon/Evening (4:00 - 11:00 PM): Board bus back to Lima. Arrive around 11:00 PM. This full-day excursion is consistently rated as Lima's #1 activity!

Day 5: Culinary & Cultural Immersion

Morning (9:00 AM - 12:00 PM): Take a cooking class! Visit Surquillo Market with a chef to shop for ingredients, then learn to prepare classic Peruvian dishes including ceviche, causa, and pisco sour. Classes usually include breakfast and lunch.

Afternoon (2:00 - 5:00 PM): Explore San Isidro's upscale neighborhood, visit Huaca Huallamarca archaeological site, or indulge in shopping at high-end boutiques. Alternatively, visit museums you haven't yet seen or revisit favorite neighborhoods.

Evening (6:00 PM onwards): Final night celebration! Book a table at one of Lima's world-renowned restaurants (Central, Maido, or Astrid y Gastón - reserve weeks in advance) or enjoy a more casual but equally delicious meal at Panchita, Osaka, or other favorites. End with cocktails at a rooftop bar like Saha.

Best Instagram & Photography Locations

Top Photo Opportunities

Parque del Amor (Love Park): The iconic 'El Beso' sculpture with Pacific Ocean backdrop is Lima's most photographed spot. *Best time:* Sunset (around 6:00-7:00 PM) for golden hour colors and dramatic sky. The colorful mosaic benches also make excellent foreground elements.

Bridge of Sighs (Puente de los Suspiros - Barranco): Charming colonial bridge surrounded by colorful buildings and bougainvillea. *Best time:* Mid-morning (10:00 AM - noon) for soft light. The area underneath with ocean walk and murals is also photogenic.

Miraflores Malecón: Dramatic cliff-top views overlooking Pacific Ocean with paragliders soaring overhead. Multiple vantage points along the 6-mile promenade. *Best time:* Sunset for spectacular ocean colors, or early morning (7:00-9:00 AM) for fewer people and soft light.

Larcomar Shopping Center: Cliffside mall offers unique architectural photography with ocean backdrop. *Best time:* Late afternoon to capture both architecture and sunset.

Plaza de Armas: Colonial architecture, colorful balconies, ornate government buildings, and central fountain create classic Lima scenes. *Best time:* Early morning (7:00-8:00 AM) before crowds, or during the changing of guard at noon for action shots.

Barranco Street Art: Vibrant murals throughout the district, especially around Plazuela Chabuca Granda and residential streets. Jade Rivera's works are particularly stunning. *Best time:* Midday for bright colors, but shade from buildings

provides good lighting all day.

Huaca Pucllana at Night: Pre-Inca pyramid illuminated against Miraflores skyline. Shoot from the restaurant or surrounding streets. *Best time:* After dark (8:00 PM onwards).

Magic Water Circuit: Illuminated fountains create spectacular night photography opportunities with colors, motion, and light. *Best time:* After 7:00 PM when fully dark. Use slower shutter speeds to capture water motion.

Parque Kennedy: The famous cats of Miraflores, street performers, and vibrant park life. *Best time:* Late afternoon (4:00-6:00 PM) when cats are most active and light is still good.

Barranco Street Scenes: Colorful colonial houses, cobblestone streets, and artistic doorways throughout the district. Walk residential streets for authentic captures.

Photography Tips for Lima

- Gray skies from May-November: Embrace the moody atmosphere or convert to black & white
- Golden hour is magical during summer months (December-April)
- Always ask permission before photographing people, especially in markets
- Secure your camera equipment - use camera straps and stay aware of surroundings
- Bring neutral density filters for Magic Water Circuit to capture motion blur
- Wide-angle lens ideal for architecture and landscapes; telephoto for wildlife at Ballestas Islands
- Marine layer can create dramatic fog effects along coast

Electricity & Adapters

Voltage: 220V

Frequency: 60 Hz

Plug Types: Peru uses types **A, B, and C** electrical outlets.

- **Type A:** Two flat parallel pins (American style)
- **Type B:** Two flat parallel pins with grounding pin (American style with ground)
- **Type C:** Two round pins (European style)

What You Need

Travelers from North America: Most US/Canadian devices work with Type A and B outlets. However, check your device voltage - if it's only 110V, you'll need a voltage converter (not just an adapter). Modern electronics (phones, laptops, cameras) are usually dual voltage (110-240V) and only need a plug adapter.

Travelers from Europe/UK/Australia: You'll need a plug adapter for Type A or C outlets. European plugs (Type C) fit some outlets. Check device voltage compatibility.

Recommendations

- Bring a universal travel adapter that includes Type A, B, and C plugs
- Hotels usually provide adapters upon request, but supply is limited
- Purchase adapters before arrival or at Lima airport shops
- USB chargers work with adapters - bring multi-port USB chargers for phones/tablets
- Voltage converters are large and heavy - only bring if you have devices that aren't dual voltage

Must-Try Peruvian Dishes

Iconic Lima Specialties

Ceviche: Peru's national dish and Lima's culinary crown jewel. Fresh raw fish (typically sea bass or flounder) 'cooked' in lime juice with red onion, ají chili, sweet potato, and corn. The citrus marinade (leche de tigre or 'tiger's milk') is often

consumed as a drink. **IMPORTANT:** Ceviche is traditionally eaten at lunch (noon-3:00 PM) when fish is freshest. Top spots: La Mar, Mi Barrunto, Punto Azul, Canta Rana.

Lomo Saltado: Peruvian-Chinese fusion stir-fry featuring tender beef, onions, tomatoes, ají amarillo, soy sauce, and French fries, served with rice. Represents the Chinese influence (Chifa) on Peruvian cuisine. Available everywhere from street stalls to fine dining.

Anticuchos: Grilled beef heart skewers marinated in vinegar, cumin, and ají peppers. A beloved street food with Afro-Peruvian roots. Try them from street vendors or at Panchita restaurant.

Causa Limeña: Layered dish of seasoned mashed yellow potatoes with avocado and seafood (tuna or shrimp), beautifully presented and served cold. A Lima specialty.

Papa Rellena: Deep-fried potato stuffed with seasoned meat stew, olives, and hard-boiled eggs. Comforting street food or restaurant appetizer.

Ají de Gallina: Creamy chicken stew with ají amarillo, milk, bread, and cheese, served over rice with potatoes and olives. Classic comfort food.

Pollo a la Brasa: Peruvian rotisserie chicken marinated in special spices and cooked over charcoal. Incredibly flavorful and juicy. Try at Primos Chicken or Pardos Chicken.

Arroz Chaufa: Peruvian fried rice influenced by Chinese cooking, with soy sauce, ginger, egg, and choice of meat or seafood. Part of Chifa cuisine.

Pan con Chicharrón: Breakfast sandwich featuring crispy pork belly, sweet potato slices, and salsa criolla on fresh bread. Try at La Lucha Sanguchería.

Beverages

Pisco Sour: Peru's national cocktail made with pisco (grape brandy), lime juice, simple syrup, egg white, and Angostura bitters. Order at any bar or restaurant.

Chicha Morada: Purple corn drink with pineapple, cinnamon, and cloves - refreshing and naturally sweet.

Inka Cola: Peru's beloved bright yellow soda with bubble gum flavor. A cultural icon.

Where to Eat

Fine Dining (Reservations Essential):

- Central - #1 in Latin America, elevated Peruvian using ingredients from different ecosystems
- Maido - Best Nikkei (Japanese-Peruvian) cuisine in the world
- Astrid y Gastón - Iconic restaurant by Peru's most famous chef

Excellent Mid-Range:

- La Mar - Outstanding ceviche in lively atmosphere
- Panchita - Classic Peruvian comfort food
- Osaka - High-end Nikkei with beautiful presentation
- Isolina - Authentic criollo (Creole) cuisine

Budget-Friendly & Authentic:

- El Cebiche de Ronald - Hole-in-the-wall with amazing ceviche
- Mi Barrunto - Local favorite cevichería
- Canta Rana - Rustic, authentic seafood in Barranco
- Primos Chicken - Best pollo a la brasa
- La Lucha Sanguchería - Famous sandwiches

Markets & Food Halls:

- Surquillo Market - Fresh produce, ceviche stalls, traditional snacks
- Mercado 28 - Gourmet Peruvian street food
- Al Toke Pez - Tiny seafood stand with excellent leche de tigre

Dining Tips

- Lunch is the main meal (1:00-3:00 PM) - many restaurants offer menu del día (fixed lunch menu) at great prices
- Dinner service starts around 7:00-8:00 PM
- Tipping: 10% is standard and appreciated (not mandatory but expected in tourist areas)
- Reservations essential for top restaurants - book weeks in advance for Central, Maido
- Street food is generally safe in busy, popular stalls with high turnover
- Tap water is not safe to drink - stick to bottled water
- Lima's food scene works for all budgets - from S/10 street food to S/500+ tasting menus