



Lima

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Best Places to Eat

- » Central (p84)
- » Astrid y Gastón (p84)
- » El Verdíco de Fidel (p82)
- » El Rincón que no Conoces (p89)
- » El Enano (p84)

Best Places to Stay

- » 3B Barranco B&B (p80)
- » Backpacker's Family House (p77)
- » DUO Hotel Boutique (p75)

Why Go?

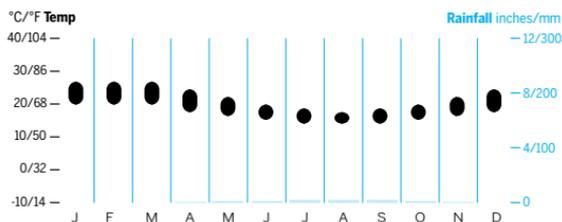
With fog bundling its colonial facades and high rises, it takes a little imagination to get beyond the grit of Lima's first impression. After Cairo, this sprawling metropolis is the second-driest world capital, rising above a long coastline of crumbling cliffs. To enjoy it, climb on the wave of chaos that spans from high-rise condos built alongside pre-Columbian temples, and fast Pacific breakers rolling toward noisy traffic snarls. Think one part southern Cali doused with a heavy dose of *America Latina*.

But Lima is also a sophisticate, with civilization that dates back millennia. Stately museums display sublime pottery; galleries debut edgy art; solemn religious processions date back to the 18th century and crowded nightclubs pulse with tropical beats. No visitor can miss the capital's culinary genius, part of a gastronomic revolution more than 400 years in the making.

This is Lima. Shrouded in history, gloriously messy and full of aesthetic delights. Don't even think of missing it.

When to Go

Lima



Dec–Mar The hottest, blue-sky months ideal for surf and sun on the coast.

Year-round A mild and dry climate means comfortable capital visits throughout the year.

Late Aug Colorful processions mark the festival of Santa Rosa de Lima, the country's first saint.

City Cuisine

In Lima, food inspires as much reverence as religion. So, the agonizing question is, what to eat? Start by sampling these local staples:

Lima's most tender beef-heart skewers, *anticuchos*, can be found in a simple street cart (Anticuchos de la Tía Grima, p85) and a posh Miraflores eatery (Panchita, p87).

Sublime renditions of the country's most seductive dish, ceviche, can be found in places both economical (El Verídico de Fidel, p82) and upscale (Pescados Capitales, p84); for something truly different, try it seared (Fiesta, p85).

The country's fusion cuisine, Criollo cooking – a singular blend of Spanish, Andean, Chinese and African influences – is without parallel at neighborhood cheapie Rincón Chami (p86), El Rincón que No Conoces (p89) and the super-chic Restaurant Huaca Pucllana (p85).

First-rate service, encyclopedic wine lists, and sculptural dishes that blend the traditional and the nouveau find their apex at Astrid y Gastón (p84) and Malabar (p83).

Celebrating the humble potato, *causas* are cold potato dishes that are as beautiful as they are delectable, and are found in any traditional restaurant.

DON'T MISS

One serious eating event, **Mistura** (www.mistura.pe) is Lima's prestigious weeklong international food fair held every September. Get a ticket and sample an astonishing diversity of delicacies, from the finest restaurants to the best street food.

Lima's Best Museums

- » Museo Larco (p65), with its naughty erotic pots, is anything but routine. The world's largest private collection of pre-Columbian art now offers night-time visits, with dining and an illuminated courtyard.
- » Fundación Museo Amano (p67) only takes private tours, so this appointment-only collection offers the most intimate glimpse of ancient textiles and ceramics.
- » Museo de Arte de Lima (p63) has undergone a total renovation infusing this grande dame of belle arts with new energy.
- » Monasterio de San Francisco (p57) is a trove of centuries-old catacombs but also houses texts dating from before the conquest and astonishing colonial fittings.
- » Museo Pedro de Osma (p68) provides visitors with a taste of colonial times in a gorgeous setting decorated with exquisite Cuzco School canvases and relics from the viceroyalty.

MAIN POINTS OF ENTRY

International flights arrive at Lima's Aeropuerto Internacional Jorge Chávez. There is no main bus terminal. Buses for regional and international destinations leave through their respective terminals throughout Lima.

Fast Facts

- » Population: 8.5 million
- » Area: 800 sq km
- » Elevation: sea level

Top Tip

The same street can have several names as it traverses Lima, such as Av Arequipa (aka Garcilaso de la Vega or Wilson). Some names reappear in different districts, so indicate the right neighborhood to taxi drivers. Streets also may change names – for practicality we have used the most common names.

Resources

- » www.lonelyplanet.com/peru/lima
- » www.livinginperu.com
- » www.peru.travel
- » www.saexplorers.org
- » www.munlima.gob.pe
- » lima.dailysecret.com