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On the Road







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Best Places to Eat

- Central (p91)
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 El Rincón que no Conoces (p93)

Best Places to Stay

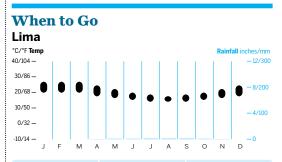
- Hotel de Autor (p83)
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Why Go?

When fog bundles its colonial facades and high rises, Lima's enchantments come across as all too subtle. 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 sophisticated, with civilization that dates back millennia. Stately museums display sublime pottery; galleries debut edgy art; solemn religious processions recall the 18th century and crowded nightclubs dispense 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.



Year-round A mild and dry climate means comfortable capital visits year-round. **Dec-Mar** The hottest, blue-sky months ideal for surf and sun on the coast. Late Aug Colorful processions mark the festival of Santa Rosa de Lima, the country's first saint.