



South Coast

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Café Da Vinci (p138)
- ➔ As de Oro's (p114)
- ➔ Mamashana (p131)
- ➔ El Chorito (p120)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Casa-Hacienda San José (p111)
- ➔ Banana's Adventure (p125)
- ➔ Hotel El Molino (p110)
- ➔ Hotel Oro Viejo (p131)

Why Go?

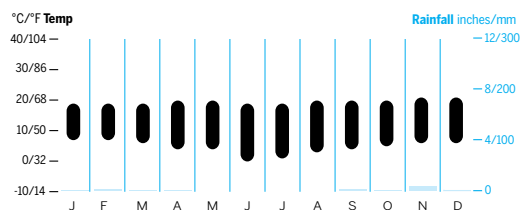
This wild and lonely coast entrances visitors with teetering sand dunes, verdant desert oases, forgotten fishing villages, ancient earth drawings, and plenty of wild open space for the imagination to run wild.

It's a stark, dry corner of earth – caught between the Andes and the sea – that only comes to life in the fertile river valleys that produce wine and fruit, providing visitors with a fleeting relief from the relentless beat of the brown desolate desert.

Most adventures take you on a tried-and-true trail that begins with rafting in Lunahuaná, wildlife watching in the Islas Ballestas, sandboarding out of Huacachina and a requisite stop to the mysterious lines and odd geoglyphs that decorate the blank desert canvas outside Nazca. Step beyond the outlines of this Gringo Trail to discover virgin surf spots, vibrant agricultural villages and spirited and unassuming cultural beats.

When to Go

Nazca



Jan–Mar High summer means the main coastal beach resorts are open and pulsating with energy.

Mar There are grape harvests and accompanying wine festivals in Lunahuaná and Ica.

Jun & Jul Cooler temperatures, fewer tourists and esoteric festivals are enjoyed in Chincha and Ica.



South Coast Highlights

- 1 Deciphering the mysteries of the **Nazca Lines** (p130) with a once-in-a-lifetime flight-seeing tour.
- 2 Capturing the wild and dodging guano bombs as you visit sea lion and bird colonies on a boat tour to **Islas Ballestas** (p115).
- 3 Watching the sun set atop a giant sand dune overlooking the desert oasis of **Huacachina** (p124).
- 4 Finding your rhythm with live Afro-Peruvian music and dance at **Casa-Hacienda San José** (p111) in El Carmen.
- 5 Rafting the rip-roarious rapids of Río Cañete in the adventure nexus of **Lunahuaná** (p109).
- 6 Tasting some of Peru's best wines and piscos at the **Bodega Tacama** (p121) near Ica.
- 7 Hiking across the deserted Paracas peninsula for a seafood lunch in **Lagunillas** (p118).
- 8 Extending your journey beyond the Gringo Trail with a surf safari to offbeat **Mollendo** (p134).