



# North Coast

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## Best Places to Eat

- La Sirena d'Juan (p355)
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- Cafe 900 (p338)
- Capuccino (p347)
- Restaurant Big Ben (p331)

## Best Places to Stay

- Sunset Hotel (p354)
- Loki del Mar (p353)
- Chaparrí Ecolodge (p343)
- Playa Colán Lodge (p345)
- Hospedaje El Mochilero (p319)

## Why Go?

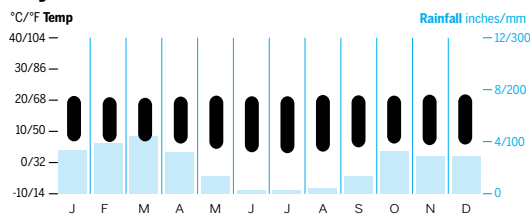
This savage shore has some of the best surfing in the world and plenty of tanned travelers to keep you company. It's also home to a jaw-dropping array of archaeological sites, colonial cities and evocative deserts straight out of *Mad Max*. In this land of rock and desert sand you will also find a few verdant valleys, while up north, Peru's only mangrove forests cling for their lives.

There's a lot of hyperbole to be had – one of the world's longest left breaks challenges surfers in Puerto Chicama, South America's oldest civilization vexes archaeological explorers at Caral, and the massive pre-Columbian adobe complex at Chan Chan was once the largest city in the Americas.

Whether surfing-off your jags from the backpacker hubs of Máncora and Huanchaco, or going lo-fi in resurgent fishing villages like Zorritos and Cabo Blanco, there are unique adventures to be found up-and-down this rugged North Shore.

## When to Go

### Cajamarca



**Mar** Summer's sizzling sun remains, but prices smolder back down to earth.

**Apr–Nov** The further north you go, the shinier the sun and fewer the people.

**Nov–Feb** Surf's up (and so are summer prices) in Máncora, Huanchaco and Puerto Chicama.

## North Coast Highlights

- 1 Wandering the high-walled adobe ruins of **Chan Chan** (p325), marveling at 700-year-old friezes.
- 2 Indulging in sun, surf and sand in **Máncora** (p352), Peru's premier beachside hot spot.
- 3 Ogling the vast wealth of once-buried booty at the North Coast's best museum, **Museo Tumbas Reales de Sipán** (p342) outside Chiclayo.
- 4 Dragging your board up the coast in search of that elusive perfect swell at **Huanchaco** (p329), **Playa Lobitos** (p349), **Puerto Chicama** (p333), **Pacasmayo** (p333) and **Máncora** (p352).
- 5 Hiding yourself away in the (nearly) undiscovered sands at **Pimentel** (p335), **Zorritos** (p357) and **Colán** (p345).
- 6 Finding ceviche salvation in the coastal desert at **Mar Picante** (p322) and **Restaurant Big Ben** (p331).
- 7 Settling in on a search for the elusive South American spectacled bear at the rustic **Reserva Ecológica Chaparrí** (p343).

