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# Lima Travel Guide

By [Megan Wood](#) | Published on September 9, 2021



PHOTO: JOHN COLETTI/GETTY IMAGES

Lima is way more than a layover on the way to trekking Machu Picchu. Perched on cliffs overlooking the Pacific Ocean, Lima is one of South America's most animated and culturally colorful cities. Beach meets business center in this capital coastal city. Skyscrapers compete for the best views of thrill-seekers paragliding from the Miraflores cliffs and surfing world class breaks. The pulsing restaurant and bar scenes have evolved way beyond ceviche and Pisco Sours—though you shouldn't skip either. Bohemian neighborhoods attract modern artists and hold Inca ruins. Lima is it.

## Time Zone

Peru Standard Time

## Best Time to Go

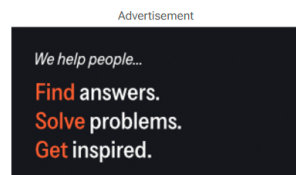


PHOTO: RORY FULLER/TRAVEL + LEISURE

Thanks to the Pacific Ocean coast location below the equator, there are only two distinct seasons in Lima: winter and summer. The weather isn't dramatic and rain is rare, but days are usually cloudy and cool. Expect the warmest temperatures and biggest crowds between December and April. For events, February hosts both Carnival (don't miss Lima's Water Wars) and National Pisco Sour Day on the first Saturday of the same month. National Ceviche Day is usually at the end of June.



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## Things to Know

**Currency:** Peruvian Sol

**Language:** Spanish, Quechua, Aymara

I don't speak Spanish: No hablo español/castellano.

I'm lost: Estoy perdido.

I would like...: Me gustaria...

**Calling Code:** +51 1

**Capital City:** Lima

## How to Get Around

**Trains:** The Lima Metro has one line with 26 stations, and generally serves commuters who live in the suburbs over tourists. The train stops running at 11 p.m. and it doesn't connect to the airport.

**Buses:** Lima offers two types of buses. The larger Metropolitan buses are slightly more expensive—but refined. Combis are cheaper van-size buses that barely slow down to drop passengers off wherever they want on the route.

**Taxis:** Both car and moto taxis are available. Be sure the driver starts the meter or states the price when you get in to avoid haggling over fares.

**Car service:** Uber and Cabify are available and affordable in Lima, but you will need internet service to operate the apps.

## Best Hotels

### 01 | Miraflores Park, a Belmond Hotel

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PHOTO: COURTESY OF BELMOND

**Address:** Av. Malecón de la Reserva 1035, Miraflores, Lima Peru

**Phone:** +51 1 610 4000

[Website](#)

If you're looking for a luxury hotel stay in the heart of Miraflores' action, live the high life at Miraflores Park, a Belmond Hotel. Two of three restaurants and bars are private for hotel guests. Zest Spa uses products sourced from the Peruvian Amazon. All the rooms are suites, and the Presidential category offers private plunge pools with epic ocean views.

### 02 | Atemporal

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**Address:** Santa Maria 190, Miraflores, Lima Peru

**Phone:** +51 1 700 5105

[Website](#)

Atemporal offers an intimate city escape with just nine hotel rooms in a revamped Tudor-style 1940s mansion. Freebies include a hotel car and nightly cocktail hour. Sophisticated design and thoughtful details abound in the veranda, garden, and inside the guest rooms.

### 03 | Hotel B

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**Address:** Saenz Pena 204, Barranco, Lima Peru

**Phone:** +51 1 206 0800

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Phone: +51 1 305 8234

[Website](#)

For a little touch of sustainable Scandinavian style in the heart of Lima, head to Anyi. The eco- and social-conscious women's clothing store was founded by Danish friends who share a passion for craftsmanship and ethical sourcing. Their sophisticated sweaters can be made to order.

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## Neighborhoods to Know



PHOTO: RORY FULLER/TRAVEL + LEISURE

Miraflores gets all the ocean cliffside ooohs and ahhs, plus high end shopping, globally celebrated restaurants, and luxe hotels. Barranco is beloved for its nightlife and boho-artistic vibes. But don't sleep on Barrio Chino's charming Chinese architecture and abundance of Chifa (Peruvian-Chinese) restaurants. The Historical Center is worth exploring too, with its cathedral-fronted Plaza de Armas, Moorish balconies, and the historic El Gran Hotel Bolivar.

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## Weather

The weather in coastal Lima almost always plays nice—but cloudy days are typical and temperatures err on the cool side thanks to cold water currents in the Pacific Ocean. Remember, summer and winter are opposite of what we experience in the United States.

The warm season is generally from December through April, with temps rarely exceeding the mid 80s. Expect cool, humid, and cloudy weather from June to October. Rain is scarce throughout the year, but sea mist (called *guara*) is typical.

## Apps to Download

**CityBike Lima:** Bike share payment, bike routes

[iOS](#) | [Android](#)

**SpanishDict Translator:** Grammar check, dictionary, audio translator

[iOS](#) | [Android](#)

**Cabify:** Order private cars, reserve private cars, pay

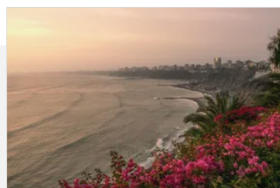
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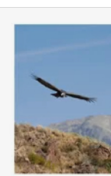
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