

# LIMA, CITY OF VICEROYS,

gastronomy and conventions



M. D' Auroi / PromPeru

Main Square

Lima, the traditional City of Kings, was founded in 1535 by the Conquistador Francisco Pizarro. Today it is the capital of the country and the gateway to the rest of Peru. In 1991, UNESCO declared it a World Cultural Heritage site for its colonial architecture.

Travelers can visit everything from pre-Hispanic temples such as Pachacamac -which was the center of oracles and religious pilgrimages over different periods-- to old colonial mansions and churches rich in history, such as the Cathedral, the convent of San Francisco and Torre Tagle palace (which today is headquarters of the Foreign Affairs Ministry).

Lima is a modern metropolis, ideal for conventions and international or world meetings, and able to provide the appropriate infrastructure such as five-star hotels.

The city has a number of districts that are very different from each other and worth a visit: Miraflores, a quarter with modern infrastructure that includes leading hotels, restaurants of every specialty, large shopping areas, art galleries, theaters and nightspots. Its beaches provide excellent surfing conditions and the shoreline cliffs are the ideal height for hang-gliding and paragliding take-offs. San Isidro stands out for its parks and residential areas, and its modern business and financial district. Barranco, Lima's artists' quarter, teems with a nightlife of pubs and discos.



Archivo de PromPeru

Green Coast, Miraflores

# THE MYSTERIOUS NASCA LINES

and the Paracas national reserve



R. Uccelli / PromPeru

Nasca Lines

To the south of the city of Ica, the Pan-American Highway cuts through the desert of sand dunes to Km 420, just 25 km (15 miles) before the town of Nasca. There, on the plains of San Jose, is a collection of mysterious geoglyphs and straight lines that were etched into the desert around A.D. 600.

These Nasca Lines consist of furrows some 20 centimeters deep (8 inches) drawn in the shape of animals such as a hummingbird, a monkey or a fish, that are almost 500 meters (1,640 feet) long.

The Lines were studied by Max Uhle in 1901, by Toribio Mejia Xesspe in 1926, and it was Paul Kosok who made them known to the world in 1939. The German mathematician and student of Kosok, Maria Reiche, dedicated her life between 1940 and 1998 to protect these geoglyphs, which were declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1994.

The Ica region also holds the Paracas National Reserve (22 km south of the city of Pisco, at Km 261 on the South Pan-American Highway). This rich coastal eco-system covers an area of 335,000 hectares (827,450 acres), that includes deserts, beaches, islands, cliffsides and ocean. This natural habitat is a haven for flamingoes, pelicans, penguins, dolphins, sea lions, sperm whales and an infinity of fish and crustaceans. Visitors to the reserve can sail northwest for an hour to reach the beautiful Ballestas Islands, a protected area of cormorants and sea lions.



M. Tweedle / PromPeru

Sea lions, National Reserve of Paracas