

Lima Gay-Friendly Nightlife

Lima, 4 Days

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: For many years, Lima has been a conservative city; only ten years ago, gay-oriented services and businesses were not something to be openly discussed in public. However, things are changing quickly, although at a slower pace than other Latin American cities such as Mexico city, São Paulo, Buenos Aires or Rio de Janeiro.

Nowadays, Lima hosts an annual gay pride event and gayfriendly hotels, restaurants and related business are starting to bloom, not to mention gay nightlife and sex clubs.

Gay-friendly restaurants and bars are inaugurated almost every day, and some of them are very popular even among non-gay partygoers.

While most large cities in in the world have a vibrant gay nightlife, the one in Lima features a special elegance due to its variety, sophistication and elegance. Gay lifestyle in Lima is just starting to grow, but it doesn't mean it's boring. Its events may be smaller than the ones hosted in another cities, but they are carefully produced and the results are spectacular.

Most of this can be found in Miraflores, an upper-scale Lima district located by the sea which hosts most of the gay-friendly night life, with places like La Sede, Bobo Bar, Downtown Vale Todo, Legendaris, or the Calle De Las Pizzas, the latter being popular for gay and straight "cruising."

Lince is another gay-friendly district, although a little less classy: there you will find Dark, a very gay-friendly video club, and Andel, which comprises cafe-bar, karaoke and hostel, all in one place.

Regarding to hotels, all Lima hotels will welcome you, but you may want to try the hospitality of Hostal El Patio or Casa San Martín.



Day 1 - Lima



Gotika

The Best for electronic music



La Cueva

Gay/Lesbian friendly and "drag queens" shows

Day 2 - Lima



Huaringas Bar

Ancient recipes, live music, great drinks



Spa Lounge Club

Late night dancing

Day 3 - Lima



Legendaris

Think. Live. Dance.



Laberynto

Drag-queen shows on Fridays

Day 4 - Lima



DOWTOWN VALETODO

Gay and Lesbian friendly



Video Dark

Gay cruising video bar



contact:

tel: 51 1 445 6343 http://www.gotica.com.pe/

location:

Larcomar Shopping Center, Nivel 5 Lima Lima LM 18

hours:

W-Sa, 11p-5a



Gotika

DESCRIPTION: This high-energy dance club is similar to Aura, but has a slightly different crowd and music tempo. The best DJ's in Peru and many international ones spin here. The music is more electronic based and a somewhat edgy crowd frequents the disco until the early morning. The dance floor tends to be crowded, but the many bars give you easy access to drinks. Gotika also has the same beautiful Pacific view from their patio as Aura. When you need a break from dancing this is a relaxing and pristine place to sit. © wcities.com



musicasenlinea

contact:

tel: +51 993484532 http://www.peruesgay.com/la cueva/

location:

Aviacion 2514 San Borja Lima Lima 41

hours

Thu-Sun, 10:00pm-4am



La Cueva

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Top-quality shows.

DESCRIPTION: This was the first gay disco in Lima, and is located in a safe area of the city, only 15-20 minutes away from the downtown in a taxi. Although it is a little smaller than other dance clubs, La Cueva plays popular dance and disco tracks every night and is well known for special events, especially for its unforgettable shows on scheduled on Fridays and Saturdays, around 3am. Admission Free on Thursdays and Fridays.

© NileGuide



La Cueva



contact:

tel: +51 1 4675210 http://www.brujasdecachiche. com.pe/bar.html

location:

Bolognesi 460 Lima Lima LM 18

hours:

Mon-Sat 7:30pm-3am



Huaringas Bar

DESCRIPTION: One of the most visited bars in the city of Lima, belongs to the same family that runs Brujas de Cachiche restaurant; its specialties are based on Peruvian pisco, such as the classic pisco sour. Try the passionfruit pisco sour; the pisco sour prepared with pisco macerated in coca leaves, also known as the "witch" or "brujo sour", and many others. And you can also enjoy of live music. © NileGuide



gringocentral

contact:

tel: +51 1 2210290, 4400699 http://www.spaloungeclub.co m/

location:

Camino Real 147 Lima Lima Lima27

hours:

Thu-Sat 11pm-5 am



Spa Lounge Club

DESCRIPTION: Not 18 anymore, but still love to dance. The thirtyish crowd gathers here late at night for good dancing and party until early hours of the morning. The beats are good and atmosphere hip and sophisticated.



Spa Lounge



contact:

tel: +51 1 446-3435 http://www.gayperu.com/lege ndaris/index.html

location:

Berlin 363 Lima Lima 18

hours:

Wed-Sun 11:00pm-4am.



Legendaris

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Admission free on Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday.

DESCRIPTION: A classy GLBT-friendly place in the upperscale district of Miraflores, that has built itself a good reputation since 2004. It's not too big, though (it has place for some 350 guests), so you need to arrive there early, specially on weekends, if you don't want to wait in line outside. The decoration is definitely queer style, and the barmen are usually cute guys.

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Legendaris

contact:

tel: +51 987416964 http://www.laberynto.com/

location:

Jiron de la Union 1088 Lima Lima Lima 1

hours:

Thu-Sun 10pm-4am



Laberynto

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Print your free admission pass from the website and take a taxi -the neighborhood is not safe.

DESCRIPTION: Gay disco that has become one of the hottest dancing spots in Lima Downtown: it is large, with two levels, has a huge video screen and organizes live strip shows. It also serves popular branded mixed drinks such as Pisco sour, the national Peruvian rum-like drink. Frequented by hustlers. © NileGuide



Laberynto



contact:

tel: +51 1 4446433 fax: +51 1 444-6436.

http://www.peruesgay.com/do

wntownvaletodo/

location:

Pasaje Los Pinos 160 Lima Lima 18

hours:

Wed-Sun, 10:30pm-4am



DOWTOWN VALETODO

DESCRIPTION: Popular gay&lesbian disco, but if you are straight you are welcome too. It has reopened its doors after some remodeling, and can host some 500 people. You will find the best drag-queens in Lima performing live on the stage above the bar, and if you are lucky you may even enjoy a very, very special live show sometime around 3am. Vale Todo has also opened a branch, ValeTodo Sur, located in Playa Pulpos (Pulpos Beach), on the Km. 41 of the Panamericana Sur highway.

© NileGuide



Downtown Vale Todo

contact:

tel: +51 1 2660987

location:

Emilio Althaus 315, 2nd floor Lima Lima 14

hours:

Mon-Sun 5pm-1am

Video Dark

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Ample selection of films.

DESCRIPTION: This is a place intended for gay people to meet each other, and features several rooms:

- Bar Hall: music videos and drinks.
- Confort Hall: specially thought for conversation, reading magazines, watching music videos with friends.
- Movies Hall: equipped with a very good screen and the best gay films.
- Dark Room: as the name indicates, a cozy and intimate room for private meetings. © NileGuide



Lima Snapshot

Local Info

Lima, the City of the Kings, has changed a lot during the last 10 years; it has more and better hotels, more tourist destinations, more restaurants and shopping malls, more nightlife... but also more options for everyone to have fun: Lima attractions have options for everyone and for every lifestyle.

However, keep in mind that Lima, former capital of the Spanish Vice Royalty of Peru--which was by far the wealthiest in the continent-- still maintains many of its colonial splendor: no wonder it has been declared as a UNESCO World Heritage Center, due to the large number of artistic and architectural monuments found there.

Lima, the city we know today, was founded in 1535 by Syanishconquistador Francisco Pizarro: the word Lima reminds of its ancient past, since it comes from the wordslimacc-huayta, an Aymara name for a local yellow flower, and also the Quechua name of the river, Rímac, that means "speaker."

The village that Pizarro founded on the former lands of the native chief Taulichusco has become a modern, growing city: according to the census of 2007, Metropolitan Lima has 8.5 million residents, that is, 30% of the total population of Peru, a fact that makes Lima the largest city in this country, the fifth most populous city in Latin America and one of the 30 largest metropolitan areas in the world.

Limeños proudly preserve their traditions and are usually very friendly to foreign visitors. In recent years gastronomy has earned more relevance, so one of the first things thatLimeños will ask you is:Do you like the food? and thus they will be eager to recommend you any restaurant they consider good and worth visiting.

To start getting familiar with Lima, Main Square, or Plaza Mayor, and its surroundings, located at the heart of Lima Downtown, will keep you entertained for several hours, offering an impressive trip to the old colonial times: some of the most notable landmarks are, for exampleLima's Cathedral, the Government Palace, the Municipal Palace, all of them in the Plaza Mayor; or the ancient Casa de Aliaga, built by one of the families who founded Lima and still inhabited by their

descendants, very close to the Plaza Mayor, and thePalacio de Torre Tagle, that serves now as office for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Another must-see in Lima Downton are the Church and Convent of San Francisco, a unique architectural complex that has witnessed four centuries of history and still can make us glance at those times via all the objects and rooms it carefully preserves, including of course the famous catacombs.

But it's not only Lima Downtown.

Try visiting the traditional district ofBarranco, which presents a singular contrast between its historical buildings and its bohemian and nightlife-oriented businesses. Some spots you have to visit are the Bajada de los Baños(Slopes of the Baths), full of typical restaurants aand with a stunning ocean view; thePuente de los Suspiros and the nearby Parque Municipal. Remember to grab a ham sandwich at Juanito's Bar.

Miraflores, very near from Barranco, has also a very active nightlife, and concentrates most commercial activity and entertainment options: shopping malls, cinemas, hotels, cafes, discos and a public park with free wi-fi connection. The most notable addition during the last 10 years, however, is the three-level shopping complex, Larcomar, built below Parque Salazar, at the edge of Miraflores' cliffs, with a wonderful view of the Circuito de Playas Costa Verde(Lima beaches) and lovely, nice and classy restaurants as well as a very affordable food court. Larcomar also offers video games and arcade rooms, and if you like going to the movies, Larcomar offers very good options too. And Miraflores nightlife is considered also as gay-friendly.

Another notable district isSan Isidro, the current financial center of the city, and where most banks and financial institutions have set their headquarters; this is the reason why San Isidro is now full of very tall and stylish buildings, a trend that seems to be growing. San Isidro used to be a residential district, and many areas still keep the old glamor and elegance of former colonial and republican elegant mansions surrounded by large parks like theOlivar de San Isidro, or the Golf Club. The Olivar is actually a little wood in the middle of the big

city, and its ancient olive trees and beautiful ponds hide many local and migratory bird species, so with lots of patience and a little luck you will have a busy day enjoying birdwatching.

Callao district not only hosts the Callao Port and Lima International Airport, but is the starting point for some maritime excursions. Remember, though, to visit the Fortaleza del Real Felipe, an colonial fortress built by the Spanish conquerors, the Museo Naval, and maybe the Isla San Lorenzo. La Punta neighborhood is nice for a stroll by the sea, and there are many options for enjoying delicious, fresh seafood nearby.

Wandering by other Lima districts, other spots that are a must-see are the Museo de la Nacion, showcasing the country's history; the Museo Larco Herrera and its amazing collection of ancient erotic art, and the great collection of pre-inca textiles at Museo Amano.

It is also worth paying a visit to the Gran Parque de Lima and its varied cultural offer, and the Circuito Mágico del Agua (Magic Circuit of Water) with its several huge fountains featuring a colorful show with music and lights every night.

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History

The city of Lima is a rich mixture of races and cultures. This has supplied a mosaic of interesting details to discover, from the ancient pre-Columbian temples to the colonial palaces, from neighborhoods with a veneer of times gone-by to the wild discotheques and dark taverns and also deserted beaches and idyllic scenery.

Lima now stands on an area where vast civilizations once thrived before the arrival of the Spanish conquistador Francisco Pizarro. These great empires left numerous constructions as testimony of their existence. The Templo de Pachacamac was built to honour theHacedor del Mundo(The Creator of the World) of the ancient Wari civilisation and is situated on the outskirts of Lima in the Lurín district.

Some of the other architectural remains calledhuacas found within the city are Pucllana and Huallamarca and museums



filled with beautiful works of art created by these civilizations in honor of their deities. Relics from many other pre-Hispanic cultures can be found in the Museo Nacional de Antropología, Arqueología e Historia(Anthropology, Archaeology and History Museum), as well as the Museo de Oro del Perú which houses exquisite ornaments made from precious metals.

On the January 18th, 1535 Francisco
Pizarro founded Lima, which was to
become the capital of the Spanish Empire's
most extensive Viceroyalty. The city's layout
was patterned after Roman settlements,
with 117 blocks built surrounding the
nucleus of a main square, around which
the colony's backbone institutions were
erected. The Catedral, theCabildo(town
council), the governor's house and
Pizarro's own residence, which was
restored in the beginning of the 20th
century and is currently used as the seat of
the executive branch known as the Palacio
del Gobierno are all found here.

The city's colonial Cabildo was refurbished after independence from Spain, to eventually house the Palacio Municipal(seat of the Municipal authorities), its largest treasure being a library that has hardly changed since its founding. Other well known constructions from that period include the elegant mansions situated on the estates that Pizarro bestowed on the city's conquistador founders, like the Casa de Jerónimo de Aliaga, still intact after 18 generations.

Lima's many churches are the result of fervent devotion to the Catholic faith of the colony. The architectural styles run the gamut, from the Renaissance Catedral, the colonial baroque such as the Iglesia de San Francisco and exuberant Rococo of the Templo de Las Nazarenas. Thus, on virtually every street there is a church to admire for the façade as well as the works of art inside.

During the colonial era there was a succession of viceroys sent from the Hapsburg Court in Spain, among these, Francisco de Toledo is remembered. He propelled mining in the Viceroyalty on a grand scale, therefore helping to turn the Spanish Empire into a world power. Although most of the precious metals(mainly silver) were shipped to Spain, enough were retained for the

creation of the local churches' beautiful altars and ornaments.

Not all was power and religion in the colony since the division of Spaniards and Native Americans into dominant and subjugated castes strictly determined social standing. However, before long a third group would appear, the Criollo (Creole) — American-born Spaniards. The term implied a cultural syncretism of old and new worlds. The Creoles were to constitute an important segment of society, one that would eventually instigate the rebellion for independence from Spain.

Peru finally gained its independence in 1824 with the support of multinational armed forces from neighboring countries making Lima a city of Creoles, Native and Afro Americans. The War of Independence was succeeded by numerous power skirmishes within the country that were to last for decades, producing a succession of different governments. The country then entered the golden age of "Guano," a highly prosperous period financed by the export, mainly to Europe, of the coveted fertilizer, found in huge amounts on the Pacific coast. Because of the boom, Lima, was embellished with parks, boulevards, monuments, museums and works of art.

During this prosperous time there was a significant influx of immigrants, both from around Europe as well as China, the so-called"Coolies," who replaced African slaves on the sugar plantations, and were used as labour to extract the guano. Lima, was and still is, a huge cultural mosaic, a condition particularly reflected in the local cuisine, which offers an exquisite variety of tastes and dishes unlike anything else in this world.

After the war against Chile in 1879, the city was left sacked and devastated. A process of reconstruction ensued that modernized the capital with grand avenues, parks and gardens, as well as cafes and other bohemian hangouts. The peak of this period of restructuring was during the government of Augusto Leguía in the early part of the 20th Century. He commissioned the great public works that established the foundations of the modern city, like Avenida Arequipa with its important buildings, and the Escuela de Bellas Artes (School of Fine Arts).

The following decades witnessed a demographic explosion and migration from

the country to the city, which forced Lima to grow in a chaotic, disorderly manner. However, the old city center and republican avenues still stand as testimony to the colonial origins of this beautiful city.

Hotel Insights

In the last few years, the city of Lima has undergone dramatic economic development and this growth is reflected in its hotel infrastructure. Visitors have a wide choice, from the most luxurious hotel to basic accommodation with good service.

Downtown

Traditional hotel hospitality in the historical center of Lima is found at the Lima Sheraton Hotel, one of the oldest luxury hotels in the city. It has a number of different restaurants and a large casino. The Gran Hotel Bolívar is situated on the Plaza San Martín recognized by its typical colonial Lima architecture. Close to the Iglesia de San Francisco, known for its famous catacombs, is the Hotel España, which offers a good alternative to young backpacking travelers. Also located in the downtown area is the San Agustín Riviera, a centrally located place with first class amenities with an old world charm. If you are looking for a place to stay with the family and you love dolphins, then stay at Delfines, Apart from offering excellent service and facilities, its distinguishing trait—as the name suggests—is the two friendly dolphins Yaku and Wayra, which live in an aquarium as part of the hotel decor.

San Isidro

San Isidro, one of the most residential and commercial districts of Lima has been affected by the expansion of the hotel sector. A sample of this is the recently built Swissôtel Lima is an excellent choice for its quality service and features along with several restaurants serving international cuisine. The Country Club Lima hotel is a high end hotel in Lima with its own casino and one of the oldest luxury hotels in this district. It is situated equally close to the San Isidro Golf Course and the building itself is architecturally very attractive.

Located opposite the old El Olivar park, is the Hotel El Olivar. In addition to excellent facilities, the hotel offers pleasant views



of the surrounding lush residential area. It is ideally located within easy reach of the various cafes, restaurants and shops, which abound. For those seeking a place to stay for a longer period, and at a more affordable price, there are severalApart Hotels(fully equipped for short term rental), such as the Conquistadores and the Suites Córpac Club. Once again for those backpackers, there is another youth hostel in this area called Youth Hostel Malka, where members can obtain special rates and there is a rock wall to practice climbing.

Miraflores

Miraflores is another district which has witnessed huge growth in its tourist potential. It has a myriad of shops. restaurants and cinemas. Its beautiful views from its sea-front promenade, as well as from its various bridges and parks are a plus along with its active nightlife. Two of the most recent and exclusive hotels to be opened in Miraflores are the JW Marriott Lima and the Hotel Park Plaza. both offering the comforts of a luxury hotel. Their main strong points are the breathtaking sea views and their excellent service. Both are located very close to the popular commercial and entertainment centre, Larcomar.

The Las Américas hotel chain, known for its long tradition in hospitality, offers three locations to choose from. The first of these can be found in Avenida Larco, one of the area's main thoroughfares, surrounded by a variety of shops and businesses. The Hotel and Suites Las Américas has everything that one might expect from a luxury hotel as does the nearby Apart Hotel Las Américas or on the Avenida Benavides the Apart Hotel Empresarial Las Américas, all ideal for an extended stay or for large families or groups, as they provide the visitor with all the services and facilities of a first class hotel and apartment.

Affordable alternatives are available which offer good service. Among these, the Hotel Ariosto, Hotel la Hacienda and the Hotel María Angola all viable options. Even more economical alternatives are the basic and friendly little hotels, which can be found throughout the center of Miraflores, such as La Casa de los Sánchez and the new Apart Hotel La Paz. For those on a tighter budget, there is the Pukara Hostal which offers guite a bit of services, like picking you up from the airport, free breakfast, Internet

among others, and all this with access to a beautiful beach.

Barranco

Barranco is well known for being one of the loveliest districts of the city, and also Lima's bohemian centre par excellence. In this area there are only small, simple hotels. One that has recently opened in an attractive building typical of the area, is the Hotel California and, in another large house in the same area, just a few steps away from the central park, is the Mochilero 's Backpackers Hostel, ideal for young travelers. Another popular hotel in this area is Second Home Peru, which is exactly as its name implies, it is just like staying in your own house. It has all the amenities that you would need and beachfront views.

Restaurants Insights

One of Lima's main attractions is its delicious cooking; quality food is found everywhere and it is not necessary to only go to the most expensive restaurants to enjoy a good meal. Lima's cuisine has managed to incorporate many influences and has made many traditions of its own. Its cuisine is exemplified by a huge diversity: Native American, Spanish, Chinese, Italian, Arab, African and a great variety of flavors from other parts of Peru.

To sample the unique taste of exquisite traditional food, choose from wellseasoned dishes like the deliciousAií de Gallina(shredded chicken in spicy cream sauce), Rocoto Relleno (stuffed Peruvian hot pepper), Lomo Saltado (stir-fried beef with rice and chips) or Carapulcra (sundried potato stew). The renown Pisco Sour, prepared with pisco(a potent spirit distilled from grapes), lemon juice, sugar and eggwhite is very popular, as is the refreshing drink made from boiled purple maize, theChicha Morada.

San Isidro

There is a wide range of restaurants in Lima, from highly economical to very expensive. To sample Peruvian cuisine, the José Antonio in San Isidro and El Señorío de Sulco are wonderful places to eat like the natives. If you prefer French and Mediterranean cuisine in general, we recommend Le Bistrot de Mes Fils which boasts a extensive wine list, or La

Bonbonniere styled after the "Salons du Thé" in France. The fusion of Peruvian-Mediterranean food can be savored at MYO, where they also serve Algarrobina, a drink made with brandy, cinnamon and egg. For lovers of Japanese food, Lima offers renowned restaurants like Matsuei, Sushi Ito and Ichiban at the Hotel El Olivar. If what you want is Italian food, the best choices are Al Dente and San Ceferino Trattoria.

Miraflores

Miraflores contains the largest amount of restaurants in the entire Lima metropolitan area and the visitor will no doubt find what he or she is looking for, one place to try a local dish is Las Brujas de Cachiche(specialists intacu-tacu, a creole combination of rice and beans),go to A Puerta Cerrada to try someceviche, a spicy mix of shrimp, tilapia and potatos marinated in lime juice. Another restaurant that specializes in criole food is Zeño Manué, where the food is made as it was hundreds of years ago. A less expensive option, close to Parque Central de Miraflores is Tasca Bar offering savoury dishes and friendly service.

The fertile waters of the Peruvian Sea boast one of the greatest diversities of fish and shellfish in the world. Consequently, the country has developed a whole range of delicious fresh dishes, such as the celebratedCebiche de Pescado(fish in lemon-juice marinade) or Cebiche Mixto(fish and shellfish marinade). In addition, there are a variety of main courses to choose from, such as Escabeche de Pescado (fried fish with onions), the ever-presentArroz con Mariscos(shellfish and rice) or Chicharrones de Pescado y Calamares(batter-fried fish and squid). Along with restaurants specialising in seafood, there is the wellknowncebicherías throughout the city. In this district, there is a wide range of seafood restaurants like La Mar where the fashion conscious meet, and for the freshest seafood, go to Punta Sal, El Pez Amigo or La Rosa Nautica which are all good choices. For those looking for a beer and some sports, go to The Corner which is located in a busy area of Miraflores and for a pint of Guiness go to Murphy's Irish Pub, the oldest irish pub in Lima. The renownedCalle de las Pizzas(Pizza Lane) in Miraflores, is a tourist attraction just for its number of pizzerías and their picturesque environment. Naturally there is plenty of italian restaurants here like the



Antico Ristorante Italiano di Porto Rotondo, the Trattoria di Mambrino owned by a local celebrity and the ever popular Don Rosalino, where the pizzas are made with the freshest ingredients. This area also has a myriad of French restaurants, two of the best are Café Voltaire and Le+Bon+Bakery +Cafe, a place to enjoy amazing pastries. More restaurants with a Peruvian flair and somewhat economical are Astrid y Gastón, Señorío de Sulco and Mangos.

Chorrillos

The Chorrillos district is one of the best known for traditionalcebicherías like Sonia. Another one of the best restaurants in the city is El Salto del Fraile located along some cliffs with the most spectacular views of the ocean, and after dinner, enjoy a cocktail while dancing to the sounds of the sea. Another place similar to this one found on the outskirts of Lima, is the legendary Granja Azul where they serve chicken peruvian style.

City Center

Chinese food has fused with Peruvian cuisine, with the result of an extensive new range of flavors that can be enjoyed at the popularChifas(Chinese restaurants), many of which are in Lima—a very good option for cost-effective, wholesome food; but if you want to try excellent Chinese food, then head for Chifa Wa Lok in the central Chinatown district. Another restaurant worth mentioning is Los Escribanos, frequented by locals and tourists alike. The restaurant L'Eau Vive is run by a convent of nuns and serves simple, yet tasty cuisine. If you're looking to shoot some pool and have a beer, go to the Brewing Corner and for those looking to people watch, there is the Cordano, where all types go for the amzingly strong Pisco Sour.

Barranco

The Costa Verde highway along Barranco offers a spectacular array of restaurants, such as the classic La Canta Rana and De Rompe y Raja, a seafood paradise is also found in Barranco at El Muelle. Two criole restaurants in this area are Manos Morenas and Rustica which has a buffet set with a wide range of dishes. Peruvian style Charcoal-grilled chicken, a popular dish, is popularly served throughout the city and well worth tasting here. A couple of dives that are very popular with the younger crowd and offer both drinking and dancing

are the Bierhaus, where you can enjoy some Peruvian beer and Juanito's.

For desserts, Lima's cuisine offers some quite succulent alternatives some of the more widely known include:Arroz Zambito(rice pudding with brown sugar), Arroz Con Leche(rice pudding). Suspiro a la Limeña(a creamy. sweet, lemon meringue with a delicate name: Limeñan Sighs), Mazamorra Morada(made from purple maize),Pie de Limón(lemon meringue pie), Cheesecake de Saúco(a native Andean fruit), Huevos Chimbos(a type of flan with a caramel and triple-sec coating), higos rellenos con manjar blanco(figs stuffed with blancmange), Mousse de Lúcuma.Picarones(local variety of doughnut). Try these desserts at Punto Blanco, and some of the least expensivecarretillas(food carts) on Alameda Chabuca Granda.

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Nightlife Insights Museums

Lima has quite a considerable array of museums, including art, archaeology and history. The Museo de Arte de Lima, situated in the centre of Lima, was the city's first museum of art and houses Peruvian art spanning more than 3,000 years, from the pre-Inca cultures to contemporary art.

The Museo de la Nación has a permanent collection, which covers all of Peru's archaeological and ethnographic regions and in addition, a replica of the royal tombs of the Señor de Sipán. The largest private collection of Mochicha art in the world is to be found in the Museo Arqueológico Rafael Larco Herrera along with the famous erotichuacos(ceramic relics). Visit the Museo Amano to admire the wonderful collection of pre-Hispanic textile arts. The Pedro de Osma Museum is a museum housed in an old mansion and contains pieces of art in every textile imaginable, even metal and glass. This museum not only has local artists from Peru but art from throughout the world. To witness a piece of history about the Spanish Inquisition, visit the Museo de la Inquisición, where you can venture below to the dungeons and

see all of the torture instruments that the conquistadors used against infidels.

Galleries

Lima has an interesting stable of artists and every two years the Bienal de Arte is held when various galleries and large buildings in the center of Lima open to the general public with exhibitions of works by Peruvian and foreign artists.

The most popular galleries include the Galería de la Municipalidad de Miraflores and Galería Forum, which can both be found in Miraflores. In the district of Barranco you can find the Praxis Gallery and in San Isidro there are always interesting exhibitions in the Galería Cecilia González and in the Centro Cultural de la Universidad Católica.

Folk& Salsa Clubs(Peñas& Salsódromos)

Peru is very rich culturally, in dance, music and tradition.Las Peñas are folk clubs to gather together to the rhythms ofCriolla(Creole) or traditional music. Lima has severalPeñas such as the well-known Sachún in the Magdalena district, and El Eslabón in San Borja, where they also stage Folkloric Ballets likeAsí es Mi Perú(That's My Peru), as well as some more tourist traps such as Manos Morenas, offering dining, situated in Barranco.

ThePeña folklórica held at Brisas del Titicaca affords unforgettable performances of Andean song and dance—especially from the Puna district. The lively ambiance invites all to join in along with the cast of professional performers. It is without a doubt the best spot in town of its kind. No video cameras are allowed, still cameras permitted.

A stop over at aSalsódromo(salsa club)in order to be able to dance salsa, meringues, or any other variation of Afro-Latin-Caribbean music is a must. These venues specialize in these musical styles and normally showcase numerous live bands, which, in most cases, play until the early hours. The best-known Salsadromes are Bertolotto in San Miguel, and the popular Kimbara and Tropical Plaza in La Victoria.

Bars, Clubs& Discotheques

Miraflores is a great choice to have a good time. El Parque Central was rebuilt in the early'90s and since then has become the



ideal place to go for a stroll. The park has an amphitheater where you can enjoy free shows, which start in the early afternoons, and may be music, theater, mime or dance. Also to be found in the park is the Rotonda de los Artesanos, where you will find on show and for sale all types of goods including antiques.

Larcomar is a recently built shopping and entertainment center, which has a privileged location on the seafront. It has a selection of restaurants, ice-cream parlours, and shops selling accessories, books and gifts as well as a multiplex cinema, bowling alley. It also has charming jazz bars, the Hard Rock Café and some exclusive discos such as Teatriz and Señor Frog's, which are a couple of the most attractive bars in Lima.

Barranco, an old health spa, also has its own special character. It is situated in one of the most beautiful districts in the city for its cathedrals and scenic neighborhoods from the old Lima. However, Barranco is also known for its active nightlife, which is dominated by the many live shows of Peruvian jazz, rock and blues bands performing at La Noche and El Dragón.

Cinema& Theater

For cinema-lovers, there are a huge number of multiplex cinemas, which have sprung up all over the city. They mostly show Hollywood blockbusters. The state of the art cinemas, are at Larcomar and the Pacífico Cinemas, both located in Miraflores, as well as the multiplex at the Jockey Plaza mall in Monterrico. For those who prefer less mainstream. independent films, there are Filmoteca de Lima, which is in the Museo de Arte de Lima, El Cinematógrafo de Barranco, and the cinema at the Centro Cultural de la Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú in San Isidro, and where once a year they hold the Latin-American Film Festival where you have the opportunity to see films that represent Latin-America.

Lima is not really known for its theater, but from time to time there are a few interesting plays and shows. The City of Lima and the Instituto Cultural Peruano Norteamericano are two institutions that organize annually very good international festivals, in which you can enjoy the best dance companies and local theater, as well as renowned groups from other parts of the world.

For those who enjoy light comedy, one of the oldest and best-known comedy theaters is the Teatro Marsano in Miraflores. The theater at the Centro Cultural de la Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú stages a varied repertoire of works from a diverse range of dance and theater companies, usually of a very high standard. Teatro Larco has a fine reputation, and throughout the year presents both contemporary and classical plays.

The in-house theatre of Teatro de la Casa Yuyachkani is one of the most alternative theatre spaces in Lima, where the Yuyachkani theater group continuously presents shows which usually mix theater with dance and movement.

Things to Do Insights

As we said in the General Overview, Lima is a large city that blends the memories from its rich history with all the things that a modern city can offer in the 21st century. History, gastronomy, beaches, outdoor adventures and a more than active nightlife.

First things first: there are some things that as a first-time visitor you cannot miss in Lima, and probably the best way to start discovering this old yet modern and tourist-friendly city is to stroll along some of its most representative landmarks.

The Plaza de Armas, orPlaza Mayor(Main Square) is, according to the history, the place where Spanishconquistador Francisco Pizarro founded Lima in 1535. It is then the oldest and most historical place in Lima.

However, remember that Peru is located in the Pacific Ring of Fire, which means that earthquakes are not an uncommon thing here, and Lima has been destroyed by them more than once, which means that most of the buildings and monuments have been rebuilt several times.

So, after admiring the Cathedral and its Museum, the Archbishopric Palace, Government Palace, Lima Municipality or Palacio Municipal and the beautiful fountains, you will find an old manor house that has been admirabily well preserved since those very first days; the Casa de Aliaga, a must-see building as old as Lima and located less that 50 m. away from the Plaza de Armas.

The house was built by Jerónimo de Aliaga, in a land plot given to him by Francisco Pizarro; the house has remained in the family ever since, and the de Aliaga descendants have opened their house for tourism. As if the house itself were not a stunning relic from ancient glorious times, it keeps a wide-ranging collection of Peruvian art and artifacts.

Visiting theCasa de Aliaga(Jiron de la Union 224, Lima) is not cheap, but remember this is currently the oldest house in Latin America. Tours can be booked through Lima Tours, with at least 24 hours notice. The phone is+51-1-619-6900. The house also has a webpage: casadealiaga.com

Another must-see in Lima Downtown is the Church and Convent of San Francisco, one of the best preserved ones; not only it's an imposing 1,600's baroque building, but also a will provide you a unique trip back in time. San Francisco keeps many relics brought to Peru by the first Spanish priests that came along with the conquistadores; but the most impressive sight there is undoubtedly the catacombs, which were Lima's original cemeteries.

The Church of San Francisco is in Jirón Ancash 471, Lima Downtown: opens from 9:30 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. daily, and the tickets cost some\$2.

Lima has some very good museums, but the ones you don't want to miss are theMuseo Larco(Larco Museum) and theHuaca Pucllana.Larco Museum is a private museum, housed at a classy old mansion(whose ample gardens are often the scenario of high-level parties) and showcases an enormous collection of ceramic, metal artifacts and mummies that comprise some 3,000 years of history.

But the most amazing thing to see atLarco Museum is the collection of ancient erotic art, that portrays an wide variety of different and explicit sexual positions.

In turn,Huaca Pucllana combines an archaeological trip in the heart of Lima with a nice, cozy and classy restaurant. This place was built towards 500 A.D, and still continues surprising archaeologists now and then with new findings. The restaurant offers international gourmet cuisine with an impressive view of the ancient building, and is open until late night, unlike the ruins that close at 5 p.m.



Lima has grown, and one of its new places is Larcomar, a three-level shopping mall that offers entertainment, food and even a cinema complex. Larcomar is located under former Parque Salazar, at the end of Larco Avenue, in the upscale district of Miraflores, at block six of Malecón de la Reserva.

A descending staircase will take you to the heart of this mall, that has restaurants for almost all budgets; from popular fast-foods restaurants surrounding the food court, to classy, expensive places like Mangos. It's kid-friendly, with lots of entertainment options for children of all ages; but also has discos and bars, and lots of exclusive boutiques and shops where you will surely find something for you and gifts for your family and friends.

If you have time and really feel like shopping, you may want to visit Jockey Plaza Shopping Center and Caminos Del Inca shopping mall, both in Surco district and with plenty of options, especially of the finest Peruvian alpaca and baby alpaca fibers. If you are interested in fine jewellery, Casa Banchero and Ilaria are the places you have to visit.

But if you are on a tight budget, you will prefer to Avenida La Marina handcraft galleries, in Pueblo Libre, known as the "Mercado Indio," or the new artisans markets on Petit Thouars Avenue in Miraflores, this district. You will find lots of inexpensive choices(arts and crafts) there, although some items—specially those made of silver—can be pricey. Tip: vendors expect you to haggle until reaching a price that satisfies buyers and vendors.

But modern Lima has more things to offer besides history and shopping. One thing you have to do in Lima for sure is trying Peruvian food, that has been gaining more and more international recognition worldwide. Ceviche(raw fresh fish fillets marinated in lime juice) is the most famous dish and a must for gastronomy lovers; but if you prefer something less raw, you cannot miss the Lomo Saltado(tender beef sauted with tomato and onion, served with fries and rice).

Picking restaurants to recommend is really difficult, but some good restaurants areLa Gloria(Atahualpa 201, Miraflores, Tlf.+51 1 445.5705), which offers Mediterranean-style food that includes fresh local ingredients and flavors; Cala, at the Circuito

de Playas Costa Verde, in Barranco, with innovations in Peruvian cuisine; and Rafael(San Martin 300, Miraflores,+51 1 242-4149).

If you are more into seafood, thenPescados Capitales(La Mar 1337, Miraflores, Tlf. +51 1 4218808) andLa Mar(La Mar 770, Miraflores, Tlf.+51 1 4213365) would be your choices.

Some less pricey options would be orEl Señorio de Sulco(Malecón Cisneros 1470 – Miraflores), El Kapallaq(Av. Petit Thouars 4844, Miraflores, Tf.:+51 1 4444149), El Grifo(Avenida Colonial, block 10, Cercado de Lima), or one of the many restaurants specialized inpollo a la brasa(roasted chicken), from which we recommend Pardos Chicken and Las Canastas.

Nightlife in Lima can be enjoyed everywhere, but focuses mostly in Miraflores, Barranco and Surco, districts full of discos, restaurants and many different entertainment options, that will please party lovers to no end. If you want to see Peruvian folklore, though, you need to go toBrisas del Titicaca, near Lima Downtown,(Walkulski 168) which combines a Peruvian dinner with an excellent folklore show starting 8pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and 10pm on Fridays and Saturdays.

However, you may want to start your night early, taking a walk at the Circuito Magico del Agua(Magic Water Circuit), which opens from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.. it has more than a dozen fountains that display a colorful show with background music at nights. It's on Parque de la Reserva, Block 5 of Av. Petit Thouars, Lima, and admission fees cost some US\$1.50.

And if you are the sport-loving kind of person, Bike Tours of Lima has something for you; they offer several routes to see Lima at a slower pace, with the help of bilingual guides. We do suggest the Bay Tour, which will take you for some of the most beautiful spots in Lima, including a breathtaking view of the Pacific Ocean, in a 3.5 hours ride you will never forget. Prices are around US\$25, which cover guiding service, bicycle rental, minor accident insurance, helmet, locks, snack and bottle of water. It is recommended to book in advance athttp://www.biketoursoflima.com andinfo@biketoursoflima.com(Bolivar 150, Miraflores, Tlf.+51 1 4453172)-

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Travel Tips Getting There

By Air

Jorge Chavez Lima-Callao International Airport(+51 1 517 3100/ http:// www.lap.com.pe/) is the only international airport in Peru. Airlines include:

Aerolineas Argentinas(+1 800 333 0276/ http://www.aerolineas.com.ar) Aeromexico(+1 800 021 4000/ http:// www.aeromexico.com) Aeropostal(+1 800 284 6637/ http://www.aeropostal.com) Air Canada(+1 800 361 5373/ http:// www.aircanada.ca) American Airlines(+1 800 433 7300/ http://www.aa.com) British Airways(+1 787 725 7000/ http:// www.british-airways.com/) Continental Airlines(+1 800 231 0856/ http:// www.continental.com) Copa Air(+1 800 359 2672/ http://www.copaair.com) Delta Airlines(+1 800 221 1212/ http:// www.delta.com) Iberia(+1 800 772 4642/ http://www.iberiaairlines.co.uk) KLM(+1 800 225 2525/ http://www.klm.com/) LAN Airlines(+1 866 435 9526/ http:// www.lan.com)

Buses can be found outside the airport gates on Av. Faucett.

The Urbanito Airport Shuttle Service(+51 1 814 6932) offers door-to-door service to and from the Airport and hotels. The desk for the service is located in the international terminal.

Taxis are probably the easiest and most convenient way to get into the city. They are located outside the international flights terminal 24 hours daily.

Rental car companies at the Airport include:

Avis(+51 1 575 1637/ http://www.avis.com) Budget(+51 1 575 1674/ http:// www.budget.com) Hertz(+51 1 575 1390/ http://www.hertz.com)

By Rail

Lima is the starting point of the highest railway in the world, the Ferrocarril Central. The train runs to and from Huancayo to the Central Highlands, and only travels roundtrip once a month from Apr-Oct. The Desamparados Station(+51 1 441 2222) in



downtown Lima is located at Jr. Ancash 201 behind the Government Palace.

By Bus

There are buses from international locations including cities in Bolivia, Chile and Ecuador that run regularly to Lima. The many bus companies serving Peru all have terminals in Lima, however there is no central bus terminal in the city. Beware: bus terminals attract thieves, so be sure to always have your luggage in sight. Bus companies include:

Civa(+51 1 332 5236/ http:// www.civa.com.pe) Cruz del Sur(+51 1 225 6163/ http://www.cruzdelsur.com.pe) Oltursa(+51 1 475 8559) Ormeno(+51 1 472 1710/ http://www.grupo-ormeno.com)

Getting Around

Lima's complex bus network connects all of the city's main streets and avenues. Micros are the large buses and combis or colectivos are minibuses or vans. The bus system is cheap but can be complicated.

Taxis can be located pretty much anywhere throughout the city. Prices should be established before the journey and it's best to hail a cab that is from a registered company. Registered cab companies include:

Taxi Amigo(+51 1 349 0177) Taxi Movil(+51 1 422 6890) Taxi Line(+51 1 330 2795) Taxi Seguro(+51 1 275 2020)

Fun Facts

- 1. Weather fact: it never rains in Lima. Yes, we have some drizzle, but not"real" rains, so you can forget the umbrella at home.
- 2. Geek fact 1; some parks have free public wifi. Try it at Parque Central de Miraflores. If it works smoothly, give us a call.
- 3. Geek fact 2: There's a huge black market of software. Take a look at our Local Flavor blog to find more info.
- 4. Sports fact: local sport is soccer. The two top Lima teams are Universitario de Deportes and Alianza Lima. If there's a match while you are in Lima, be careful with the local hooligans.
- 5. Fun fact: Limenians call"lemons" to that tiny green fruit you call"lime". And yes, they call"lime" to those yellow, thick-skinned lemons you put into your tea.
- 6. Ipad fact: there's an intercity bus company based in Lima that offers iPad for first-class passenger's use. Take a look into our pages to find out which one:)

- 7. History fact: Lima was founded on the land of of indian chief Taulichusco, and the some of the old ruins can be see in the garden of one of the oldest manor houses built on the Main Square.
- 8. Geography fact: Lima is the largest province in Peru, with some eight million residents.
- 9. Food fact: Expect to eat like a king in Lima. Peruvian gastronomy is becoming world-famous and Lima has many very good restaurants. Odds are that even humble, inexpensive places can provide you an unforgettable gastronomical experience.
- 10. Transit fact: Lima's traffic-jams can be horrendous, specially during the rush hours, and there's no difference between using taxis or buses. So try to take your time, take a book just in case, and smile patiently. There's nothing else you can do.
- 11. Gay fact: the most gay-friendly district is Miraflores.
- 12. Vegetarian fact: there are not too many vegetarian choices in local restaurants. But you will find a brave new veggie world in Lima supermarkets.
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