

## **USEFUL FACTS ABOUT LIMA**

### **AREA AND POPULATION OF LIMA**

34,802 km<sup>2</sup>. Located on the central coast of the Pacific Ocean, Lima reaches an altitude of 101 meters above sea level. It has an area of at least 130 km of coastline and beaches. There are about 8 million inhabitants in Lima. It is a significantly large and active city that can be considered as the true economic and human engine of Peru.

### **CLIMATE**

Lima's climate is arid and semi-warm. The maximum annual average temperature is 21.97°C (71.4°F) and the minimum is 17°C (62.7°F). Lima is very humid (with relative humidity that can even reach 100%). The temperature on the coast and in Lima ranges from 80°F/28°C during the summer (December to May) to 57°F/13°C during the winter (June to November).

### **ELECTRIC POWER**

220 volts. 60 Hz. It is advisable to carry a flat plug adapter.

### **TAXIS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

It is advisable to use the services provided by taxi companies (ordered by phone or apps, such as Uber or Taxi Beat). The taxis authorized by the municipalities are painted yellow (in Lima) and have a luminous sign on the roof. There are no taximeters in Peru. Therefore, before taking a taxi, you should ask for the amount and negotiate. Ask your hotel to call a taxi by phone. Tipping taxi drivers is not required. Taxi fares around the city range from S/ 10 to S/ 20, while fares to the airport range from S/ 50 to S/ 80 depending on the distance.

### **CURRENCY AND MONEY EXCHANGE**

Peru's official currency is the Sol (S/). US dollars are accepted in some commercial premises. It is advisable to exchange currency at hotels, banks and authorized currency exchange offices. On Saturdays, most banks are only open until noon. With respect to the US dollar, the exchange rate is variable. Check before exchanging currency. For information about the exchange rate, you can visit [www.sbs.gob.pe](http://www.sbs.gob.pe)

### **CREDIT CARDS AND BANKS**

The vast majority of premises accept the most popular credit cards: Visa, Mastercard, Diners and American Express. In Peru, banks are usually open from Monday to Friday between 09:00 and 18:00. In addition, certain banks are open on Saturdays and Sundays until noon. There are ATMs from different banks on the city streets.

### **TAXES**

An 18% tax, known as general sales tax or IGV, is applied to all items, except for those bought in street markets.

### **TIPS**

In Peru, tipping varies and depends on the satisfaction with the service provided (an average of 5% to 10%). Porters at hotels and airports expect an average of USD 1 per suitcase. Tipping taxi drivers is not mandatory. Tour guides and the like expect from 10 to 15 soles on average.

## **TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

To make international calls, dial 00 + country code + city code + telephone number.

## **HEALTH**

It is advisable to drink bottled or previously boiled water. Be careful with raw vegetables and fruits, and avoid eating at street food stalls. If you travel to a high altitude area, remember that altitude sickness (soroche) can be avoided by resting the day you arrive in the highlands and eating light meals. If you travel to the highlands or the jungle, be sure to bring insect repellent and a rain jacket.

## **NIGHTLIFE**

The city of Lima offers varied nightlife options; your hotel may provide you with information. In Lima, restaurants and, in general, bars or social spaces are located in the districts of Miraflores, San Isidro and Barranco.

## **FOOD AND DRINKS**

Peruvian cuisine offers a wide variety of typical dishes from the coast, highlands and jungle. Ask beforehand how they are prepared because some dishes are usually spicy. Regarding drinks, try the very Peruvian pisco sour (grape aguardiente) and chicha morada (purple corn drink).

## **SHOPPING**

In general, shops, malls and craft markets are open every day (including holidays) between 09:00 and 20:00. In places such as markets and on the street, it is acceptable to negotiate or "bargain" over the price of an item.

## **AIRPORT AND FLIGHT INFORMATION**

The Jorge Chávez International Airport is located in Callao, 16 km from the center of the city of Lima. This airport allows passengers to enter, exit and travel across the country. The Lima airport offers a national and international flight information service: <http://www.lap.com.pe>

## **SECURITY**

We recommend that you take the precautions you normally follow when traveling to any other tourist destination that is a big city. For security purposes, be careful with your identification documents and valuables, and do not exchange currency on the street.

## **MOST POPULAR DISTRICTS IN LIMA**

### **MIRAFLORES**

The cosmopolitan district of Miraflores is located five kilometers south of the Historic Center. Without a doubt, it is the tourist and hotel district par excellence in Lima. There are large and modern shopping areas, parks and beautiful green areas. The tourist attractions offered by Miraflores include the archaeological complex of Huaca Pucllana (also known as "Juliana"); Parque Reducto (Reducto Park), which recalls the Battle of Miraflores; the Palacio Municipal (City Hall); Parque Alfredo Salazar (Alfredo Salazar Park); the Larcomar shopping center and Parque del Amor (Love Park). Furthermore, Miraflores offers an intense artistic and cultural activity. This includes several theaters, cinemas and art galleries, as well as a wide range of cafés, pubs and restaurants. Every

Sunday, its parks and gardens, which are full of flowers, bring together thousands of Lima citizens attracted by painting exhibitions, musical events and flea markets.

### **SAN ISIDRO**

It is the "garden" district of Lima, with extensive green areas and exclusive residential neighborhoods. Some of the most renowned restaurants, bars and hotels, as well as the headquarters of the country's financial entities, are located in this district. In recent years, a commercial boom has led San Isidro to become an important business center. It has transferred to its modern buildings much of the commercial activity that was restricted to the historic center of the capital.

### **HISTORIC CENTER OF LIMA**

On January 18, 1535, Spanish conquistador Francisco Pizarro founded the city of Lima on the left bank of the Rímac River. He himself traced what would be his historic and initial square: the current Plaza Mayor (Main Square). Nowadays, the Historic Center of Lima is framed by Tacna, Grau and Abancay avenues as well as the Rímac River. This area is also known as Lima Cuadrada ("Squared Lima"), El Damero de Pizarro ("Pizarro's Checkerboard") or El Cercado ("Walled Lima") because the city was surrounded by a wall that protected it from pirate raids during the colonial era. Due to its beautiful palaces, colonial mansions, churches and convents that possess countless jewels and works of art, the Historic Center of Lima has been declared a Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO.