

Ica

A practical guide for visitors

 Dunes in the Ica desert © Enrique Castro-Mendiivil / PROMPERÚ



Ica



Location

Southern coast of Peru



Capital

Ica (406 meters)



Elevation

Min.: **2** meters (Paracas)

Max.: **3796** meters (San Pedro de Huacarpana)



Climate

Temperature

Max.: **32** °C

Min.: **23** °C



Dec - Mar



Mar - Jun



Jun - Sept



Sept - Dec

Arriving



By land

Lima-Chincha: 200 km / **2 hr. 30 min**

Lima-Pisco: 227 km / **3 hr.**

Lima-Nasca: 445 km / **6 hr.**

Ayacucho-Ica: 388 km / **7 hr.**

Arequipa-Ica: 706 km / **11 hr. 30 min**

Cusco-Nasca: 660 km / **14 hr.**



Ica

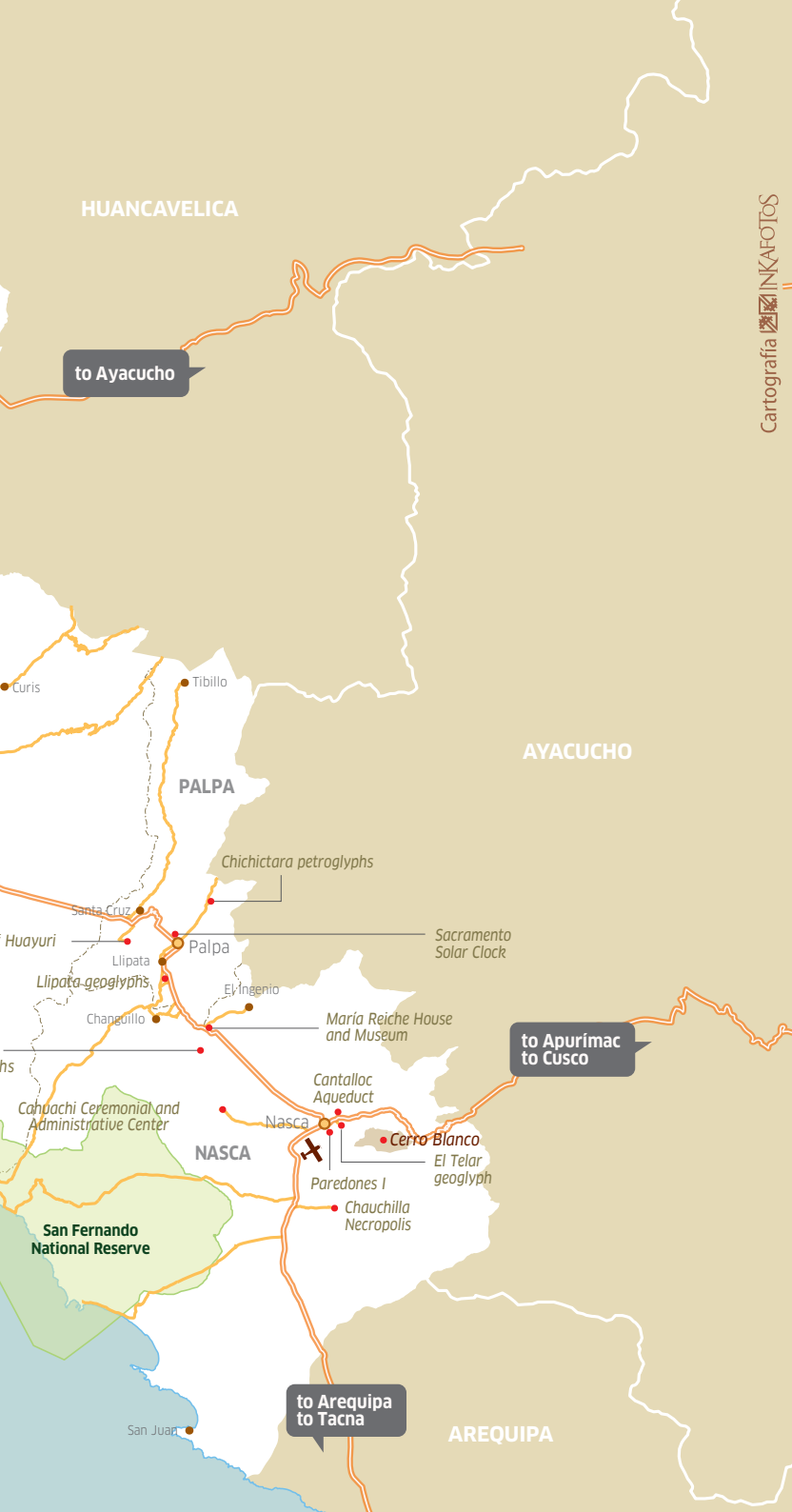
- Provincial capital
 - Departmental capital
 - District capital
 - Tourist attraction
 - Provincial border
 - ==== Main road
 - Asphalted road
 - Non-asphalted road
 - ✈✈ Airports
-
- Natural Protected Area





Scale (km)





HUANCAVELICA

to Ayacucho

AYACUCHO

PALPA

Chichictara petroglyphs

Sacramento Solar Clock

Palpa

Maria Reiche House and Museum

to Apurímac to Cusco

NASCA

Cantalloc Aqueduct

Cerro Blanco
El Telar geoglyph

Paredones I
Chauchilla Necropolis

Cahuachi Ceremonial and Administrative Center

San Fernando National Reserve

to Arequipa to Tacna

AREQUIPA



Islas Ballestas © Gihon Tubbeh / PROMPERU



The Paracas National Reserve is home to animals such as sea lions, Humboldt penguins, dolphins and flamingos.

Distances


From Ica to the cities of:

DESTINATION	DISTANCE	TIME
Pisco (Pisco Province)	76 km	1 hr.
Chincha Alta (Chincha Province)	103 km	1 hr. 20 min
Palpa (Palpa Province)	92 km	1 hr. 30 min
Nasca (Nasca Province)	142 km	2 hr. 30 min



Tejas © José Cáceres

Tours:

3 days  (the minimum recommended stay)

1 day

Chincha and Pisco: San José plantation house, El Carmen district and Paracas National Reserve

1 day

Pisco and Ica: Ballestas Islands, Cachiche Village, Pisco route wineries, Huacachina Lagoon Regional Conservation Area and Adolfo Bermúdez Jenkins Regional Museum.

1 day

Palpa and Nasca: Llipata geoglyphs, Nasca and Palpa lines and geoglyphs, Cantalloc aqueduct, Cahuachi Ceremonial and Administrative Center, Antonini Teaching Museum.





Calendar

Feb (movable)	Black Summer Festival (Chincha, Chincha Alta district)
Mar	Grape Harvest Festival (Ica and Chincha)
Mar/abr	Ica Holy Week
Jul	Virgin of Carmen (Chincha, El Carmen district)
Oct	Virgin of Yauca del Rosario (Ica, Yauca del Rosario district)
Oct	Lord of Luren religious celebration
Oct	Chincha Tourism Week
Nov	Ica Tourism Week



What to eat?

Typical dishes such as *morusa* (mashed green lima beans with roast beef or pork), *picante de pallares* (beans with chili peppers, milk, cheese and eggs) and *carapulcra* (chicken, pork and dried and boiled potatoes in a peanut sauce) and *Sopa seca* are features of Ica's gastronomy. Ica is known for its *tejas*, a traditional blancmange sweet covered with caramelized sugar. It is impossible to talk about this region and not mention *Pisco*, the flagship product which comes from its soils. *Cachina* is another liquor made from the grapes.




What to buy?

Touring the viticulture estates, the visitor can purchase modestly-priced Pisco and wine. If one is looking for ornaments, there are handicraft markets at the Huacachina Oasis, the El Chaco Boulevard (Paracas), or Avenida Bolognesi in Nasca.



The Lines and Geoglyphs of Nasca and Palpa
World Heritage



 The Lines and Geoglyphs of Nasca and Palpa © Heinz Plenge / PROMPERÚ



, discovered in 1927, were incorporated as a
e Site in 1994.



What to see?

Ica Province

The Javier Cabrera Scientific Museum

Cl. Bolívar 170, Main Square. Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10:00 am - 1:30 pm / 4:00 pm - 7:30 pm Tel. (056) 227-676 / 999-437-702. Ticket entry.

This museum houses a collection of close to 11 000 engraved stones that belonged to the Ica culture.

The Marqués de Torre Hermosa Mansion

Cl. Libertad 141, Main Square.

This mansion, known also as the Casa Bolívar because the Liberator once stayed here, is one of the few Vice-Royal constructions to have survived the passage of time.

The San Francisco de Asís Church

Av. Municipalidad 319. Opening hours: Mon-Sat (no Wed) 8:00-9:00 am / 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm / Sun 7:00 am - 12:00 pm / 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm Tel. (056) 231-402.

The facade of the church of this 18th architectural complex has three levels and two double arch towers.

The Bermúdez Jenkins Regional Museum

Av. Ayabaca, block 8. Opening hours: Tue-Fri 8:00 am - 7:00 pm / Sat-Sun and public holidays 8:30 am - 6:30 pm. Tel. (056) 234-383. Ticket entry.

This museum exhibits archeological items from the cultures that developed throughout the area, including the Paracas, Nasca, Huari, Ica-Chincha and Inca.

Cachiche Village

4 km to the south of the city of Ica (10 min. by car).

This traditional village is known for being the home of witches. Even today, it is visited by people seeking to cure their illnesses. Attractions include the Witches Monument and the Seven-Headed Palm Tree.

The Huacachina Lagoon Regional Conservation Area

5 km to the southwest of the city of Ica (10 min. by car).

This lagoon appears in the middle of the desert and is surrounded by dunes, palm trees and huarangos. Discover its esplanade and enjoy regional gastronomy. In addition to traditional paddle boating, there are dune buggies and sandboarding for the more adventurous.

Cañón de los perdidos

69 km to the southeast of the city of Ica (3 hr by car or 2 hr by 4x4 van). Take the Panamericana Sur highway (Ica - Palpa) to km 339, entrance to Callango (Ocucaje district) and then 50 km of trail. Hiring a tour with certified travel agencies is recommended.

It is believed this canyon was part of the ocean and the fossils found in its surroundings validate this theory. It has a very specific flora and fauna such as buzzards, lizards and arachnids, while in the Ica river outlet some minor aquatic animals and herons can be seen, and vegetation such as huarangos and palm trees.

Beaches and deserts

60 km to the southwest of Ocucaje (2 hr. by car), crossing the desert and arriving at an ideal area for fishing and spear fishing enthusiasts. To reach beaches such as El Morro, El Negro, La Hierba, Lomitas, Olleros, Antana, Barlovento and La Cueva, it is necessary to have the right transport, camping equipment and the advice of a guide. 59 km to the west of the city of Ica (50 min. by car) is Karwas, a beach that is appropriate for fishing and spear fishing.



Peruian caballos de Paso in the Tacama winery © Marco Garro



For more than four hundred years, the rich coastal valleys have produced grapes, raw material to prepare the Peruvian distillate: Pisco.

Ruta del Pisco

The wineries that make up this tour provide demonstrations of the production process of the country's flagship drink and are spread throughout the countryside surrounding Ica. Some of these wineries have operated since colonial times, combining history and tradition to preserve their artisanal methods where others use state-of-the-art technology. The opportunity to try the region's typical dishes and enjoy them with the best wine pairing should not be missed.

- **Tabernero**

Prol. Andrés Rázuri 310, Chincha Alta (198 km from Lima on the Panamericana Sur Highway). Opening hours: Mon-Sat: 9:00 am - 6:00 pm / Sun 9:00 am - 5:45 pm Tel. (056) 261-602.

- **Viñas de Oro**

211 km from Lima on the Panamericana Sur Highway, El Carmen, Chincha. Opening hours: Mon-Sat 8:00 am - 12:00 pm / 2:00 pm -5:30 pm. Tel. (01) 7062241 ext. 2342 / 994-029-672. Ticket entry.

- **La Caravedo**

291 km from Lima on the Panamericana Sur Highway, Salas Guadalupe, Ica. Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9:30 am - 4:00 pm . Previous reservation. Tel. 981-249-789. Ticket entry.

- **Tacama**

Av. Camino Real 390, La Tinguiña. Detour 294,3 km from Lima on the Panamericana Sur Highway. 7 km to the northeast of the city of Ica (20 min. by car). Opening hours: Tue-Sun 9:30 am -4:30 pm. Tel. 955-124-808. Ticket entry.

- **El Catador**

Fundo Tres Esquinas 102, Subtanjalla, Ica (295,5 km from Lima on the Panamericana Sur Highway). Opening hours: Mon-Sun 9:30 am - 6:30 pm. / Sat 8:30 am - 7:30 pm. Tel. (056) 403-516 / 993-524-674.

- **Doña Juanita Tres Generaciones**

Fundo Tres Esquinas 102, Subtanjalla, Ica (295,5 km from Lima on the Panamericana Sur Highway). Opening hours: Mon-Sun 9:00 am - 6:00 pm. Tel. (056) 403-565.

- **Lovera Pérez**

Garganto Village Mz. K Lt. 1, Los Aquijes, Ica (308 km from Lima on the Panamericana Sur Highway). Opening hours: Mon-Sat 8:00 am - 7:00 pm / D 9:00 am - 7:00 pm. Tel. (056) 215-452 / 956-679-264.

- **Vista Alegre**

At 3 km northwest of Ica (5 min). Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8:00 am - 12:00 pm / 1:45 pm - 3:45 pm / Sat 8:00 am -12:00 pm. Tel. (056) 232-919 / 238-735. Ticket entry.

- **Viñas Queirolo**

11 km along the highway to Los Molinos in Ica. Opening hours: Mon-Sun 9:00 am - 6:00 pm. Previous reservation. Tel. (01) 261-3772 / 974-629-010. Ticket entry.

Pisco Province

The Ballestas Islands

A 2 hr. return journey from the El Chaco Wharf or the Paracas Tourist Marina. Opening hours Mon-Sun: 8:00 am - 12:00 pm. Ticket entry.

These islands, heavily populated with birds and sea lions, form part of the Guano Islands, Islets, and Capes National Reserve System. They can be approached by motorboat, allowing the visitor to observe flora and marine fauna and view the Candelabrum, a huge geoglyph right in the middle of the bay.

The Paracas National Reserve

250 km to the south of the city of Lima (3 hr. 10 min. by car).

Opening hours: Mon-Sun: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm. Ticket entry.

This 335 hectare reserve consists of deserts, beaches, islands, cliffs and ocean and protects a wide variety of coastal species, such as pelicans, flamencos, penguins, dolphins and sea lions, as well as fish and crustaceans. It has archeological attractions and an interpretation center that focuses on the area's biodiversity.

The Julio C. Tello Museum

27 km along the highway from Pisco through Puerto San Martín to the Paracas

National Reserve. Opening hours: Tue-Sun (and holidays) 09:00 am - 5:00 pm

The museum has ten exhibition halls in which information can be found about the Paracas culture (Caverna and Necropolis), Peruvian archeology and the first inhabitants. Cranial trepanning, funeral bundles and textiles can also be viewed.

The Tambo Colorado Archeological Area

45 km along the highway from Los Libertadores to Wari (40 min. by car from the city of Pisco). Opening hours: Mon-Sun 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. Ticket entry.

This citadel was built in the Humay district during Pachacútec Rule, to accommodate soldiers and authorities.

Chincha Province

Chincha Alta City

200 km from Lima on the Panamericana Sur Highway.

This city takes its name from Chinchay, the feline god of the Yauyos, the first inhabitants. The area's valleys have been important centers of agricultural production and during colonial times there was a large concentration of slaves.

The La Melchorita Shrine

In the Grocio Prado district, 5 km to the northeast of the city of Chincha Alta (15 min. by car).

Melchora Saravia Tasayco, "La Melchorita", was well-known during the 20th century for sheltering and caring for the poor and the sick in her home. Miracles have been attributed to La Melchorita since her death on December 4, 1951 and her shrine has become a pilgrimage destination for thousands of faithful every 4th of December and 6th of January.

The La Centinela Huaca

8 km to the west of the Panamericana Sur Highway (10 min. by car). Opening hours: Mon-Sun 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. Ticket entry.

Between A.D. 900 and A.D. 1450, this was the main settlement for the Chincha, a prosperous community of farmers, fishermen, craftsman and merchants, who developed the wide and fertile valley on the coast that carries its name. It consists of two large sets of pyramids, La Centinela and Tambo de Mora, which occupy an area of more than 75 hectares.

El Carmen District

16 km to the south of the city of Chincha Alta (20 min. by car).

Slaves from what today are Senegal, Guinea, Congo and Angola, worked on the San José and San Regis plantations during the 17th and 18th centuries and then settled here. Today, their descendants preserve Afro-Peruvian folklore.



The Chandelier, Paracas National Reserve © Alex Bryce / PROMPERÚ



Within the Paracas National Reserve is El Candelabro, a geoglyph that can be seen northeast of the Paracas Bay.

The San José Plantation House

Detour to the east, 203 km from Lima on the Panamericana Sur Highway, entering the El Carmen district (20 min. by car). Museum opening hours: Mon-Sun 9:00 am - 4:30 pm. Tel. (056) 31 3332. Ticket entry.

This building from the late 17th century preserves the architecture characteristic of coastal plantations. As with all plantations, it has a church. The baroque altar is a feature. A tour of the catacombs allows the visitor to learn about the conditions in which the area's slaves lived.

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Palpa Province

The Sacramento Solar Clock

The village of Sacramento, 399 km from Lima on the new Panamericana Sur Highway, 1.2 km from Palpa (10 min. by car).

Opening hours: Mon-Sun 8:00 am - 5:15 pm. Ticket entry.

Lines and geoglyphs drawn on the slopes of a hill can be viewed here from an observing point.

Ciudad perdida de Huayurí

Detour to the village of San Francisco 384 km from Lima on the Panamericana Sur Highway. Opening hours: Mon-Sun 8:00 am - 5:15 pm. Ticket entry.

The archeological complex takes its name from the location, hidden between hills and ridges. Built during the Late Intermediate Period (AD 1200 to AD 1400), it is characterized by its narrow streets.

The Llipata Geoglyphs

408 km from Lima on the Panamericana Sur Highway.

Opening hours: Mon-Sun 8:00 am - 5:30 pm. Ticket entry.

These enormous geometric drawings, representing plants and animals, can be seen from natural lookouts in the villages of Sacramento and Pichango and from a tower in Llipata.

The Chichictara Petroglyphs

7.5 km to the northwest of Palpa in the Chichictara village (30 min. by car).

These drawings on volcanic and alluvial rocks represent warriors, felines, birds, snakes and monkeys, among other figures.



The Cantalloc Aqueduct © Faujo Ovalle / PROMPERÚ



Five kilometers from the city of Nasca is this work of hydraulic engineering that still operates today.

Nasca Province

The Antonini Teaching Museum

Av. La Cultura 600. Opening hours: Mon-Sun 9:00 am - 7:00 pm.

Tel. (056) 523-444. Ticket entry.

Trophy heads, musical instruments, textiles, funeral bundles and other discoveries from the excavations in Cahuachi are exhibited here, illustrating how Nasca culture developed. Its advanced knowledge of hydraulic engineering is evident from the Bisambra aqueduct display.

Paredones I

1.52 km to the south of the city of Nasca, along the highway from Nasca to Puquio (5 min. by car). Opening hours: Mon-Sun 8:00 am - 6:00 pm. Ticket entry.

This Inca administrative center is characterized by its buildings on a base of stone and its adobe walls.

El Telar Geoglyph

2.96 km to the southeast of the city of Nasca (10 min. by car). Opening hours: Mon-Sun 8:00 am - 6:00 pm. Ticket entry.

Located on the side of a hill, these intersecting lines resemble a loom and a spiral figure, which represent a ball of thread.

The Cantalloc Aqueduct

5 km to the east of the city of Nasca (15 min by car). Opening hours: Mon-Sun 8:00 am - 6:00 pm. Ticket entry.

The Nasca people built this hydraulic engineering work using stone slabs and carob trunks. It still operates today and 17 spiral vents can be observed.

Cerro Blanco

10 km to the east of the city of Nasca along the Inter-Oceanic Highway (20 min. by car).

At 2078 meters, this is the world's highest sand dune, an ideal place from where to view the Nasca Valley and to try sandboarding.

The Lines and Geoglyphs of Nasca and Palpa

25.28 km to the northwest of the city of Nasca (20 min. by car), 425 km from Lima on the new Panamericana Sur Highway. Lookout opening hours: Mon-Sun 8:00 am - 5:30 pm. Flight services: Mon-Sun 6:00 am - 5:00 pm. Ticket entry.

The Nasca culture drew lines representing animals and plants which extend over 450 square kilometers of desert. This astronomical calendar consists of figures such as the hummingbird, the dog, the monkey, the condor and the spider. Some of the figures can be seen from a 12 meter high metallic lookout, however for the best views, a tour in a light aircraft is recommended.

María Reiche House and Museum

45 km along the Panamericana Sur Highway (20 min. by car from the city of Nasca). Opening hours: Mon-Sun 8:00 am - 6:00 pm. Ticket entry.


The house in which the German archeologist María Reiche lived and worked displays maps, charts and photographs from her studies, as well as information about the Nasca Lines.

The Cahuachi Ceremonial and Administrative Center

24 km to the southeast of the city of Nasca (30 min. by car). Opening hours: Mon-Sun 8:00 am - 5:30 pm.

The world's largest mud brick ceremonial center consists of two truncated adobe pyramids. A courtyard, a terrace with roofed chambers and a large room at the top can be discerned in these Nasca culture constructions. Archeologists continue investigating this ancient center.



 Cahuachi ceremonial and administrative center © Marco Garro

The Chauchilla Necropolis

27 km to the south of the city of Nasca (30 min. by car). Opening hours: Mon-Sun 6:00 am - 6:00 pm. Ticket entry.

This cemetery has 13 Pre-Inca tombs where mummies in their original burial site can be seen, together with textiles and ceramics from the period.

The San Fernando National Reserve

70 km to the southwest of Nasca (1 hr. by 4x4 drive vehicle or dune buggy).

Visits by prior arrangement with the SERNANP office, telephone (056) 522-770 / 968-218-448.

The reserve covers 154,716.37 hectares and is the habitat of a wide variety of marine species (sea lions, otters, penguins and whale species), as well as some mountain species (guanacos and condors). The mouths of the Ica and Rio Grande rivers lie to the north, forming forests which add color to the desert. Close to Punta Caballas there are seasonal wetlands. Excursions in this area must be undertaken with the help of a guide and using vehicles that have good traction.



Ica

City Center



Urban area

- 1** Javier Cabrera Scientific Museum
 - 2** Marqués de Torre Hermosa Mansion
 - 3** San Francisco de Asís Church
 - 4** Adolfo Bermúdez Jenkins Regional Museum
 - 5** Municipal Library
-

-  Medical attention
-  Police
-  City Hall
-  Post Office

to Pisco
to Chincha
to Lima

3

1

Park of
Love

Luis Gonzaga
College

National
Gonzaga

Victor Raúl
Park

San José
College

Sérvulo Gutiérrez
Higher Fine
Arts Institute

4

Regional
Culture
Directorate

Fire Brigade

Sporting
Complex

Fair Ground

C.C. El Quinde

C.C. Plaza
Vea Ica

to Huacachina

to Nasca



Central Market

M
Main Square

2

P

Sebastián Barranca Square

San Francisco Square

5

C.C. Plaza del Sol

C.C. Metro

Indecopi

Grau Bridge

Cutervo Bridge

Rio Ica

Av. Alfredo Pimentel

Av. San Carlos

Av. Grau

Cl. Urubamba

Cl. Caylloma

Av. Cutervo

Av. Conde de Nieva

Av. Luis Gerónimo de Cabrera

Cl. Raúl Boza

Cl. Las Américas

Cl. Perú

Cl. San Luis Gonzaga

Malecón La Victoria

Psj. Los Incas

Cl. El Paraíso

Cl. Regional

Psj. El Olimpo

Cl. Mollendo

Cl. El Edén

Cl. Central

Cl. Los Amalús

Cl. Pisco

Cl. Los Alamos

Cl. Alfonso Ugarte

Av. Acomayo

Cl. La Primera

Cl. Los Eucaliptos

Cl. Olaechea

Cl. Rosa Zárate

Pr. Cutervo

Jr. Manuel Medina Paredes

Cl. Catalina Buendía de Pecho

Cl. Los Rosales

Cl. Vista Alegre

Cl. Jonathan

Cl. Hernando de Lavalle

Cl. El Rosedal

Pr. Grau

Banco de la Nación

Diretur

San Luis University

Sebastián Barranca Square

San Francisco Square

Palma Market

C.C. Plaza del Sol

C.C. Metro

Indecopi

Cutervo Bridge

Rio Ica

Av. Alfredo Pimentel

Av. San Carlos

Av. Grau

Cl. Urubamba

Cl. Caylloma

Av. Cutervo

Av. Conde de Nieva

Av. Luis Gerónimo de Cabrera

Cl. Raúl Boza

Cl. Las Américas

Cl. Perú

Cl. San Luis Gonzaga

Malecón La Victoria

Psj. Los Incas

Cl. El Paraíso

Cl. Regional

Psj. El Olimpo

Cl. Mollendo

Cl. El Edén

Cl. Central

Cl. Los Amalús

Cl. Pisco

Cl. Los Alamos

Cl. Alfonso Ugarte

Av. Acomayo

Cl. La Primera

Cl. Los Eucaliptos

Cl. Olaechea

Cl. Rosa Zárate

Pr. Cutervo

Jr. Manuel Medina Paredes

Cl. Catalina Buendía de Pecho

Cl. Los Rosales

Cl. Vista Alegre

Cl. Jonathan

Cl. Hernando de Lavalle

Cl. El Rosedal

Pr. Grau

Banco de la Nación

Diretur

San Luis University

Sebastián Barranca Square

San Francisco Square

Palma Market

C.C. Plaza del Sol

C.C. Metro

Indecopi

Cutervo Bridge

Rio Ica



Información y Asistencia al Turista
Tourist Information and Assistance

NASCA
Ica
Center

(01) 616 7300 anexo 3042
María Reiche Newman Aerodrome
Vista Alegre, Panamericana Sur
Highway, 452 km from Lima
Mon-Sun 7:00 am - 4:00 pm
iperunasca@promperu.gob.pe

Contact us:
24 hours

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(+51) 944-492-314

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www.ytuqueplanes.com



The information in this brochure was updated in November 2019.

In developing it, PROMPERU has used official information sources, such as the Ica Regional Directorate of Foreign Trade Tourism and Handicrafts.

Opening hours and telephones are subject to variation by each tourist attraction.
Confirm times and phone numbers with IPERÚ.

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