Ica

Practical Guide for Travelers



Sand dunes in the Ica desert © Enrique Castro-Mendivil / PROMPERÚ

Ica



Location
Southern coast of Peru

Capital
Ica (1,332 ft / 406 m)

Altitude
Min.: **7** ft (2 m) (Paracas)
Max.: **12,454** ft (3,796 m) (San Pedro de Huacarpana)

Weather

Temperature

Max.: **70** °F (32 °C)

Min.: **73** °F (23 °C)

Dec-Mar

Mar-Jun

Jun-Sept

Sept-Dec

How to get here?

By land

Lima-Chincha: 124 miles (200 km) / 2 h 30 min

Lima-Pisco: 141 miles (227 km) / 3 h

Lima-Nasca: 282 miles (454 km) / 7 h

Ayacucho-Ica: 241 miles (388 km) / 7 h

Arequipa-Ica: 439 miles (706 km) / 11 h 30 min

Cusco-Nasca: 410 miles (660 km) / 14 h

La Caravedo Vineyard © Karina Mendoza / PROMPERÚ

Ica

- Department capital
- Province capital
- District capital
- Tourist attraction
- International border
- Provincial border
- Main road
- Paved road
- Dirt road
- Airports
- Aerodrome
- Protected Natural Area



Huacachina Lagoon © Gihan Tubbeh / PROMPERÚ





Ballestas Islands © Gihan Tubbeh / PROMPERÚ

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

Distances

From Ica

DESTINATION	DISTANCIA	TIEMPO
Pisco (Pisco Province)	47 miles (76 km)	1 h
Chincha Alta (Chincha Province)	64 miles (103 km)	1 h 20 min
Palpa (Palpa Province)	57 miles (92 km)	2 h
Nasca (Nasca Province)	88 miles (142 km)	2 h 30 min



Tejas © José Cáceres / PROMPERÚ

Tours:

3 days (minimum recommended stay)

1 day	Chincha and Pisco: Casa Hacienda San José, El Carmen district, and Paracas National Reserve
1 day	Pisco and Ica: Ballestas Islands, Cachiche Village, Route of Pisco wineries, Regional Conservation Area of Huacachina lagoon, and Adolfo Bermúdez Jenkins Regional Museum
1 day	Palpa and Nasca: geoglyphs of Llipata, lines and geoglyphs of Nasca and Palpa, aqueduct of Cantalloc, ceremonial-administrative center of Cahuachi, and Antonini Didactic Museum

Agenda

February (varies)	Festival del Verano Negro (Chincha, Chincha Alta district)
March	Harvest Festival (Chincha, Pisco, Ica and Nasca)
March - April	Easter Week of Ica
May	Nasca Tourist Week
July	Virgen del Carmen (Chincha, El Carmen district)
October	Virgen de Yauca del Rosario (Ica, Yauca del Rosario district)
October	Feast of Señor de Luren Day of Carapulcra and Sopa Seca Chinchana
October	Chincha Tourist Week
November	Ica Tourist Week

What to eat?

Typical Ica cuisine includes *picante de pallares*, *carapulcra* (based on dried potato and meat), and *sopa seca*. Ica is known for its *tejas*, a traditional white delicacy covered in sugar candy. This is the region of pisco, Peru flagship product born in this area, and *cachina*, a grape-based liquor.

What to buy?

On the tour of the vineyards, you can buy pisco and wine at fair prices. Decorative items and handicrafts can also be found in the areas surrounding the Huacachina Oasis (Ica), El Chaco Boulevard (Paracas), Grocio Prado Avenue (Chincha), and Bolognesi Avenue (Nasca).



Nasca and Palpa lines and geoglyphs © Heinz Plenge / PROMPERÚ

The Nasca and Palpa lines and geoglyphs, discovered in 1927, were declared new World Heritage in 1994.

What to visit?

Ica Province

Casona del Marqués de Torre Hermosa

Cl. Libertad 141, Plaza de Armas

Known as Casa Bolívar for having hosted the Liberator, it is one of the few colonial buildings that withstands the passage of time. Only the exterior can be visited, as the building currently houses a financial institution.

Museo Regional Adolfo Bermúdez Jenkins

Av. Ayabaca, cdra. 8. Tue-Fri, 8:00-19:00; Sat-Sun, and holidays 8:30-18:30.
Tel. (51-56) 234-383. Entrance fee charged.

The Adolfo Bermudez Jenkins regional museum exhibits archaeological pieces from cultures developed in the area, such as Paracas, Nasca, Huari, Ica-Chincha, and Inca.

Área de Conservación Regional Laguna de Huacachina

3 miles (5 km) southwest of the city of Ica (10 min by car)

Huacachina lagoon has been declared a Regional Conservation Area because of its location, in the middle of the desert, surrounded by dunes, palm trees, and huarangos. Tourists are encouraged to visit its historic boardwalk and enjoy the regional cuisine. Adventurous visitors can enjoy the traditional pedal boat rides.

Playa Carhuaz

35 miles (56 km) southwest of the city of Ica (40 min by car)

Carhuaz stands out for its scenic, tourism, and environmental value, as it forms part of the Paracas National Reserve, a key area for the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity.

Pueblo de Cachiche

2.5 miles (4 km) south of the city of Ica (10 min by car)

Cachiche village is traditionally known for being home to witches, which to this day is visited by people seeking to cure their ills. Some attractions are the Monument to the Witch and the Seven-Headed Palm Tree.



Museo regional de Ica Adolfo Bermúdez Jenkins © Marco Garro / PROMPERÚ



Peruvian Paso horses in the Tacama winery © Marco Garro

For more than four hundred years, the rich coastal valleys have produced grapes, the main ingredient to prepare pisco – the flag distilled drink of Peru.

Ruta del Pisco

The wineries that make up the Route of Pisco and publicize the production process of our flagship drink are scattered throughout Ica countryside. History and tradition inhabit these wineries, which have been operating since colonial times and preserve their artisanal methods of production. Others use state-of-the-art technology. Travelers are encouraged to enjoy and savor local cuisine with the best pisco pairing.

- **Tabernero**
  Prolongación Andrés Rázuri 310, Chincha Alta (near km 198 of Panamericana Sur Highway). Hours: Mon–Sat: 10:00 –13:00 / 15:00 - 17:00; Sun: 9:00–16:00. Tel. (+51) 923-846-047
- **Bodega Grimaldi**
  Av. Benavides 141 Sunampe, Chincha. Hours: Mon–Sat: 9:00–16:00. Tel: (+51) 994-213-410
- **San Nicolás (Bodega 1615) – Paracas**
  Km 245 (24min) of Panamericana Sur Highway, south of Paracas. Hours: Mon–Sat: 9:00–17:00; Sundays by prior arrangement. Tel: (+51) 994-711-059 / 994-711-107.
- **Bodega Villacuri**
  Panamericana Sur Highway, Km 272, Salas Villacuri, Ica. Hours: Mon–Sun: 9:00–18:00. Tel. (+51) 998-382-126
- **Vista Alegre**
  Located 3 km (5min) northeast of the city of Ica. Hours: Mon–Fri: 8:00–12:00 / 13:45–15:45; Sat: 8:00–12:00. Tel. (+51-56) 232-919 / 238-735 / (+51) 966-622-680. Admission fee required.
- **Viñas Queirolo**
  Km 11 on the road to Los Molinos, Ica. Hours: Mon–Fri: 8:00–17:00; Sat: 9:00–13:00. (Advance reservation required). Tel. (+51-1) 463- 1008 / (+51) 980-640-897. Admission fee required.
- **La Caravedo**
  Km 291 of Panamericana Sur Highway, Salas Guadalupe, Ica. Hours: Mon–Sun: 10:00, 12:00, 15:00, and 16:00. (Advance reservation required). Tel. (+51) 981-249-789 / (+51) 988-127-675.
- **Tacama**
  Av. Camino Real 390, La Tinguiña. Turn off at km 294,3 of Panamericana Sur Highway; located 7 km northeast of the city of Ica (20 minute drive). Hours: Tue–Sun: 9:30-17:00. Tel. (+51) 997-542-481.
- **El Catador**
  Fundo Tres Esquinas 103, Subtanjalla, Ica (near km 295,5 of Panamericana Sur Highway). Hours: Mon–Sun: 9:30-18:00. Tel. (+51) 981-223-727.
- **Doña Juanita Tres Generaciones**
  Fundo Tres Esquinas S/N, Subtanjalla, Ica (near km 295,5 of Panamericana Sur Highway). Hours: Mon–Sun: 9:00–18:00. Tel. (+51) 972-912-717
- **Finca 314 - Escuela del Pisco**
  Hours: Mon–Fri: 8:00–12:00 and 13:45–15:45. Tel. (+51) 924-266-022 (Advance reservation required). This winery has historically been led by women.

Pisco Province

Islas Ballestas

A 2-hour round trip from the El Chaco wharf or the Paracas tourist marina. Mon-Sun, 8:00-12:00. Entrance fee charged.

Ballestas Islands are part of the National Reserve of the System of Islands, Islets and Guaneras Points. A motorboat ride allows you to get quite close to these islands full of birds and sea lions, to see marine flora and fauna and appreciate El Candelabro, an immense geoglyph in the shape of a candlestick, located on the bay.

Reserva Nacional de Paracas

155 miles (250 km) south of the city of Lima (3 h 10 min by car)
Mon-Sun, 9:00-16:00. Entrance fee charged.
The Paracas National Reserve covers 335 hectares of deserts, beaches, islands, cliffs, and sea that protect a wide variety of coastal species, such as pelicans, flamingos, penguins, dolphins, and sea lions, as well as fish and crustaceans. It has archaeological attractions and an interpretation center that addresses the biodiversity of the area.

Museo Julio C. Tello

At kilometer 27 of the highway towards Pisco-Puerto San Martín-Paracas National Reserve. Mon-Sun, 9:00-16:00. Entrance fee charged.
The Julio C. Tello Museum has ten exhibition halls where you can learn about the Paracas culture (Cavern and Necropolis), Peruvian archaeology, the first inhabitants, and examine cranial trepanations, funerary bales, textiles, etcetera.

Zona Arqueológica Tambo Colorado

At kilometer 45 of the highway towards Los Libertadores-Wari (40 min by car from the city of Pisco). Mon-Sun, 9:00-17:00. Entrance fee charged.
The Tambo Colorado Archaeological Site was an Inca citadel built in the Humay district during the Pachacútec government as a shelter for soldiers and authorities.

Chincha Province

Ciudad de Chincha Alta

At kilometer 200 of Panamericana Sur highway
It is named after Chinchay, the feline god of the Yauyos, the first settlers. Since colonial times, the valleys of the area have been important centers of agricultural production, so it had a large population of slaves brought to work the cotton plantations.

Santuario de La Melchorita

Grocio Prado District, 3 miles (5 km) northwest of the city of Chincha Alta (15 min by car)
Melchora Saravia Tasayco, "La Melchorita," was a well-known figure of the last century for welcoming and caring for the poor and sick in her home. After her death on December 4, 1951, miracles have been attributed to her and her shrine has become a pilgrimage center where thousands of faithful come every January 6 and December 4.

Huaca La Centinela

5 miles (8 km) west of the Panamericana Sur highway (10 min by car)
Mon-Sun, 9:00-17:00. Entrance fee charged.
La Centinela Huaca was the main settlement of the Chinchas, a prosperous group of farmers, fishermen, artisans, and merchants that developed in the wide and fertile valley of the same name on the coast of Peru, between 900 and 1450 AD. It is made up of two large sets of pyramids (La Centinela and Tambo de Mora) and occupies an area over 75 hectares.

El Carmen District

10 miles (16 km) south of the city of Chincha Alta (20 min by car)
This is where slaves from Senegal, Guinea, Congo, and Angola who worked during the 17th and 18th centuries on the San José and San Regis estates settled. Today, their descendants preserve Afro-Peruvian folklore.

Petroglifos de Huancor

19 miles (31 km) southeast of Chincha (45 min). Mon–Sun, 7:00–17:00.
This archaeological site has been declared a Cultural Heritage of the Nation. It features more than one thousand rock carvings depicting scenes from pre-Columbian life, including jaguars, Chincha warriors, and fishing and navigation activities. These archaeological remains are associated with the Paracas culture, Nasca culture, Chincha culture, and Inca Empire civilizations.



El candelabro en la Reserva Nacional de Paracas © Alex Bryce / PROMPERÚ

Within Paracas National Reserve, geoglyph El Candelabr ("The Candlestick") can be seen northeast of Paracas bay.

Casa hacienda San José

Detour to the east at kilometer 203 of Panamericana Sur highway, entrance to the district of El Carmen (20 min by car). Museum opening hours: Mon-Sun, 9:00-16:30. Tel. (51-56) 313-332. Entrance fee charged.

The San Jose Manor House dates to the end of the 17th century and preserves the characteristic architecture of the coastal "haciendas". Like other manor houses of its time, it has a church with a remarkable baroque altar. The tour of the catacombs allows you to learn more about the living conditions of the slaves in the area.

Palpa Province

Reloj solar de Sacramento

Sacramento village, at kilometer 399 of New Panamericana Sur highway, 0.7 miles (1.20 km) from the city of Palpa (10 min by car) Mon-Sun, 8:00-17:15. Entrance fee charged.

From a viewpoint you can see lines and geoglyphs traced on the slopes of a hill, which make a sundial.

Ciudad perdida de Huayurí

Detour to the town of San Francisco at kilometer 384 of Panamericana Sur highway. Mon-Sun, 8:00-17:15. Entrance fee charged.

Huayurí is called a lost city because of its location, hidden among hills. This archaeological complex built during the Late Intermediate (1200-1400 AD) is characterized by its narrow streets.

Geoglifos de Llipata

At kilometer 408 of Panamericana Sur highway Mon-Sun, 8:00-17:15. Entrance fee charged.

From the natural viewpoints of the towns of Sacramento and Pichango, and the Llipata tower, you can appreciate the immense geometric drawings of Llipata geoglyphs, which represent plants and animals.

Monumento arqueológico La Muña

The tomb in La Muña has an area of 33 × 39 ft (10 × 12 m) and is between 16 and 26 ft (5 and 8 m) deep. La Muña Archaeological Monument is a complex located 2.5 miles (4 km) from Palpa Plaza de Armas. These large tombs belonged to the elite of the Nasca society, whose greatest development was reached in the Middle Nasca era (350-500 AD).

Petroglifos de Chichictara

4.7 miles (7.5 km) northwest of Palpa, Chichictara settlement (30 min by car)

Chichictara petroglyphs are drawings on volcanic and alluvial rocks depicting warriors, felines, birds, snakes, and monkeys, among other figures.



Geoglyphs of Llipata © Favio Ovalle / PROMPERÚ



Cantalloc aqueduct © Flavio Ovalle / PROMPERÚ

This hydraulic engineering work is located 5 km from the city of Nasca and continues to operate to this day.

Nasca Province

Museo Didáctico Antonini

Av. La Cultura 600. Mon-Sun, 9:00-19:00. Tel. (51-56) 523-444. Entrance fee charged.

Trophy heads, musical instruments, textiles, burial bales, and other finds obtained during the excavations in Cahuachi are exhibited in the Antonini Educational Museum, to illustrate the development of the Nasca culture. The Bisambra aqueduct is also located here, an example of the advanced hydraulic engineering knowledge of this culture.

Paredones I

0.9 miles (1.52 km) to the south of the city of Nasca, on the Nasca-Puquio road (5 min by car). Mon-Sun, 8:00-18:00. Entrance fee charged.

Paredones I was an Inca administrative center whose characteristic feature is its stone base constructions and adobe walls.

Geoglifo El telar

1.84 miles (2.96 km) southeast of the city of Nasca (10 min by car) Mon-Sun, 8:00-18:00. Entrance fee charged.

The intersecting lines, which resemble a loom, and a spiral figure, which represents a ball, of the El Telar geoglyph have been carved on the slope of a hill.

Acueducto de Cantalloc

3 miles (5 km) east of the city of Nasca (15 min by car) Mon-Sun, 8:00-18:00. Entrance fee charged.

The Nasca built the Cantalloc Aqueduct, a hydraulic engineering work with stone slabs and huarango logs. Today it continues to operate, and 17 spiral vents can be seen.

Cerro Blanco

6.2 miles (10 km) east of Nasca on the Interoceánica highway (20 min by car)

With an elevation of 6,818 ft (2,078 m), Cerro Blanco ("White Hill") is the highest dune in the world, an ideal place to appreciate the Nasca valley, and to practice sandboarding.

Líneas y geoglifos de Nasca y Palpa

15.7 miles (25.28 km) northwest of the city of Nasca (20 min by car), at kilometer 425 of New Panamericana Sur highway. Viewpoint hours: Mon-Sun, 6:00-18:00. Overflight hours: Mon-Sun, 9:00-14:45. Entrance fee charged.

The Nasca culture drew lines forming animals and plants while stretching along 174 sq. miles (450 km^2)of desert. Figures, such as the hummingbird, the dog, the monkey, the condor, and the spider make up this astronomical calendar. From the 66 ft (20 m) high metal viewpoint you can see some of the figures, but to ensure a better view it is advisable to hire a plane tour.

Casa Museo María Reiche

At kilometer 421 of Panamericana Sur highway (20 min by car from the city of Nasca). Mon-Sun, 8:00-18:00. Entrance fee charged.

The house where the German archaeologist María Reiche lived and worked is now a museum, which displays maps, plans and photos of her studies, as well as information about Nasca lines.

Centro ceremonial y administrativo de Cahuachi

15 miles (24 km) southwest of the city of Nasca (30 min by car) Mon-Sun, 8:00-17:30

The Cahuachi Ceremonial and Administrative Center is the largest clay ceremonial center in the world and is made up of two truncated adobe pyramids. In these buildings of the Nasca culture, there is a courtyard and a terrace with roofed enclosures, as well as large rooms at the top. Archaeological research is currently being carried out at this center.



Cahuachi Ceremonial and Administrative Center © Marco Garro / PROMPERÚ

Mirador Metálico de Nasca

264 miles (425 km) of Panamerica Sur highway (18 min by car from the city of Nasca). Mon–Sun, 8:00–17:30. Admission fee required.

The metal viewing tower is approximately 20 meters high. From this point, visitors can observe the Hand and Tree geoglyphs. However, to fully appreciate these figures in their entire dimension, it is necessary to take a flight over the area.

Mirador Natural

265 miles (426.4 km) of Panamerica Sur highway (17 min by car from the city of Nasca). Mon–Sun, 8:00 –17:30. Admission fee required.

The Natural Viewing Point is a rocky hill located in a section of the Nasca Pampa.

Necrópolis de Chauchilla

17 miles (27 km) south of the city of Nasca (30 min by car)
Mon-Sun, 7:00-18:00. Entrance fee charged.

In the Chauchilla Necropolis there are 13 pre-Inca tombs, where you can see mummies with textiles and ceramics from their time, in their original burial place.

Reserva Nacional de San Fernando

43 miles (70 km) from Nasca (via Poroma). Visits must be arranged in advance through the SERNANP office by calling (+51-56) 522-770 / (+51) 968-218-448, or through authorized travel agencies. Admission fee required.

It stands out for its remarkable diversity of marine and land wildlife, including sea lions, penguins, cetaceans, guanacos, and condors, set within a unique landscape where the desert meets the sea.

Reserva Nacional Sistema de Islas, Islotes y Puntas Guaneras Punta San Juan

50 miles (80.6 km) from Nasca (45 min by car).
Mon-Sun, 8:00, 11:00 and 14:00 (Tour duration: 1h and 30min). Visits must be booked in advance through the SERNANP office and are available only through authorized travel agencies.

This destination is ideal for observing sea lions, guano birds, and Humboldt penguin in their natural habitat.

Ica
City Center

Urban area

1. Casona del marqués de Torre Hermosa
2. Iglesia de San Francisco de Asís
3. Museo Regional Adolfo Bermúdez Jenkins
4. Municipal library

Medical center
Police
Town hall
Post office



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Información y Asistencia al Turista
Tourist Information and Assistance

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(+51-1) 616-7300, Ext. 1885
María Reiche Newman Aerodrome
Panamericana Sur, kilometer 452,
Vista Alegre
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The opening hours and telephone numbers are subject to vary at each tourist attraction.
Please, confirm hours and telephone numbers with IPERÚ.

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