



# TRAVEL GUIDE







## LIMA


Quick guide to the city of Lima to make your stay here as pleasant as possible.



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# Introduction

Bienvenido a Lima, the capital of Peru and one of the largest cities in South America. Lima is located at an elevation of 512 feet (156 meters) Its name comes from the Quechua name Rímac, meaning “Talker”.

Lima, with its 43 districts, is populated by 10 million 151 thousand inhabitants, which represent 30.1% of the country's total population (33 million 726 thousand inhabitants)

In this guide you will find some important information and tips you should know to enjoy your trip around this vibrant, full of history and amazing city of Lima.

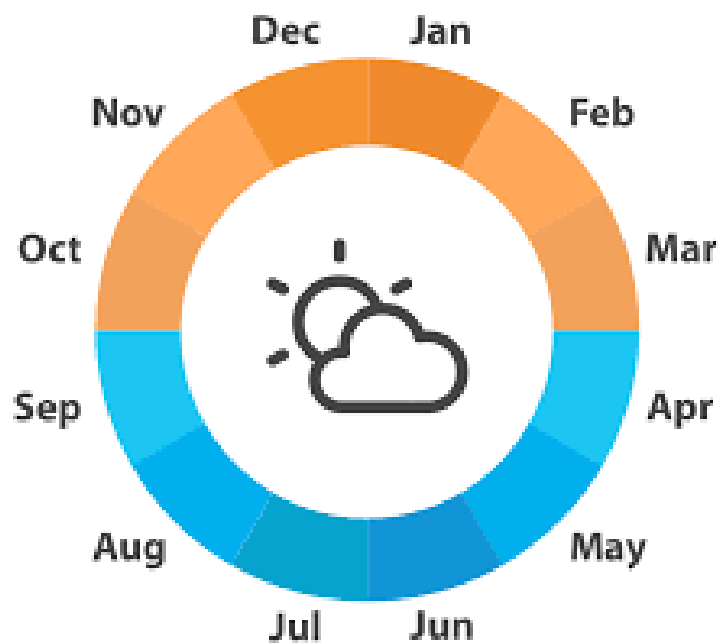
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# weather

The climate in Lima is characterized by its humidity due to the proximity to the sea, and is often accompanied by high clouds throughout most of the year.

While temperature fluctuate depending on the season, Lima generally enjoys a pleasantly fresh climate. Consequently, any time of the year is ideal to visit the city.

- Summer is from December to April, with temperatures ranging from 25-32°C (77°F to 90°F)
- Winter is from June to September, with temperatures ranging between 14-20°C (57°F to 68°F)



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# Transportation

Public transportation in Lima can be a chaotic system, with a system primarily consisting of large buses, medium-sized micros (coasters or buses), and combis (small vans).

For most of us it is an affordable option of transportation and the most adventurous way of getting around the city. According to a survey the 75% percent of the population uses the public transportation

## What about the traffic?

Traffic is a real problem in Lima. The rush hours are between 7am to 9am and from 6pm to 8pm so we highly recommend avoiding public transportation during that time.

On a positive note, public transportation in Peru is notably inexpensive. The minimum fare is S/1.00 (approximately 0.30 US dollars), making it an affordable option for travelers.



- **Metrobus:** The Metrobus is known for us as **Metropolitano**. This is a highly developed highway system and one of the most used types of transportation by the citizens, it has an exclusive 26-kilometer road that connects 12 districts of the city of Lima.
- The Closest station to school **Estacion Benavides**
- To utilize the Metropolitano you need to get a card called: "Tarjeta general" which costs S/5.00. Additionally there's a fixed fare of S/3.20 per ride, which you can charge onto the card each time you use it or recharge it according to the number of trips you plan to make.
- **Metro :** The metro consists of a single line inaugurated in 2011. It has 26 stations traversing the city from south to northeast.
- To use this service you must buy a rechargeable card in the station the price is S/5.00 soles and make the recharge according to the number of trips you are going to make. It costs S/ 1.50 (\$0.40). The closest station to the school is **Estacion Cabitos**
- Keep in mind that its stations are not located near tourist attractions!



- **Buses:** In the buses there's always a driver (chofer) and 1 bus assistant (cobrador) who is in charge of collecting the money. You can ask the "cobrador" the route of the bus and tell him when you want to get off.
- It can be tricky to learn how to use Lima's bus lines unless you are in the company of a limeño or you are patient enough to ask the driver or cobrador if the bus goes to your destination or which one you can take.



**FYI:** Looking for the bus stop? Normally buses can be waved down at any point of the main road. To get off the bus you must say: "bajo"

- **Combis:** The combis have the same description like the buses, the difference is they are smaller versions of buses that can carry around 18 passengers.



**FYI:** We highly recommend you to have Peruvian soles in your wallet, specially coins to pay in the buses.

- **Taxis and Taxi Apps:**

- Taxis are literally everywhere, making it incredibly convenient to hail one from the street. Simply inform the driver where you want to go and ask him how much you will be charged for that destination.

- In Peru, taxis don't have taximeters, so it's essential to agree on the fare before entering the cab. You can ask something like this: ¿Cuánto cuesta hasta ..? which can be translated as "How much is it to ...?"

Make sure is in soles not dollars.

- Taxi drivers are keen to make sure that you notice them. Means they honk all the time when they have no passengers hoping you get in the car.

- The official taxis have the features shown in the image.





- **Taxis and Taxi Apps:**

In Lima, like in other cities, taxi apps have become increasingly popular as a convenient way of transportation. Many students opt for these services for it's easy use. Popular apps you can download are "Uber" and "Cabify".

- The prices in the taxi by application are fixed, the payments can be in cash or card, if your account is connected to the app.
- We have also some taxi companies that work very well, for example:
  - Taxi Satelital
  - Taxi Green



- **FYI:** At our school, we offer convenient airport pick-up and drop-off services. Our welcoming drivers are at your disposal for all your transportation needs. For inquiries or further information or please contact us.

- **FYI:** In Peru it is not mandatory to tip the driver, but if you want to do it, it will always be well received.



- **Bicycle: CityBike Lima**

Another interesting way to commute is using the public bicycle service. This is a mode of transportation for the inhabitants of Lima, visitors and tourists.

- CityBike Lima has 50 stations located in parks, along the boardwalk, and other strategic points (within a distance of 300 meters), as well as 500 bicycles distributed throughout the district of Miraflores. Which allows users to take a bicycle from any station and return it to the one closest to their destination
- Please be aware that at the moment this service is only available around the district of Miraflores.
- It exist different types of plans according to your needs.  
Click here for more information:

**CITYBIKELIMA**

- **FYI:** There is a bike station on the 1st floor of the school. Use them when you need it and take a ride around Miraflores.





# Banks and Money

Peru uses the Peruvian Nuevo Sol (PEN) currency which is most commonly known as the 'sol'. The sol symbol is S/  
 The sol comes in bills of S/.10, S/.20, S/.50, S/.100 and S/.200



We also use coins of S/.0.10 S/.0.20 S/.0.50 centimos and S/.1 S/.2 and S/.5 soles.



# Where to get money?

ATM's abound in Lima so it is easy to withdraw money in either dollars or Soles. However, it's important to note that most ATMs impose a withdrawal fee, along with any charges applied by your own bank.

Remember! All fees for withdrawing money from a credit or debit card should be verified with your bank before arriving in Peru.

Some banks located close to the school are:

BCP

INTERBANK

BBVA

SCOTIABANK

**FYI:** While many establishments in Lima accept cards, it's advisable to carry cash, especially since some smaller businesses may not accept card payments, such as local markets. However, you can confidently use your cards at supermarkets, malls, restaurants, bars, cafeterias, museums, and similar establishments.



**FYI:** In cities like Lima, Arequipa, or Cusco, it's common for small businesses or tourism agencies to levy a 5% surcharge for payments made with a card. They typically inform you of this additional fee before processing the payment.



# Where to exchange money?

Dollars can be exchanged for soles easily in the city, usually in banks or “casas de cambio” (exchange houses)

These can be found all over the city and usually are one of the safest places to exchange money, specially if it is a large amount. This is a very common and safe process.

Sometimes outside the banks there are people willing to exchange money we call them “cambistas” they are street money changers. You can easily recognized them because they are always holding amounts of money on their hands and they wear a red vest. Although they could be reliable, we do not recomend you to exchange your money with them.



On the first floor of the school there's a “Casa de cambio” where you can exchange your money.

By the way in case you don't know in Peru it is not necessary to use the passport to exchange money!



**FYI:** If necessary, you can exchange a small amount of dollars before leaving the airport, such as to pay for the taxi. However, it's advisable to exchange only the necessary amount, as the exchange rate at the airport may not be as favorable as at other places.

# How to avoid fake currency?

The Banco Central del Peru give us the following recommendations:

- 1) **Watermark Verification:** Hold the banknote up to light to authenticate the watermark. A genuine banknote will display the image of the primary figure and the corresponding denomination number.
- 2) **Security Thread Inspection:** Bills feature an embedded security thread. When held against light, a shiny thread will be visible running vertically through the bill. For example the S/100 the thread will appear red, while for the S/200 it will be gold.
- 3) **Contact someone:** If in doubt, seek assistance from a bank or currency exchange professional to verify the authenticity of your money.



# Budget your trip: How much is the cost of living in Lima?

In this charts you will find costs of some places and transportation that will help you during your time in Lima.

Please note that these prices are approximate and may change depending on the exchange rate. It can also vary according to your life style.

Cost of living in lima	S/.	\$
<b>Food and Beverage</b>		
Economic Menu (entrance, main dish, beverage)	S/15 - 20	\$4.00 - \$5.00
Breakfast	S/ 20.00	\$4.00
Casual dining Rrestaurant	S/ 30-50	\$8.00 - \$13.00
Fine dining restaurant	S/ 80-100	\$22.00 - \$27.00
Big Mac combo	S/ 30.00	\$8.00
Americano coffee	S/ 8.50	\$2.30
Capuccino	S/ 10.00	\$3.00
Espresso	S/ 7.00	\$1.90
Hot chocolate	S/ 13.00	\$3.50
Pisco Sour	S/ 30.00	\$8.00
Beer 310 ml. (In a bar)	S/ 15.00	\$4.00
Craft Beer 330 ml. (In a bar)	S/ 22.00	\$7.00

<b>Entertaining</b>		
Cinema "Cinerama"	S/ 15.00	\$4.00
Surf class (price per class)	S/ 150.00	\$40.00
Indoor climbing (price per hour)	S/ 60.00	\$16.00
Museum entrance	S/15-30	\$4.00 - \$8.00

# Budget your trip: How much would you spend in Lima?

Wellness		
Haircut	S/ 50.00	\$13.00
Massages per hour	S/ 60.00	\$14.00
Manicure	S/ 20.00	\$5.00
Pedicure	S/ 30.00	\$8.01
Haircut (barbershop)	S/ 50.00	\$14.00
Haircut + beard	S/ 80.00	\$22.00

Transportation		
Taxi around Miraflores	S/ 10.00	\$3.00
Taxi from Miraflores to Barranco	S/ 15.00	\$4.00
Taxi from Miraflores to Centro de Lima	S/ 20.00	\$6.00
Bus in Miraflores	S/1.00 - S/2.00	\$0.30 -\$0.60
Metropolitano (Metrobus)	S/ 3.20	\$0.90
Metro	S/ 1.50	\$0.40
Bus from Lima to Ica	S/ 70.00	\$19.00
Bus from Lima to Arequipa	S/ 165.00	\$44.00
Bus from Lima to Cusco	S/ 185.00	\$49.00
Bus from Lima to Huaraz	S/ 105.00	\$28.00
We recommend these bus companies for trips to the provinces: <b>Cruz del Sur</b> and <b>Oltursa</b> . These two companies have stations near Miraflores.		

Other Services		
Medical care	S/ 150.00	\$40.00
Laundry (per kilo)	S/ 6.00	\$2.00
SIM card for 10GB Internet	S/ 35.00	\$9.50



# Festivities in Peru

Peru is a country full of traditions and customs which can be reflected in our festivities. Here is a list of the most important ones:

**January 18th:** Aniversary of Lima



**1st Saturday of February** Pisco Sour day



**June 24th** Inti Raymi (Cusco only)



**June 28th** Ceviche day



**July 28th, July 29th** Independence day



**3th Sunday of July** Pollo a la brasa day



**4th Sunday of July** Pisco day



**October 18th** Señor de los Milagros (Lima only)



**October 31st** Day of the creole song



If you want to know more about the events of the city like concerts, theater events, etc. Take a look to this web pages:

**Teleticket - Joinnus**. It's always updated.

# Cultural Differences

Here there are some helpful information you may experience while visiting Peru



## Peruvian plumbing works different

The plumbing system in Peru is simply not wide enough to handle piles of toilet paper.

All the papers must be thrown in a bin that usually stands next to the toilet.

If your trip includes visiting other countries in South America remember to do the same.

## Is there a fee to use restrooms?

Now that we are talking about the bathrooms, Public restrooms charge a fee to be use. This can vary from place to place but in general the fee is cheap usually 50 cents or 1 sol.

Nevertheless some establishments provide free access to public restrooms



## The most important meal of the day is "almuerzo"

"Almuerzo" or lunch is served between (12hr-15hr)

This is typically the largest and most substantial meal, consisting of a soup or salad, followed by a main course which might include meats, rice, potatoes, and vegetables.

While dinner, which is a lighter than lunch, starts from 7pm until 9pm.

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# Cultural Differences

## Tap Water is not drinkable



To prevent any waterborne illnesses it's recommended to drink bottled or boiled water. In the school we have a water filtered, you can bring your own bottle and refill it here. Feel free to use it anytime.

## Are tips mandatory?

The answer is no! Tipping in Peru it is not mandatory although tips are always well receive in restaurants, bars and even in hairdressers. The customary range for tips typically falls between 5% to 10%



## Greetings

While in USA or Europe people maintain considerable personal space when greeting, in Peru and latin American it's normal to give one kiss on the cheek, sometimes accompanied by a hug or handshake. This is a very common form of greeting between friends, family and even when people are meeting each other for the first time.



# Safe Travel

While Lima is generally safe for tourists, like any major city, it's important to stay vigilant and cautious of your personal belongings.

Here you have some tips for you to have a safe travel



It's essential to keep your bag and backpack in front of you at all times, especially in crowded areas, to prevent theft. Even in restaurants, it's advisable to keep your bag on your person rather than hanging it from the chair, as this reduces the risk of it being taken unnoticed.



It's a good idea to take a photo or make a photocopy of your passport as a precautionary measure. Additionally, it's recommended to leave the original document at your accommodation, securely stored, to minimize the risk of loss while you're out exploring.



Motorcyclists are known to target individuals who are visibly holding their phones or other valuables, often snatching them and speeding off. Therefore, it's essential to remain cautious and aware of your surroundings, especially in crowded or busy areas. Keep your valuables secure and out of sight to reduce the risk of theft.

# Things that maybe you didn't know about Lima

- Lima is nicknamed "The City of Kings. Francisco Pizarro, Spanish "conquistador" called it "The City of Kings" or "La Ciudad de Los Reyes". because he discovered it during the important Catholic holiday, Three Kings Day
- Lima is home of the oldest university in America "The National University of San Marcos" founded on the 12th of May of 1551
- Lima, the fifth largest city in South America, stands out as the only capital in the region that faces the Pacific Ocean.
- Lima, Gastronomic Capital of the Americas, owns The best restuarant in the world!! it's name is Central and is located in the turistic district of Barranco.
- Can you belive that in Lima never rains? Lima, is the second-largest desert city in the world! Second only to Cairo in Egypt
- The oldest newspaper in South America is El Peruano, founded by Simon Bolivar in Lima in 1825.
- According to the World Travel Awards, Lima has been recognized as the gastronomic capital of South America for more than 10 years in a row.



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# Emergency Numbers



- **Police:** 105
- **Firefighters:** 106
- **Clinic Good Hope:** (01) 610 7317
- **Clinic Delgado:** (01) 377 7000
- **Clinic AngloAmericana:** (01) 616 8900
- **Turismo Miraflores** (01) 6177272
- **Police Station Miraflores:** (+51) 980 121 768
- **Emergency Miraflores:** (01) 350-9090  
**Whatsapp:** (+51) 942-113-691 or (+51) 942-113-692
- **Serenazgo Miraflores:** (01) 6177281
- **Serenazgo Lima:** (01) 3185050
- **Peru Spanish school:** (01) 308 2352

# Peruvian Slang Words (jergas)

## **Al toque** – Right away/Straight away

While in theory this expression means “immediately,” its meaning can be stretched to “a few hours.”

## **Asado** – Upset

Instead of saying that you might feel angry or upset you can say: Estoy asado!

## **Causa** – Amigo

Calling your best bud “amigo” doesn’t sound cool, you better use “causa.” By the way, causa is also the name of a peruvian traditional dish.

## **Chamba** – Work

Directly referring to work or employment, “chamba” is often used in the expression “la chamba es chamba”, meaning “work is work.”

## **Chela** – A beer

This is a common word that we use to refer to beer. The typical invitation to go to drink is: “un par de chelas,” (a couple beers).

## **Chévere** – Cool/Great/Awesome

Our favorite one! This word is used to express a favorable opinion of something or someone.

## **Huasca** - The state of being drunk, wasted

## **Piña** - Bad luck

Normally this word means pineapple, but in Peru, it means a person who has bad luck.

## **Tono** - Party

A very common expression is: Vamos a tonear! Which means let’s party


## **¡Qué roche! or ¡Que palta!** – What a shame!


This expression can be used in place of the other standard Spanish phrase: “¡qué vergüenza!” which have the same meaning.





Now you are ready for a  
great stay in Lima and  
remember ...  
Habla Español!!


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