

DISCOTHEQUES

La Parra: Tourists Hotel in Ica
El Huarique: Salaverry street 355
La Flor del Misti: Avenue El Parque D-9 (La Angostura)

TRANSPORTATION FOR TOURISTS

Aerocóndor: Panamerican Highway (Nazca)
Aero Ica: Barrio Los Patos (Posada del Sol Inn.)

Travel Agency:

Turismo Pisco: Comercio street 196. Pisco

BEACHES

Paracas: In the Paracas Bay. Has a comfortable hotel.

Jaguay: At the highway side in Chincha.

Pisco Playa, San Andres Bay: The bay is not suitable for sea bathing as dangerous "rayas" (sea fishes) are a threat to bathers, but the place is beautiful and of typical marine aspect.

Lagunillas: In the Paracas Bay as a short distance from the highway between Pisco and Punta Pejerrey. Submarine fishing and other sea sports can be practiced here.

RESTAURANTS

El Rinconcito Arequipeño: Los Maestros street
La Flor de Ica: Grau street 341
El Mogambo: Tacna street 137
San Isidro: San Isidro street
La Angostura: Angostura stree
El Peñoncito: Bolivar street 219
Salvatierra: Huacachina resort
Mossone: Huacachina resort
Venecia: Lima street 243
* Recreo Parcona: Parcona district
Chifa Las Terrazas (Chinese food): Grau and La Mar street

Office Zone IV-1 Ica
Cajamarca Street 179, Telephone 2173

OFICINA ZONAL - ICA

Address: Jirón Cajamarca

Telephone: 2173

Offers you the service of this
information and tourist assistance

**SECRETARIA DE ESTADO DE TURISMO
FONDO DE PROMOCION TURISTICA**

ICA-PERU



GENERAL INFORMATION

Location: Ica is located in the central southern coast of Peru.

Distances: Is located at

308 kilometers from Lima
881 kilometers from Ayacucho
713 kilometers from Arequipa
895 kilometers from Cuzco
1,027 kilometers from Tacna
1,001 kilometers from Puno

Climate: Ica enjoys a torrid and dry, typical arid zone climate. The sun shines the year through, but in winter time (April through November) it gets cool in the evening.

The most outstanding cultures in Ica were the Paracas, discovered by the Peruvian archeologist Julio C. Tello in the Caves and the Necropolis of Cerro Colorado. This people of extraordinary artistic aptitude became the most remarkable weavers of the world for the wonderful work done in the polychromatic mantles of amazing armonic style. They were also expert surgeons in skull trephining.

Another important culture that flourished in the region was the Nazca culture. Its people achieved the highest degree of skill in pottery works and today Nazca ceramics are considered as the most beautiful in America. Also amazing is their expertise knowledge of hydraulics shown in their aqueducts, the gigantic astronomic calendar drawn on the San José Pampas and the variety of their techniques used in weaving of textiles.

TOURIST ATTRACTION PLACES

In the city:

Regional Ica Museum: Wonderful archeological collections of remains from cultures developed in the region since the Paracas period and intermediate down to Inca days.

Cabrera Museum: Exhibits valuable samples of engraved stones that give rise to theories about the existence of a remarkable civilization whose grassroots are different to the Pre-Inca cultures. The engravings made in the stones display scenes of the hunting of dinosaurs, which provides background to statements that Ica was the site of the first cultures on earth.

Church of the Lord of Luren: Its history goes back to a primitive hermitage built in 1558 that was later converted into a parish. In the interior part of the church the outstanding image is that of the Lord of Luren, patron of the city.

Church of La Merced: Located in the Plaza de Armas (main square) its architectural design is typically colonial, and it has a beautiful and elaborated carved altar inside.

In the surroundings:

La Chirana: The legend refers that Pachacutec's brother felt deeply in love with Princess Tate, the beautiful daughter of the local master, and he ordered his soldiers to build the channel of Achirana that is still in use.

Huacachina Lagoon: In the midst of suggestive dunes, 5 kilometers from the city, is the Huacachina lagoon, which together with its beautiful landscape offers also to the visitor the medicinal virtues of its water.

Wine Cellars: Ica is the place where the best wine industry is found and it also produces the Peruvian Pisco of international prestige.

Among the most representative of wine cellars that produce Pisco and wines according to traditional and artisan methods are those situated in the districts of Guadalupe, Lovera and Hernandez.

In the district of San Juan Bautista are the wine cellars of Alvarez and Mejia.

In the district of Los Aquijes, one finds the wine cellars of El Carmen and San Alfonso.

Mejia Wine Cellar: At 17 kilometers from the city of Ica is this wine cellar which due to its characteristics can be the most representative of the wine cellars that produce wine and grape brandy in a small scale artisan industry.

This cellar backdates to the colonial period and it still maintains some of those days' installations as the small bull ring, stables, a mud brick oven, round earthen jars, a circular wine press and a "huarango" (hard wood tree) press as remains of the past. Preparation process for Pisco starts with the "pisa" (treading on grapes) that is made in the wine press, which is followed by squeezing of the grapes in a hand operated wood press. After that the "mosto" (grape juice) is deposited in round earthen containers for a period that last 40 days. Immediately after, the juice is distilled and then poured into bottles.

Ocucaje Wine Cellar: At 38 kilometers from the city one finds this modern machine-operated wine cellar that produces a variety of white and red wines as well as "Pisco" (grape brandy).

Tacama Wine Cellar: Located at 13 kilometers from the city of Ica, in the district of Tinguña, one finds the oldest wine cellar in the valey.

Vista Aegre Wine Cellar: At 2 kilometers from Ica is located this wine cellar equipped with modern machinery that produces a very much demanded variety of wines. The main entrance to the cellar is a colonial arch that leads to the storerooms and the processing plant where a variety of wines is available to the public for sale.

OTHER PLACES ON INTEREST

Bathing Resort of Paracas: Yatch tours to the Ballestas islands are available in this resort. The visitor can then see specimens of seabirds that are almost extinguished in other areas, as the sea lions, the "guanayes" (fertilizer (guano) producing birds), the cormorants and boobies, gray gull, pelicans and penguins. During the journey one can also visualize the famous and huge design of the candelabrum carved on a hill.

TYPICAL CUISINE

The region offers its own typical dishes as "Chupe de Pallares" (sopu made of white beans), "Carapulcra" (a dried potato stew) "Pallares" salad (white bean salad) "saltado de choclo" (cokked corn cacerole) and turtle soup and steak. Beverages served are: Wine, Pisco and "Cachina" (Unfermented wine). Typical deserts are: "Frijol colado" (mashed beans boiled with sugar and milk) and "tejas" (candied lemon peels filled with sweet milk preserve).

SHOPPING

Products of the region commonly bought by visitors are: "Tejas" (candied lemon peels filled with sweet milk preserve), "frijol colado" (mashed beans sweet made with sugar and milk), wines, pisco, dates, raisins, pecan nuts, fruits and handicrafts (carved stones sold in a store located on the second block of the street Municipalidad).

CALENDAR OF FESTIVITIES

March 02 tp 10: International Vintage Festival. International Vintage Queens. Parades, recreational activities, handicrafts and agricultural products fairs, exhibits and competitions.

HOTEL ACCOMODATION

Ica:

Tourist Hotel in Ica: Street "Los Maestros". Telephone 2115
Holiday Inn Las Dunas Colony Vacation
Mossone Hotel: Huacachina
Colon Residential Inn: Municipality Street Nº 100
Jacaranda: Salaverry 355; Telephone 3156
President Residential Inn: Amazonas street 233. Telephone 2537
Salvatierra Hotel: Huacachina. Telephone 10
Confort Residential Hotel: La Mar street 257. Telephone 3380

Pisco:

Paracas Hotel: Paracas Bay. Telephone 2220
Portofino Inn: D. Miranda street 295. Telephone 2306
Progreso Residential Inn: Progreso street 254. Telephone 2303

Nazca:

Tourist Hotel in Nazca: Bolognesi street. Telephone 60
Montecarlo Inn: Callao street 123. Telephone 100
Nazca Inn: Lima street 238. Telephone 85
San Martin Inn: Arica street 116. Telephone 54

Chincha:

Caraveral Inn: Panamerican Highway, km. 199
Embassy Residential Hotel: Mariscal Castilla street 216. Telephone 2282
Majestic Residential Inn: Diego de Almagro street 115. Telephone 2531
San Francisco Residential Inn: Callao street 154
Sotelo Residential Hotel: Benavides street 260. Telephone 2207

NAZCA: MARVELLOUS CERAMICS, MYSTERIOUS AND GIGANTIC LINES AND FIGURES

The huge and perfect drawings of animals, trapezoid and triangular lines and spirals that can be seen only from the air, are for many years a source of amazement for the whole world. They are on the "pampa" (plains) of Nazca.

Flying above the Nazca plains one can see distinctly the perfect parallel, triangular and vertical lines intercrossing each other; the spiral that forms the tail of a monkey, a gigantic humming bird, a fish, a condor and a spider.

Discarding fanciful versions as the one that says that Nazca was in the past an extraterrestrial base, the perfection of the designs as well as the fact that there are lines stretching over the hills not only creates amazement but also questions as to the origin of the designs and to whether farther west —towards the sea— there should be more of these designs.

Undoubtedly, the drawings were made to scale, or using referal aerial points, that is flying over these lands, which may give life to the theory that the Nazca people were acquainted with some flying system long before the Montgolfier brothers flew their smoke-filled globe in Paris, or the airplane was invented.

Even though there should be different opinions about the designs and their meaning, one thing is true: the inhabitants of the Peruvian coastal region had reached an unsuspectedly high level of culture.

Nazca drawings are characterized by their gigantic size and perfect proportions which seem to be related to astronomy as they indicate seasonal changes and the rainy and sunny periods.

The attention of the world is captured by these plains that the astronomist Paul Kosok described as a gigantic board on which lines and drawings had been made by giants' hands. The place stretches from kilometer 413 to 433 of the Panamerican southern

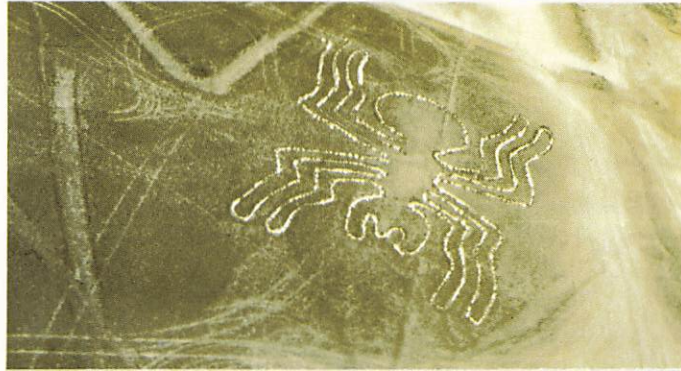
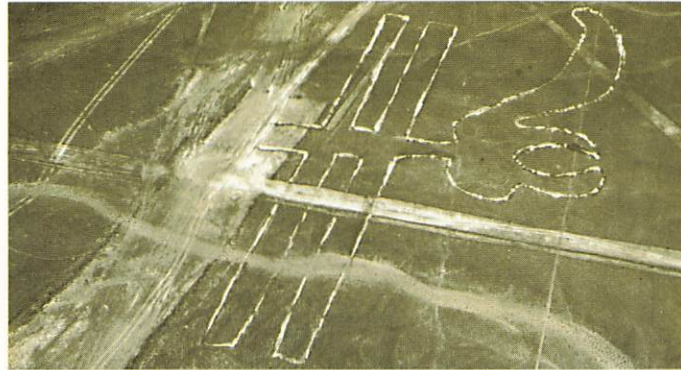
highway, and a complete view can be obtained better from the air than at ground level.

A PEOPLE OF ARTISTS

The Nazca people was formed mainly by artists who left behind them the most beautiful ceramic samples of America. Their tools and arms were also decorated in an amazingly fine way.

Also noteworthy is their hydraulic expertise, in building their aqueducts, the huge and marvellous calendar and the variety of techniques used for weaving their fabrics.

The Nazca culture flourished in splendor during eight centuries and then fell into a period of decadence which was used by another group from the highlands of Collao, that came to take possession of the territory and introduced significant changes.



Paracas is a place of remarkable historical and archeological importance. The liberty expedition of General Jose de San Martin went ashore in this bay, that was the site of several cultures in the past, of which the Paracas culture was the most important for the quality, perfection and beauty of its polychromatic mantles and their expertise in the surgical process of skull trephining with knives made of obsidian stone.

The place has also a Site Museum with specimens found in the area.

Another place of importance to be visited in this area is the 2,000 years old town of Cabezas Largas.

Chincha Alta: This is the ancient land of the Chinchas who proclaimed themselves to be descendants of the jaguar. Here the visitor can see the house of the Beata Melchorita Saravia, and also in the surroundings the remains from several pre-Inca groups including the Huacas of Centinela, Cumbe and Tambo de Mora.

Humay: Is the burial place of the Beata Luisa de la Torre, and the visitor can see her house, prayer room and various relics.

Fortress of Tambo Colorado: At 48 kilometers from the turning-off in the road to Castrovirreina, is the Inca Fortress considered to be the best preserved one in the southern coast as well as a sample of civilian-military architecture of those days.

Fortress La Centinela: Is the most important of the remains of the region, and its walls are related both to the native Chincha and Inca cultures. It is located northwest from Tambo de Mora.

Pisco: The name of this port is related to the traditional Peruvian drink made of grapes. As places of interest in Pisco one can visit the Church of La Compañia and the Main Church, the City Hall with its original arabian designs and the picturesque Bay of San Andrés.

La Puntilla: Here the tradition is that a clergyman Ramon Rojas or Father Guatemala who died in sanctity, had made the miracle of making water spring from the sand in a place called Pozo Santo (Holy Well).

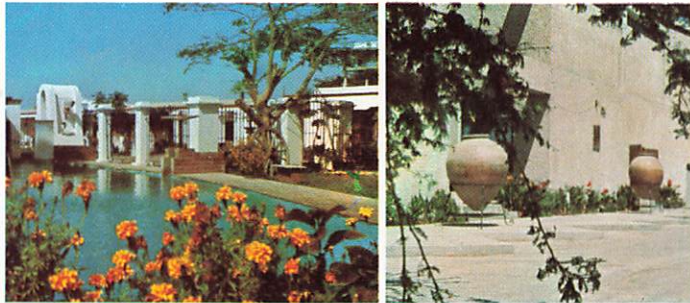
Remains of Thick Walls: During the Inca conquest of the Nazca valley an administrative centre was set up 2 kilometers away from Nazca. The remains stretch approximately 350 meters in length and 80 to 100 meters in width.

RECREATIONAL RESORTS

Stadiums: The Jose Picasso Peratta stadium and the Closed Colliseum both have installations that include basket and volley ball courts, box rings and other sports courts.

Fishing: Is practiced the year through, particularly in the areas of Pisco and Chincha.

Submarine Fishing: Paracas is a paradise for those fond of submarine fishing. On several occasions the place has been the site of important world championships. Most appropriate places for this sport are the surrounding isles and barren islands.



I C A

The dark belt of the highway opens up to the bright light of the Peruvian arid zones which in its first section borders the always beautiful seascape.

In some places trees as "huarangos", "espinos" and palms, resemble the form of fresh and movable lakes. The landscape is surrounded by distant and colored earth hills, particularly beautiful at sunsets.

Ica is known in Peru as a traditionally agricultural department and its name is in a way linked to the vintage festival, the cheerful festivity when tight bunches of grapes mark a period of songs, celebrations and rejoicement.

Torrid land of contrasts where extremes meet and amalgamate as one drives through long distances of arid and silent lands and suddenly the proximity of a river is announced by extremely green valleys that appear along the road. Underground water lagoons resemble a green esmerald eye opened in the middle of the desert.

This part of the territory is considered as the oldest geological stratum in Peru and Ica is the Department with the largest extension of islanded surface that includes 22 islands of which the best known are the Chincha, San Gayan, Independencia and Santa Rosa islands. Paracas, the most important bay in Peru, is located in the Department of Ica. Well known for its famous pre-columbian woven mantles, named after the place, it has filled the world with amazement for the outstanding artistry and techniques of its work. Farther south is the agricultural city of Nazca which was in the past the site of a remarkable culture of the most extraordinarily skilful ceramist of precolumbian America. Nazca pottery works are outstanding also for the perfection and beauty of their designs and its execution; they represent figures of men, gods and animals in a variety of polychromatic designs of real and incomparable expression.

During the period between the years 1,200 and 1,400 of our age, the Ica civilization flourished in this part of Peru with its most important centers in Ocucaje and Calango.

Ica was conquered by the Incas under the ruling of Inca Pachacutec who sent his brother Capac Yupanqui to fight for the submission of the territory. Capac Yupanqui felt deeply in love with Princess Tate, daughter of the native local master Chumbilla, so he retired peacefully after completing with his 30,000 warriors the watercourse of Achirana that even now benefits the irrigation of 12,000 hectares of crop fields.

Remains of Inca buildings are found at present in Tacaraca, Huaca Centinela and Tambo Colorado.

In 1534 the Spaniards arrived in the Ica valley and that marked the end of the political control exercised until then by the Inca rulers.

The capital of the Department was founded in 1563 by Jerónimo de Cabrera who named the place as "Villa de Valverde". But the city was of a nomadic character and its present location is not the original one.

BEST LAND FOR VINEYARDS

The Spaniards brought with them the grapevines which grew up so plentifully in Ica that their growth and industrialization is closely linked as an important part of the life and custom of the people in the area.

Wines of best quality are produced in the Ica valley together with the purely grape brandy called Pisco, after the main port in the Department.

In 1630, Francisco de Cervantes, referring to Pisco, wrote that the "so-called Pisco brandy made of grapes grown in Pisco, is one of the most exquisite brandys in the world". His opinion is still valid.

The agrarian cooperatives and the farms in Ica own large wine cellars with a variety of grape liquors which are places of interest for visitors.

As a land of vineyards the principal festivity there is the vintage that takes place in March. Ica is the site of an "international vintage festival" which attracts a large number of visitors every year. It is a cheerful typical celebration that includes in its programme open air concerts, artistic shows, agricultural fairs, cock fights, pacing horse exhibits, sale of regional products and handicrafts. The international vintage queens come every year to the Ica festival and take part in colorful and attractive local parades.

