



# ICA-PARACAS-NAZCA

## PRINCIPAL ATTRACTIONS

PRIVATE SERVICES– IN SPANISH, ENGLISH OR OTHER LANGUAGES; SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

### INTRODUCTION

Ica, an esoteric land, one of profound religious faith, sand dunes, valleys, and sun, is an agricultural zone where you see interspersed among the extensive desert area fields of cotton, butter beans, asparagus, citrus tree orchards, as well as vineyards. Some of the most important civilizations of ancient Peru established themselves here like the Paracas and the Nasca who left a legacy that has endured the passage of time and the violence of the sand and wind.

The Paracas National Reserve is a must stop; this State protected natural area is, among its beaches and staggeringly beautiful rock formations, the refuge to fur seals, otters, penguins, dolphins, and more than two hundred species of birds such as flamingos, waders, and guano birds. In the province of Nasca, a little more than one hundred kilometers from Ica, there are the Nasca Lines, one of the greatest archeological mysteries of the world. UNESCO placed this site on the World Cultural Heritage List in 1994. Formed by a series of lines and gigantic drawings traced upon the sands, the Nasca lines feature figures like a spider, a hummingbird, a monkey, etc. that can only be truly appreciated from flying above them.

### CITY OF CHINCHA ALTA

*Close to kilometer marker 202 of the Pan-American Highway South*

The first inhabitants of these lands were the Yauyos, whose feline god, “Chinchay”, probably gave birth to the word Chinchay. Later, the area was inhabited by the descendants of the slaves forced to work on the cotton plantations.

### ADOLFO BERMUDEZ JENKINS REGIONAL MUSEUM

*Visiting Hours:*

*Mon. – Fri. 8:00 A.M. – 7:00 P.M.*

*Sat. and holidays 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.*

*Sun. 9:00 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.*

It featured a collection of pieces from the Paracas, Nasca, Huari, Ica, and Inca cultures. There are also Colonial canvases and furniture and some Republican objects.

Informes y reservas

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## **HUACACHINA LAKE**

*5 km / 3 miles southwest of Ica (5 minutes)*

It is a traditional relaxation spot for the people of Ica. The lake looks like an oasis in the middle of a desert, forming a splendid landscape of dunes, palm trees, and acacias. Some people believe the water to have medicinal properties.

## **PRACAS NATIONAL RESERVE**

*250 km / 155 miles south of Lima (3 hours by car)*

The reserve's 335.000 hectares is a refuge for fur seals, Humboldt penguins, flamingos (parihuanas), and many other birds. You can visit many different natural and archeological attractions in the reserve. One of them is the El Candelabro (The Candelabra), a geoglyph of more than 120 meters / 394 feet long, better appreciated from the ocean.

## **BALLESTAS ISLANDS**

They are located outside the reserve area. They constitute the habitat of a great variety of birds and sea lions, which you can approach by motor boat. This excursion is one of the most regular ones from Paracas.

## **ANTONINI DIDACTIC MUSEUM**

**Visiting hours: Mon. – Sun. 9:00 A.M. – 7:00 P.M.**

A collection of archaeological pieces of the different stages of the Nasca culture as well as trophy heads musical instruments like pan flutes, textiles, mummies, etc. are exhibited in this museum. These discoveries are the result of the excavations done in "Cahuachi", the largest mud maid ceremonial center in the world. The museum also provides the chance to see the Bisambra canal, which shows the magnificent hydraulic engineering work of the Nascas.

## **NASCA LINES**

*From Nasca (15 minutes).*

It is a vast network of lines and drawings of animals and plants credited to the Nasca culture covering an area of approximately 350 km<sup>2</sup> / 135 miles<sup>2</sup>. Some of the best drawn figures are the hummingbird, the dog, the monkey, and the long-tailed mockingbird. The German, Maria Reiche, devoted 50 years of her life to studying and researching the area and came to the conclusion that it was an astronomical calendar. From a 12 meter / 39 feet lookout, you can partially observe the shapes of the hand and the tree. However, in order to appreciate the drawings fully, it is recommended to fly over the area in a small airplane. The Nasca Lines were placed on the World Cultural Heritage List in 1994.

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## **CANTALLOC AQUEDUCT**

***4 km / 2 miles from Nasca (15 minutes)***

It is an aqueduct built by the Nasca culture which still works today. Flagstones and acacia trunks were used to build it and they have resisted the march of time.

Fuente: Promperu. La información contenida en este documento es una enumeración de atractivos y servicios a disposición del viajero en toda la región. Para su actualización, PromPerú se ha servido de fuentes oficiales de información como: Instituto Nacional de Recursos Naturales (INRENA), Instituto Nacional de Cultura (INC), Instituto Geográfico Nacional (IGN), Servicio Nacional de Meteorología e Hidrología del Perú (SENAMHI) y la Dirección Regional de Comercio Exterior y Turismo.

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