

PRINCIPAL ATTRACTIONS

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

INTRODUCTION

Beautiful beaches, wide open plains, rolling hills, and towering mountains make up the diverse terrain of the department of Tumbes where several eco-systems are located such as estuaries and mangroves, the dry equatorial forest (Cerros de Amotape National Park) and the Pacific tropical forest (Reserved Zone of Tumbes). More than 30% of the territory has been declared natural protected areas.

PUERTO PIZARRO BEACH AND MANGROVES

13 km / 8 miles from Tumbes (15 minutes by car)

The fishermen's cove of Puerto Pizarro is the launching point for boat tours in the mangroves. This ecosystem is made up of estuaries or navigable canals, some of them up to six meters in height, and islands created from the accumulation of sediment and lime that are all part of the Tumbes River delta. Along the trip, you can disembark on the islands of Amor (love) and Hueso de Ballena (whale bone), whose beaches are the largest in the zone. The area is a refuge for a large variety of birds, and the Island of the Pajaros (birds) is an ideal spot for bird watching, especially at sunset when they fly to their nest for the night. It is famous for its black scallops and mollusks prized for their flavor and aphrodisiac properties; the mangroves are also well known for being the breeding grounds of the American crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*), a species unique to Peru but unfortunately endangered.

The best time to visit the mangroves is between May and December. During the rainy season (January – April), the tours are subject to 48-hour previous agreement.

Informes y reservas

Email: experience@andean-tours.com / contacto@andean-tours.com

Telf: 2004320 anexo 11 ó 12

Dirección: Calle Los Antares 320 OF 506 Urb. La Alborada, Surco, Lima-Perú

TUMBES NATIONAL MANGROVE SANCTUARY

30 km / 19 miles from Tumbes (50 minutes by car)

The sanctuary is composed of a forest made up mainly by five species of mangrove trees and is spread over 2972 hectares. This ecosystem, particularly rich in wildlife, is home to species like the silky anteater, as well as 100 species of birds, 14 mammal species, 34 crustaceans, dozens of snail species, 24 mollusks with shells, and more than 100 species of fish.

In order to enter the sanctuary, an authorization from the National Institute for Natural Resources (INRENA) is required.

TUMBES RESERVED ZONE

51 km / 32 miles northeast of Tumbes (3 hours in a 4x4 vehicle)

The Tumbes Reserved Zone is spread over 75.102 hectares and is home to species characteristic to the Amazonian jungle, the highlands, and the coast such as the jaguar, the Andean condor, and the coastal fox. It is also an important refuge for endemic endangered species of birds, animals, and plants like the American crocodile, the northwest nutria, the mantled howler monkey and the white-fronted capuchin – the only two primates of the Peruvian coast – and the rubber tree.

There are many different wildlife species such as the yellow-faced parakeet, the gray-cheeked parakeet, the anteater, the gray-backed hawk, the jay, the ovenbird, and a great variety of flora like ceibo trees, carob trees, angolo trees, quipo trees, palo santo trees and guayacán trees. The place is a representative example of the Pacific tropical forest ecosystem, unique to Peru, and has been included to the Northwest Peruvian Biosphere Reserve for its value. This is a fragile ecosystem that preserves areas with little human incursion. The zone can be visited throughout the entire year, but it is difficult to get there during the rainy season (January – March) or when El Niño phenomenon occurs.

ZORRITOS BEACH RESORT

28 km / 17 miles from Tumbes (30 minutes by car)

This beach is made of fine, white sand and is stroked by continuous waves. The waters are warm (on average 26°C / 79°F) and the area offers lodging, restaurants, shops, Internet access, small markets, and public phones. Zorritos is an ideal place for sports such as jet ski, surf, and fishing

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TUMBES

PUNTA SAL BEACH

80 km / 50 miles from Tumbes (1 hour and 15 minutes by bus)

It is one of the most beautiful and longest beaches of the north coast of the country characterized by its warm, tranquil waters (average temperature 24°C / 75°F). The beach is divided in two, the Big and Small Punta Sal beach resorts. The latter is an isolated, half-moon beach with white sand and protected by two small headlands.

HERVIDEROS HOT SPRINGS

40 km / 25 miles from Tumbes (45 minutes by car)

South of Zorritos, the water bubbles through a layer of fine clay where it forms a mixture much like the pure liquid clay used by potters, with elements of iodine, chlorine, and iron which is supposed to have medicinal properties. The concentration of mineral substances in the solution gives it the aspect of a volcano of mud or some type of boiling liquid.

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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