



Digital Nomads Guides

# L. Perú *Lima*

Bonus  
Goodies on  
The Web!

Iris Veldwijk & Jonas Breuer

# Lima – Free Sample

## *Digital Nomads Guides*

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Authors: Jonas Breuer & Iris Veldwijk

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Everything in this book has been researched thoughtfully and with great care. However, things can change at anytime. We can't rule out mistakes 100%. We are not liable for any damage created by the information in this book. This book is not a substitute for thinking for yourself ;)



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## Why Lima?

Imagine a tropical desert with a cool climate, cliff edges dropping into the ocean and the sun setting over a forbidden island. Now picture a metropolis, built on a colony, based on an empire and founded on an ancient civilization. Finally, imagine unknown foods from the coast, the mountains and the jungle, mixed with aromas and flavors from halfway around the globe, both familiar and unfamiliar. That's what the capital of Peru is all about.

Lima has one of the greatest quality-versus-price ratios in Latin America. Whether you're on the hunt to expand your horizon or maintain your comfort zone, this city offers both worlds. Sure, you can get lost in the chaos of your district's local market, eat odd (but tasty!) fruits and ride the local bus. Or you can keep it comfy and take an Uber to your coworking space, sip espressos from Italian machines and eat out in international venues with the most sterile of kitchens. Either way, it's South America's food capital.

Now, you might be wondering: what about the WiFi? Well, it might not be the most impressive speeds you've ever witnessed, but it will surely help you get the job done. The city is adapting to the needs of data-hungry people and many coworking spaces have popped up in recent years. While they might have done their job right with regards to getting themselves some optical fiber, in other places like cafés and hostels, it might still be a hit-or-miss situation. We tested the internet for you, so you don't have to! Having some mobile internet to be on the safe side is always our recommendation.

Of course there is more to life than 4G internet and getting from A to B: *fun* is also widely available in Peru's capital city! Get active by renting a surfboard and hitting the waves, or paragliding down the edge of the cliff in Miraflores. Have a picnic in the park under the olive trees in San Isidro, or watch the citizens of Lima stroll with their playful dogs in Barranco. Get an idea of the crazy vastness of this city from Cerro San Cristóbal, or get a sense of history from the Huaca Pucllana pyramid. If you're bored it's all on you.

Peru is also home to some of the world's greatest sights and activities. The ruins of Machu Picchu are on many a traveler's bucket list and the remote city of Iquitos is a hub for exploring the Amazon river and rainforest. Head to Paracas to go kitesurfing and penguin spotting, or to the Colca Canyon to go hiking. Or visit the city of Arequipa to try out *rocoto relleno* and admire the colonial architecture. Whatever you choose to do, 90 days won't be nearly enough.



## About this Guide

Part One of this guide has all the tools you need to get set up in Lima, in order of importance. We believe you should just book a flight and not worry about being underprepared. If you read this book at the airport or on your flight, you'll be as prepared as can be in **just 35 minutes**. Important Spanish words are introduced if they're necessary vocabulary. They follow directly after their English. All prices are in United States Dollar (US\$) as it's widely understood, and immediately gives you a feeling for the pricing level in Peru.

Part Two of this book has specific information about the districts in Lima. The neighborhoods aren't ordered according to historical centrality like in other guides, but rather to lifestyle compatibility in terms of coworking spaces and laptop-friendly cafés. All cafés have been tried out by our writers and vouched for by expats living in Lima at the time of writing. All cafés included mention the internet speed in Megabit (Mbit), a PowerScore and ZenScore. PowerScore is a rating of the number of charging points out of five, in which five is the best and one is the worst. People with great laptop batteries can go to a café with a low PowerScore, but energetically challenged people should skip over these. ZenScore is about how workable a café is in terms of noise, again with a rating out of five - five being very quiet and one being very busy. It's not just decibels, it's also how many people are walking by your table causing distraction. This is of course a little more variable as it's dependent on the time of day and day of the week. Our writers visited all the cafés during a weekday before 17:00.

Part Three covers the other amazing places in Peru, like Arequipa, the jungle city of Iquitos, an introduction to Cusco, and a few spots you might go to but aren't really good for remote work (yet), like the oasis of Huacachina and the Paracas peninsula. They might be on your itinerary or perhaps not, but we covered them for you anyway!



# Part One: How to Get Set Up in Lima

## Money, ATMs and Prices

The currency in Peru is the Peruvian Sol. You might also see *nuevo sol* sometimes, which is used to distinguish it from the old Sol, which was in use till 1985. The currency code is PEN. The currency symbol is S/. and prices are usually indicated as S/. 100. Like most places in South America, the US\$ is used as a second currency and prices for expensive stuff and tours are often indicated in US\$ to make them look cheaper.

Compared to other South American currencies, the Sol is quite stable and has a moderate inflation rate. As of January 2019:

10 PEN = 3.00 USD = 2.60 EUR

ATMs accepting VISA and MasterCard are widely available in Lima and are usually reliable. To be on the safe side, bring multiple credit cards. You can withdraw about US\$130 per transaction.

Most ATMs charge about US\$3 per transaction, which is on top of any charges from your own bank. These fees can differ from bank to bank. It's worth trying out a few banks, since some might not charge fees. The authors had good experiences with the ATMs of *BBVA*.

Many ATMs in Peru dispense US\$ as well as Soles. Take advantage of that, especially if you are travelling on to countries where dollars are hard to come by. The US\$ is the most accepted currency in all of South America and the best choice for a little emergency fund.

Exchanging money is easy everywhere, especially in the center. As usual, don't exchange your money at the airport because the exchange rates are better in the city. People in green jackets with giant \$ signs will offer their exchange services at all touristy places. They are usually fine, but if you are sketched out by them, you can also go to an exchange office (*casa de cambio*). Banks also offer money exchange, but usually offer less-competitive rates.

Lima is well-developed in terms of credit card payments. Most restaurants and cafés accept them without a minimum amount or a fee, and it's usually fast and reliable. Just be aware, that many places only accept VISA, not MasterCard. In some places, people might ask to see your *DNI* when paying by card, which is the Peruvian ID you obviously don't possess. Just show a copy of your passport or your national ID card and it should be fine. If your credit card has a PIN, you don't need to show any ID. Just say "*es con PIN*".



Tipping is known in Peru, but not strictly expected. You will find a tip jar in many restaurants and cafés, where you can drop a coin or two, if you feel the service was worth it: 10% is common. Credit card readers also have a function to add a tip. Just tell the staff to add it when handing over your card. The tip will show up separately on your receipt. Some people might actively ask you if you want to include a tip, but usually it's up to initiate.

Peru is a relatively cheap country, but fancy restaurants and alcohol can quickly add up. Some pricing examples:

Half liter bottle of Coke - US\$0.80  
Cappuccino - US\$2.50  
200 g of white cheese - US\$1.50  
1 liter of milk - US\$1.30  
Empanada - US\$0.80  
Cheap restaurant meal - US\$4  
Beer in a bar - US\$1.90  
Liter of wine in a shop - from US\$5  
Hostel bed - US\$9  
Airbnb room - from US\$15  
Airbnb apartment - from US\$25  
City bus fare - US\$0.40  
5 km by taxi - US\$4

So, how expensive is it to live in Lima for a week? Let's say you are on a budget. You stay in a hostel dorm and cook for yourself or eat at cheap places. You have two beers per week and explore the city by bus once per week. That sums up to a weekly budget of US\$110 or US\$480 per month.

If money is not that tight, you might opt for your own apartment, go to a restaurant every day and have a proper night out twice per week. You explore the city by taxi, since you can't be bothered to figure out the buses. That comes to US\$360 per week or US\$1560 per month. That's about the range you can expect. The biggest factor is obviously your choice of accommodation.

Here's some helpful finance vocabulary:

Is it possible to pay by credit card? - *¿Es posible de pagar con tarjeta de crédito?*

Is there an ATM? - *¿Hay un cajero automático?*

How much? - *¿Cuanto cuesta?*

The bill - *La cuenta*

Tip - *Propina*

Signature - *Firma*



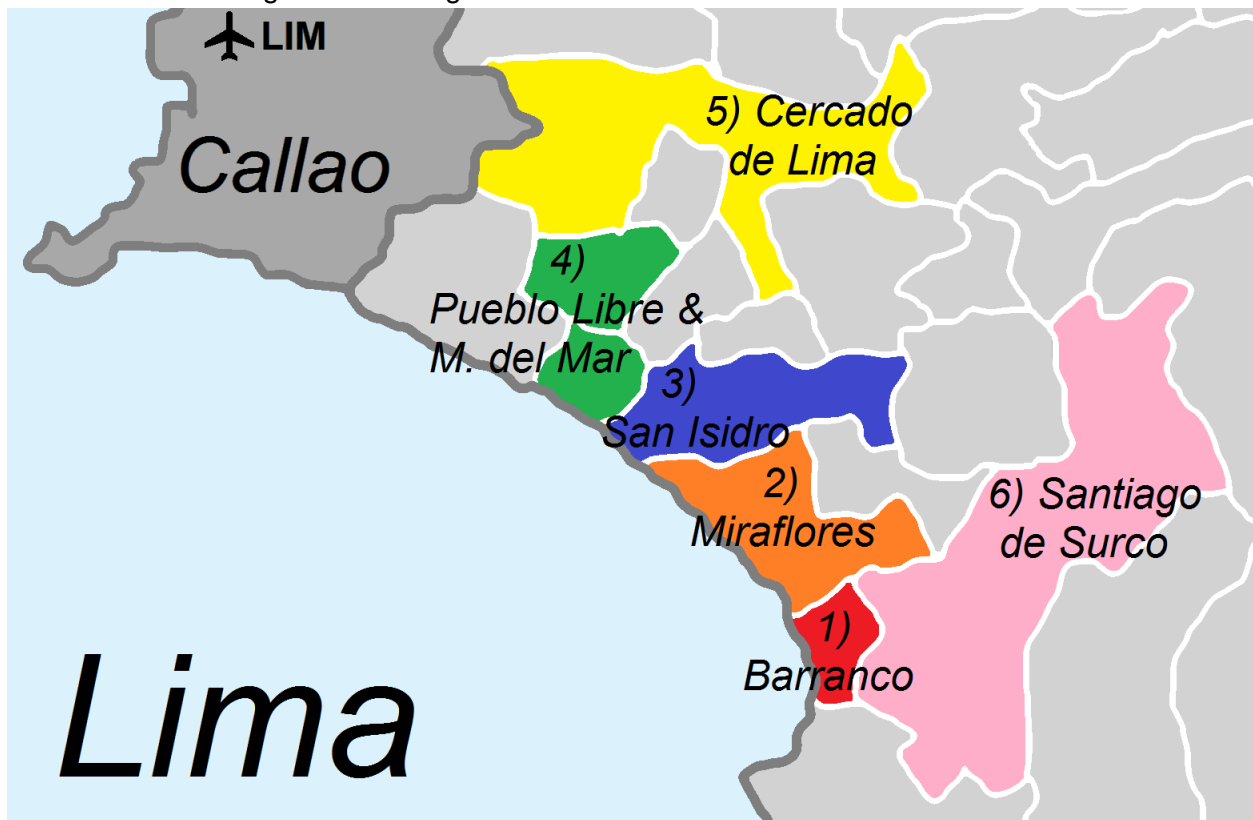
## Part Two: District Guides

*Bonus material unlocked! In the full version of the guide, you'll find the access to the online area here, to find an interactive map and more goodies to use in the city!*

Unlike other Latin American cities, Lima is not divided into neighborhoods (*barrios*) but districts (*distritos*) instead. There's a whopping 43 of them, of which 30 are urbanized. Forget about that number, there's only seven you'll really need to know about. Part of the Lima Metropolitan area is also the independent city of Callao, which is Peru's most important seaport. The international airport of Lima is also located in Callao, from which they also operate domestic flights. Commuting to and from Callao is unavoidable if flying is your preferred means of travel.

The city is absolutely humongous. Commuting between districts is best to be reserved for day trips to other districts. It can easily take up several hours to get somewhere else and back. The authors recommend you to stay in the district you'll spend the most time in, so you can do everything on foot. In stronger terms: you'll be miserable if you have to cross districts to go from your Airbnb to your coworking space.

Lima's most defining area is the boardwalk (*malecón*) on top of the cliffs that follows the entire coastline. Besides being an excellent spot for sunset-watching, it's arguably also the most uninterrupted and walkable part of the city. Down the cliff is the city's highway that handles the traffic flows. Look even further and on a good day you'll see young folks on surfboards bouncing on the waves waiting to catch a big one.







## Barranco

This is where every *Limeño* with a social life wants to raise their kids. It's hip, beautifully located, and incredibly 'safe'. This is also why many a digital nomad will prefer Barranco as a base over the more crowded Miraflores. All these factors make the neighborhood a little more pricey, but then again you'll get more quality in return. The locals have really embraced Airbnb, so there will be plenty to choose from. Head down the cliffs for a prime surfing experience or go for a boardwalk stroll to watch the sunset drop on Isla San Lorenzo.

### Work

*Our free sample only shows one coworking space and one working friendly café. The full guide has five places in Barranco and 27 in total.*

#### Comunal Coworking Barranco

*Jirón Colina 107*

*Mon - Fri 09:00 - 18:00, or 24/7*

*9 Mbit*

Barranco's office of Comunal Coworking is awesomely located between the two main streets and next to the big supermarket. Ring the bell and Diego (most likely) will welcome you into this hip coworking lair. It's one of the few places in Perú where you can cool down under the AC. For US\$59 per week you're welcome to drop by between Monday and Friday from 09:00 till 18:00. Pick a spot at one of the shared tables - indoor or outdoor - or one of the cozy pillow-pods. Want a dedicated desk and more privileges? For US\$318 per month you'll get a fixed spot, a keycard with 24/7 access, a locker and the feeling you belong there. The crowd is largely made up of local entrepreneurs, but you're more than welcome to join without speaking Spanish. Bicycles, tea, coffee, water, a kitchen and beers on Fridays are included in the price. Upload speeds are faster than download speeds. Drop by or ask for a trial day before you commit.

#### La Bodega Verde

*Jiron Mariscal Jose Antonio de Sucre 335A*

*Mon - Sat 08:00 - 22:00, Sunday 08:00 - 20:00*

*18 Mbit*

*PowerScore* ★★★★★☆

*ZenScore* ★★★★★☆

This nice place is right in the main park in Barranco. It's basically a cosy building surrounded by a terrace. If you're coming to work, you will most probably opt to sit inside the building, where you surely won't be the only one with a laptop. There aren't too many tables, so it might be wise to arrive early. Enjoy the comfy seating, the fresh juices and the artsy decorations. But don't forget your work.



## Final Words

Did you like this free sample? In the full guide, you'll find so much more, including a total of 27 coworking and café reviews. Head to [digitalnomadsguides.com/lima/](https://digitalnomadsguides.com/lima/) for more information.

