

Ica · Costa sur · Peru

Huacachina

Traveler's guide

A palm-fringed lagoon among dunes over a hundred metres high, minutes from Ica: sandboarding and dune buggies at sunset, with the Ballestas Islands and Paracas an hour away.

The local guides portal of Latin America · www.trekonda.com

Contents

1.	Nature	3
2.	Activities	3
3.	When to go	3
4.	How to get there	3
5.	Experiences	4
6.	Guides	4
7.	Photo gallery	4
8.	Map	5
9.	How to book with a local guide	5

Nature

Huacachina is a small oasis about 5 km from the centre of Ica: a lagoon ringed by palms and huarango trees at the foot of dunes more than a hundred metres high, in the middle of Peru's coastal desert. The lagoon's level is partly maintained by pumping groundwater. An hour away on the coast, the Paracas National Reserve protects cliffs, beaches and a sea made rich by the Humboldt Current, and offshore the Ballestas Islands host colonies of sea lions, Humboldt penguins and guano birds.



Activities

- Dune buggy rides across the dunes with stops for sandboarding, mostly in the late afternoon and at sunset; suitable for beginners
- Sandboarding lessons and a walk up the main dune above the oasis to watch the sunset
- Two-hour boat trip to the Ballestas Islands from El Chaco pier in Paracas, passing the Candelabra geoglyph, sea lions and penguins
- Tour of the Paracas National Reserve: Red Beach (from the viewpoint only), Lagunillas and the cliffs, by vehicle or by bike
- Kitesurfing and wingfoiling on Paracas Bay, with flat water and frequent afternoon wind
- Visits to wine and pisco cellars in the Ica valley

When to go

Ica is sunny almost all year and it hardly ever rains. From December to March the dunes are very hot at midday, so rides run early or late in the afternoon; the Ica grape harvest festival takes place in March. From June to September the Paracas coast wakes up cloudy and cool. Boats to Ballestas leave in the morning and can be cancelled in rough seas.

How to get there

The nearest airport with regular flights is Lima (LIM), about 300 km away. Frequent buses run from Lima along the Pan-American Highway South to Ica (about 5 h) and to Paracas (3 h 30 to 4 h). From Ica, Huacachina is 10 to 15 minutes by taxi. Ica to Paracas takes around 1 h 15 by road, and boats to Ballestas leave from El Chaco pier. Pisco airport (PIO) has very few commercial flights.

Activities in this destination

Hiking & trekking • Volcano • Rafting & hydrospeed • Boat trips, kayaking & fishing • Hot springs • Zipline &

tree climbing • Canyoning & rappelling • Paragliding • Horseback riding • Snow & snowshoeing • Local & indigenous culture • Nature & photography • Stargazing • Full-day excursions • Food & wine • Family & inclusive • Surfing & bodyboard • Sandboarding & dunes • Cycling & MTB • Climbing & mountaineering • Ice & glaciers • Kitesurfing & windsurfing • Diving & snorkelling • Wildlife & whale watching • City & walking tours

Experiences

No experiences published in Huacachina yet Are you a guide here? Create your free profile and be the first to appear.

Guides

Are you a guide here? Create your free profile and be the first to appear.

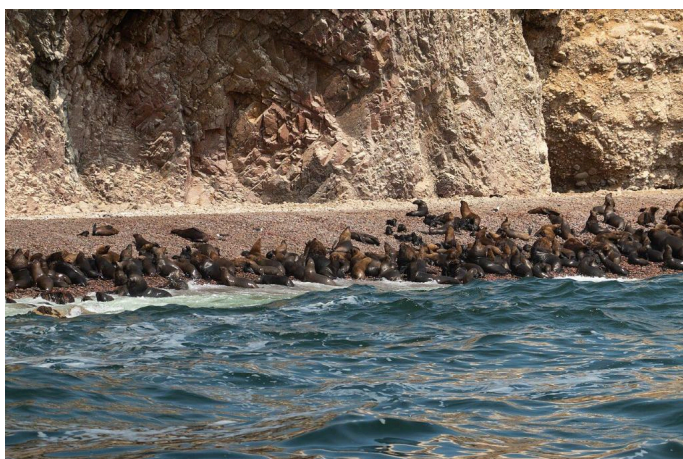
Photo gallery



Sandboard en las dunas de Huacachina • Patrick Nouhailler • CC BY-SA 2.0 • Wikimedia Commons



Buggy en las dunas • Alex Proimos • CC BY 2.0 • Wikimedia Commons

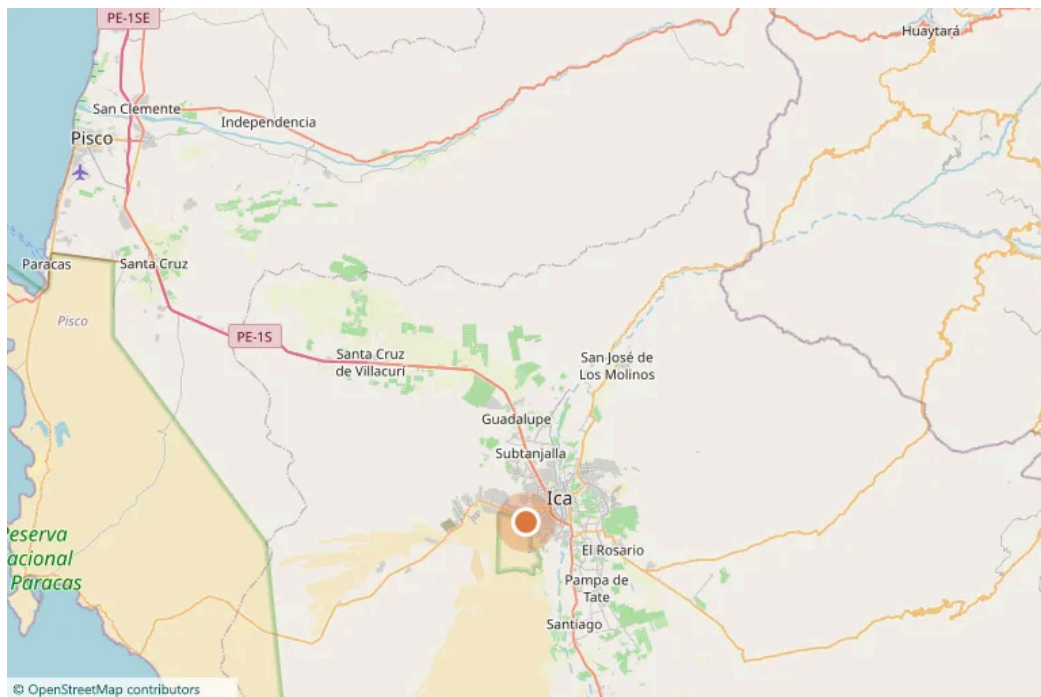


Lobos marinos en las islas Ballestas • PsamatheM • CC BY-SA 4.0 • Wikimedia Commons



Costa de la Reserva de Paracas • Inti Runa Viajero • CC BY 2.0 • Wikimedia Commons

Map • Huacachina



-14.0875, -75.7633 • Directions in Google Maps

How to book with a local guide

Choose your experience → Request your date → Experience Huacachina

Send your request and the guide contacts you directly with availability and price.

<https://www.trekonda.com/en/experiencias/huacachina>

Contact platform: each guide provides the service.