

## Places to visit and celebration dates

### ¿WHERE?

#### Excursions from Piura:

- **Catacaos.** 7.46 miles. The skillful artisans in this town devote themselves to weaving, whether in straw or cotton, and to making beautiful silver and gold filigree.
- **Chulucanas.** 37.28 miles. A relaxed city also known as “the Guitar of Piura” where tropical fruit trees like lime and mango grow. It is famous as well for its traditional handicraft, the Chulucanas pottery.
- **Huancabamba and Las Huaringas Lakes.** 132.35 miles. These fourteen lakes, named after the main one, called La Negra or Huaringa (which means “thick liquid” or “god of power”), are famous for their supposed medicinal properties. Most practicing shamans prefer going to Lake La Negra.

#### Beaches:

- **Colán.** 40.39 miles. Sandy beach with warm and tranquil waters. The resort is characterized by its wooden mansions, from whose balconies you can watch some of

the best sunsets found along the Peruvian coastline.

- **Paita and Yacila.** 37.28 miles. Picturesque bay, also called “Paita’s window” because of the superb view it offers. There are exceptional mansions which look out over the ocean. 5 kilometers from Paita is Yacila, a beautiful beach with high waves and a fishermen cove, also famous for owning some of the most beautiful sunsets along the northern coast.
- **Los Órganos.** 108.74 miles. Known for its magnificent waves and the abundance of coconut trees, whose shade are ideal for taking refuge from the heat of the day.
- **Cabo Blanco.** 95.11 miles from Talara. 62.14 miles from Tumbes. Heading south. A small sandy beach, 0,6214 miles long and straight. The break is normal, yet it is a sport fisherman’s paradise, especially those after black marlins.
- **Máncora.** 116.20 miles (4 hours) One of Peru’s most beautiful and crowded beaches, stretching along 12.43 miles. During the swell season, the town is overrun by surfers.

#### Excursions from Tumbes:

- **Tumbes Mangroves National Sanctuary.** 18.64 miles. The sanctuary protects the biodiversity of this salt and fresh water habitat, overflowed by plants and animals. Living there are 120 bird species, migratory as well as resident, and close to 100 fish species, not to

mention the American crocodile. To enter the sanctuary, a permit issued by the National Institute of Natural Resources (INRENA) is required.

- **Tumbes National Reserve.** 31.79 miles. This area is set aside for the protection of Peru’s many different tropical coastal forests. It is refuge for endangered endemic bird, animal and plant species, like the American crocodile.
- **Cerros de Amotape National Park.** 22.37 miles. It protects the Equatorial forests that thrive in the foothills of the Western Andes. Plenty of interesting creatures live there, such as howler monkeys and peccaries, a type of wild pig.

#### Beaches:

- **Punta Sal.** 52.29 miles. Calm, warm waters bathe its sands; average water temperature, an amazing 24°C (75°F)
- **Zorritos.** 17.40 miles. A beach of fine white sands and warm water; it is ideal for sports like jet skiing, surfing and fishing.
- **Puerto Pizarro.** 8.18 miles. An old beach resort and fishermen cove. Excursions to nearby islands and crocodile farms are offered.

### ¿WHEN?

#### The Magi Sullana International Fair.

**January 6th.** Celebrated here are numerous handicraft expositions and folklore dance contests, with participants coming from as far

away as Colombia and Ecuador. Its song Fest is famous.

#### Anniversary of the founding of Tumbes.

**January 7th.** On the evening of January 6th, the entire community meets to sing songs and watch a fireworks display. On the 7th, a variety of civic ceremonies take place as well as different expositions.

#### Tumbes tourist week.

**September 21st to September 27th.** Civic activities are organized, in which authorities and city residents take part, plus gastronomic fairs and handicraft expositions.

#### Captive Lord of Ayabaca Festival (Señor Cautivo de Ayabaca). October 13th.

A massive crowd of believers, who come from distant provinces in Peru and from Ecuador, too, gather at the Church of Our Lady of the Pillar, where the statue of the Captive Lord is exhibited in the atrium, in order to worship Him and pray for miracles and good fortune. A noticeable number of pilgrims carry heavy crosses as penance. Apart from the pious celebrations, live bands play and regional dance groups entertain. The faithful are so many that they have to sleep in the streets and squares of Ayabaca. Traditional dishes are ham with hominy and dried beef with fried banana chips; as desserts, there are cakes called tortas de viento and alfeñiques (taffy).



R. Usall

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C. Vega / PP

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The Peruvian North is overflowing with nature, and, as a consequence, the delight that it gives – from quiet beaches stretching to the horizon to thick mangroves - belts out a hymn to diversity.



## Routes & length of stay

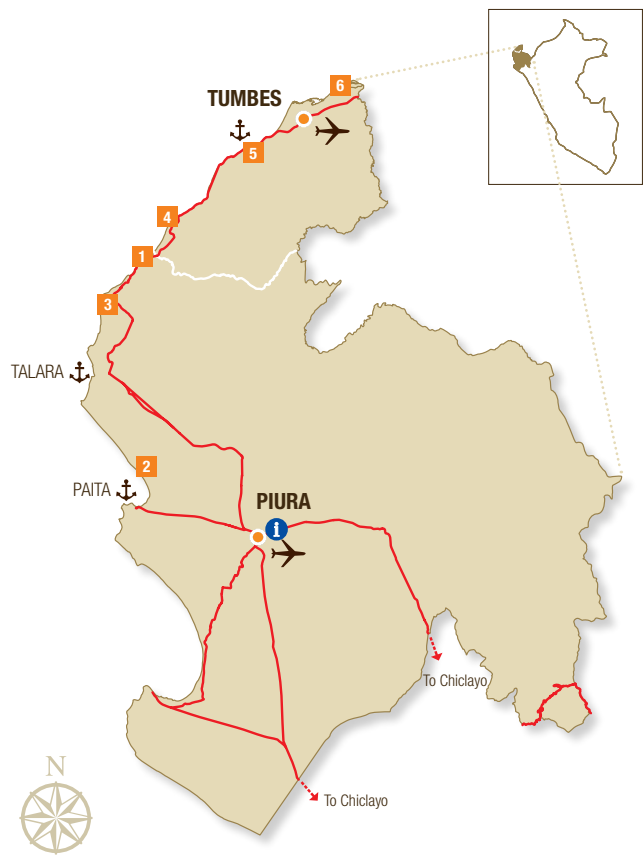
**3 days**

Minimum recommended length of stay

1 day	Tumbes: Puerto Pizarro and the Tumbes Mangroves National Sanctuary.
2 days	Tumbes: Zorritos, Punta Sal, Máncora and Cabo Blanco.
1 day	Piura: Catacaos and Chulucanas.
1 day	Piura: Colán and Yacila.

- a. Surfer in Máncora
- b. Magnificent frigate birds flock in the Tumbes Mangroves
- c. Sofía Mulanovich in Talara
- d. Máncora beach
- e. Puerto Pizarro
- f. Riders in Máncora
- g. Yacila beach, Piura

Department of Tumbes and Piura



D. Carate / PP

- 1** Máncora
- 2** Colán
- 3** Cabo Blanco
- 4** Punta Sal
- 5** Zorritos
- 6** Tumbes Mangroves

### LEGEND

Department borderline	
Capital city	
Asphalted road	
Non-asphalted road	
Airport	
Port	
iperú offices Tourist information and assistance	

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A. Balaguer / PP

## Lodging and tourist services

4 star hotels operate in Piura, Máncora, Tumbes and Punta Sal, besides basic and comfortable lodging at the beach resorts and areas close to the ocean. Also, every city does have public transportation and you can also rent water sports equipment from certain hotels and specialized companies.

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## Recommended for:



**Handicraft collectors**, who will find decorative pottery in Chulucanas and in Catacaos, as well as hats and silver and gold filigree.



**Nature enthusiasts**, who, upon visiting the Cerros de Amotape National Park, the Tumbes National Reserve and the Tumbes Mangroves National Sanctuary, will discover forests within very different ecosystems and abundant wildlife.



**Water sports lovers**, who enjoy surfing (Cabo Blanco, Órganos, and Máncora), sport fishing, diving (Punta Sal and Máncora) and rafting (in the Tumbes River).

**People in search of sun, sand, and sea**, who will find this in Máncora, Colán, Punta Sal and Zorritos.

**Bird watchers**, who will have a day to remember in Puerto Pizarro and El Angolo.

## What to buy?

Many different types of handicrafts are made in Piura. For instance, in Catacaos, artisans work in silver and gold, especially filigree, while those in Chulucanas (in the town of La Encantada) create eye catching pottery, while in Santo Domingo, it is about straw hats. If you go to Huancabamba, flower arrangements that incorporate sea shells are what you will find as well as traditional back-strap weavers who specialize in saddlebags, shawls and ponchos. Craftsmen in Tumbes are known for their wood carvings and works using marine products.

## What to eat?

Tumbes is famous for its fresh cebiche de conchas negras (an intensely seasoned dish of scallops, marinated in key lime juice, spicy chili peppers, salt and onions, served with boiled sweet potato and corn), its caldo de bola (a dish featuring bananas that are mashed and formed into a ball, then filled with beef and fried xxx) and its majarisco (green bananas, mashed and fried, accompanied by all sorts of seafood). There are also many different styles of cebiches in Piura. You can use grouper or mackerel or any other type of freshly caught fish, but essential ingredients are limes from Chulucanas and sarandaja beans. Piura is also the land of the seco de chabelo (a combination of a strong flavored beef jerky with mashed, seasoned and fried banana) and the sudado de cachema (a strong soup made with weakfish and served with large chunks of onions and tomatoes). As you patiently wait for these dishes, fried yuca (cassava) and chifles (fried banana chips) are your hors d'oeuvres. And for dessert, try the sweet natilla (a custard) and to a drink, a cold beer or chicha de jora (corn beer). There are fine restaurants in the cities of Tumbes and Piura as well as in Catacaos and the beaches of Órganos, Máncora and Punta Sal.



**Summertime (December to April) is prime mosquito time and the temperatures is always hot; we recommend you to use bug repellent and a good sun blocker, wear a hat and drink plenty of liquid.**



H. Plenge

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