

# QUOTE

"Eco-conscious Inkaterra Hotels ([Inkaterra.com](http://Inkaterra.com)) is in early development of a lodge 750 miles north of Lima at Cabo Blanco, a fishing village and popular breeding ground for humpback whales"

NEW YORK POST - by Gail Harrington

# UNDISCOVERED EDEN

## Luxury meets nature along Peru's rugged Pacific shores



Libertador Hotels, Resorts & Spas (5)

**DUNE, WHERE'S MY CAR?**  
Explore the Peruvian sands.

By GAIL HARRINGTON

**M**OST visitors come to Peru for the mysterious ruins of Machu Picchu and the ancient Incan capital of Cusco. But few arrive in search of fantastic beaches.

In fact, there wasn't a five-star beach resort on the nation's entire 1,500-mile Pacific coast until late 2009. Two years earlier, an 8.0 earthquake struck the city of Pisco, leveling the nearby Hotel Paracas 155 miles south of Lima. Once the dust settled, local leader Libertador Hotels rebuilt the property — bringing luxury to the once-sleepy fishing village of the same name.

The new resort is an elegant collection of white villas nestled into lush gardens and designed with open floor plans, pale woods and plenty of glass. Simple and chic, the Hotel Paracas is all about low-key luxury and big ocean views. The centerpiece of the resort is an impressive 112-foot-long heated saltwater pool flanked by wooden decking, cushioned chaises, and cabanas with pull-down shades — all anchored by the glass-walled Zarcillo Bar fronting the bay.

The resort is about 1.2 miles from the entrance to Paracas National Reserve, an 827,000-acre refuge for

migrating Chilean flamingoes, Andean condors, endangered Humboldt penguins, sea otters and orcas. Despite Peru's status as a major tourism destination, the reserve features large undeveloped stretches of coastline, miles of erosion-shaped cliffs, and some of the country's most beautiful, uninhabited beaches — like the red-sand shore of Playa Roja and white-sand cove of La Mina.

The Pacific Ocean accounts for nearly two-thirds of Paracas National Reserve. For the best wildlife-watching, visit the rocky Ballestas Islands, about 11 miles out. You can't set foot on shore because the isles are protected, but from the tour boat you'll get close-up views of penguins, otters and South American fur seals. The stars of the show are the loud-barking, blubbery sea lion bulls — the lucky ones keeping rein on their harem of females.

Another nearby attraction is the Nazca Lines, mysterious geoglyphs created on the desert floor between 300 B.C. and 700 A.D. Located about 7 miles from Paracas, this UNESCO World Heritage Site can be observed only from the air; a one-hour 40-minute flyover departing from the Pisco airport.

Back at Hotel Paracas, unwind at the spa or catch the sunset from the Zarcillo Bar to plot your next move.

## HOW TO DO COASTAL PERU

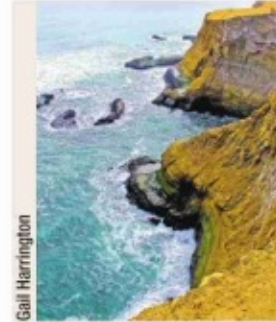
**Getting there:** Take the **Cruz del Sur** bus from Lima to Paracas (3½ hours, \$36 roundtrip); [cruzdelsur.com.pe](http://cruzdelsur.com.pe).

**Sleep well:** Stay on the bay at Hotel Paracas, where 26 villas house 111 guestrooms and suites; rates start at \$180, [starwoodhotels.com](http://starwoodhotels.com).

**Eat well:** Try all three restaurants at Hotel Paracas — **Ballestas** for fine dining with a bay view; the 24-seat **Trattoria** for casual Italian fare; for ceviche and fish of the day, **Chalana** sits at the end of the pier, the only surviving structure from the old resort. In town, **Il Covo's** Italian owner/chef turns out great pizzas cooked in a wood-fired oven and fresh pastas prepared just right ([ilcovo.pe](http://ilcovo.pe)).

**Book 'em:** Stop by the offices of leading tour agency **Tikariy** at Hotel Paracas ([tikariy.com.pe](http://tikariy.com.pe)). Tours include: the Ballestas Islands (\$29/per person); Paracas National Reserve (\$54) and the Nazca Lines flight (\$250).

**Northern exposure:** Times are changing in Peru, especially in the north. On the beach in Mancora, a small boutique hotel called **KICHIC** ([kichic.com](http://kichic.com)) opened in January 2014. Eco-conscious **Inkaterra** Hotels ([inkaterra.com](http://inkaterra.com)) is in early development of a lodge 750 miles north of Lima at Cabo Blanco, a fishing village and popular breeding ground for humpback whales. Inkaterra's founder/CEO José Koechlin hopes the government will make Cabo Blanco a national marine reserve before the lodge opens around late 2016.



Gail Harrington





**SURF AND BURP:**  
Ceviche and a  
passionfruit sour.



## Travel



**TAKE A CHILL PILLAR:** Lounge poolside at the Hotel Paracas.



**PITCH MEETING:** Imbibing under a luxury tent at Paracas.