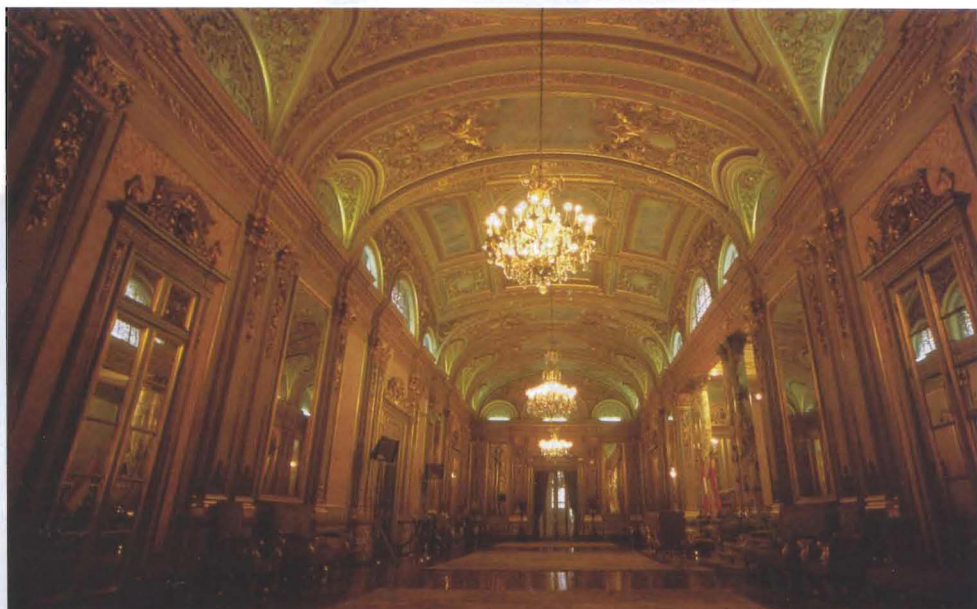


LONG THE
GATEWAY TO
PERU'S ANCIENT
MYSTERIES,
THIS COLONIAL
CAPITAL CLAIMS
COUNTLESS
WONDERS OF
ITS OWN



lima

SEE Lima's historic heart still beats strong in the **Plaza de Armas**, the spot where Francisco Pizarro founded the "City of Kings" in 1535. Inside the Cathedral, a glass coffin displays the purported bones of Pizarro himself. At the Government Palace, view the impressive changing of the guard at 11:45 each morning. • The city's superb museums offer up a rich legacy of cultural, political, and artistic treasures. The **Gold Museum** displays a dazzling array of jewelry, funerary masks, scepters, idols, and thousands of gold pieces; the **National Museum of Anthropology and Archaeology** showcases Peru's archaeological heritage; and the fascinating **Museum of the Inquisition** simultaneously informs and horrifies.

DO While in the city center, have afternoon tea at the **Gran Hotel Bolivar**; visit one of the **stunning colonial houses** such as the Palacio Torre Tagle; and stroll through the traditional **Chinatown** area. • If you're traveling during the last two weeks of October, be sure to witness one of the colorful processions of the **annual Lord of the Miracles festivals**, the largest such procession in the Americas. It's also the time of Lima's **Bullfight Season**, during which international bullfighters compete in the oldest arena on the continent.

SHOP Local folk art and handicrafts, woolen and alpaca clothing, jewelry, and textiles are prime buys in the local marketplaces. Explore the huge **Indian Market**, or unearth a

THIS PAGE, TOP: During a recent visit, President George W. Bush was received in Peru's lavish Presidential Palace.
BELOW: Brujas de Cachiche proprietor, Cesar Alcorta, in his well-stocked wine cellar. Changing of the guard at the Government Palace.





FROM LEFT: Munching on fried sweet bread, Miaflores District. Hand-draft Cusquean-style pitcher. Displaying national pride over Lima's Chinatown area. Two staples: Ceviche and Pisco Sour. Dine with dolphins at the Hotel Los Delfines; afterward, descend to Oceanus, the hotel's underwater piano bar.

Peruvian treasure at the **Feria Artesanal**. Both are located in Pueblo Libre. • In **Miraflores** the handicrafts market is a visual feast; the exquisite shop, Kuntur Wasi, features high-quality Peruvian handicrafts, and Silvana Prints is fabric heaven. In the **Barranco** area, near the Bridge of Sighs, shop for great Andean folk art and visit the studio of the heralded painter, Nicario Jimenez.

EAT The "must-eat" of Peruvian dishes is the famous *ceviche* (lemon-marinated raw fish). The national drink, Pisco Sour, is made from white grape brandy. • For cocktails, try **Oceanus**, the underwater piano bar in the Los Delfines Hotel; or watch the sun set at **La Rosa Nautica**, situated at the end of a pier in Costa Verde (Miraflores). • Las Brujas de Cachiche (*Bolognesi 460, Miraflores*) creates authentic Peruvian meals in an old mansion setting; while **L'Eau Vive** (*Ucayali 370, central Lima*) serves a side dish of spiritual sustenance - its delicious meals are prepared by a French order of nuns, with all proceeds going toward helping the poor.

STAY Surrounded by parklands and graced with magnificent ocean vistas, the 81-room **Miraflores Park Hotel** counts among its celebrated guests Queen Sophia of Spain and the Princess of Thailand; the presidents of Chile and Ecuador; designer Luciano Benetton; and supermodel Claudia Schiffer. The elegant suites feature king beds, marble and granite bathrooms, and Internet access. A state-of-the-art gymnasium, fitness center, squash and tennis courts, butler service, a lovely outdoor pool, and two fine restaurants round out the extravagant amenities. *Virtuoso guests enjoy a deluxe room with upgrade on arrival (subject to availability); fruit and flowers in room upon arrival; butler service; and a choice of either dinner for two in the Ambrosia Restaurant or a complimentary 30-minute massage per person. From US\$215.*



GETTING THERE Travcoa combines **Peru sightseeing** with a week-long Amazon cruise. 13 days (Feb. 7 or May 2, 2003). *From \$5,995.* • Abercrombie & Kent reveals the **Mysteries of the Ancient Incas** on an 11-day, La Paz-to-Lima tour. (Dec. 9, 2002). *From \$3,290.* • Machu Picchu, Easter Island, the Galapagos - all in the comfort of a private Boeing luxury jet. Intrav's **Ultimate South American Adventure** departs March 29, 2003, for 22 luscious days. *From \$41,900.* • For Voyager Club departures in South America, please see our Calendar, page 92.