

# TACNA

- ▶ **Location:** Southeastern Peru, on the border with Chile
- ▶ **Area:** 16,076 Km<sup>2</sup>
- ▶ **Capital:** Tacna (562 m.a.s.l.)
- ▶ **Altitude:** Lowest point: 18 m.a.s.l. (Ite)  
Highest point: 3415 m.a.s.l. (Candarave)
- ▶ **Distances:** From the city of Tacna to the following cities:  
Candarave (Province of Candarave) 170 km / 6 and 30 minutes  
Locumba (Province of Jorge Basadre) 93 km / 1 hour  
Tarata (Province of Tarata) 88 km / 2 hours and 30 minutes



- ▶ **Access routes:**  
**By land:** Lima - Tacna: Approximately 1293 km by the Pan-American Highway South (18 hours by car)

- By air:** Regular flights from Lima to Tacna: (Approx. 1 hour and 35 minutes)

## TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

### Province of Tacna



#### ▶ Cathedral of the city of Tacna

*In front of the Paseo Civico (Public Mall) Visiting hours: Mon. - Sun. 7:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. and 3:00 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.*

Its construction began in 1875 at the hands of the French firm of Alejandro Gustavo Eiffel. The New renaissance architectural design is created with stones quarried from the hills of Intiorko and Arunta. The work stopped, among other reasons, because of the War of the Pacific (1879) and the Chilean occupation. It was formally completed in 1954.

#### ▶ Pila Ornamental (Ornamental Fountain)

*Located along the Paseo Civico*

The responsibility for this sculpture was given to Frances Paul Lienhard, and it was forged in England by the Simpson foundry. It is six meters high and is composed of various fountains. The first sculpted group, of a Classic style, rises over a granite base which symbolizes the four seasons of the year and over the largest fountain, six meters in diameter, is another group that represents four naked boys holding hands. It was acquired and given to the city of Tacna by the governor, Mr. Jose Balta, in the year 1869.

#### ▶ Casa de Zela (Zela House)

*Calle Zela 542 Visiting hours: 8:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. and 3:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.*

It was there that Francisco Antonio de Zela lived, an important forerunner to Peruvian independence. Today, it is the Salon Museo Arqueologico (Archaeological Museum Hall) where ceramic and textile pieces, works of wood and metal, and pre-Hispanic fishing and basket weaving tools are displayed. The building was given the status of a national historic monument in 1961.



Main Square of Tacna ▶  
Wilfredo Loayza / PromPerú



Cathedral of Tacna ▶  
Heinz Plenge

## BRIEF HISTORY

On the rocky walls of the Toquepala cave, traces of the oldest inhabitants in the Tacna Region have been discovered. More than 10,000 years ago, these caves gave refuge to nomadic groups that painted hunting scenes on the stones probably as part of a propitiary rite.

Several centuries later along the coastline lived the Changos or Camanchacos, who were incorporated into the Tahuantinsuyo during the fifteenth century. These skillful fishermen kept trade relations with people groups in high altitude zones like the Collas in the region of Lake Titicaca.

The first contact with the conquistadors happened in 1535 when Diego de Almagro and his men passed through this area with the intention of conquering Chile. Little by little, the population of the Villa de San Pedro de Tacna (Saint Peter's Village of Tacna) increased, turning it into an active commercial town dedicated to supplying the Potosi mining center.

Creoles like Francisco de Zela and the Paillardelle brothers organized the first uprisings in favor of independence. The first years of the Republic were also marked by the same political agitation, insurrections, and disputes. Tacna became a Department in 1875.

The area has maintained its commercial importance, briefly interrupted by the War of the Pacific (War with Chile, 1879). The peace treaty signed by Peru and Chile determined that Tacna would pass into Chilean hands for ten years. After completing this time, the population had to choose to decide its future through a popular vote. However, this never happened, but after a series of diplomatic interventions, the Lima Agreement was signed in 1929 which established the reincorporation of Tacna into Peruvian territory after more than fifty years of Chilean occupation.

## GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE

The Tacna Region is made up of deserts, volcanoes, and mountain chains. There are rivers that descend from the heights, snaking through the flatlands until cutting their way through the valleys. Along the coast, the ocean and the wind have formed beautiful beaches that are easily accessible by an asphalt highway. The city of Tacna has a humid climate during winter and a warm one during the rest of the year with no rains on the coast. The average maximum yearly temperature is 23.4°C (74.1°F) and a minimum of 12.5°C (54.4°F).



◀ Railroad Museum  
Heinz Plenge



◀ Fountain at the Main Square  
Dirceur Tacna

#### ▶ Teatro Municipal (City Theater)

*Pasaje Calderón de la Barca, in front of the MacLean Plaza*

It was built in 1870 by the Spanish engineer Constantine Martinez del Pino and inaugurated years later by President Jose Antonio de Pezet. The two story building exhibits a façade made entirely of quarried stone. In its main hall, many valuable paintings are displayed that show illustrious Tacna natives such as the poet, Federico Barreto, the painter, Francisco Laso, and the historian, Modesto Molina. The theater was declared a historic and artistic monument in 1972.

#### ▶ Museo Ferroviario (Railroad Museum)

*Located at the intersection of Calle Gregorio Albarracín and Avenida 2 de Mayo Telephone: (052) 72-4981 Visiting hours: Mon. - Sun. 8:00 A.M. - 5:30 P.M.*

Placed in the old Tacna-Arica railway station, the location is particularly attractive because it has been preserved intact with many of the elements used during the second half of the nineteenth century, the time that it was destroyed. The exhibition gives the traveler an idea of the historical process of the railway.

#### ▶ Parque de la Locomotora (Locomotive Park)

*Avenida Grau*

This was built to house the hundred year old Engine Number 3 model 1859 built in Pennsylvania, which carried Peruvian troops to defend the Arica Hill during the War with Chile (1879). During the Chilean occupation, the engine continued working between Tacna and Arica. In 1940, it broke down but was repaired and put into the park in 1977.

► **Museo Histórico del INC (National Cultural Institute Historical Museum)**

*Calle Apurimac 202 Telephone: (052) 71-1171 Visiting hours: Mon. - Fri. 8:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. and 3:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.*

Located in the center of the city one block away from the City Hall, it was created in 1957. The Tacna Public Library is housed there. In the rooms, you can see documents and objects from the time of the emancipation, independence, and the war with Chile.

► **Arco Parabólico (Parabolic Arch)**

*Located along the Paseo Cívico*

Eighteen feet high, it was raised in honor of the heroes of the War of the Pacific, like Admiral Miguel Grau and Colonel Francisco Bolognesi. Its construction is made of quarried pink stone. The then president Manuel Prado inaugurated it.



Main Square of Tacna ►  
Wilfredo Loayza / PromPerú



Cathedral of Tacna ►  
Heinz Plenge

► **Alameda Bolognesi (Bolognesi Way)**

*Located two blocks from the Paseo Cívico*

It is one of the most traversed streets in the city. Underneath la Alameda runs the Caplina River in a perfect canal.

► **Casa Jurídica (Courthouse)**

*Calle Zela 716 Telephone: (052) 71-5225*

Here the parties signed the Act of Submitting Tacna to Peru on August 28, 1929. It also houses the Reincorporation Museum, the Tacna Art Gallery, and the Historic Department Archives.

► **Alliance Field Monument**

*8 km north of Tacna (10 minutes by car) Visiting hours: Mon. - Sun. 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.*

It was created to honor the combatants of the Batalla del Alto de la Alianza, a battle during the War with Chile, May 26, 1880. The Site Museum shows weapons of the time, guns, sabers, parade uniforms, letters, documents, and a model of the battle. It is located northeast of Intiorko Hill on the location of the battlefield.

► **Valle Viejo de Tacna (Old Tacna Valley)**

A large natural area located between 670 and 1,090 m.a.s.l. It is approximately 23 km long and includes the Districts of Pocollay, Calana, and Pachia, which are 94, 14, and 18 km from the city of Tacna respectively. The climate is temperate and dry. Various traditional restaurants are located there, perfect to enjoy the typical food of the region.

► **Calientes - Pachia Hot Springs**

*22.8 km east of Tacna (20 minutes by car)*

Placed on the shores of the Caplina River 1,400 m.a.s.l., they are known for their therapeutic properties for people suffering from neuro arthritic or skin disorders. The temperatures fluctuate between 36°C (96.8°F) and 39°C (102.2°F). You can find food and lodging in the areas near them.

► **Miculla Archeological Complex**

*22 km northeast of Tacna (15 minutes by car)*

It is surrounded by an impacting desert vista combined with small hills and under the protection of two larger hills, Wawapas and Miculla, at 1,200 m.a.s.l. Investigators believe that its age is somewhere between the time of the Tiahuanaco culture (500 A.D) and the years of 1100 - 1445 A.D. The complex covers an area of approximately 20 km<sup>2</sup>, and there are rock paintings made with red patina on calcareous and silicate rocks.

The scenes include drawings of human beings hunting, dancing, or fighting, animals like the Andean deer, cougars, suri alpacas, snakes, lizards, foxes, and others, representations of constellations and as yet undefined images. In the surrounding area, you can watch typical animals of the region like foxes, lizards, snakes, eagles, and other birds, as well as local flora like Peruvian pepper trees, jaros, chieñes, chilcas, and cacti.

► **Boca del Rio Beach Resort (The River Mouth)**

*52 km southwest of Tacna (25 minutes by car)*

Located at the mouth of the Sama River, its beach is considered the best in Tacna since it is wide and flat with shallow water. In the surrounding areas, there are lodging, eating, and entertainment services.

► **Los Palos Beach (The Sticks)**

*41 km from Tacna (20 minutes by car)*

It is an open beach with few waves and tranquil waters. There are bungalows for lodging that dot the beach as well as restaurants.

**Province of Jorge Basadre**



► **Locumba Valley**

*93 km northwest of Tacna (1 hour by car)*

It is an inter-Andean valley famous for its grapevines and for its first-rate wine and pisco industry. Presently, agriculture is the prime activity with chili peppers being the number one crop. In the city of Locumba, the capital of the province, you find the Sanctuary of the Lord of Locumba, also named "Señor de los Pies Quemados" (Lord of the Burned Feet), whose festival has been celebrated in September since 1776.

► **Santuario del Señor de Locumba (Sanctuary of the Lord of Locumba)**

*93 km northwest of Tacna (1 hour and 30 minutes by car) in the valley of Locumba*  
Also called the church of the "Señor de los Pies Quemados", it was built thanks to donations from the devotees of the Lord of Locumba. The church has a central, semi-spherically domed nave. Inside, the silver covered cross with the image of Christ is of particular interest.

► **Painted Rocks of Toquepala**

*159 km north of Tacna (2 hours and 30 minutes by car)*

The cave of Toquepala is famous for having a group of rock paintings whose age is estimated to be 7,500 years before Christ. The scenes represent a "chaco" or a hunt. It looks as if the hunters ringed their prey, possibly guanacos, before trapping them. The images have been carefully painted in red, yellow, green, black, and white.

**Province of Tarata**



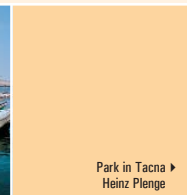
► **San Benedicto Church (Saint Benedict's)**

*Located in front of the Main Square of the city of Tarata*

It was inaugurated in 1741, and here, the image of San Benito de Abad or San Benedicto, the patron saint of the province of Tarata, is venerated.



Beach of Tacna ►  
Wilfredo Loayza / PromPerú



Park in Tacna ►  
Heinz Plenge



► **City of Tarata (3,068 m.a.s.l.)**

*88 km northwest of Tacna (2 hours and 30 minutes by car)*

There you can find terraced fields that predate the Incas and enjoy a wonderful view.

► **Andenerías de Tarata (Agricultural Terraces of Tarata)**

*15 km from the town of Tarata (15 minutes by car)*

These cover an area of 3465.67 hectares. The people have continually used them for centuries to grow corn and potatoes. The terraces are irrigated by waters from rivers and streams brought from the headwaters of the inter-Andean valleys.

► **Anajiri Petroglyphs**

*4 km from the city of Tarata (5 minutes by car)*

Along the route, you can see terraces with isolated petroglyphs. The human figures represented there are generally in motion. In the same way, the anthropomorphic and zoomorphic representations are composed of camelids and

birds of prey in flight as well as other geometric designs.

► **Ticaco Hot Springs**

*12 km from the city of Tarata (10 minutes by car)*

There are five personal wells where the water is crystal clear and has a temperature of 49°C (120.2°F).

**Province of Candarave**

Candarave



► **City of Candarave (3,415m)**

*170 km north of Tacna (6 hours and 30 minutes by car)*

Its Aymara name means Place of the Condor. It is located in a plain at the bottom of a deep valley. At the foot of the Yucamani volcano, you can see the alfalfa fields and the cattle barns. The peacefulness and lovely landscape make Candarave a great place to take a break.

► **Calientes Hot Springs**

*45 km from the city of Candarave (2 hours and 30 minutes by car)*

This place appears to be a group of geysers because at various points, water shoots up whose temperatures surpass 86°C (186.2°F) and due to that fact produce large amounts of vapor. In order for visitors to take advantage of the water, there are two natural springs with water temperatures of 37°C (98.6°F) and 40°C (104°F) respectively. The waters are famous because they help in the treatment of arthritis and rheumatism.

► **Suches Lake or Huaytire**

*60 km from the city of Candarave (2 hours and 30 minutes by car)*

It has an area of 370 km<sup>2</sup> and is located very close to the community of Huaytire (4,450 m.a.s.l.). There they have built a trout breeding center. In the lake and nearby areas, it is possible to see birds like egrets, Andean geese, kiwis, and white cheeked pintails. The prairies to the northeast serve to feed flocks of vicuñas and suri alpacas.

► **Aricota Lake**

*154 km north of the city of Tacna (4 hours and 30 minutes by bus)*

The surface area covers 1,440 km<sup>2</sup>, and it is found 2,800 m.a.s.l. Many birds like Andean geese and white cheeked pintails call it home, and it is an excellent place to fish for rainbow trout.

**FOLKLORE**

Tacna preserves a wide range of customs and cultural manifestations. For example, in Candarave, they have many parades with music and firecrackers. In the graveyards of the farming communities, you will hear the characteristic "Chacharpari", an Aymara word meaning good-bye

**HANDICRAFTS**

The most important typical dishes in the region are:

Choclo con queso: Boiled tender corn accompanies by fresh cheese

Chicharron de chancho con maiz tostado: Fried pork rinds with toasted corn

Patasca tacneña: A soup made with beef, pigs feet, wheat, yellow potato, squash, starch, and garlic.

Picante a la tacneña: A stew made with cow stomach, cows feet, beef jerky, onions, and oregano.

Cuy Chactado: Guinea pig, pan fried under a flat, heavy stone.

Pastel de choclo: Made with fresh corn, it can be either salty or sweet with raisins.

Humitas: Sweetened mashed corn, semi dry, with raisins and peanuts.

Adobo de Chancho: Pork, turmeric, ground garlic, vinegar, and salt.

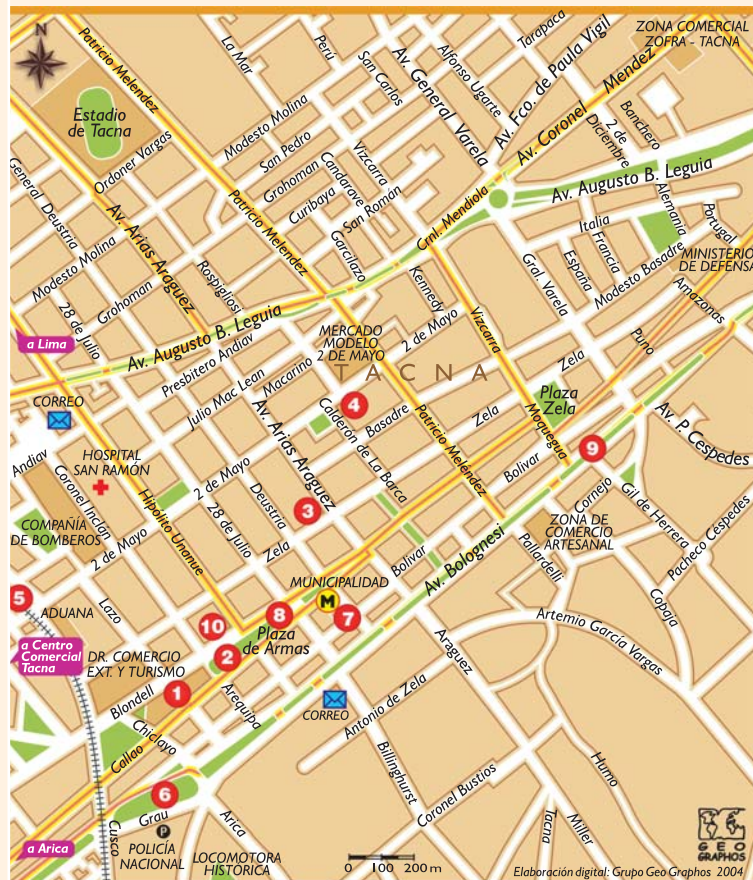
In addition to the above, traditional drinks are offered such as homemade wine, pisco, Tacna sour, and the liquors of damasco, frutilla, and tumbo.

**FESTIVITIES CALENDAR**

► **Homage to the Defenders of Alianza Field - May 26th**

*Province of Tacna, District of Tacna*

A parade and other civic acts take place in the Alianza Field.



- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1 Cathedral           | 6 Locomotive Park                               |
| 2 Fountain ornamental | 7 National Cultural Institute Historical Museum |
| 3 Zela House          | 8 Parabolic Arc                                 |
| 4 Municipal Theatre   | 9 Bolognesi Way                                 |
| 5 Railroad Museum     | 10 Jorge Basadre House                          |

► **Night of San Juan (Saint John) and the Old Valley Caravan - June 23rd and 24th**

*Province of Tacna, Districts of Calana, Pachia, and Pocollay*

Popular ritual in which the payment to the Pachamama (Earth mother) is made and other artistic and cultural productions are included.

► **EXPOSUR - August 24th - 31st**

*Province of Tacna, District of Tacna*

The event happens in the Peru Park. It is a commercial fair where the main agricultural, fishing, artisanal, and industrial products are exhibited.

► **Reincorporation of Tacna into Peru - August 28th**

*Province of Tacna, District of Tacna*

A civic parade and the passage of the flag happen to commemorate the reintroduction of the city of Tacna into Peru.

► **The Lord of Locumba Festival - September 14th**

*Province of Jorge Basadre, District of Locumba*

This is a religious celebration which national and foreign devotees attend.

**DIRECTORY**

**AIRPORT**

► **Carlos Ciriani Santa Rosa Airport.**

Pan-Americana Highway South, km 5

Tacna Telephone: (052) 84-4503 / 65-9811 Fax: 84-4672

**OVERLAND TRANSPORT**

► **Manuel A. Odría Overland Terminal National and International Service**

Calle Hipólito Unanue Tacna Telephone: (052) 72-7007 Hours of attention: 24 hours

► **Francisco Bolognesi Terminal**

Bus service to the interior of the region Av. Circunvalación - Tacna Telephone: (052) 71-1786 Hours of attention: 4:00 A.M. - 11:00 P.M.

**HEALTH CENTERS**

► **Hipólito Unanue Hospital**

Calle Blondell - Tacna Telephone: (052) 72-3361 Hours of attention: 24 hours

**LOCAL POLICE**

► **Policía Nacional del Perú (National Police of Peru)**

Pasaje Calderón de la Barca 353 Tacna Telephone: (052) 71-4141/ 71-2031 Hours of attention: 24 hours

**ARTESINAL MARKETS**

The majority of the stores are found between the sixth and seventh block of Avenida Bolognesi and Calle Pallardelli.  
Hours of attention: 9:00 A.M. - 9 P.M.

**POSTAL SERVICE**

Avenida Bolognesi 361 - Tacna  
Telephone: (052) 72-4221 / 72-4641  
Hours of attention: Mon. - Sat. 8:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.

**NATIONAL CHAMBER ON TOURISM**

[www.canaturperu.org](http://www.canaturperu.org)

**REGIONAL GOVERNMENT OF TACNA**

[www.regiontacna.gob.pe](http://www.regiontacna.gob.pe)

**TOURISM INFORMATION**



In the Tourist Information and Assistance Service, iperu, you are able to ask for objective and impartial tourism information, as well as help in case the tourist services you received were not provided according to the contract signed.

Contact the service nationally 24 hours a day:  
Telephone: (01) 574-8000  
Email: [iperu@promperu.gob.pe](mailto:iperu@promperu.gob.pe)

**More Information:** [www.peru.info](http://www.peru.info)

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The information contained in this document is a list of attractions and services at the disposal of the traveler in the entire region. In order to update it, PromPerú has been assisted by official information sources like: National Institute of Natural Resources (INRENA), National Cultural Institute (INC), National Geographical Institute (IGN), National Meteorology and Hydrology Service of Peru (SENAMHI), and the Regional Administration of Foreign Trade and Tourism.

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