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# Seabourn Quest

## Port Information Matarani, Mollendo, Peru



Located off the main Pan-American Highway, the pleasant beach town of Mollendo doesn't get too many travelers and is mostly visited by a few intrepid surfers, plus a seasonal influx of beach-starved arequipeños (inhabitants of Arequipa). It is by far the prettiest beach town of the southern south coast, with a bunch a cool two-story wood buildings dating back 100 years. The village itself slopes down to an arcing beach.

Mollendo's history testifies to occupations by the Incas and the Chileans. More notoriously, it was the birthplace of Abimael Guzmán, aka Presidente Gonzalo, the philosophy professor turned political agitator who became leader of the Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) in 1980. Among nonsunbathers, Mollendo is revered for its bird reserve at the nearby Lagunas de Mejía.

### General information:

**Address of port:** Port of Matarani

**How to get around:** Shuttle bus will be available to Bolognesi Plaza (Bolognesi Main Square) in Mollendo.

**Language:** Peru's official language is Spanish, however English is spoken amongst tourist providers and professionals. However taxi drivers will mostly speak only Spanish.

**Currency:** The currency used is the Peruvian Soles. Please note most of the places will only accept local currency and will not take credit cards. Currency exchange is available at the BCP Banck, 35 meters from the shuttle bus drop off point.

### Places of interest:

#### Malecon

Down below the town, the beachfront malecón is a pleasant place for a stroll and has a couple of viewpoints set atop rocky outcrops. There are a bunch of bars and cevicherias across the road from the beach.

#### Playa Uno Beach and Aquatic Parc (Parque Acuatico)

The main beach is called Playa Uno and is located 10 minutes walking distance from Bolognesi Plaza. Next to the beach and Malecon is the aquatic parc of Mollendo.

Kindly note that this is for your reading pleasure only.

All printed information has been provided by local tourist operators, information centers and the internet.

### **Mejía Lagoons National Sanctuary**

The sanctuary is located 20 km to the southeast of Mollendo (20 min. by car). An entry ticket is needed. Thousands of migratory birds, such as the player blanco find refuge in this coastal area. Frogs, lizards and the coastal fox are also part of the fauna. In the waters there are mullet species and the pejerrey fish.

### **Arequipa**

#### **Arequipa is located about 2h30 drive away from Matarani.**

The magnificent "white city" Of Arequipa is located at an altitude of 2325m in the southwestern part of the Country; between the coastal area of the coastal desert and the spurs of the western Andes. It possesses a series of volcanic cones such as "El Misti", "Chachani", and "Pichu Pichu". This beautiful city is practically completely built out of sillar, a type of white volcanic stone. This is why Arequipa is called the White City ("la ciudad blanca"). It is a magnificent example of colonial architecture. The historic center of Arequipa was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2000. As an important cultural and tourism center, the city of Arequipa has excellent archeological, colonial history and art museums.

**The main square of Arequipa** is surrounded by the Cathedral and three granite portals with curved ceilings of brick and lime (the Municipal Portal, the San Agustín Portal and the "Tuturutu", a 16th century soldier whose job was to bring news. The tip of The Misti, the volcano that serves as the square's faithful guardian, can be seen from here.

**Arequipa Cathedral and Museum - Main Square.** Hours of worship, Mon - Sat: 7:00 am - 10:00.

Museum opening hours Mon - Sat: 10:00 am - 4:15 pm. A ticket is needed to enter the museum.

Built from sillar stone between 1621 and 1656, the Cathedral was one of the city's first religious monuments. Following a fire in 1844 and an earthquake in 1868, Lucas Poblete was placed in charge of its reconstruction. Bishop José Sebastián de Goyeneche restored and embellished the Cathedral, with the help of his family. In 1850, the bishop decorated the interior with treasures and fine objects made by Francisco de Moratilla. The 12 meter high organ and the wooden sculptures of the twelve apostles are all features.

#### **Santa Catalina Convent in Arequipa**

Many of the most characteristic religious complexes were built during the colonial period.

The Beautiful Santa Catalina convent was founded in 1580 and was enlarged over the centuries until it became a city within the city. Amongst the numerous things to see feature picturesque narrow streets, arch colonnades featuring courtyards, churches, chapels and plazas.

#### **Shopping:**

You will find local stores in Mollendo for souvenirs, handicrafts and Peruvian product. However, the best shopping is found in the city of Arequipa.

#### **Local food you may enjoy:**

In Mollendo and Arequipa, you will be able to enjoy local Peruvian food. As a coastal town, Mollendo will have nice seafood available at the seafront restaurants.

*We wish you a wonderful day ashore in Matarani, Mollendo, Peru.*

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