

# The Nazca Lines Flight Guide

## Alas Peruanas

We welcome you to Nazca with an invitation to be part of our crew.

We endeavor to work hard in order to provide visitors the best service they deserve.

With this premise, we continue to strive to improve our service and offer the best flight service in Nazca. There is room for three to five passengers, each with a window seat, so that these spectacular and mysterious drawings can be viewed with an opportunity for great photos.

Fly with us and truly enjoy the flight over the most astonishing human geoglyphs on earth.

## In the beginning...

The lines were first spotted in the 1920's, when commercial airlines first began to fly across the Peruvian desert.

There were reports from passengers of mysterious primitive landing strips on the ground below. In 1926, the Peruvian archaeologist Mejia Xesspe arrived in Nazca and began to study the lines. He concluded that they represented a sacred place where ancient pilgrims worshiped their gods. He believed that the lines were sacred roads where people walked in procession.

Paul Kosak, an American geographer proposed that the straight lines represented "the largest astronomy book in the world". He stated that they pointed towards astronomical features on the horizon. He arrived at this supposition after witnessing the sun setting almost exactly over the end of one of the long single on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, which is the winter solstice in the Southern Hemisphere, the shortest day of the year.

By the 1950s, the German mathematician Maria Reiche had started to map the area. She discovered giant animals, which were too vast to be comprehended from the ground. Reiche claimed that the lines could have been used as a kind of calendar that not only recorded celestial events but also had a more practical use of indicating times of harvest, festivals and good fishing.



## Flight Guide

- The flights begin early in the morning. Passengers are transferred to the airport 5 km away.
- An informative video on the Nazca Lines is shown at the airport so that visitors get an overview of the whole area they will see from the air.
- After obtaining permission from the control tower, we will take off towards the north. Passengers are provided with maps of the area in order to recognize every figure. There are also plastic bags provided in case someone feels ill.
- Once we have reached the Nazca desert, the airplane will fly over the first figure. This impressive drawing is about 65 metres in length.
- After having seen this figure, we will continue to see the Triangles, 200 metres long.
- Immediately proceeding this we then turn left and see two enormous Trapezoids which resemble landing tracks. (3km approximately in size)
- The next figure which follows is the famous "Astronaut", a spectacular drawing on the slope of a hill. The "Astronaut" or "Dwi-Man", as called by its other name.
- Subsequently, we will go and view the great "Monkey", a huge figure which is 100 metres in length. The "Monkey" is located in the center of the desert and was discovered by Maria Reiche.
- A short distance away, the figure of "The Dog" is located, which is approximately 100 metres long.
- Next the plane will take us over the most wonderful and best-preserved design "The Hummingbird". This figure is about 70 metres long and the last line in its tail indicates the sunrise on the summer solstice.
- Following this we fly to the right to see the figure of "The Spider", which is each leg a large rectangle. "The Spider" is about 46 metres long and was also discovered by Maria Reiche in 1946.
- Continuing with the flight, we will observe a large "Condor" (more than 120 metres long). According to Maria Reiche, the line points to the sunset on a specific point on the horizon on the summer solstice in the Southern Hemisphere.
- We will then fly to the northern part of the desert where you will see the area's longest figure. This is "The Alcatraz" or "Heron", which is 285 metres long. The long beak of this bird is thought to indicate the sunrise on the summer solstice.
- Next, flying left, a huge "Parrot" can be seen, which is 100 metres long.
- Finally, we will fly over the Pan-American Highway to see the figures. These are "The Hands" (50 m) and "The Tree" (70 m). Carefully you can see that next to the Tree is another figure. Unfortunately when the people built the highway in 1933, they did not have knowledge of the figures, and was damaged cutting it into two.
- The tour takes roughly 35 minutes, which is ample time to see the designs as well as take good photos.