

WORLD & NATION

Photos: Birds claim Peru beach emptied by coronavirus outbreak



The Agua Dulce public beach in Lima, Peru, on Feb. 16. (Associated Press)

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

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LIMA, Peru — Agua Dulce beac

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The [coronavirus pandemic](#) has changed all that. Peru’s President Martín Vizcarra declared a [state of emergency](#) as deaths began to mount and ordered people to stay home, largely emptying the beach of people.

The half-mile-long strip of grayish-brown sand 12 miles south of central Lima is normally a haven for the working classes, a place where visitors from the Andean highlands first dip a toe in the sea.



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But in recent days, an army of seabirds has claimed the sandy territory abandoned by people. Densely thronged pedestrian bridges are all but empty. Instead of being covered with chaotic human footprints, the beach is tattooed with the tracks of gulls and pelicans.

Police officers who recently m

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Among the few defying the order was Tomas Cabrera, 86, who sat on a jetty enjoying the rare solitude.

“There are no people in the streets, no cars circulating, no factories running,” he said.



Los Angeles Times

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The crowded pedestrian bridge that leads to and from Agua Dulce beach on Feb. 16. (Associated Press)

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Beachgoers at the Lima beach on Feb. 23. (Associated Press)

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Agua Dulce beach on March 21, after coronavirus restrictions were enacted. (Associated Press)

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Police walk along the Lima beach to warn off would-be swimmers on March 24. (Associated Press)

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Birds descend on Agua Dulce beach on March 24. (Associated Press)

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Tomas Cabrera, 86, meditates on a jetty at Agua Dulce beach on March 25, in defiance of government orders to stay away. (Associated Press)

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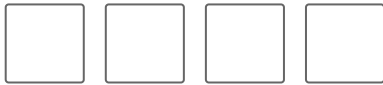
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