

DISCOVERING THE NORTH COAST CULTURES OF PERU

DAY 1: FROM LIMA TO THE SACRED CITY OF CARAL

Breakfast at your accommodation

We will collect you from Accommodation at 8:00 hrs, and drive north 190 km away from Lima City.

Arriving in **Caral**, we will start our excursion. Our guided service will take approximately 1.5 hrs.



Caral with an age of 5,000 years, is considered the oldest civilization in the Americas. These ancient ruins are located in Supe Valley, with more than 150 acres.

With terraced pyramids once part of the main center of the town. We will learn how this ancient people lived in Caral area.

There have been found in this area many pieces of textile, necklaces, flutes made from animal bones, ceremonial burial relics, etc; as well we will appreciate the evidence of agricultural practices and religious ceremonies & how they measure the movement of the stars.

Visiting Caral Sacred Place is an exciting experience from the beginning to the end.

Afterwards we will continue driving to Casma (2 hours aprox.) where we will spend the night.

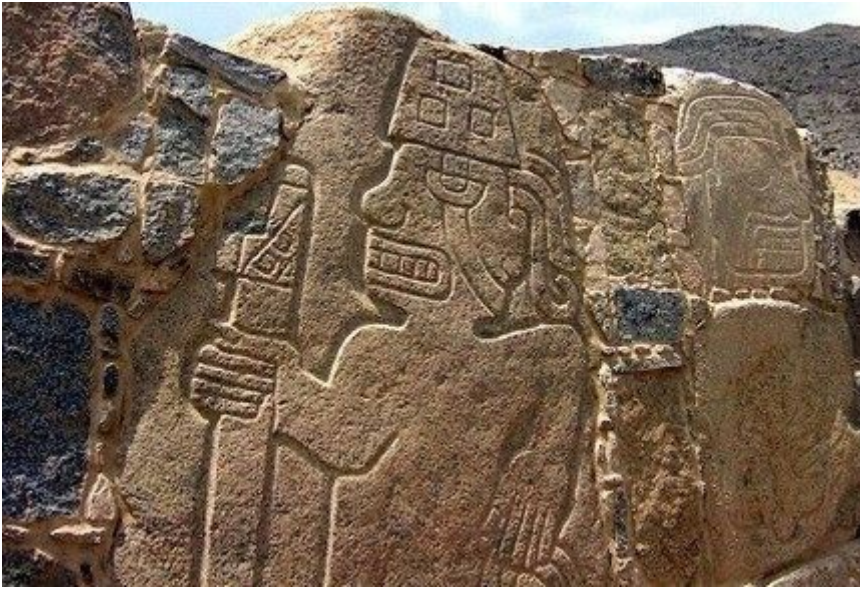
Overnight in Casma. – Hotel Casma

DAY 2: SECHIN - TRUJILLO

Breakfast included.

Checking out from your accommodation and continuing our North Coastal Journey.

We will drive 5 km approx. to get into the Sechin archaeological site.



Dating to 1600 BC, discovered by Julio C. Tello, he believed it was the capital of an entire culture, now known as the **Casma/Sechin culture**. Notable features include megalithic architecture with carved figures in bas-relief, which graphically dramatize human sacrifices.

Cerro Sechín is situated within the Sechin Alto Complex, as are Sechin Bajo, and Taukachi-Konkan.

The slabs at Cerro Sechin may represent the central Andes' oldest known monumental sculpture.

After our excursion we will start to drive in direction of Trujillo (4hrs approx.)

Along the way we will drive through the Chimbote región (we will spend 1 night in our return to Lima).

Today we will arrive in Trujillo in the late afternoon, we will go for a little walk around the main plaza & its people.

TRUJILLO is the third most populous city and center of the second most populous metropolitan area of Peru.

It is located on the banks of the Moche River, near its mouth at the Pacific Ocean, in the Moche Valley. This was a site of the great prehistoric Moche and Chimu cultures before the Inca conquest and subsequent expansion.



The Independence of Trujillo from Spain was proclaimed in the Historic Centre of Trujillo on December 29, 1820. It is the birthplace of Peru's judiciary, and it was twice designated as the capital of the country. It was the scene of the Revolution of Trujillo in 1932.

Also known as the "City of Everlasting Spring", is considered the "Capital of the Marinera", a traditional dance in Peru, "Cradle of the Peruvian Paso horse".

The city center contains many examples of colonial and religious architecture, often incorporating distinctive wrought ironwork. It includes residential areas, a central business district, and industrial supply distribution to the various districts.

Overnight in Trujillo.

<http://www.losconquistadoreshotel.com/>

DAY 3: TRUJILLO : HUACA DE LA LUNA, DRAGON'S TEMPLE, CHAN CHAN, HUANCHACO

Breakfast at hotel.

Trujillo is close to two major archeological sites of pre-Columbian monuments: Chan Chan, the largest adobe city in the ancient world, designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1986; and the temples of the Sun and Moon (the largest adobe pyramid in Peru).

At 12:00 hrs we will start our excursion, starting by the Temple of the Moon & the Sun part of **Moche culture**.

These ceremonial centers are located in the countryside. (15 min ride)

The Huaca or temple of the sun is a scaled pyramid with a height of 43 mt. Approximately. According to studies it was possible to do it in a time of 3 days with the help of 250.00 men at least & using 70 million adobes.



Built with ceremonial purposes and probably with administrative functions. It is possible to see beautiful murals with the representation of Ai-Paec, the main God of this civilization, also known as the "Decapitator." As well it was founded a

tomb with over 40 sacrificed Warriors.

We will visit the site museum where we will find the most important ornaments and pieces of pottery discovered during the process of excavations in this 2 temples



Then we will continue to the Dragon's Temple, Huaca el Dragon (also referred to as "Huaca Arco Iris", or "Rainbow Temple"), is a well preserved Chimu temple in the Trujillo suburb of La Esperanza. Constructed of adobe and in somewhat of a pyramid shape, the temple is festooned in well-restored friezes of rainbows, people, and dragons.

Due to the presence of the rainbow carvings, researchers believe the temple was a tribute to fertility, as the rains represented by the arced bows are a life-giving resource here in the coastal desert. There is also evidence that the walls were once painted such as those found at Huaca de la Luna, although erosion from rains and centuries of looting have left the walls with only a hint of yellow glow. More of a prelude to the larger temple complexes, the Huaca el Dragon is still a worthwhile stop on a temple tour of Trujillo.

Next we will continue exploring CHAN CHAN Temple , this UNESCO World Heritage site is the largest pre-Columbian city in South America and was the center of Chimú culture and politics from approximately 900 to 1470, when the Incan Empire arrived and conquered the city.

We will explore the 7-square-mile (18-sq-km) archeological, touring its array of shrines, cemeteries, reservoirs and ceremonial plazas. Learn about its structure (made from adobe brick and mud) and marvel at its expansive, walled design. You'll visit one of the main features, Nik-An Palace, a complex that features ceremonial courtyards and walls adorned with friezes.

Finally, we will depart to the fishing village of Huanchaco (15 min ride aprox), famous for the "Caballitos de Totora", small boats made out of reed that have been used by Peruvian fisherman for 3,000 years.

We will head back to Trujillo town.
Free time to stroll around Trujillo streets.

Overnight in Trujillo.

<http://www.losconquistadoreshotel.com/>

DAY 4: TRUJILLO WALKING TOUR - CHICLAYO

Breakfast at hotel.

Historical center of Trujillo and visit to a colonial mansion-museum. Walking to the old Central Market, you will appreciate the activity of vendors as well as local products in its most traditional way. Walk around Main Square, time for pictures.

Lunch in a traditional restaurant.

*If it is weekend this traditional restaurant holds a Marnera folk show.

This afternoon we will drive to Chiclayo (3 ½ hour ride aprox.)

Check in at hotel and then we will go for a Little walk in town.

Overnight in Chiclayo

<http://www.losportaleshoteles.com.pe/hotel/chiclayo/alojamiento-chiclayo/>

DAY 5: CHICLAYO

Breakfast at hotel

This morning we will drive east to Huaca Rajada consists of an adobe pyramid built by the Moche people, the civilization that inhabited this region from the 1st to 8th centuries. We will explore & learn about the important excavation that unearthed the Lord of Sipán, who was buried with jewels and other treasures. Then head about an hour north of Chiclayo to Túcume, also known as the Valley of the Pyramids (Valle de las Pirámides), an archeological site made up of 26 pyramids. Here you will learn about the site's history as the regional center for the Sicán culture, who are believed to have built Túcume around 700 AD, and hear the legend of their god Naylamp.



We will stop for lunch in a local restaurant with regional food and then head back toward Chiclayo to end your day at the Lord of Sipán Royal Tombs Museum (Museo Tumbas Reales de Sipán). Some of the rarest artifacts from the Moche civilization, including those found buried with the Lord of Sipán, are housed in this museum, which opened in 2002. Before going in, take a moment to admire the museum's unusual exterior — a replica of a Moche tomb. Inside, see gold and silver artifacts,

precious stones, jewelry, headdresses and other rare treasures found in the Moche tombs, and learn about the Moche culture and what position the Lord of Sipán held in the ancient community.

We will drive back to Chiclayo Town.

Overnight in Chiclayo

<http://www.losportaleshoteles.com.pe/hotel/chiclayo/alojamiento-chiclayo/>

DAY 6: CHICLAYO – CHIMBOTE

Breakfast at hotel

Around 10 am we will start our trip back to Lima, but will drive only for 6 hours approx until Chimbote, where will spend the night.

Chimbote once the fishing port with the highest production in the world.

Chimbote is the largest fishing port in Peru, with more than 30 fish factories.. Its population includes workers who have experience in fishing, naval, canning, and the iron-and-steel industry.



Overnight in Chimbote

<http://www.marestalodge.pe/index.php>

DAY 7: CHIMBOTE – LIMA

Breakfast

Around 10 am we will continue our journey back to Lima (7 hours ride approx)

*we will do as many stops as necessary for toilets, photos or

stretch our legs.

Arrival in Lima city.