

CHAN CHAN, TRUJILLO & KUELAP PERU TOUR



Kuelap & Northern Peru Tour

12 DAYS / 11 NIGHTS

Visit Chan Chan, Sipan, Sican, Moche and other archeological treasures in Kuelap, Trujillo, and Chiclayo. These remnants of peoples who thrived before the time of the Incas include some of the greatest archeological discoveries of the 20th century, and archaeologists are still digging up artifacts and trying to make sense of these important cultures of Northern Peru. The thick stone walls of the Kuelap fortress were built on a hilltop well before the time of the Inca Empire. This tour does not only revolve around archaeology but also wildlife. There are fabulous bird watching opportunities at sites such as Chaparri, Gocta Waterfalls and Huembo (close to Moyobamba).

Note: This tour can be operated normally from May - October, with some restrictions April - November. We do not recommend this tour from December - March during the rainy season. This tour includes the best hotels in each location, ranging from 3-star to 5-star. Clients can opt to extend their stay in Tarapoto or at the Pumariniri Amazon Lodge.

<p>FROM \$ 2250 per person</p>	<p>THIS TOUR INCLUDES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 hotel nights • All breakfasts in hotels • All tours, transfers, and entrance fees • English-speaking guides 	<p>HIGHLIGHTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trujillo City Tour • Moche Temple of the Sun and Temple of the Moon • Chan Chan • Chaparri Natural Reserve • Kuelap Tour
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Day 1

ARRIVE IN LIMA

Upon your arrival in Lima, you will be greeted by one of our travel representatives and transferred to your hotel in Lima. Relax and spend the day at your leisure.



Day 2

TRUJILLO CITY TOUR & ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

After breakfast, transfer to the Lima International Airport to catch your flight to Trujillo. Trujillo is known as the "City of Eternal Spring" because of its year-round spring-like climate. As the third largest city in Peru, Trujillo has much to offer. Explore this colonial city, its cathedral, churches and mansions. Pay particular attention to La Merced Church and some of the extravagant houses such as Casa del Mayorazgo, Cassa Orbegozo, and Casa de la Emancipacion.

Return to your hotel in Trujillo in the evening.



Day 3

SUN & MOON, CHAN CHAN, & HUANCHACO

In the morning visit the two most important Moche ceremonial centers, in the countryside of Trujillo. Explore the *Huaca*, Temple of the Sun, a massive terraced pyramid made of 140 million adobe bricks and called for over 200,000 workers during its construction. Unfortunately, there is no access to the pyramid, but it can be viewed from outside.

Not far away is the *Huaca*, the Temple of the Moon. The Moche political center recently uncovered friezes of mystical images that are believed to belong to a divinity of sacrifices. Ongoing excavations by Peruvian and foreign scholars reveal the complexity of the structure. Visit the complex and new Huacas de Moche Museum to see some unique artifacts and ceramics found on the site.

Continue to Chan Chan, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The ancient capital of the Chimu Kingdom peaked during the 15th century, after the collapse of the Moche and not long before the rise of the Incas. This huge adobe brick city is the largest in pre-Colombian America. The Chimu named the city Jang-Jang, which in the ancient Moche language means "sun".

Enjoy lunch on your own in the cute village of Huanchaco, known for its "caballitos de totora", a small authentic reed boat used by the local fishermen.



Day 4

TRUJILLO - CHICLAYO & EL BRUJO

Depart Trujillo and travel north towards the city of Chiclayo. En route, tour the El Brujo archaeological complex, located in the Chicama Valley just north of Trujillo. This complex dates back to the Moche culture (100 BC-650 AD) and is one of the most impressive sites of Northern Peru. The complex is famous for its colorful mural ornamentation discovered in the 90's. Admire the well-preserved reliefs painted on the pyramids. Look at the different scenes featuring, fisherman and human figures related to the cosmic world, mythical animals, shamans, warriors and human sacrifice. Also visit the Cao Museum, dedicated to the Lady of Cao, the powerful priest whose tomb was found in El Brujo. In the evening arrive at your hotel in Chiclayo.



Day 5

SIPAN, TUCUME & ROYAL TOMBS MUSEUM

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel and prepare for a full-day tour covering the archaeological highlights of Chiclayo and Lambayeque. From Chiclayo, visit Tucume and the Valley of the Pyramids. This city belonged to the Lambayeque culture (BC 1000 to 1350 AD). Tucume was the capital of the Sican culture, after their former capital Batan Grande was burnt and abandoned. Take your time exploring the 26 adobe pyramids scattered over the deserted forest.

Later, visit the Royal Tombs of Sipan Museum and the Huaca Rajada. The museum was built in the shape of a pyramid and tells the tale of the Moche rulers whose graves were unearthed in the 1980's. The Sipan tombs held gold masks, scepters, jewelry and other artifacts from the Moche culture. The museum gives an excellent overview of how Peruvian archaeologists carefully excavated the site over the course of a decade. Also visit the Huaca Rajada, where you can see the actual graves.



Day 6

CHAPARRI PRIVATE NATURAL RESERVE

Connect with nature during today's morning tour to the Chaparri Reserve, located just east of Chiclayo. This reserve is home to many species endemic to the Tumbesian region, including 214 birds species, 21 mammals and 20 reptiles and amphibians. It also shelters seven endangered species such as the white-winged guan, and the last remaining short-faced bear: the spectacled bear. Go birdwatching, hiking and visit the Spectacled Bear Rescue Center.

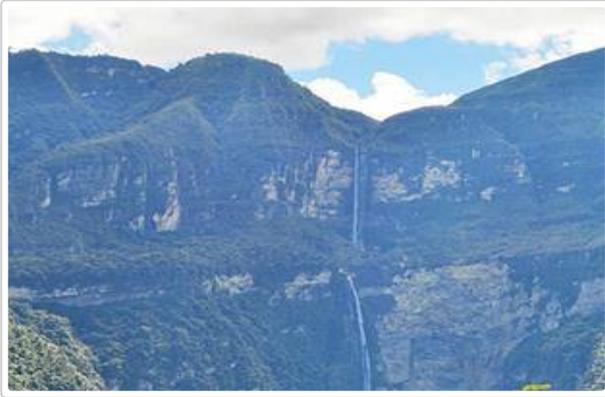
Return to Chiclayo in the late afternoon.



Day 7

TRANSFER TO CHACHAPOYAS

Transfer to the city of Chachapoyas (9 hours). The beautiful journey crosses one of the planet's driest deserts, climbs the Andes, descends to the Marañon River a major Amazon tributary and finally ascends to Chachapoyas via the fabulous Utcubamba Canyon. Upon arrival, explore the highlights of Chachapoyas. Explore the splendor of Chachapoyas, the enigmatic "Kingdom of the Clouds". Visit its principal highlights: the wonderful ruins of Kuelap, the Waterfalls of Gocta (one of the world's highest), the sarcophagi of Karajia, the cliff tombs of Revash or the Mummies Museum of Leymebamba, all enhanced by some of the most stunning landscapes of the Andes.



Day 8

GOCTA WATERFALL OR KARAJIA SARCOPHAGI

Today you can choose between two fantastic experiences which combine hiking and adventure!

Gocta Waterfall. Begin your trek to Gocta Waterfall, the highest waterfall in the world. The trek follows the side of a valley through sugar cane fields and into the forest, home to the yellow-tailed woolly monkey, mountain sloth and the great cock-of-the-rock. Along the way, admire glimpses of the waterfall before finally arriving at the base of the highest falls. Those brave enough may want a dip in the pool at the base.

Karajia Sarcophagi. After breakfast, drive to Huancas village, famous for its handmade pottery. Nearby is the breathtaking thousand meter deep Sonche Canyon. Return to Chachapoyas and visit the daily market before driving down to Utcubamba. Cross into the neighboring Province of Luya. From the village of Luya, drive to Cruz Pata and take a short walk to Karajia. Explore the striking sarcophagi sculptured to look just like humans; these have become an icon for the area. For 750 years they have looked towards the rising sun and undoubtedly are the resting place for some elite members of Chachapoya warriors.



Day 9

REVASH & LEYMEBAMBA MUSEUM

Today visit the Revash & Leymebamba Museum. First, drive to Yerbabuena and begin a two-hour walk uphill for a close-up view of a spectacularly colorful cliff tomb. This extremely photogenic site is perched on a yellow cliff and the tombs resemble mini houses with red pictographs dating back to 1200 AD. Then, continue to Leymebamba and visit the new museum housing 219 mummies found at a nearby lake in 1997.



Day 10

KUELAP RUINS

Visit the incredible Kuelap ruins today! Nestled in the cloud forest in northern central Peru are the beautiful and nearly untouched Kuelap ruins. Take the new cable cars to the ruins or travel by car.

For the best opportunity for photography, depart your hotel early in the morning for Kuelap. Admire the towering walls and hundreds of roundhouses capped by verdant cloud forest amaze first-time visitors. Explore the many ceremonial constructions, aqueducts and architecture, with plenty of opportunities to wander on you own.

Return to Chachapoyas, soaking in the beautiful scenery made all the more so by the setting sun.



Day 11

TRANSFER TO MOYOBAMBA

Travel towards the Amazon area of Peru. On the way, stop at Huembo, a great place to see hummingbirds. If you're lucky, you might even see the marvelous spatuletail, the most beautiful of all hummingbirds. Continue through the immense forest of Abra Patricia. Lunch will be provided on the way at Yacumama where you can take a short forest walk while the food is prepared. Upon arrival at Moyobamba, visit an orchid garden at Wanquiqui.

Return to your hotel and spend the rest of the day at your leisure.



Day 12

TRANSFER TO TARAPOTO

Continue east to the large, bustling city of Tarapoto. The 1.5-hour drive will take you through lush forested areas past beautiful rice fields. You will be dropped off at your hotel or at the airport for your flight home or to your next destination.