



WORLD DISCOVERY

HISTORY CULTURE WILDLIFE

Journey to Kuélap

Private/group journey – 13 days/12 nights



Meals: 12 breakfasts, 8 lunches, 7 dinners

Trujillo	Libertador	1 night
Chiclayo	Casa Andina	2 nights
Chachapoyas	Gocta Lodge	2 nights
Leymebamba	La Casona	1 night
Cajamarca	Costa del Sol	1 night

DAY 1 - Fly from Lima to Trujillo. Pyramids of the Sun and Moon. Chan Chan. Huancayo.

You will be collected from your Lima hotel and driven to the airport for the morning flight to Trujillo, where you will be met and taken to your hotel to freshen up before setting out on your visits to some of the most important pre-

Inca sites in the country. You will begin by visiting the remaining traces of the ancient Moche culture, which achieved levels of sophistication unmatched anywhere in the Americas. The Pyramid of the Sun is currently off limits to tourists but can be viewed from the grounds below, while the Pyramid of the Moon will take your breath away with its amazing reliefs of the many Moche anthropomorphic deities, expertly carved into the walls of the interconnected patios. After a brief look at the site's excellent small museum continue to the extensive 12th century ruins of Chan Chan, the social and administrative centre of the Chimú civilisation which was the largest mud-built city in the Americas with a population of more than 100,000 at its zenith. Next head to the coastal resort of Huanchaco, well known for its unique fishing vessels made of *totor*a reeds; these strange one-man constructions have been used here since the days of the Moche. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before returning to your hotel.

Meals included: Lunch.

DAY 2 - Drive to Chiclayo. Tucumé.

In the morning you will head north to the city of Chiclayo. In the afternoon visit the evocative ruins of Tucumé, a magnificent complex of 26 adobe pyramids that once formed part of an extensive urban centre, believed to have been capital of the sophisticated Sicán culture. From the lookout point on the Cerro La Raya ('Stingray Hill') you will enjoy a spectacular view over the ruins and the entire valley.

Meals included: Breakfast.

DAY 3 - Temple of Sipán. Royal Tombs Museum.

After breakfast you will head for the incredible archaeological site of Huaca Rajada, an hour's drive east of Chiclayo, where the tomb of one of the Moche ruling elite, the 'Lord of Sipán', was found in 1987. The fabulous objects in gold, silver and precious stones found here have drawn comparisons with the treasure of Tutankhamun in Egypt. You will visit the Royal Tombs Museum, built specifically to house the these wonderful discoveries; this is a really top class museum, beautifully laid out, and contains the treasures, not only of the Lord of Sipán, but also of the more recently-discovered 'Old Lord of Sipán', dating from 200 years earlier. Return to Chiclayo for an afternoon at leisure.

Meals included: Breakfast.

DAY 4 - Drive to the remote Chachapoyas region.

An early start this morning for the long but scenic journey (of approximately 9 hours) to the remote mountain area of Chachapoyas. Enjoy a picnic lunch en route. Arrive in the late afternoon and spend the rest of the day at leisure at your hotel.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner.

DAY 5 - Walk to the Gocta Falls.

Today's activity is a walk* through stunning scenery to the impressive Gocta Falls, discovered as recently as 2005 and now recognised as the third highest in the world with a total drop of 771m/2,332ft. Set in the middle of an extraordinary natural landscape, the falls are home to yellow-tailed monkeys, sloths, and the magnificent Andean Cock-of-the-rock. You will have a picnic lunch in view of the falls. Return to your hotel.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner.

* A walk of approximately 6km, taking around 2 hours.

DAY 6 – Kuélap (via Cable Car). Continue to Leymebamba.

After breakfast, you will visit Kuélap, the architectural wonder of the Chachapoyas region. From the small village of Tingo take the new cable car up to the site. This great walled fortress was built over a period of 200 years (roughly AD900-1100) and such is its size that it has been calculated that three times more stone was used than in the building of the Great Pyramid of Giza. The outer, sandy-coloured stone walls are in places up to 20m/65ft high, and within the walls there are two distinct levels. The upper part is believed to have been for the military and the lower part for the citizens of Kuélap. Locked away in a cloud forest, Kuélap was strategically built on the peak of a large mountain whose steep slopes leave the fortress's main entrance as the only possible point of access. After your visit, have lunch at a local restaurant and then move on to your hotel in Leymebamba.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner.

DAY 7 - Leymebamba. Cajamarca.

Leymebamba was a town established by the Incas during their conquest of the north; it became a city during Spanish rule and still retains its colonial charm. You will visit the Leymebamba Museum, which holds a valuable collection of more than 200 mummies and their funerary offerings, discovered in 1997 around the nearby 'Lake of the Condors', where the dead were placed in cliff-face niches and venerated. Another long drive, with a picnic lunch en route, will afterwards bring you to the city of Cajamarca by late afternoon.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner.

DAY 8 - Cajamarca. Fly back to Lima.

In the morning, you will visit this charming Andean city with its elegant colonial architecture, most of all its 16th to 18th century churches. It was in Cajamarca that the Incas were finally defeated by the Spanish Conquistadors in 1532. In the centre of the city you can still visit the 'Ransom Room', where the Inca emperor Atahualpa was held prisoner, the place that represents the moment when the Spanish and Incan cultures collided and forever changed the history of Peru. Later you will be taken to the airport for your return flight to Lima to connect with your homeward flight or stay on for further arrangements in Peru.

Meals included: Full breakfast.