

Trujillo & Chiclayo 4 Day / 3 night Tour Idea:

Around the 6th Century AD what is now the north of Peru was the home of a culture that in two centuries achieved a degree of sophistication unique in the Americas: the Moche. Today one can visit Moche burial mounds, pyramids and mausoleums in the departments of La Libertad and Lambayeque. Some fabulous museums have also recently been opened here.

Day 1

Transport to the airport for flight from Lima to **Trujillo** In the morning you will visit this noble city. You will see its Main Square as well as magnificent colonial mansions: that of Mariscal de Orbegoso and the Urquiaga mansion Continuing towards the sea, you reach the picturesque resort of **Huanchaco**. Here the traditional reed boats are still used, as they have been by fishermen on Peru's north coast since pre-Colombian times. Lunch in a local "cebicheria" with a view out to sea. After lunch visit **Chan Chan**. This pre-Hispanic urban centre is the largest mud brick city in pre-Colombian America. It was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1986. Chan Chan was the capital of the Chimu Kingdom and originally covered more than 20 km². Archaeologists estimate that it once housed more than 100,000 people. It contains open spaces, houses, stores, workshops, streets, walls and pyramid-shaped temples. Its great walls are profusely decorated with geometric figures, stylised animals and mythological figures in relief.

Day 2

Early in the morning you will leave for the pyramids of **El Sol and La Luna**, the ancient capital of the Mochica culture. Impressive polychromatic murals adorn the walls of the La Luna pyramid, most of which represent the Mochica deity: Aia Paec or "the beheader" You will see the valleys on Peru's north coast. At "**Paijan**", the beautiful Peruvian paso horse stud farm, you will sample a delicious lunch of typical dishes whilst you learn about the **paso horse**. Spend the night in this peaceful rural setting. Optional: horse riding on the beach. Dinner at Paijan Hacienda

Day 3

Today you will cover the northern route between **Paijan and Chiclayo**. You head off to the city of **Ferreñafe** where the Sican Museum is situated: the museum has a number of items belonging to the Lambayeque or Sican culture, which arose in the north after the decay of the Mochica Empire. After lunching in a local restaurant, go to **Tucume**, also called the "valley of the pyramids" this place dates from 700 A.D. and, according to legend, was founded by Collac, a descendent of Naylamp, the mythical hero of the Lambayeque culture. Tucume or the Valley of

the Pyramids, consists of 26 mud brick pyramids or "huacas" almost 40 m high. The structures date from different periods and had political, administrative, social and religious functions. Local shamans and faith healers come here for their ceremonies, as they believe it has special powers. Optional: sessions of faith healing with local shamans.

Day 4

Lunch at one of the best local restaurants where you will taste the renowned and delicious food of this area. Visit the **Royal Tombs of Sipan Museum**. Its design recalls traditional Moche architecture. This museum is considered among the most important in the Americas and is known as the "Museum of the 21st Century". In 1987 a small team of Peruvian archaeologists led by Dr Walter Alva found the tomb of an important Mochica governor at a place called Huaca Rajada: the Lord of Sipan. In this tomb complex articles of Moche jewellery were found, including necklaces, pectoral ornaments, earrings, nose rings, helmets, bracelets and sceptres, in which the combined use of gold and silver predominated. Exquisitely made, all of these works of art are displayed in the museum. Transport to the airport for the flight back to Lima
Transport to chosen hotel on arrival in Lima.