

# Northern Peru Discovery

14 days | Lima to Mancora



Explore Peru's less-visited yet archaeologically-rich northern regions in this unique tour. From Lima and its surrounding treasures, head north to colonial Trujillo and the colossal Chan Chan ruins, continuing to Chiclayo and the magnificent Valley of the Pyramids. Finish with sun, sea and sand in the trendy beach resort of Mancora.

## HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

### Trip Highlights

- Lima – take in the highlights of Peru's capital including Plaza Mayor and the Larco Herrera Museum
- Pachacamac – explore the sacred Incan citadel of Pachacamac, an important ancient ceremonial centre
- Caral – discover the ruins of Caral, the oldest city in the Americas
- Trujillo – visit the 'city of eternal spring' and take in the highlights on a city tour
- Chan Chan – roam around the ruined city of Chan Chan, the ancient capital of the Chimu Empire
- Chiclayo – browse the fascinating stalls at the Witch Doctor's Market and enjoy an excursion to the Pomac Forest and the Sican Museum

- Sipan & Tucume – visit the Temple of Sipan and the Valley of the Pyramids at Tucume
- Mancora – enjoy four days of R&R in Mancora, a trendy surf hang out with superb beaches and nearby mud baths

### What's Included

- 13 nights STANDARD accommodation. Upgrading to SUPERIOR or DELUXE accommodation options are also available upon request. Accommodation rating – See Trip Notes for details
- 13 breakfasts and 3 lunches
- Airport arrival and departure transfer on day 1 and day 14
- Services of local English-speaking specialist guides
- Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary
- Half day Lima city tour, Trujillo, Pachacamac and Pomac Forest excursions. Full day Caral, Huacas Sol y Luna and Sipan excursions
- All relevant transfers and transportation on a private basis unless otherwise stated

### What's Not Included

- International flights and visas
- Domestic flights: Lima – Trujillo and Tumbes - Lima. Please ask a member of the team for more information.

- Laundry, drinks and items of a personal nature
- Tipping – an entirely personal gesture

## DETAILED ITINERARY

### Day 1 : Lima

Bienvendos a Peru! Upon arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel in Lima. Discuss the details of your holiday with our representative following hotel check in with the rest of the day at leisure. **Overnight - Lima**

### Day 2 : Lima

Declared an UNESCO World Heritage Site thanks to its marvellously preserved architecture, Lima is a delight to explore and today take in the highlights of the capital on a private half day tour. The Plaza Mayor is where you'll find the Government Palace and the daily changing of the guard whilst nearby, adorning the streets is the beautiful Catedral and various small palaces and colonial balconies. Roam the districts of San Isidro and Miraflores to see Lima's contemporary side before perusing the fascinating artefacts on display at the Larco Herrera Museum. The afternoon offers free time to explore the city further. Perhaps hunt for a bargain at the busy Polvos Azules Mercados or head to one of the pulsating salsa clubs for a night on the tiles. **Overnight - Lima (B)**

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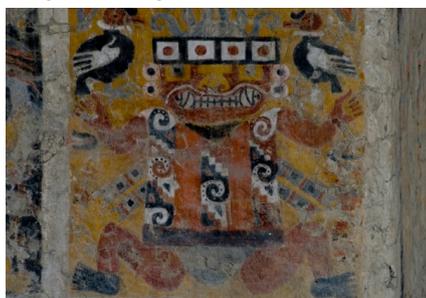
## Day 3 : Pachacamac

Venture outside of the city confines this morning for an excursion to the sacred Incan citadel of Pachacamac. Dominating a stretch of Peru's coastline, this colossal ancient site was once a significant centre of pilgrimage dating back to the 3rd century. People would journey far and wide to consult the revered oracle at Pachacamac and you will get the chance to explore the ruins of the Sun and Moon temples as well as the House of the Virgins of the Sun. Returning to Lima, spend the afternoon at leisure. **Overnight - Lima (B)**

## Day 4 : Caral

The exploration of Lima's surrounding archaeological wonders continues with a full day excursion to the ruins of Caral. Covering an area the size of four football pitches in the northern Supe Valley, this settlement is as old as the famed pyramids of Giza and the oldest city in the Americas. During your guided walking tour you will see the amphitheatre, the Greater Pyramid, the mysterious monolith and the temple of the Sacred Fire where the remains of bones were found. **Overnight - Lima (B, L)**

## Day 5 : Trujillo



Lima – Trujillo. After breakfast depart Lima and board a flight to the oasis town of Trujillo. Later in the afternoon discover why the citizens of Trujillo are so proud of their history on a city tour. The well-preserved colonial mansions and pretty balconies lend the city character and a sense of timelessness whilst the Archaeology Museum displays the long process of development of Peru's northern coastline.

**Overnight - Trujillo (B)**

## Day 6 : Chan Chan



The little-visited northern reaches of Peru are home to unique cultural and archaeological treasures. Your full day excursion today begins with the Huaca del Sol - the largest adobe structure in the Americas, and its twin, the Huaca de la Luna comprised of 11 platforms. Next visit the Rainbow Temple that dates back to the beginning of the Chimu culture and features spacious patios adorned with beautiful reliefs. Stopping for lunch at the traditional fishing village of Huanchaco you'll see local fishermen in curiously shaped, single-man boats made of dried reeds. Later in the afternoon visit the ruined city of Chan Chan. Comprised of ten citadels and numerous internal structures, this massive complex has much to see and explore. **Overnight - Trujillo (B, L)**

## Day 7 : Chiclayo

Trujillo – Chiclayo. This morning head further north along the coast to Chiclayo. Along the way stop at the El Brujo archaeological complex that features a 30m-high pyramid covered in relief figures and motif paintings of divine characters. In Chiclayo tour the city's main attractions, including the attractive Iglesia de Santa Veronica and grand colonial houses on the 'Muses Route'. You then visit the Modelo Market and the Witch Doctor's Market where elixirs, herbs and shamanic implements are all on sale.

**Overnight - Chiclayo (B)**

## Day 8 : Sipan and Túcume



Southwest of Chiclayo the Temple of Sipan has proved to be one of the richest tombs in the Americas. As the burial site of Mochica nobles and VIPs, the excavation of the tombs revealed a multitude of precious-metal grave objects, now housed in the Royal Tombs Museum alongside ceramics found in the valley. Your day tour continues with Túcume, an impressive collection of pyramids belonging to the Sican culture. Clustered around a hill, the 26 adobe pyramids are believed to have been the focus of annual pilgrimage. **Overnight - Chiclayo (B, L)**

## Day 9 : Pomac Forest & Sican Museum

This morning enjoy a half day tour of the Pomac Forest and the Sican Museum. Wielding their power between 800 and 1100 AD, the Sican culture dominated Peru's northern regions and left behind a wealth of archaeological heritage. The Pomac Forest is a refuge for carob trees and home to Sican archeological remains, while the museum boasts an excellent collection of Sican treasures. The rest of the afternoon is free for you to enjoy at leisure in Chiclayo. Indulge in some excellent seafood or discover Chiclayo's nightlife and the rhythmic sounds of Criolla music. **Overnight - Chiclayo (B)**

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## Days 10-13 : Sun, Sea and Surf!



Chiclayo – Mancora. Bidding farewell to Chiclayo and transfer to Mancora, Peru's most popular surfer hang out. With gorgeous beaches and a thriving nightlife, Mancora is the perfect place to unwind or party after a busy touring schedule. Over the next four days you are free to do as little or as much as you like. Lounge like a sun-lizard on the pristine sandy beaches or check out the water-based activities on offer, including kite-surfing and sea kayaking. Fill up on superb seafood caught straight from the sea or make your way to the local mud baths for a spot of indulgence. **Overnight - Mancora (B:4)**

## Day 14 : Mancora

Today marks the end of your unique Peruvian adventure. After breakfast and hotel check out we transfer you to Tumbes Airport. There are a number of airlines who fly directly from Tumbes to Lima, from where you can connect to international destinations. Buen viaje! (B)

## Tipping

Tipping is an essential part of the culture. For a job well done, we would suggest for your tour guide: USD\$5-6 per traveller, for each day of sightseeing.

For your driver and On The Go Representative we'd recommend USD\$2-3 per traveller for each day of service. Tipping is an entirely personal gesture and ultimately the amount is up to you.

## Accommodation ratings

On our Private trips, you can often choose your style of accommodation. The price quoted on our website is reflective of the included accommodation, please see the "included" section on the first page of this

document for details. Should you opt for an alternative hotel category, this will be confirmed in writing with the respective price on your invoice.

For further details about the indicative hotels, please see the "hotels" tab on our website. Here we rank hotel's in their respective country (REGIONAL CATEGORY) - but we also tell you how it ranks by Western standards (OUR CATEGORY).

**STANDARD** - Equates to a Western 3-star standard, always featuring en-suite rooms and usually a restaurant.

**SUPERIOR** - Equates to a Western 4-star standard, featuring en-suite rooms and usually a restaurant and often a swimming pool and/or a fitness centre.

**DELUXE** - Equates to a Western 5-star standard, usually featuring spacious, en-suite rooms, a restaurant, swimming pool and fitness centre and an array of amenities, excellent service and customer care.

**LUXURY** - Equates to a Western 5-star plus standard - the creme de la creme. Featuring spacious, en-suite rooms, a restaurant, swimming pool and fitness centre and an array of amenities, this accommodation is a cut above the rest. Sheer opulence!

## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

### Peru Country Guide

## Peru - Fact File

- Official Name: Republic of Peru
- Capital: Lima
- Population: 30 million
- Total Area: 1.285 million square kilometres (twice the size of France)
- Official Language: Spanish, Quechua and Aymara also spoken in places
- Religions: Roman Catholic 90%
- Voltage: 220 volts. Sockets are a mixture of the European, two-pronged round variety and US flat-pin.
- Dialling Code: +51
- Time Difference: GMT/UTC -5. For other time differences please visit [www.timeanddate.com](http://www.timeanddate.com)
- Airport Departure Tax: US\$31

## Peru - Visas

Currently, EU, US, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand citizens can enter Peru without a visa for up to 90 days (on arrival ask for 90 days as the standard issued is 30 days). As this situation changes periodically, we advise you check with your local Peruvian embassy prior to departure. All tourists will be presenting with a tourist card to enter Peru, which will be issued to you by your airline before landing and will be stamped by an official upon arrival where you will also be asked to present a return ticket or proof of funds for your stay and return ticket. This must always be kept with you throughout your stay in South America (as per Peruvian law, everyone must carry some form of ID at all times) – especially when travelling outside of main towns and cities. You must also retain this card for when you exit Peru (this is a big deal, if you lose it, you can't leave & must go through all sorts of bureaucracy - which takes days). Take a copy or a digital photograph copy.

## Peru - Climate

Peru is split into three main zones – the coast, the mountains and the jungle, all boasting different climates. From the driest hottest desert in the Americas, to the Andean peaks, to the lowland Amazon Jungle, each zone offers different seasons.

It rarely rains along the coast; however, the capital does experience a substantial amount of smog, coastal fogs and even drizzle, particularly between the months of May and November.

The mountains and the jungle regions can be divided into wet season between November and April and dry season between May and October. During dry season there can be some showers however it is not as heavy or as frequent. Rainy season normally means a few downpours a day rather than continuous rain.

## Peru - Money

### Local currency

The monetary unit in Peru is the Nuevo Sol. For up-to-date exchange rates with your own currency visit [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com).

### Changing money, credit cards & ATMs

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US dollars are used and accepted for payment in Peru, especially in tourist areas however we recommend you always carry some local currency where you can as you are more likely to get preferable exchange rates. There is no restriction on the amount of foreign currency you can bring into Peru however large sums must be declared on arrival. We recommend keeping a small supply of small denomination notes and coins as there is usually a lack of small change.

Traveller cheques are also better exchanged in US dollars. Banks will usually accept and exchange traveller's cheques however it can be trickier and a much slower process than when in Lima.

We recommend you change enough money to get through the first few days of your trip – especially over a weekend. Please note you can change cash at the Cambio or withdraw money from an ATMs in the capital (as well as Arequipa, Cuzco and Puno) where ATMs are open 24 hours a day.

## Important

Please note that ATMs in Peru do not always automatically release your credit or debit card at the time when you receive your money. Please be aware that you sometimes must push a button to request your card to be returned. Many ATMs in main towns have instructions in English.

## Peru - Local Transport

We recommend using local taxis for your journeys in Peru, especially outside of main cities. Taxis do not usually have meters, so the fare must be agreed with the driver beforehand. Be sure to ask the hotel reception or your tour leader for a rough guide of the price so when you start your negotiation with the drivers you know how much the fare should be. It also helps if you speak some Spanish to help you however please expect to pay more than the locals do.

Local buses are also available and cheap to use however you really do need to speak reasonable Spanish to get by. There are also bus stops, especially in the capital where tourists are recommended to avoid.

## Peru - Food & Drink

Peruvian cuisine is known for its hot and spicy nature which comes from the classic mix of garlic and hot pepper that we have come to celebrate abroad. Due to the diversity of the Peruvian landscapes, the country enjoys a wide variety of fruits and vegetables.

The basic diet focuses around chicken, beef or seafood, (however be prepared to see some exotic meats such as guinea pig on offer) accompanied by rice, chips and salad. Specialities along the coastal regions include 'Cerviche', raw fish marinated in lemon juice, with onion and hot chillies. Another local speciality is 'Cuy', roasted guinea pig served whole and accompanied with yucca and potatoes.

In the highlands, diets focus on potatoes and vegetables, with the country producing over 2000 kinds of cultivated and indigenous potatoes there is an array of variety. 'Causa', a dish made from yellow potatoes, lemons, eggs, sweet potato, cheese and onion sauce. 'Tamales' boiled corn dumplings wrapped in banana leaves and filled with meat are another local favourite.

In most larger cities and towns, you will find an array of restaurants offering international cuisine. Chifas (Chinese restaurants) are very common in Peru, as well as Italian pizzerias, Japanese and Indian restaurants have begun to open however we also recommend trying the 'menu del dia' in local restaurants for a cheap authentic meal.

## Vegetarians

If you are a strict vegetarian you may experience a distinct lack of variety in the food available, especially in small towns. However vegetarian alternatives are becoming more popular. Our tour leaders will do their best to provide interesting vegetarian alternatives for included meals, but your patience and understanding is requested.

## Drink

Please note that drinks will be at your own expense throughout the duration of the tour. Most hotels we use will either have a bar onsite or within walking distance. Imported spirits and beers are available but at a higher

price. There are also local drinks available including 'Pisco' clear brandy distilled from grapes.

'Inca Kola' is the country's soft drink of choice, so popular that MacDonaldis had to allow it to be sold in Peruvian branches due to exceptionally high demand.

You should be wary of drinking the local tap water. Bottled water, carbonated soft drinks and fruit juices are widely available and much safer.

## Peru - Bugs

If your tour includes a visit to the jungle region, we advise that you prepare yourself to encounter an array of wildlife including insects and bugs etc. Most creepy crawlies are harmless and will not cause problems at all. If you do find any in your room, it doesn't mean that the room is unclean, just that you are in the jungle and its completely normal – if anything it's part of the jungle experience. If you do not like creepy crawlies we recommend plenty of repellent spray and coils to place in your room.

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