



# AMAZONAS - CHACHAPOYAS

## PRINCIPAL ATTRACTIONS

PRIVATE SERVICES– IN SPANISH, ENGLISH OR OTHER LANGUAGES; SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

### INTRODUCTION

The department of Amazonas is famous for its cloud forests, areas with stunning microclimates and whose intense humidity favors the exuberant growth of plants like orchids and bromeliads and animals like the spectacled bear and the Andean cock of the rock. The capital, Chachapoyas, full of narrow streets and containing a large Main Square, maintains beautiful mansions and lovely balconies as evidence of its Colonial past. This is the launching site for excursions to the fabulous citadel of Kuélap, built by the Chachapoyas, a fierce people that for years resisted the expansion of the Incas.

Located at the top of rocky cliffs and guarded by a gigantic defensive wall, Kuélap contains in its interior circular compartments with decorative friezes. There are also other places in the area you can also visit like the Lake of the Condors, also known as Lake of the Mummies, the Chinata Falls, and the Karajía Sarcophagi, amazing two-meter high clay tombs placed on the side of a rocky mountain.

### MAIN SQUARE, CITY OF CHACHAPOYAS

It is surrounded by beautiful colonial homes with traditional balconies. In many cases, these houses have become hostels, restaurants, and businesses. The main attractions are the Palacio Municipal (City Hall) and the house where Toribio Rodriguez de Mendoza, a predecessor to independence, was born; today, it serves as the rectory and diocese headquarters. In the square, you can appreciate the Republican style bronze fountain.

### LAGUNA DE LOS CÓNDORES (LAKE OF THE CONDORS)

*93 km / 58 miles south of Chachapoyas (3 hours and 30 minutes by car) is the town of Leymebamba. From there, it is another 45 km / 28 miles to the lake (12 hours on foot and by mule).*

You will need to hire a guide. It is also known as the Laguna de las Momias (Lake of the Mummies) since more than 200 mummies were found embedded on the side of a cliff located on its shores, all in good condition despite the hot and humid climate of the area. Along with the mummies around 3000 objects belonging to the Chachapoya and Incan cultures were found. The caves are decorated with prehistoric rock paintings.

Informes y reservas

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## **CATARATA Y AGUAS TERMALES DE CORONTACHACA (CORONTACHACA WATERFALL AND HOT SPRINGS)**

*5 km / 3 miles from Pedro Ruiz Gallo (10 minutes by car)*

This is an 80 meter / 262 feet waterfall. One side has formed a small hot spring of salt and sulfuric water. Two flows of heated water fall from the rocks at a rate of 2 liters per minute.

## **KUELAP FORTRESS**

*72 km / 45 miles southeast of Chachapoyas (3 hours and 30 minutes by 4x4 vehicle)*

This impressive stone fortress was built by the Chachapoya people around 800 A.D. It is located 3000 masl / 9843 fasl and is 6 hectares in surface. There are three defensive platforms; the first is 20 meters / 66 feet high and 680 meters / 2231 feet long. Its three entrances are walled alley-ways that narrow as they climb up to the following two platforms. Inside, there are 420 circular buildings decorated with rhomboidal and zigzag friezes.

## **KARAJIA SARCOPHAGI**

*48 km / 30 miles northeast of Chachapoyas (2 hours by car and another 20 minutes on foot)*

These coffins are pre-Inca tombs, some 1000 years old, implanted at the top of a cliff. They are 2 meters / 7 feet tall, sculpted in mud, and are decorated with geometric motives. They probably served to house the remains of the supreme tribal leaders.

Fuente: Promperu. La información contenida en este documento es una enumeración de atractivos y servicios a disposición del viajero en toda la región. Para su actualización, PromPerú se ha servido de fuentes oficiales de información como: Instituto Nacional de Recursos Naturales (INRENA), Instituto Nacional de Cultura (INC), Instituto Geográfico Nacional (IGN), Servicio Nacional de Meteorología e Hidrología del Perú (SENAMHI) y la Dirección Regional de Comercio Exterior y Turismo.

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