



## PRINCIPAL ATTRACTIONS

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

### INTRODUCTION

Trujillo, the capital of the department, is known as the city of eternal spring because of its blessed climate and festive atmosphere. The area was inhabited by two important, ancient Peruvian civilizations, the Mochica and the Chimú, and later, it became an important vice royal city. Among its uncountable archeological attractions, there is Chan Chan, the largest mud city in the Americas and ancient capital for the Chimú. UNESCO placed it on the World Cultural Heritage List in 1986.

There, you can see the remarkable huacas (pre-Incan sacred places) built by the Mochicas like the Huaca of the Sun and of the Moon, which measure more than twenty meters. Also, the El Brujo complex, decorated with inspiring figures of dancers and warriors. The city also has a splendid Colonial architecture where you will want to see the Cathedral, the Archbishop's Palace, the Church of the Company of Jesus Christ, the monastery of El Carmen, and the many Colonial houses.

### THE DRAGON HUACA OR ARCO IRIS (THE RAINBOW)

*4 km / 3 miles from the city of Trujillo (10 minutes by car)*

This adobe pyramid is especially important since its construction was done at the beginning of the Chimu culture and at the end of the Tiahuanaco-Wari culture between the tenth and eleventh centuries A.D. Its estimated age is 1100 years. The building has a square base and walls decorated with zoomorphic and anthropomorphic representations in high relief. The name of the Dragon comes from one of these figures, a two-headed creature with uncountable feet, similar to a dragon.

Researchers consider that one of the purposes of this place was ceremonial (it would have been linked to rituals in honor of the rainbow and other natural phenomena related to fertility).

### THE EMERALD HUACA

*3 km / 2 miles from the city of Trujillo, in the El Cortijo Production Co-op (8 minute by car)*

This archeological site is associated to the Chimu culture and was built linked to Chan Chan. The building has a rectangular base (65 meters / 213 feet long and 41 meters / 135 feet wide) and two platforms with central ramps. The adobe walls are decorated with zoomorphic and geometric motifs in high relief.

Informes y reservas

Email: [experience@andean-tours.com](mailto:experience@andean-tours.com) / [contacto@andean-tours.com](mailto:contacto@andean-tours.com)

Telf: 2004320 anexo 11 ó 12

Dirección: Calle Los Antares 320 OF 506 Urb. La Alborada, Surco, Lima-Perú

## **HUANCHACO BEACH RESORT**

*13 km / 8 miles northwest of Trujillo (15 minutes by car)*

According to the legend, 800 years ago Prince Tacaynamo and his court disembarked in Huanchaco and founded the first Chimu dynasty. The traditional rafts called the "caballitos de totora" (little horses of totora reeds), used by the fishermen in the north coast of Peru since pre-Columbian times, still navigate these water. It is one of the most popular beaches along the coast of Peru for surfers.

## **COMPLEJO ARQUEOLÓGICO EL BRUJO (EL BRUJO ARCHEOLOGICAL COMPLEX)**

*Chicama Valley (1 hour and 15 minutes by car). Visits previously arranged.*

It is formed by the three following constructions: Huaca Prieta, Huaca Cao and Huaca Cortada. Researchers have found signs of occupation since the pre-ceramic period (5000 years ago). The most outstanding edifice is the huge adobe pyramid (sacrifice wall) 30 meters / 98 feet high on the walls of which the Mochicas molded extremely rich iconography.

## **CHICAMA PORT OR MALABRIGO PORT**

*74 km / 46 miles northwest of Trujillo (1 hour and 30 minutes by car).*

Located on a wide and very windy beach, Chicama is known among the surfers because it has the longest left handed wave in the world.

## **MUSEO DE ARQUEOLOGÍA JOSÉ CASSINELLI (JOSE CASSINELLI MUSEUM OF ARCHEOLOGY)**

*Visiting hours: Mon. – Sun. 9:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. and 3:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.*

A display of fine archeological objects from the Mochica, Chimu, and Recuay cultures.

## **CITADEL OF CHAN CHAN**

*5 km / 3 miles northeast of Trujillo, in the Moche Valley (10 minutes by car)*

*Visiting hours: Mon. – Sun. 9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.*

This pre-Hispanic urban center represents the largest mud city in pre-Hispanic America. In 1986, it was declared a World Heritage Site by the UNESCO.

Chan Chan might have been the capital of the Chimu kingdom, originally including over twenty square kilometers, from the nearby Port of Huanchaco to the Campana Hill. Archeologists estimate that it lodged over a hundred thousand people. Plazas, houses, warehouses, workshops, streets, walls, and pyramidal

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temples are clearly defined in its structure. Its enormous walls are profusely decorated with reliefs of geometric figures, zoomorphic stylizations, and mythological creatures. The journey through the archeological site is complemented with a visit of the Site Museum.

## **HUACA DEL SOL AND HUACA DE LA LUNA**

***8 km / 5 miles south of the city of Trujillo (15 minutes by car).***

***Visiting hours: Mon. – Sun. 9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.***

Huaca del Sol functioned as the political-administrative center, and Huaca de la Luna as the ceremonial center. The urban zone is located between the two and is composed of houses, large avenues, alleys, corridors, and squares. These components confirm the high level of political, religious, economic, and social organization of the Moches.

Huaca de la Luna is made up of temples superimposed according to the different periods of the Mochica power. In some walls, beautiful polychromatic murals can be seen, whose clearly defined figures represent the god Ai-apaec. In the temple, archeologists have discovered a tomb with more than forty sacrificed warriors. For the time being the tourist visit only includes Huaca de la Luna.

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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