

Places to visit and dates to remember

¿WHERE?

In Chiclayo:

- **The Cathedral.** This Neoclassical building is site of the veneration of two beautiful wood carved statues: Cristo Pobre (Christ, the Poor) and Our Lady of Peace.
- **Modelo Market.** One section is set aside particularly for the sale of medicinal herbs that area shamans employ in their rituals.

Excursions from Chiclayo:

- **Pimentel.** 6.21 miles. A port and a very popular beach resort in northern Peru. Its warm beach is the stage of amazing sunsets and is highly recommended for surfing and family fun in the sun. The Pimentel fishermen still fish as their ancestors did thousands of years ago, mounted on the caballitos de totora. The port also has fine restaurants and quality hostels.
- **City of Lambayeque.** 6.21 miles. Highlighted by lovely Colonial mansions as well as by churches sporting interesting architecture. Also in this city are two important museums: the Royal Tombs of Sipán and the Brünning.
- **Royal Tombs of Sipán Museum.** 7.46 miles. On exhibit here is a collection of gold, silver and copper pieces that were unearthed from the tomb of the Lord of Sipán. The finest examples are earrings, ceremonial scepters, medallions, a solid gold, circular ingot, nose rings, gold necklaces, whose links are shaped like peanuts, a headdress, eye coverings, a helmet, a gold chin piece, and many others.
- **Brünning Museum.** 7.46 miles. It depicts a summary of the pre-Hispanic cultures that lived in northern Peru, seen through the research gathered by the researcher Heinrich Brünning. Exhibited are ceramic pieces, textiles, works in stone, wood, etc.
- **Huaca Rajada – Sipán.** 17.40 miles. It is located on the boundaries of what was formerly the Pomalca plantation, and, in 1987, archeologists uncovered an untouched tomb at the site, exquisitely decorated in gold artifacts, for an important Mochica sovereign, who they named the Lord of Sipán.
- **Batán Grande.** 24.85 miles. Impressive grouping of adobe pyramids from the Sicán or Lambayeque culture. Researchers on their digs in the 1930's discovered a series of gold artifacts, among them the famous gold Tumi, (a ceremonial blade) and the slant-eyed mask. Then again, in 1991, other researchers found the tomb of the Lord of Sicán.
- **Pómac Forest Historic Sanctuary.** 21.75 miles. This dry forest is likewise a shelter for carob trees, birds and archeological vestiges from the Sicán culture. It contains an impressive amount of biodiversity. The once-thought extinct White-winged guan has

been reintroduced into this habitat. As for archeological findings, these have astounded the world given the sheer quantity of gold relics found there.

- **Túcume.** 20.50 miles. Legend has it that the area was founded in 700 A.D. by Calac, a descendent of Naymlap, the mythical god who came over the sea to found the Lambayeque Kingdom (750 A.D. – 1150 A.D.). Túcume is also known as the Valley of the Pyramids since 26 of those constructions are spread throughout; it is believed that it took around 500 years to complete their construction.
- **Sicán National Museum (Ferrenñafe).** 11.28 miles. This museum displays artifacts as well as replicas of objects uncovered from excavations conducted at the Batán Grande archeological complex, which belonged to the Sicán (or House of the Moon) culture. You can also see tombs and mummies of important personages from that pre-Hispanic civilization.
- **Monsefú.** 8.70 miles. This charming village is famous for its straw weaving and knitting as well as for its embroidery work done in both gold and silver thread.
- **Saña.** 27.96 miles. This city is looked upon as having been the most opulent during Colonial times until it was ransacked by pirates in 1686. Also known as the "ghost town", it has generated stories which the visitors can hear from the inhabitants now living there.
- **Chaparrí Community Ecological Reserve.** 59.03 miles. It is the first private conservation area in Peru and its main objective is the preservation of the dry forests in the area and the abundant biodiversity they shelter. Deer, spectacled bears, llamas, ocelots and many other species call this wonderful habitat home.

¿WHEN?

Lord of Justice, in Ferrenñafe. April 25th.

A huge celebration, lasting 8 days. It includes a procession of the sacred image and fireworks displays – in the form of handmade wooden structures called castillos (castles) – every night during the festivity. People put on a lively craft fair (particularly fabrics from the area) and a gastronomic fair, both of which take place on Muro Avenue.

The Etén Child of the Miracle. June 22nd.

It is a commemoration of the appearance of the Baby Jesus in the church of Etén during the celebration of Corpus Christi on June 22nd, 1649. Tradition has it that the image reappeared one month later. Because of this, the town of Etén holds the title of the third Eucharistic city in the world, after Jerusalem and Padua. Festivities include an exposition of products and handicrafts from the town.

Cross of Chalpón. August 5th.

It is the largest religious festival in Lambayeque. Thousands of pilgrims depart from Motupe and walk for an entire day to the top of Chalpón Hill, where there is a cross inside a cave. Afterwards, the entire crowd returns to Motupe. Besides masses, processions and novenas (nine consecutive days of prayer), there are cock fights, horse races, circuses and band performances.

The Captive Lord of Monsefú. September 14th.

Celebrations begin on August 31st and end on September 23rd. The central day is on September 14th. Examples of knitting and straw weaving are exhibited, and there are also competitions of floral arrangements, dance and music.





CHICLAYO

“Visit Chiclayo and relive ancient legends of powerful lords who ruled kingdoms between the desert and the sea.”

On the desert sands and in the midst of valleys, ancient civilizations built sacred pyramids. But it was not until 1987, the year of the discovery of the Lord of Sipán (the most grandiose tomb in the Americas), that the world took notice of the importance of these temple mounds, fallen from grace on the outside but hiding splendor in the inside: Sicán, Túcume and Chotuna, to name a few. As a result of the recovery, world class museums like the Royal Tombs of Sipán Museum, were built.

Not as visible as the temple mounds but equally important is the cuisine of Lambayeque and its use of foodstuffs that have been passed down through generations, like butternut squash and chicha de jora (a sort of corn beer). And we can certainly trace its people’s warmth back for centuries. Living history is there, too, in fishermen’s coves like Pimentel and Santa Rosa, where tiny crafts known as caballitos de totora (little reed horses), return to the beaches under the setting afternoon sun just as they have been doing so for 3,000 years.

Another site that combines history and nature is the Chaparrí Forest, 1.5 hours from Chiclayo, where you can see among carob tree branches, spectacled bears, deer and pumas as well as ancient religious sanctuaries displaying sophisticated rock paintings.

CHICLAYO **151** fasl.

How to get there?



Take the Pan-American Highway North

- From Lima: 475.35 miles / **12 hr.**
- From Trujillo: 128.00 miles / **3 hr.**
- From Piura 132.35 miles / **2 hr. 30 min.**
- From Tarapoto: 436.20 miles / **15 hr.**



1 hr. from Lima
Regular flights

30 min. from Trujillo
Regular flights



Warm

Max temp: **30.1 °C / 86.18 °F**
Min temp: **15.1 °C / 59.18 °F**



Type of rain



Chiclayo, the capital city of the department of Lambayeque, is just a stone's throw from magnificent beaches, astounding archeological complexes and peaceful wildlife refuges.



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Routes & length of stay

2 days
Minimum recommended length of stay

1/2 day	Sightseeing in the city: the Cathedral, Saint Mary Convent, Veronica Chapel and the market.
1/2 day	Pimentel beach resort and Monsefú
1 day	City of Lambayeque: Brünning Museum, Royal Tombs of Sipán Museum and Túcume
1 day	Sipán archeological site (Huaca Rajada) and Saña
1 - 2 days	Chaparrí Community Ecological Reserve

Department of Lambayeque



- a. Fishing boat in Santa Rosa
- b. Traditional reed boats in Pimentel
- c. Peruvian Paso Horse
- d. Gold Jewelry, Lord of Sipán
- e. Spectacled bear in Chaparrí
- f. The Royal Tombs of Sipán Museum
- g. Woman of Túcume offering chicha
- h. Túcume Pyramids



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- 1** Sicán National Museum
- 2** Túcume Pyramids
- 3** Chotuna Archeological Site
- 4** Royal Tombs of Sipán and Brünning Museums
- 5** Pimentel Beach
- 6** Chaparrí Community Ecological Reserve

LEGEND

Department borderline	
Capital city	
Asphalted road	
Non-asphalted road	
Airport	
Port	
iperú offices Tourist information and assistance	



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Lodging and tourist services

In Chiclayo, there are hotels and hostels up to 4 stars, and in the city of Lambayeque, up to 3 stars. Pimentel, Ferreñafe, and Túcume feature hostels. There are guided tours from Chiclayo to the museums and archeological sites.

You can use either public transport (buses) or a private bus rental service from Chiclayo.

Recommended for:



Culture

People interested in archeology, who will find superb examples of such in Túcume, Batán Grande and Sipán. The area also boasts 3 of Peru's main and most state-of-the-art museums: Royal Tombs of Sipán Museum, Sicán National Museum and Brünning Museum.

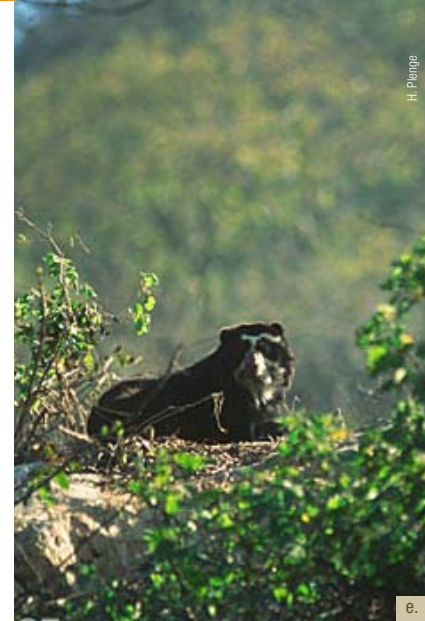


Nature

Handicraft collectors, who will find that the knitters and straw weavers in the towns of Monsefú and Etén have reached a remarkable refinement, justifying their fame.

Devotees of mysticism, who will find what they are looking for in the sessions performed by shamans in Salas and Túcume.

Birdwatchers and nature lovers, who can enter the Chaparrí or the Laquipampa forests, the latter having been declared a wildlife refuge in 2006.



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What to buy?

Varied and abundant are the handicrafts found in the department of Lambayeque. There, artisans work in palm fronds, straw and a vast range of other natural fibers. There are also delicately worked textiles, whether it's embroidery, straw weaving or knitting (cotton or yarn and some works are even done in gold and silver threads). Other important crafts are pottery making – both utilitarian and artistic – goldsmithing and leather embossing. The Traditional Crafts Fair in Monsefú, in month, is well known across the region.

What to eat?

Chiclayo and the entire department of Lambayeque are famous for their exquisite cuisine, and the chefs are guardians of secret family recipes that will impress the most demanding palate. Traditional dishes are rice with duck, a cilantro based dish, baby goat, cebiche, causa (type of potato cake), espesado (a hearty soup), and each of them go perfectly well with a glass of chicha de jora, a type of corn beer, whose origins can be traced back to pre-Hispanic times. And if it is desserts that you crave, then you must not stop yourself from trying a King Kong, some alfajores (butter cookies filled with milk jam) and machacado de membrillo (quince fruit nougat bar). You can find excellent restaurants in Chiclayo and the city of Lambayeque.



Because of the intense sunlight, it is recommendable to wear sunglasses and a hat with a visor and to apply sun blocker. As with travel in all arid regions, you should always bring plenty of bottled water. Most of the dishes along the coast are seasoned with different varieties of ají (spicy chili peppers), in particular seafood and Peruvian Creole dishes, so it is necessary to take some precautions.



M. d'Avroli

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