

MORE INFORMATION

## WEATHER

The weather is warm, with very well defined rainy and dry seasons.

Annual average **14.5°C/58.1°F**.

Maximum temperatures **33.5°C / 92.3°F**

Minimum **18.9°C / 66.02°F**

*Once you have gotten to Chachapoyas, we recommend you to take care the first day: eat light food; take it easy and drink plenty of water. Bring warm clothing and raingear as well.*

## HOW TO GET THERE?

### BY BUS

From Lima, through Trujillo and Chiclayo: 1,350 km/20 hours

From Tarapoto: 341 km/8 hours

From Cajamarca: 336 km/14 hours

From Chiclayo: 570 km/9 hours

## SUGGESTED FOR

**People interested in exceptional but little know archaeological sites:** who will be thrilled by Kuelap, Karajia, and the Lake of Condors.

**Popular traditions and culture enthusiasts,** who can find these expressions at Huancas, Colcamar and Jalca Grande.

**Nature Lovers and birdwatchers:** who should not pass on the trips to Gotca Falls, Hiquilla and Pomacochas

## PLACES TO VISIT

### IN CHACHAPOYAS

**Main Square:** when the Incas ruled Cusco, it was known as the Huacaypata, or “place of weeping or of meeting”, and was the backdrop to sacred ceremonies held there.

**Main Square:** As the name suggests, it is the heart of the city, featuring strong Spanish influences.

**Bishop's House:** This old Colonial mansion was the birthplace of Toribio Rodriguez de Mendoza (1,750-1825), a teacher, priest and one of the most celebrated Patriots of Peruvian Independence.

**Santa Isabel:** It lies on the skirts of the city, a lovely place with orchids, a recreational area and the most beautiful view of the Utcubamba River Valley and the mountains of the Luya province.

**Independence Square:** A quaint, traditional square that commemorates the Battle of Higos Urco, an important event during Peru's struggle for Independence. A monument honoring Chachapoyas patriots was erected in the middle of it.

**The Monsante House:** A living example of how the city is preserving a large part of its Spanish roots. The National Cultural Institute declared it a National Cultural Heritage, and now it is headquarters for a tobacco company.

### FROM CHACHAPOYAS

**Kuelap:** Forbidding stone fortress built by the Chachapoyas culture, 2,000 years ago as revealed by recently studies done by the archaeologist Alfredo Narvaez. The most remarkable features are its towering walls (65 feet in height) and the interesting architectural style of its round buildings found on the inside of the fort and decorated with friezes.

#### **Revash Archaeological Complex:**

Fascinating set of mausoleums located at the bottom of a sharp cliff. Their paintings of red ochre colored animals are awesome.

**Karajia Sarcophagi:** These pre-Incan sarcophagi were embedded at the top of a sheer cliff 1,000 years ago, 6.6-feet tall, fashioned mud and decorated with geometric motifs.

**Mallqui Central Museum, Leimbebamba:** A modern museum that displays mummies and artifacts uncovered at the Lake of the Condors as well as clothing and ceramic pieces and weapons found in the area. Highly recommended

**Jalca Grande:** Traditional town with remarkable Colonial church exhibiting designs from the ancient Chachapoyas peoples on its walls. The community has established a small

museum where they have displayed historic artifacts. Five minutes away is the Ollape archaeological complex.

**Gotca Falls:** A recent discovery (2006), its 2,529 feet place it number three on the list of highest waterfalls. The surrounding habitat is home to toucans, monkeys, pumas and they eye-catching cock-of-the-rock.

**Lake of the Condors:** A spectacular natural setting likewise famous for the mummies discovered there, which are now on display at the Mallqui Museum. The original gravesite was placed on a cliff overlooking the lake.

## WHAT TO BUY?

**Crafts** in Chachapoyas are varied and splendid, from wood carvings to handmade and naturally dyed **sheep's wool clothing**. Because of its location, the area teems with beautiful **orchids**, so people make exquisite orchid arrangements. In Huancas, skilled artisans create excellent **pottery**.

## WHAT TO EAT?

You can find almost any type of Peruvian food in Chachapoyas, but the most popular is the regional, **Creolo cuisine**, featuring dishes like **juanes de yucca** (boiled and grated cassava, combined with rice and chicken, then steamed in banana leaves), **tamales**, and **humitas** (corn rolls), **caldo de gallina** (chicken soup) and **lomo saltado** (stir fried sirloin strips). They serve top quality beef, prepared in different ways and priced quite reasonably. Residents love **cuy con mani y papas** (Guinea pig with peanuts and potatoes) and **purtumute** (the area's most popular food; at its simplest, made only with beans, hominy and cilantro). Chachapoyas' emblematic products are **licor de leche** (sweetened and spiked milk drink) and **pan semita** (type of bread).