

WEATHER

Chiclayo has a sunny and warm climate all year long with temperatures fluctuating from **20°** to **28°C** with a light rainy season during the months of December through March. Because of the intense sunlight, it is recommended to wear sunglasses and a hat with a visor and to apply sun blocker. When travelling in all arid regions, you should always bring plenty of bottled water.

HOW TO GET THERE?

It is served by the CAP. FAP. Jose A. Quiñones Gonzales International Airport

BY LAND

From Lima: 765 km. / 12 hrs.
From Trujillo: 200 km / 3 hrs.
From Piura: 213 km / 2 hr. 30'
From Tarapoto: 702 km / 15 hrs.

BY AIR (Regular flights)

From Lima (1 hr.)
From Trujillo (30')

SUGGESTED FOR

People interested in Archaeology, they will find superb examples in Tucume, Gatan Grande and Sipan.

Handicrafts collectors will find that the knitters and straw weavers in the towns of Monsefu and Eten have reached a remarkable refinement.

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

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

MORE INFORMATION

PLACES TO VISIT

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 shamans employ in their rituals.

OUT OF CHICLAYO

Pimentel: 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. 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 hotels.

City of Lambayeque: highlighted by lovely Colonial mansions as well as by churches sporting interesting architecture. In this city are two important museums: The Royal Tomb of Sipan and the Brunning.

Royal Tombs of Sipan Museum: On exhibit here is a collection of gold, silver and copper pieces that were unearthed from the tomb of the Lord of Sipan. 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.

Brunning Museum: It depicts a summary of the pre-Hispanic cultures that lived in northern Peru, seen through the research gathered by the researcher Heinrich Brunning. Exhibited are ceramic pieces, textiles, works in stone, wood, etc.

Huaca Rajada - Sipan: 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 Sipan.

Batan Grande: Impressive grouping of adobe pyramids from the Sican or Lamayeque 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 Sipan.

Pomac Forest Historic Sanctuary: This dry forest is likewise a shelter for carob trees, birds and archeological vestiges from the Sican 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 here.

Tucume: 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.) Tucume 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.

Sican National Museum (Ferrenafe): This museum displays artifacts as well as replicas of objects uncovered from excavations conducted at the Batan Grande archeological complex, which belonged to the Sican (or House of the Moon) culture. You can also see tombs and mummies of important personages from that pre-Hispanic civilization.

Monsefu: 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.

Chapparri Community Ecological Reserve: It is the first private conservation area in Peru and its main objective is the preservation of the dry forest in the area and the abundant biodiversity they shelter. Deer, spectacled bears, llamas, ocelots and many other species call this wonderful habitat home.

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.). The Traditional Crafts Fair in Monsefu 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.