JOURNEY
LATIN AMERICA



DISCOVERY GROUP TOURS

TICO TICO: CULTURE OF THE NORTHERN ANDES

15 days from **£3,253pp**

PERU / LIMA / NORTHERN PERU



WITH OVER 40 YEARS EXPERIENCE, NO-ONE KNOWS LATIN AMERICA LIKE WE DO

EXPERIENCE SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY

WHY US

We are the UK's No.1 specialist in travel to Latin America and have been creating award-winning holidays to every corner of the region for over four decades; we pride ourselves on being the most knowledgeable people there are when it comes to travel to Central and South America and passionate about it too.

OUR JOURNEY

As our name suggests, we are single-minded about Latin America. This is what sets us apart from other travel companies – and what allows us to offer you not just a holiday but the opportunity to experience something extraordinary on inspiring journeys throughout Mexico, Central and South America.

WE LOVE LATIN AMERICA

- A passion for the region runs through all we do
- All our Consultants have lived or travelled extensively in Latin America
- Up-to-the-minute knowledge underpinned by 40 years' experience

TRAVEL WITH CONFIDENCE

- Fully bonded and licensed
- ATOL-protected
- On your side when it matters
- Book with confidence, knowing every penny is secure

THE REAL LATIN AMERICA

- Our insider knowledge helps you go beyond the guidebooks
- We hand-pick hotels with character and the most rewarding excursions
- Let us show you the Latin America we know and love

OVERVIEW & OUTLINE ITINERARY

Northern Peru: bliss for history and archaeology enthusiasts. Discover the vestiges of fabulously wealthy pre-Inca civilisations. Includes the pre-Inca adobe city at Chan Chan, colonial Cajamarca and the mountain-top temple at Kuelap.

	Fly to Lima, Peru.
DAY 1	Overnight in the capital.
DAY 2	Fly north to Chiclayo.
DAY 3	Visit Ventarron, Huaca Rajada and Royal Tombs Museum.
DAY 4	Drive to Trujillo via El Brujo.
DAY 5	Explore Huaca de la Luna and Sol as well as Chan Chan.
DAY 6	Journey to Cajamarca via Kuntur Wasi.
DAY 7	Tours of Cumbe Mayo and Cajamarca City.
DAY 8	Travel to Leymebamba.
DAY 9	Excursion to Revash Cliff Tombs and Leymebamba Mummy Museum.
DAY 10	Take a cable car to Kuelap.
DAY 11	See the burial site of Karajia.
DAY 12	Hike to the Gocta Falls.
DAY 13	Continue into the Amazon Basin.
DAY 14	Santa Elena Reserve and fly back to the capital.
DAY 15	Depart Peru.

ITINERARY

On this adventurous itinerary you will be rewarded by magical landscapes, archaeological treasures, and encounters with welcoming people who will give you an insight into life in the region. The remote highlights of the north of Peru attract fewer visitors than the south, and as such there is a lower level of tourist infrastructure and some long road journeys, but each day offers a fascinating insight into the country's rich cultural history.

A taste for adventure and discovery is a must; this is a trip through the authentic South America which has remained unchanged for decades.

Fly to Lima, Peru.



DAY 1

Overnight in the capital.

Those passengers arriving on an international flight will be met by the tour leader or a local representative and escorted to the group hotel. Lima, the City of Kings, was once the capital of colonial Spanish America, and the remnants of its glorious past can still be seen in the grandeur of colonial buildings, including the Cathedral and the Presidential Palace on the Plaza de Armas.

Modern-day Lima is a lively, raucous and somewhat chaotic city, but its colonial centre is very walkable so enjoyable to explore. Lima is also famous for its mouthwatering food, so head to the district of Miraflores, a modern middle-class suburb where your hotel is located. Browse the wide range of restaurants to enjoy seafood specialities such as 'ceviche'. You can also visit one of Lima's most fascinating archaeological sites in Miraflores, the 2000-year-old pre-Inca Huaca Pucllana, built with millions of adobe bricks. Alternatively, stop by some of Lima's museums such as Museo Larco or Museo del Convento San Francisco.

DAY 2

Fly north to Chiclayo.

There will be a walking tour of Lima's colonial centre in the morning before taking a flight north to Chiclayo. The lively city is home to a friendly population and hosts one of the largest and most colourful markets in Peru. Mercado Modelo's stalls sell magic potions, lucky charms and a variety of local herbal remedies. Discover Chiclayo's beautiful neoclassical cathedral and main square.



DAY 3

Visit Ventarron, Huaca Rajada and Royal Tombs Museum.

Today we begin by visiting the ancient religious site of Ventarron, half an hour's drive outside Chiclayo. This is one of the oldest constructions in the Americas, with the first temple and oldest mural thought to date from 2000BC. Half an hour further west is Huaca Rajada (Sipan), one of Peru's most important archaeological finds, where the remains of several Moche mummies were discovered in 1987. Visit the burial grounds and see in situ replicas, then in the afternoon, visit the outstanding Royal Tombs of Sipan Museum to see artefacts recovered from Huaca Rajada, including ornaments of gold, silver and copper, shell necklaces and ceramics.



DAY 4

Drive to Trujillo via El Brujo.

We head south to the city of Trujillo (5-6 hours with stops) – known as the City of Everlasting Spring. The road takes us across desert plains separated by lush, irrigated valleys. On the way we visit El Brujo – "Temple of the Wizard", a sacred complex of adobe temples close to the Pacific with beautiful Moche murals and a display of a mummified female Moche leader discovered there. From El Brujo, we follow a road through cane fields to the beach resort town of Huanchaco, where fishermen still use reed boats as depicted on Moche ceramics.

Trujillo's centre has some excellent examples of colonial architecture, including beautiful Plaza Mayor and the 15th century fortress, Alcazar de los Bejarano. The city's environs are speckled with extraordinary pre-Inca archaeological sites which reflect the eventful history of the region before the arrival of the Spanish.



DAY 5

Explore Huaca de la Luna and Sol as well as Chan Chan.



Begin the day with a tour of the famous Moche sites of Huacas de la Luna and del Sol, built with millions of adobe bricks. The Moche people (AD100-800) are famed for their realistic portrait pottery their beautiful gold and silver jewellery. Huaca del Sol was extensively looted by conquistadors, but excavations continue to unearth extraordinary artefacts, as well as evidence of human sacrifice.

In the afternoon, a short journey takes you to Chan Chan, extraordinary ruins consisting of nine vast adobe compounds established by the Chimú civilisation in the 14th and 15th centuries. It has a stunning location on a sweeping beach with the buildings blending seamlessly into the sand. The motifs on the walls depict fish and sea birds, illustrating their importance in the life of the Chimú. Return for one more night in historic Trujillo.

DAY 6

Journey to Cajamarca via Kuntur Wasi.



Today we drive north-east from the coast into the Andes (8 hours with stops). Just outside San Pablo is the ancient archaeological site of Kuntur Wasi, which has been used as a ceremonial location for centuries since approximately 1200BC. Explore the large stone platforms and see where archaeologists recovered stone stela which are now on display in the onsite museum. We continue to Cajamarca via pine forest with chances of seeing wild vicuña. This peaceful colonial town is your base for explorations into the surrounding area.

DAY 7

Tours of Cumbe Mayo and Cajamarca City.



We drive up to the archaeological site of Cumbe Mayo, an impressive aqueduct, one of the oldest man made structures in South America. Believed to have been built in 1500BC, these channels took water to Cajamarca.

Returning to town, enjoy a walking tour of Cajamarca. It was here that Atahualpa, one of the last Inca Emperors, was held for ransom. Even though he filled one large room with gold and two with silver to bargain for his life, he was still executed by Pizarro and his band of Spanish conquerors in the town square. Explore the historic heart of this beautiful city, including the Ransom Room, several interesting colonial churches and climb Santa Apollonia hill for sweeping views over the town.

DAY 8

Travel to Leymebamba.

A scenic drive takes you into the mountains to Leymebamba. This spectacular route passes glistening lakes, deep river gorges and verdant valleys (7-8 hours with stops). Drive up to the lip of the Marañon Canyon, then descend to the river below at Balsas, and climb 3,600m up the east side of the canyon towards Leymebamba. Stop off at market town of Celendín, which is famous for its straw hats.

DAY 9

Excursion to Revash Cliff Tombs and Leymebamba Mummy Museum.

We drive to the village of San Bartolo and hike 1km down to see the Revash tombs. Brightly painted in reds and yellows, these tombs have survived more than 700 years on a cliff ledge. It is a beautiful site with fabulous views across the valley. In the afternoon we visit the Leymebamba Mummy Museum – the museum houses 219 mummies found at Laguna de los Cóndores in 1997.

DAY 10

Take a cable car to Kuelap.

We drive 75 minutes to the village of Tingo before taking a cable car for the last part of the journey to the famous ruins at Kuelap. This extraordinary site is renowned for its grandeur and scale, a walled city perched high on a mountain top. A greater quantity of stones was used for its construction than for the great pyramids of Egypt. Explore the many ceremonial structures and aqueducts and sit for a while to absorb the majesty of the site and the beauty of its location above the river valley. Little is known about the pre-Inca Chachapoyan culture, but each year more ruins are uncovered and investigated. Evidence suggests that the Chachapoyans were among the most advanced of all pre-Inca cultures. Return to spend the night in the charming highland town of Chachapoyas.



DAY 11

See the burial site of Karajia.

After breakfast we drive to the village of Huancas just north of Chachapoyas. This village is famous for its ceramics made by the local women. Later in the afternoon, head west by road to the tiny hamlet of Caserío Cruz Pata, then it's a 45-minute hike to the burial sites of Karajía. The Chachapoyans buried their chiefs in decorated clay sarcophagi adorned with imperious carved heads. These were then placed in cliff crevices facing east towards the rising sun. The surrounding countryside is one of rolling farmland, in which small, traditional villages are connected by muddy tracks.



DAY 12

Hike to the Gocta Falls.

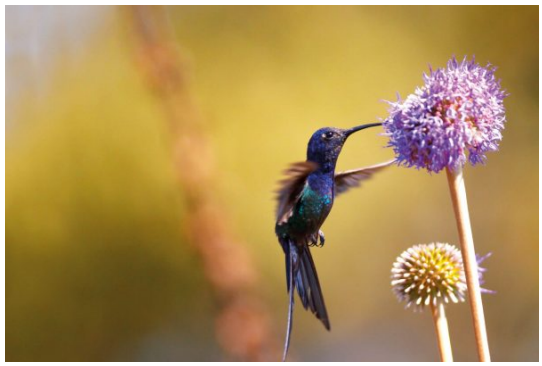
Follow a meandering mountain road to the small community of Cocachimba, where a 3-hour walk down a steep trail leads to the base of the Gocta Falls: a burst of spring water which emerges from dense vegetation in the mountainside cascading 771m into a deep and inviting pool. The Gocta cataracts are among the highest in the world, only discovered in 2005. Stay at a lodge overlooking the falls.



DAY 13

Continue into the Amazon Basin.

Travelling further east we reach the town of Moyobamba. To get there, we head back down the Utcubamba valley as far as Pedro Ruiz,then east via the scenic Abra Patricia route. This area has mountains covered in cloud forest and is a popular place for birders to visit. Moyobamba Itself is famous for its orchids and hot springs, and we will visit the Waquanki Orchid and Hummingbird Garden on the edge of town.



DAY 14

Santa Elena Reserve and fly back to the capital.

Today we start our day before sunrise,driving 45 minutes to the Santa Elena Reserve, an area of flooded forest looked after by three local families. After breakfast, we board canoes to paddle through the reserve. There are great chances of seeing 5 species of monkeys, as well as sloths and countless bird species.

Continue to the airport in Tarapoto and a flight to Lima for one final night in the capital city, enjoying one more delicious Peruvian dinner.

DAY 15

Depart Peru.

INCLUDED EXCURSIONS

- Lima: walking tour
- Chiclayo: Lord of Sipán, Ventarron and Huaca Rajada
- Trujillo: Chan Chan and Huacas del Sol y de la luna
- Cajamarca: Cumbe Mayo and walking tour of the city
- Leymebamba: Mummy Museum
- Leymebamba: tombs of Revash
- Chachapoyas: citadel of Kuelap
- Chachapoyas: sarcophagi at Karajía and Huancas
- Chachapoyas: Gocta Falls
- Moyobamba: Santa Elena Reserve

ESSENTIALS

ABOUT OUR GROUP TOURS

To find out more about how our group tours including group sizes, solo travellers and why to choose us. Please click **here**.

TOUR LEADER

On this tour, you'll be accompanied from start to finish by one of **our exceptional Journey Latin America tour leaders**. From the moment you land in Latin America until the day the tour ends they will deal with all the practicalities, expertly adapting to the circumstances and individual needs of the group. Rather than different guides in different cities, your leader will get to know the group and keep you informed and entertained as you go.

SUMMARY OF NIGHTS

15 days, 14 nights: Lima 1; Chiclayo 2; Trujillo 2; Cajamarca 2; Leymebamba 2; Chachapoyas 2; Gocta 1; Moyobamba 1; Lima 1.

ACCOMMODATION

For our Discovery Journeys we aim to use good quality, value-for-money accommodation, in a mix of larger more modern and smaller family run hotels. All the properties we use are well maintained and rooms will have a private bathroom with hot water.

The focus of these trips is on getting outside, seeing the sights, and experiencing local restaurants and cafes, therefore a few hotels may not have evening dining facilities. If you prefer more luxurious accommodation, please see our classic tours range.

We use the following properties on this tour:

- Lima: Hotel El Tambo I
- Chiclayo: Costa del Sol
- Trujillo: Casa Andina Standard
- Cajamarca: Hotel Cajamarca
- Leymebamba: La Casona
- Chachapoyas: La Xalca
- Gocta: Gocta Mirador
- Moyobamba: Hotel Amasisa

These hotels are subject to change and are dependent on availability. Address and contact details will be sent out with your final documents.

TRANSPORT

2 flights (longest 1.5 hours), 7 road journeys (longest 8 hours with stops). All land journeys are done in private vehicles.

MEALS

Breakfast daily.

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

On this tour the price includes excursions in all the places you visit as per the itinerary. There will however likely be some free time when you may choose to take part in an optional excursion. These are booked locally through your tour leader once you are in Latin America, however we are more than happy to advise you of what is on offer in advance of your holiday so you can best plan the excursions that suit you.

TRAVELLING ALONE

There is no extra cost for single travellers who are willing to share a room. You will be accommodated with a same-sex member of the group who is usually also travelling solo. For single travellers who wish to be sure of having their own room there are a limited number of single supplement places available, which carry a surcharge.

TRIP SUITABILITY

There are some early mornings and very long days of travel on this trip. All walks are optional, and you can discuss with your tour leader which are suitable for you.

ALTITUDE

Several days are spent at high altitude (over 2,500m). You may notice the effect of high altitude; symptoms vary: most common are mild headaches and breathlessness. If you drink plenty of water and allow your body to acclimatise (don't exert yourself or drink alcohol) in the first couple of days after arrival, you will minimise your chances of being adversely affected.

CLIMATE

The coast has a moderate climate year round whilst the rainy season in the Andes runs between November and April when there are showers most afternoons. At altitude the sun can be strong in the day but temperature can drop significantly at night.

CLOTHING, EQUIPMENT AND LUGGAGE

A daypack is essential for carrying rainwear, snacks, books/tablet and a water bottle as are comfortable walking shoes. Bring a hat with a visor, sunglasses and sun block. Binoculars are useful for bird and wildlife spotting. Because the weather can be changeable, we recommend wearing layered clothing for excursions. Some warm items. waterproof jackets, mosquito repellent and swimwear are also necessary for all departures.

MONEY

Please see the Country Info tab on this holiday for our latest currency information and advice about how to take your spending money. Tipping in Latin America is almost always done using cash. It is customary to tip tour leaders, local guides, drivers, boat crews and other service providers such as restaurant staff and porters. Full tipping guidelines are sent with your confirmation documents as is advice on local costs.

HEALTH, ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND INSURANCE

For health information on travelling to Peru including recommended vaccinations, please see https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/

Holders of a full British passport do not require a visa, although passports should be valid for at least 6 months after the trip begins. Other nationalities should enquire with us or check with the consulates.

Travel insurance is essential. Details of our recommended policy can be found on the Travel insurance website.

Our full briefing dossier contains more information on vaccinations, visas and insurance and will be provided with your final travel documents or can be requested from your travel consultant at any time.

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GET IN TOUCH WITH US...

Our friendly, knowledgeable team of travel experts are always happy to chat about holiday ideas and share helpful advice. Give us a call today and begin planning your perfect trip to Latin America.

0208 747 8315

OPENING HOURS

Monday – Friday: 9am – 6pm
Saturday & Sunday: Closed

SEND US AN EMAIL

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