

# LA LIBERTAD

## GENERAL DATA

**Location:** The department of La Libertad is situated in the north of Peru.

**Area:** 25 569,67 km<sup>2</sup>

**Capital:** Trujillo

**Altitude:** 34 m.a.s.l.

**Average annual temperature:** 18,9° C ( 30° C maximum, 16° C minimum).  
Rainy season: July and August.

## ACCESS ROUTES

**By road:** Lima-Trujillo (561 km) – approximately 8 h by car along the North Pan American Highway.

**By air:** Daily flights available from Lima to Trujillo (approximately 45 minutes.).

## HISTORICAL OVERLOOK

The population of La Libertad dates back 12 000 years, as proved by the archaeological ruins found in the Paijan, La Cumbre and Quinhua Plains.

Chala and Yunga regions were the sites of the great Cupisnique, Salinar, Virú, Chimú and Mochica cultures. The famous examples of ceramic vessels (depicting faces) and the pyramid temples belong to the Mochica or Moche culture (third to seventh centuries AD); the latter are proof of the great architectural skills acquired by the Mochicas.

Subsequently, this area was inhabited by the Chimu culture (twelfth to fifteenth centuries AD). With Chan Chan as its capital, this was the largest adobe metropolis in pre-Hispanic America and the second largest in the world. These people were also prominent goldsmiths and their extensive network of aqueducts reveals their highly advanced farming techniques.

After encountering much resistance, the Incas conquered this kingdom in the fifteenth century. Founded in 1 534, when the Spaniards arrived in this valley, Trujillo became one of the main viceregal cities.

Trujillo was the first city in the north of Peru to proclaim its independence on December 29<sup>th</sup>, 1 820.

Now an economic and cultural center for the north of Peru, it is famous for its Marinera and Resbalosa folk dancing festivals, and a breeding ground for Peruvian Pace Horses; moreover, the traditional “caballitos de totora\*” or reed boats can still be seen on the lovely local beaches.



*Marinera Nortena Dance, La Libertad  
Domingo Giribaldi / PromPerú*



*Chan Chan, La Libertad  
Carlos Sala / PromPerú*



*Totora reed rafts, Huanchaco,  
La Libertad  
Alejandro Balaguer / PromPerú*

#### **ATTRACTIONS IN THE CITY OF TRUJILLO**

##### **The Cathedral**

Corner of Jr. Independencia and Jr. Orbegoso.

Visits: Monday to Sunday 7:00-12:00 and 17:00-19:00.

Situated in the Main Square, this building dates back to 1686. It is a large temple that contains valuable works of art. Prominent among these are the high altar, Cusco School paintings and some sculptures.

##### **El Carmen Monastery**

Corner of calle Colón and calle Bolívar.

Phone: (044) 24-1823.

Visits: Monday to Saturday 9:00-11:00 and 16:00-17:00.

Built in 1759, this is one of the most beautiful architectural complexes in the city. It contains about 150 canvases, most of them from the XVII and XVIII centuries, several of which pertain to the Quito School.

##### **San Agustín Church**

Jr. Bolívar 508.

Visits: 9:00-12:00 and 16:30-20:00.

Pertaining to the seventeenth century, the high altar is golden wood and the pulpit is baroque.

##### **San Francisco Church**

Corner of Jr. Independencia and calle Gamarra.

Visits: Monday to Sunday 7:00-12:00 and 17:00-20:00.

The high altar, the polychrome altarpieces, the eighteenth century pulpit and the lectern from which San Francisco Solano predicted the earthquake that destroyed Trujillo in 1619, are all worthy of admiration. Prominent are the figures that decorate the church, depicting characters from the Scriptures or, in the gallery across the church, the lives of the saints. The ancient convent is the current site of San Juan School, where poet Cesar Vallejo once taught.

##### **La Merced Church**

Jr. Francisco Pizarro 550.

Visits: Monday to Sunday 7:00-12:00 and 17:00-20:00.

The façade of this church has superimposed architectural orders, the pendentive represents passages from the life of San Pedro Nolasco. The rococo style organ in the high choir stall is the only one of its kind in the city.

##### **Iturregui Palace**

Jr. Pizarro 668.

Visits: Monday to Saturday 8:00-10:00.

Built in the nineteenth century, this is the best example of neoclassic civil architecture, which remains unchanged to this day. It is now the headquarters of Club Central, the first social center in Trujillo. Outstanding are its columns, railings on the windows and Italian marble statues.

##### **Facalá Stately Home**

Jr. Pizarro 314.

Visits: Monday to Friday 9:30-13:00 and 17:00-20:00 Sunday 9:30-13:00.

Containing a valuable coin collection, the main attractions are the large main courtyard with an ancient artesian well and a Mudejar style corner balcony.

**Bracamonte House**

Jr. Independencia 441, Main Square.  
Visits: Monday to Sunday, 7:00-19:00.

Ancestral home of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, with vicerojal and republican style patios. Outstanding are its large wooden gateway and its traditional iron windows.

**Ganoza Chopitea House**

Jr. Independencia 630.

The most representative house in the city, given its architectural and decorative properties. Its polychrome baroque portal is crowned with a rococo gable and two lions, therefore it is often referred to as the House with the Lion Portal. It has mannerist style murals, imperial windows and a neo-baroque balcony.

**Mariscal de Orbegoso House**

Jr. Orbegoso 553.

Visits: Monday to Saturday 9:30-13:00 and 17:00-20:00.

This home maintains its character as a traditional vicerojal house, with stone floors and the doors and rooms distributed on a high terreplain. It contains a top quality collection of furniture, silverware, canvasses, and mirrors and is the site of cultural exhibitions.

**Emancipación House**

Jr. Pizarro 610.

Visits: Monday to Saturday 9:30-13:00 and 17:00-20:00.

Referred to as the Civic Sanctuary of Trujillo, because it is where Marques de Torre Tagle planned the city's independence in 1820. It was the site of the first Constituent Congress and the Government Palace for Riva Agüero. It is currently the site of permanent cultural exhibitions.

**Calonge House or Urquiaga House**

Jr. Pizarro 446.

Visits: Monday to Friday 9:30-13:00, by appointment.

Headquarters of the Central Reserve Bank, this is a neoclassic style house/museum which houses the desk of Simon Bolivar, gold Chimu ornaments and vicerojal and republican furniture.

**Trujillo University Archaeological Museum**

Jr. Junín 682.

Phone: (044) 24-9322.

Visits: Monday 9:00-14:00, Tuesday to Friday 9:30-13:00; Saturday and Sunday 9:30-16:30.

One of the best equipped museums in Peru, with cultural expressions from the department's various pre/Hispanic periods, particularly pottery, textiles, metallurgy and artwork with feathers.

**José Cassinelli Collection**

Av. Nicolás de Piérola 607, in the basement of the service station with the same name.

Visits: Monday to Sunday 9:30-13:30 and 15:30-19:00.

A collection of valuable pieces of different cultures, including the Recuay culture, the only ones of their kind.

### **Zoology Museum**

Jr. San Martín 368.

Phone: (044) 23-5841.

Visits: Monday to Friday 7:00-19:00.

A display of various species of fauna typical of the region, such as birds, fishes, reptiles, insects and camelidae.

### **El Carmen Art Gallery**

Corner of calle Colón and calle Bolívar.

Visits: Monday to Saturday 9:00-13:00.

This belongs to the El Carmen Monastery and contains valuable vicerojal paintings and decorative objects.

### **OTHER ATTRACTIONS**

The churches of La Compañía de Jesús; Santa Clara; Santo Domingo; Jesús María y José; Santa Ana; San Lorenzo, Santa Rosa; and The Divine Saviour of Mansiche.

### **OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY**

**Chan Chan**, (Janj-Janj in the Mochica dialect, meaning Sun-Sun).

Located in the Moche valley, 5 km from the city.

Visits: Monday to Sunday 9:00-17:00.

About a 10 minute drive from Trujillo, this was the largest mud city in pre-Hispanic America. It was the capital of the Gran Chimu Kingdom and covered 20 km<sup>2</sup>, from the proximity of Port Huanchaco to Mount Campana, with an estimated population of over 100 thousand people. The citadel consists of squares, dwellings, warehouses, workshops, mazes, walls, excellent paths and pyramid temples. Its enormous walls were intricately decorated with geometric figures, zoomorphic and mythological characters.

The archaeological complex was declared a Cultural Heritage of Mankind. There is a museum on the site.

### **El Brujo Archaeological Complex**

Situated in the Chicama Valley, 34 km from Trujillo, about 1 h and 25 minutes by car.

Visits: by appointment only.

This is one of the most valuable archaeological monuments on Peru's northern coast, since this is where a number of cultures developed since the pre-Ceramic period (5 000 years ago), until the vicerojal period.

### **Huaca del Sol**

This burial ground is situated in the Moche countryside, 8 km from Trujillo, about 15 minutes by car. It is an unevenly shaped pyramid more than 20 m tall.

According to tradition, it was built in only three days, using 250 thousand men and about 70 million adobe bricks. It preserves the beautiful harmony of its volumetric features, with platforms placed at regular intervals. It was used for funeral and ceremonial purposes and possibly also as an administrative and dwelling place for the elite.

### **Huaca de la Luna**

8 km from Trujillo, about 15 minutes by car.

Visits: Monday to Sunday 9:00-17:00.

This burial ground is also situated in the Moche valley, opposite Huaca del Sol. It is much smaller, but there are still some murals left on the top of the walls, with clearly defined outlines, depicting the face of the god AI-APAEEK. It is a 21 m tall monument of superimposed temples, a treasure chest of marvelous surprises, in which archaeologists discovered a tomb containing more than 40 sacrificed warriors.

### **Huaca El Dragón o Arcoiris**

5 km from Trujillo, about 15 minutes by car. Decorated with anthropomorphic figures and stylized figures resembling a centipede.

### **Huaca La Esmeralda**

Situated in the El Cortijo Cooperative, 3 k. from Trujillo, about 8 minutes by car. It comprises various superimposed terraces, to which access is gained by ramps.

### **Huanchaco Beach Resort**

Situated 13 km northwest of Trujillo, this area is famous for its caballitos de totora\*. Like all beaches on the northern coast of Peru, this is a favorite spot for surfers.

### **OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST**

Tomabal Castle; Queneto Petroglyphs; Huaca de los Reyes; the archaeological ruins of Viracocha Pampa, Yanazara and Marcahuamachuco; the Cachicadán thermal baths; the former sugar plantations of Casagrande; Cartavio; Roma; Chiclin and Laredo; the Algarrobal del Moro archaeological complex, among others.

### **FOLKLORE**

The northern Marinera dance, cock fights, Peruvian Pace Horses, etc.

### **HANDICRAFTS**

Mostly straw and carved leather items, as well as wood carvings, silver filigree, robes, ponchos and woolen shawls from Otuzco, Huamachuco and Pataz.

### **GASTRONOMY**

Typical dishes:

- Cebiche (chopped raw fish marinated in lime, with onions and hot chili peppers)
- Seco de cabrito con frijoles (tender goat stew, marinated in chicha de jora and vinegar and served with beans cooked in onions and garlic).
- Shambar (wheat soup with pork, pulses, coriander and hot chili peppers).
- Sopa teóloga (chicken soup with soaked bread, potatoes, milk and cheese)
- Frijoles a la Trujillana (black beans with sesame seeds and red chili peppers)
- Pepián de Pava (turkey stew with rice, tender crushed corn, coriander and hot chili peppers).
- Pescado a la Trujillana (steamed fish with an egg and onion sauce)

### **FESTIVITIES**

#### **National Marinera Competition** (January)

A competition in which members of dance academies from all over the country participate. A queen is elected and there is a prize for the best typical costume. This is the best opportunity to enjoy the display of northern "marinera" dancers.

#### **Surfing Competition** (March)

This takes place in Malabrigo beach, 70 k. north of Trujillo, which has the longest waves in the world. Surfers from different places compete in this event.

#### **International Spring Festival** (September / October)

Competitions of the different variations of the "marinera" dance are held during this festival.

Throughout the week, all the streets and houses are decorated, there are float parades, and teams of school children dance through the streets, led by the Spring Queen.

\* *Caballitos de Titora*: Artisanal totora reed rafts from Mochica times used by fishermen to fish in the sea. Two types of fishing is practiced: one using bait (individual fishing) and another using a fishnet (requiring two men).

**Virgen de la Puerta de Otuzco Festival (December)**

This virgin is considered to be the Patron of the North of Peru and the Queen of World Peace. The main celebration is on the 15<sup>th</sup>, referred to as THE DAY, when the image of the virgin is taken down from its altar, whilst the public chant canticles, pray and deposit miracles and jewelry. This is followed by a procession.

**SERVICES**

**Airport**

Carlos Martinez de Pinillos  
Highway to Huanchaco s/n.  
Phone: (044) 46-4013.  
Open: Monday to Sunday 7:00-21:00.

**Land Transport**

Although there are no bus terminals, most transport companies line up on blocks 2 and 3 of Av. Del Ejercito, block 28 of Av. America Sur, block 1 of Av. Mansiche and block 4 of Jr. Amazonas.

**Health Centers**

Belén Hospital of Trujillo.  
Jr. Bolivar 350.  
Phone: (044) 24-5381.  
24 hour service

Regional Teaching Hospital of Trujillo  
Av. Mansiche 795.  
Phone: (044) 23-1581.  
24 hour service

Huanchaco Health Center  
Jr. Atahualpa 128, Huanchaco.  
Phone: (044) 46-1547.  
24 hour service

Chicama Health Center, Ascope Province  
Calle Grau 495, Chicama.  
Phone: (044) 54-0167.  
24 hour service

**Police Stations**

Region III National Police Force  
Bolognesi 428.  
Phone: (044) 22-2034 / 24-3758.  
Open: Monday to Sunday 8:00-20:00.

Tourist Police  
Jirón Independencia 630.  
Phone: (044) 29-1705.  
Open: Monday to Sunday 8:00-20:00.

**Handicrafts Markets**

Liga de Artesanos  
Jr. Colón 423  
Phone: (044) 20-0086  
Open: Monday to Saturday 9:00-12:00 and 15:00-19:00

Trujillo Association of Small Manufacturers and Craftsmen APIAT.  
Av. España block 18.  
Phone: (044) 22-0627.  
Open: 9:00-13:00 y 16:00-21:00.

**Post Office**

Jr. independencia 286, Trujillo.  
Phone: (044) 24-5941 / 20-0052 / 24-5941.  
Open: Monday to Saturday 8:00-20:00, Sunday 9:00-13:00.

**INFORMATION**

**Regional Tourism and Industry Office**

Av. España 1800, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Trujillo.  
Phone: (044) 245-345  
Fax: (044) 245-794

**PromPerú / Indecopi**

**Tourist Protection Bureau**

Jr. Independencia 630, Casona Ganoza Chopitea, Trujillo.  
Phone: (044) 20-4146  
Open: Monday to Friday 8:30-13:30 and 16:00-19:00.  
Phone/fax: (511) 574-8000  
24 hour service  
Phone: 0-800-42579 (free call from Peru's provinces).  
Open: Monday to Friday 8:30-16:30.  
E-mail: [tour@indecopi.gob.pe](mailto:tour@indecopi.gob.pe)

**PromPerú**

**Tourist Information Service**

Phone/fax: (511) 224-9355  
Open: Monday to Friday 9:00-17:30.  
E-mail: [iperu@promperu.gob.pe](mailto:iperu@promperu.gob.pe)  
<http://www.peru.org.pe>

**WEBSITES**

<http://perutravelnet.com/articulo.asp?cod=1998826> <sup>(1)</sup>  
[http://www.travelvantage.com/per\\_nor\\_truj.html](http://www.travelvantage.com/per_nor_truj.html) <sup>(1)</sup>  
<http://www.virtualperu.net/> <sup>(1)</sup>  
[http://www.rcp.net.pe/peru/la\\_libertad/la\\_libertad.html](http://www.rcp.net.pe/peru/la_libertad/la_libertad.html) <sup>(1)</sup>  
<http://www.unitru.edu.pe/arq/indice.html>  
<http://www.perunorte.com/huanchoint> <sup>(1)</sup>  
<http://www.allperu.com/PERU1F0.htm> <sup>(1)</sup>

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(1) Private and/or foreign web page.