

THE MOCHE ROUTE

POWERFUL SAND KINGDOMS





ARTISANS

The regional artisans show their natural and cultural heritage in exquisite pottery as well as in precious metals. Hats, blankets, saddlebags and other textiles made of cotton, straw and plant fibers are also an important part of their crafts.



CUISINE

These northern provinces are widely known for their hospitality and gastronomy. Cebiche is the region’s emblematic dish and it was prepared a long time before the development and apogee of the Moche culture. The lands’ inhabitants enjoyed the region’s wonderful seafood and fish which they marinated in the juice of the sour tumbo fruit and seasoned with ají chili peppers and other species.



DRY EQUATORIAL FOREST

Spectacular wildlife in one of the world’s most important biodiversity spots. Carob trees grow in the midst of one of the world’s most arid deserts. Chaparrí (Lambayeque) and El Cañoncillo forest (La Libertad) are two important examples of communities preserving their natural richness.



CABALLITO DE TOTORA

Fishermen from the northern coves of Huanchaco, Santa Rosa and Pimentel go to the sea on totora reed rafts for their daily catch. This ancestral activity is skillfully depicted on the Moche and Chimú pottery.



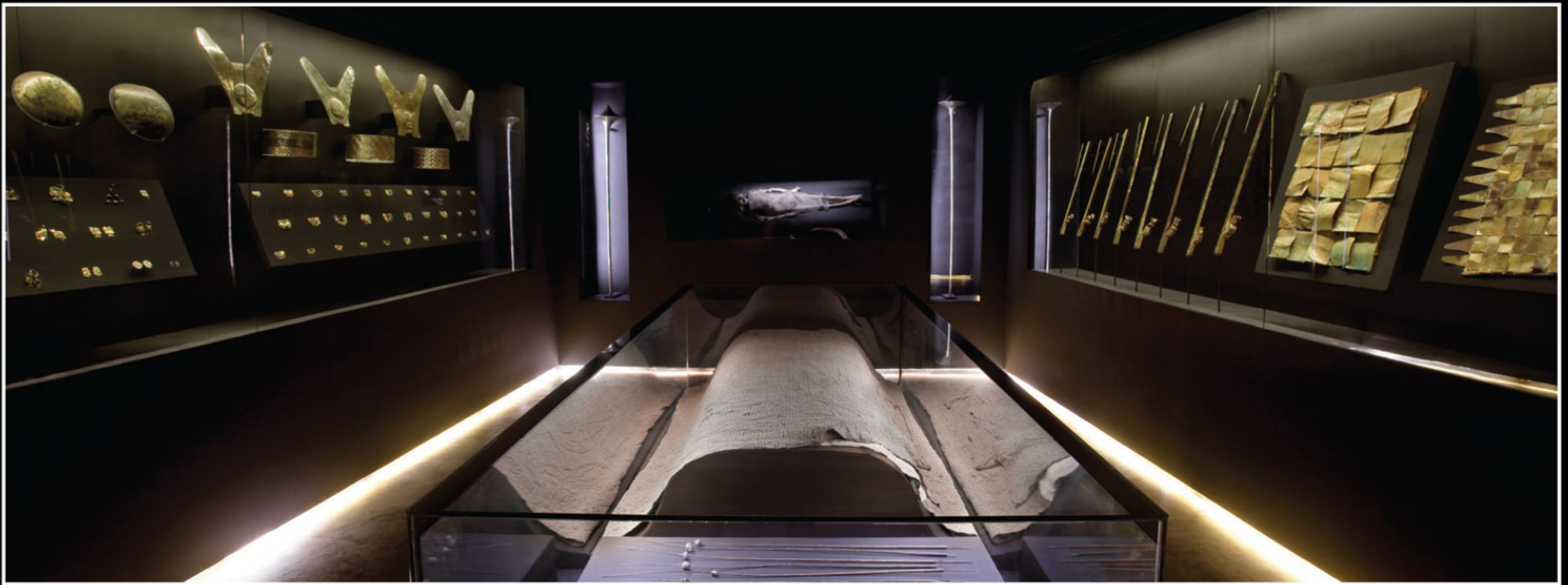
THE MARINERA

A traditional dance from northern Peru. Each year the city of Trujillo hosts the National Marinera Dance contest.



VISIT THE CAO MUSEUM

The amazing findings of the Archaeological Project of El Brujo, carried out by the Wiese Foundation in partnership with other institutions, are wonders that have to be shared with Peru and the rest of the world. After almost 20 years of thorough research led by the best specialists, the Archaeological Site of El Brujo was open to the public at first with the tempered roof covering the northern side of Huaca Cao –both protecting its freizes and walls and preparing the space for visitors– and now with the new on-site museum.



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THE MOCHE ROUTE

Chosing to spend a few days in the Peruvian northern coast is equivalent to spend a time in a universe with a unique identity, a place where it is possible to visit several archaeological sites which have amazed the world, and experience first-hand the living traditions that have lasted for thousands of years.

Other than its archaeological treasures, the Moche Route is also a paradise for the senses. From its healing thermal waters to its peaceful beaches –where travelers will find a good rest and also the thrill of surfing (with beaches among the best in the world for this sport)–, its delicious food, brews, its natural parks –perfect for those who love watching the exceptional realm of the birds, the butterflies, and the plants–, the traditional dances and patron-saint’s festivities, the Moche Route is simply an unforgettable experience.



GETTING THERE

Route		
Lima - Trujillo (La Libertad)	8h	50m
Lima - Chiclayo (Labayeque)	11h	1h
Trujillo - Chiclayo	3h	30m

POWERFUL SAND KINGDOMS

Surrounded by the desert, the sea, fertile valleys and the Dry Equatorial Forest, the sunny lands of Lambayeque and La Libertad are revealing to the world the mysteries of powerful civilizations. This route of monumental sites, exquisite gold jewelry, an amazing biodiversity and people famous for their friendliness, can be enjoyed throughout the entire year.

SEÑORA DE CAO

A recent discovery in the El Brujo Archaeological Complex showed the mummified remains of a young woman who ruled the area 1,800 years ago.



She wore a gilded copper crown with the figure of a feline.



Gold nose ring.



Gold necklace.

She wore her hair in two braids that were tied with a ribbon.

She was between 20 and 25 years old and she had a slim body.

TATTOOS

The woman's arms, ankles and feet were covered by tattoos.



Spider and snake designs.



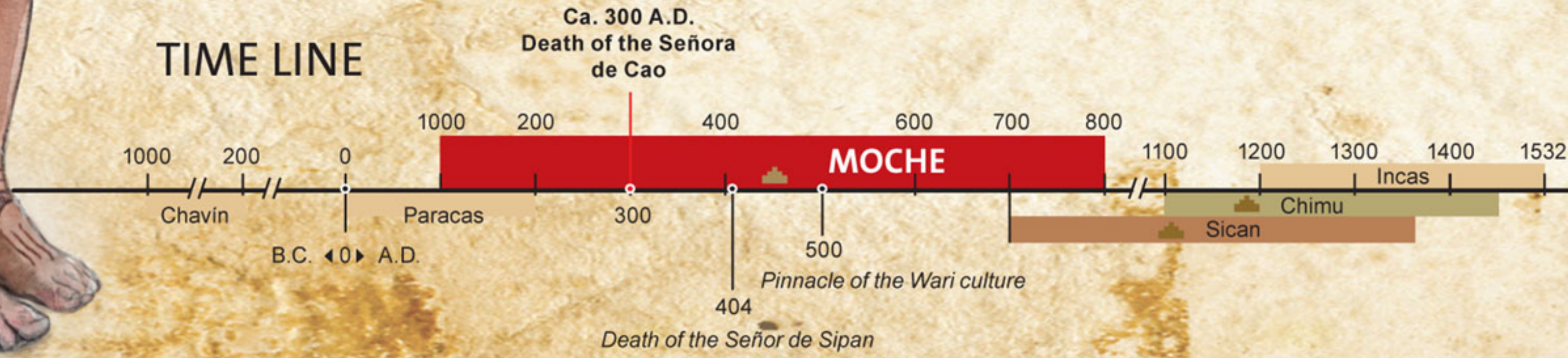
Cinnabar (mercury sulfide) has preserved her skin to a high degree.



Designs on the ankles and feet are still being studied.

She wore different cotton dresses decorated with spiral and geometric designs.

TIME LINE



BRÜNING MUSEUM 1
(15 minutes from Chiclayo)
One of the country's most important museums due to the homogeneity of its pieces. It has more than 2,500 pre-Inca objects from which close to 400 are wonderful gold articles.

ROYAL TOMBS OF SIPÁN MUSEUM 2
(15 minutes from Chiclayo)
A modern building inspired in the ancient pyramidal architecture of the Moche culture, this museum is as well a mausoleum to 16 tombs discovered in the Sipán Archaeological Complex.

SIPÁN ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX 3
(50 minutes from Chiclayo)
In 1987 a group of archeologists found the intact tomb of a high ranked Moche dignitary known as the Señor de Sipán. This was considered the richest discovery of the New World due to the jewelry and ornamentation.

HUACA RAJADA-SIPÁN MUSEUM 4
(50 minutes from Chiclayo)
The site, located in Lambayeque, offers an exhibit of 40 archaeological pieces discovered in the excavations performed in 2007.

EL BRUJO ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX 5
(1 hour from Trujillo)
It gathers the legacy of 5,000 years of uninterrupted human occupation, from the pre-Ceramic era to the Colonial period.

MUSEO CAO 6
(1 hour from Trujillo)
Current resting place of the Señora de Cao, where visitors can experience the cultural process of El Brujo Archaeological Complex in 5000 years of uninterrupted occupation.





7 **CHAN CHAN CITADEL**
(10 minutes from Trujillo)
Declared World Cultural Heritage by UNESCO in 1986, this is the pre-Hispanic America's largest mud citadel as well as the capital of the Chimú Empire.



8 **HUACAS DEL SOL Y DE LA LUNA**
(15 minutes from Trujillo)
This archaeological site was the center of power for the Moches. The Huaca de la Luna or Temple of the Moon is a truncated pyramid built with thousands of adobe bricks and its walls still preserve a 10,000 sq. mt. multicolored surface. Among its most impressive drawings are a depiction of Aia Apaec, the decapitator god, and different scenes representing Moche rituals.



9 **HUACA ARCO IRIS**
(10 minutes from Trujillo)
Chimú culture's best preserved ceremonial center, it is protected by a 3,000 sq. mt. wall. It highlights a series of friezes depicting marine animals and anthropomorphic characters, as well as a two-headed snake possibly representing a rainbow.



10 **SICÁN ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX**
(45 minutes from Chiclayo)
This site has around 20 truncated pyramids, some of them rising above 30 meters, spread in the midst of Bosque de Pómac Historic Sanctuary's carob trees. This was the administrative and religious center of the Lambayeque or Sicán culture. The Sicán National Museum exhibits a variety of objects found during the site's excavations, and shows how they were used or how people manufactured them.



11 **TÚCUME OR THE VALLEY OF THE PYRAMIDS**
(30 minutes from Chiclayo)
Spread over 220 hectares, these monumental pyramid-shaped constructions are the legacy of important ancient civilizations that settled in the area, such as Sicán, Chimú and Inca. Huaca Larga, the most impressive building, is South America's largest adobe pyramid. The museum exhibits the magnificence of every aspect related to the Sicán people.



**BOSQUE DE PÓMAC
HISTÓRIC SANCTUARY**

The northern coast of Peru holds the best preserved portion of the Dry Equatorial Forest ecological region, the Bosque de Pómac Historic Sanctuary being its most important and emblematic site. This great ecosystem is part of the Tumbes Endemic Area, and it is considered as a priority conservation area worldwide.

Its importance has increased since the Sanctuary also keeps the most important and most numerous set of pyramids in South America. At a certain point, it became the center of the development of the Sicán civilization.



ART FOR THE GODS

The Moche people reached a high level of artistic development as it can be seen in the rich iconography of its architecture, painted walls, pottery, textiles and objects made of metal, wood and other materials they worked with.

The stirrup handle was a distinctive element of this culture.

Characteristic location of a figurine in this type of Moche pottery.



The ocean was a very important element for the Moche economy, as well as home to their gods.

Painted relief

Procession of prisoners



Painted walls and relieves were used to decorate ceremonial chambers and houses of the main public figures of their society.

Gilded copper nose ring with feline design.

Felines are related to the moon worship.



Incrusted turquoise.

Incrusted mother-of-pearl.

(Actual size: 7.7 cm)