

# The North Coast: Inka & The Ancestors

# PERU

WITH DR DAN SANDWEISS



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL TRIPS

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# PERU: THE NORTH COAST

with Dr. Dan Sandweiss



## Explore the Archaeological Wonders and UNESCO Sites of Peru's North Coast - Caral, Chan Chan, the Tombs of La Señora de Cao and the Lord of Sipan, and much more.

The fabled cities of the Inka, with their towering stone walls protected by warriors in glittering golden armor, have captured our imagination for centuries. However, the Inka were only the last in a lineage of remarkable and affluent cultures that once thrived along Peru's coastal regions. The Chavin, Moche, Wari, and Chimú were among these civilizations, each contributing to the rich tapestry of ancient Peruvian history.

Our journey will take us to Peru's enthralling north coast, where recent archaeological discoveries have shed new light on these ancient cultures. We will visit Pachacamac, one of Peru's most significant pilgrimage sites, and Sipán, where archaeologists have uncovered one of the richest tombs in history. By special arrangement, the project director will welcome us to witness the sunset at [Chanquillo](#), a 2,300-year-old solar observatory that has garnered international attention.

Along the way, we will explore four UNESCO World Heritage Sites, each a testament to the ingenuity and creativity of ancient empires.

We will wander through Lima's historic center, a vibrant city that blends colonial architecture with modern energy. We will marvel at Caral, an ancient city believed to be the oldest in the New World, predating the Inka by millennia. We will be awed by Chan Chan, one of the largest pre-Columbian cities, with its impressive walls and intricate designs. We will traverse Qhapaq Ñan, the extensive road system that connected the Inka Empire and spanned six South American countries.

If you choose to join the extension, we will gaze upon a fifth UNESCO World Heritage Site, the enigmatic Nazca Lines, pre-Columbian geoglyphs etched into the desert sands, their purpose still a subject of wonder and speculation.

Join Far Horizons and renowned Andean specialist Dan Sandweiss on this unforgettable adventure as we delve into Peru's archaeological treasure trove. Together, we will uncover the secrets of ancient civilizations, walk in the footsteps of history, and marvel at the enduring legacy of the Inka and their ancestors.



# Daily Itinerary



## Day 1

### Depart for Peru

Depart on a flight bound for Lima. Upon arrival, transfer to Casa Andina Select, our home for the next two nights.

## Day 2

### Pachacamac, Lima City Tour

Our drive south along the Pan-American Highway takes us to Pachacamac, once the home to a famed oracle. For almost 2,000 years, this was a pilgrimage site for all pre-Inka societies. The ceremonial center was named for the deity Pachacamac, also known as 'Earth-maker,' a powerful and feared god that was the creator of the world and earthquakes. During excavations in 1939, a still-intact wooden idol was found and can be seen within the site museum. If available, we will meet with the museum director for a private tour. Within the monumental ceremonial center are found great pyramidal temples, some with the remains of frescoes decorating the adobe walls. Here, we will also see a piece of the Inka highway, Qhapaq Ñan.

Upon returning to Lima, in the afternoon, drive through Lima's historic area, a UNESCO Heritage Site, to see the stunning Cathedral, San Francisco Church, and Main Square.

Gather this evening for our welcome dinner at one of Lima's fine restaurants. (B/L/D)

## Day 3

### Caral

Depart Lima to drive north to monumental Caral, one of several pre-ceramic period sites located in the Supe Valley and a recently declared UNESCO World Heritage Site. Studies show that a complex, highly structured society existed here that flourished at the same time that the pyramids were being built in Egypt. Radiocarbon dates show that this enormous city dates to 2700 BC, nearly a millennium earlier than previously believed, and is the oldest urban site in the New World. Caral thrived for five centuries, with public architecture, ceremonial plazas, and irrigation — all signs of a society with strong, centralized leadership.

After a picnic lunch, continue to the Empedrada Lodge and overnight for one night. (B/L/D)



# Daily Itinerary *(cont'd)*

## Day 4

### Fortaleza de Paramonga, Cerro Sechin, Chanquillo

Our explorations of the north coast continue with a stop at the massive adobe Fortaleza de Paramonga built during the Chimú Empire. However, the formidable defensive walls were not enough to stop the Inka army from conquering the city. It is still possible to see remnants of murals admired by Hernando Pizarro when he passed by in 1533, along with remnants of the Qhapaq Ñan or Inka highway, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We continue to Cerro Sechin, best known for the wall enclosing the administrative center, where tall stone monoliths are decorated with carvings of warriors and gruesomely mutilated human victims.

In the afternoon, we travel by 4-wheel drive vehicles to Chanquillo, a ceremonial center and solar observatory located in the Casma-Sechin river valley of the arid coastal plain. Two thousand years ago, towers were built on the top of a low ridge to observe the movement of the sun through the solar year, solstice to solstice. This suggests the sun may have played an important role in religious and political life two millennia before the appearance of the famous Inka sun cult. The Chanquillo ridge-top towers are now regarded as the oldest observatory in the new world, and the astronomical observations appear to be linked at the site with seasonal ritual activity.

By special arrangement, we will meet with the Chanquillo Project Director, Dr. Ivan Ghezzi, and board our four-wheel drive vehicles for a tour of the site and sunset.

In the evening, transfer to Casma and overnight at Las Aldas Hotel. This rustic seaside hotel provides simple but atmospheric accommodation. (B/L/D)

## Day 5

### Las Aldas, Trujillo

In the early morning, enjoy an optional return to Chanquillo for sunrise. Our day of exploration continues at the nearby site of Las Aldas, remarkable for its enormous mound that anchors a U-shaped complex of circular sunken plazas and flanking platform mounds.

After lunch, we make our way to Trujillo, a beautiful colonial city in the Moche Valley of northern Peru. Founded in 1535 and named after Francisco Pizarro's birthplace in Spain, Trujillo was the resting spot along the Spaniards' route between Lima and Quito and became known as the viceroyalty's "lordliest city." We will admire its well-preserved 16th-century homes with intricate wooden balconies and window screens as we tour the city.

Overnight for two nights at the Costa del Sol Centro in Trujillo. (B/L/D)





## Day 6

### Huaca del Sol, Huaca de la Luna, Chan Chan

This morning we will visit several captivating complexes. The largest mudbrick structure ever erected in the New World and constructed of more than 7,000,000 bricks, the Huaca del Sol, or Pyramid of the Sun, was built about the time of Christ and dominated the ancient capital of Moche. At the nearby Huaca de la Luna or Pyramid of the Moon, archaeologists have recently uncovered friezes still exhibiting colors that cover the huge, stepped platforms.

Then it is on to Chan Chan, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Overlooking the sea and covering over 20 square kilometers, this capital of the ancient Chimú Empire was constructed entirely of adobe mudbrick. One of the largest pre-Columbian cities in South America, it is made up of immense palace complexes built for the rulers (the smallest is the size of six football fields!). Each is covered with intricate friezes exquisitely decorated with fish, birds, and the moon in elegant repetitive patterns.

Enjoy dinner tonight on your own in one of Trujillo's many restaurants. (B/L)

## Day 7

### El Brujo, Señora de Cao Museum, Huaca Rajada (Sipán)

Extensive excavations have been undertaken at the Moche complex of El Brujo, in the Chicama Valley. Archaeologists have discovered beautifully painted murals depicting prisoners and spider 'decapitators' that once formed the exterior of the pyramid. Located adjacent to the site, a colonial church was recently excavated as well. However, the most sensational discovery at El Brujo was the intact tomb of La Señora de Cao, a mysterious tattooed female mummy that was displayed on the cover of National Geographic magazine soon after being found in 2006. The Tattooed Lady soon caught the attention of the world. Wrapped in exquisite textiles, and adorned with dazzling nose-rings, gold jewelry, and other fine items, archaeologists believe that the young woman was important and may have been the first evidence of women rulers in pre-Hispanic Peru.

If available, we will have a private meeting with the archaeologist who led the team that found this mysterious lady and will enter the new Cao Museum. The incredible discovery of the burial tombs of Sipán within Huaca Rajada electrified the archaeological world. When archaeologists opened the un-looted wooden sarcophagus of a Moche king, they found not only his remains but a tremendous cache of gold and silver ornaments, semi-precious stones, pottery, and a number of sacrificed servants who accompanied him to the next world.

After visiting this archaeological site in the afternoon, drive towards Chiclayo, the gateway to Peru's northern archaeological zone.

Overnight for two nights in the Casa Andina Select Chiclayo. (B/L/D)





# Daily Itinerary *(cont'd)*

## Day 8

### Túcume, Sicán Museum, Tumbas Reales Museum

The area around Chiclayo has long been inhabited by succeeding cultures. Over two decades of scientific investigation at Batán Grande by the Sicán Archaeological Project has told us much about the Sicán people. They constructed monumental temples and palaces, along with highly refined irrigation systems that turned the desert into rich agricultural fields. The nobility was buried in deep shaft tombs, some 40 feet deep, along with rich collections of jewelry and religious paraphernalia created from multi-hued feathers, gold, and silver.

Our first stop this morning is Túcume, an ancient settlement built entirely of mudbrick by the Lambayeque (also known as Sicán) culture at the beginning of the 11th century. The site was conquered by the Chimú in the 14th century and became part of the Inca Empire in the 15th century, before falling under Spanish rule a century later. The site contains an array of structures of varying sizes, boasting the highest concentration of monumental architecture and the best expressions of mural art in the Lambayeque region.

We will also stop at the Sicán Museum, which displays the stunning artifacts found during excavations along with models of the tombs that were discovered.

On our way back to Chiclayo in the afternoon, we will stop at the Tumbas Reales Museum, housing the incredible discovery of the burial tombs of Sipán (not to be confused with Sicán.)(B/L/D)



## Day 9

### Fly to Lima, Larco Herrera Museum

Transfer to the airport for our morning flight back to Lima. Upon arrival, venture to the city center and visit the Rafael Larco Herrera Museum to view its fabulous assembly of artifacts, including a fascinating and amusing collection of erotic pottery.

Return to the airport in the late afternoon for international departures back home.

Those continuing on the Nazca Lines post-trip extension will overnight at the Costa del Sol Airport Hotel. Dinner is on our own. (B/L)

## Day 10

### Arrive Home

Arrive home.

PLEASE NOTE: This is a sample itinerary that is typical of our trip offerings. In general, you can expect a very similar program, though days may be swapped depending on availability, opening hours, and other affecting factors.



# Extension

## Post Trip Extension

If you choose to join the Peru extension, we will gaze upon a fifth UNESCO World Heritage Site, the enigmatic Nazca Lines, pre-Columbian geoglyphs etched into the desert sands, their purpose still a subject of wonder and speculation.

### HIGHLIGHT OF THE EXTENSION:

#### Day 2

*Board a small plane to fly over the famous Nazca Lines. Visible best from the air, the huge images are of animals and enigmatic "lines".*

*In the afternoon, we will tour Paracas National Reserve, where over 100 archaeological sites have been identified, many of them of the Paracas culture, who are known especially for their textile crafts.*

We can also arrange extra nights at the arrival and departure hotel should you wish to arrive early or depart later. Please contact us for details.



# Why Take This Tour?

**Four UNESCO World Heritage Sites:**  
*Lima's historic center, Caral, Chan Chan, and Qhapaq Ñan*

**Travel with renowned Andean archaeologist and professor, Dan Sandweiss**

**Private tour with the museum director at Pachacamac**

**Private sunset tour with the project director at Chanquillo, the world's oldest astronomical observatory**

**Private tour of El Brujo with archaeologists**

**Optional extension to fly over the Nazca Lines**

**Limited to 14 participants**





# Tour Information

## Pricing

For current pricing, please visit [farhorizons.com](http://farhorizons.com) and navigate to our trip page.

## Inclusions

### Price based on double occupancy and includes:

- Internal flights during the trip (if applicable/unless otherwise noted)
- The accompaniment of your scholar throughout the entire trip
- Local English-speaking guide
- Hotel accommodations (3 or 4 stars; or best available based in the area)
- Ground transportation
- Airport transfers for arrivals and departures
- Most meals as noted in the itinerary
- Entry fees to all included sites and museums
- Gratuities to guides, drivers, and restaurant and hotel staff
- Coordination for any private presentations or tours

*Trip prices are based on a minimum number of participants. If this minimum number is not met, trip prices are subject to change. Should the prices need to change, Far Horizons will reach out to registered guests to discuss directly.*

## Single Supplement

Should a roommate be requested and one not be available, the single supplement will be charged.

## Exclusions

- International round trip airfare
- A separate donation check of \$150.00 per person to a designated donation project
- Passport or visa fees
- Required vaccines or tests
- Airport or departure taxes
- Alcoholic drinks, beverages or food not included on set menus
- Excess baggage charges
- Personal tips and hotel incidental expenses
- Laundry or other items of a personal nature

## Donation Checks

As a tour company that benefits from the cultural and natural riches of our destinations, we have a policy of donating to the scientific and cultural sites and projects which we visit. This has created a bond between Far Horizons and the academic and local communities that has helped us establish an extensive list of lecturers and contacts in each of our destinations. We ask that each participant donate to the noteworthy project we designate. The donation amount is \$150.00 per person. Note that the donation is required as part of your registration for the trip and that it is non-refundable.

## Exchange Rate Fluctuations

Prices are based on currency exchange rates keeping below a projected level. While it is unlikely, if the exchange rates should change substantially, Far Horizons reserves the right to charge an additional amount to the trip cost.

## Registration

A deposit of \$1000 per person is required along with your registration & health forms, which will be linked in the email confirmation you receive once you pay your deposit on our booking platform. Final payment is due 120 days before departure. Prior to departure, you will be sent a reading list and a tour bulletin containing travel information.





# Tour Information *(cont'd)*

## Cancellation

Cancellations received in writing at least 120 days before departure will receive a refund less a \$500 per person administrative fee. Cancellations received less than 120 days before the departure date will not receive a refund. If for any reason you are unable to complete the trip, Far Horizons will not reimburse any fees. Upon registering for the tour, the purchase of travel protection with both trip cancellation and emergency evacuation is strongly advised. Links to recommended insurance policies will be included in the email you receive confirming receipt of your deposit.

## Expectations During Travel

Our trips are designed for flexible, energetic people who like to be active, have a spirit of adventure and a positive attitude. We have designed this trip to be as comfortable as possible, while also aiming to visit some remote or unique sites that other companies do not attempt to include in their itineraries. There may be days where we have very long drives and the conditions of the roads may vary. Hotels and transportation in some remote areas may not be up to western standards. There may be times when no bellhops are available; please pack with the understanding that you need to be able to handle your own luggage at times. Sometimes we may be walking over uneven trails for a mile or more; hiking boots are strongly recommended. Not every meal will be haute cuisine and several lunches may be picnics or box lunches. By maintaining a flexible attitude we will soon be captivated by the beauty of the natural scenery, the hospitality of the local people, and the fascinating sites we will see. Your flexibility and patience will be appreciated.

## Air Ticketing

International round trip flights are not included in the cost of the trip. If Far Horizons must change the trip dates or cancel the trip for any reason, Far Horizons is not responsible for any air ticket you may have purchased. Please send your complete air schedule as soon as you have it. NOTE: Please contact Far Horizons if you would like for us to handle your air ticketing.

## Private Tours and Talks

The private tours of archaeological sites and talks by specialists are scheduled in advance and include a donation to each. Specialists working at these sites are excited about showing their work to interested enthusiasts. However, please be aware that there may be times when the director or a member of the staff may not be on site when our groups arrive due to other commitments.

## Walking and Standing

Far Horizons expects all participants to be physically active and able to walk and climb independently throughout the full touring days. This includes walking over uneven terrain (uphill and downhill) for 2 miles or more at each site. You should expect to be on your feet for much of each day, averaging as much as 5 miles of walking per day. **As such, each participant should be able to walk unaided at a pace of 3 miles per hour for at least an hour at a time, and to stand unsupported for at least 60 minutes.** Bearing this in mind, we suggest that, if you have not already done so, you begin walking several miles every day, ideally including stairs and hills. If you have questions about your ability to keep up with the group or the strenuous nature of this trip, please contact the Far Horizons staff.





## Travel Insurance

We strongly recommend that you consider purchasing travel insurance. Should illness or an unforeseen event force you to cancel your travel plans after your final payment or during your trip, it would be doubly unfortunate to incur a significant financial loss. Trip cancellation protection will enable you to be reimbursed for the loss of your payment if you are unable to travel for any of the covered reasons in the "Outline of Coverage" section, or should you have an accident or suffer from any medical conditions during the trip.

Far Horizons offers customized protection plans through Travel Insured International (a Crum & Forster Company) with the following benefits:

- Trip Cancellation and Trip Interruption for covered reasons
- Trip Delay
- Baggage Loss and Baggage Delay
- Emergency Medical Expenses and Emergency Medical Evacuation
- 24-Hour Accidental Death & Dismemberment
- 24-Hour Travel Assistance & Concierge Services
- Option to upgrade to 'Cancel for Any Reason (CFAR)

We recommend reviewing the language in detail so you are aware of specific parameters; Depending on the policy, to waive the Pre-Existing Medical Condition Exclusion or to upgrade to CFAR coverage, the plan must be purchased within 14 to 21 days of the initial trip deposit, full trip cost must be insured, and traveler is medically fit at time of plan purchase. Otherwise, coverage may be purchased at any time prior to departure.

To obtain a personalized quote and/or purchase a plan through Far Horizons/Travel Insured International, simply click [HERE](#). For specific questions regarding the Worldwide Protector Plan, please contact Travel Insured International's Customer Care Center at 1-800-243-3174 or by email at [customercare@travelinsured.com](mailto:customercare@travelinsured.com), and refer to Far Horizons' account number: 54070.

## Itinerary Changes

Changes in our itinerary, accommodations, and transportation schedules may occur while traveling. While we are committed to keeping as close to the published details as possible, sometimes it is simply not possible. Weather events, government affairs, or other factors out of our control sometimes come into play. A good book to read as well as patience, flexible attitude, and a sense of humor are essential.







Meet Your Study Leader...

# Dr. Dan Sandweiss

Dan Sandweiss received his BA in Archaeology (summa cum laude) from Yale University and his MA and PhD in Anthropology from Cornell University. Since 1978, his research has focused on the coast of Peru, where he has worked on projects spanning time from the earliest inhabitants to the Inca Empire and spanning space from Ilo in the south to Talara in the north. His two main themes are ancient maritime adaptations and the prehistory of El Niño, the climatic phenomenon.

Dan has published extensively on these and related topics in English and Spanish, in which he is fluent. He is the Libra Professor of Anthropology and Climate Studies at the University of Maine. Currently, he is finishing a term as President of the Society for American Archaeology and was recently elected to the National Academy of Sciences. He has led many tours to Peru and loves visiting the sites and talking about archaeology with participants.







# Why Travel with Far Horizons?

With over forty years of experience, and an 85% customer return rate, we have stood the test of time. Remind yourself what makes Far Horizons so unique.



## Scholar Led Tours

Every tour is led by a well-respected PhD scholar with expertise in the subject & regions we visit.



## Trusted Partnerships

Trusted Partnerships: Every tour is led by a well-respected PhD scholar with expertise in the subject & regions we visit.



## Behind the Scenes Access

Our groups have private access to closed areas and on-site specialists.



## Unique Trips

Our itineraries are designed to showcase sites that are off-the-beaten path; we explore places that many travelers never see.



## Personalized Service

We love knowing our guests and helping with the decision process. We are here to assist you.



## Small Groups

Our tours have a maximum of 14 travelers. So you can trust that you will have a boutique experience every time.





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# PERU

WITH DR DAN SANDWIESS

**Email with Questions**

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