

Detailed itinerary

FairMail Photography trip

“The lost Empire of the Chachapoyas”

January 2 – 14, 2019

€750 per person



Trip Overview

This adventure tour is the northern counterpart to the more famous “gringo trail” that runs through southern Peru and includes Machu Picchu. This exciting round trip will lead you to the heart of the mysterious Chachapoya civilization, also known as the “cloud people”. The Chachapoya culture flourished between 1200 and 600 years ago, and it occupied a large area in northern Peru on the border with the rainforest and the Andes Mountains. We will visit the most representative expression of their culture which is the Kuelap fortress. This

stronghold (3.000m a.s.l.) is bigger, older and higher than Machu Picchu and it is one of the highlights of this journey. Because of its isolated location and the fact that tourism in the area has only recently started to develop, this destination offers an adventurous and authentic tour off the beaten track!

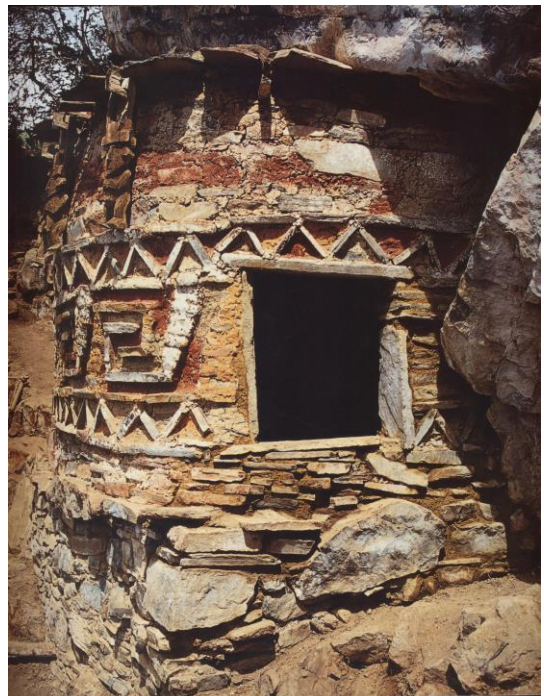
The journey starts in the friendly fishing village of Huanchaco (12km from Trujillo, 3rd biggest city in Peru) where the residents still fish in the graceful reed fishing boats, a tradition that goes back many centuries. In Huanchaco you can



relax on the beach, take surf classes or Spanish classes. You can also visit the numerous attractions in the area, like the pre-Columbian mud city of Chan Chan, the former capital of the Chimu empire or the various temples of the Moche culture. In Huanchaco you will also meet the FairMail teenagers and see how they live their daily lives. After a couple days in Huanchaco, you travel by public transport with the entire group from the desert to the Andes Mountains. We get settled in the valley of Utcubamba, where the Chachapoyas were based. In this area we spend more than a week exploring the heritage of the Chachapoyas civilization. Most of the sites are still covered by vegetation like orchids, bromeliads and beard moss. The residents of this area are hardly in contact with tourists and you will be touched by their genuine friendliness and hospitality.

About travelling with FairMail

FairMail likes to invite travellers from all over the world on its photography trips. Being a social enterprise operating in the photography field, our main goal is to take pictures, not to see as many tourist destinations as possible. The approach “been there done that” is simply not our traveling style. We will have multiple photo sessions during the trip because the goal of our teenagers is to capture beautiful images that we can then sell to our publishers in Europe. With the money the teenagers earn from the sales of



the pictures, they support their own education and families. We love to involve our traveller friends in all the scheduled activities, but you will never be forced to join them if for any reason you don't feel like to.

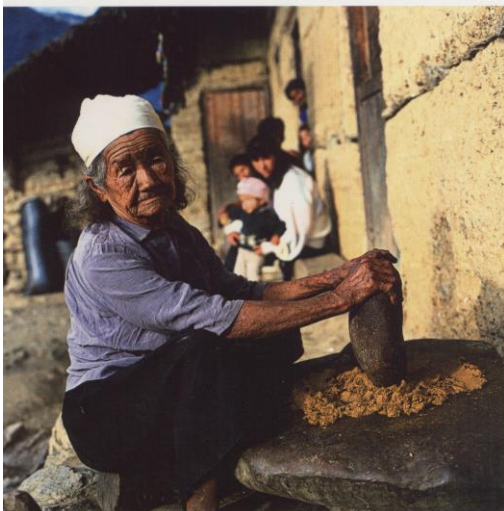
Due to FairMail's limited budget, we sleep in a basic accommodation, use public transport and eat in local restaurants. Besides being a budget-driven choice, we believe it is away for our traveller friends to experience what life is like in Peru and to connect with local people. We love nature and we love to capture its beauty, this is why a good part of our program will take place in natural environments. On the trip we speak Spanish and English. There is an English-speaking tour guide, so it is not necessary to speak Spanish fluently. However, you can make the most of your journey when you speak a little Spanish because it helps

you connect with the teenagers and the locals. It is possible to take Spanish classes in Huanchaco.



About the accommodation

We mostly sleep in small basic hostels and there are several reasons behind this choice. Firstly, most of the times there is simply no alternative. Secondly, we only have a limited budget for the teenagers. Moreover, by choosing family-owned hostels we benefit local people and local economy. Last but not least, the teenagers are not accustomed to luxury and for you it is a great opportunity to experience the real Peru. We carefully select family home stays and hostels: they all have at least basic bathing facilities, although hot water is not always guaranteed. The accommodation facility in Huanchaco is more comfortable than those in the inland areas. In Huanchaco you will be sharing a room in a cosy hostel that is just a few steps away from the office!



About the meals

The food is included throughout the journey, only in Huanchaco you pay for your own food. This means that during the journey we all have our meals together, therefore you will eat the same food as the rest of the group. Due to the budget and the expectations of the teenagers we often eat in simple local restaurants and not in tourist restaurants. This is the best way to experience the excellent local dishes! Of course, you are always free to order something else at your own costs.



About transport

We use buses and sometimes private cars during the trip. On the main roads we travel on luxurious buses with facilities on board, like large and adjustable seats, toilet and meals. On internal routes between smaller cities there are only simple local buses

available. When the quality is acceptable and the distance not too long, we use public transport. It is for a couple of times also nice to experience how the public transport is organised in a developing country like Peru. Sheep on the roof, chickens on the bus, loud “cumbia” music on the radio and off we go! On the routes where there is no regular public transport, we use the *collectivos*, private cars with a driver. These are reasonably comfortable station wagons used as public transport on the remote routes. The advantage of this way of transport is that we can stop to enjoy the overwhelming landscape to take a picture or to buy some fruit and snacks along the way.

The level of comfort during this journey

Tourism is only just developing in Chachapoyas, so infrastructures may be different than what you are normally used to. Adaptability and flexibility are necessary if you want to join the adventure. We will mostly stay in locally run hostels and not in luxury hotels, hot water and wi-fi are not always guaranteed. When it comes to transport, we’ll experience different levels of comfort according to the type of transport and the conditions of the roads we will drive on. The good thing is that we drive pretty slowly, so we can enjoy the beautiful scenery.



What makes this journey sustainable?

Why is this journey different from the average travel agency trip? And what makes it sustainable?

1. The good thing about FairMail photography trips is that with your contribution not only do you treat yourself with a unique holiday, but **you also give one of the FairMail teenagers the possibility to join the trip** by covering his/her costs. Thanks to your generosity one of our teenagers will be able to take new pictures and earn money for his/her education.
2. Your presence is obviously not just about the money. We really **value your view on beauty** as a western individual. The teenagers love to learn what beauty means to you, so that they can understand what the customers of FairMail cards like to see on their postcards. This helps them sell more cards and earn more money for their education. In other words, **you are helping the teenagers improve their future!**
3. By joining FairMail on this trip, **you also support the economic development of the communities we visit.** When it comes to accommodation, food, transport and guides, we choose to support local businesses to maximize the social and economic benefits for local communities. Unlike regular tour operators that don't have any positive impact on the residents, we keep the interests of the communities we visit at heart.

TRAVEL ITINERARY

The minimum amount of days for the Basic Program is 13 days. You also have the possibility to extend your journey with extra days in Huanchaco to relax, learn Spanish, take surf classes or volunteer at local organisations.

Day	Where	What
02/01	Huanchaco	Arrival in Huanchaco
03/01	Huanchaco	Meet the FairMail teenagers and explore the surroundings
04/01	Huanchaco – Chachapoyas	Explore the surroundings and night bus to Chachapoyas
05/01	Chachapoyas	Explore the city
06/01	Chachapoyas – Leymebamba	Explore the village

07/01	Leymebamba – Museum – Leymebamba	Visit the mummy museum and hummingbird garden
08/01	Leymebamba – Maria	Visit the village
09/01	Maria – Kuelap fortress- Maria	Visit Kuelap
10/01	Maria – Cocachimba	Visit the village
11/01	Cocachimba – Gocta waterfall - Cocachimba	Hike to Gotcha waterfall
12/01	Cocachimba – Chachapoyas – Huanchaco	Back to Chachapoyas and night bus to Huanchaco
13/01	Morning arrival in Huanchaco	Relax in Huanchaco
14/01	Visit the teenagers’ families	Visit the families

DAILY PROGRAM

2nd of January: Arrival in Huanchaco

You will get a warm welcome from your English-speaking tour guide at the bus station or at the airport in Trujillo, according to your travel arrangements. A short taxi drive will take you both to your beach hotel in Huanchaco. Today you have plenty of time for yourself to adjust to the new climate, the new time zone and to start feeling the positive vibes of Huanchaco! Huanchaco is your first approach with the coastal Peruvian culture and here you will have the opportunity to get used to the Peruvian lifestyle. You can relax on the beach, take surfing and Spanish classes and start exploring the exquisite Peruvian cuisine.

3rd of January: Huanchaco, meeting with the FairMail teenagers

Today is a very special day because you meet your travel mates in Huanchaco and the FairMail teenagers. You get the chance to get to know everyone and to see with your own eyes how FairMail works. We all meet at the FairMail office, we play games, participate in a photo activity and have a delicious snack prepared by our local managers! What best way to conclude the morning than with a group lunch in a cosy Peruvian restaurant? The afternoon is free for you to continue collecting wonderful memories! We suggest exploring the numerous attractions in the area. Huanchaco is by far the perfect location to visit several heritage sites in Northern Peru. The whole area is rich in ruins of different pre-Inca empires, like the capital of the Chimu empire, Chan Chan - the biggest pre-Colombian mud city of the Americas, a world heritage monument of Unesco. You can also visit the three Moche temples located in Trujillo: Huaca del Sol y del la Luna, Huaca Esmeralda and Huaca

Arco Iris. You can also take a day trip to El Brujo heritage site, which is just 2 hours north Trujillo. And why not, if you are in the mood for adventure, you can go sandboarding on the dunes of the Laguna de Conache.

4th of January: Huanchaco and night bus to Chachapoyas

Today you have the full morning to yourself in case you still need to check things off your to-do-list! Around lunch time we reach the bus terminal in Trujillo to take the bus to Chachapoyas. The bus ride is quite long (around 14 hours) but we have comfortable reclining seats that will allow us to sleep. Food is served on board. It will be very interesting to see how the dry coastal desert slowly changes into the green Andes Mountains.

5th of January: Chachapoyas – Huancas - Chachapoyas

We arrive in Chachapoyas early in the morning and we go straight to our hostel where we rest a bit, after the long bus ride. To familiarize with the city of Chachapoyas (the capital of the Amazonas department), we go on a photo treasure hunt. You will be paired up with one of the FairMail teenagers and sent out to take pictures together. A great way to get to know each other, explore Chachapoyas and get in touch with the locals.

6th of January: Chachapoyas – Leymebamba

We leave in the morning by public transport to Leymebamba, in the south of the Utcubamba valley, it will take us around 3 hours to get there. We drive up the beautiful valley along the river and we have lunch on the way. When we arrive in Leymebamba, we go to our comfortable family run hostel where we will spend the next two nights. We can make the most of the warm afternoon light to take beautiful pictures in Leymebamba and the surrounding countryside at the end of this day.

7th of January: Leymebamba – Museum – Leymebamba

Today's program includes an easy but beautiful hike to the Leymebamba museum, a visit to the spectacular hummingbird garden and a session of *foto perfecta* (perfect picture). The Leymebamba museum houses more than 200 mummies of the Chachapoya people, recently found in the nearby Laguna de los Condores. For more than 500 years, these mummies were hidden in their tombs in a steep rock formation above the lake deep into

the cloud forest. The museum surely casts a light on the Chachapoya civilization before the Incas took over. Next to the museum is a beautiful hummingbird garden, a great opportunity for pictures!

After lunch the teenagers will work on their “perfect picture” and we could surely use your help! Be it for arranging the props nicely, for holding a reflector or for sharing your idea of a *foto perfecta*.

8th of January: Leymebamba - Maria

We leave Leymebamba in the morning to go to another picturesque village called Maria, the starting point to visit the fortress of Kuelap. It is not far away, but the mountainous area and the state of the road makes it a 3-hour drive to Maria. The beautiful scenery will make the car drive a treat for our eyes! In Maria we stay with local families who work in the countryside and in local tourism. In the afternoon we will have another session of *foto perfecta*. The friendly inhabitants of Maria often volunteer to pose as models for us and this makes this photo session truly special!

9th of January: Day 8. Maria – Kuelap - Maria

In the morning we leave Maria to take a panoramic path to the ruins of the Kuelap fortress. Kuelap is also known as the Machu Picchu of the North although it is actually higher, older and had more residents than Machu Picchu. The Kuelap fortress is the main heritage of the Chachapoya civilization. It lies in a strategic position on top of a limestone cliff and has a stunning view on the valley below. The total complex stretches on a surface of around 500 hectares and has 420 round houses, some decorated with beautiful three-dimensional stone work. The fort is surrounded by a wall which in some parts is 40 meters high. The cloud forest grows both in and around the fortress. After having a good look around and visiting the museum we have a picnic lunch on site. In the afternoon we go back to Maria and take it easy for the rest of the day.

10th of January: Maria – Cocachimba

In the morning we leave Maria to return to Chachapoyas and take another car to the coffee growing village of Cocachimba, the closest village to the Gocta waterfall. With its 771 meters of height, Gocta is the world’s third highest waterfall. It was only “discovered” in 2005. The impressive waterfall had remained unknown to outsiders until recently because

local people feared the curse of a beautiful blond mermaid who lived in its waters, if they revealed its whereabouts. We will check in a small and basic hostel run by a local family and have the afternoon free for a photography exercise.

11th of January: Day 10. Cocachimba – Gocta - Cocachimba

Today we hike to Gocta waterfall. We walk across hilly fields and coffee plantations before jumping into the dense and moist cloud forest. Around 3 hours later, we will reach the small lake at the bottom of the waterfall. The waterfall is so high that the water turns into a rain shower before it reaches the bottom. After a picnic on site we head back to the village and have one last chance to take pictures.

12th of January: Day 11. Cocachimba – Chachapoyas - Trujillo

In the morning we take a bus back to Chachapoyas. After days in rural villages, we'll enjoy again the comforts of a big city: internet, nice cafés and stores for some last-minute shopping. The teenagers will have another photography assignment in Chachapoyas. At the end of the day, a night bus will take us back to Trujillo.

13th of January: Day 12. Trujillo - Huanchaco

We arrive in Trujillo early in the morning. The teenagers go back to their parents while you go back to Huanchaco. After an intense week in Amazon Region, we all deserve some time to relax! The program of this day is entirely up to you: you can enjoy the beach, take surf lessons or visit the many ruins in the area.

14th of January: Day 13. Huanchaco

The last day of the trip will likely offer the most impressive and eye-opening experience of the past 12 days: the visits to the teenagers' houses. Today you get the chance to see where they come from and meet their parents. When you realize how much they struggle in their daily life, you will admire these motivated and hard-working teenagers even more!



PARTICIPATION FEES

1) BASIC PROGRAM – 12 days – 750,00 €

The Basic Program is an all-included packet without hidden costs. What makes this journey sustainable is that in the 750,00 € that we charge you, it is included a 175,00 € contribution for one of our kids, which simply put means that **thanks to you one of our teenage photographers can join the trip!**

Included:	Excluded:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English speaking guide throughout the whole trip • All overnight stays in a shared room in hostels or with local families. • All meals, except the days in Huanchaco • Transport during basic program • Entrance fees during basic program • Bus station or Airport pickup in Huanchaco • Lunch meeting with the FairMail teenagers before departure • Preparation Package • Teenage contribution (175,00 €) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flight to Peru • Transport by bus or airplane from Lima to Huanchaco and vice versa (from 20,00 €) • Airport pick-up Lima • Overnight stay in Lima • Any transport beside the basic program • Food and drinks beside the 3 daily meals. • Photography equipment • Tours of the temples around Huanchaco

2) EXTRA OPTIONS

1. Extra days in Huanchaco - 4 days - 75 €

This extra option gives you more time in Huanchaco before or after the photography trip. You can chill out on the beach or visit the heritage sites around Huanchaco. During these days you can also join all the photo activities in the FairMail office.

Included:

- 4 days overnight stay in a shared room in a cosy hostel (without breakfast)

Excluded:

- All meals
- Entry to heritage sites
- Local transport

2. Private bedroom on the trip – 150 €

With this package deal you will sleep in a private bedroom during the 4 nights in Huanchaco and all other nights on the trip where single bedrooms are available.

PACKING LIST – What should you pack?

- Cash, ATMs will not always be around
- Warm clothes (during the night-time on high altitude), light clothes and raincoat
- Hiking shoes
- Cap or sun protection for your head
- Bathing suit, towels
- Photo or video camera
- Valid passport
- Copies of travel documents
- Daypack
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses
- Insect repellent
- Flashlight
- Pocketknife

