

FAIRMAIL PHOTOGRAPHY TRIP

**LA ROUTA DEL CACAO
NORTHERN PERUVIAN AMAZON**

29 July – 10 August 2024

TRIP OVERVIEW

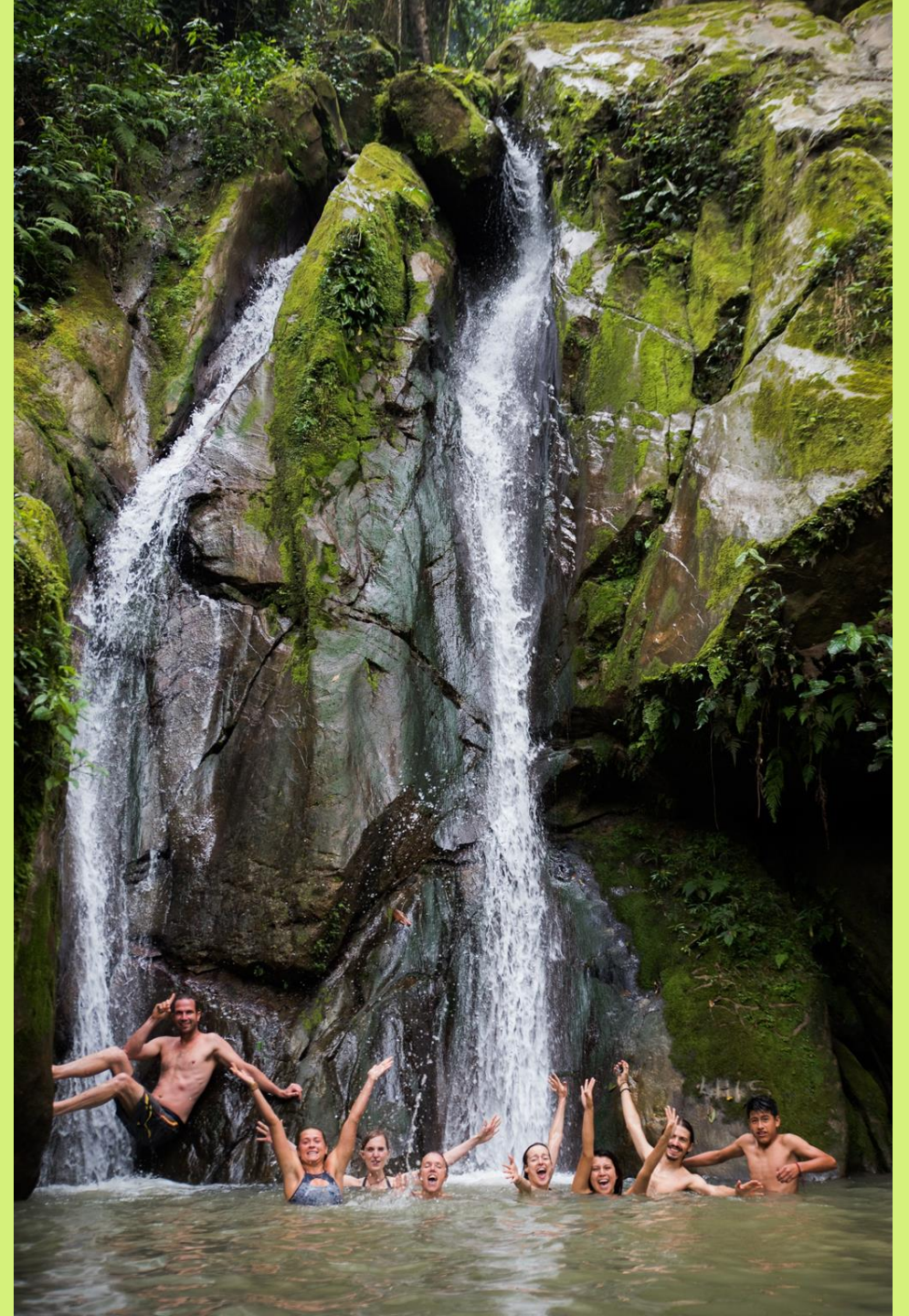
Ready for the adventure?

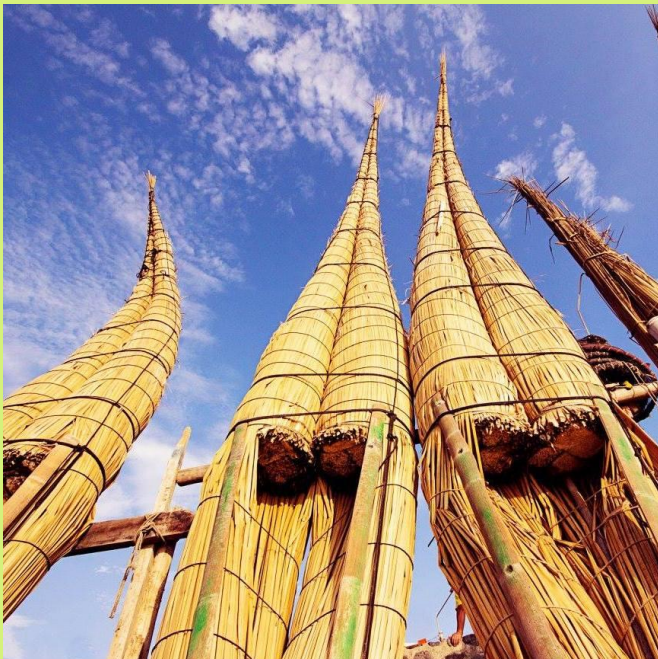
Twice a year FairMail organizes photography trips in beautiful and unexplored areas of Peru. We invite to the trips anyone who's up for an adventure off the beaten path and wants to experience first-hand what life in Peru is really like.

On this trip we'll explore the **Northern Peruvian Amazon** with the **FairMail photographers**, and it is going to be awesome!

We'll travel across the three Peruvian climate zones, we'll leave the desert coast behind, climb the high Andes and reach the green, humid Amazon forest where we'll spend a full week learning about **local culture** and enjoying the beauty of the **uncontaminated nature**.

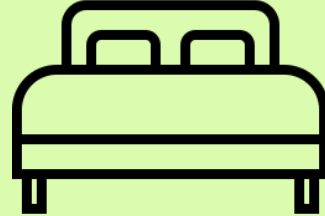
We'll relax in **thermal baths**, sail the Huallaga River on a wooden *lancia* and we'll learn all about the process of **chocolate** making, from bean to bar.





The adventure starts from **Huanchaco** a small village 12 km north Trujillo, the 3rd biggest City in Peru. Huanchaco is famous for being a **surf destination** and for preserving the century-long tradition of the ***caballitos de totora***, hand-made fishing boats made out of reed. Huanchaco has a lot to offer: you can **relax on the beach**, take **surf lessons** and **Spanish classes**. You can also visit the numerous attractions in the area, like the pre-Columbian mud city of **Chan Chan** and the various temples of the **Moche culture**. Most importantly, in Huanchaco you will **meet the FairMail teenagers** and experience first-hand how FairMail works. After a couple of days in Huanchaco, we'll leave the desert coast to reach **Tarapoto**, a charming city of rapid urban growth at the gateway of the Peruvian Amazon. Tarapoto will be our starting point to explore the region of San Martin and its main attractions. The communities we'll visit are hardly in contact with tourists and you will be touched by their genuine friendliness and hospitality.

TRAVELING WITH FAIRMAIL





MEALS

Food is included throughout the journey, only in Huanchaco – where everyone is on a different schedule – you pay for your own food. During the trip on the Amazon jungle, we'll have three meals a day – breakfast, lunch and dinner – and we'll be always eating together as a group. We don't support food chains, nor tourist restaurants as we want to have a positive impact on the communities we visit. This is why we only eat in family-run restaurants which is also the best way to enjoy delicious and authentic Peruvian food. You will be always free to order/buy additional food at your own cost.

ACCOMODATION

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 and wi-fi are not always guaranteed. In Huanchaco you will be sharing a room in a cosy and comfortable hostel that is just a staircase away from the FairMail office.



TRANSPORT



On the main roads we travel on **comfortable buses** with **facilities on board** such as large and adjustable seats, toilet and meals. On internal routes between smaller cities there are only **local vans** available. When the quality is acceptable and the distance not too long, we'll also use **public transport**. It is nice to experience how 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! When public transport is not available, we drive on ***collectivos*** - private cars - and the best part of it is that we can stop along the way to enjoy the view or simple stretch our legs.

WHAT MAKES THIS TRIP RESPONSIBLE?

Included in the price, there is the contribution for one of our teenage photographers. This means that **thanks to you, one of our photographers will have the chance to join the trip** and be able to take new pictures and earn money for his/her education.

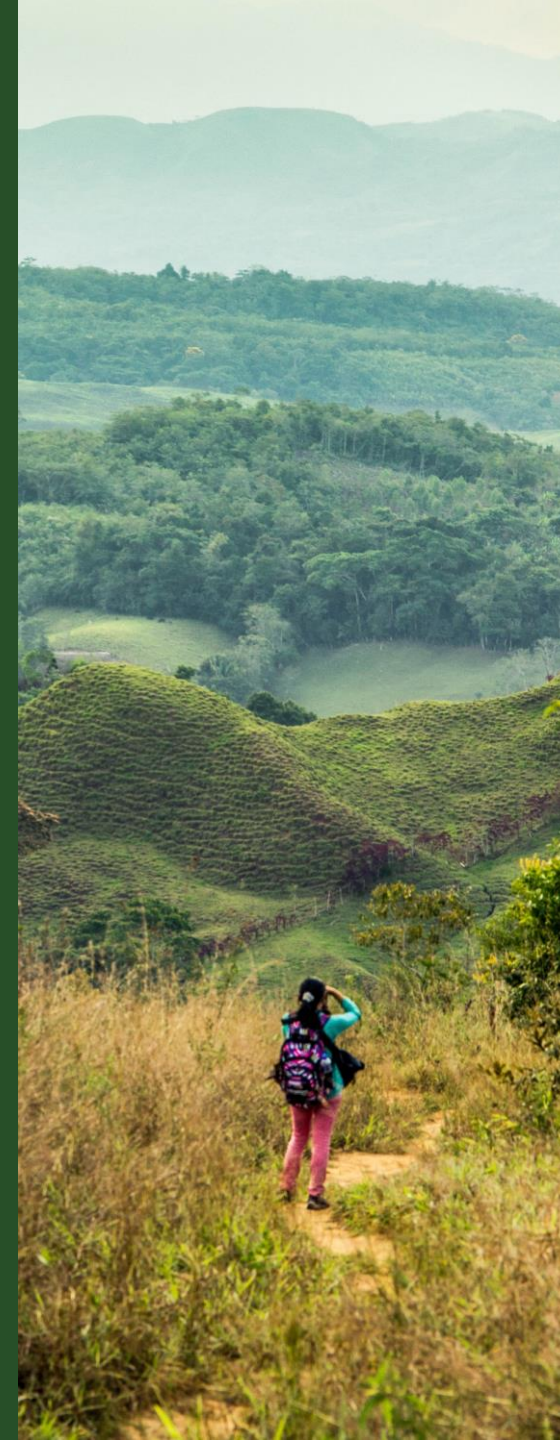
You will have a **meaningful and lasting impact** on the lives of our photographers on a personal, cultural, and technical level. You will inspire them as they will learn about your country, your culture and your language. Most importantly, you will create a strong bond and work towards a common goal: **take quality pictures to improve their lives!**

. When it comes to accommodation, food and transport, we only support **local businesses** to maximize social and economic benefits for local communities. Unlike many tour operators that don't always have a positive impact on local communities, **we keep the interests of the communities we visit at heart.**

TRAVEL ITINERARY

29/07	Huanchaco	Arrival
30/07	Huanchaco	Meeting with the FairMail teenagers
31/07	Huanchaco - Tarapoto	Relax and bus to Tarapoto
01/08	Tarapoto - Chazuta	Explore Tarapoto and chocolate factory
02/08	Chazuta	Explore Chazuta and chocolate factory
03/08	Tununtunumba	Explore village and waterfall
04/08	Chazuta - Lamas	Explore Lamas
05/08	Lamas	Hike to waterfall
06/08	Lamas - Moyobamba	Walk to view point
07/08	Moyobamba	Thermal baths and orchid garden
08/08	Moyobamba - Huanchaco	Bus to Huanchaco
09/08	Huanchaco	Relax
10/08	Huanchaco	Visit the photographers' families

**This program may change according to situations/events unforeseeable to the organizers at the moment of planning.*



You will get a **warm welcome** from your 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 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 **Peruvian culture** and here you will have the opportunity to get used to the **Peruvian lifestyle**. You can relax on the beach, take surf and Spanish classes and enjoy the exquisite Peruvian food.

Day ONE – Jul 29 – Huanchaco





Today is a very special day because you'll **meet your travel mates** in Huanchaco and the **FairMail photographers**. We'll all meet at the **FairMail office**, we'll play games, do 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**.

Day TWO – Jul 30- Huanchaco

Day THREE – Jul 31 – Huanchaco – Tarapoto

Today you'll have the full morning for yourself in case you still need to check things off your to-do-list. Around lunch time we'll reach the bus terminal in Trujillo to take the bus to Tarapoto. The bus ride is quite long (around 19 hours) but we'll have **comfortable reclinable seats** that will allow us to sleep. **Food is served on board**. The bus ride will drive across the three climate zones of Peru and it will be very interesting to see how the landscape changes from the **desert** of the coast to the **jungle**, across the high rocky **Peruvian Andes**.





We'll arrive in Tarapoto in the morning, and we'll go straight to our cozy hostel where we'll rest a bit, after the long bus ride. You'll be surprised by the difference in climate and vegetation. To familiarize with the city of Tarapoto, we'll have a photo treasure hunt, after lunch. 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 Tarapoto and get in touch with the locals!

Day FOUR – Aug 01–Tarapoto



Day FIVE – Aug 02– Tarapoto – Chazuta

We'll spend the morning in Tarapoto learning more about chocolate making. We'll visit an organic chocolate factory and we'll taste the delicious varieties of chocolate bars that they produce. After lunch, we'll drive to Chazuta, a small village in the jungle on the Huallaga River. It will be a 3 hour van ride – along paved and unpaved roads - that we'll lead us into the heart of the Amazon. In Chazuta you'll experience first hand the simple and authentic life of this small community whose economy mostly rely on cocoa.

Day SIX – Aug 03– Tununtunumba – Chazuta

Today we'll probably have the most authentic Peruvian experience of the whole trip. Early in the morning we'll sail on a wooden *lancia* to Tununtunumba, an indigenous village half an hour south Chazuta on the Huallaga river. The people of Tununtunumba are not used to foreigners, this is why we'll split in small groups and we'll work on a cocoa-themed photo assignment. We'll be back in Chazuta by lunch time and in the afternoon we'll visit a second chocolate factory with a unique story behind. We'll learn how a group of women started a revolution that turned Chazuta from a coca to a cocoa production area. We'll conclude our day with a swim on a nearby river where we'll have the chance to make friends with locals.



We'll leave Chazuta in the morning and a 3-hour van ride will take us to **Lamas**, a charming small town built on top of a hill that develops on three levels: at the foot of the hill, there is the *barrio* Wayku, where the Quechua Lamistas indigenous people live; on the second level there is the village and on the third level the town with its castle. In Lamas many people still wear **traditional costumes** and live in **mud houses**. After lunch, we'll go for a walk across the three different levels of the town and we'll get chance to **meet local people** and possibly have a street-photography sessions with children playing on the streets. We'll enjoy the **beautiful sunset** from the top of the hill, and we'll go for a **night walk** to experience Lamas "night life".





Today is hiking day! A 3-hour hike will lead us to the **Chapawanki waterfall**, a real unknown gem in the middle of the forest. The walk there is a treat for the eyes. We'll come across the most beautiful flowers, butterflies and birds: nature at its best. After the hike, it will be fun and refreshing to **swim** in the pure waters at the foot of the waterfall. We'll have a **pic-nic** here and after that we'll work on a session of *foto perfecta*. We'll be back in Lamas by dinner time.

Day NINE – Aug 06 – Moyobamba

We'll leave Lamas in the morning and we'll arrive in Moyobamba - the capital of the region of San Martin - before lunch. In the afternoon we'll walk to the stunning view point on the Rio Mayo valley and we'll descent the numerous stairs down to the river. Here, we'll realize the importance of the Rio Mayo for the local community both as a transport route and a recreational resource. Later in the afternoon, we'll visit the thermal baths of San Mateo where we'll end the day in total relax!



Day TEN – Aug 07 – Moyobamba

Today we'll make the most of what the city of Moyobamba has to offer. We'll start off the day with a photo assignment at the **market** and after lunch we'll admire unique **orchids and bromeliads** at the Waqanki Orchid center. As a coincidence, the orchid center is right next to the **thermal baths** so we might even have a second go!

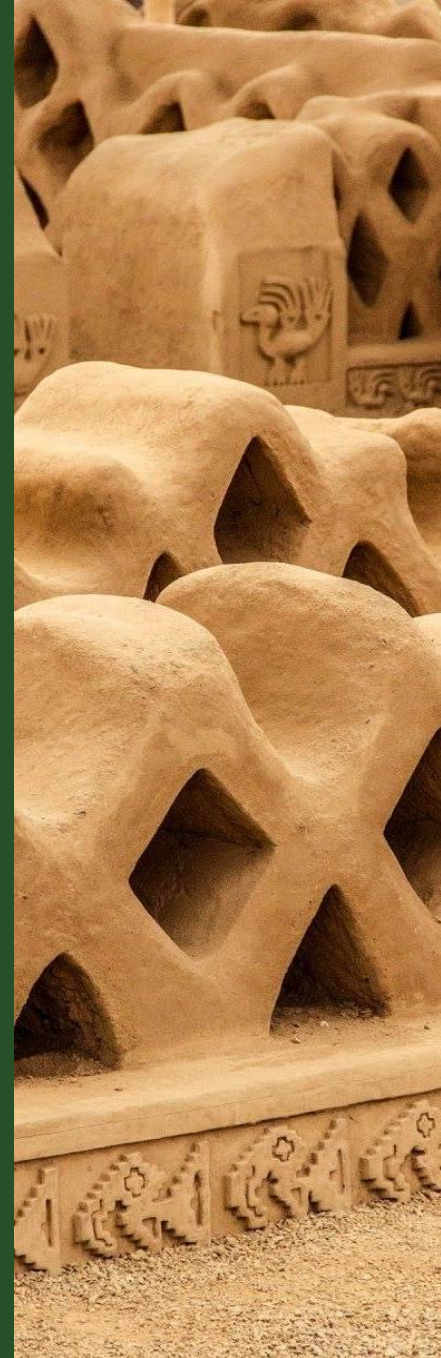


Day ELEVEN – Aug 08 – Moyobamba -Huanchaco



Sadly, it's time to say goodbye to the Amazon and head back to the coast. We'll spend the morning working on a session of *foto perfecta* and after lunch we'll catch our bus to Trujillo. We'll travel with the same comfortable bus company that drove us to Tarapoto at the beginning of our trip and we'll arrive in Trujillo the following morning. We'll have plenty of time on the bus to watch the pictures we took and to process all the beautiful memories that we've created over the past week.

Back in Huanchaco! We arrive in Trujillo early in the morning. The teenagers go back to their houses while you go back to Huanchaco. After an intense week in the Amazon, 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.





Day THIRTEEN – Aug 10 – Huanchaco

The last day of the trip will likely offer the most impressive and eye-opening experience of the past 12 days. Today we'll visit the families of the photographers that went on the trip. We'll show their families some of their pictures and share with them the highlights of our adventure in the jungle. When you realize how much they struggle in their daily life, you will admire these motivated and hard-working teenagers even more!

IS THIS TRIP FOR YOU?

Tourism is only just developing in the region of San Martin, so infrastructures normally have a **lower level of comfort** than what you are normally used to.

Adaptability and flexibility are necessary if you want to join the adventure.

Ours is a **photography trip** so we **travel slowly** to capture the beauty of the places we visit. The approach «been there, done that» is simply not our traveling style. Every day we'll have **at least one photo activity** that will involve all the teenagers and we'd really welcome your help!

We'll mostly stay in simple, family-run hostels where you'll share a room with fellow travellers. Where possible, you can also sleep in a private room and you'll only pay the difference in price. **Hot water and wi-fi are not always guaranteed**

We'll eat in simple, local restaurants where you'll taste **authentic Peruvian food**. **Vegetarian food** is guaranteed throughout the trip, although variety might be limited.

When it comes to **transport**, we'll experience **different levels of comfort** according to the type of transport and the conditions of the roads. From luxury buses to moto taxi, including private cars, vans and boats, we'll use them all!

PARTICIPATION FEES

13 days – 850,00 €

The 13 day- program is an all-included packet with no hidden costs. What makes this journey sustainable is that in the 850,00€ that we charge you, it is included a 300,00€ contribution for one of our photographers, which means that thanks to you one of our teenage photographers can join the trip!

EXTRA OPTION

Private bedroom on the trip – 100 €

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

Unfortunately, we cannot always guarantee the availability of private bedrooms, but we'll do our best to meet your needs!

INCLUDED

English and Spanish speaking guide
All overnight stays in a shared room in hostels
3 meals a day (except in Huanchaco)
Transport
Entry fees to museums, thermal baths, parks
Bus station or airport pickup in Huanchaco
Logistic support before departure
Logistic support for the whole trip
FairMail photographer contribution (300,00 €)

NOT INCLUDED

Flight to Peru
Transport by bus or airplane from Lima to Huanchaco and back
Airport pick-up in Lima
Overnight stay in Lima
Any transport outside the program
Food and drinks in Huanchaco
Any extra food and drink besides the 3 meals included in the program
Photography equipment
Entry to museums/temples outside the program
Travel insurance
Everything else that is not mentioned in the "included" section

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