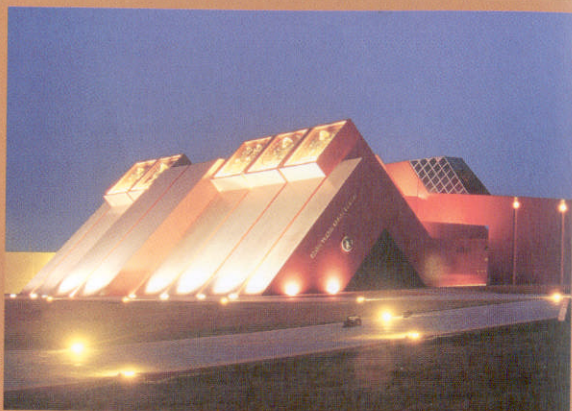


THE LORD OF SIPAN

the golden tombs



M. D'Aurich

Sipan, Royal Tombs Museum

The archaeological complex of Huaca Rajada, where the splendid Tomb of the Lord of Sipan was found, is on Peru's north coast, 35 km (21 miles) southeast of the city of Chiclayo.

In 1987, a small group of Peruvian archaeologists led by Dr. Walter Alva discovered at Huaca Rajada the tomb of an important Moche governor who had been buried with riches and all the symbols of his station in life. The discovery was world news and is considered as important as the discovery of the tomb of the Tutankhamen.

The Lord of Sipan died some 1770 years ago. As sovereign, he was considered a semi-god. He lived for about 40 years and was 1.67 meters tall (5.5 feet). He was buried after a series of complex rituals and sacrifices, accompanied by eight other people: three women, a military chief, a standard bearer, a watchman, a guard, and a child.

His rich robes and accessories included necklaces, breastplates, ear spoons, nose rings, helmets, bracelets and sceptres, mostly in a combination of gold and silver.

Shortly after the discovery of the Lord of Sipan's tomb, Alva and his team found two more tombs, of a Priest and the Old Lord of Sipan.

The importance of this discovery and the need to provide an appropriate place to house the finds led to the building of the Royal Tombs of Sipan Museum, which opened in 2002 in the city of Lambayeque (15 km / 9 miles from Chiclayo). This museum is one of the most important in the Americas, considered of the 21st century.



Museo Tumbas Reales de Sipan

Sipan archaeological complex

TRUJILLO

capital of the eternal spring



M. D'Aurich

Colonial houses, Trujillo

Trujillo, capital of the region of La Libertad, is the third largest city in Peru. It lies on the north coast, 561 km/349 miles from Lima, where the Moche and Chimu civilizations developed between 200 B.C. and A.D. 700. Both cultures were remarkable for their pottery and work in gold and silver.

Eight kilometers (5 miles) south of the city of Trujillo stand the ceremonial centers or huacas known as the Temples of the Sun and the Moon of the Moche culture. It is believed that they were, respectively, an administrative center and a center of worship. The Temple of the Sun is a graded pyramid 43 meters high (141 feet), while the Temple of the Moon, only 500 meters away (545 yards). Some of the walls have dramatic polychromed murals, with clear details that show the face of the fire god Aia-Paec.

During colonial times, the center of the city took on a stately air given by its numerous churches and gracious family homes with large wrought-iron windows.

Its year-round pleasant climate has earned it the title of "Capital of Eternal Spring". It has wonderful beaches such as Delicias, Salaverry, Huanchaco and Chicama, venues for international surfing competitions and where local fishermen still use 'caballitos de totora', reed canoes made the same way for thousands of years.

The typical dance of the coast is the 'marinera' and Trujillo is where the most important competitions are held, earning the name of Capital of the Peruvian Marinera. Trujillo is also an important breeding and competition center for Peruvian pacer horses.



M. Tweedle / PromPeru

Temple of the Moon

