

Plan Your Visit

Museo Larco

Founded in 1926 by the Peruvian archaeologist Rafael Larco Hoyle, the Larco Museum exhibits more than 5000 years of ancient Peru's history.

www.museolarco.org



Address

Av. Bolívar 1515, Pueblo Libre
Lima 21, Peru

Opening hours

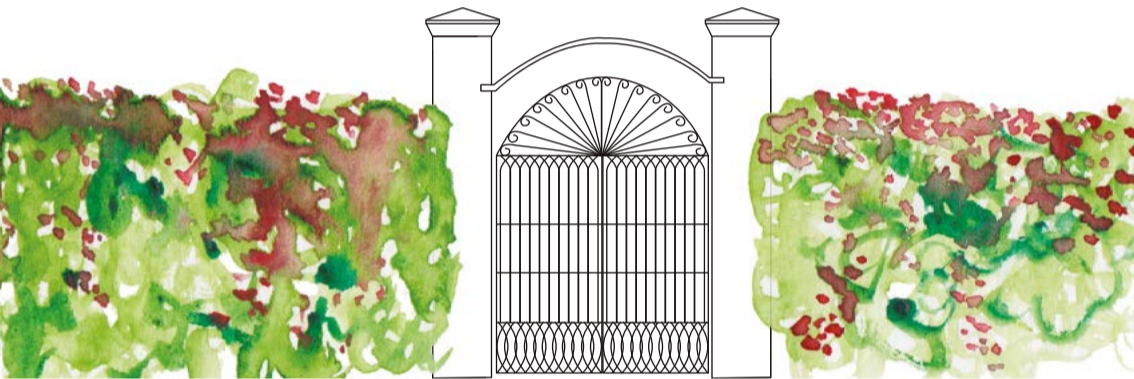
Open daily:
Monday to Sunday: 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Early closing:
December 24th, 25th, 31st and January 1st: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Guided visits

Enjoy an inspiring journey of discovery through the cultures of ancient Peru with the Larco Museum's educators.

Reservations

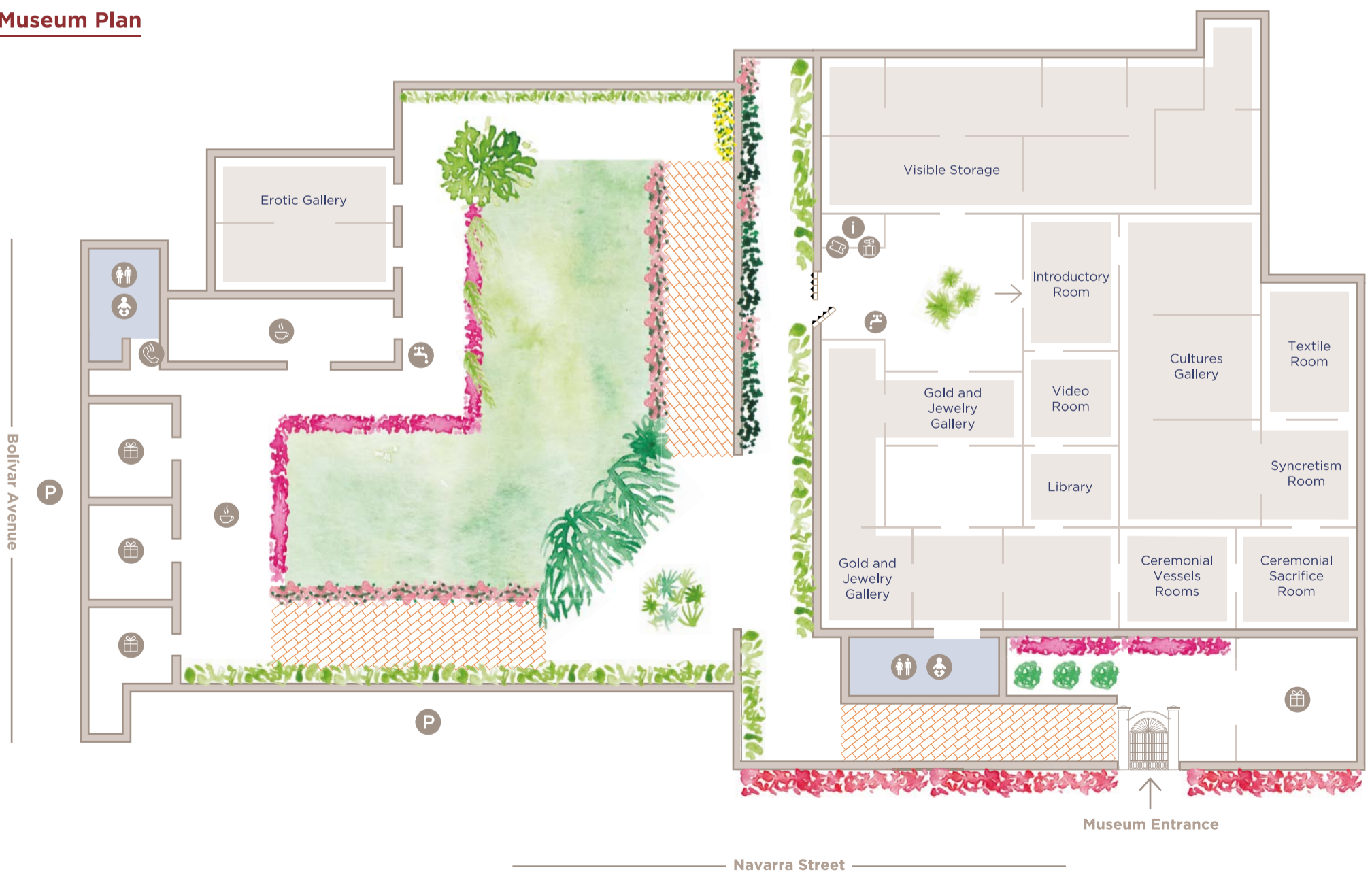
educacion@museolarco.org
T: (51-1) 461-1312, extension 215



map
masterpieces

MUSEO LARCO
treasures from ancient Peru

Museum Plan



Legend



Discover the Larco Museum's Masterpieces

In common with other cradles of civilization, the societies of ancient Peru were agricultural and therefore sought to understand the cycles of nature. The intimate and dynamic relationship ancient Peruvians maintained with their natural environment underpinned their belief in the existence of an upper, celestial world, inhabited by the sun, stars and gods, from where the rainfall required for crops fell; and a dark, damp underworld inhabited by the dead and ruled over by Mother Earth, or Pachamama, where plants grew. The tinkuy, or meeting, of these complementary worlds gave rise to the earthly world, where humans dwelled. It was in this world where such contact occurred that the opposing forces essential to life were found, expressed in the combining of sunlight with water and soil, and in sexual union.

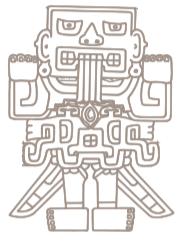
Through these 12 masterpieces held in the Larco Museum, visitors can journey through 5000 years of ancient Peruvian history and learn about the close relationship pre-Columbian societies maintained with nature.

Permanent Exhibition



1 Pacopampa Feline
(1250 BC - 1 AD)

In the Andean world, fierce and powerful felines, including the jaguar, take other animals' lives in order to continue living. For this reason, they symbolize power in the earthly world.
Vitrine 2 / ML301346



2 Pacopampa Stele
(1250 BC - 1 AD)

This all-powerful deity assumed the features of a bird (celestial world), feline (earthly world) and serpent (underworld).
Vitrine 11 / ML300025



3 The Journeys of Ai Apaec
(1 - 800 AD)

Ai Apaec is a mythological character of Moche culture, with great fangs, a serpent belt and ear adornments, who journeys through different worlds in order to ensure the continuity of the cycles of nature.
Vitrine 18 / MLO18882



4 Moche Portrait Vessels
(1 - 800 AD)

The Moche produced extraordinarily realistic portrait vessels. The skull-like face symbolizes the underworld; the man wearing a headdress the earthly world; and the figure with feline fangs the celestial world of the gods.
Vitrine 20 / MLO03022, MLO13572, MLO13574



5 Nasca Drum
(1 - 800 AD)

This individual appears to be in a trance-like state, induced by consumption of hallucinogenic plants, so that, in his role as a shaman, he can contact different worlds.
Vitrine 35 / MLO13683



6 Paracas Mantle
(1250 BC - 1 AD)

On Peru's southern coast, the dead were wrapped in decorative woven mantles and consigned through burial to the underworld.
Vitrine 52 / ML600068



7 Moche Ceremonial Sacrifice
(1 - 800 AD)

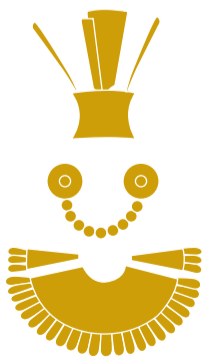
In nature, death is needed in order to give life. It would seem likely that the human sacrifice depicted in this vessel was associated with the spring equinox, the passage from winter to spring. This was an important moment in the agricultural calendar, announcing the beginning of the rainy season.
Vitrine 68 / MLO10847



8 Gold and Silver Chimu Vessel
(1300 - 1532 AD)

This vessel symbolizes duality; the existence of opposite yet complementary forces. Gold represents the sun, daytime, the dry season and masculinity. Silver represents the moon, nighttime, the rainy season and femininity.
Vitrine 95 / ML100865

Erotic Gallery



11 Gold Funerary Attire
(1300 - 1532 AD)

This costume belonged to a great lord who was buried in the mud brick city of Chan Chan, the capital of the Chimú kingdom. The feathers in the gold crown, breastplate and epaulettes evoke his relationship with the birds and the sun, the celestial world.
Vitrine 156 / ML100855



10 Gold Moche Head Adornment
(1 - 800 AD)

Leaders were crowned with adornments which symbolized their power to mediate between different worlds, such as this adornment featuring a powerful mythological being possessed of feline, fox, bird and serpent features.
Vitrine 150 / ML100769



9 Huari Funerary Bundle
(800 - 1300 AD)

This decorated funerary bundle adorned with a mask contains the body of a child, wrapped in cloth. As occurred in ancient Egypt, the dead were carefully prepared for their journey into the underworld.
Vitrine 130 / ML800001



12 Moche ancestor
(1 - 800 AD)

The skeletal bodies of the dead were depicted with an erection, symbolizing their ability to fertilize the underworld they inhabited, the Pachamama or Mother Earth.
Vitrine E45 / MLO04199