



SOUTH AMERICA

THE CENTRAL ANDEAN REGION OF SOUTH AMERICA PRODUCED ONE OF THE WORLD'S MAJOR CIVILIZATIONS. THE INCA STATE (TAWANTINSUYU) BECAME THE LARGEST NATIVE STATE IN THE AMERICAS, BUT WAS NEITHER THE EARLIEST NOR FIRST TO CONTROL AND ADMINISTER LARGE AREAS OF SOUTH AMERICA. THE CHAVÍN CULTURE, REPRESENTED BY THE GHF-SPONSORED SITE CHAVÍN DE HUÁNTAR, IS CONSIDERED BY MOST PERUVIANS TO BE THE CRADLE OF CIVILIZATION FOR ANCIENT PERU AND THE ANDEAN REGION, RULING THROUGH ITS STRONG CULTURE OVER 1000 YEARS BEFORE THE INCA AND THEIR FAMOUS SITE OF MACHU PICCHU.

THROUGHOUT BOLIVIA, COLOMBIA, CHILE AND NORTHERN ARGENTINA, THE INCA AND OTHER EARLIER CIVILIZATIONS INCLUDING THE NAZCA, THE HUARI, AND THE MOCHE LEFT RUINS OF MAGNIFICENCE AND SOPHISTICATED. THE MOCHE 'TEMPLE OF THE SUN', THE 'GATEWAY OF THE SUN' SITE OF TIWANAKU IN BOLIVIA AND THE MAJOR CHIMOR KINGDOM REPRESENTED AT CHAN CHAN ALL POINT TO THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF EARLY CIVILIZATIONS IN SOUTH AMERICA. WITH THE GROWTH OF TOURISM TO THESE AREAS, LONG-TERM SUSTAINABLE CONSERVATION IS POSSIBLE, BUT REQUIRES CAREFUL PLANNING AND PRESERVATION.

2° 34' S, 78° 50' W



INGAPIRCA Ecuador
AD 1456 – 1532
Cañari, Inca

8° 4' S, 79° 3' W



CHAN CHAN Peru
AD 1000 – 1470
Chimu Kingdom

9° 33' S, 77° 9' W

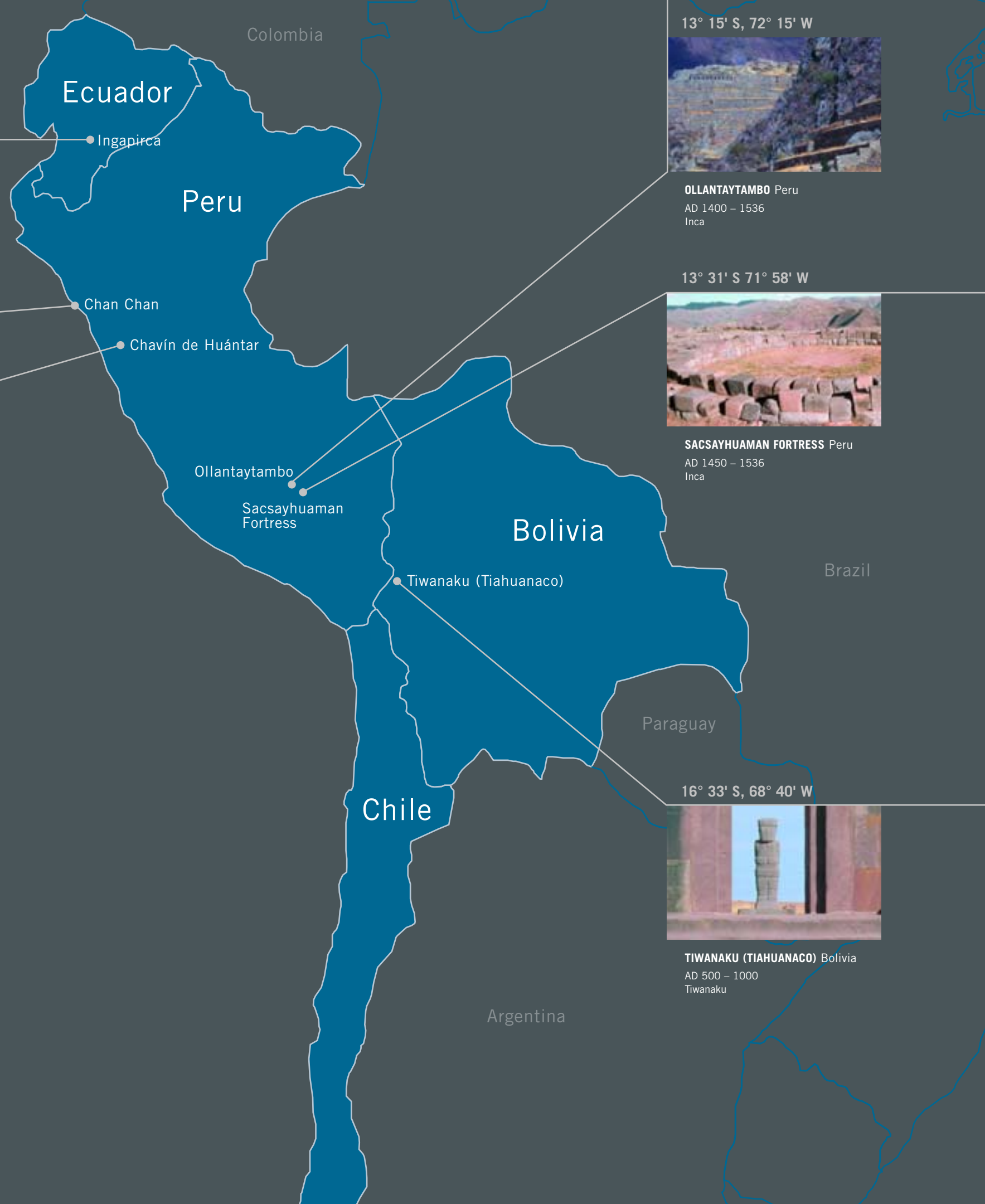


CHAVÍN DE HUÁNTAR Peru
1300 – 400 BC
Chavín

27° 7' S, 109° 22' W



EASTER ISLAND Chile
AD 500 – 1888
Polynesian



13° 15' S, 72° 15' W



OLLANTAYTAMBO Peru
AD 1400 – 1536
Inca

13° 31' S 71° 58' W



SACSAYHUAMAN FORTRESS Peru
AD 1450 – 1536
Inca

16° 33' S, 68° 40' W



TIWANAKU (TIAHUANACO) Bolivia
AD 500 – 1000
Tiwanaku

TIWANAKU (TIAHUANACO)

Bolivia

AD 500 – 1000
Tiwanaku

Renowned as the leading political power of pre-Hispanic Andean South America, the city of Tiwanaku dominated the Bolivian Andes between AD 500–900. Located 43 miles to the west of La Paz, near the southern shore of Lake Titicaca, the exceptionally complex ceremonial and government buildings at the site are testament to the sophistication and influence of the 30–40,000 Tiwanaku city's inhabitants. A catastrophic drought in the 11th century is believed to have been responsible for the city's demise. Preservation of the site is threatened by the removal of monuments and sculptures to neighboring cities, and by looters who have plundered much of the city's treasures.





EASTER ISLAND Chile

AD 500 – 1888
Polynesian

The origins of Easter Island's original inhabitants generates controversial debate.

Archaeological evidence points to the discovery of Easter Island, or Rapa Nui (a Polynesian name dating back to the 1860s) by Polynesians in approximately AD 500.

Easter Island is best known for the Moai, or giant stone monoliths that line its coastline. While some of Easter Island's archaeological sites have been restored, many remain in a state of disrepair resulting from erosion due to mass deforestation, natural disaster and intentional destruction by Catholic missionaries. The most extensive damage occurred between 1770 and 1864, during a period of tribal warfare which culminated in the felling, decapitation and defacing of more than 200 Moai all over the island.

**INGAPIRCA** Ecuador

AD 1456 – 1532
Cañari, Inca

The Inca fortress of Ingapirca, or “Wall of the Inca” is Ecuador’s most important pre-Hispanic archaeological site. Archaeological pieces date back almost 4,000 years. Built of smoothly fitted stone blocks, site structures include fortifications and an unusual elliptically shaped Sun Temple. Preservation work at the site is ongoing.

**CHAN CHAN** Peru

AD 1000 - 1470
Chimu Kingdom

One of the last great powerful cities before the establishment of the Inca Empire, Chan Chan was the capital of the Chimu Kingdom for nearly five centuries. Chan Chan reached its zenith in the 15th century, shortly before being invaded and conquered by the Inca. The highly organized city plan reflects the strict system of political and social stratification within Chimu society. The site is composed of nine separate walled adobe *ciudadellas*, or citadels, each containing its own temples, cemeteries, gardens, wells and systematically arranged rooms. Heavy rainfall and strong winds have destroyed many of the mud-brick buildings, which require constant repair and preservation.



CHAVÍN DE HUÁNTAR Peru

1300 – 400 BC
Chavín

Chavín de Huántar was established over 3000 years ago in an era characterized by a sharp increase in inter-regional exchange of goods and ideas. This great political and religious center flourished between 1300 and 400 BC. At the height of its popularity, Chavín was thought to have at least 3000 inhabitants, making it one of the largest highland centers in the Andes of the time. Currently, the UNESCO-listed archaeological site is considered to be in a fragile state as a result of badly managed tourism, climatic changes due to the El Niño phenomenon, topography of the land and degradation of the materials used in construction of the site. In 1998, emergency assistance was provided to the Peruvian National Institute for Culture, enabling them to improve drainage at the site, which had led to structural instability and the potential for collapse of the galleries within the temple. Since then, ICOMOS has recommended imposing restrictions on tourism, including redefining the boundaries of the archaeological site, and ceasing excavation until an emergency intervention plan is in place.



OLLANTAYTAMBO Peru

AD 1400 – 1536
Inca

The remarkable city of Ollantaytambo, located at the northern end of the Sacred Valley, was an important military, administrative, agricultural and ceremonial center. Militarily its role was to protect the nearby capital, Cuzco, from the threat of invaders. A huge city wall marked by few entrances and strategically located watch-towers fortified the 86-acre city. Ollantaytambo had a well-developed urban sector, as well as a number of religious monuments. An integral component of the city's survival was its agriculture, and a series of farming terraces and aqueducts complete Ollantaytambo's complex layout. Many of these terraces and brilliantly constructed stone aqueducts have fallen into ruin due to lack of care and preservation. Recent progress has been made in planning and protection of the site.



SACSAYHUAMAN Peru

AD 1450 – 1536
Inca

The imperial Incan city of Cuzco was laid out in the shape of a stylized puma, with the fortress-temple of Sacsayhuaman located at the head. Cuzco served as a central administrative and religious center for the Inca until the empire's defeat at the hands of Spanish conquistadors in 1536. The archaeological park contains more than 200 sites, including Inca temples, fortresses, and palaces. Sacsayhuaman is notable for its monolithic construction – protective walls of giant boulders are seamlessly fitted together without the benefit of mortar. On-going damage has occurred over the centuries as the Spanish and later inhabitants of Cuzco ravaged Inca monuments for building materials. Today, Cuzco's thriving tourist economy threatens both the ongoing preservation of these spectacular monuments and the housing conditions of an expanding local population.