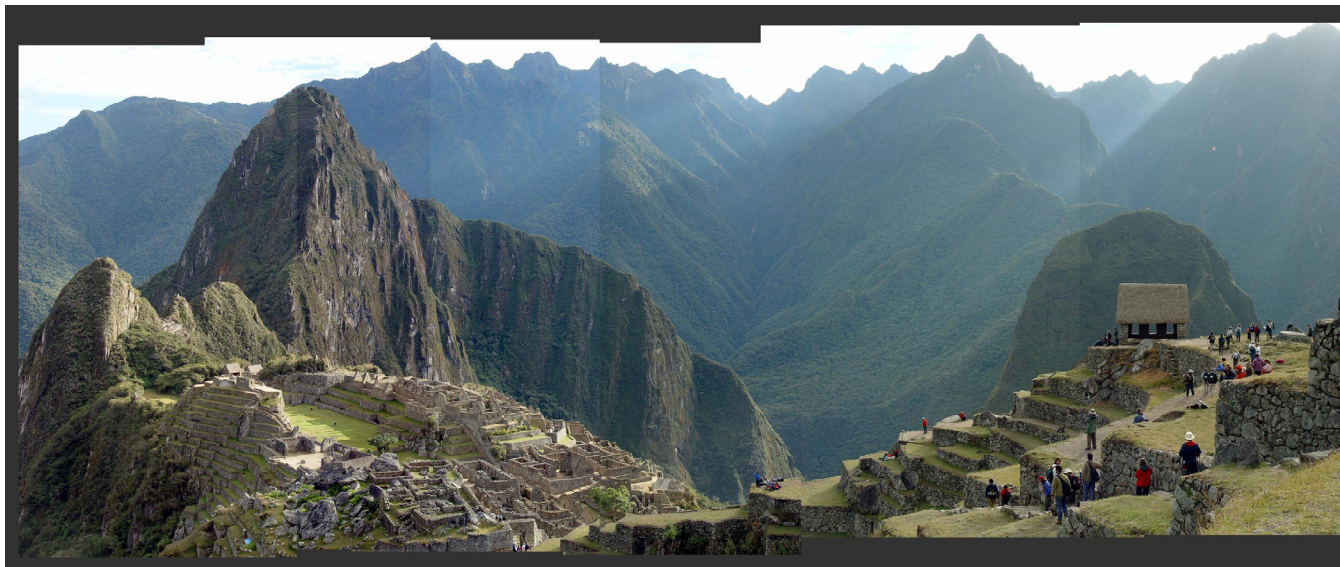


Peru: Wonders on top of the World at Machu Picchu and Cusco, December 2 - 11, 2016



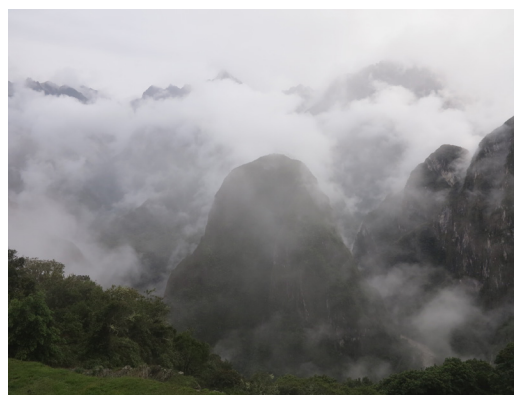
We have conceived this trip, to bring you to one of the world's magnificent wonders, Machu Picchu, while keeping the investment of time and the rigors of travel quite manageable. Scheduled for that period between the two year-end holidays in early December, when sites are not crowded, and keeping the focus on the great cities of Cusco and Machu Picchu, we have also kept the duration of the trip short, so that no one will even realize you have left! You will also experience minimal jet lag since Peru is in the same time zone as the US east coast (or Midwest in summer).

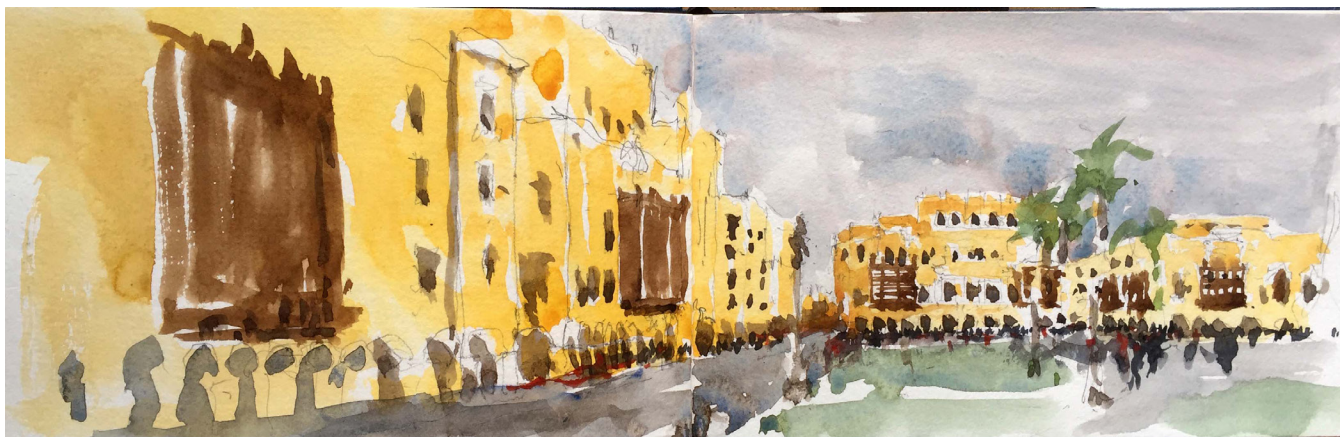
For travelers who have seen or dreamt about the Egyptian Pyramids, Chartres, Petra, and the Taj Mahal, Machu Picchu is next on the list. The enigmatic and remote citadel was built by the Incas in c 1450, then abandoned and "lost". It was rediscovered by Hiram Bingham as recently as 1911. The Incas also settled and built other cities and temples in and around Cusco. This was perhaps what attracted the Spanish to build a great capital there, erecting magnificent churches and monasteries on top of the very same Inca structures. Today it has the distinction of being one of the best preserved cities in the Ibero-colonial world and is a UNESCO World Heritage site (as are Machu Picchu and the colonial core of Lima).

Our itinerary has been planned to require missing no more than six working days, and should allow day-time flights in both directions from North America. It will begin with two nights in Lima, where we will visit the colonial center of the city and see a collection of Inca and other indigenous art. We will fly in the morning to Cusco, with the rest of the day unplanned, so that you can relax and adjust to the high altitude of approximately 11,000 feet. Initially, even getting up out of a chair, causes breathless dizziness, fortunately, though, time cures this ill and as your lungs and heart adjust, you will begin to feel more normal. Nevertheless, consultation with your doctor is strongly recommended before joining the trip.

We will be in Cusco, at el Monasterio Hotel for three nights. The hotel is a magnificently restored old convent, initially restored and opened by the Orient Express Company, and offers a sumptuous and well located spot from which to enjoy Cusco. We will do this the next day on foot, and the following

Machu Picchu. The magnificent site in varying weather conditions (summer, above and below and last December bottom two images).





day on our private bus around the city's periphery to see the several Inca sites of Saqsaywaman, Puca Pucara, Q'Engo, and Tambo Machay.

The next day, we will leave Cusco for Pisac, Yucay, Moray and Olanaytambo, all magnificent and dramatic Inca sites. We will spend the night either at a simple hotel, originally built beside the rail line to Machu Picchu to house the workers who completed the amazing engineering feat of constructing the route. We will be well situated to board our early morning train the next day for Aguas Calientes at the base of the ascent to Machu Picchu. If our group is larger, we may opt for a nearby more luxurious hostelry in the Sacred Valley.

The next night we will spend at the Sanctuary Lodge, which is immediately beside the site of Machu Picchu, and this will give us free access to visit for as long and as often as we want over two days from the late morning of our arrival until evening of the next day. We will then return to Cusco on the period Pullman dining car train, the Hiram Bingham, rolling into Cusco after an elegant dinner aboard. We will return to el Monasterio for the night, and after a leisurely morning, we will board our noon flight back to Lima. We will return to the Country Club Hotel, and will have a farewell dinner at the restaurant Gaston y Astrid, one of Lima's cutting edge restaurants in a restored mansion near our hotel. The next day, or even the same evening, (if you prefer) you will return independently home.

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1, Friday, December 2, 2016

Independent travel to Lima, transfer to Country Club Hotel

Day 2, Saturday, December 3

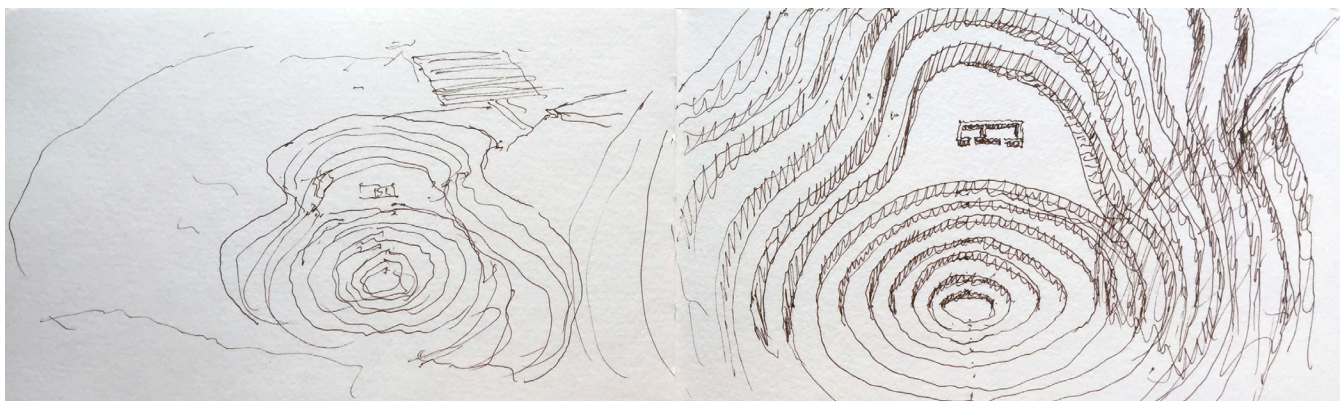
Morning at leisure, lunch at Astrid and Gaston Cafe, afternoon visit to Plaza de Armas and vicinity.

Day 3, Sunday, December 4

Late morning flight to Cusco, transfer to Monasterio Hotel, lunch at Decorative Arts Museum MAP Café across plaza. Rest of day unplanned for acclimatization. Dinner in hotel.

Plaza d'Armas, Lima (Stephen Harby sketch). Below, former railway station, now a museum, and the original gridded plan within fortified walls.





Day 4, Monday, December 5

Cusco Town on foot

Inca Sites: Above, sketch views of Moray; bottom left, Moray; below, right Saqsaywaman; bottom right, Pisac.

Day 5, Tuesday, December 6

Nearby Inca sites (Saqsaywaman, Puca Pucara, Q'Engo, Tambo Machay);
Afternoon and dinner free.

Day 6, Wednesday, December 7

Leave Cusco for Pisac, Yucay, Moraya and Ollantaytambo. Stay El Albuergue Ollantaytambo or Belmond Sacred valley; dinner at hotel.

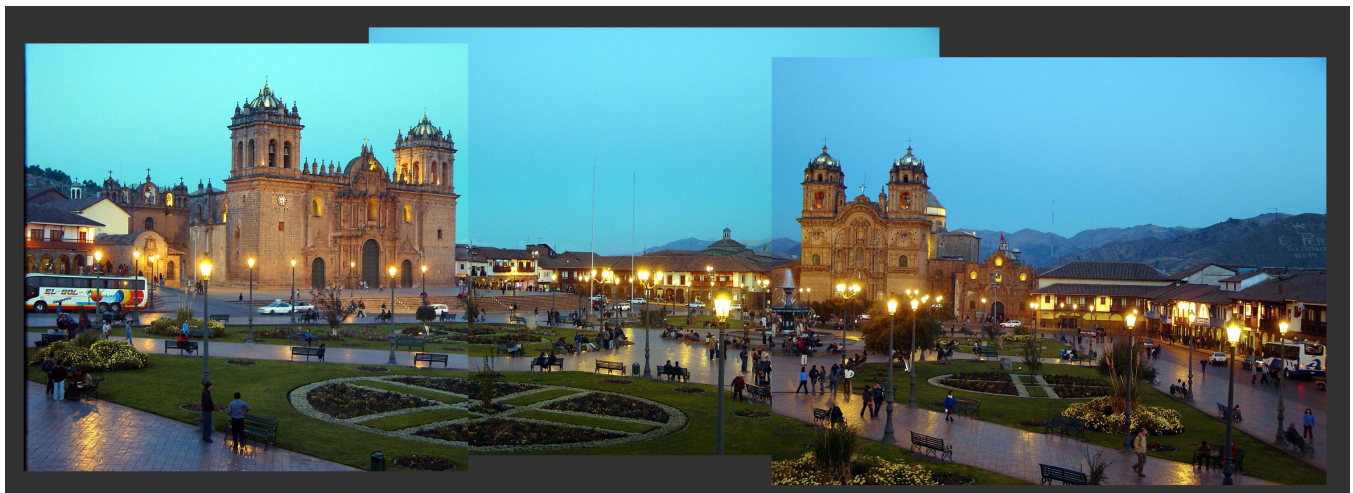
Day 7, Thursday, December 8

8:00 am Vista dome train to Aguas Calientes, transfer to Sanctuary Lodge, buffet lunch, afternoon on site at Machu Picchu, dinner at hotel.

Day 8, Friday, December 9

Morning and afternoon on site at Machu Picchu, evening Hiram Bingham
Dinner train to Cusco. Stay at Monasterio Hotel.





Day 9, Saturday, December 10

Noon flight to Lima, transfer to Country Club Hotel, visiting several museums and collections enroute. Farewell dinner at Astrid y Gaston (main restaurant)

Views of Cusco: Above, Plaza de Armas at dusk with Cathedral to left and Compania to right; below left, La Compania (watercolor by Stephen Harby); bottom left, aerial view; below right, row of houses, now commercial buildings; bottom right, Hotel Monasterio, cloister.

Day 10, Sunday, December 11

Independent departures from Lima

