Insider’s Peru: the Sacred Valley to Machu Picchu

August 2-10, 2018

accompanied by Andrew J. Hamilton
Lecturer, Department of Art and Archaeology, Princeton
Explore the wonders of Peru – from the Sacred Valley and Machu Picchu to Cusco and beyond. World-renowned archaeological sites beckon from mist-covered hills, and bustling cultural centers offer a blend of old and new Andean civilizations. Accompanied by Princeton’s own Andrew J. Hamilton, an authority on Inca art and architecture, explore the cultural, natural and historical treasures of Andean civilization. You’ll also learn from local experts on Andean wildlife, societies, and arts as you and your fellow Princetonians step foot into the heart of Peru.
**WHY PERU?** From majestic Machu Picchu to colonial Cusco and the Sacred Valley, Peru is a quintessential destination to explore culture, history, and archaeology – amid an awe-inspiring natural landscape.

**ABOUT OUR STUDY LEADER**

Andrew J. Hamilton  
*Lecturer, Department of Art and Archaeology, Princeton*

Andrew Hamilton studies the art and architecture of the ancient Andes, and specializes in the Incas. His book, *Scale and the Incas* will be published by Princeton University Press in spring 2018, and examines the conceptual role of scale in Inca art, architecture, and worldviews. As well, the book includes over 70 of his own hand-drawn and -painted color plates of nearly 200 artifacts from museums around the world. He is currently working on another book examining the most famous object from the ancient Andes, a rare royal Inca tunic conserved at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, DC. Hamilton’s classes at Princeton explore the Incas, Andean cultures, and indigenous American cultures. He has previously taken two of his undergraduate seminars to Lima, Cusco, and Machu Picchu. Having lived and researched in Peru for over ten years, he looks forward to sharing his knowledge of the Incas with you.

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

- Explore the colorful markets and towns of the Sacred Valley, as well as the magnificent ruins of Machu Picchu.

- Learn firsthand about pioneering programs aimed at preserving the natural treasures and cultural heritage of Peru.

- Experience traditional highland cuisine with members of a local community and participate in a *pachamanca* ceremony.

- Meet with leaders of the Spectacled Bear Project, dedicated to preserving South America’s only bear species.

- Examine other important Inca ruins, including the immense Sacsayhuaman; Cusco’s most important temple, the Coricancha; and the Puka Pukara ruins.

**ACTIVITY LEVEL**

**MODERATE:** involves walking over uneven surfaces and climbing stairs at locations not handicapped accessible (i.e., no elevators, ramps, or handrails). Expect to walk up to three miles per day and be on one’s feet for up to three hours at a time. Highest elevation: 11,152 ft.
AUGUST 2 – LIMA
Upon arrival at the airport in Lima you will be met by your local guide and transferred to the hotel. *Casa Andina Private Collection Miraflores.* (Meals aloft)

AUGUST 3 – LIMA
Gather this morning for an orientation meeting with your Princeton staff and local guide. Depart the hotel for the Larco Herrera Museum, Lima’s most important exhibition of ancient Andean cultures. Explore a vast collection of artifacts, including the famous “erotic collection,” gold and silver burial offerings, extravagant textiles, and some 30,000 ceramic vessels exhibited in open storage. Enjoy lunch in the museum’s cafe, with a demonstration on how to make authentic Peruvian ceviche. This afternoon, explore the colonial center of Lima with a visit to the Plaza de Armas and the Monastery of San Francisco, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Visit the Casa de Aliaga, the oldest dwelling in the Americas and home to the same family for 17 generations. This evening, dine at the foot of Huaca Pucllana, the great adobe pyramid that played a central role in the advancement of the Lima culture from 200-700 A.D. *Casa Andina Private Collection Miraflores.* (BLD)

AUGUST 4 – URUBAMBA
This morning transfer to the airport for a short flight to Cusco. Your first visit in the Sacred Valley includes an opportunity to learn about Andean weaving traditions and get a close-up look at llamas, alpacas, and endangered vicuñas. The Awana Kancha Alpaca Center is an interactive museum where you will observe how wool is collected, dyed, and spun into thread. After lunch, visit the Pisac Ruins. Located high above the valley and the town of Pisac, the ruins are considered one of the finest remaining Inca archaeological sites in the country. This evening, special guest José Koechlin will join the group for a discussion on his vision in developing sustainable tourism in Peru. *Hotel Hacienda Urubamba.* (BLD)

AUGUST 5 – URUBAMBA
After breakfast at the hotel, venture to Moray, an outstanding archaeological site composed of circular agricultural terraces the function of which is still debated in scholarship. Next, visit the community of Maras and its salt flats. Lunch today is a pachamanca, a traditional earthen cooking method in much of highland Peru. Take part in a ceremony paying tribute to the earth led by a shaman: it begins with an offering of small amounts of Andean cereals, grains, and fruits with coca leaves, and ends with the ritual burning of the offering and burial of its ashes to complete the cycle. Return to the lodge for an afternoon at leisure. In the evening, attend a presentation on the agriculture of the Andes, followed by dinner and a planetarium visit. *Hotel Hacienda Urubamba.* (BLD)

AUGUST 6 – MACHU PICCHU
Take an early morning transfer to Ollantaytambo to explore the town and archaeological site. Once the royal estate of Emperor Pachacuti,
Ollantaytambo later served as a stronghold of Inca resistance against Spanish conquest. After lunch, transfer to the train station and take the scenic Vistadome journey to Aguas Calientes (elevation 6,693 feet). After check-in at the hotel, visit with the Inkaterra Association (ITA) and the Protected Natural Areas National Service (SERNANP), which manage the Inkaterra Machu Picchu Spectacled Bear Project. Once common throughout the Andes, the Spectacled Bear is now critically endangered. During the visit, gain insight into the world of these large mammals (the only bear species in South America), and learn about the challenges they face to survive in today's world. Later, walk along the orchid-lined hotel pathways on the lookout for Andean Cock-of-the-rock, the Golden-headed Quetzal, and many of the 18 different hummingbird species identified on the grounds. Dinner is included at the hotel at your leisure this evening. Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel. (BLD)

AUGUST 7 - MACHU PICCHU-CUSCO

Early this morning, a bus brings you up the mountain to Machu Picchu (elevation 7,972 feet). Upon arrival at “The Lost City of the Incas,” an expert archaeologist will greet you for a guided exploration of the terraces, ceremonial shrines, steps, and urban areas of one of the world’s most famous archaeological sites. Learn about the geology and history of key areas like Intihuatana (the Sun Dial), the Sacred Plaza, and the Temple of the Sun. This is an opportunity to revel in the energy and atmosphere of what was once an opulent royal Inca estate. In the late afternoon, return by bus to Aguas Calientes, then travel by train back to Ollantaytambo, where you will transfer to Cusco. Check in at the hotel with time to rest from the higher elevation. Dinner is at leisure, to explore local fare. +Cusco is the highest elevation on the program at 11,152 feet. Casa Andina Premium Cusco. (B)

AUGUST 8 - CUSCO

After breakfast explore Cusco on foot with special guest Peter Frost as you learn more about this beautiful city of cobblestone streets and historical treasures. Visit the Cusco Cathedral and its colonial masterpieces, then have lunch celebrating the culture and history of Peru at El MAP Café. This afternoon, transfer to the airport for a flight back to Lima and some time to rest before your evening flight home. Day room at Hotel Wyndham Costa del Sol Airport. (BL)

AUGUST 9 - CUSCO

After breakfast explore Cusco on foot with special guest Peter Frost as you learn more about this beautiful city of cobblestone streets and historical treasures. Visit the Cusco Cathedral and its colonial masterpieces, then have lunch celebrating the culture and history of Peru at El MAP Café. This afternoon, transfer to the airport for a flight back to Lima and some time to rest before your evening flight home. Day room at Hotel Wyndham Costa del Sol Airport. (BL)

AUGUST 10 - ARRIVE USA

Arrive back in the US.

INCA STONES IN CUSCO BY D. GORDON E. ROBERTSON

PRICING, PER PERSON

Double occupancy: $5,425
Single occupancy: $6,475

Program rates include:

- All accommodations, meals and excursions as specified in the itinerary
- Domestic flights as specified in the itinerary
- Full program of briefings, lectures, and presentations
- Group transfers for all participants on group arrival and departure days
- Baggage handling at hotels

Sacred Valley

1500s, one of the largest politically-united territories on earth. Before lunch enjoy a special music presentation showcasing traditional Andean instruments and their importance to Peruvian culture. This afternoon, transfer to Sacsayhuaman, an immense ruin overlooking Cusco. The structure was one an important temple, but is often referred to as a fortress because it was the site of one of the fiercest battles between the Incas and the Spanish conquistadors. Gather this evening for a festive farewell dinner. Casa Andina Premium Cusco. (BLD)

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• Gratuities to porters, wait staff, guides, drivers
• Entrance fees
• Non-alcoholic beverages with meals
• Bottled water on motor coaches
• Professional tour manager

Program rates do not include:
• U.S. international airfare
• Passport/visa expenses
• Medical expenses and immunizations
• Private airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure dates
• Travel insurance
• Excess baggage charges
• Alcoholic beverages
• Laundry or dry cleaning
• Telephone, fax, Internet and email charges
• Room service
• Other items of a personal nature

Holbrook Travel can assist with making your flight arrangements upon request. Travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended.

JOSÉ KOECHLIN VON STEIN
CEO of Inkaterra, José Koechlin von Stein established the company in 1975, pioneering ecotourism and sustainable development as an economic basis for biodiversity conservation.

PETER FROST
Peter Frost is a writer, photographer, and independent scholar of the Andean region. Author of Exploring Cusco, he has also written and photographed Insight Pocket Guide Peru.

RUBÉN CARLOS ORELLANA NEIRA
Rubén was born in Cusco and has spent his life nurturing its history and traditions. He currently works as an archaeologist in Puno and Cusco, excavating and restoring monuments.

GUSTAVO LEÓN FLORES
Gustavo León is a Cusqueñan musician and expert on the music of the Peruvian Andes. His musical group has been recognized for the work of collecting and composing Cusqueñan music.
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• Examine other important Inca ruins like the immense Sacsayhuaman; Cusco’s most important temple, the Coricancha; and the Puka Pukara ruins.
• Experience traditional highland cuisine with members of a local community and participate in a pachamanca ceremony.
• Experience an Andean earth payment ceremony led by a shaman.
• Extend your journey with an optional 3-night stay in the Peruvian Amazon.

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