



# Machu Picchu

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# Outline

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- History
- Location
- Architecture
- Intihuana stone
- Concerns over tourism



# History

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- constructed around 1450
- abandoned less than 100 years later
- hypothesis:
  - traditional birthplace of Inca people
  - spiritual centre
  - prison
  - estate of Pachacuti

# Location

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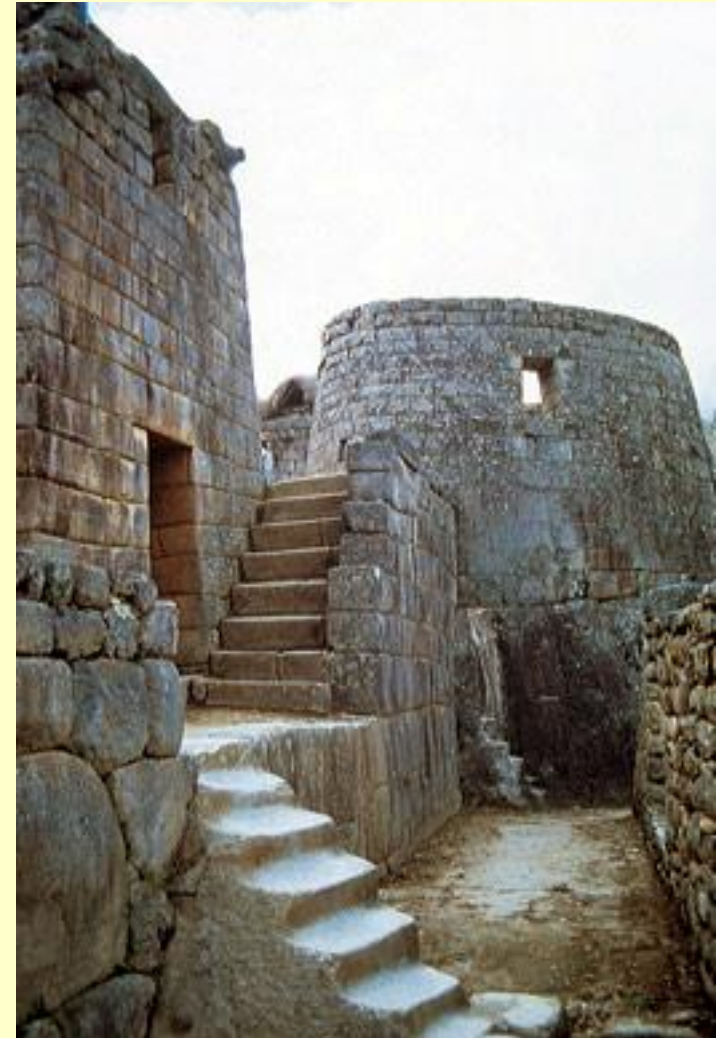
- 2,350 meters above sea level
- 70 kilometers from Cusco
- Inca rope bridge across the Urubamba River
- sits in a saddle between two mountains
- two high-altitude routes from Machu Picchu to Cusco



# Architecture

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- ❑ classical Inca style, with polished dry-stone walls
- ❑ never used the wheel
- ❑ 140 constructions
- ❑ more than one hundred flights of stone steps
- ❑ water fountains



# Architecture

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- the Sacred District:
  - the *Intihuatana*, the *Temple of the Sun*, the *Room of the Three Windows*
  
- the Popular District
  - storage buildings and simple houses to live in
  
- the District of the Priests and the Nobility
  - the residence of the *Amautas*, the zone of the *Ñustas*, the Monumental Mausoleum

# stone

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- one of the many ritual stones in South America
- "The Hitching Point of the Sun"
- astronomic clock
- damaged in September 2000 by a 1,000-pound crane
- 1980s - moved from Machu Picchu's central plaza



# tourism

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- most visited tourist attraction of Peru
- in the late 1990s - construction of a cable car to the ruins and a luxury hotel
- 400,000 tourist visited Machu Picchu in 2003
- UNESCO endangered World Heritage site





# What to Do and What to See at Machu Picchu?

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□ The sprawling ruins are best explored with a guide, so you can be sure to see and learn about some of the site's more fascinating highlights, including the Temple of the Sun, Temple of the Three Windows, Temple of the Condor, the Sun Gate and the Intihuatana rock.

Many travelers plan to hike Huayna (Wayna) Picchu, the peak overlooking the ruins, which often appears in the backdrop of photos of Machu Picchu.



# When to go?

- ❑ Weather in Machu Picchu tends to be damp and often foggy. Peak season begins in late May and lasts through August, with July and August being the driest months. January and February are the rainiest months in this subtropical region. Expect brief showers during your visit, regardless of time of year.
- ❑ The ruins can be unpleasantly crowded with travelers visiting on a day tour from Cusco or Ollantaytambo, particularly during peak season. These tours generally crowd the ruins between 10 am and 2 pm.



# What to do around the Machu Picchu?



- The Sacred Valley surrounding Machu Picchu is home to a number of fascinating ruins, small towns and sights. Plan a Sacred Valley day tour from Cusco or Ollantaytambo and be sure it includes stops at the Pisac traditional market and Pisac ruins; the Ollantaytambo village and Inca ruins; the Moray ruins and the Salineras salt mines.





**Thank you for your  
attention!!!**

