

The *llaqta* of Machupicchu represents a masterpiece of art, architecture, and engineering in perfect harmony with nature and is the most the most well-known legacy of the Inka civilization. It was abandoned during the second half of the sixteenth century; it was never lost, however, as it was occasionally visited and inhabited by local farmers. Some colonial documents refer to the Llaqta of Machupicchu as the "Settlement of the Incas" or the "Old Village of the Inga Named Guaynapicchu." In 1874, the names "Machu Picchu" and "Huaina Picchu" appear for the first time in a cartographic document, which was prepared by engineer Herman Göhring. In 1911, Hiram Bingham, a professor from Yale University, visited the *llaqta* and was impressed by its beauty and majesty. The following year he returned with a multidisciplinary team of professionals who conducted excavations and research in the area.



www.machupicchu.gob.pe



## ON-SITE MUSEUM (Opening hours: 09:00 to 16:00 h.)

The "Manuel Chávez Ballón" on-site Museum of Machupicchu was inaugurated in the late 1960's and has since contributed to the diffusion of knowledge about pre-Hispanic societies that developed in the HSM-NAPM. Also, it allows visitors to understand, in a more comprehensive manner, the meaning of the *llaqta* of Machupicchu and the *inka* civilization.

The museum has four exhibition rooms where graphics, photographs, maps and different kinds of Inka artifacts from archaeological excavations are presented. The botanical garden is located next to the museum. Here you can see a great diversity of fauna and flora, including many endemic orchids.

### 1. MAIN GATE

*Inka* architects designed the *llaqta*'s main entry to frame the Waynapicchu Mountain, one of the guardian deities of the site. The doorway's trapezoidal shape is a hallmark of *inka* architecture.

### 2. SUN TEMPLE

The temple is one of the best examples of organic architecture in the world and one of the finest in the *llaqta* of Machupicchu. The lower level contains a stepped symbol, a lithic sculpture, and trapezoidal niches that were used for ceremonial purposes related to the cult of the dead. In the top level, trapezoidal niches can be found, along with a large carved rock altar and trapezoidal windows that were astronomical observation points.

### 3. HOUSE OF THE *INKA*

This compound is strategically located close to the first water fountains (*phaqcha*) and the Temple of the Sun. It has two entrances and served as a temporary residence for the emperor or his representatives. The main courtyard contains a set of architectural elements associated with the state religion.

### 4. WATER FOUNTAINS

There are 16 water fountains located in the Urban zone. They display similar design features and construction techniques; however, each is unique.

### 5. GRANITIC CHAOS

The fractured rocks and partially worked granite blocks in this area were still in the process of being shaped. The area was still being used as a quarry at the time the site was abandoned. It suggests that the site may have looked like before the construction of the *llaqta*.

### 6. SACRED PLAZA

This area encompasses the Main Temple, the Temple of the Three Windows, and a building of rustic architecture that served as a residence and storehouse for objects related to the ceremonies performed in the temples.

### 7. INTIWATANA PYRAMID

Here a rocky outcrop was terraced in the form of a truncated pyramid. On its summit are two enclosures, and in between them is a monolithic sculpture known as the Intiwatana where ceremonies were held in honor of the sacred mountains surrounding the *llaqta*.

### 8. SACRED ROCK

This granite block, which is in the process of being ground down, is surrounded by an altar for the worship of sacred mountains. It is located between the central area of the *llaqta* and Waynapicchu Mountain.

### 9. THREE GATES

This compound is named for the symmetry of the sector's three *kancha* (architectural units). Each *kancha* has one access point that features a double jamb, trapezoidal doorway and a similar distribution of single rooms around an open central patio. The sector was a residential area for high-ranking elite.

### 10. WATER MIRRORS

This building, located in the compound by the same name, was designed for astronomical observation, using the water mirrors that are at floor level in the central part of the room to reflect celestial phenomena.

### 11. CONDOR TEMPLE

The temple is at the center of a large ceremonial area where there is a representation of the condor spreading its wings. The complexity of this temple is evidenced by the presence of underground passages related to the worship of water.



NO RE-ENTRY (EXCEPT FOR TICKETS THAT INCLUDE MOUNTAINS)  
NO RESTROOMS INSIDE THE MONUMENT

Construction of the *llaqta* or *inka* city of Machupicchu begins

1400



1532

The Crown of Spain invades the Tawantinsuyu (Inka empire).



1560



The *llaqta* or *inka* city of Machupicchu and other sites of the area are abandoned.

1911

Hiram Bingham visits the *llaqta* and takes the first photographs of the site.



1912



The Yale Peruvian Expedition excavates in the *llaqta* and its surroundings.

1913

The National Geographic Magazine publishes an extensive article on the scope of the expedition, including 244 photographs.



1929



Through Law Nº 6634 Machupicchu is declared a National Monument.

1981

The Peruvian government creates the HSM-NAPM.



1983



The SHM-PANM is inscribed as a mixed property on the World Heritage List of UNESCO and through Law Nº 23765 it is declared National Cultural Heritage.



