

MACHU PICCHU



WESTERN SIDE. MCGAREY

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MT PUTUKUSTI. MCGAREY

BACKGROUND

Machu Picchu was discovered by Hiram Bingham in 1911.

It was a royal estate of [Pachacutec](#). This area was inhabited to keep the [Chanca](#) conquered. Or used as a winter court. Free travel was not allowed among the people so only the Inca leadership would have known about it.¹² Supported no more than 750 and only a few hundred during the rainy season (Nov–Apr).³

Compounds could hold twice as many people as housing. MP compounds housed 120 elites. They have superb stone work, cut and polished. Each doorway has carved 'bar-sockets', used to support a kind of door. Housing: 150 possible dwellings, at most 750 residents. Machu Picchu has about 30 religious structures, many more than other royal estates. Pachacuti's panaca was very important religiously.³

It was originally believed to be a place for the Virgins of the Sun. This was based on skulls found by Bingham. Skulls do not differ as much in Andean people as in Caucasians. Studies on the pelvic bones show that the men, women ration were actually equal.¹¹ Warrior skeletons found, gives evidence of MP not just a religious site. Royal estate to show locals who is in power.⁹

Most burials at MP were of [Collas](#), [Lupaqas](#), and [Pacajes](#) from Lake Titicaca. Also [Canaris](#), [Chacas](#), and [Chimu](#). Broken bones and bad backs indicate retainers and laborers.³

Metallurgy was important to MP. Because of abundant fuel and natural draft furnaces possible.¹⁷⁰ metal artifacts excavated.⁵ Tin mostly found, from N Bolivian highlands.² found large bronze crowbars, possibly replacing wooden levers.³

2000ft above the river.¹³ It took 50 years to build.⁹ Buildings consist of 18 different building styles, including Imperial.⁸ Water canals were carefully built and structured just for its construction. Plazas were built up to create

level surfaces and support for buildings. About 60% of construction was spent on this unseen construction.¹² Allows for the support of heavy granite buildings, large quantities of tourists, seasons of heavy rain, earthquakes and even drainage.³

[Cutija](#) hacienda controlled the land of MP. Neighboring haciendas included [Collpani](#), [Mandor](#), [Cedrobamba](#), [Pampacahuay](#).³

Why no Spanish destruction? Maybe the civil war and smallpox was draining Cusco's resources and all the sites along the [Inca Trail](#) were abandoned along with treasures.⁴ Or maybe these sites were abandoned during Manco's rebellion. The Incas burned many houses through this area to ensure a barrier between [Vilcabamba](#) and [Cusco](#).^{1562 document, 4}

HISTORY

1450. Built, based on the architectural style.¹

1565. Mentioned in a traveler's journey to Vilcabamba as Picho.⁸

1568. Probably visited by Spaniard Gabriel Suarez. He bought the surrounding area, though no evidence.^{10, 8} Also mentioned in a Spanish document, "village of Picho."⁸

1865. Antonio Raimondi's map shows a peak "Machu Picchu."⁸

1875. Charles Wiener tried to find MP because it was reported as an interesting archeological site.⁸ He listed rumors of Huaina Picchu and Matcho Picchu, Peru et Bolivie.¹

1904. Lizarraga treasure hunted these slopes. He reported the ruins, but no one paid attention.

1911. Discovered by Bingham. A trepanned skull was found. No skeletons were found inside the city. Animal specimens were left with Smithsonian. Archeological material left with Yale Museum. Peru received excavation from 1914–15.²

William Farabee, Harvard anthropologist, traveled down the Urubamba. He gave a map to Bingham. Albert Gresecke, U of Cusco, also traveled Urubamba and told of rumors of MP ruins above Mandor Pampa.¹

1934. Became overgrown after Bingham left. Louis Valcarcel reclaimed it.¹³

- 18. RECORDING STONES
- 19. STOREHOUSE
- 20. CEREMONIAL ROCK
- 21. WATCHMAN'S HUT
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- 23. INCA TRAIL
- 24. MACHU PICCHU MTN
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- 1. DRAWBRIDGE
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- 13. MAIN SQUARE
- 14. UÑA PICCHU
- 15. SACRED ROCK
- 16. UNFINISHED TEMPLE
- 17. UPPER GROUP



- LEGEND**
- 7 Location without photo.
 - 6 Location with photo.

5 Location with needed photo.

This view is from the top of Huayna Picchu, looking down and back at Machu Picchu, looking South. Photo by D Roscoe, **new photo needed**.



6. ROSCOE



1. A ROSCOE



3. D ROSCOE



9. BENCH. D ROSCOE

DESCRIPTIONS

1. DRAWBRIDGE. Above this mark and to the west, the trail cuts into the side of a bluff. There is a gap in the trail with a removable bridge. The path continues on to [Llactapata](#). Roundtrip 1hr.⁴

2. MAIN GATE. This is the imposing main entrance to Machu Picchu. Frames Huayna Picchu.¹

Bingham found more than 30 obsidian pebbles. No volcanic activity in the area to produce these. Bingham thought they were from a meteor shower. Using x-ray fluorescence, U of Missouri found they are Chivay obsidian from Colca Valley near Arequipa. Too small for potential tool use. Precious offerings were often placed in special locations, like here (still done in mountain communities). Person from Colca canyon probably placed them here as an offering as they entered MP. Valued because it was created from apus of volcanic mountain peaks of Colca and also the river that shaped the stones.³

3. ROOF. You can see from this photo how the thatched roofs were attached to the building. Most buildings have perfect stone work and dry masonry, but then have rough mortared stonework in the gables.²

4. FAKE. Here is an archeologist's attempt to split a stone, not an Incan attempt.

5. QUARRY.

6. WESTERN VIEW.

In the foreground is the quarry. In the [Sacred Plaza](#) you can clearly see the viewing platform, looking at [Llactapata](#).¹²

Trail on W side down to river. Found after 1997 forest fire. Not open to the public as of 2000.⁴

7. SNAKE ROCK.

Several snakes are carved onto to rock, cave underneath.¹²

8. STAIRCASE to [Sacred Plaza](#).

9. TEMPLE OF THE THREE WINDOWS.

Bingham believed this was birthplace of the Incas, which talked of the Incas coming forth from 3 caves. The edge of the windows are rounded more than usual to allow for wider view.¹¹



2. D ROSCOE



4. D ROSCOE



5. D ROSCOE



9. D ROSCOE



10. D ROSCOE



10. PRINCIPAL. D ROSCOE



10. SACRED PLAZA. D ROSCOE



10. HUACA. D ROSCOE

A **masmas**, open sided building had a stone pillar to support the roof.⁶

Looks due east toward the rising sun.^{Reinhard, 1}

A large stone **block sits on a small cylindrical stone** was used as roller to help in moving.⁴

Originally had 5 windows. Two were blocked off. Near the base is a rock with the **step motif** carved onto it. The N corner-stone shows that the rock was being smoothed after placing. A "**shallow groove** in the end face" showed workers how far to cut.¹²

10. SACRED PLAZA. Here are the **Principal Temple** and **Priest's House** and stairway leading up to Intihuatana. Sitting on the bench of the Priest House one **faces the Sun Temple at Llactapata** and the setting sun over **Mt Pumasillo** on the December Solstice.¹¹ W side over looks steep terraces. The base of the platform is perfectly carved but the upper is rough: shows a later "hasty construction."⁴

The **Principal Temple** is on the N side of the plaza. Presumably dedicated to Viracocha. It's a **masma**,¹¹ three walled building with large foundation stones and excellent stone work. "Only temple with a kind of sub-temple attached – Sacristy."⁴

Sacristy/Priest house – maybe a place for priest to prepare before entering Principal Temple. The left side of the door-jamb has a stone with 32 angles.⁴

There is a **huaca** which points to the cardinal directions. Maybe represents the Southern Cross.⁴

11. IMAGE STONES. Also called Echo Stones. Stones carved to match **Mt Yanantin** and **Mt**



11. M. ROSCOE



15. ROSCOE



12. M. ROSCOE



16. D. ROSCOE

Putuski,¹²

12. INTI HUATANA / HITCHING POST OF THE SUN.

It points to true north. Every major site has one and another at [Choquesuysuy](#)

and between here and [Llactapata](#).

Spanish destroyed most. Intihuatanas are like large sun dials, used for measuring shadows. This pillar is higher than any other.²

Huatana – as a noun means a year. As a verb means hitching post.⁶

High point of MP. Cardinal directions with alignment to 4 mountain peaks:⁹ Salcantay S, Huayna Picchu N, Pumasillo W, Veronica E. A t the center of sacred peaks and solar events. On the equinox, the sun rises over [Mt Veronica](#) and sets at [Mt San Miguel](#). And December solstice the sun sets at over [Mt Pumasillo](#).

An abstract version of [Huayna Picchu](#). Shadows follow the same as HP.^{Reinhard, 1} "Carved out of solid granite attached to the [Salcantay](#) massif" and connects HP.^{Reinhard, 1}

In 2000, while shooting a beer commercial, a crane fell and broke off a corner of the stone.¹

There is also a carved stone arrow pointing south to Mt Salcantay: the Southern Cross rises



12. SOUTH STONE. WRIGHT



16. HUMMINGBIRD. WRIGHT

to the east, peaks directly overhead and sets to the west.

13. MAIN SQUARE.

14. UÑA PICCHU. This is the small mountain just to the right of this square.



14. ROSCOE

15. SACRED ROCK is just below this marker. It's an Image Stone, like 11. It's a carving of Mt Yanantin.

16. UNFINISHED TEMPLE. There is an interesting "radiating petroglyph." The wall has what appears a **hummingbird design** made with the stones.¹²

17. UPPER GROUP. Single entry, **double jam** with carved sockets. Main dwelling, 42x46ft, with **20 full length niches**, hornacinas.³



30, 31. MCGAREY

DESCRIPTIONS

18. RECORDING STONES – several found, few even seen before green micaceous or chloritic slaty schist. Found at the foot of MP mountain precipice. 56 found, only 3 with skeletons.

Stone disks: varying sizes, same color, no carvings. For counting or maybe covering chicha jars. The largest is 5.5in in diameter with a cross carved in center, each bar 2in – carefully ground and polished, very thin (some almost translucent). Some made of sandstone and other rock.

Could be from an earlier culture, also found in Ecuador. The [Caras](#) made similar.

29 obsidian pebbles, like marbles, very rare. Also found in Honduras, AZ, central Europe—maybe from meteor. Found at city gate.

Dice marked with straight lines and crosses for tally.¹²

19. STOREHOUSE is just above this marker.

20. CEREMONIAL ROCK. Above this marker is the Terrace of the Ceremonial Rock. Also called the Funerary Rock. The sharp bump matches [Mt Yanatanin](#).¹²

21. WATCHMAN'S HUT / GUARDHOUSE. Next to the Ceremonial Rock there's also floating stairs.

A [masmas](#), an open sided building.

House of the Terrace Caretakers:



20. D ROSCOE



21. D ROSCOE



23. SUN GATE. ROSCOE



24. ROSCOE

built for tourist access.⁴

22. BARRACKS just above this marker.

23. INCA TRAIL from the Sun Gate and Cuzco. [Intipunku](#) from Machu Picchu roundtrip: 1.5hrs.⁴

24. MACHU PICCHU MOUNTAIN has housing for 12 soldiers and a carefully terraced signal station at very top, 4000ft over river. 10,000ft elevation, 3,200ft above river.¹³ Viewing platform every 150ft. There's a surprise new set of stairs after each group. 1.5hr climb.¹

25. AGRICULTURAL SECTOR. A total of ten acres, not enough to support the city, food was brought in from

[Cusicacha](#). 75in of rain a year. Terraces allow water to absorb slowly into the ground: no erosion or landslide. Even main plaza was built in this manner.⁹



25. D ROSCOE



26. D ROSCOE



27. D ROSCOE



33. D ROSCOE



28. MCGAREY



16. OUTSIDE. D ROSCOE

26. CANAL. Called an "azequia."²

27. STOREHOUSES.

More to the left of this marker.

28. PATH TO HOTEL.

29. SECURE DOORWAY.

Doors were secured using the ring above and side pegs were used with the noches on the sides.⁶

30. STAIRWAY.

31. DRY MOAT.

32. PRINCESS' PALACE / PRIEST HOUSE. Two-storey building for someone important.

Closest building to the Sun Temple, excellent quality. A very important building, maybe housed a Sun Temple priest.¹²

33. SUN TEMPLE / TORREÓN². Note the curved wall. The rock in the center is part of the outcrop. There's a line cut into it and points to the rising sun on the June solstice.⁴

Called **Torreón** by Bingham because it looks like a castle turret.⁶

Three windows: 2 small, east and south, 1



29. M ROSCOE



32. M ROSCOE

large portal with small holes. **East Window:** on June solstice the rising sun casts a rectangular light onto the center rock (might be a few degrees off).^{Reinhard} It also frames Pleiade's arrival and signals the planting season.¹ **The Enigmatic Window:** "oddly shaped and faces north. "On both sides...are secret stones that pull out of the wall. The Incas had something inside, something that tightened and turned."^{Paolo Greer, 1} NE window matches same angle at [Coricancha](#).³

Built to represent Coricancha in Cusco. Inca Trail – a pilgrimage to Pachacutec's gold statue.^{Paolo Greer, 1} Maybe the stone statue is "buried in some terraces on the back side of MP, beneath a rounded wall...best wall in MP,^{Paolo Greer, 1}

The stone in the center is burnt. Originally thought to be from lightning. After taking the gold statue to pay for Atahualpa's ransom, they stacked the room with wood and burned it, cracking the rock.^{Paolo Greer, 1} Carved rock outcrop probably in shape of puma to match Pachacuti's connection to diety in vision.³

34. ROYAL MAUSOLEUM. Under the [Temple of the Sun](#). **Pachacutec's** tomb with a gold statue



33. DOOR. M ROSCOE



39. MCGAREY



34. STEPS. D ROSCOE

of himself on top of the center rock for worship. Luis Lumbleras, ¹ Entrance with steps is carved into a single stone. Fancy masonry filling in gap.

35. STONE BATHS. The primary bath below the Sun Temple.

36. FOUNTAIN CARETAKER'S HOUSE is above the principal fountain. Has a recreated thatch roof. Ceilings were probably "highly decorated, with a rattan mat woven in elaborate geometric designs stretched between the roof poles and thatch. Lost Half of Inca Architecture.^{7, 4}

37. HANGED MAN'S ROCK. The lintels has a protruding ring carved from it, probably held a lamp or image.⁶

38. KING'S GROUP. Royal Sector. Built with massive lintels and high pitched gables.⁶ Up to 3tons.⁴ Includes Hangman's Rock.⁶

The Sapa Inca would stay here. More difficult



34. MASONRY. D ROSCOE



35. M ROSCOE



38. BEDROOM. M ROSCOE



38. BEDROOM. M ROSCOE

38. BATHROOM. M ROSCOE

to enter. Doorway lintels are twice as large of others, private garden, fountains, and baths. Entrance lintel has deep, long groove like at [Ingenuity Group](#) and [Coricancha](#) in Cuzco.³ Underneath King's Group is a cave with remains of a woman.^{1980 Valencia, 3} Guinea pig sacrifice found in wall with a gold and silver [tupus](#).^{Eusebio Mendoza, 3}

39. THREE DOOR GROUP. Three massive double jam doorways, each with "carved sockets with stone bar-holds". Three [kancas](#) surrounding patio. Windows to the E.³

40. KALLANKA. Large celebration hall.

41. IMAGE STONES. Also called echo stones. Stones carved to match visible moutians, like the one between the Sacred Plaza and Intihuatana.

42. INDUSTRIAL SECTOR. Ingenuity Group, Private Garden Group. 4 sections, has a surrounding wall with only 1 entrance of a double



42. MCGAREY



43. M ROSCOE

jam and massive lintel, opens into a huairona – 3 walled room. Houses and huaironas are lined with niches. Sections connected by **stairways**, one of them is carved from a single block. **2 shrines**



43. CONDOR. M ROSCOE

of natural rock outcroppings. 2 stone mortars carved into ground. Windows provide view of [Sun Temple](#) and [Temple of Three windows](#).³

Largest compound could house 50–60. Compounds could hold twice as many people as housing. MP compounds housed 120 elites. They have superb stone work, cut and polished. Each doorway has carved ‘bar-sockets’, used to support a kind of door. Bingham found remains of red stucco.³

43. CONDOR TEMPLE / PRISON GROUP. SE of main [Residential](#) and [Industrial sectors](#). Could

have been used for prisoners, niches large enough. Condor carved stone is here, a symbol of Incan prisons. Or possibly religious: many niches are mummy size. Or sacrificial area: small canals around condor stone resemble those at [Kenko](#).⁶

44. SLIDE is a large white rock with platform carved into the top.

45. MORTARS. A large room holds two stone mortars. Not for grinding grain. These types found are found in shrines at [Sacsahuaman](#), [Tarapata](#) at [Quente](#). Unknown use.^{Victor Angles}

46. INTI MACHAY. A small cave, above and to the E of [Condor Temple](#).⁴ A solar observatory that marked the December Solstice. Has **coursed masonry** and a **window carved into a boulder**

that fronts the front wall. Ten days before and after the winter solstice sunrise a beam of light shines through the window and on the back wall.⁴



44. M ROSCOE



45. BINGHAM



46. HEMMING, RANNEY



38. KING'S GROUP ON LEFT. D ROSCOE

OTHER MAPS INCLUDE:

CUSCO AND THE SACRED VALLEY:

- [Cusco Guide](#) – capital of the Incas.
- [Cusco History](#) – history of the capital.
- [Cusco ceque map](#) – holy lines / sites.
- [Coricancha](#) – sun temple in Cusco.
- [Sacsahuaman](#) – fortress near Cusco.
- [Ollantaytambo](#) – fortress in Sacred Valley.
- [Pisac](#) – major Inca site in Sacred Valley.

MACHU PICCHU AND INCA TRAIL:

- [Machu Picchu](#) – original lost city.
- [Chachabamba](#) – near Machu Picchu.
- [Choquesuysuy](#) – near Machu Picchu.
- [Huayna Picchu](#) – overlooks Machu Picchu.
- [Inty Pata](#) – near Machu Picchu.
- [Phuyu Pata Marka](#) – along Inca Trail.
- [Sayac Marka](#) – along Inca Trail.
- [Winay Wayna](#) – near Machu Picchu.

VILCABAMBA:

- [Choquequirao](#) – very large site.
- [Puncuyoc](#) – near Vitcos.
- [Vilcabamba](#) – actual lost city.
- [Vilcabamba area](#) – jungle metropolis.
- [Vitcos](#) – rogue capital.
- [Yurak Rumi](#) – Vitcos' Sun Temple.

CHINCHASUYU AND CUNTISUYU:

- [Saihuite](#) – oracle along Apurimac.

COLLASUYU:

- [Temple of Viracocha](#) – largest building.

OTHER RESOURCES INCLUDE:

- [Glossary of quechua](#)
- [Inca rulers](#)
- [Historic names](#)
- [Religion](#)
- [Tribes](#)



42. STAIRS, SHRINE. D ROSCOE

MINI-BIBLIOGRAPHY

If you'd like to contribute photos, I'd love to have your help, andy@andyroscoe.com
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See [Full Bibliography](#) at website.

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