

# OLLANTAYTAMBO



M ROSCOE

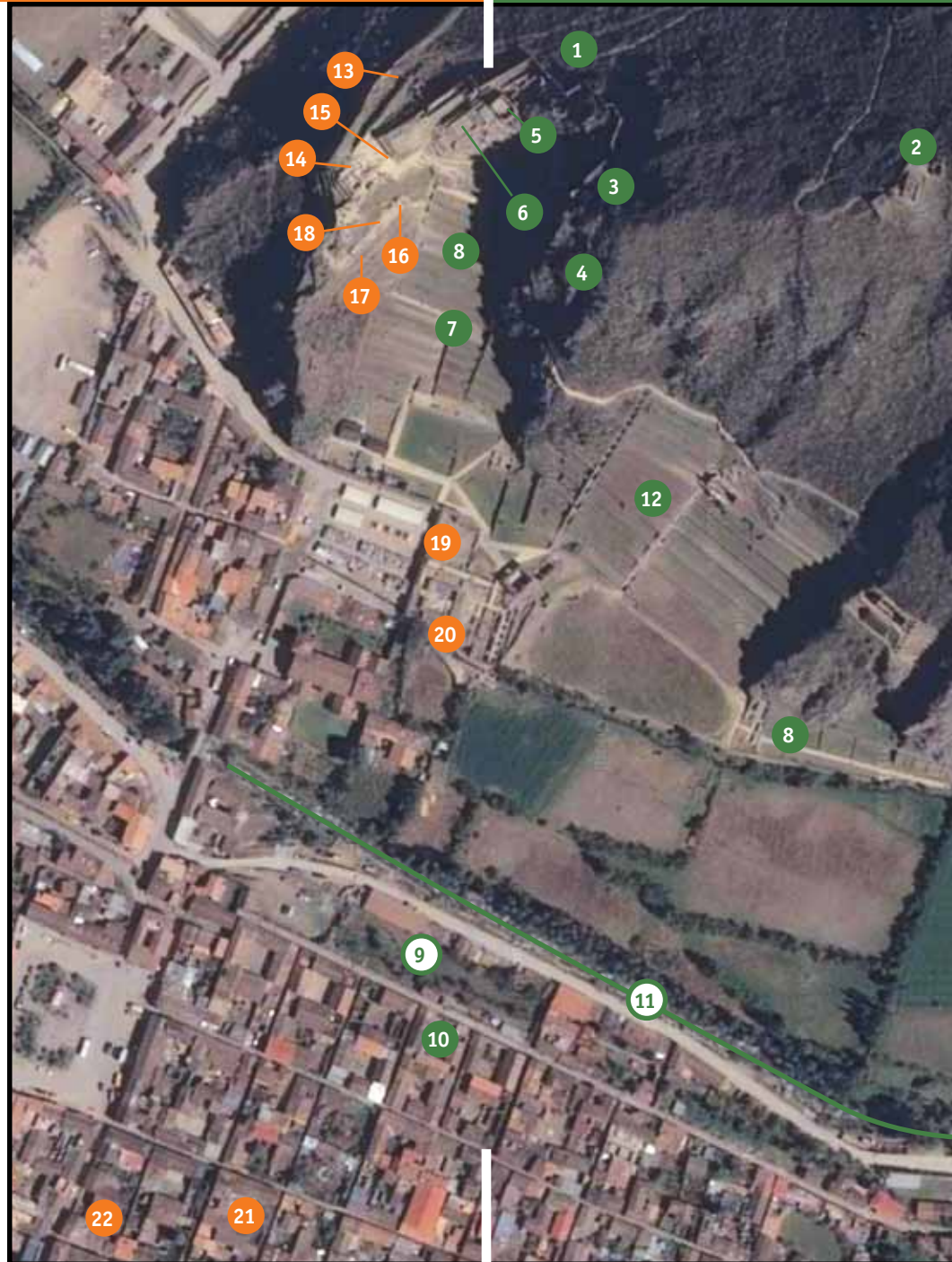
## ANDY ROSCOE'S FREE INCAN TOUR GUIDES

Interactive Maps and Tour Guides available at:

[AndyRoscoe.com/peru](http://AndyRoscoe.com/peru)

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- LEGEND**
- 7 Location without photo.
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North

Google Maps



MCGAREY

## DESCRIPTIONS

**1. DEFENSIVE WALL.** A “massive outer wall.” Defense along the gentle western slope. Location based on map by Frost.

**1539.** Spanish attempted an attack on [Manco Capac II](#) at [Vitcos](#). They looted and captured his wife Cura Ocllo, on their return, they stayed at Ollantaytambo. And tortured and killed Cura Ocllo and floated her body down the Urubamba so that Manco would find her.<sup>1</sup>

**2. INTI HUATANA.** Path from [Residential Complex](#) leads through a gateway and upward to a walled site with an Intiwatana, hitching post of the sun. There are 4 full size niches, each with small holes on the sides: maybe for tying the wrists of a prisoner, but that would make for an excellent view down the [Urubamba](#) valley and [Mt Veronica](#).<sup>1</sup>

**3. WINDOWS.** A view of the windows from the terraces. They do not have the traditional trapizoidal shape of Incan windows, these are pre-incan.<sup>10</sup>

**4. LOOKING ACROSS** to the W and Sun Temple.

**5. RESIDENTIAL COMPLEX.** Cruder buildings. Possibly built during Manco’s occupation.<sup>1</sup> Location based on map by Frost.

**6. FORTRESS.** Complex on top of the terraces. But more ceremonial in structure.<sup>1</sup>

**7. PUMATALLIS.** Terraces area with 200 steps to the top.<sup>1</sup>



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2. R TADLOCK



3. MCGAREY





4. D ROSCOE



11. D ROSCOE



12. D ROSCOE

**8. INCA MISANNA**, "place of the Inca's Mass". Upstream from the bath on the left side, 328yd along the cliffs are "artful carvings", much of it bedding work for walls" now gone, or not completed. There's a "deep bath" and fed by a channel carved into the cliff

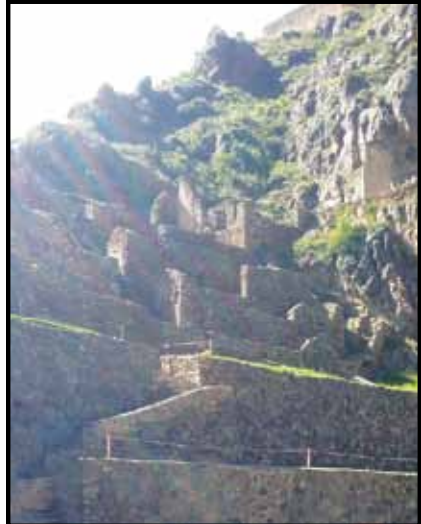


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face. There's a whole series of baths and water channels. Found in 1981.<sup>1</sup>

**9. TOWN** original layout and still inhabited, only one left. It has a trapezoidal layout. Each block has a pair of **canchas**, self contained housing closure: only one exit to the street. Walk along the W wall of the town, above **Patacancha R.** Visible are the rear walls of several canchas, narrow streets in between lead to the central plaza.<sup>1</sup>

The town is an excellent example of Inca town building. Grid arrangement: 4 long streets with excellent portals entering into canchas. Built for religious or royalty. Only chiefs had courtyards,



5. MCGAREY



10. A VON HAGEN

used for gatherings.<sup>2</sup>

**10. KANCHA.** cancha. Four buildings surrounding a central courtyard. Two kanchas to a block. A double jam doorway leads into the block.<sup>8</sup>

**11. PATACANCHA RIVER** and ravine that traveled into Ollantaytambo. Gate at one end and niche at the other one of the finest. Double-jam and closely fitted.<sup>2</sup> See Interactive Map for hike to ruins upriver.

**12. MORE TERRACES.**



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## DESCRIPTIONS

**13. GREAT RAMP.** Left of the monoliths on S side of plaza. It was built to bring stones to site for construction. Looking W SW you can see [Cachicata quarry](#) at the base of [Yana Urco Mtn](#) on the other side of the valley, 2mi by air, 3.75mi on the ground. There are 50 stones in progression of moving to Ollantaytambo. Three stones are at the bottom of the ramp, partly finished and one has clear markings of the splitting process.<sup>1</sup> Location based on map by Frost.

### 14. SUN TEMPLE

Strangely unfinished among the boulders. Stones have various carvings. Faces the river. The bowels of the died Inca were stored at Tampu: 5 leagues from Cuzco, and based on history, must be temple at Ollantaytambo.<sup>4</sup>

**15. WALL OF SIX MONOLITHS.** Part of Sun Temple. There are 6 huge “monoliths of rose colored rhyolite.” Best location for solar observations.<sup>1</sup>

Uniquely, the stones have are “straight-edged, with none of the deep beveling and polygonal jointing.” They also separated by thin spacer stones. Carved in relief is the common andean step symbol and zoomorphic figures. Maybe these monoliths were the face of a retaining wall for a great platform. Other sides are built of rough construction: re-used blocks, some are sideways.

In front of the monoliths are several unfinished stones, you can see the various levels of completeness. Some stones have a ‘T’ groove cut into the corner. Two such stones would be placed together, then bronze would be poured in to secure them together. Maybe the cooling of bronze would contract and pull the two stones tightly together. This is found at a few spots at [Coricancha](#). And at the Tiwanaku temple at Lake Titicaca.<sup>1</sup> Maybe the two sites are related, probably not: too far apart in time, geography, and stoneworking style.<sup>Protszen, 1</sup>

These mysterious monoliths were not mined



15. WALL OF TEMPLE. D ROSCOE

in this valley nor their purpose known. Only parts remaining of the sun temple.<sup>9</sup> Pink porphyry, tallest is 13ft tall. Painted by the German Moritz Rugendas. It shows the now missing stones above.<sup>2</sup> Behind is a 25ft passage of unknown ritual use.

Location based on map by Frost. Above and to the left of the stairs.<sup>1</sup>

**16. GATEWAY** unfinished.

**17. TEMPLE OF TEN NICHES.** Left of the gate. Long building, excellent stonework, outer wall is missing.<sup>1</sup>

**18. WALLS** approaching the temple.

**19. MANAY RAQAY SQUARE.** Manaraki square. Open area in front of the gateway to the terraces.<sup>1</sup>

The main square at the base of Ollantaytambo. Probably the current market. Hall of Petitions: one large entrance to temple and many smaller 2 storey buildings of mixed stone and adobe.

Location based on map by Frost.

**20. PRINCESS BATH.** Bano de la Nusta, “bath of the princess.” At the foot of the terraces, behind the church. It’s a fountain/bath carved into the bedrock with a 3D step motif.<sup>1</sup>

At the base of the fortress is an extensive canal and bath system. In meadow NE of [Manay Raqay](#). A wall runs up the mountain behind and above Sun Temple. Probably religious reasons, more than defensive. Similar to [Temple of Viracocha](#).<sup>2</sup> Broken knobs on either side were puma heads.<sup>10</sup>

Location based on map by Frost.

### 21. PINCULLUNA

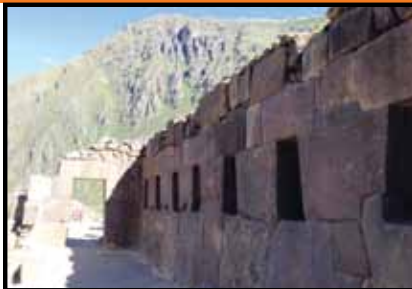
**MOUNTAIN** “mountain of flutes”. Above [Patacancha R](#), on “the opposite side of the valley.” There’s ruins along it’s steep sides.



15. STEP CARVING. M ROSCOE



16. D ROSCOE



17. T ROSCOE



18. D ROSCOE



19. D ROSCOE

Used for storing grain. There are long narrow openings along the top at the high end of the slope and openings at the bottom on the low end of the slope. This allowed it to be filled



21. PROFILE. D ROSCOE

from one side and accessed from the other. Other small squarish buildings were used for storing potatoes. Coolness and ventilation preserves the food. Walls are clay baked.<sup>Rober Randall, 1</sup> Look for the Inca profile.

**22. AVENUE OF 100 NICHES.** From the central plaza, take the main street E. Just outside the village is Avenue of the 100 Windows. There are 72 niches along the wall, originally part of barracks.<sup>1</sup> Wall on left, terraces and channels on right. Maybe a long kallanka or roofed road.<sup>2</sup>

**Punku Punku.** Gate of gates. Huge stone gate. Two guardhouses beside. Then start of the Avenue of 100 Niches.<sup>2</sup>



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## BACKGROUND

13mi from [Urubamba](#), 9186ft elevation.<sup>1</sup> Patacancha River, a tributary of the Urubamba, splits Ollantay into 2 halves: residential and a ceremonial hill to the west.

A royal estate for Pachacuti. Property began at Pachar and continued past Ollantay to the narrow area of the valley.<sup>3</sup> Thus excellent stone work and large ceremonial area.<sup>1</sup> Builders were the [Colla](#) from Tiahuanaco area. Built where the valley narrows, thus protecting [Cusco](#) from the [Antis](#) jungle tribes to the NW.

Stones were mined from a quarry on the other side of the valley. The stones were quarried and taken down to the river. The river was then temporarily diverted around the other side of the stones, so they could be hauled across a dry river bed.

Ollantaytambo once produced enough food to feed 106,000 people, now it can barely feed its 10,000. Ann Kendall works with locals to restore Inca canals and improve irrigation.

Both sides of the valley is lined with terraces. There are many scenes of construction, different phases, styles, and an interruption to the whole. Maybe the inca civil war, conquest, rebellion by locals, or maybe the death of Pachacutec.<sup>1</sup>

Apparently Ollantay was undergoing a major renovation. The backside has a long ramp with large stone that's been dragged up from the rock falls of [Kachigata](#).<sup>8</sup>

[Viscera](#) of dead rulers buried here - gold statues, simulacra of the dead were made here.<sup>7</sup> Ashes of the sacrificed thrown into the river.<sup>Cobo</sup>

## HISTORY

Originally inhabited by the [Lares](#) tribe, 1400. 1440. Destroyed by raiding Incas.<sup>9</sup>

[Pachacuti](#) demanded homage from the [Tampu](#) people. They refused. Pachacuti brought in a large army, destroyed the town and took it for his own. Earlier Pachacuti had defeated the chief Chuchi Capa and the [Collaos](#). He forced the chiefs sons and people as forced labor to build Ollantay. When the Inca withdrew from Ollantay, the son fled with his people back to their home. Along the way, they raised up neighboring tribes in revolt. Pachacuti stopped the revolt with difficult fighting and much bloodshed.<sup>Sarmiento, 2</sup>

**1536 REBELLION.** [Hernando Pizarro](#) arrived with 70 horse, 30 soldiers, and numerous native auxiliaries to capture the rebel [Manco Inca II](#). "We found it so well fortified that it was a thing of horror."<sup>Pedro Pizarro, 1</sup> He found each terrace and city and area was maxed with Inca



2. D. ROSCOE

warriors and jungle archers. Arrows, slingshots, boulders, spears rained down from the ramparts. Manco rode back and forth directing troops on horseback. The [Patacaucha R](#) was diverted with canals and used to flood the plain. Hernando retreated.<sup>2</sup>

The valley toward Vilcabamba, quickly narrows making this fortress a strategic position. But Manco fled into the [Vilcabamba](#).<sup>6</sup>

**1539.** [Francisco Pizarro](#) tortured and killed Cura Oclla, wife-sister of [Manco Capac II](#), here. He then floated her body down to stream to Manco.<sup>5</sup>

## OTHER MAPS INCLUDE:

### CUSCO AND THE SACRED VALLEY:

[Coricancha](#) – sun temple in Cusco.

[Cusco Guide](#) – capital of the Incas.

[Cusco History](#) – history of the capital.

[Sacsahuaman](#) – fortress near Cusco.

[Pisac](#) – major Inca site in Sacred Valley.

### OTHER RESOURCES INCLUDE:

[Inca rulers](#)

[Historic names](#)

[Religion](#)

[Tribes](#)

## MINI-BIBLIOGRAPHY

If you like to contribute photos, I'd love to have your help, [andy@andyroscoe.com](mailto:andy@andyroscoe.com)

See [Full Bibliography](#) at website.

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