

PISAC



MCGAREY

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PISAC AND VALLEY, MCGAREY

BACKGROUND

Royal estate for Pachacuti, built after conquering the [Cuyos](#), one of the first ethnic groups conquered.⁵

Probably originally built as a fortress to hold back attacks from the E during early Inca times. Then under Pachacutec it served more administration and religious purposes.³

10.5mi from Cuzco, NE, 10,800ft altitude. Only Sarmiento mentions it. Pachacuti would go to Cuyos for 'pleasure and enjoyment.' Maybe same place. Adobe was often used with wooden or stone lintels and corners.⁴

Massive mountain rising above valley 4500ft. Has terraces, aqueducts, houses, storage areas, fortresses, tunnels, gateways, and checkpoints. The entire Vilcanota valley could take refuge here.¹⁰

MINI-BIBLIOGRAPHY

If you like to contribute photos, I'd love to have your help, andy@andyroscoe.com

See [Full Bibliography](#) at website.

Photography: Patrick McGarey, Tricia Roscoe, David Roscoe.

1. Alva, Walter. Longhena, Maria.
2. Angles Vargas, Victor.
3. Frost, Peter.
4. Hemming, John.
5. Hyslop, John. Bridges, Marilyn.
6. MacQuarrie, Kim.
7. Rowe, John.
8. Squier, E George.
9. Thomson, Hugh.
10. von Hagen, Victor.

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.
- [Sacred Valley](#) - area north of Cusco.
- [Pisac](#) – major Inca site in Sacred Valley.

MACHU PICCHU AND INCA TRAIL:

- [Machu Picchu](#) – original lost city.
- [Chachabamba](#) – near Machu Picchu.
- [Choquesuysu](#) – 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.

CHINCHASUYU AND CUNTISUYU:

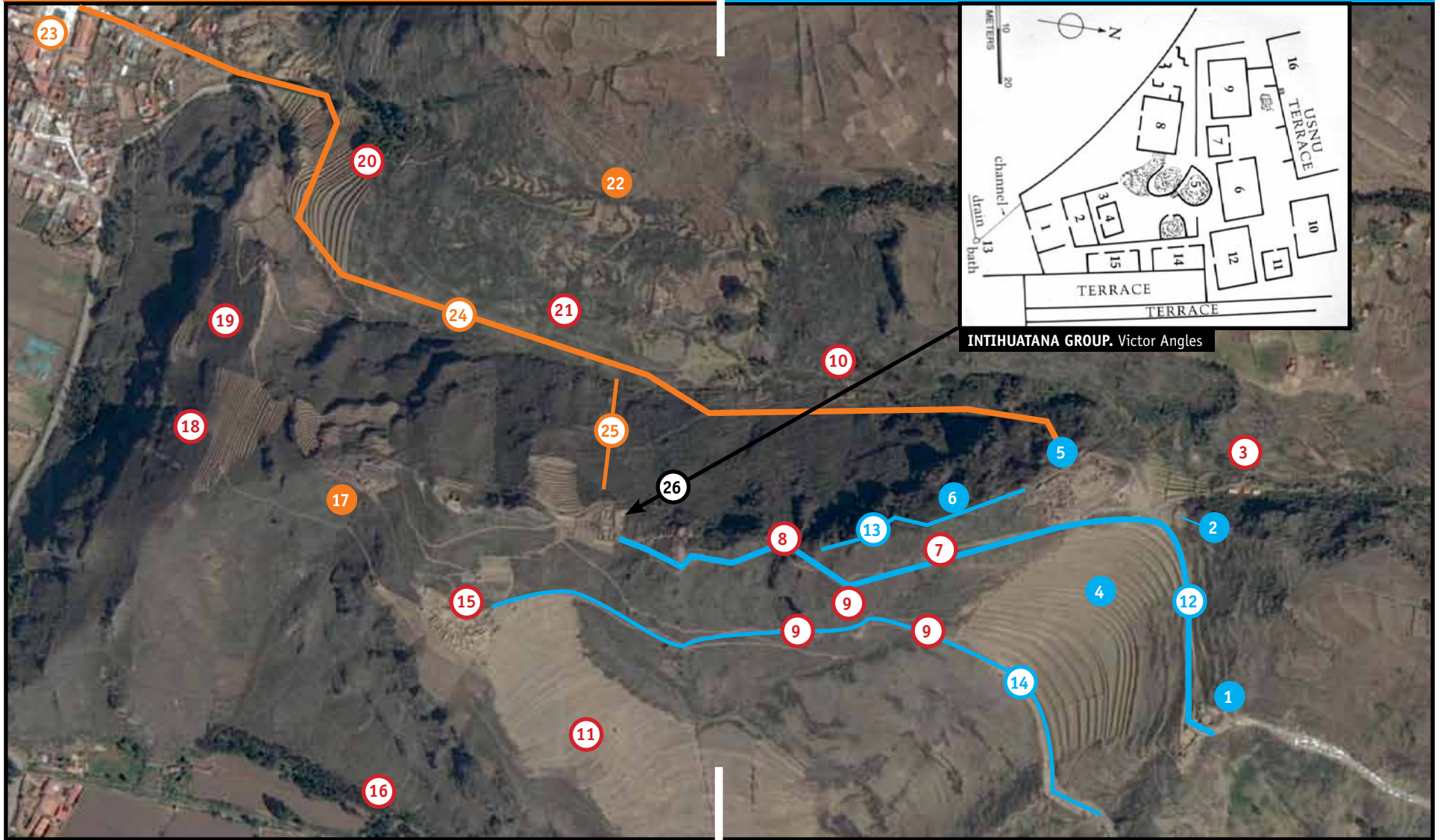
- [Saihuite](#) – oracle along Apurimac.

COLLASUYU:

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

OTHER RESOURCES INCLUDE:

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

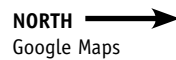


- 15. PISACLLACTA
- 16. CHONGO RAVINE
- 17. QORIWAIRICHINA
- 18. HUIMIN
- 19. HUANUHUANUPATA
- 20. PACCHAPATA
- 21. KITAMAYU RAVINE
- 22. TOMBS
- 23. PISAC MARKET
- 24. MARKET – KALLA QASA

- 25. WESTERN WALK
- 26. INTIHUATANA GROUP
- 5. SUN TEMPLE / INTIHUATANA
- 8. TEMPLE OF THE MOON
- 13. LITURGICAL BATH
- 16. USNU, TIANAYOQ

- 1. QANCHIS RACAY
- 2. FORTRESS
- 3. MAUSOLEUM
- 4. AMARU PUNKU
- 5. KALLA QASA
- 6. LOOKOUT
- 7. TUNNEL
- 8. TUNNEL
- 9. WALLS AND GATES

- 10. BRIDGE AND 2 TOWERS
- 11. TERRACES
- 12. QANCHISRACAY – INTIHUATANA
- 13. INTIHUATANA – KALLA QASA
- 14. QANCHISRACAY – PISACLLACTA





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DESCRIPTIONS

1. QANCHIS RAQAY. A group of buildings at N gate, looking toward [Chongo ravine](#), an excellent view of terraces following mountain curve. It has irrigation channels, stairs, floating steps. Used for growing excesses for Cuzco palaces.⁴

2. FORTRESS.

3. MAUSOLEUM.

4. AMARU PUNKU.

5. KALLA Q'ASA. Reached by another path and a short tunnel, largest group of buildings along ridge. There are several rooms and towers at whose base are giant stone blocks. An excellent area for defense and military of 2000 men. Every road E has 2 stone gates and defensive walls, also agricultural terraces.⁴

Also called **Hanan Pisac**. Kalla Qasa: "parrot pass". Maybe named because of daily trips of parrots over the pass at sunrise and sunset to and from the jungles to the NE. This sector is most fortified because of the easy access, has "great encircling walls." Has a "chain of ritual baths."³

6. LOOKOUT. at about 3400m.³

7. TUNNEL.³

8. TUNNEL. A narrow path leads above: cliffs down one side, cliffs up on the other. Leads to a staircase, tower and buildings. Another path leads through **52ft tunnel** and excellent remains of bridge foundations, over [Kitamayu ravine](#). Rock tombs are beyond, large Incan grouping. [Tanqanamarca](#): cliffs above tombs. People sentenced to death were tossed off cliff faces, maybe here.⁴

9. WALLS AND GATES.

10. BRIDGE AND TWO TOWERS.

11. TERRACES.



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12. QANCHISRACAY – INTIHUATANA.

Starting at Qanchisracay (by car). First you come to a platform with an excellent view of terraces and valley. Follow the path, “traversing the mountainside on your right.” The inca road follows the top of the mountain spur, curving to the left and in excellent condition. It has a great gateway, steep stone steps and stone buttress built into the cliff face, and a tunnel. It finishes with an excellent view of the Intihuatana.

13. INTIHUATANA – KALLA QASA. Path from Intihuatana to Kalla Q’asa. Follows east side of mountain. Look at how easily stone work is worked into the mountainside above the path. At about 300m the path reaches the top ridge and continues steeply upward. Tower: “on the tall rock at right”. Platform with building: “around the cliff to the left.” Follow the path straight up, some stone steps, through a tunnel to summit. Continue to Kalla Q’asa.³

14. QANCHISRACAY – PISACLLACTA. Start at main parking lot, below Qanchisracay. Starts as two paths, but re-merge. You pass through “2 defensive gateways.” To secure the gateways, the rear doorjambs have “double bar-and-niche arrangements”, a door piece would be secured with rope or bar. Extensive terracing below.³



11. HEMMING, RAMEY



15. ALVA

DESCRIPTIONS

15. PISACLLACTA / P'ISACA has a mirador, a building with a large lookout over the valley. Finest adobe in Pisac.⁷ 20 towers: finest on steep slope, 'the snout of Pisac's spur above the modern town.' Massive watch towers with solid bases, equidistant. Messages were shouted back and forth. Some conical with tapering walls, water cisterns.⁴

P'isaca sector: tinamou, an andean partridge. Maybe these buildings housed the elite because of its closeness to the temple and excellent construction. There is a "small ritual bath" just above P'isaca. The water is channeled from the far [Intihuatana](#) sector. P'isaca is poorly reconstructed.³

16. CHONGO RAVINE.

17. QORIWAIRICHINA. Below [Intihuatana](#) is a path to a 2 storey building. Administrative building on a narrow saddle with views both E and W.²

Coriwayrachina - "gold sifter". S of Intihuatana, and provides route back to village. Has towers used for communication or observation and very steep terraces probably for defense. On the east side are 6 colcas, storehouses.³

18. HUIMIN

19. HUANUHUANUPATA

20. PACCHAPATA

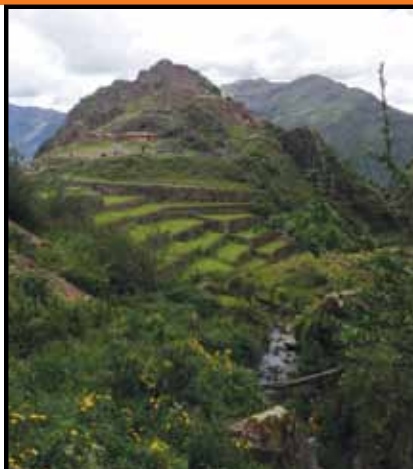
21. KITAMAYU RAVINE. Quitamayo.

22. TOMBS litter the hillside. Along cliffs west side opposite Pisac sectors. Largest known Inca cemetery. Holes are from looters. Never excavated.³

Mountain in the background maybe where they hurled prisoners to their death.³

23. PISAC MARKET. One of the largest markets in South America.

24. MARKET – KALLA QASA. A great way to get to the ruins is by climbing the hillside above the village. There's an excellent incan path,



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gateways, tunnels, and great views of the valley and [Mt Pachatusan](#) to the S.³

Walk: the path leads from the village square and north straight up the terraces. The path forks. The left path follows the easy [Quitamayo R](#) and goes straight to the temple area (skipping the south area).³ The right path is very steep and goes up [Huimin](#) terraces on the south tip.³

25. WESTERN WALK. Western path from [Intihuatana](#) to [Kalla Q'asa](#). From Intiwatana, go down the mountain from West side. Follow a rough path upstream with the aqueduct above. See notes from Intihuatana water channel. Path continues to Kalla Q'asa.

26. INTIHUATANA GROUP. Intiwatana. Has the finest stone work and masonry. "An astronomical observatory."⁷³
1-4 and **14-15** may have housed priests and mamaconas.²

5. Sun Temple, Intihuatana. A D-shaped wall surrounds the main sacred rock outcrop.² Bosses were used as solar observation: intihuatanas. Similar to ones in Huaitara (central Andes), overlooking [Ollantay](#), along bank of Tullumayo R at [Colcampata](#) in Cuzco, at sun temple on Island of the Sun.⁴ Originally covered in copper.³

The rock is circularish, 18 ft in diameter, living rock cut to hold fitted stones. There



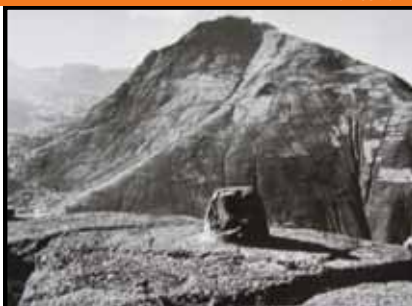
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26. HYSLOP, BRIDGES



26. INTIHUATANA. HEMMING, RAMEY

is a single entrance to the room, which has curved walls with perfectly fitting stones. Von Hagen calls it a gigantic gnomon. The site is an outcropping of granite carved and anchored into by the fortress.¹⁰

6-12. Excellently built rectangular buildings, maybe a part of a temple complex.²

8. Temple of the Moon: building next to Sun Temple. Maybe so because of important location. There's a rough building in the center of the sector. Only building with north side door. Maybe for servants, or maybe old, original temple of sector.³ 2 door rectangular building next to Intihuatana. Connected to ritual baths and water channels. Terrace above Moon, farthest N of 5 buildings. Sharply cut pegs stick out from ashlar between niches.⁴

13. Liturgical bath fed by a water channel.² On south end, has steps and carved handles. Water channel feeds the bath from along the west side and cut into the cliff face sometimes with stone buttress and two breaks, maybe connected with wooden trough. It also crossed the [Quitamayo](#) ravine, maybe with a wooden



26. SUN TEMPLE DOORWAY. HEMMING, RAMEY

aqueduct. A stone buttress on the far-side is still visible. And feeds 4 waterfalls/fountains.³ **14-15** and 1-4 may have housed priests and mamaconas.²

16. Usnu, Tianayoq platform overlooks area. It has a stone throne, tiana. Faces W toward sunset. It seats two and has a back and arms.⁴ Tianayoq: "throne having". North of Intihuatana, 100 paces, then left fork and 100 paces. Has fallen structures and a wide carved throne.³