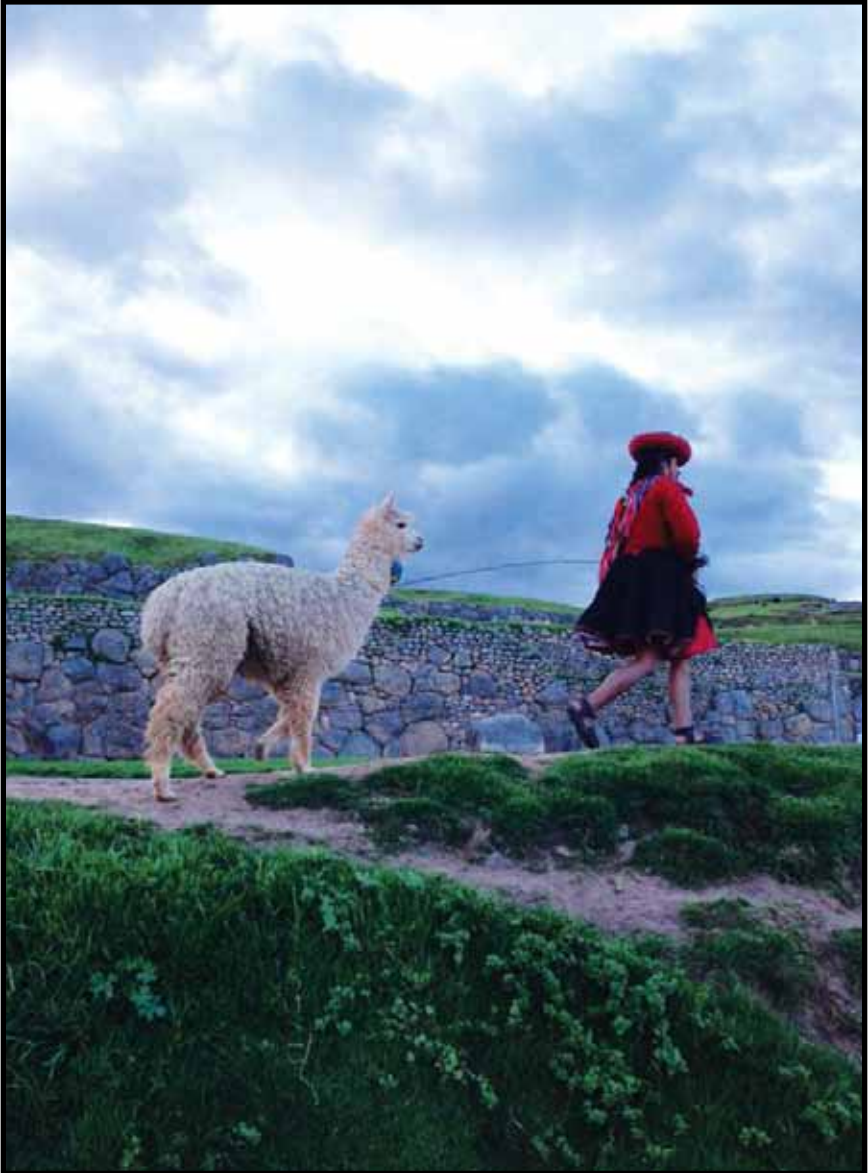


# SACSAHUAMAN



T ROSCOE

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## BACKGROUND

Sacs: garland. Huaman: falcon, Uma: head. "Speckled falcon or "royal eagle" or "speckled head." Maybe it should be Sacsu Uma.<sup>2</sup> Saqsaywaman: "satisfied falcon."<sup>5</sup>

It was used for multiple purposes: defense and religious. Maybe the zig-zags represent the god of lightning, or maybe the teeth of the pumas head.<sup>2</sup> Maybe also used as a "storehouse of the sun."<sup>Cieza, 2</sup> A temple of the sun more magnificent than any before.<sup>Cieza</sup>

Built by [Pachacutic](#). 3 architects, each of 3 gateways named for one: massive trapizoidal doorways. Huallpu Rimanchi Inca was the principal designer.<sup>8</sup> According to chronicler Cieza, it took 20,000 men to build continuous for 68yrs.<sup>8</sup> 4000 people quarried and cut stone, 6000 hauled the stones. Living rock hewn to be used as foundations. It sits on a hill of sedimentary rock and diorite, part overlooks Cuzco. Far side has 3 large terraces. 415yd long, zigzag, 50 angles. One of the stones is estimated at 126tons. Most of the stones are from [Muina](#) and [Rumicolca](#), 12.5mi away.<sup>3,7,4</sup> A tunnel connected [Coricancha](#) to Sacsahuaman.<sup>Poma</sup>

[Pucamarca](#), [Suchana](#), [Callis](#), and [Pucyo Chingana](#) are other Inca fortresses.<sup>Poma</sup>

Excavated by Luis Valcarcel in 1935.<sup>2</sup>

There is now the annual [Inti Raymi](#) festival here on June 23.<sup>6</sup>

## HISTORY

**BATTLE OF 1536.** Great Rebellion by [Manco Inca II](#) besieged Cuzco for 10 months.<sup>6</sup>

**MAY 1536.** Manco restocked Sacs with levied soldiers and layed siege to Cuzco. Led by chief priest, [Villac Umu](#). [Juan Pizarro](#) led 50 horsemen to recapture Sacs. Along Jauja Rd, climbed [Carmenca Hill](#) and continued on as if toward Lima but turned at village Jicatica and attacked Sacs over the [Rodadero Hill](#).

Incredible spanish bravery by [Hernan Sanchez of Badajoz](#). Using a scaling ladder and under a fire of stones, he reached the top terrace. He climbed into a window and fought the warriors inside, who retreated up the stairs. He continued fighting at the tower's base and found a rope dangled from the top. He climbed it while under fire. On reaching the top, he surprised and killed the remaining warriors and announced his victory to encourage the Spaniards.

The remaining warriors retreated to the other 2 towers and the Spanish fought and layed siege. Villac Umu fled to get re-inforcements. Remaining defense led by a brave young noble



Inca, [orejon](#). He obtained a Spanish sword and helmet and with his battle ax he crushed any who tried to assail the tower top or tried to surrender. When it was obvious he was about to loose he threw down his weapons, shoved dirt in his mouth, covered his head with his cloak and jumped from the tower top.

Hernando ordered multiple scaling ladders. Hernando orded the death of all remaining 1500. Many also leaped to their death, but not all died, because the pile was so great. Bodies left for the condors, a symbol of Cuzco's coat of arms. Villac Umu returned and fought for 3 more days, unsuccessfully.

**1560.** All buildings had been torn down.<sup>3, 4</sup> Until the 1930s, the structure was used as a "pre-cut quarry" for colonists in town.<sup>2</sup>

See [Cuzco History](#) for more.

## OTHER MAPS INCLUDE:

**CUSCO AND THE SACRED VALLEY:**

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

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

**OTHER RESOURCES INCLUDE:**

[Inca rulers](#)

[Historic names](#)

[Religion](#)

[Tribes](#)

## MINI-BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

Photography: Patrick McGarey, Tricia Roscoe, David Roscoe, Monica Roscoe.

1. Alva, Walter;
2. Frost, Peter.
3. Vega, Garcilaso.
4. Hemming, John.
5. MacQuarrie, Kim.
6. Prescott, William.
7. Rowe, John.
8. von Hagen, Victor.

- 15. WEST-SIDE RODADERO
- 16. RODADERO HILL
- 17. RODADERO SLIDE
- 18. RODADERO THRONE
- 19. WALLS
- 20. TEETH
- 21. STONES
- 22. LADDER
- 23. MUYUC MARCA TOWER
- 24. SALLAC MARCA TOWER
- 25. TIRED STONE

- 1. RODADERO TUNNEL
- 2. RODADERO QUARRY
- 3. RODADERO STAIRS
- 4. SUCHUNA
- 5. SUCHUANA DETAILS
- 6. SIDE AREA
- 7. SUN GATE
- 8. TIU PUNCU GATE
- 9. AQUAHUANA GATE
- 10. VIRACOCOA PUNCU
- 11. PAUCAR MARCA TOWER
- 12. COLCAS
- 13. DRAINAGE
- 14. STEPS



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

Map by Google.





3. MCGAREY

## DESCRIPTIONS

### 1. RODADERO TUNNEL.

Warmi Kajchana, where a woman is raped. Excavated in 1934. Evidence of a phallic cult found. N of [throne](#), full of passages, stairways, niches, and Tiahuanacan [step motif](#). Features a throne and labyrinth. There are 2 tunnels formed naturally by erosion in limestone.<sup>4</sup>



1. D ROSCOE

### 2. RODADERO QUARRY.

Most of the rocks are from [Muina](#) and [Rumicolca](#), 12.5mi away.<sup>3, 7</sup>



5. INVERTED. M ROSCOE

### 3. RODADERO STAIRS.

4. **SUCHUNA.** N of main plaza, has aqueducts, usterns, terraces, patios, stairs, buildings, throne, large resevour, once used for Cuzco. Spanish ordered it buried. Excavated 1985.

Ampitheater, beyond Rodadero. "a huge ovoid construction." Uncovered in 1985 by INC. N and E sides have baths and shrines. Offerings of quartz, spondylus shell found here. The Spanish found it important to destroy and bury.<sup>2</sup>

5. **SUCHUNA DETAILS.** Includes inverted stairs,



2. A ROSCOE



5. JACUZZI. M ROSCOE



5. DRINKING FOUNTAIN. M ROSCOE



4. MCGAREY



6. M ROSCOE



7. M ROSCOE



9. M ROSCOE



8. D ROSCOE



10. M ROSCOE

to Pachamama. A “jacuzzi” and “public drinking fountain.”

#### 6. SIDE AREA.

#### 7. SUN GATE.

8. **TIU PUNCU GATE.** Saturated Gate. Main entrance into the terraced ramparts.<sup>4</sup>

9. **AQUAHUANA PUNCU GATE.** Named after the architect. Entrance into the second terrace.<sup>3, 4</sup>

10. **VIRACocha PUNCU GATE.** Named after the god, [Viracocha](#). Entrance into the top. Gate had doors suspended from massive lintels.<sup>3, 4</sup>

11. **PAUCAR MARCA TOWER.** Square tower, which held many soldiers. Tunnel underneath as deep as the tower is high. Tunnels connected the towers together. Mostly dismantled in 1540s to help build Spaniard houses in Cuzco. Only traces remain.<sup>Cieza, 4</sup>

12. **COLCAS.** Storehouses.<sup>4</sup>

13. **DRAINAGE.** Looking along a terrace. Very well drained, 36 **drainage channels** on level 2.

14. **STEPS.** Carved into [Rodadero Hill](#).



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14. A ROSCOE



23. MCGAREY

## DESCRIPTIONS

**15. WEST-SIDE RODADERO HILL** covered with terraces and canals found in 1968.

**16. RODADERO HILL.** Composed of diorite.<sup>4</sup>

**1536 SIEGE.** [Juan Pizarro](#) lead a group to here and launched repeated attacks to Sacsahuaman all day. Juan was killed by slingshot.<sup>2</sup>

**17. RODADERO SLIDE.** Formed by "intrusion of igneous diorite into limestone, with some form of faulting before the igneous rocks cooled." 'Amphitheater of niches around a pool or altar' at the base of the slides.<sup>4</sup>

**18. RODADERO THRONE.** Kusilluj Hinkinan, "monkey's lift." Short steps cut into E side.

**19. WALLS.** The largest stone is 29ft tall and 361tons. The wall is 1000ft long with "22 salients," maybe to allow defenders to attack offense from two sides.<sup>4, 2</sup> The west end of the walls was incomplete and low, probably where the Spanish focused their attack during the 1536 siege.<sup>Protzen,2</sup>

In 1982, heavy rains exposed a section of the outer walls and remains of 11 high-ranking Inca warriors were exposed, probably from the 1536 Siege.<sup>2</sup>

**20. TEETH.** The base of the terraces form the teeth of the puma and excellent for defending.



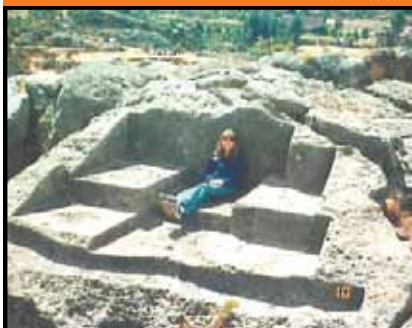
15. HEMMING, RANNEY



16. D ROSCOE



17. A ROSCOE



18. A ROSCOE





19. D ROSCOE



20. D ROSCOE

Attackers are forced to expose their backs when assailing the walls. Some stones weigh up to 150 tons. The wall is 1200ft long.<sup>6</sup>

**21. STONES** are incredibly huge. Most over 125 tons. Only the outer walls remain, all buildings were torn down. Some 38ft long, 18ft broad, and 6ft thick. The quarries are 4–15 leagues away.

**22. LADDER.** Scaling the terraces with ladders were not easy. See [Muyumarca Tower](#) for more.

**23. MUYUC MARCA TOWER.** There used to be at least 3 towers. All that's left are the bases.

A circular tower. Largest tower, 4 or 5 stories, stepped. It had a fountain, supplied by underground channel.<sup>2</sup>

It was built of three concentric circles, 75ft in diameter.<sup>4</sup> Excavated in 1930s. Tiered, cone-shaped tower. It had a large cistern and extensive conduits.<sup>2</sup> Tunnels under towers communicated with the city and palaces.<sup>6</sup>

Incredible Spanish bravery. Hernan Sanchez of Badajoz. Using a scaling ladder and under a fire of stones, reached the top terrace. He climbed into a window and fought the warriors inside, who retreated up the stairs. He continued fighting at the tower's base and found a rope dangled from the top. He climbed it while under fire. On reaching the top, he surprised and killed the remaining warriors and announced his victory to encourage the Spaniards. More at [History](#).

**24. SALLAC MARCA TOWER.** Square tower, which held many soldiers. Tunnel underneath as deep as the tower is high. Tunnels connected the towers together. Mostly dismantled in 1540s to help build Spaniard houses in Cuzco. Several stories.<sup>Cieza, 4</sup>

Rectangular tower with 5 stepped storeys, 65ft long. The tallest "hollow structure." It had many small rooms and used as a garrison.<sup>4</sup> It could have held 5000 troops.<sup>Sancho, 4</sup> Similar to the structures built by the [Yarivilca](#).<sup>4</sup>

**25. TIRED STONE.** Piedra Cansada. 218yd N



21. D ROSCOE



24. D ROSCOE



25. HYSOP, BRIDGES

of amphitheater and [Roderado Hill](#). Looks like it didn't make it to its destination.<sup>Cieza, 3, 4</sup> But it's a natural outcrop, carved and embellished.<sup>4</sup>



22. D ROSCOE