

MACHU PICCHU

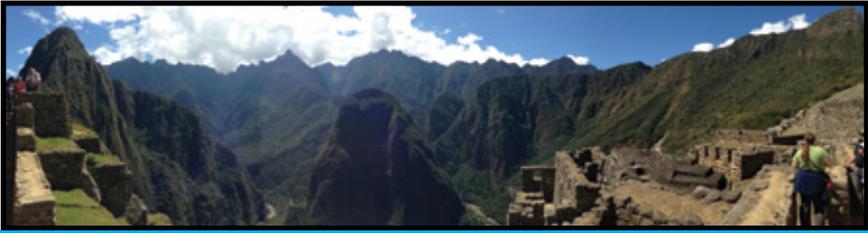


R ROSCOE

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EASTERN VIEW. R. ROSCOE

BACKGROUND

Machu Picchu was discovered by Hiram Bingham in 1911.

It was a royal estate of [Pachacutec](#), a winter court. This area was inhabited to keep the [Chanca](#) conquered. Free travel was not allowed among the people so only the Inca leadership would have know 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. MP 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 as not just a religious site. As a royal estate it showed locals who was 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. Bingham 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 was 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 controled 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 doc, 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 archaeological site.⁸ He listed rumors of Huaina Picchu and Matcho Picchu, *Perou 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. Archaeological material left with Yale Museum. Peru received excavation from 1914–15.²

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

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



6. A ROSCOE



1. R ROSCOE

3. D ROSCOE



9. BENCH. M TADLOCK

DESCRIPTIONS

1. DRAWBRIDGE. 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 Lintel ring stone and bar holds are on the inside.¹⁴

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. 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. Stone working was done using hammer stones of harder material. Left over stones and chips made excellent terrace fill.¹⁴

6. WESTERN SIDE.

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.

Serpent Rock. Snakes are carved onto to rock, cave underneath.¹² These can only be seen when standing on top.¹⁴

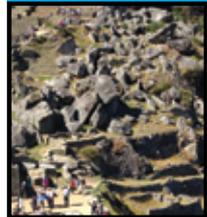
8. STAIRCASE to [Sacred Plaza](#).



2. D ROSCOE



4. D ROSCOE



5. R ROSCOE



9. M ROSCOE



10. LOOKING N. R ROSCOE

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

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

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

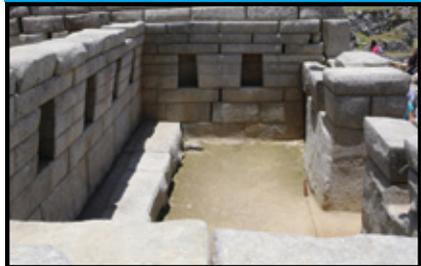
Bench. A large stone block sits on a small cylindrical stone was used as roller to help in moving.⁴

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



10. PRINCIPAL. R TADLOCK



10. SACRISTY. WARD

Priest House one **faces the Sun Temple at Llactapata** and the setting sun over **Mt Pumasillo** on the Dec Solstice.¹¹ The base of the platform is perfectly carved but the upper is rough: shows a later "hasty construction."⁴



10. HUACA. D ROSCOE

Principal Temple is on the N side of the plaza. Maybe 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



11. M ROSCOE



15. WARD



12. M ROSCOE



16. DONAHUE

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 Putuski](#).¹²

12. INTI HUATANA / HITCHING POST OF THE SUN. Inti means sun. Huatana, as a noun means a year. As a verb means hitching post.⁶

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

Every major site has one and another at [Choquesuysuy](#) and between here and [Llactapata](#). Spanish destroyed most. This pillar is higher than any other.²

Maybe an abstract version of [Huayna Picchu](#). Shadows follow the same as HP.^{15, 1} "Carved out of solid granite attached to the [Salcantay](#) massif" and connects HP.^{Reinhard, 1}

In 2000, while shooting a beer commercial, a



12. SOUTH STONE. WRIGHT



16. HUMMINGBIRD. WRIGHT

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

13. MAIN PLAZA.

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

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 with **20 full length niches**, hornacinas.³



14. A ROSCOE

- 18. RECORDING STONES
- 20. CEREMONIAL ROCK
- 21. WATCHMAN'S HUT
- 22. KALLANKA
- 23. INCA TRAIL
- 24. MACHU PICCHU MTN
- 25. AGRICULTURAL SECTOR
- 26. CANAL
- 27. STOREHOSUES
- 28. PATH TO HOTEL
- 29. SECURE DOORWAY
- 30. STAIRWAY
- 31. DRY MOAT
- 32. PRINCESS' PALACE
- 33. SUN TEMPLE
- 34. ROYAL MAUSOLEUM
- 35. STONE BATHS
- 36. FOUNTAIN HOUSE
- 37. HANGED MAN'S ROCK
- 38. KING'S GROUP
- 39. 3 DOOR GROUP
- 40. KALLANKA
- 41. IMAGE STONE
- 42. INDUSTRIAL SECTOR
- 43. CONDOR TEMPLE
- 44. SLIDE
- 45. MORTARS
- 46. INTIMACHAY

- 1. DRAWBRIDGE
- 2. MAIN GATE
- 3. ROOF
- 4. FAKE
- 5. QUARRY
- 6. WESTERN SIDE
- 7. SNAKE ROCK
- 8. STAIRCASE
- 9. 3 WINDOWS TEMPLE
- 10. SACRED PLAZA
- 11. IMAGE STONES
- 12. INTI HUATANA
- 13. MAIN PLAZA
- 14. UÑA PICCHU
- 15. SACRED ROCK
- 16. UNFINISHED TEMPLE
- 17. UPPER GROUP



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

This view is from the top of Huayna Picchu, looking down and back at Machu Picchu, looking South. Photo by Dellany Donahue.



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. Each has a cross carved in center. They are 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.

Dice marked with straight lines and crosses for tally.¹²

20. CEREMONIAL

ROCK. Also called the Funerary Rock. The sharp bump matches [Mt Yanatanin](#).¹² The site is surrounded by round river rocks, tying it to the Urubamba R.¹⁴

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

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

22. KALLANKA largest building at MP. Broken pottery is probably evidence of drinking. Locals were allowed near MP but not in.¹⁴

23. INCA TRAIL from the Sun Gate and Cuzco. Intipunku from Machu Picchu roundtrip:



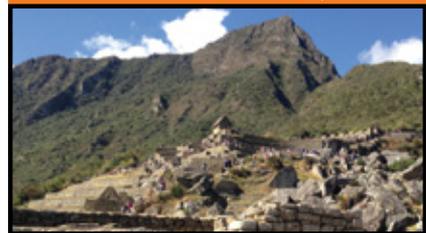
20. R ROSCOE



21. D. ROSCOE



23. SUN GATE. A ROSCOE



24. R ROSCOE

1.5hrs.⁴

24. MACHU PICCHU

MOUNTAIN has housing for 12 soldiers and a carefully terraced signal station at very top. 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

26. CANAL. Called an "azequia."² It carries water 1.5mi.¹⁴

27. STOREHOUSES to the left of this marker.

28. PATH TO HOTEL.

29. SECURE DOORWAY. Doors were secured



25. R ROSCOE



26. D ROSCOE



27. MCGAREY



33. D ROSCOE



28. MCGAREY



33. OUTSIDE, WINDOW. D ROSCOE

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

30. STAIRWAY.

31. DRY MOAT. A large rock points upward, "about 1/3 of the way down, probably a survey marker."¹⁴

32. PRINCESS' PALACE / PRIEST HOUSE.

Two-story building, each floor was accessed from the outside. A ledge supported the upper floor.¹⁴

Closest building to the Sun Temple, excellent quality. 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

Three windows: 2 small, east and south, 1 large portal with small holes. **East Window:** on June solstice the rising sun casts a rectangular light onto the center rock.¹⁵ It also frames



29. M ROSCOE



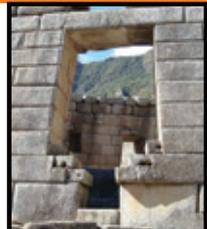
32. M ROSCOE

Pleiades' 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."^{Paulo 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.^{Paulo 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."^{Paulo 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.^{Paulo 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. WINDOW. M ROSCOE



33. STAIRS. R ROSCOE



39. MCGAREY



34. STEPS. D ROSCOE

of himself on top of the center rock for worship.

Luis Lumberas, 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."^{7,4}

37. HANG MAN'S ROCK. The lintel 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 to enter. Doorway lintels are twice as large of



34. MASONRY. D ROSCOE



35. M ROSCOE



38. BEDROOM. M ROSCOE



38. BEDROOM. M ROSCOE

38. BATHROOM. M ROSCOE

others, private garden, fountains, and baths. Entrance lintel has deep, long groove like at [Ingenuity Group](#) and [Coricancha](#) in Cuzco.³ The stones were cut to give a "puffy" look, giving each stone individuality.¹⁴

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

40. KALLANKA. Large celebration hall.

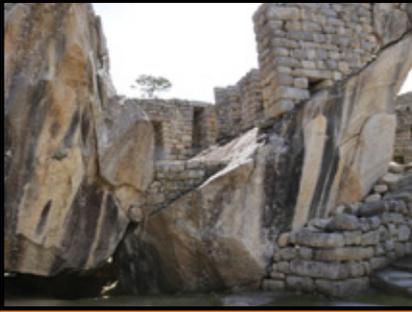
41. IMAGE STONES. Also called echo stones.

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 jamb and massive lintel, opens into a huairona – 3 walled room. Houses and huaironas



42, 43. DONAHUE



43. CONDOR WINGS, WARD

are lined with niches. Sections connected by **stairways**, one of them is carved from a single block. **2 shrines** of natural rock outcroppings. 2 stone mortars carved into ground. Windows provide view of [Sun Temple](#) and [Temple of Three windows](#).³



43. CONDOR, M ROSCOE

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. The stairs next to the slide has hand holds notches.¹⁴

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

46. INTI MACHAY. A small cave, above and to the E of [Condor Temple](#).⁴

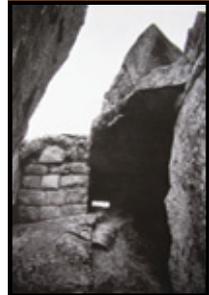
A solar observatory that marked the December Solstice. Has **coursed masonry** and a **window carved into a boulder** that fronts the front wall. Ten days before and after the winter solstice sunrise a beam of light shines through the window and on the back wall.⁴



44. M ROSCOE



45. BINGHAM



46. HEMMING, RANNEY



38. KING'S GROUP ON LEFT. D ROSCOE



MT YANATIN. CHRISTY



42. STAIRS, SHRINE. D ROSCOE

OTHER MAPS

CUSCO AND THE SACRED VALLEY:

- [Cusco Guide](#) – capital of the Incas.
- [Cusco History](#) – history of the capital.
- [Coricancha](#) – sun temple in Cusco.
- [Sacsahuaman](#) – fortress near Cusco.
- [Sacred Valley](#) – the beautiful valley.
- [Ollantaytambo](#) – fortress in Sacred Valley.
- [Pisac](#) – major Inca site in Sacred Valley.

MACHU PICCHU AND INCA TRAIL:

- [Machu Picchu](#) – original lost city.
- [Inca Trail](#) – hike past several sites.

OTHER RESOURCES INCLUDE:

- [Glossary of quechua](#)
- [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

Photography: Kathy Christy, Dellany Donahue, Patrick McGarey, David Roscoe, Monica Roscoe, Robert Roscoe, Maria Tadlock, Richard Tadlock, Hal Ward.

See [Full Bibliography](#) at website.

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