



PISAC AND VALLEY. MCGAREY

## BACKGROUND

Royal estate for Pachacuti, built after conquering the [Cuyos](#), one of the first ethnic groups conquered.<sup>6</sup>

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

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.<sup>4</sup>

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.<sup>10</sup>

## 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.

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.

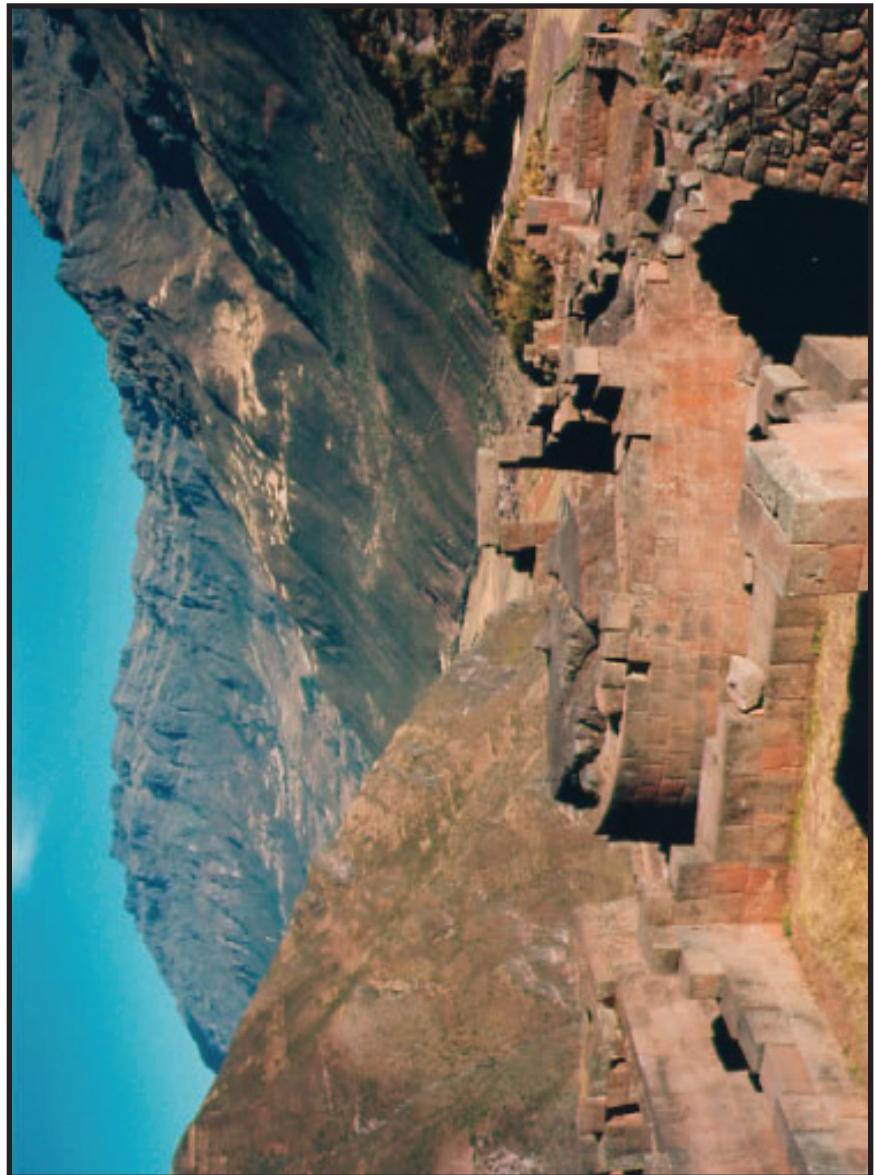
9. Thomson, Hugh.

10. von Hagen, Victor.

11. Hemming, John. Ranney, Edward.

12. Gullberg, Steve. 13. Christie, Joyce.

# PISAC



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## DESCRIPTIONS

**1. QANCHIS RAQAY.** A group of buildings at N gate, looking toward [Chongo ravine](#), an excellent view of Cuscopata terraces. Maybe a residential sector.

**2. FOUNTAINS.** Along the W side of encircled structure is a series of 6 baths.

**3. AMARU PUNKU.** Serpent Gate. A wall climbs the hillside. This gate is the only way through.<sup>10</sup>

**4. CUSCOPATA.** The most extensive terraces at Pisac. The terraces follow the mountain curve. It has irrigation channels, stairs, floating steps. Used for growing excesses for Cuzco palaces.<sup>4</sup> The garrison of Amaru Punku was supported with these crops. They are still in use growing corn, wheat, and peppers.<sup>10</sup>

**5. KALLA Q'ASA.** Hanan Pisac, "Parrot Pass." 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.<sup>4</sup>

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."<sup>3</sup>

**6. LOOKOUT.** at about 3400m.<sup>3</sup>

**7. TUNNEL.<sup>3</sup>**

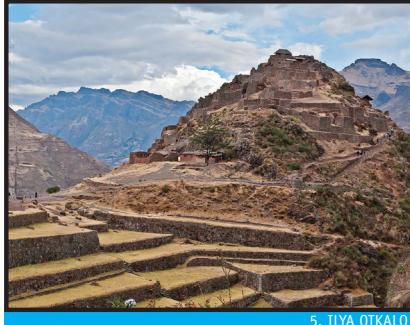
**8. TUNNEL.** A narrow path leads above: cliffs down one side, cliffs up on the other. Leads to a staircase, tower and buildings. Another path leads through **52ft tunnel** and excellent remains of bridge foundations, over [Kitamayu ravine](#). Rock tombs are beyond, large Incan grouping. [Tanganamarca](#):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



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5. ILYA OTKALO



26, 5. INTIHUATANA. VESVETER.RU



26, HYSLOP, BRIDGES

gnomon.<sup>8</sup> The rock is circularish, 18ft in diameter. There are small steps leading to the top. There is a single entrance to the room, made with perfectly fitting stones. The site is an outcropping of granite carved and anchored into by the fortress.<sup>10</sup> It is pointed to the June Solstice Sunrise.<sup>12</sup>

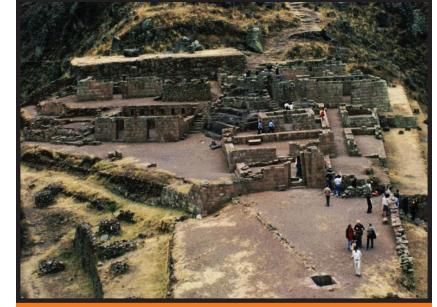
**5B. Enclosed carved rock.** It is immediately E of Intihuatana and actually part of the same outcrop. It has an edge aligned with the Dec Solstice Sunrise.<sup>12</sup>

**6-12.** Excellently built rectangular buildings, maybe a part of a temple complex.<sup>2</sup>

**7. Old Temple.** Only building with north side door. Maybe for servants, or maybe old, original temple of sector.<sup>3</sup>

**8. Moon Temple:** 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.<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup>

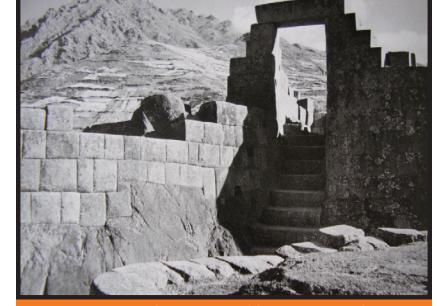
**13. Liturgical bath** fed by a water channel.<sup>2</sup> On south end, has steps and carved handles. Water channel feeds the bath from along the



26. REINHARD



26, 16B.

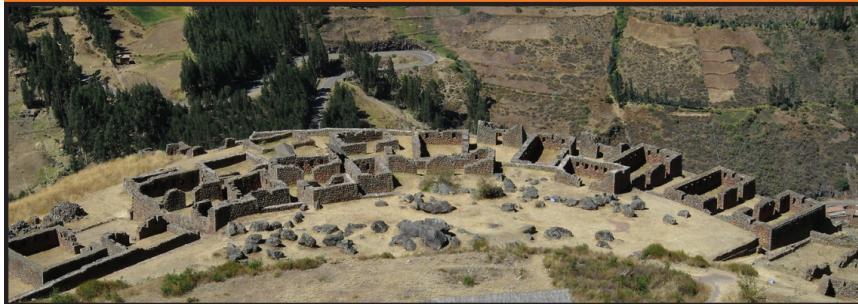


26. SUN TEMPLE DOORWAY. HEMMING, RAMEY

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 aqueduct. A stone buttress on the far-side is still visible. And feeds 4 waterfalls/fountains.<sup>3</sup>

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

**16B. Step design.** Between [Building 9](#) and [Usnu](#). A stone is carved with a step-design, similar to MP Three Window Temple, [Quillarumi](#), and [Quespehuara](#).<sup>13</sup>



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## DESCRIPTIONS

**15. PISACLLACTA / PISACA** has a mirador, a building with a large lookout over the valley. Finest adobe in Pisac.<sup>7</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup>

**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.<sup>3</sup>

### 16. CHONGO RAVINE.

**17. QORIWAIRICHINA.** "Gold sifter."<sup>3</sup> Below Intihuatana is a path to a 2 story building, resembles a Spanish hospital. Maybe housing or barracks.<sup>10</sup> Administrative building on a narrow saddle with views both E and W.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup>

**18. HURMIN.** Huimin. 39 Terraces built along the edge at 50° angle.<sup>10</sup>

**19. HUANUHUANUPATA.** Terraces.

**20. PACCHAPATA.** Terraces.

**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.<sup>3</sup> Mountain in the background maybe where they hurled prisoners to their death.<sup>3</sup>

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

**24. PATH 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, gateways, tunnels, and great views of the valley and Mt Pachatusan to the S.<sup>3</sup> **Path:** 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).<sup>3</sup> The right path is very steep and goes up Huimin terraces on the south tip.<sup>3</sup>

### 25. WESTERN WALK.

Western path from Intihuatana to Kalla Q'asa. From Intihuatana, 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.** This sector has the finest stone work and masonry. "An astronomical observatory."<sup>3</sup>

**1-4 and 14-15** may have housed priests and mamacunas.<sup>2</sup>

**5. Sun Temple, Intihuatana.** A D-shaped wall surrounds the main sacred rock outcrop.<sup>2</sup> It similar to the Qoricancha and Machu Picchu Sun Temples.

Bosses were used as solar observation.

Similar to ones in Huaitara, Sapantiana in Cuzco, and at Machu Picchu.<sup>4</sup> It has 2 gnomons rising vertically and 1 horizontally.<sup>11</sup>

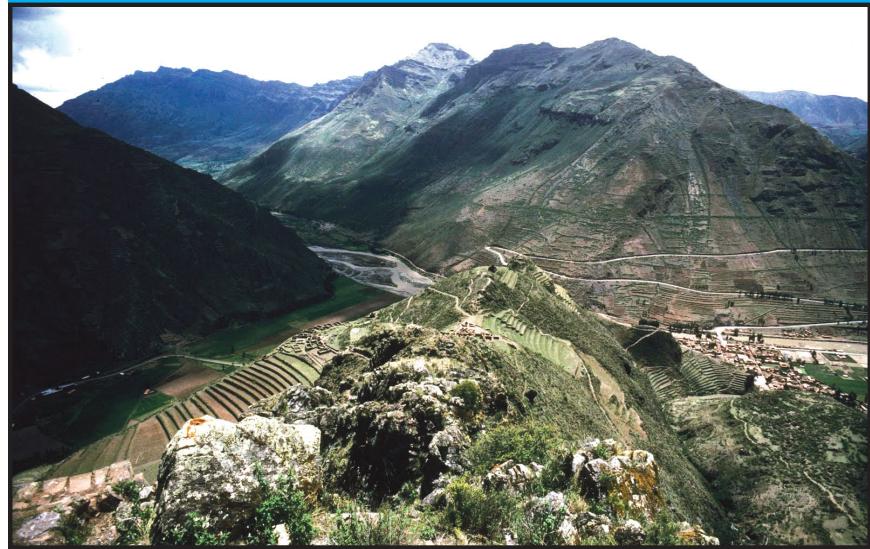
Originally covered in copper. Legend says that a chumpe, bronze disc fit around the



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6. REINHARD

sentenced to death were tossed off cliff faces, maybe here.<sup>4</sup>

### 9. WALLS AND GATES.

### 10. BRIDGE AND TWO TOWERS.

### 11. TERRACES.

### 12. PATH QANCHISRACAY – INTIHUATANA.

Starting at Qanchisracay. 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. 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. PATH INTIHUATANA – KALLA QASA.

Follows east side of mountain. Look at how easily stone work is worked into the mountainside above the path. At about 300yd 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.<sup>3</sup>

### 14. PATH 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.<sup>3</sup>



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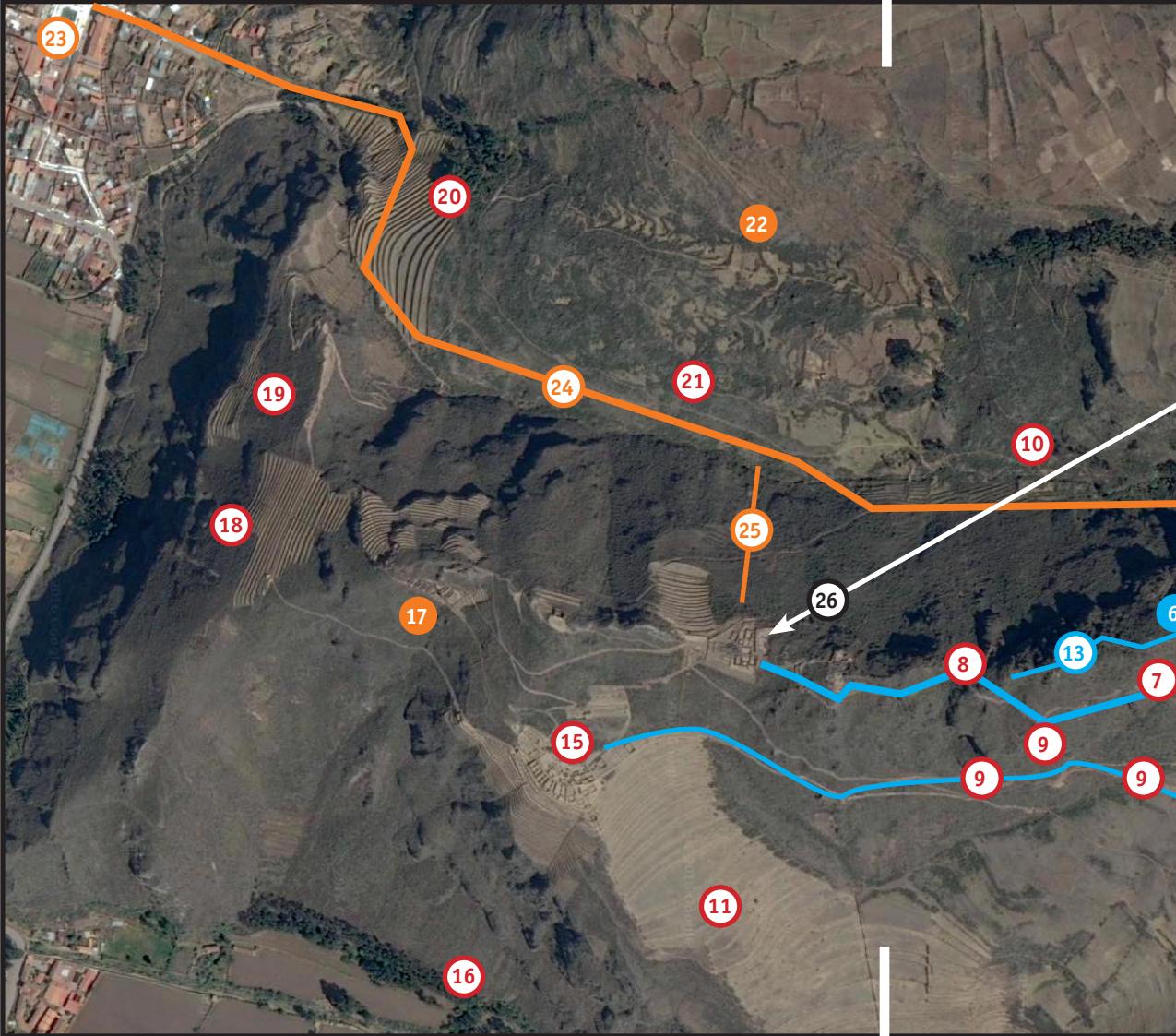


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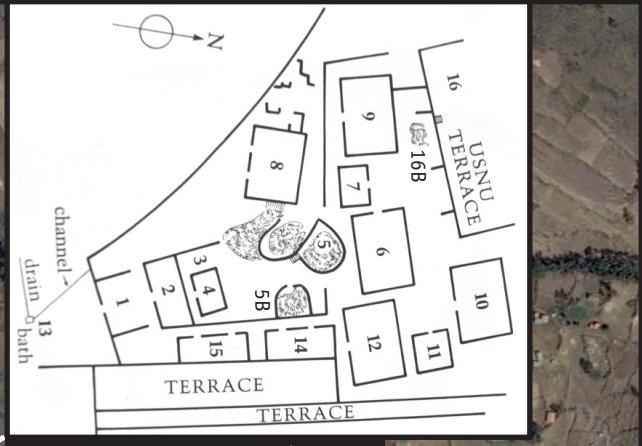


11. HEMMING, RAMEY

DESCRIPTION OF LOCATIONS ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE MAP ARE FOUND ON PAGE 6.



DESCRIPTION OF LOCATIONS ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE MAP ARE FOUND ON PAGE 2.



- 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
- 5B. ENCLOSED CARVED ROCK
- 7. OLD TEMPLE
- 8. MOON TEMPLE
- 13. LITURGICAL BATH
- 16. USNU TIANAYOQ
- 16B. STEP DESIGN

- 1. QANCHIS RACAY
- 2. FOUNTAINS
- 3. AMARU PUNKU GATE
- 4. CUSCOPATA
- 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

NORTH →  
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