SACRED VALLEY

ANDY ROSCOE’S FREE INCAN TOUR GUIDES
Interactive Maps and Tour Guides available at:
AndyRoscoe.com/peru
18. Ollantaytambo
19. Pachar
20. Moray
21. Maras
22. Urubamba / Quispiguanca
23. Yucay
24. Huarocondo
25. Izcuchaca
26. Rd Cusco – Ollantaytambo

LEGEND

7. Location without photo.
6. Location with photo.
5. Location with needed photo.

Google Maps

1. Pisac
2. Huchuy Cusco
3. Calca
4. Urcos
5. Pitusiray Mt
6. Chinchero
7. Puray Lake
8. Pachatussa Mt
9. Plains of Chita
10. Tambo Machay
11. Puca Pucara
12. Qenco
13. Sacahuaman
14. Cusco
15. Temple of the Moon
16. Inkiltambo
17. Urubamba R
DESCRIPTIONS

1. **PISAC** see Pisac Tour Guide.

2. **HUCHUY CUSCO.** “Little Cusco.” Excellent view over the Urubamba valley. 3.1mi from Calca and 2600ft up. Originally called Caquia Jaquiahuana.
   
   A royal estate for Inca Viracocha. He conquered the town by setting it on fire with a stone from his golden sling.  

   **1438** Chancas attacked Cusco, he fled to here. The spanish found his mummy here. Buildings were part stone, part adobe. A fine 131ft kallanka. It looks out to an esplanade and terraces, maybe parades or games were played here. Post-inca, transitional style buildings and reservoir also here. Some buildings have “horizontal wooden struts” at the corners. Originally thought that these would protect the buildings from earthquakes, but the corners are already the strongest part of Inca buildings.

   Access by foot only, shortest is from Lamay bridge: 3hrs, easy but steep. See website for detailed path.

3. **CALCA.** 12mi from Cuzco. 20mi from Ollantaytambo. 11mi from Pisac. Caytomarca is on the other side of the river.

   Agricultural terraces maintained by canals from far above glaciers.

   Main town in Sacred Valley. Has an Incan square and a spanish square. Has nice orchards and gardens. Manco Capac II had his headquarters here during the 1536 Rebellion.

   **1536 APR 18.** Manco Capac II and Villac Umu leave Cuzco under the pretense of bringing gold back for Hernando Pizarro. They got to Calca and began organizing the siege.

   **Diego de Almagro** advanced here with a small group of men, leaving most in Urco. He was to negotiate an agreement with Manco and claim Cuzco for himself. Manco had received a letter from the Pizarros to not trust Almagro. Manco demanded that Almagro put captured Pizarro-supporting scouts to death as a way to show his union with Manco. Almagro hesitated and Manco had the local chief Paucar swoop down in attack to no avail. Manco knew he could not stay with any Spanish. He returned to Ollantaytambo.

   **BATTLE OF CALCA.** Manco rises an army in
the thousands. Juan Pizarro was sent to bring him back with 70 calvary. The Incan army was on one side of the Yucay R and 60 Spanish horse on the other. The Spanish swam their horses across and charged into the army. The Incas fought strongly and killed and wounded many Spanish, though they were forced to pull back onto the hillside. Manco quietly fled.

The next morning the whole mountain side was renewed with Inca army. The ground favored the Incas, who showered the Spanish with missiles and rolled large boulders down upon them. Juan was called back to Cuzco which was being attacked and the Incas celebrated their success. See Cusco History for more.

4. URCO. Near Calca. Offertory channel ends at the head of a snake.

Location not precise (map shows it to be very close to Calca). Architecture probably belonging to an Inca royal estate.

5. PITUSIRAY MOUNTAIN. Twin peaks that overlook Calca.

6. CHINCHERO. “Town of the Rainbow” Also called Clinta and Calispuquio. On the road from Cuzco to Sacred Valley and past the lakes of Huaypo and Piuray. Beyond Sacsahuaman, 9mi from Cuzco.

Population center of Pampa de Anta, before Inca expansion. Later a royal estate of Topa Inca. Now has a large Sunday market. Has a great view over the pampa. The main plaza has a massive Inca wall with 10 large niches, largest known. Probably the base of Topa Inca’s palace. The church sits on top of it. Church was originally fully painted on the inside with flowers and patterns.
Just north of Chinchero is a terraced valley with 3 unique rock shrines. While facing the church, to the left past the village on the slopes are Inca terraces. Walk N from the church, follow the terraces down valley, stay on the right side of the slope. **1. large rock outcrop** with two stairways carved into it.  **2. Chingana Stone**, top right, farther down valley, has a miniture stairway and stream underneath.  **3. interesting shallow indentions**, bottom right.  

Chingana Stone. Above are stairways, seats, and water channels. There’s also a carved drainpipe cut vertically into the rock. Be careful there’s a 30m drop to a grotto under the outcrop.  

Farther down the valley is another carved **outcrop with long stairway with a large niche** overlooking the valley. The top of the outcrop has a circle of seats carved into it.  

**7. PURAY LAKE.** Piuray, Chinchero Lake. On the road from Cuzco to Sacred Valley, before you get to Chinchero. Sacred lake.  

Just after the siege, the spanish were starving and facing another siege. Hernando Pizarro charged straight into Manco’s best contigent at night. He surprised them and massacred them. He charged into the lake “spearing the natives like fish.”  

**8. PACHATUSSA MT.** Location unsure. N of Cuzco. 15,915ft. 5 small snow clad peaks.  


**10. TAMBO MACHAY.** Tampu Machai, Bano del Inca, “cavern lodge.” Few miles from Pucara. Above Pucara along Lkalla Chaca R.  

Ritual bathing and maybe a water cult focused here. There’s a spring that channeled into 3 waterfalls. Probably there were originally ornamental gardens surrounding the site. Pachacutec received a prophecy here about becoming a conquerer. Tupac Yupanqui used the location as a hunting lodge.  

Possible location of where on Nov 21 festival. When Inca boys were made men, they were bathed and changed clothes, then lectured on their return. House of Inca Yupanqui, he was married here. Many sacrifices were made here “except children.”  

Stone fountain with a warm minerals spring with beautiful terrace, on top is a wall with 4 full height ceremonial niches. Timpucpuquio is the name of the spring. The slope behind the site is not high enough to support so much water. It must be coming underneath and from the mountain opposite.  

**11. PUCA PUCARA.** Pucara, Red Fortress. First tampu outside of Cuzco. At the foot of the pass that leads to Pisac.  

Small fortress guarding the Sacred Valley. It has terraces, stairways, tunnels, and towers. Carefully built symmetrical stonework. Excellent stone work, fitted between 2 small cliffs, drains
for terraced flooring inside.  

12. QENCO. Kkenko, Q’enqu, “labyrinth,” ceremonial center for Pacha Mama. Site has canals, animal etchings, niches carved into solid limestone. 1.25mi NE of Sacayhuaman. Rose on the hill of Socorro. Alva carved puma is large and eroded, 20ft tall. Also similar to Sahuite. Stepped design is from Tiahuanaco and also found in Pisac and Princess Bath in Ollantaytambo. And at Concacha near Abancay.  

Semicircular plaza has 19 niches along outcrop. Cave with altar is inside the outcrop. Mummies were probably kept here. Paqchas, “zig zag channels” are here, and what looks like two bollards and to the west end of the outcrop are carved figures of a puma and a headless condor. The east end has a carving of a house.  

“12 sentries of gold and silver, of the size and appearance of those of this country, extraordinarily realistic.” These were found by the Spanish. And the effigy of Manco Capac. The location was described as a cave outside Cusco, it was probably Qenqo.  

15. TEMPLE OF MOON / SALUMPUNCU / LAQO. Lajo. Near Qenko. Cave passages with the Tiahuanaco step pattern carved into the rock. See Cusco Interactive Map for precise location and directions for hiking. Two caves are on S side. A large crack runs the width of the rock, wide enough to walk through. Cave on SE side is highly carved of pumas and snakes. Inside are niches for holding mummies and an altar. On full moon before winter solstice, moonlight shines upon the altar.  

16. INKILTAMBO. Many deep niches, probably for mummies of the ayllu responsible for its upkeep. W and S sides, below are carved channels and ritual bath. On top of the outcrop is a ‘carved fissure with 2 deep niches.” On equinoxes the sunsets in the center of this fissure. See Cusco Interactive Map for more.  

17. URUBAMBA RIVER.
**DESCRIPTIONS**

18. **OLLANTAYTAMBO.** See Ollantay Guide.


   Railroad to *Machu Picchu* and *Vilcabamba* area. Built in 1923, re-opened by Nicholas Asheshov. On the south bank of the *Urubamba R*, where the RR begins traveling down the Urubamba valley. Maybe these held screens to block strong winds. RR halts where the Huarcondo R meets the Urubamba R. Store houses can be seen on cliffs to the left.

20. **MORAY.** Fabulous agricultural terracing. Natural hollows in the mountains were set with concentric terraces, circles into the ground. Each terrace gets colder and colder. For freeze drying potatoes.

   Pottery found from the *Chanapata* culture, 0 AD. Also pottery of the *Wari*, Incas probably refined and enlarged the top few levels. Architecture probably belonging to an Inca royal estate. Legend holds that the walls were covered in gold and silver to reflect more light on crops.

   Sunlight and shade creates a tremendous variance in temperature in a very small area — up to 59°F from bottom to top, 98ft. Special high altitude strains of crops were developed. If corn had not been developed at a site like this then high population Andean cultures would not have been possible. Temperature was originally measurable by having cups of water freeze over night, then checking the rate of thaw in the morning. Area farming is still a complicated crop rotation and plantings.

   The *muyus* (depressions) have names. *Quechuyoc*: “warm being”. Largest, best
condition, and has 15 terrace levels. **Simiyoc:** “grass having or tongue having.” **Nustahispanan:** “where the princess pee’d.” A spring is here. Often believed that springs come from where royalty urinated. **Intiwatana:** “calendar stone”. Maybe there use to be an **intihuatana** was here. Climb **Wanuymarca:** “house of the dead” middle of the 3 peaks to the S. 

**21. MARAS.** Salt pans. Nearby areas owned by **Topa Inca.** Royal salt works. Is this the same as Las Salinas, the site of several colonial battles? The surrounding area is a “shaky bed of salt and soluble minerals.” Rich in calcium sulphate and carbonate. Spots have collapsed into sinkholes and craters. Underneath are eroded tunnels carrying water to Urubamba R.  

**22. URUBAMBA / QUISPIGUANCA.** See **Yucay Interactive Map** for more. “Plain of the spider.” 2mi from **Yucay** at the intersection of the the Cusco-Chinchero road and Urubamba R. A great center base for exploring the valley. Lovely village, there’s an avenue along the west side “lined with towering pisonays.”

Originally **Pachacuti** built ponds and pleasure houses here. Then **Huayna Capac** built a massive palace and estate here. **Fortress** on the N bank protects the road and **suspension bridge** with 3 unique massive towers. 1880 steel bridge uses towers for support. Paved road to Ollantaytambo. 

**Huayna Capac** gave the city to his sister-wife, dead mother, favored second wife.

Strong quechua influence, no Spanish. Naturalist Antonio de León Pinelo declared this valley the biblical Eden. 

Architecture is huge, super strong, imposing to show how tenuous Huayna Capac’s life was. Estate covered 10mi along Urubamba R.
Compound built on large terrace with a high wall surrounding it. Adobe bricks, stone foundations, painted. Road approaching rises to the terrace and meets a triple jam doorway with 2 towers on either side (two story). N side of plaza 2 large halls. Opened at plaza end - 144 x 45ft. Gabled roof, brightly painted. Placed small buildings next to them to make them look bigger, an engineering feat.9

In contrast to Pisac’s following of mountain contours, Huayna built Yucay with its back turned on the surroundings and focused on man-made areas. He moved rivers and terrain to accommodate this structure. Uses adobe. Culture over nature. Used brightly colored buildings.9

23. YUCAY. See Yucay Interactive Map for more. 1548. Sayri Tupac was given the estate when he surrendered from the jungle. During a ceremony giving him these lands, Sayri Tupac pulled a thread from the table cloth and declared that this gift was equal to the thread in comparison to his family’s holdings. He was shortly poisoned by Cañari chief Fransisco Chilche.14 Sayri Tupac lived here 3 years before dying in 1560.3 It became the encomienda of Francisco Pizarro and then his son Francisco.5

An Inca square and a Spanish square. At Christmas there is a festival with masked dancers. Excellent masonry on the Plaza. Behind the village to the north are terraces with the best remaining agricultural systems in the area and still in use.4 Sayri Tupac Palace is still alone one of the squares – transitional Inca architecture.4

24. HUAROCONDO. At Zurite, road turned N to Huaracondo, 15mi NW of Cuzco. Remains of Inca bridge and road remains. Then the road turned W and ran parallel to Antisuyu Rd along Urubamba.15

25. IZCUCHUACA. Jaquíjahuana. Xaquixaguana. Anta. 5 leagues from Cuzco. A stream irrigates the rich vegetation and garden of the valley.
and asked of Spanish protection. More at Cuzco History. He met Francisco Pizarro on his march to Cuzco at Jaquijahuana. He was 17. Manco had been on the run from Atahualpa and his general, Quisquis, who controlled Cuzco and murdered his entire family. Manco wanted revenge and the crown and saw Pizarro as an ally.

1536 Manco Capac II vs Hernando de Soto. Hernando vs Almagro.

1548 APR 9. Gonzalo is the last Pizarro alive and he’s killed the first Spanish viceroy. He prepared for battle with the second viceroy, Pedro de la Gasca here. Each side had 1500 troops. The majority of Gonzalo’s troops betrayed him and switched sides to Viceroy. He surrendered and was soon executed.
OTHER GUIDES INCLUDE

Cusco History – history of the capital.
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 – original lost city.

MINI-BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

See Full Bibliography at website.

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