

Getting to Machu Picchu

Randy Wilson, 2019

Machu Picchu is amazing. But it's a bit tricky to get there, as well as to navigate all the restrictions and such. Having pulled it off myself, I am sharing some basic tips on what you need to know to get there, and some things to watch out for. Obviously you may want to do things differently than we did, in which case you will need to do some research on your own. But this will hopefully at least give you a basic "Plan A" you can start from. (Note that our trip was taken before COVID hit, so you'll want to double-check restrictions around that).

Background. The Inca empire rose around the 1400s and lasted until the Spanish conquered them in the 1500s. The empire's capital was in the city of Cusco (sometimes spelled Cuzco), which is high in the Andes mountains, and the empire stretched for hundreds of miles north and south as the Inca conquered other people, taught them the Quechua language, and demanded tribute of food and labor.

The Inca were amazingly adept at constructing buildings and terraces out of stone. Their most important buildings used stonework that was so well done that you can't slide a knife between the stones, even though they used no mortar. (When earthquakes happen in the area, the Spanish construction tends to fall down and the Inca construction tends to stay put.)

Machu Picchu was an estate built for one of the kings ("Incas"), and was not discovered by the Spanish, so it escaped the kind of destruction that most other sites suffered. It wasn't until 1911 that Hyrum Bingham (re-)discovered the site, uncovered the vines that overgrew it, and made it known to the world. It is now one of the "New 7 Wonders of the World".

Money. Peru uses the "sol" (meaning "sun") as their currency. It's about 3 *soles* per US dollar. Prices are written as "S/3". [4 soles per dollar as of December 2021]

The Mighty Potato. Peru first cultivated the potato, and they have hundreds of varieties, so that's cool. In fact, Spain benefited far more from the potato it brought back from Peru than it ever did from the gold it found there. Since they had to let their crops of grain "rest" every other year, they were able to essentially double their food supply by planting potatoes on the off years.

High level overview. The main things you'll need to do are:

1. Decide when to go.
2. Decide what else you want to see while you're in the area (to know how long to stay)
3. Find a good flight to Lima.
4. Get flights from Lima to Cusco and back.
5. Buy Machu Picchu tickets in advance.
6. Get train tickets from Ollantaytambo to Aguas Calientes (the town by Machu Picchu).
 - a. You can hop a van from Cusco to Ollantaytambo for \$3 the day of.
7. Book hotels.

Our itinerary worked out very well, and I'd recommend something similar:

1. Fly overnight to Lima, arriving early in the morning.
2. Fly that same day to Cusco. Stay the night there.
3. Spend most of the next day in Cusco exploring stuff (and an extra day or so if you'd like).
4. Arrange to leave most of your luggage at your hotel in Cusco, and take just a backpack with you to Machu Picchu and back--just what you need for 3 nights.

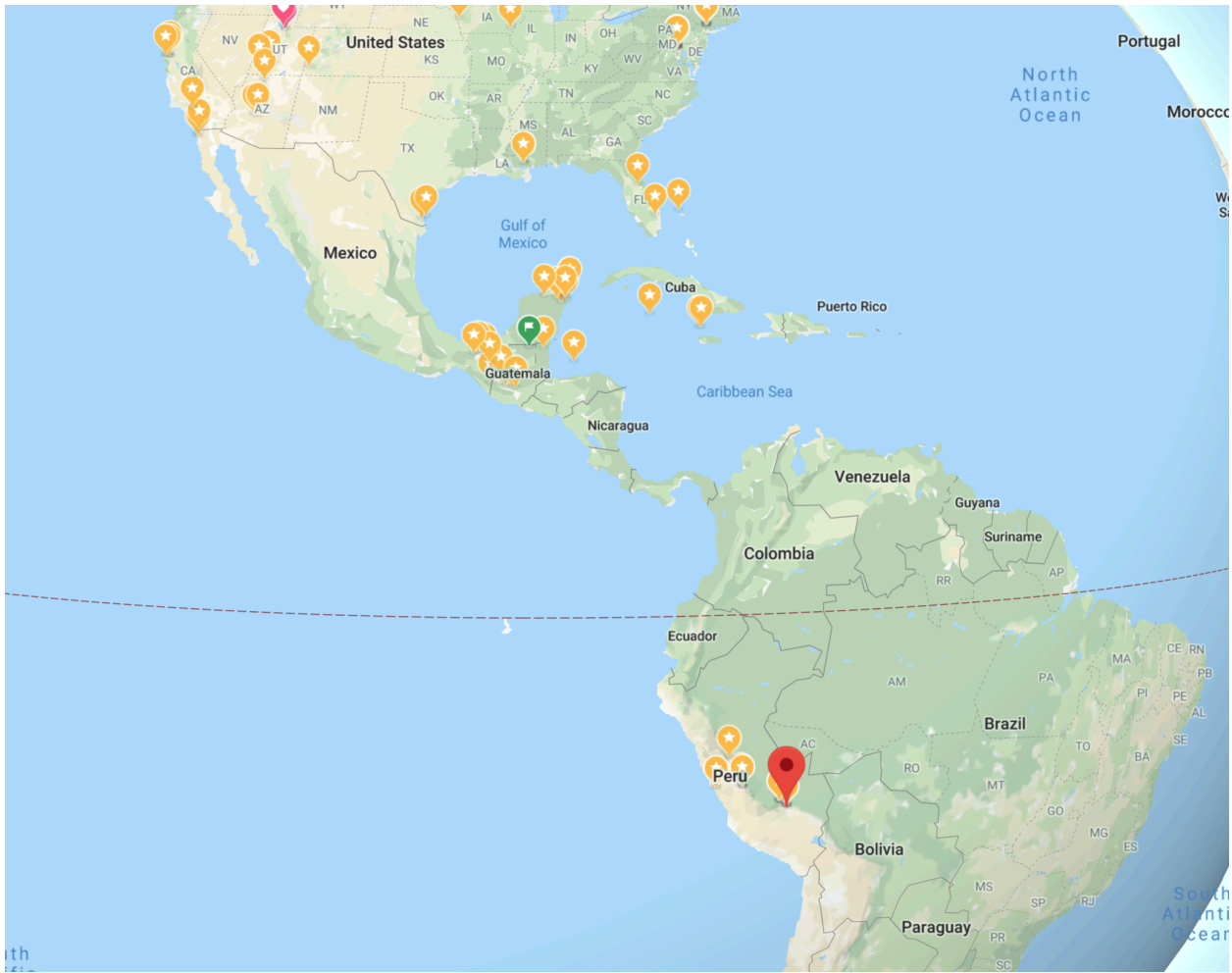
5. That afternoon, hop a \$3 van for a 2 hour ride from Cusco to the town of Ollantaytambo, which is the last town before the road ends. Stay at a hotel there.
6. See the great ruins in Ollantaytambo before the crowds arrive. Explore the cute cobblestone streets of an original Inca town. Hike the other (free) ruins on the other side of town if you still have energy.
7. That afternoon, take a beautiful 2-hour train ride to the town of Aguas Calientes (there is no road that goes there). Stay at a hotel there.
8. Have a guide show you through Machu Picchu, hike Wayna Picchu (if you can get tickets), hike to the Inca Bridge, take lots of selfies, chill and enjoy the view.
9. Stay in Aguas Calientes again that night so there's no stress to be done at Machu Picchu early. Then take a train out the next morning back to Ollantaytambo.
10. From there, go on back to Cusco by \$3 van, or see a thing or two on the way back (salt pits, Sacred Valley sites, Pisac Market).
11. Back at Cusco, stay at your same place again that was watching your luggage. Explore the stuff you didn't have time for.
12. Fly back to Lima. Tour around Lima if you have time and feel like doing that.
13. Fly home from Lima.

This itinerary gave us some buffer time before Machu Picchu so that if there was a problem with a flight that delayed us for a day or so, we could "catch up" and still make our date at Machu Picchu. It is also wise to take it slow in Cusco, since it's at 11,000 feet and you need to be a bit careful about altitude sickness. (Machu Picchu is at 8,000 feet, so isn't as much of a concern).

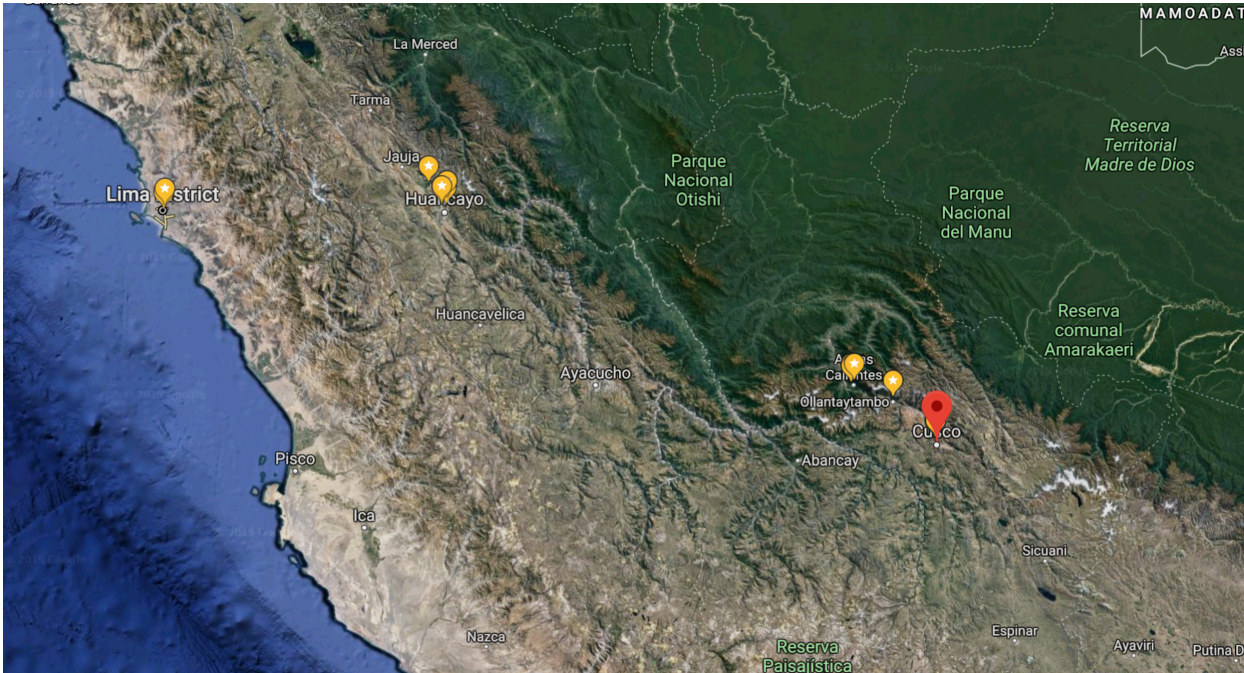
We spent a week at my daughter's mission first, so didn't have any time to spare here. If we had more time, I'd probably spend another day in Cusco; see a thing or two in the Sacred Valley on the way to or from Ollantaytambo; and maybe go down to Lake Titicaca (in which case we'd fly back to Lima from near there instead of from Cusco, since it's an overnight bus ride to get there from Cusco). You can Google "Things to do near Cusco" to see if there's something that calls to you.

Orientation (Maps). Here are 5 maps to give you an overview of what's going on.

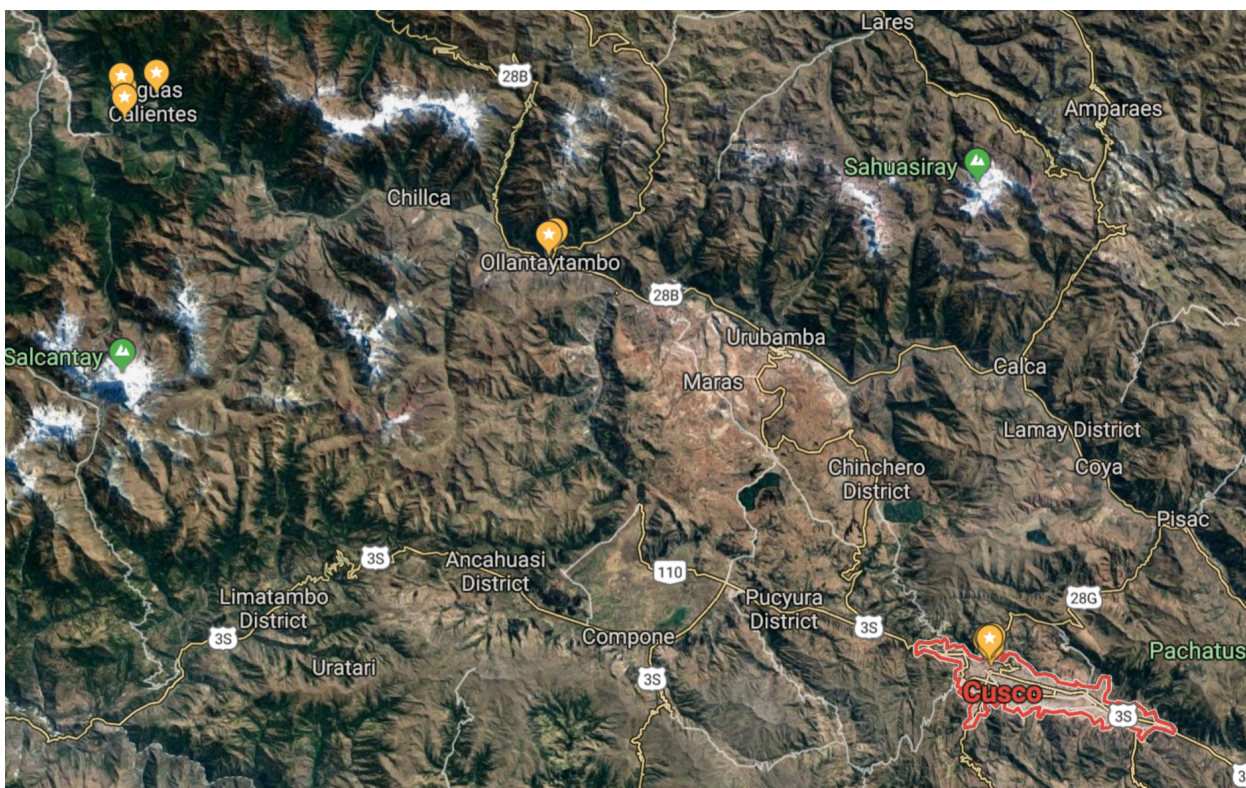
First, Peru is in South America, a little below the equator, so when it's winter here, it's summer there.



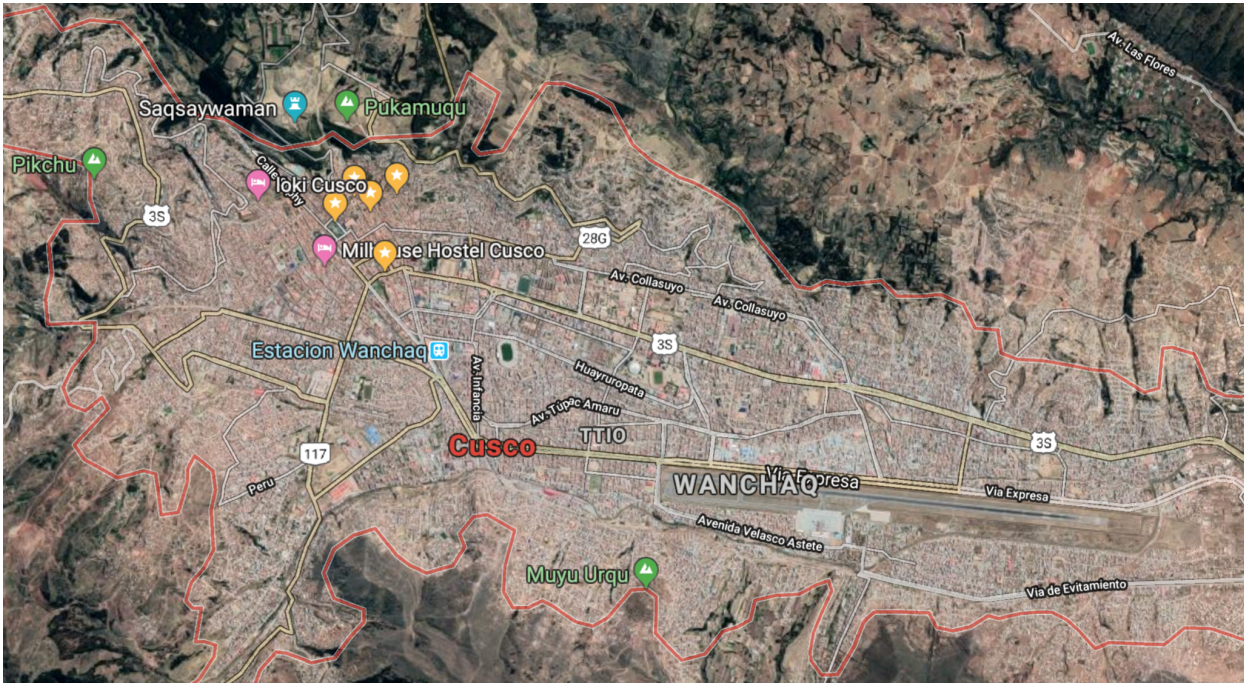
Lima is on the coast, and Cusco is way up in the Andes Mountains. It would take 30 hours by bus to go around the mountain to get to Cusco, which is why you should take a 1-hour flight there instead.



Here you can see Cusco in the bottom right. About two hours by van to the northwest, through the Sacred Valley, you can see Ollantaytambo, which is far as the road goes. Then you take a 2-hour train to Aguas Calientes (where you see 3 stars), and that's right next to Machu Picchu.



In Cusco, the airport is in the southeast corner (visible in the map), and the historical town is at the northwest end of town (where the yellow stars are).



Finally, here's a close-up of the historical part of town. You can note here:

- The ruins of Saqsaywaman at the top.
- The Plaza Mayor del Cusco (main plaza) in the middle.
- Starred attractions that we went to: Qorikancha, Museum of Precolumbian Art, Twelve-Angled Stone, and the restaurant Chakruna Native Burgers.



PLANNING AND BOOKING YOUR TRIP

Here is sort of the order in which you need to decide and book things.

1. When to go.

First you need to decide what general time of year to go.

- The “dry season” has less rain, and goes from about May to September. Because of the weather and summer vacation for those in the northern hemisphere, this is the busy season, so crowds will be heavier and tickets harder to come by.
- The “rainy season” goes from October to April and has rain more often, but the crowds are smaller and some prices are lower. We went in January and got lucky with not much rain. And Machu Picchu is pretty regardless of the weather.
- When you can go will also likely depend on your personal work/school/etc. schedule.

2. What to see when you're there. With an idea of what you'd most like to do when you're there, you can figure out how many days to be in each place, which is necessary before booking flights to Lima. The short answer is that you'll need at least 8 days from when your flight leaves for Lima until your flight lands back in the U.S., so you may as well do Saturday-Sunday (9 days). More days than that will give you more time to see additional things if you'd like.

A. Cusco was the capital of the Inca Empire, and there is lots to see in the town itself as well as in surrounding areas. Our favorite things in town are listed below:

- **Plaza de Armas.** The main square in the old part of town, surrounded by colonial architecture. Good restaurants nearby. Lots of people selling you stuff.
 - **Cusco Cathedral.** Costs something to go in. It was ok.
- **Qorikancha** (and the **Convento de Santo Domingo**). 8:30am-5:30pm, \$7. This is the most important temple of the Inca empire, and used to have its inner walls covered in gold. It has the very finest stone architecture in the empire.
 - The catholic church built a convent on top of it, so you'll walk through that as well.
 - We paid the few extra dollars to have a guide show us through the place, and that was worth it, as this was among our favorite things in Cusco.
- **Museo de Arte PreColumbia.** 8am-10pm S/20 (= \$7). Best museum in town. Includes silver and gold artifacts.
 - Nearby is a great burger restaurant called **Chakruna Native Burgers** that has good burgers and sandwiches, including Alpaca burgers, for a reasonable price. They come with french fries made from 5 different local varieties of potatoes. They also have ice cream.
- **San Blas District.** An area of town with cute narrow cobblestone streets, lots of art shops/galleries. This is where the above museum is found.
 - **12-Angled Stone.** Near the Archbishop Palace (*Museo Palacio Arzobispal*), there are a bunch of huge stones fit tightly together into a wall, one of which has 12 different sides to it that were fit together with all the stones around them.
- **Sacsaywamen.** 7am-5:30pm. This is the ruins of a fortress at the top of the hill overlooking town. We didn't have that much time in Cusco and were seeing lots of other ruins, so we didn't do this, but most people do. Requires a "**Tourist Ticket**".
 - The **Tourist Ticket** is S/130 (\$48) and is valid for 10 days. It includes admission to Sacsaywamen in Cusco, as well as the ruins of Ollantaytambo (below), plus a bunch of lesser museums. We ended up not getting one but you can Google it and see if you're interested.
- **Markets.** The two big markets are **San Pedro Market** (*Mercado de San Pedro*), with fruit, bread, textiles, etc. (Beware pickpockets). Another market which some claim is even better is **Centro Artesanal Cusco**. It is supposedly quieter, less pushy, and has good food. (We didn't make it there).
- **Look at the stars.** Cusco is at 11,000 feet and far from big cities, so if the sky is not cloudy, don't forget to look at the stars at night. You should be able to see the [southern cross](#), too. (Click the link to see how to find it and how to use it to find which way is south).

In addition to stuff right in Cusco, there are other famous things nearby, including the **Pisac Market**, though we didn't go there and some say that the markets right in Cusco are at least as good and not as expensive. There's also some cool-looking salt evaporation pits we didn't have time for, and other ruins and such in the **Sacred Valley** of the Inca.

If I had another 3 days, I might have taken an overnight bus to see **Lake Titicaca** and its floating reed islands, and then flown back to Lima from there.

B. Ollantaytambo. This town is hard to pronounce (Oh-yahn-tahy-TAHM-boh) but it's pretty cool. It's a small Inca town that has stayed pretty much the same since the Inca ruled things, so it's a great example of the layout of an Inca town, with narrow cobblestone streets with Inca stone construction on the homes and little canals along the streets.

It also has some ruins that are cool enough that if Machu Picchu wasn't discovered, people might have flocked here. We followed some advice and spent the night in Ollantaytambo so we could be there in the morning when the sun rose. I wandered around the cobblestone streets taking pictures in the morning light, which was beautiful. We originally planned to do the main ruins there (which are part of the \$48 "Tourist Ticket", or you can do just these ruins for \$27), and I'd probably recommend that. However, there were 7 of us, and our hotel guy recommended the hike to the free ruins on the other side of the small town, the "Pinkuylluna Incan Storehouses", and that was cool, too, and we had the place mostly to ourselves. (We played "sardines" in the ruins, which is like hide & seek, but one person hides and everyone finds them, hiding with them when they do, until the last person finds the whole group all hiding, smashed together like sardines). I didn't notice until I got home the huge face carved below those ruins on the far side.

C. Lima. You may also decide to see some things around Lima. We had about 10 hours in Lima, so we saw the main cathedral and a park with colorful fountains.

3. Find a flight to Lima.

- **Google flights.** You can use [flights.google.com](https://www.flights.google.com) to search lots of airlines across an entire calendar to find a good time to go. If you've decided roughly what you want to do, you should have an idea of how many days you want to be there, and this can help with doing the flight search.
- **Momondo.** I have heard that once you find a date that has good flights, that [momondo.com](https://www.momondo.com) sometimes squeezes a bit more out of the price, so it's good to do a final check there before booking.
- **Fly from LAX, LAS, SFO.** Often flights cost far less to Lima from Los Angeles (LAX), Las Vegas (LAS), or San Francisco (SFO) than from your local airport like Salt Lake City (SLC). Look from your airport, too, because that would be more convenient, but also check from some of those other airports because it might cost a lot less to fly there first and go from there. We ended up driving to Las Vegas and flying from there because there were 6 of us involved, and it saved \$600 per ticket.
- **Before you book.** Once you have found some flights that look promising, check to make sure that (a) there are tickets available for Machu Picchu the day you want, including ones that include hiking Wayna Picchu mountain, if you are up for that; (b) there are train tickets available between Ollantaytambo and Aguas Calientes; and (c) there are flights from Lima to Cusco and back. Those first two are the main things that could hose you. Once you see that all these are available, it makes sense to then book them all, probably starting with the flights, which can usually be cancelled for free within 24 hours.

4. Find flights from Lima to Cusco and back. Book a \$70-ish flight from Lima to Cusco and back on either Avianca or LATAM airlines. (Don't worry about rumors about having to pay an extra \$170 each way if you're not Peruvian--that apparently used to happen but not any more.) Booking with Expedia.com seemed to work well for us, as they have agreements with both of those airlines. Note that LATAM airlines charged for bags, including any carry-on that was over some weight limit (8kg=17 pounds, which is less than the typical 22 pounds for a normal carry-on), so if the price is the same, I'd recommend Avianca, as they included one free checked bag.

5. Buy Machu Picchu tickets. A ticket to Machu Picchu lets you in either in the morning (6:30am-12) or afternoon (12-5:30pm), and in theory you should enter at your allotted time, have a guide show you through, and then exit.

There are no restrooms inside the park, so if you leave, you may not be allowed back in, especially if it's after noon and you have a morning ticket. There are 2000 tickets available for the morning and another 2000 for the evening.

But, the coolest way to go is to hike Wayna Picchu (also spelled Huaynapicchu) mountain, which is the taller mountain in the background of everyone's picture of Machu Picchu. There are only 400 tickets each day for that, and those are available only in the morning. But those tickets allow you to enter the park twice (since you may need a restroom between touring the main site and going on that hike).

So my recommendation is: Get a ticket for Wayna Picchu + Machu Picchu. Get a guide to show you through the main site. Then hike Wayna Picchu (without exiting first). Then exit & re-enter the park to get some more pictures of the area with afternoon light, plus take a 1-hour hike over to the Inka Bridge. Bring some granola bars and (preferably non-disposable) water bottles with you, and use the restroom before entering so that there isn't a problem. (Restrooms cost S/0.50, btw).

6. Train tickets. There is no road from Ollantaytambo to Aguas Calientes, so you have to take a train. And although Peruvians can take the cheap train, tourists can only take the one that costs around \$70 each way. So just suck it up and pay. It's a beautiful ride, and they serve you a little snack and stuff. The two companies that sell the train tickets are PeruRail and Inca Rail.

We did an afternoon train (3:40pm) from Ollantaytambo to Aguas Calientes, so that we would have time to explore Ollantaytambo that morning before the train, but also early enough that it would still be light out to enjoy the view along the way. We spent that night in Aguas Calientes, did Machu Picchu, spent the night there again, and then took a morning train back out to Ollantaytambo.

7. Book hotels. Once flights, Machu Picchu tickets, and trains are arranged, you're ready to book hotels, though of course it's ok to look in advance to see if availability influences your decision on other arrangements. You can check hotels.com or expedia.com to look for hotels, and in Cusco it's worth checking AirBnB.com and VRBO.com to see if you there's an apartment or house you'd rather stay at than a hotel.

- In **Cusco**, you'll want to be within walking distance of Plaza Mayor del Cusco, so within 10 or so blocks in any direction would be fine. We did [an AirBnB there](#) because there were 7 of us. Any decent hotel in Cusco should hold your luggage for you while you travel to Machu Picchu for a couple of days, since the trains only allow "11 pounds of luggage" (i.e., a small backpack with 3 days worth of stuff in it).
- In **Ollantaytambo**, we stayed at the [Doña Catta Inn](#), which was great. You could see the main ruins from its roof, they had a nice breakfast in the morning (including eggs cooked to order), and it was reasonable.
- In **Aguas Calientes**, we stayed at the [Terrazas del Inca B&B](#). The "Quadruple Room" there has a window that overlooks the river, which was awesome. It had a good breakfast, too. The hotel arranged for an excellent guide for Machu Picchu for our group of 7 for \$80. Other hotels there are probably fine, too.

Getting to Ollantaytambo. To get from Cusco to Ollantaytambo, you ride a "*colectivo*", which is a van that picks people up and leaves when it's full. They leave every 20-30 minutes until about 6:30pm from the corner of Pavitos St. and Calle Belen, [here](#), which is about 6 blocks southwest of the central plaza. It costs around \$4 per person (maybe S/15). You hold your backpack on your lap. Listen for people yelling "Ollanta! Ollanta!" (Oh-YAHN-tah), short for "Ollantaytambo."

Miscellaneous Tips.

- **Passport.** Make sure you have a passport, and that it will be good for at least 6 months *after* your trip, as this is required by some countries to travel there. (Our friends got hosed bad by this and lost an entire trip to Italy over it). "There are no snags like passport snags," I always say.

- You will need your passport when you fly; when you board the train from Ollantaytambo; and, surprisingly, when you enter Machu Picchu or even buy bus tickets to get up to it.
- So I'd recommend getting a money belt that can hold your passport, a spare credit card, and the bulk of your cash, and keep it with you all the time. (If it gets stolen from your hotel room, you'd be hosed.)
- **ATM.** Peru uses the *sol*, and it is about 3 soles ("S/3") per US dollar. The best way to get Peruvian cash is at an ATM. The best ATMs to use are the red *Banco de la Nación* ones, as they don't charge a fee. (That's why there is sometimes a line at these--all the locals use it). My Capital One debit card did not charge a fee, either, and worked with these ATMs.
 - In Cusco, there's one of these a couple blocks south of the southwest corner of the main Plaza.
 - In Ollantaytambo, the ATM with lower fees is tucked behind a building on your left as you walk from the plaza down the road to the bridge.
- **Credit card.** Many places take credit cards, but it's good to have one like a CapitalOne Venture card that doesn't charge foreign transaction fees. Smaller restaurants only take cash, though, and the exchange rate they give you for US Dollars is sometimes lame, so it's best to stock up with Peruvian cash at an ATM and use that for many things.
- **Offline maps.** Given that your Internet may be spotty, have the Google Maps app on your phone, and within 30 days of your trip, use the "offline maps" feature to pre-download the areas around Cusco, Ollantaytambo, Aguas Calientes and Machu Picchu.
- **Ponchos.** Especially if you're there during the rainy season, it would be wise to have disposable ponchos with you. We find that these prevent rain in the first place. :)
- **Altitude sickness.** Our group did not suffer from altitude sickness, thanks in part to living at 4000 feet in Utah. But Cusco is at 11,000 feet and some people do have trouble with it, so: drink enough; take it easy for the first day or two; get enough rest; take ibuprofen if you get a headache.
- **Luggage.** I believe in traveling light. We mostly each took one carry-on, and then did laundry halfway through our trip (since we were in Peru for 2 weeks). Traveling light is nice when you're switching places so often.
 - **Van to Ollantaytambo: On your lap.** Often the van you ride from Cusco to Ollantaytambo will have you carry your bag on your lap, so like I said above, leave your luggage in Cusco, and take a backpack with just the 2-3 days of stuff you'll need.
 - **Train: 11 pound limit.** In addition, the train from Ollantaytambo to Aguas Calientes (by Machu Picchu) only allows 11 pounds of luggage. They weren't strict about this, but there's nowhere to put your luggage except the diagonal area between two seats facing opposite directions, so a large carry-on may not fit there, and a full sized suitcase wouldn't.
 - **LATAM: Fee if over 17 pounds.** Our international flight allowed a checked bag. So did our Avianca flight from Lima to Cusco. But our LATAM flight from Cusco to Lima did not, and charged \$15 (if paid in advance) or \$30 (if paid at the gate) to check a bag. They also had an odd weight restriction on carry-ons (8kg=17 pounds. Typically carry-on is more like 22 pounds), so watch out for that, and if you're you're on LATAM and going to be over, pay the \$15 in advance to check your bag.
- **Taxis.** Taxis will vary widely on how much they charge, so feel free to haggle. We got a taxi just outside the airport in Cusco (but still inside the airport parking lot) rather than the ones offered inside, and they cost half as much. If it seems like someone's going to kidnap you, though, go with someone else. We pretty much only needed a taxi to get from the airport to our hotel in Cusco. Everything else was within walking distance, and Ollantaytambo and Aguas Calientes are small enough you don't need them at all there.
- **Toilet paper.** You **don't flush toilet paper** in Peru or most of the rest of Latin America, as the plumbing can't handle it. Instead, you put it in the waste basket next to the toilet (sounds gross, but in practice not a big deal). Also, it would be wise to carry some TP with you because you can't always count on there being some available.

- **Safety.** All the places mentioned here are frequented by tourists and are generally pretty safe, but it's wise to keep your wallet in your front pocket when possible; passport and bulk of cash and a spare credit card in a money belt; and stay very aware of your cell phone. Our friend's cell phone went missing on her while she was there, which was a bummer.
- **Flight spacing.** Be aware that flights can be delayed and cause you to miss a connection, so be careful about booking things too closely together, especially if a flight on one airline is followed closely by a flight on another airline who won't care why you got there late. I'd leave a few hour gap between a flight to LAX and the one to Lima, for example, if they're on different airlines, so that there's time to catch an alternate flight if it comes to that.

Machu Picchu Tips.

- Get tickets for Wayna Picchu (aka Huaynapicchu) mountain a few months in advance, once you find a flight to Lima that is good and have verified that train tickets are available for the time you want. (We had to wait until mid-December before the ones for the next year were available).
- It costs \$12 each way to ride the bus from Aguas Calientes up to Machu Picchu. You can hike it if you want, but it's steep and you'd be worn out by the time you got there. We did hike it on the way down and it took over an hour. It was ok, but maybe not worth it.
- Buy your bus tickets the evening before if you can. The line is a bit long and slow to do this. You will need your passport and Machu Picchu tickets with you to buy your bus tickets.
- Get in line for the bus early. I've heard horror stories of people waiting 2-3 hours to catch their bus first thing in the morning, which would suck. Ours took about 30 minutes. (The day we left, a boulder had fallen in the road and the line was backed up for a kilometer. Doh! I'd probably have walked it at that point).
- Take water with you in a "permanent" water bottle. Supposedly disposable ones are not allowed there, though they don't check and they sell them there, so I don't believe that. But we ran out of water and had to buy some up there at rip-off prices.
- Go to the bathroom at your hotel before you go. Maybe again once you get up there if it's been a while (though this costs you 50 cents). There's no restroom inside the park.
- Just outside the main gate near the restrooms is a little hut where you can stamp your passport with a Machu Picchu stamp if you'd like to do that.
- There is often fog/mist in the morning all around Machu Picchu, so pictures really early will likely not be good. It cleared up around 8:30 or 9am when we were there.
- Some people try to get up there at opening and climb Wayna Picchu to see the sun rise. More power to them (and the fog might make it so they can't see anything). We slept til 7 and got up there at 8:30 and ended up having a nice long day, finally coming back down at 3:30pm even though we were theoretically supposed to be done by noon. We probably should have gotten up a bit earlier to be safe.
- The "classic" picture is taken near the beginning of your tour, not long after you enter the gate. There are a couple of shots at it as you go up a few levels. Lots of people will be trying to get pictures there, so it's a little tricky to get one without people in it. We got a good one anyway, though, and then got more after our hike to Wayna Picchu on our second entrance into the park, by which time it was like 1:30pm and the crowds had cleared out quite a bit. The afternoon was nice and quiet up there (at least in January).
- There are llamas wandering around eating the grass. They're pretty tame, so you can get pictures right up by them sometimes, and give them a little pat on the side.
- There are 4 hikes available at Machu Picchu:
 - Wayna Picchu, which requires a special ticket and is the best one to get. We did this and it was awesome. It's a good solid hour to get up, and another hour to get down (which involves squeezing through a narrow part and ducking through a cave at one point).
 - You can spend an extra 2 hours hiking around the back side of the mountain to the "Moon Gate", where there are ruins under a cliff overhang. We didn't have time for this.

- Machu Picchu Mountain, which is an even longer hike and doesn't seem as good. But if the others are sold out, it's worth getting this ticket anyway just so you can re-enter the park that second time.
- Inka Bridge (included in normal ticket). A 1-hour roundtrip hike taken from near the beginning, just before you enter the main "citadel". It overlooks the narrow path along the side of a cliff that the people used to use. It's well worth the walk.
- Sun Gate (included in normal ticket). A 1-hour roundtrip hike up to a little ruin. My daughter and her friend did this because we couldn't get her friend a Wayna Picchu ticket.
- With the Wayna Picchu or Machu Picchu Mountain tickets, you get to enter the park twice, so after going through the "citadel" (which is a one-way trip that ends at the exit), these allow you to re-enter so that you can do the hike to Inka Bridge, get another look at everything in the afternoon light, etc.
- Aguas Calientes is a complete tourist town, packed with little restaurants and hotels and shopping places with not much room for anything else.

Foggy morning at Machu Picchu



The classic group shot (Wayna Picchu mountain is the tall one in the background).



Rainbow at Machu Picchu!



Here you can read about the last half of our trip to Peru that included Cusco and Machu Picchu, to get more background and see what you're in for:

Cusco:

<https://notabletimes.blogspot.com/2019/02/peru-expedition-3-cusco.html>

Ollantaytambo:

<https://notabletimes.blogspot.com/2019/02/peru-expedition-4-ollantaytambo.html>

Machu Picchu:

<https://notabletimes.blogspot.com/2019/02/peru-expedition-5-machu-picchu.html>

More Cusco (and some Lima):

<https://notabletimes.blogspot.com/2019/02/peru-expedition-6-cusco-and-lima.html>

Machu Picchu was one of the trickiest places to get to of anywhere I've been, but it was indeed spectacular. And I loved hanging out with the llamas up there. Cusco and Ollantaytambo were also really great.

Happy travels!