



## Discover Native Orchids at Luxurious Inkaterra Machu Picchu

Stefanie Michaels on Friday, May 11, 2012

When thinking of Peru, one can't help but think of Machu Picchu, the ominous and ghostly site of the ancient Inca who disappeared mysteriously so long ago. A site so mystical, there have been pilgrimages by every nationality from around the world – all to experience, ponder and tick off “a must-do” from bucket lists.

There is another reason to experience the mountainous region en route to Machu Picchu. Inkaterra, a [luxury resort](#) located on 12 acres of unspoiled Andean Cloud Forest, sits at the base of Machu Picchu Mountain, and is home to hundreds of beautiful [orchids](#).



A collection of 372 orchid species has been touted by the American Orchid Society, as the largest collection in the world of native orchids to the area.

The Inkaterra Association, Inkaterra's NGO, and the Machu Picchu property, have given various teams of scientists and researchers the opportunity to study the Peruvian orchids. Information collected by not only ITA, but also guests, has brought forward seven new orchid species, leading to important published reports on the biodiversity of the 12-acre site.

[The Orchid](#) Trail is open to hotel guests gratis, and to the public for a small fee. Walk the orchid garden on a personalized [guided tour](#) by a nature specialist, or by special request, ask for Inkaterra's resident chief biologist and co-author of the 'Orchids at Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel' book, who will point out the largest [orchid flower](#) in the world, the *Phragmipedium caudatum* and tiny flowering specimens, which can only be seen by a magnifying glass.

When Exclusive [Resorts](#) members traveled on a Once in a Lifetime journey in 2010 to Peru, they enjoyed the beautiful [accommodations](#) at the Inkaterra. The luxury [resort](#) features an 85-cottage [luxury hotel](#) and 12-acres of secluded natural bliss.

Duration: ¼ day.

Difficulty Level: 1

Daily Schedule: Mornings and Afternoons

Machu Picchu Village Railroad

Cuzco (0)1 610 0400

From the US: (866) 242-2889

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