

spotlight



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Captivated

INKATERRA surely qualifies for a long-service medal. The Peruvian organisation has been enraptured and dedicated to conservation for 32 years.

Founder Jose Koechlin von Stein's devotion to sustainable development, combining world class hotels with protecting pristine remote regions, has made him a leader in eco-tourism with worldwide praise.

The self-made businessman, also a reputable film maker, started in land development, tuna fishing and other commercial activities; but he lost his heart to Machu Picchu when he first visited the iconic Inca site in the early 1970s.

Each year Inkaterra hosts more than 65,000 travellers and they not only target total authenticity but with no carbon footprint.

He bought a 25-acre piece of land for a hotel, built and staffed by locals from local materials. It took 15 years before it was completed in 1991. He added a lodge in the Amazon rain forests and all profits from both have been sunk back into conservation via Inkaterra.

There is also a highly enviable world record 372-strong orchid collection, amazing flora and fauna, hummingbirds and Spectacled Bears.

Jose, whose designer wife Denise Guislain is an avid supporter of his aims, has among many things chaired the National Chamber of Tourism and the Peruvian Association of Adventure Travel and Ecotourism, Hotel Society of Peru. He is Board Member of the National Chamber of Tourism and Conservation International.

He has discovered an Inca trail and helped in the

scientific research which dominates Inkaterra's agenda

Four communities, 22 local families and 52 native ones, next to Inkaterra Reserva Amazónica are taught alternative means of income, avoiding slash and burn agriculture and illegal timber logging

The preservation of natural characteristics and the fight against global warming, sees Inkaterra safeguard 12,000 hectares.

A key part of its mission is to give guests the opportunity to learn about Peru's vast natural wealth. Its objectives include wishing to:

- Rescue Peruvian resources with respect and support for diversity and culture.
- Find Peruvian assets and convert them into world-class products and services.

Inkaterra's incredible research history and input has unearthed four new orchid species at Macchu Picchu; five Amphibians at Inkaterra Reserva Amazónica plus one butterfly.

Other projects include a botanical garden with 200 native species and their traditional uses, an eco-farm for locals to sell produce to rainforest lodges, a research Brazil nut plantation of 3,500 hectares, Spectacled Bear programme plus monitoring of 18 hummingbirds among 180 wild bird species and butterflies. There are 110 listed at Puerto Maldonado, 315 at Reserva Amazónica.



Marvel at flora, birds and bears at Machu Picchu



World of wonder...

FLORA – 1,439 species Inkaterra Reserva Amazónica

BIRDS – 180 species Machu Picchu, 450 Reserva Amazónica

ORCHIDS – 372 Machu Picchu; 40 Reserva Amazonica

BUTTERFLIES – 111 species Inkaterra Machu Picchu; 315 Reserva Amazónica

ANTS – 362 species at Reserva Amazonica (world record established by Profesor, E.O Wilson, from Harvard University)

FERNS – Nearly 90 local species grown in their natural conditions at Machu Picchu



www.inkaterra.com