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Pages 34 & 35



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Turn your back on snow and sleet for a Christmas holiday you'll never forget, says Sarah Marshall

PERU

It's a destination that tends to top most people's wish lists, and now Peru is even easier to visit thanks to a new froute from Air France via Paris.

To really get under the skin of the country, book a stay at one of the fantastic Inkaterra properties. This eco-friendly hotel group employs young, enthusiastic local guides, and offers excellent accommodation in unique settings.

Begin your trip in Cusco, the ancient capital of the Inca kingdom, booking into converted colonial house La Casona. This city in the sky, at an elevation of 3,300m, is within easy reach of major

archaeological sites.

This year marked the 100th anniversary of Machu Picchu's discovery, and this lost Inca city is still the country's most popular tourist attraction. It is possible to visit on a day trip from Cusco, but a much better option is to stay at the Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel in Aguas Calientes. A fitting end to your journey is a stay at Inkaterra Amazonica, set within the Tambopata National Reserve in south-east Peru. Part boutique hotel, part eco-project, this jungle retreat offers guests an opportunity to immerse themselves in a bio-diverse environment. Boat trips, treks and even piranha fishing are all part of

the adventure.

A three-day/two-night package starts from £382 per person full board, including transfers. Doubles at the Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel start from £155 per person, per night half board. Doubles at La Casona start from £240 with breakfast. Visit inkaterra.com

■ Air France has launched five weekly flights from the UK to Lima via Paris Charles de Gaulle. Return fares from £634 including taxes. Visit airfrance.

co.uk or call 0871 663 3777