

4. [Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel, Aguas Calientes, Peru](#)



Luxuriate in Peru's premier natural retreat. Image courtesy of Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo hotel.

Jose Koechlin von Stein is a pioneer of eco-tourism in Peru; Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel (www.inkaterra.com/inkaterra/inkaterra-machu-picchu-pueblo-hotel) may just be his crowning achievement.

In the valley below the world's most famous ruins, Koechlin bought and restored a patch of the fast-disappearing Andean cloud forest. At its heart is a hotel in the form of whitewashed casitas, or cottages, scattered through a 12-acre site. The rooms are full of Peruvian fabrics, ceramics and art commissioned by Koechlin's wife, Denise. But the real enchantment is the forest itself, a stupefying ecosystem of butterflies and birds, not to mention the world's largest collection of native orchids.

The hotel's guides lead tours to the fabled citadel, but a walk in their company through the grounds - which contain fruit and vegetable gardens, a bear sanctuary, and even a tea plantation - is a self-contained adventure you'll remember almost as much as a visit to the Lost City of the Incas.

"German film director Werner Herzog once opined that Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel was the 'most wonderful place in the world'. Who am I to argue? In a town bedevilled by overdevelopment, the Koechlins have created a little corner of Andean Eden." - [James Kay](#)