

# TATTLER



TRAVEL  
GUIDE 2017

1 DAY

2 DAYS

3 DAYS

4 DAYS

5 DAYS

## WHILE YOU'RE THERE

Whizz over to the northern outskirts of Cusco to Saksaywaman, the ancient capital of the Incas, with its huge, mysterious stone walls. How anyone could ever move those slabs, let alone stack them up so neatly, remains a mystery.



## INKATERRA LA CASONA

CUSCO, PERU

The huge wooden door at La Casona is always locked. No doorbell, either, so the only way in is by knocking, which is probably the same way that former resident Simón Bolívar got in (he kicked the Spanish out of Peru, FYI, and Bolivia is named after him. You're welcome). Smiley staff open up and if you're not already breathless thanks to the altitude – Cusco is 10,800 feet above sea level, so you'll need a couple of days here to acclimatise en route to Machu Picchu – a look inside this restored 16th-century mansion will quickly change that. Don't worry – the hotel provides an oxygen tank and mask for 10 minutes, and it works a treat. There are just 11 rooms, spread over two floors around a courtyard – bagsy one of the suites overlooking the pretty Plaza de las Nazarenas. Then book some downtime at the spa before a very Peruvian supper of quinoa soup and crispy guinea-pig confit. It tastes like chicken, trust us. **BOOK IT** Audley Travel (audleytravel.com; 01993 838 620) offers three nights, as part of a seven-night trip, from £3,930, including breakfast, flights and transfers.

## MARKTGASSE HOTEL

ZURICH, SWITZERLAND

Zurich? Boring bankers and cuckoo clocks, right? Actually, no. Zurich is cool. No, really. It's small, yes, and as neat as a starched, ironed shirt. But it has a strong artsy and creative side too – and, in the Marktgasse Hotel, a new, very happening place to stay. The building, in the middle of the Old Town, dates from the 15th century, and it has kept its quirks: a sloping floor here; a tiled stove there. Stuccoed ceilings, panelled walls and polished-oak parquet are paired with industrial-chic bits and pieces and splats of colour from groovy designer chairs. The all-day deli, Delish, has become a local hipster hangout, while buzzy, brasserie-style Balto's does a decently fiery bang-bang chicken. The adjoining bar, seductively draped in dark green, is the place to go Dada over a cocktail or two. **BOOK IT** Double, from £215 (marktgasseehotel.ch; 00 41 44 266 10 10).



## WHILE YOU'RE THERE

Explore Zurich West, the city's industrial quarter turned hub of chic boutiques and restaurants – eat at LaSalle, housed in a former engine factory.



## WHILE YOU'RE THERE

Make time for the newly developed Georgetown Waterfront – think South Bank with superyachts and better weather.



## THE WATERGATE HOTEL

WASHINGTON DC, USA

The Watergate Hotel, which fell into disrepair after the infamous 1972 break-in at an adjoining office complex, was snapped up for a bargain £37m in 2007. The new hotel, in Washington's Foggy Bottom district, has emerged after a nine-year, Ron Arad redesign – one that's stayed true to architect Luigi Moretti's original Sixties curvy lines. It's a bit kitsch, a bit camp and even, dare we say it, a bit cheesy. But it's pretty fabulous too, with its Moroso chairs, a maze-like whiskey bar, a long, sexy library overlooking the Potomac River and juicy staff uniforms by *Mad Men* costume-designer Janie Bryant. Guest rooms, many with balconies, are monochrome and functional – and there's no shame in that. They have great lighting and plug and USB points everywhere. Meanwhile, in the Kingbird restaurant, ex-Fat Duck chef Michael Santoro does amazing short ribs in malt with the best pommes purée we have ever tasted. **BOOK IT** Double, from £290 (thewatergatehotel.com; 00 1 844 617 1972).