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# The 10 Best Hotels in Cusco

As the capital of the Inca Empire, Cusco is the perfect destination for tourists looking to explore archaeological wonders, and the preferred starting point en-route to Machu Picchu. Tourism is Cusco's main industry, making for a city filled with hotel accommodations. From the backpacker beginning a hike along the Inca Trail to the more-refined traveler looking to experience Cusco in luxury, here are this ancient city's best spots to stay.



Cusco. Peru l @ Martin St-Amant/WikiCommons

#### <u>Inkaterra La Casona</u>

One of the best hotels in South America, La Casona is well worth splurging for. A refurbished 16th century colonial mansion, this 11-suite hotel maintains original charm while introducing luxurious amenities. Travelers looking for a retreat will appreciate rooms equipped with fireplaces, cable TV and marble sinks, in addition to the dining room's delicious Peruvian dishes. La Casona is located minutes from the busy Plaza de Armas, at the smaller Plazoleta Nazarenas, making for a quieter, private setting perfect for guest getting up early to see Machu Picchu. In addition, the hotel sets out a gourmet breakfast buffet at 5:00am, indicative of this luxurious base to see Cusco's sights.

Inkaterra La Casona, 113 Plaza Nazarenas, Cusco, Peru +51 1 610 0400

Price: Expensive



The entrance to Rumi Punku Hotel I @ CHeitz/Flickr

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Guests enter the Rumi Punku through an Incan stone entry-way onto a colonial-style hotel, emblematic of the mixture of Spanish and Incan influences throughout Cusco. A five minute walk uphill from the Plaza de Armas, Rumi Punku provides clean, comfortable rooms located around one of three patios. The patios - beautifully adorned with fountains and plants - are the perfect place to spend a relaxing afternoon. Enjoy views of Cusco from the sauna and gym on the top floor, especially spectacular after the sun goes down.

Hotel Rumi Punku, 339 Calle Choquechaca, Cusco, Peru +51 8 422 1102

Price: Mid-Range



The dining area at Niños Hotel I @ \_e.t/Flickr

# Niños Hotel

With two locations in Cusco, the Niños Hotel is wildly popular with travelers, both for its comfortable amenities at a budget price and its non-profit mission. Proceeds from the hotel go to the Niños Unidos Peruanos Foundation, a Dutch non-profit foundation that takes care of underprivileged children in Cusco. Guests can even visit the Children's Project on the premises, making for a lasting connection with Cusco and its residents. The spirit of social and environmental responsibility pervades the Niños, with all food served in the restaurant coming from the hotel's garden, including the delicious pumpkin soup. Enjoy fresh salads and breads in the sunny courtyard after a day spent seeing the sights, and experience one of the most memorable accommodations in Cusco.

Hotel Meloc, Calle Meloc 442, Cusco 0051-84231424

Hotel Fierro, Calle Fierro 476, Cusco 0051-84254611

Price: Budget

# Pantastico Bed & Bakery

This combination bakery/bed and breakfast creates a hippy vibe with rooms adorned with colorful murals. Pantastico offers suites, dormitories and private rooms. In the morning, the smell of fresh-baked bread permeates through the hotel, and guests hangout in the kitchen and enjoy the complimentary baked goods for breakfast. The staff at Pantastico are helpful for guests looking to organize tours or see the sites of Cusco on their own. Located in the artistic San Blas neighborhood, this charming spot with clean, comfortable rooms is geared towards backpackers or travelers looking to experience Cusco on a budget.

Pantastico, Carmen Bajo, Cusco, Peru +51 8 425 4387

Price: Budget

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Casa Cartagena hotel I @ David Berkowitz/Flickr

#### Casa Cartagena Boutique Hotel & Spa

Casa Cartagena is perfect for couples looking for a relaxing vacation in the Andes, creating a Cusco experience without even leaving the hotel. A class of pisco sours (the national drink) and Peruvian cuisine are abundant, and the house restaurant - La Bodega de la Chola - is one of the best in Cusco. Guests looking for the very best in boutique service will marvel at the butlers and the spa, complete with hot tub, steam room, massage parlors and hairdressers. Constructed in a world heritage sight - the former house of the mayor of Cusco - Casa Cartagena includes ancient stone-carved walls and modern luxury.

Casa Cartagena, 336 Purgatorio, Cusco, Peru +51 8 422 4356

Price: Expensive

#### The Green House Bed & Breakfast

In contrast to the hustle-and-bustle of Cusco's Plaza de Armas, some visitors prefer to stay outside of the city's limits. An hour by car from Cusco, The Green House is a four room bed and breakfast that creates a tranquil alternative for travelers looking to visit Inca sites. Located near the rural town of Huaran in the Sacred Valley, the Green House also avoids some of the tourist-traps of Cusco while maintaining a central location to desirable excursions. This charming bread and breakfast is surrounded by mountains and constructed from adobe and wood, creating a calm, natural setting. Enjoy hiking, horseback riding, and classes on Peruvian cooking, or use The Green House's transportation services to take a day-trip to Cusco.

The Green House, Route Pisac-Ollaytaytambo Km 60.2, Calca, Peru +511705 9854

Price: Mid-Range



The garden at Hostal Amaru I @ erin/Flickr

## Amaru Hostal

Amaru is an ideal stop for travelers spending one day in Cusco before heading to Machu Picchu, or getting some rest after visiting the sight. It is a comfortable alternative to some of the pricier colonial-style hotels in town, with the familiar patio structure. With free breakfast and complementary pick-up from the airport, Amaru really provides bang-for-yourbuck This hotel accommodates the single traveler or group, with reasonable rates and an ideal location two blocks from Cusco's center.

Amaru Hostal, 541 Cuesta San Blas, Cusco, Peru +518 422 5933

Price: Mid-Ranae

#### El Albergue

For comfortable accommodations midway between Cusco and Machu Picchu, stay at  ${\sf El}$ Albergue. Located at the Ollantaytambo train station, this homey hotel has spacious rooms with original hardwood floors, and a restaurant supplied with organic produce from El Albergue's own farm. Take a tour of the farm or relax in the wood-fired sauna. El Albergue has great views of the mountains and surrounding area, and offers a rustic, comfortable alternative to staying in Cusco proper.

El Albergue, Estacion de Tren, 1 Av Ferrocarril, Ollantaytambo, Peru +51 8 420 4014

Price: Mid-Range



Cusco, Peru by night | @ Martin Lang/WikiCommons

#### Hostal Madre Tierra

Higher-up in the San Blas neighborhood lies Madre Tierra. This guest house with seven rooms can accommodate families - with adjoining rooms on the top floor - and has one of the quietest locales in the city. The cozy, rustic atmosphere is pleasant for a weary traveler, and breakfast is included.

Hostal Madre Tierra, 647 Calle Atocsaycuchi, Cusco, Peru +51 8 424 8452

Price: Mid-Ranae

#### <u>Tika Wasi Casa Boutique</u>

Also high-up in the Cusco hillside, Hostal Tika Wasi greets travelers with a garden and hammocks, pleasant amenities for those adjusting to the altitude and taking in the sights. Located in a former tannery-turned-house-turned-bed and breakfast, Tika Wasi mirrors the emphasis on tourism throughout Cusco. Enjoy quiet surroundings at a comfortable distance from the plaza at this boutique hotel.

Tika Wasi, 491 Calle Tandapata, Cusco, Peru +51 8 423 1609

Price: Mid-Range

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