

QUOTE

"Instead, book one of two properties by Inkaterra, the first group in Peru to invest a portion of its profits in protecting and maintaining Peru's biodiversity. Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel is pricey but worth it. The resort's grounds are dotted with white adobe casitas that feature fireplaces, modern bathrooms and the decorative aesthetic of the Andean highlands"

by Amanda Cargill

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THE ULTIMATE TRAVEL GUIDE TO MACHU PICCHU

BY AMANDA CARGILL • JANUARY 12, 2016 • 11:21AM

This isn't one of them.

Instead, this travel guide gives you the kind of **Machu Picchu vacation** advice you'll need to survive once you get there. Think of it as a FAQ page for all the stuff you really need to know: less which train to take and more what to pack and where (and when) to eat. Assuming you'll coordinate logistics with a travel agent or a website that deals only with travel, this guide's purpose is to address all of the loose ends: *Do I need an umbrella?*, for example. (Answer: No.)

So click through for seven quick tips on traveling to Machu Picchu. *Buen viaje!*

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#1: Where NOT to Stay

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Courtesy of Inkaterra Hotels

VIEW ALL SLIDES

First things first: skip the hotel at the Machu Picchu gates. Why? Because you'll wake up every day at 6am to the caw of tourist chatter and camera clicks outside your window, and because the scenic view you idealized while planning your trip will be disrupted by buses from morning to dusk.

Instead, book one of two properties by Inkaterra, the first group in Peru to invest a portion of its profits in protecting and maintaining Peru's biodiversity. **Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel** is pricey but worth it. The resort's grounds are dotted with white adobe *casitas* that feature fireplaces, modern bathrooms and the decorative aesthetic of the Andean highlands. Excursions — everything from birdwatching to tea cultivation to observing native spectacled bears rescued by the resort's environmental initiatives — are included in the cost.

For travelers on a budget, **El Mapi** is the best choice. Frankly, thanks to its convenient location and thoughtful design, El Mapi is worth considering even if you're not on a budget. Just a stone's throw from the embarkation point for buses departing to Machu Picchu gates, its rooms are crisp, clean, and creatively adorned — smart quotes on environmental conservation are painted on the wall above each room's bed — and the bar and dining areas are ideal for both swapping stories with fellow travelers and flying solo with a cocktail and a laptop provided by the hotel.