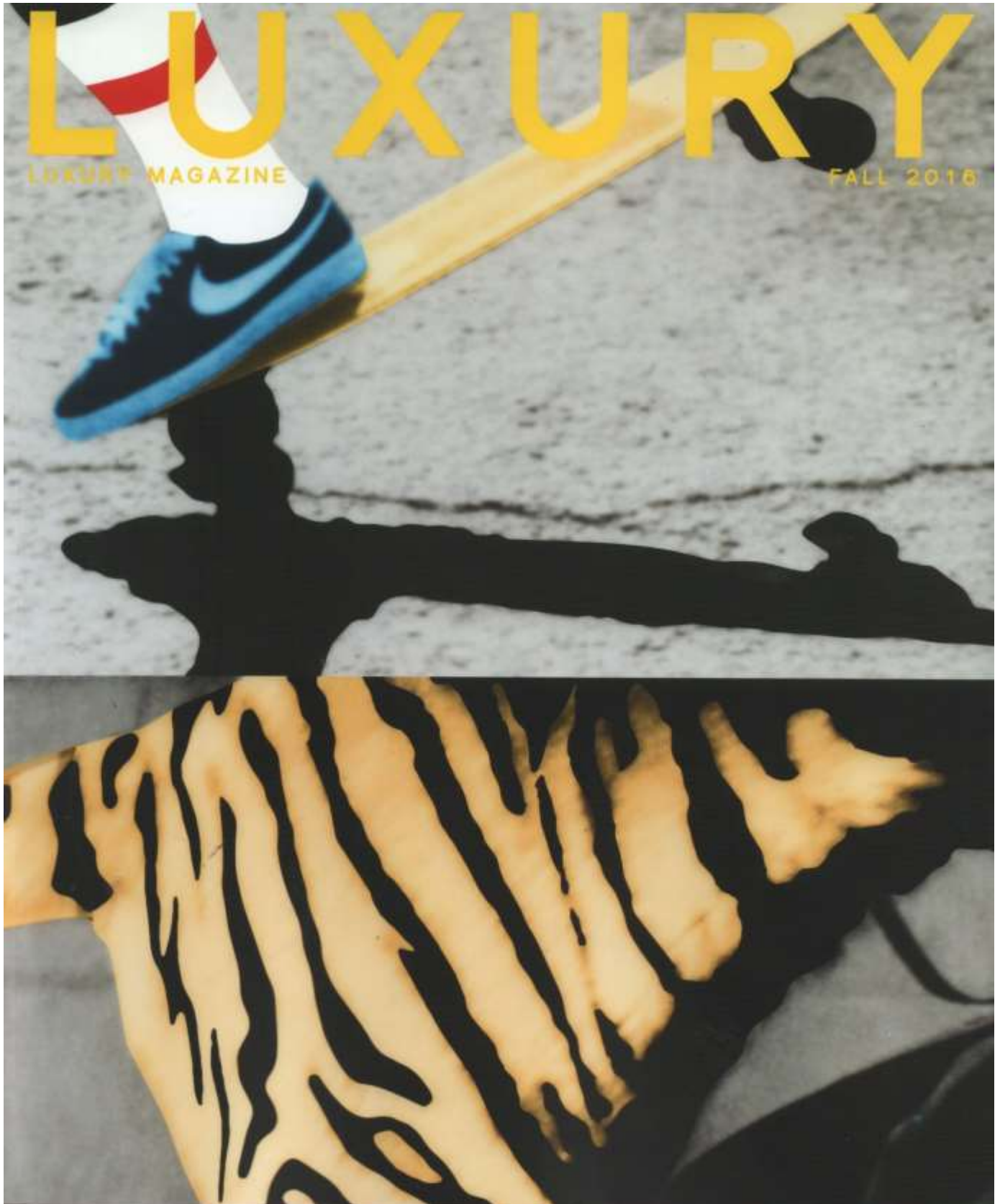


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PERU

Sand Boarding, Rock-Climbing, Cycling, Llama Trekking, Cruising the Amazon

There's no mentioning Peru without Machu Picchu, but you are doing the country a grave disservice by thinking of it is a one-note. Spectacular Pacific coastline for surfing segues to the Paracas National Reserve for sand-boarding. You can ride either prone or standing up on a waxed board over lunar-esque landscape blown by the wind into rippled peaks and valleys. Peru's valleys and jungles hold adventures all their own.

On Paracas Bay, Hotel Paracas, a Luxury Collection Resort (from \$284; starwoodhotels.com) is just over a mile from the reserve. The hotel can arrange various tours with Tikariy (tikariy.com.pe), including a 4x4 desert drive that ends in a glamping-style picnic dinner as the sun sets. Tikariy can also take clients over the Nazca Lines geoglyphs on a roller coaster-like scenic flight in a Cessna Grand Caravan.

Inland in the Sacred Valley, the tourist town of Urubamba is surrounded by green foothills and snow-capped peaks. It's also a convenient, low-altitude stop before Machu Picchu. Tambo del Inka, a Luxury Collection Resort & Spa (from \$250; starwoodhotels.com) offers a seven-hour trek with llamas. The tall, tame creatures accompany you along deep ravines to glimpse archaeological remains and roaring waterfalls. The eco-friendly, five-star property can arrange cycling trips of all difficulty levels and Via Ferrata rock climbs along 1,300-foot sheer vertical faces with zip-line descents. The truly fearless may want to climb to and then stay overnight in the clear pods of Skylodge Adventure Suites (from about \$295; naturavive.com), literally dangling from a cliff.

In the jungle, starting in the Loreto region's capital city of Iquitos, take an Aqua Expeditions Aria Amazon cruise (from \$3,480 for three nights; aquapexpeditions.com) down the Northern Amazon where you can spot the river's storied pink dolphins. The three-, four- and seven-night cruise itineraries include fishing, swimming, and nighttime wildlife safaris. Rainforest and river enthusiasts can book an additional night or two at the Inkaterra Reserva Amazonica eco-lodge (from \$673; inkaterra.com), inside a private reserve in the Southern Amazon. >



