

In search of Paddington in Peru

After the cinema release of *Paddington 2* on November 10, Sarah Marshall recommends the best places to see the spectacled bears that inspired Michael Bond's classic character.

Carrying a suitcase stuffed with marmalade sandwiches, *Paddington Bear* is one of the Britain's most endearing children's storybook characters.

But Michael Bond's duffel-coated creature – who celebrates his 60th anniversary in 2018 – actually originated in deepest, darkest Peru.

Seeking an interesting homeland for his lost protagonist, Bond settled on the South American destination as it sounded exotic.

But Peru does in fact have its own collection of charming bears, and a new limited edition one-sole coin has even been engraved with an image of the spectacled Andean species.

If you want to see one in the flesh, try these 3 options...

1. Learn the bear necessities with [Inkaterra](#) – Conservation-minded hotel group Inkaterra has a sanctuary on site at their Machu Picchu Pueblo



Spectacled bears can be found in Peru

Hotel. A new three-night package allows guests to shadow an Inkaterra Explorer Guide and Bear Keeper as they take care of the animals. From £1,020, all meals included, along with a tour of the famous citadel. Flights extra. Visit [inkaterra.com](#)

2. Help them seek sanctuary in Chiclayo – There's a second rehabilitation centre in Chiclayo on the northern coast of Peru, which is incorporated as part of a trip with Rainbow Tours.

Along with a stay at Chaparri Lodge, guests can visit the Scared Valley, Cusco and Machu Picchu, where they'll also stop by at Inkaterra's rescue centre. The 12-night Darkest Peru: In Search of *Paddington* itinerary starts from £3,399 per person, including flights. Visit [rainbowtours.co.uk](#)

3. Go wild with bears and birds via the Colca Canyon – Seeing spectacled bears in the wild is tough, but Naturetrek give it a go on their 13-day Spectacled Bears & Andean Condors tour.

Starting in the tropical dry forests of the north-west looking for *Paddington's* cousins, the trip continues south to the Colca Canyon and Islas Palomino, where birds are abundant. From £3,995 per person, including all meals and flights from London. Visit [naturetrek.co.uk](#)

● For more information, visit [peru.travel](#)



Visit the historic site of Machu Picchu as you go in search of the spectacled bears