


Insider Logbook: My Tour of Peru and Inkaterra La Casona (Part Three)



By  [Alan Fine](#), Apr 12, 2023, [\(post a comment\)](#) [\(0 comments\)](#)



This is the third of a series of posts chronicling my trip to Peru, which was hosted by LATAM Airlines, Inkaterra Hotels, Inca Rail, Canatur, Progatur, Municipalidad de Machu Picchu, and Camara de Comercio & Turismo de Machu Picchu. My trip was organized to help Peru attract visitors after the country was rocked by almost daily protests and roadblocks for more than two months in December 2022. Fortunately, those protests have abated, so it's now quite safe for travelers to visit the country, including some of its most popular sites and attractions.

Part of what's great about the Inkaterra's eight luxury hotels is that tours of Peru can be planned so guests can slowly become accustomed to higher altitudes. It would normally take two days to acclimate to Cusco's altitude of more than 11,000 feet, all while dealing with headaches, dizziness, tiredness, loss of appetite and shortness of breath. To alleviate some of that, on the first day I was whisked down to the Sacred Valley of the Incas and Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba, which has an elevation of 9,420 feet. My second hotel, Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo, was even easier on me at only 7,000 feet, with the Machu Picchu archaeological site just above that at 7,900 feet.

By the time I reached Inkaterra La Casona, my third and final hotel in my tour of Inkaterra's Peru, the elevation of 11,142 feet was mere child's play. For the record, the absolute highest point in my travels occurred when driving there from Machu Picchu. It was a scenic stop overlooking Cusco at more than 14,000 feet, a perfect place for ziplining and buying souvenirs. This spot broke my previous altitude record of 12,943 feet, which I attained after riding an aerial lift above Quito, Ecuador.

Inkaterra La Casona is a five-star luxury boutique hotel created from a 16th century manor house located in the heart of Cusco near the Plaza de las Nazarenas, surrounded by scenic cobble-stoned streets. The 11 suites blend rich wooden colonial furnishing, lush tapestries and contemporary comforts, such as large marble bathrooms, two sinks, tub, shower and independent toilet, thermostat controlled heated floors and working fireplaces.

The artwork and furniture found in all of the Inkaterra Hotels, especially this one, has been impeccably restored and chosen by Inkaterra founder and CEO Jose Koechlin and his wife, Denise, although Jose would be the first to make sure all the design credit goes to Denise. The choice of sofas, chairs, beds and linen are all proof her eye for design. They achieve visual and physical comfort simultaneously without sacrificing one for the other.

The food and beverage in Inkaterra La Casona, like the other Inkaterra hotels I visited, is locally sourced, creative and thoughtfully presented. The standouts for me here were a shrimp salad with avocado, tomatoes, cheese, and caramelized almonds, followed by a guinea pig served with its skin, golden and crispy (yes, a guinea pig, considered a specialty of the region).

The first member of Relais & Châteaux in Peru, Inkaterra La Casona has won an Andre Harper Editor's Choice Award 2023 with the category of "Remarkable Returns" and has been selected by Conde Nast Traveler-UK's Reader Choice Awards as one of the 20 top best hotels in South America in 2019 and 2022.

Soon to come, Insider Travel Report will post a video about the entire property during an in-depth interview with Elvis Huari, the hotel's head of reception. Travel advisors interested in cultural and adventure travel should be able to benefit from this interview. For more information, visit www.inkaterra.com/inkaterra/inkaterra-la-casona/the-experience.