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Insider Logbook: Touring Peru and Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo-Part Two

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By  [Alan Fine](#), Apr 07, 2023, [\(0 comments\)](#) [✕](#)

This is the second of a series of posts chronicling my trip to Peru, hosted by LATAM Airlines, Inkaterra Hotels, Inca Rail, Canatur, Proगतur, 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.

My next stop was the luxury Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel in the quaint little town of the same name. As part of my approach to the actual Machu Picchu archaeological site, this put me within a 25-minute bus ride. But to get to Machu Picchu Pueblo and this hotel from Cusco, travelers need to take the Inca Rail, a well-run commuter train, with floor-to-ceiling windows that meet tinted skylights so none of the scenery is missed.

A beverage service is offered, with both complimentary and paid snacks and drinks. There is also a traditional costumed show where the cabin stewards don period Inca costumes and act out with prerecorded music the forbidden courtship of Ollanta, the bravest warrior in the Inca Pachacutec's army, and the Princess Cusi Coyllur, his beautiful daughter.

The Inca Rail train station is literally at the foot of the Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel, but the official station exit requires guests to spend five minutes walking through the town, which is full of local eateries and smaller hotels.

Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel is a series of casitas hidden in a lush cloud forest. The cozy one- or two-story whitewashed cottages constructed from local materials line the stone pathways and give this 83-casita and villa hotel the look of an Andean village. The first stop is reception, purpose-built to be church-like, with high arched ceilings, a balcony and even a bell tower. Continuing into the hotel, it is a short walk to a larger casita with a series of fireplaces and lounges that eventually lead to a bar and dining room. Most of these rooms overlook the rapidly churning, ever-present Wilkamayu River (Urubamba River), which runs through the Sacred Valley of the Incas from Cusco to Machu Picchu and beyond.

The hotel's spa treatments begin with the harvesting of herbs in the hotel's healing garden, selected according to the guests' needs. The common areas of the spa are available for daily use and there is an Andean sauna open for all that is stocked with fresh eucalyptus leaves. The plunge pond and hot pool are refilled continuously by natural water descending from the mountains above the hotel, its color changing with the seasons due to naturally occurring sediments.

There are five complimentary in-house programmed activities, which include nature walks, an orchid walk (featuring 372 species), a bird-watching walk (featuring 214 species), a twilight walk, and a working organic tea plantation, where guests learn about many teas and how to make tea bags.

The hotel's general manager, Luis Matute, came to Inkaterra with a food and beverage background, so when I say he blew my mind, diet and parts of my alimentary canal, I am just happy I got out alive. All kidding aside, so far the F&B at Inkaterra has been locally sourced, creative, thoughtful, at times spiritual and always tasty.

Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel is a Virtuoso property, and has recently been selected by The Luxury Editor 2022 as the best luxury hotel in Peru, and by Conde Nast Traveler U.S. Readers' Choice Awards as one of the best hotels in South America.

Soon to come, Insider Travel Report will post video footage of the entire property during an in-depth interview with Matute. Travel advisors interested in spiritual and adventure travel should be able to benefit from this interview. For more information, visit [www.inkaterra.com/inkaterra/inkaterra-machu-picchu-pueblo-hotel](http://www.inkaterra.com/inkaterra/inkaterra-machu-picchu-pueblo-hotel).

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