

TRAVELS NOW AND THEN

© Christopher Earls Brennen

GUATEMALA AND PERU 2005

Guatemala/Peru 2005. C.E.Brennen

Mar. 27 Sun Easter Sunday

Mar. 28 Mon Kath+I fly TA525 LAX-GUA 23.35h (nearly midnight)(C#YQVLRC)

Mar. 29 Tues K+I arrive GUA 6.25am – to hotel in Guatemala City
 Dana flies TA573 JFK-GUA 7.15h – 11.30h – to hotel in Guatemala City
 Hotel Biltmore Guatemala City
<http://www.enjoyguatemala.com/hotels/hotelbiltmore.htm>
 Evening tour

Mar. 30 Wed Fly WU070 GUA-Flores 6.30h -7.10h enroute to Tikal. Visit Tikal (Tour?)
 Stay Jungle Lodge (476-8775)
<http://www.enjoyguatemala.com/hotels/hoteljunglelodge.htm>

Mar. 31 Thurs Tikal. Fly WU075 Flores-GUA 20.45h-21.??h
 Hotel Biltmore Guatemala City
<http://www.enjoyguatemala.com/hotels/hotelbiltmore.htm>

Apr.1 Fly LR641 & LR601 GUA-LIM 7.00h-14.10h (via San Jose, Costa Rico)
 Watch for hotel pickup at Lima Airport
 Hotel: Hotel Antigua Miraflores, Lima
http://www.andeantravelweb.com/peru/hotels/lima/antigua_miraflores.html
 Meet with John Earls

Apr. 2 Sat Fly LP023 LIM-CUZ 9.25h-10.40h (C#YRUSMF).
 Hotel: Hotel Sonesta Posada del Inca, Cuzco
http://www.andeantravelweb.com/peru/hotels/cusco/posada_del_inca.html
 DW recommends Inca Grill near the plaza.

Apr. 3 Sun Cuzco
 Hotel: Hotel Sonesta Posada del Inca, Cuzco
http://www.andeantravelweb.com/peru/hotels/cusco/posada_del_inca.html

Apr. 4 Mon Train to Machu Picchu. Visit Machu Picchu.
 Hotel: Macchu Pichu Pueblo Hotel
<http://www.andeantravelweb.com/peru/hotels/machupicchu/machupicchupueblo.html>

Apr. 5 Tues Visit Machu Picchu
 Return to Cuzco
 Hotel: Hotel Sonesta Posada del Inca, Cuzco
http://www.andeantravelweb.com/peru/hotels/cusco/posada_del_inca.html

Apr. 6 Wed Fly LP022 CUZ-LIM 11.15h-12.35h
 Fly LR600 LIM-San Jose, Costa Rico 14.55h-17.35h

Dana flies LR660 San Jose-JFK 18.20h-1.15h+1
 K+I fly LR604 San Jose-LAX 18.25h-23.45h



**WHERE
TO GO**
"Travel Guide"

Chichicastenango
Huehuetenango
Guatemala City
Aguateca
Antigua
Coban
Izabal
Tikal
Quirigua
Panajachel
Quetzaltenango
Copan Honduras

BELIZE

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Ruins Nature Volcanoes
Lakes Culture Colonial

RESERVE

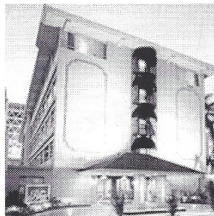
Hotels Tours Transfers
Rentals Schools Packages

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Guatemala

presents

Biltmore
Hotel
EXPRESS



the International Airport "La Aurora".

The Hotel Biltmore Express is among Guatemala's finest budget hotels. It has just been renovated and is located in the heart of Guatemala City's "Zona Viva", the place for business, shopping and entertainment. The Hotel Biltmore is in walking distance from shopping malls, restaurants, night clubs and just a few minutes from

Room Rates

Single	Double	Triple
\$75	\$75	\$

includes breakfast & taxes

RESERVE

Other Hotel

Radisson

**Conquistador
RAMADA HOTEL**
AN EXCELLENT TRAVEL & BUSINESS HOTEL

Holiday Inn
GUATEMALA

Accommodations:
Comfortable Rooms with cable TV
Continental Breakfast is included
Free Internet access at the lobby
Electronic key for your security

The Hotel is providing "family style" service and is very concerned about every guests well being.



enjoy
Guatemala

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Panajachel

Hotel
Posada de
Don Rodrigo

CORPORACION HOTELERA, S.A.

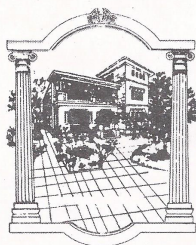
7a. Ave. 7-78 zona 4,
Edificio Centro Americano, Oficina 706
Guatemala, Guatemala. Centro América
PBX: (502) 331-5562
Fax: (502) 331-6838
www.hotelposadadedonrodrigo.com
E-mail: chotelera@c.net.gt

Hoteles

LA ANTIGUA

Posadas de Don Rodrigo

PANAJACHEL



Hotelera Antigua S.A.C.

Av. Grau 350, Miraflores, Lima, Perú
Telf. (51-1) 241-6116 - Fax (51-1) 241-6115
Casilla R-18-065, Recavarren
Lima - 18 - Perú (Mail)
e-mail: reserve@peru-hotels-inns.com

Hotel Antigua Miraflores

FACTURA

001 - Nº 14388

R.U.C. 20266548584

EXPORTACION DE SERVICIO
Dec. Leg. Nº 919

Nombre / Name : BRENNEN CHRISTOPHER R.U.C. Dec. Leg. Nº 919
Dirección / Address : _____ PAX: 3
Fecha/Date : 02/04/05 Hab. Nº / Room Nº _____ Noches / Nights : 1

DETALLE / ITEMS :	VALOR / AMOUNT :	I.G.V. / SALES TAX :	SERVICIO / SERVICE:
Alojamiento / Room :	\$ 94.55		\$ 9.45
Bar. Restaurante :	\$ 38.18		\$ 3.82
Tel. / Fax :			
Lavandería / Laundry :			
Otros / Other :			
VENTAS NETAS / CHARGES :	\$ 132.73		
I.G.V. / SALES TAX (19%) :			
SERVICIO / SERVICE (10%) :			\$ 13.27
TOTAL FACTURA / TOTAL :	\$ 146.00		
Son : <u>Ciento cuarenta y seis con 00/100</u> Dólares USA			
Fecha Factura es Pagadero / Date Invoice is Due :			

Favor emitir cheque a nombre de Hotelera Antigua S.A.C.

GRAPHIC YU S.A.C. RUC 20295942528
A. Serial 0115-07021 - F3 25-08-2004
Serie: 001 del 12501 al 14500
Emisión Válida Hasta: 25-08-2005

CANCELADO

p. Hotelera Antigua S.A.C.

ADQUIRENTE O USUARIO



Antigua, Guatemala

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PAYMENT, TIKALJETS.COM

Page 1 of 3



Close

From: website@tikaljets.com [SMTP:website@tikaljets.com]
To: brennen@its.caltech.edu
Cc:
Subject: THANK YOU FOR YOUR PAYMENT, TIKALJETS.COM
Sent: 12/30/2004 3:44 PM **Importance:** Normal



Christopher Brennen

Thank you for your payment, TIKALJETS.COM
This is your payment confirmation.

Passenger's Flight:
GUA **Guatemala City** / FRS **Flores, Peten (Tikal)** - Round Trip
Mar30/05
Flight Number: **WU070**
Depart Time: **06:30** (GUA)
Mar31/05
Flight Number: **WU075**
Depart Time: **20:45** (FRS)

Description

Mr. Christopher Brennen
Birth Date: **Dec/3/1941**
Nationality: **United States**
Passport: **210305015**
Hotel or Place: **Jungle Lodge, Tikal Area and Phone Number: (476) 8775**
Mr. Vanya Katharine Alaama
Birth Date: **Mar/28/1967**
Nationality: **United States**
Passport: **035759866**
Hotel or Place: **Jungle Lodge, Tikal Area and Phone Number: (476) 8775**
Mr. Danamichele O'Brien
Birth Date: **Jun/22/1964**
Nationality: **United States**
Passport: **210361422**
Hotel or Place: **Jungle Lodge, Tikal Area and Phone Number: (476) 8775**

	TICKETS USD	450.00
Taxes GUA - Guatemala City / FRS - Flores, Peten (Tikal)		
	XB Sales Tax Guatemala USD	27.00
	Subtotal USD	27.00
Taxes FRS - Flores, Peten (Tikal) / GUA - Guatemala City		
	XB Sales Tax Guatemala USD	27.00
	Subtotal USD	27.00



Ruins	Nature	Volcanoes		Hotels	Tours	Transfer
Lakes	Culture	Colonial		Rentals	Schools	Packages

Guatemala

prese

VACATION P

MAKE PAY

HINTS & P

Your name:*

Organisation:

Names of others travelling with you:

Number of Children:

Age of Children:

Your e-mail address:*

**Please make sure your e-mail address is correct !
We cannot reply to an incorrect address.**

Your Telephone:*

Your Fax: _____

Country:

Please let us know how you found us:

Arrival date
(dd/mm/yy): *

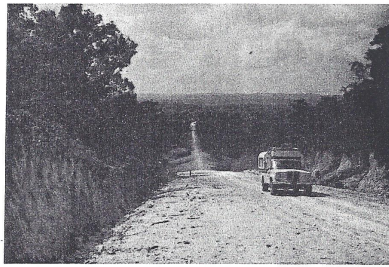
Arrival time:

Room category:* - Select -

Bed preference:*

How many rooms:*

Izabal
 Tikal
 Quirigua
 Panajachel
 Quetzaltenango
 Copan Honduras
 BELIZE
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From this second grade, there is a good view south.

At Tikal we parked our Alaskan Campers in the shade provided by the dense jungle and were thankful the screened back door and opened windows provided good ventilation, as the afternoons were warm.



ROAD INTO TIKAL - 22 MILES. A beautiful drive through tall dense jungle. As the traveler leaves the main highway, they soon see the end of Lake Peten, on the left, and one gets a good idea of its immense size. The water is clear and very blue. A short side road (left) goes down to a little village on the lake (photos) and to the lake shore. Here you have a better view of the lake than you have at Flores, as the big island blocks the lake view there.

Continuing on the road to Tikal, the road winds up a grade to a high plateau overlooking the lake and valley. Here, there is another thatched hut village. Pass the village is a road junction, right to Itza, continue

left to Tikal. Road goes through the high rain forest which continues over 150 miles northwesterly to the Palenque ruins. The new road had some soft areas that looked like they could be a problem to the driver in the rainy season. Then one comes to a small building and a sign which states, "Parque Nacional Tikal. No hunting and do not disturb the flora." The road then goes up another short grade and enters the site grounds. Police office on right checks your papers. As you leave the office, the airstrip is on the right. The museum road goes right - Continue on main road to side road (right) to hotel. Road continues east and makes a loop through the ruins.

Tikal RUINS

In 1696 three Franciscans attempted to persuade the ruler, Canek, of the Mayans at Peten to accept Christianity and Spanish rule but he refused. The Fathers then left, but they were warned that they might be ambushed. Father Avendano soon became too weak to go on and was left behind, while the other two Fathers continued on to find help.

Father Avendano pushed on with the remaining Indians and came across ruins of ancient buildings. His description of them was that of Tikal. So the Father was apparently the first European to have seen the great Maya site.

Colonial Modesto Mendez discovered the site in 1848. The vast growth covered ruins were discovered officially by modern archeology in 1881 when the famous English scholar Alfred Moudslay visited them. He carried masses of paper on muleback to make paper squeezes of the huge stelae.

Pottery chips found near the landing strip date to 2,000 B.C. The temples were built when Christ was born. Archeologists from Princeton, Harvard and hard-working men from the University of Pennsylvania have numbered over 2,000 structures within a five-mile square.

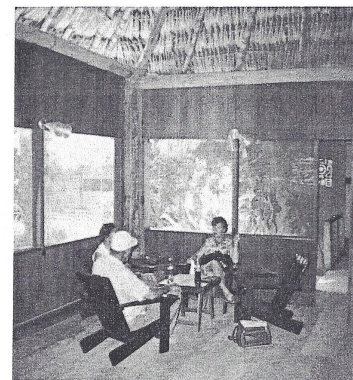
The ruins are built in 8 main groups. It is believed a very large population must have lived in Peten when Tikal was used as a ceremonial center.

Tikal is 187 miles northeast of Guatemala City. The surrounding area, around the site, is a National Park and no hunting is allowed.

A new road was built to the ruins in 1969, but the easiest way to reach the site is by plane from Guatemala City where group tour rates are provided for a day excursion flight--price \$28.00 per person, at printing. Lunch is provided at the jungle lodge and the visitors are taken in a truck to view the structures. In the late afternoon the plane returns and flies the group back to Guatemala City. Hotel rate is around \$12 per person with meals.

THE RUINS ARE SPREAD OUT and it would be a very long hike to cover them on foot. A truck can be arranged for at the hotel for a guided tour.

If one is driving their own vehicle, the roads through the site are not bad and easy to follow. A loop trip can be made of the principal structures, side roads and trails lead to others.



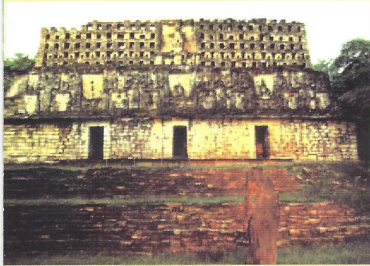
ABOVE: Screened, patio-bar room, at the hotel.

BOTTOM: Jungle road through the ruins.

TIKAL RUINS 119

The Ancient Maya River Trade Route

As the ancient Maya sailed the wide, fast-flowing rivers of Mesoamerica, so will you on this remarkable river expedition! Embarking on a journey along the Pasión and Usumacinta rivers, we will discover the ancient sites as explorers, not as common tourists.



This expedition combines adventure, archaeology and Maya culture. Ranging from seven to 12 days in length, the Great Maya River Trade Route Expeditions visit such impressive archaeological sites as Cancuén,

Aguateca, Seibal, Dos Pilas, Altar de Sacrificios, Yaxchilán, Palenque, Bonampak, Piedras Negras and others. Here, we will experience the culture of the modern Maya settled along the banks of the river, as well as tracts of lush tropical forest.

Like explorers, we will use a variety of accommodations available along our route. Sometimes we will sleep in tents under the stars or stay in rustic ecolodges run by local Maya villagers; at other times we will enjoy cozy beds in small, family-run inns or comfortable accommodations in good hotels. We will eat both the basic, hearty fare of Maya laborers — including handmade, grilled tortillas — and fine contemporary meals. Whoever our hosts and whatever the accommodation, you can expect friendly service, clean and comfortable facilities and an unforgettable experience!

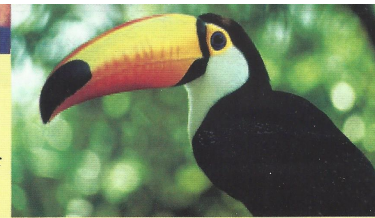
The Expedition

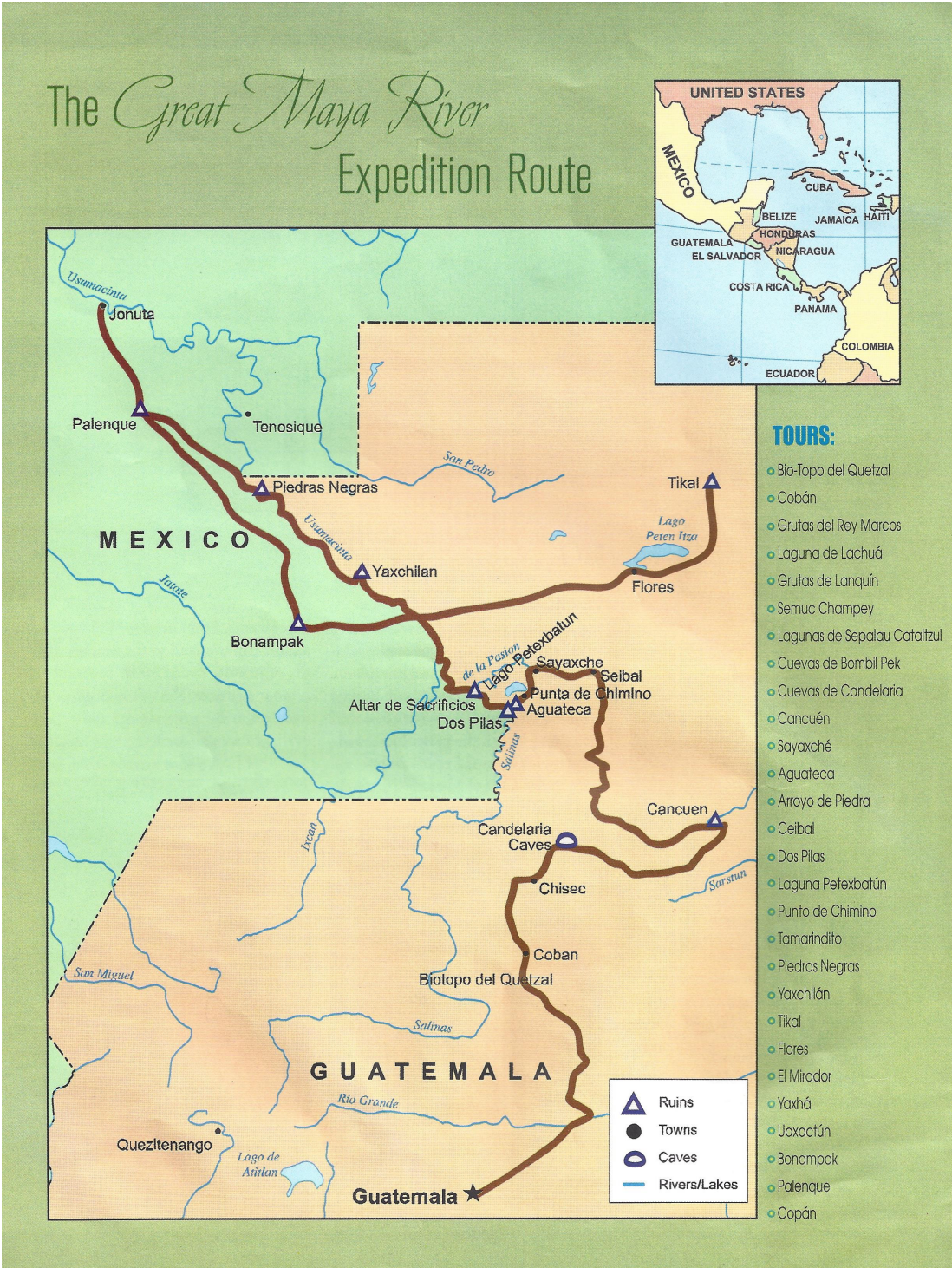
Wake up to the sounds and sights of the jungle and prepare for a spectacular tour down the ancient Maya trade route of the Pasión and Usumacinta rivers. This river system, whose banks now lie blanketed by jungle and farms, once teemed with the canoes of Maya

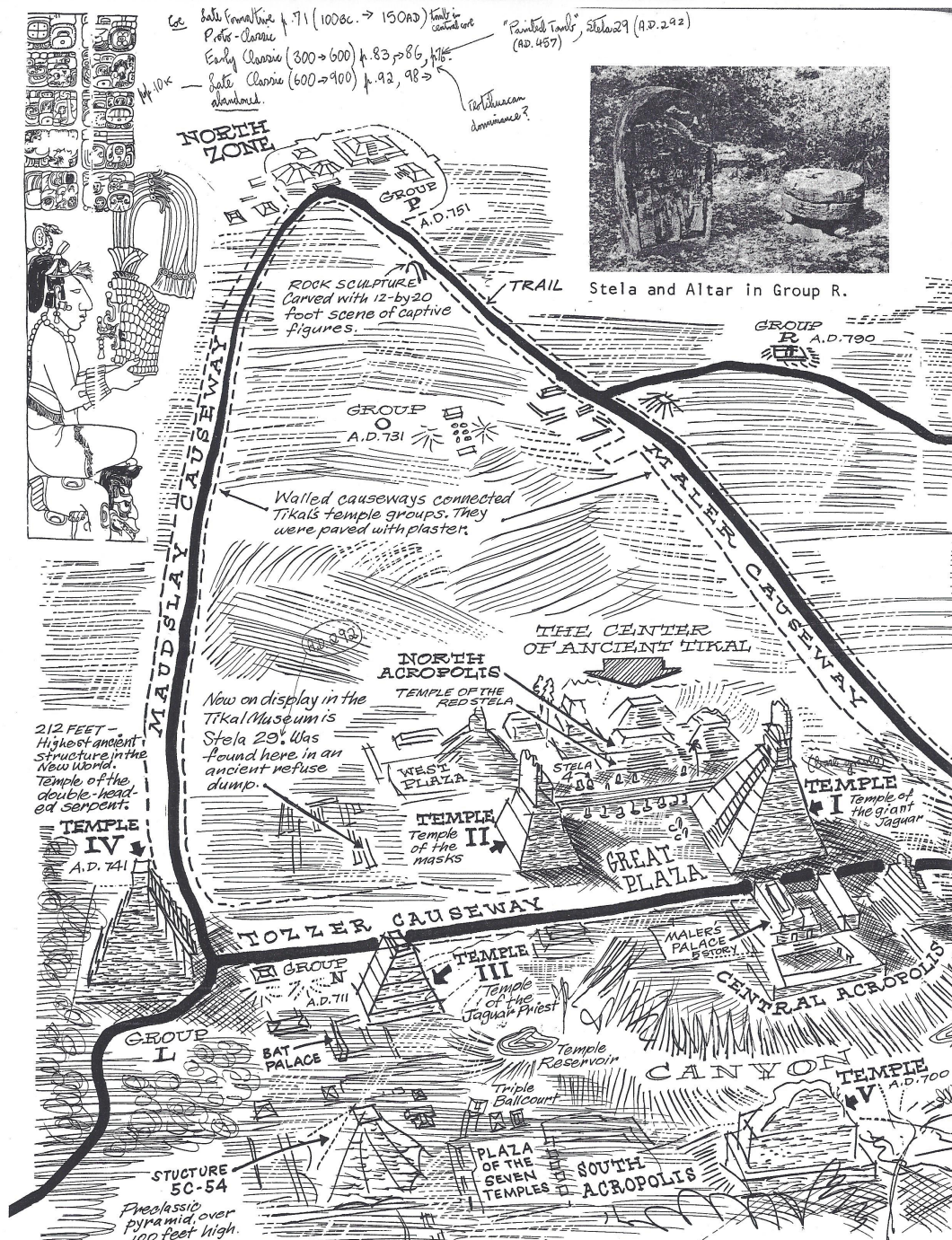
traders, paddling up and down-stream to sell their wares. Their long, sleek canoes were stacked with pottery from far-off cities, baskets of salt from the mines to the east, and obsidian, volcanic glass that was the Swiss Army knife of ancient Mesoamerica. Some carried rare items destined for the kings: Beautiful green jade, fragments of sparkling pyrite ("fool's gold") polished and set into mosaic mirrors, and

the iridescent green feathers of the quetzal bird for the headdresses of royalty. Ambassadors and political emissaries also plied these waters, bearing royal tidings and news of intrigues, marriages and wars. Our journey will retrace these ancient routes, bringing to light once again the links between one city and another, their trade, their treaties of peace and their alliances for war. Along the way, we will see some of the same jungle terrain as they did 1,000 years ago. We will watch colorful toucans, spy on sunning iguanas and fall asleep to the nightly music of deep-throated howler

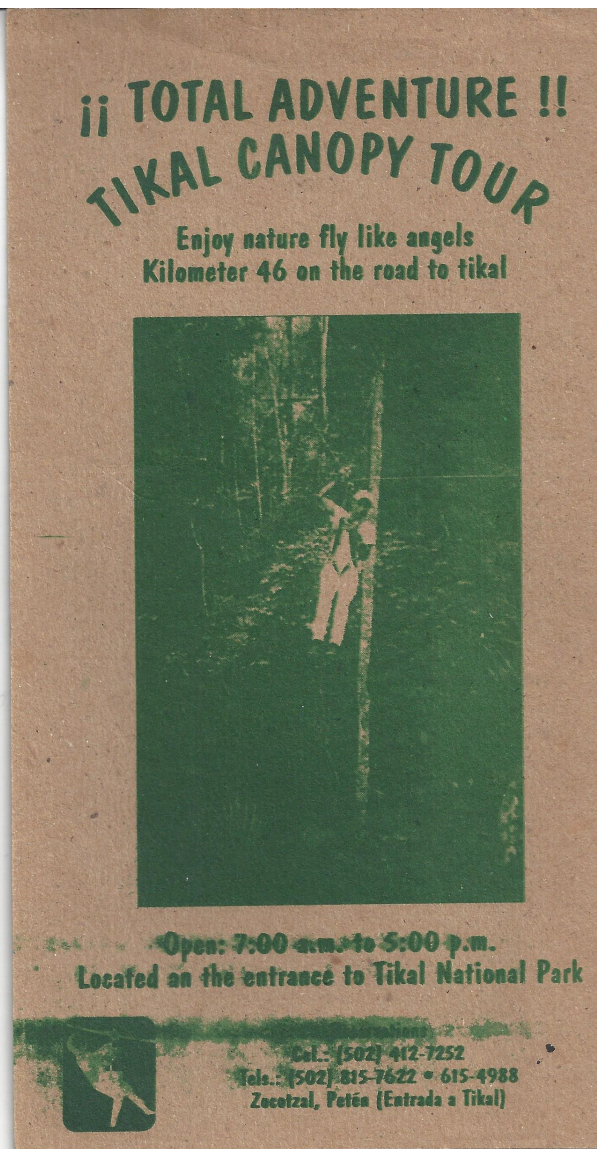
monkeys. And we will share all this with the descendants of those ancients, the modern Maya who, at some sites, will host us with their ancient traditions of hospitality.











Residences, Tikal



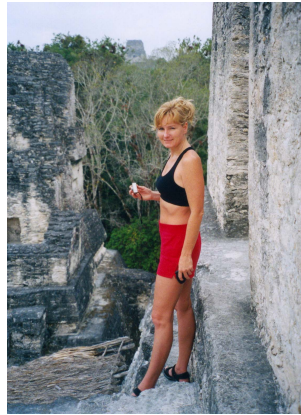
Temple I, Tikal



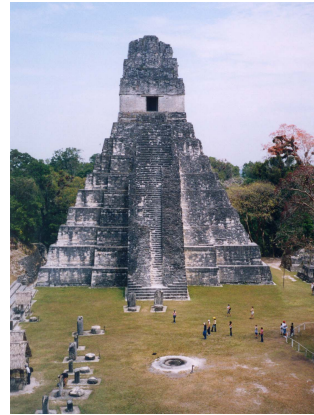
Temple I, Tikal



Grand Plaza, Tikal



On the Palace, Tikal



Temple I, Tikal



Temple IV, Tikal, Guatemala



Temple V, Tikal, Guatemala





Temple V, Tikal, Guatemala



Temple V, Tikal, Guatemala



View from Temple V



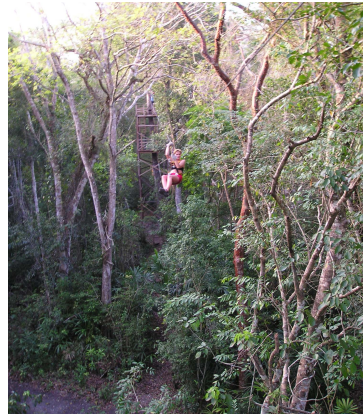
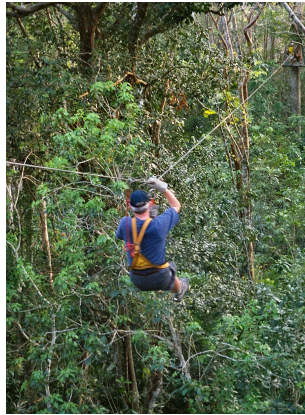
Temple V, Tikal



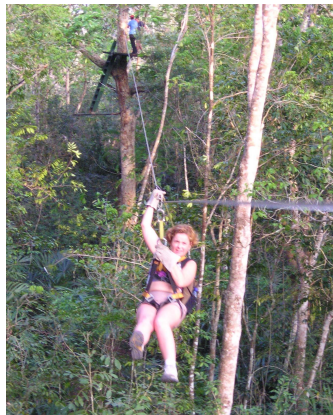
Royal Palace, Tikal, Guatemala



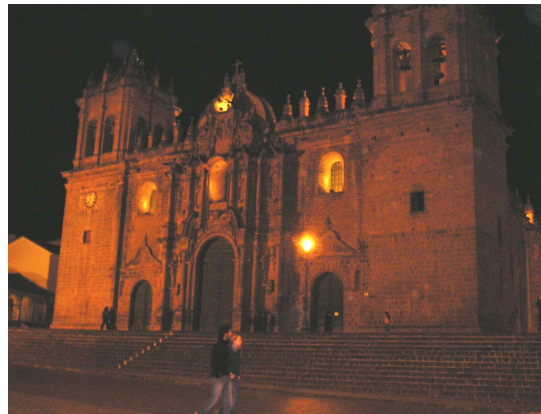
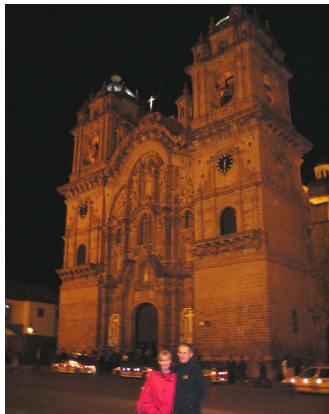
Howler monkeys, Tikal, Guatemala



Zipline, Tikal, Guatemala



Zipline, Tikal, Guatemala



Cusco, Peru



Cuzco, Peru



Sacsayhuaman, Cuzco, Peru



Sacsayhuaman, Cuzco, Peru



Sacsayhuaman, Cuzco, Peru



Pisac, Peru



Pisac, Peru



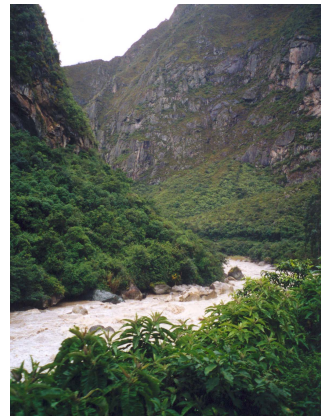
Ollantaytambo, Peru



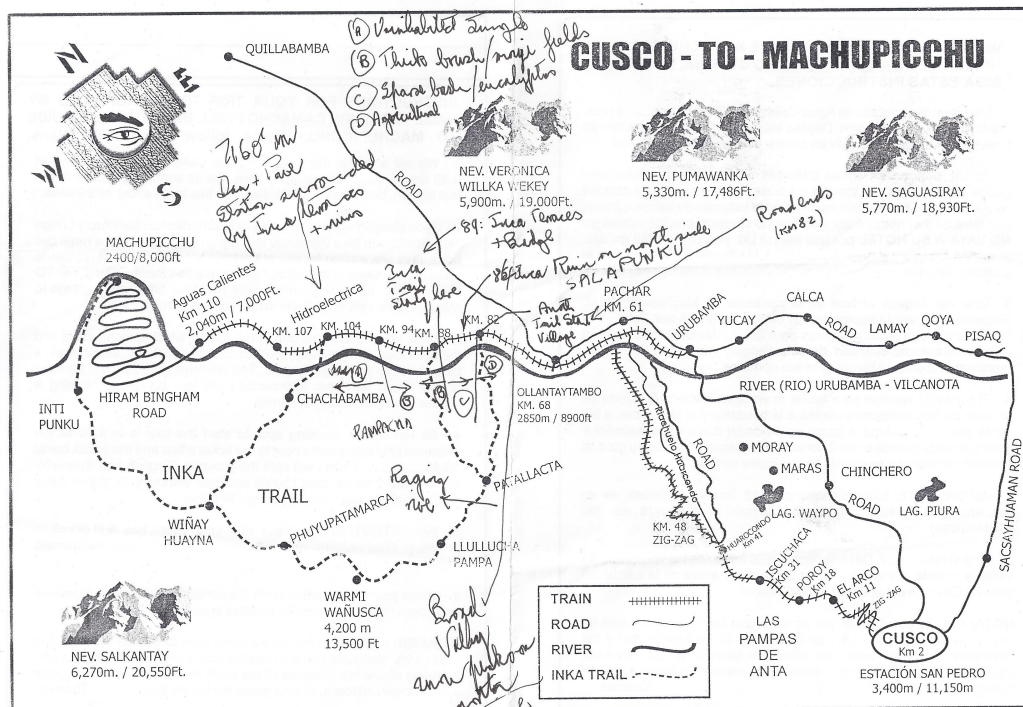
Ollantaytambo, Peru



Chinchero, Peru



Urubamba on the way to Machu Picchu, Peru



INSTRUCCIONES PARA SU VIAJE A MACHUPICCHU MI NOMBRE ES DARWIN CAMACHO SU GUÍA, POR FAVOR SIGA ESTAS INSTRUCCIONES.

1.- Llegaremos al pueblo de Agua Calientes a las 9:45 am..... Aprox. Punto final del viaje por tren. Dirijase inmediatamente a la estación de buses y aborde cualquiera de los buses; el viaje es de 30 minutos.

2.- Si Ud. duerme en aguas calientes o Machupicchu (Sanctuary Lodge Hotel) antes de abordar los buses deje su equipaje con los conserjes de su hotel, ellos esperan en la estación de trenes o buses con letreros y el nombre del Hotel; si no contacto con los conserjes **NO VAYA A SU HOTEL** por que podría Ud. perder su visita guiada, lleve con Ud. Su equipaje en el bus a Machupicchu y dejelo en el guarda equipajes.

3.- Una vez llegado al final de la carretera en Machupicchu, Ud. Encontrara el guarda equipajes, los baños, un Snack bar, Telfs., Y el Sanctuary Lodge Hotel. Estamos aquí 20..... Minutos para ser uso de esos servicios, después de este tiempo, y al toque del silbato reuniremos al grupo y llamare por sus nombres.

4.- El punto de reunión para iniciar la visita es frente a la puerta de entrada de Machupicchu próximo a la boletería y el snack bar, a las 10:45 am.Aquí el grupo se divide en dos grupos, español e Ingles, la visita guiada es de 2 horas. No empiece el tour sin su guía, si prefiere caminar por su cuenta comunique a su guía.

5.- **IMPORTANTE:** Lleve siempre con Ud. Todos sus tickets: de su bus, entrada a Machupicchu, voucher de hotel y restaurante, etc. (No los desglose)

6.- Para el retorno Ud. Debe verificar en su boleto de tren el horario de salida y aborde el tren al menos 20 minutos antes de la salida del tren. En Cusco le espera su agente de viajes.

NOTA: Pido su comprensión por no estar con Ud. Durante el viaje de tren y auto bus ya que Ud., se encuentra en un tour grupal y los miembros del grupo están en diferentes coches. Si Ud. Necesita alguna asistencia no dude en pedirselo al personal del tren o a su guía durante el tour guiado. Gracias.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOUR TRIP TO MACHUPICCHU MY NAME IS DARWIN CAMACHO I WILL BE YOUR TOUR GUIDE TO MACHUPICCHU. Please follow these instructions.

1.- We will arrive to the town of Aguas Calientes Approximately at 9:45 am..... Last stop by train. Go as soon as possible to the bus station, board any of the buses. The bus trip is about 30 minutes.

2.- If you sleep in Aguas Calientes or Machupicchu (Sanctuary Lodge Hotel) before to take the buses leave your luggage with the hotel bell boys, they are waiting for you at the train or bus station with placards showing the name of the hotel; if you do not find them, **DON'T GO TO THE HOTEL**, because you may miss your tour. bring your luggage to Machupicchu and leave them in the luggage storage.

3.- Once you arrive to the end of the road in Machupicchu you'll find the Sanctuary Lodge Hotel, the rest rooms, snack bar, telephones, a place to store your luggage, etc. You will have here 20 Minutes to use these services; afterwards I will join our group blowing a whistle, and I will call your names.

4.- So remember, Meeting spot to start the tour is in front of the entrance of Machupicchu next to the ticket office and the snack bar at 10:45 Here I will split the group in (English and Spanish), the tour last 2 hours. Don't begin your tour without your guide; if you want to walk by your own let your guide know.

5.- **IMPORTANT:** Bring always with you, your bus and admission tickets to Machupicchu and vouchers of the hotel and restaurants (don't tear off them).

6.- Check your train ticket to verify the schedule of the train departure and board the train at least 20 minutes in advance.

REMARK: I apologize for not traveling next to you on the train and the bus trip, Because you are in a pool tour, members of our group are traveling in different coaches of the train. If you need any assistance ask the crew on Board, or your guide during the tour. Thanks

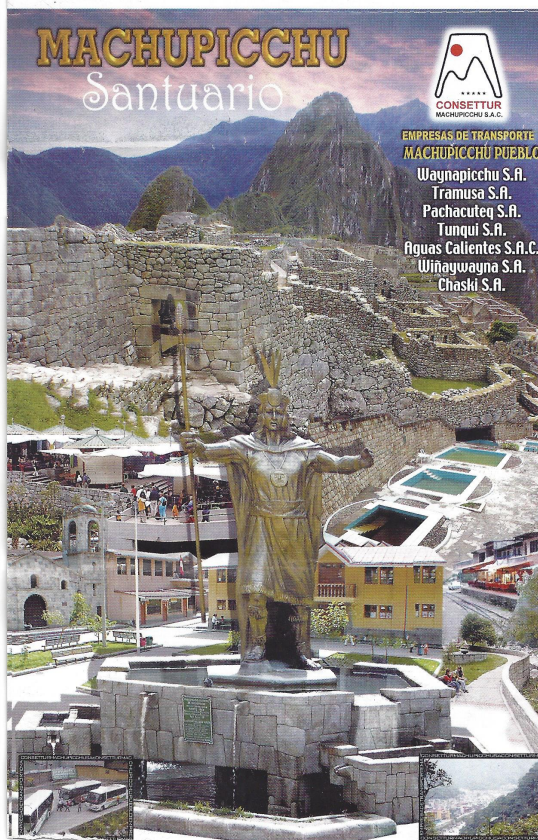


CONSETTUR MACHUPICCHU S.A.C. R.U.C. 20278362915
Av. Pardo Nº 613 - Cusco
AV. IMPERIO DE LOS INCAS 102
Aguas Calientes-Cusco-Urubamba-Machupicchu

BOLETO DE VIAJE
065 Nº 016236
TARIFA: ADULTO Extranjero
TWO WAY US \$ 12.00

NOMBRE: _____
FECHA EMISIÓN: 05 APR 2005
RUTA: MACHUPICCHU PUEBLO - MACHUPICCHU SANTUARIO - MACHUPICCHU PUEBLO
Son: Doce con 00/100 Dólares Americanos
USUARIO

LUCERO de Luna Torres Marcelina RUC:10238080440 Rutinas 435 Aut. SUNAT 0015355091 - FI. 26-03-2005, Emisión Válida Hasta 26-03-2006



PERURAIL S.A. BOLETO DE VIAJE USUARIO

Av. Armeraz Nº 307 - Miraflores - Lima
Av. Bolognesi s/n (C.A. Waynapi) Cusco - Cusco
R.U.C. 20431871808

SERIE 903- NRO 0231794

NOMBRE - NAME INTRANSFERIBLE EDAD DOCUMENTO IDENT. Nº

CUIL BRENNEN M

TIPO DE TARIFA	CLASE	TREN	FECHA	HORA	BOQUE	ASIENTO
PaxNorm	VISTADOME	m	04/04	16:00		

RUTA
CUS - MACHUPICCHU

SON 12.00

PROHIBIDA LA REVENTA
NOT FOR RESALE

USUARIO:
RUC:
FECHA EMISIÓN:
COUNTER:
CODIGO:
OBSERVACIONES:

Emisión válida hasta: 10-01-2006



Brennen, Chris

From: John Earls [jearls@pucp.edu.pe]
Sent: Thursday, November 18, 2004 10:19 AM
To: Brennen, Chris
Subject: Re: Earls Family History

Dear Chris

Just to say now that we've got to be the same family. I have a class this afternoon and will not be able to read it all through till tomorrow but I want to say now that you have really done an incredible job. Yes I too have a cousin who is also John Earls but I think he lives in Sydney, or he did two years ago. My paternal line is Arthur Earls who died in 1972 and am an only child but Arthur was one of 7 siblings which define us as a group of cousins. I will send your email now to my cousin Helen Saunders (daughter of Enid Earls) and she can send it on to her brother Alan who is the family historian of our lineage-kindred and the exact ties can be established.

Thanks and the very best

John

PS I used to have a Sydney mate Chris Brennen, he would now be in his late 60s. -- another connection?

PPS I haven't got Helen's email in this computer so will send it tomorrow or Saturday.

At 16:15 17/11/2004 -0800, you wrote:

>Dear John Earls:

>

>I write to you for two reasons, both family history related. First your
 >name and email address were brought to my attention by my cousin and
 >close friend, John Earls of Brisbane, Australia. You not only have the
 >same name but the same age and the Australian connection. My cousin's
 >email address is jearls@optusnet.com.au.

>

>In addition my mother was an Earls and I have that as a middle name.
 >Moreover, over many years I have put together an Earls family history
 >which you will find at

><http://www.dankat.com/earls/earls.htm>

>

>I would be very interested to find out how you connect (if at all) with
 >the families that I have constructed in that family history - and
 >perhaps, with your help, I could fill in some gaps or add to the
 >genealogy.

>

>I look forward very much to hearing from you,

>

>Christopher Earls Brennen

John Earls

Web site: <http://macareo.pucp.edu.pe/~jearls/index.html>

From "Huayna Picchu" in "The Far Side of the Sky":

We had come to this stupendous and storied place to enjoy a shared adventure, perhaps for the last time. This would be a reenactment of a family tradition forged some thirty years earlier when the girls were just a few years old. Adventure was in their souls, perhaps even in their Scotch-Irish genes. Almost forty years before our small nuclear family had left the comfort of a Northern Irish homeland and ventured half way around the world, seeking new spaces in which to grow and prosper. Husband and wife, we had arrived in California with two small daughters, two large suitcases and two hundred dollars; all we had in the world. Since that brave journey there had been joys and sadnesses, triumphs and tragedies. Some the result of happenstance, some caused by the same venturesome spirit that encouraged us to reach for the sky.

It had been this way as long as any of us could remember. There had been the long car camping trips throughout the western United States, thousands of miles in a slightly faulty but stylish 65 Mustang to explore every reachable geological oddity or anthropological remnant. We had hiked as far as children's legs could take them, into the Virgin River Narrows, through the Hoh rain forest, up to the glaciers of Mount Rainier and out to a myriad of other places. We had often ventured off-trail to find places others had not seen whether in the rugged and precipitous canyons of the San Gabriel mountains, the wondrous maze of rocks in Joshua Tree National Park, or the canyons of the Colorado plateau, anywhere something new or exciting might be found. Mishaps were, of course, inevitable. In those early days, they rarely meant more than an unexpected dunking or a twisted knee. Sometimes they even meant dangling on the end of a rope for a short time before being rescued. In later life and in different circumstances, there were sometimes more serious consequences.



Machu Picchu
(Photo by Danamichele Brennen)



Huayna Picchu
(Photo by Danamichele Brennen)

As the eldest daughter she had left home first, travelling across the continent to make her life in an eastern city. She had married an older man, only to discover after two children that their interests and personalities had diverged to the point of rupture. In the heat and trauma of that dissolution, she had become a little derailed. One awful night, Jan.5, 1999, that lead to a terrible accident. Driving too fast late at night on icy asphalt, her red 951 Turbo Porsche left the road and smashed, driver side first, into the trees. She was trapped upside down for hours, her lower body crushed among mangled metal. It took more than two hours for the firemen to cut her loose and load her into the helicopter for the short flight to the University of Pennsylvania Hospital. There the doctors diagnosed multiple fractures of the pelvis, two broken femurs, a broken right ankle and numerous lacerations. Orthopedic surgeon Christopher T. Born took on the daunting task of trying to reconstruct the lower part of her body. She was very lucky to have found herself in the hands of this skilled surgeon who performed five operations to reconstruct the pelvis (using five permanent pins), to align the femurs (using a rod through the core of one femur) and pin the ankle together with several permanent screws. She spent two months in the University of Pennsylvania hospital and another month in a rehabilitation hospice in Bryn Mawr. Then many agonizing months with daily physiotherapy in order to walk again. This too was interrupted by a final operation in the fall to remove the rod from the femur. It took patience, persistence and much pain as well as valuable help from her ex-husband, Bill O'Brien. But her innate optimism and irrepressible spirit equipped her for the struggle and within the year she could walk again, albeit slowly and with a limp. Her case was so unusual that Dr. Born published a research paper on it. But she was not finished with the repair and by the summer of 2000 was able to send him a photograph of her rock climbing in Kings Canyon National Park, a picture that he proudly included in the verbal presentation of his paper at a scholarly symposium.

But she still limped, was still impaired in her movements so there was still work to be done if she was to live the kind of active life that she had been brought up to and that she wanted for herself and her children. There would be no more horse riding but there could still be great adventure.



Climbing Huayna Picchu
(Photo by Danamichele Brennen)



Tunnel on Inca trail, Huayna Picchu

And now she stood beside me in the midst of the lost city of the Incas. With her sister we had travelled to Peru and flown to the Incan capital of Cuzco. There we paused for several days in that beautiful sky-high city, partly to acclimatize and partly to enjoy the Incan and Spanish colonial history of the place. One guided tour took us to the huge Spanish colonial cathedral of Cuzco, built on the foundations of Incan palaces and richly decorated with imperious, gilded images. During that visit there occurred a moment that augured for something special in our own lives. Standing in the imposing nave of the cathedral, the daunting plumage all around, the cathedral bells began to toll slowly. Moments later the whispers could be heard everywhere and nowhere, "El Papa murio, el Papa murio...". It was April 2, 2005, and Pope John Paul had just died half a world away. I could not help but be reminded of my own mortality, of the need to relish these special days with my two beloved daughters; "... never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee (John Donne, 1623)."

A couple of days later we caught the early morning train that laboriously switchbacked its way up the mountains surrounding Cuzco and crossed the altiplano before descending again into the deep valley of the Urubamba river. Heading downstream through the ever-deepening gorge we left the dirt roads behind us just northwest of Ollantaytambo, only the railway and the raging Urubamba penetrating the deepening jungle beyond that point. Finally, five hours from Cuzco, the train edged into Agua Caliente, a jumble of vendor stalls, hotels and restaurants squeezed into a strip of jungle between the Urubamba and the towering cliffs. We had come to the land of cloud forest and the mist hung in great clumps over the heights above us. A raft of buses were waiting for the train and we were soon switchbacking our way up the dirt road toward the ridge, 1300ft above the Urubamba, a ridge where the Incas built their magic city of Machu Picchu. We spent the day there, first on a guided tour, and then in our own explorations. The day tours left in mid-afternoon and thereafter we enjoyed the lack of crowds and the improving weather as the mists cleared and the sun began to peek through. It was a glorious afternoon in a magnificent place.

Though much of Machu Picchu's history is shrouded in mystery, the most widely held view is that the city was built by the Inca emperor Pachacutec in the mid 1400s and that it served as both a ceremonial and agricultural center. The astronomical alignments of its temples and monuments are very sophisticated and the extensive agricultural terraces may have been used to grow plants adapted to the wet jungle climate rather than the drier Inca heartland. Some think that Machu Picchu's isolation may have led to a decline prior to the Spanish arrival in Peru. What is certain is that it was completely abandoned before it could be discovered by the invaders; Pizarro marched right past it on his exploration down the Urubamba. This was great good fortune for Machu Picchu was rapidly overgrown and for centuries lay hidden in the jungle, one of the very few Incan cities to escape destruction by the Spaniards. Not until 1911 did the American archeologist Hiram Bingham uncover its hidden splendours.

The city was built on a narrow ridge that lies inside a sharp, 180 degree bend in the Urubamba river. It is a natural fortress site, easily defended since the 1300ft drop down to the Urubamba is nearly vertical on three sides. On the fourth side, overshadowed by the 10,040ft Machu Picchu mountain, the Inca built a wall, a gate and various guard houses to protect the city. At the other end, the far end of the ridge, a precipitous basaltic column rises like an exclamation mark to a sharp summit, another 1000ft above the city. This awesome pinnacle, known as Huayna Picchu, was sacred to the Incas who managed to build some remarkable structures on its precarious summit. In several places their paths and terraces look down over 2300 vertical feet to the Urubamba.



Inca temple on Huayna Picchu



On the summit of Huayna Picchu

Somehow during the rest of that day and evening, as we relaxed at our hotel in Agua Caliente, a plan to climb Huayna Picchu crystallized in our minds. None of us were quite sure we had the strength after our exhausting travels and the toll that the altitude had taken on our constitutions. When the morning came Kathy, my younger daughter, did not feel well enough for this extracurricular exploit and resolved to spend the morning resting among the Incan ruins. Dana had done nothing like this climb since her accident and so it became an unexpected but welcome test of her long rehabilitation.

So it was that in the morning mist we crossed through the lost city to its northwestern end where, at 7875ft, the ridge narrows to a knife-edge. There the Incas built a shrine and guardhouse, a hut that still serves the same purpose, for those who set off to climb Huayna Picchu today must sign in and sign out when they descend again. It is not quite clear what the authorities would do if someone failed to sign out; drain the Urubamba? We duly signed in and started along the rough trail that first descends about 100ft in order to cross the narrow spine that connects the main ridgetop with Huayna Picchu. The climb up the steep trail toward the summit starts immediately and rapidly steepens; the ancient steps cut into the rock are sorely needed as are the ropes that have been added for modern climbers. We paused often to inhale gulps of thin air. Then on again. Dana climbed easily, exuding a delight in finding final confirmation that she was no longer handicapped; indeed she often had to wait while I caught up. Nearing the summit, the jungle around us merged into Incan walls and soon we were ascending the first steep staircase through those terraces. This led to the first great platform with a fantastic view of Machu Picchu and the land all around us. From this platform the trail proceeded through a short tunnel, emerging beside an "usu" or holy site with walls built above a 2000ft vertical drop all the way down to the Urubamba. Then more stairs along the edge of that awesome cliff before we arrived at the jumble of giant boulders that adorn the summit. Climbing through and over several of these, overhanging the same huge drop, we finally gained the 8860ft summit of this awesome peak.

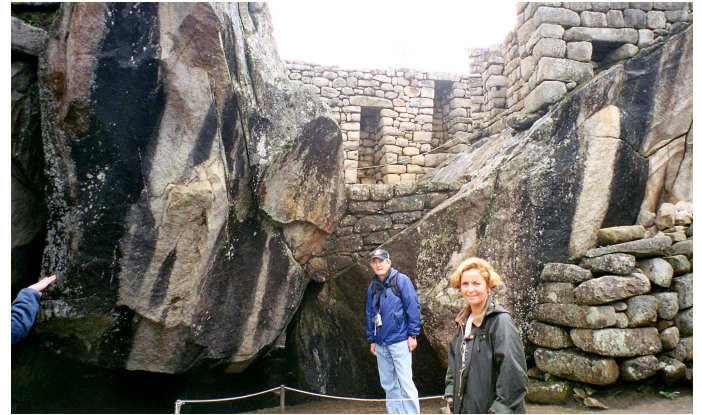
As it turned out, Dana had conquered Huayna Picchu with some ease and certainly no limp. Nevertheless the accomplishment symbolized a long and painful struggle, a rehabilitation that had been as much spiritual as physical. It would have been so easy, so comfortable to take refuge in the handicap, to let all those metal pins and rods bear the burden. To make the matter harder, along the way she had to deal with a host of other challenges that would have broken a lesser spirit. And so this moment was one of rightful, jubilant celebration. I was and am deeply proud of what my daughter overcame and that pride as well as her joy are etched in the faces of the photographs we took that day. The Incas had carved a soaring condor into the face of the summit boulder. It seemed an appropriate symbol for what she had accomplished.



Machu Picchu, Peru



Machu Picchu, Peru



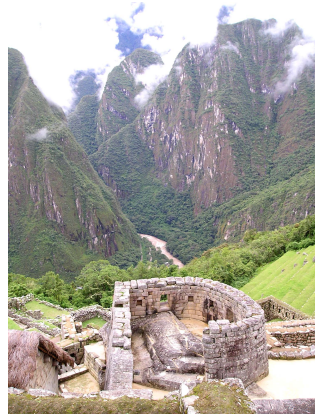
Machu Picchu, Peru



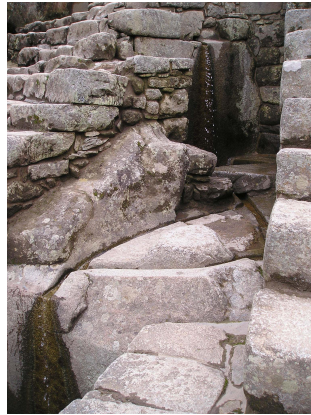
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Machu Picchu, Peru



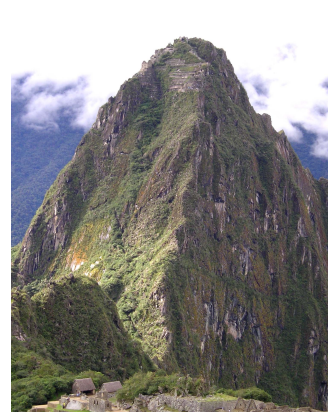
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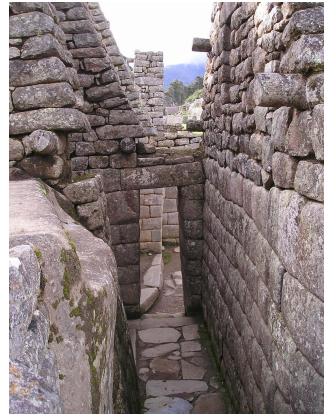
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