

Peru - Bolivia - Ecuador

Cultural, Sports

Country : Peru Bolivia Ecuador February 2001

The most beautiful pictures





Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador in a single travel made in 2001 with my girlfriend. Three vast countries covered in shorts hops from Lima in Peru, passing by the famous Machu Picchu, to Bolivia and its capital, La Paz. Finally, to join Quito by plane, to play leapfrog on the line of the equator.

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By Olivier Paudex

Introduction

Three countries, one continent, South America. Three countries whose cultural wealth is no longer to be defended, so rich is it. Peru, its great capital Lima, at the edge of the sea, contrasts with the mountains of the Andes Cordillera. La Paz, the capital of Bolivia is simply the highest city ever built. As for Ecuador, well

named as it is built on the dividing line between the two hemispheres, it houses an urban landscape as much as a wild one, in its nearby jungle.





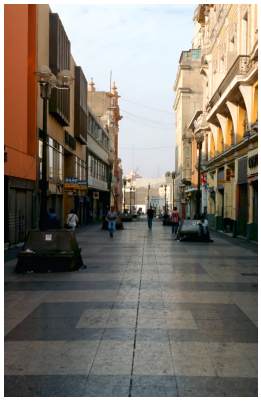
Three countries, Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru

Lima

Lima, the capital of Peru, is a densely populated city with over **11,000 inhabitants/km^2**. The entire city has been a **UNESCO heritage site since 1988**. The architecture of the city shows its former Spanish affiliation. The inhabitants speak Spanish with a strange intonation, typical of Peru. The city was almost completely destroyed in **1746**, during an earthquake.









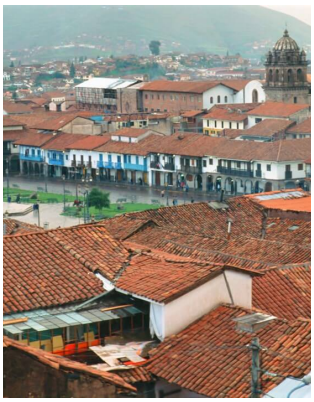


Streets and market of Lima

Cuzco

Cuzco is the ancient capital of the Inca civilization. It is located at**3400m** above sea level. To get there from Lima, you have to take a plane. **Cuzco was declared a historical site by UNESCO in 1983**



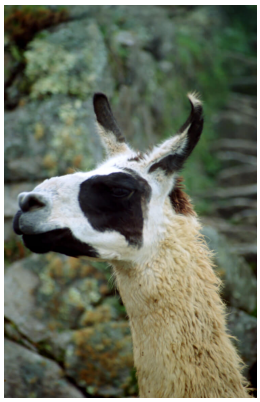
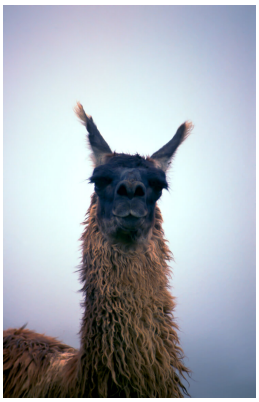











Streets and inhabitants of Cuzco, Lamas

Pisa'q (Pisac)

Pisa'q is a small ancient city **1 hour bus ride from Cuzco**. It has some interesting archaeological ruins. It also offers a market. The immersion in the Andean landscape is total.













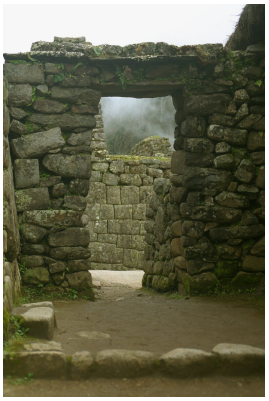
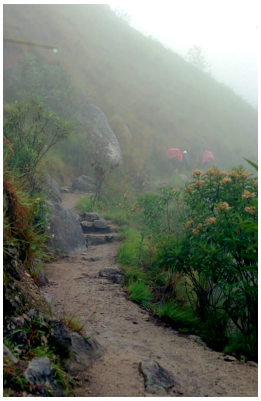


The village of Pisa'q, its archaeological site and its inhabitants

Machu Picchu and the Inca Trail

The Inca Trail is a hike starting from Cuzco. **It takes place between 1 and 5 days** The guide is mandatory and it is necessary to buy a permit that includes the entrance ticket to Machu Picchu. If you want to go during the low season, from November to March, you just have to register in one of the many local agencies in Cuzco. Everything is included, tent, food, guide. You have to carry your own bag and personal belongings. In the high season, from June to August, it is imperative to book your place several months in advance.

The adventure begins by train in Cuzco, which drops you off at km 82, for the 4-5 day trek, or km 104, for the 1-3 day trek There are several formulas available, but all end up reaching Machu Picchu.

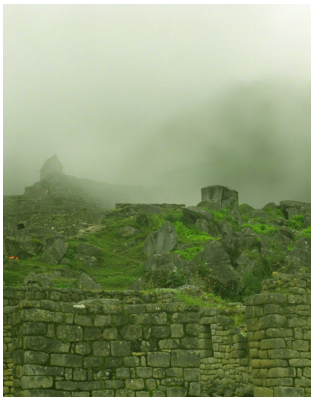









Ruins on the muddy path, terraced potatoes plantation

In February, the disadvantage is the fog and the rain. The site remains nevertheless extremely interesting. Everybody can imagine the Inca city at the time of its past glory.














The archaeological site of Machu Picchu in the fog

Bolivian Copacabana

The bus takes us to Bolivia via **Juliaca**, **Puno** and finally **Copacabana**, right on the border. By the way, the bus lands us right in front of the guard post. We have to cross the border on foot, then take another bus to Copacabana. Nothing to do with the famous beach of Brazil, Copacabana is a small village on the edge of the **lake Titicaca**, in Bolivia. It is an ideal place to organize a trip to**Isla del sol (Island of the Sun)**

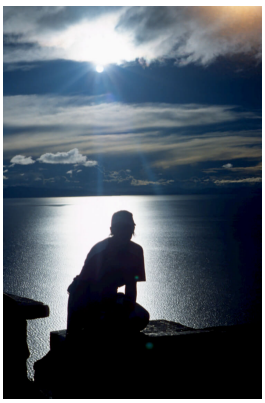




The village of Cobacabana on the shores of Lake Titicaca

Lake Titicaca

Lake Titicaca is often called the highest navigable lake in the world. It is located at**3812m** above sea level. The lake is shared between Peru and Bolivia.





Lake Titicaca

Isla del Sol

Isla del Sol is located on the lake, about 30 minutes by boat from Copacabana. It is possible to walk around it. Its main interest is the ruins dedicated to the sun.

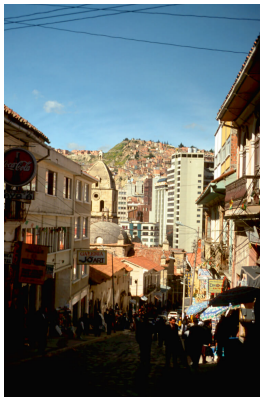


Isla del sol and the temple of the sun

La Paz

La Paz is the capital of Bolivia. It is located at **3640m** of altitude and **70km from Lake Titicaca**. It is a city built by the Spaniards in the 16th century, to promote trade, in a canyon dug by the river **Choqueyapu.** Strange fact, the social classes do not mix. The richest live in the bottom of the valley, while the poorest live in the heights.




La Paz and its streets

Chakaltaya ski resort

At the base of the La Paz valley, it can be very hot. But simply travel about 30 kilometers north to **the ski resort of Chacaltaya** to find coolness. The contrast is stark.





Chacaltaya Ski Resort

Tiwanaku

Tiwanaku is located **80km, west of La Paz**. An archaeological site well known for **its Kalasasaya Temple and Sun Gate**.



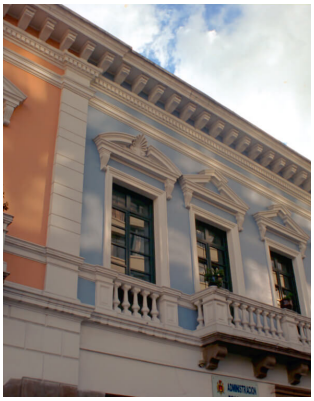




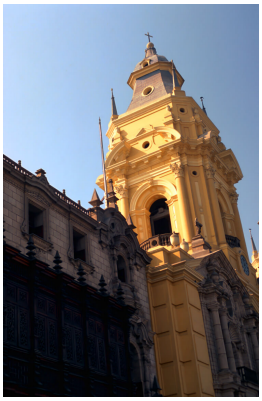

The site of Tiwanaku

Quito

This travel will end with Quito, the capital of Ecuador. It is located at**2850m** above sea level. It is the second highest capital after La Paz. Quito has one of the best preserved downtown areas in all of South America. In the small village **"La mitad del mundo"**, located **35km** north of Quito, you can visit the museum, as well as the monument indicating the equator line.







Full moon and full line of the equator