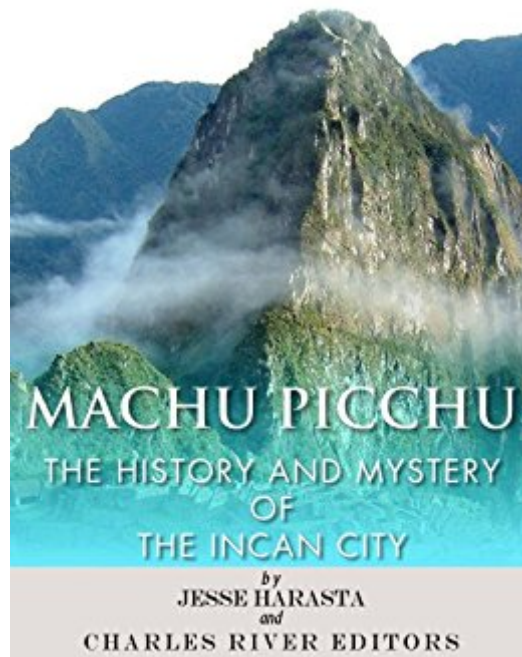




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Machu Picchu: The History And Mystery Of The Incan City



Synopsis

*Includes pictures of Machu Picchu and other important people and places. *Explains the history of the site and the theories about its purpose and abandonment. *Describes the layout of Machu Picchu, its important structures, and the theories about the buildings' uses. *Includes a Table of Contents. In 1911, American historian Hiram Bingham publicized the finding of what at the time was considered a "lost city" of the Inca. Though local inhabitants had known about it for centuries, Bingham documented and photographed the ruins of a 15th century settlement nestled along a mountain ridge above the Urubamba Valley in Peru, placed so perfectly from a defensive standpoint that it was believed the Spanish never conquered it and may have never known about it. Today, of course, Machu Picchu is one of South America's best tourist spots, and the ruins have even been voted one of the Seven New Wonders of the World. But even though Machu Picchu is now the best known of all Incan ruins, its function in Incan civilization is still not clear. Some have speculated that it was an outpost or a frontier citadel, while others believe it to be a sanctuary or a work center for women. Still others suggest that it was a ceremonial center or perhaps even the last refuge of the Incas after the Spanish conquest. One of the most theories to take hold is that Machu Picchu was the summer dwelling of the Inca's royal court, the Inca's version of Versailles. As was the case with the renaming of Mayan and Aztec ruins, the names given to various structures by archaeologists are purely imaginary and thus not very helpful; for example, the mausoleum, palace or watchtower at Machu Picchu may have been nothing of the sort. What is clear at Machu Picchu is that the urban plan and the building techniques employed followed those at other Incan settlements, particularly the capital of Cuzco. The location of plazas and the clever use of the irregularities of the land, along with the highly developed aesthetic involved in masonry work, followed the model of the Inca capital. At Machu Picchu, the typical Incan technique of meticulously assembling ashlar masonry and creating walls of blocks without a binding material is astounding. The blocks are sometimes evenly squared and sometimes are of varying shape. In the latter case, the very tight connection between the blocks of stone seems quite remarkable. Even more astounding than the precise stone cutting of the Incas is the method that they used for the transportation and movement on site of these enormous blocks. The Incas did not have the wheel, so all the work was accomplished using rollers and levers. Machu Picchu: The History and Mystery of the Incan City comprehensively covers the history of the city, as well as the speculation surrounding the purpose of Machu Picchu and the debate over the buildings. Along with pictures and a bibliography, you will learn about Machu Picchu like you never have before, in no time at all.

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Customer Reviews

Machu Picchu the lost city of the Incas, Is a informative and well written account of the building and maintaining of a city of the gods. How the building and concealment of the city is still a mystery. Was it a summer palace for the king or a holy city of the Gods, is well tucked in the pages of this book. I would recommend Machu Picchu to everyone...D

While the reading was historically interesting, it fell short in its classification of pre and post Inca masonry. Which are a dramatic contrast. The theory of an ancient culture was passed over by the omission of the massive Mason work which, by reputable scholars, claim to be claimed to BC by thousands of years. And that technology today could not duplicate such perfection. There are reputable studies that claim not just a hammer, sand and primitive methods could possibly produced such exceptional, unexplainable, perfectly fitting, massive size stone walls.

A fascinating account of the building techniques used by the ancients that still defy our own

knowledge yet today. Just reinforces the growing view that the Incas were far more advanced than we know. It's been suggested more than once that they, the Egyptians and other ancients had a higher form of mathematics than we have today and/or they had help from, you know - 'out there'.

Tiny book, very limited photos, quite disappointing. Description of the item over embellishes what the book offers of presents. The price would lead you to believe it delivers as promised, but that s book doesn't. Go someplace else for what you are trying to learn or find out about the subject.

Machu Picchu This is a good account of the building this city/shrine at the top of the world. The book shows some good photography of the works and gives a brief outline of t\its history only 58 pages seems a little short for History of this Incan City

Well written brief history. It's loaded with spectacular photography that really enhances the experience. Nice that also included is some of the present preservation issues.

Great book.

Macchu Picchu is great as described in this book, its misteries, how it was built, its engineering, the amazing work done by the Incas. So glad it was not noticed by the predators spaniors. The part of the book that really made me so mad was when it describes the way the spaniors destroys the Inca's Empire. I hate it! :((

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