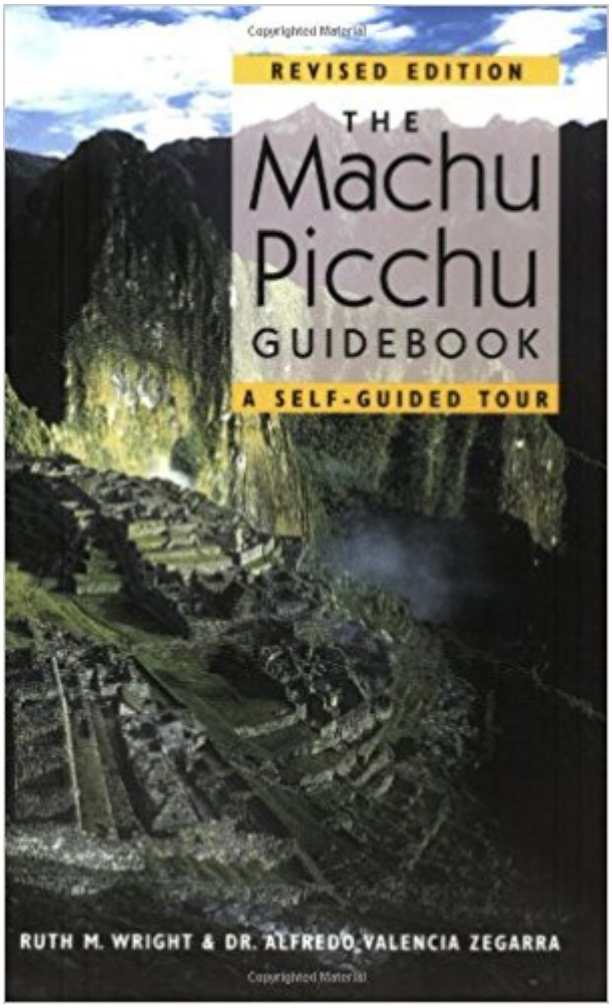
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The Machu Picchu Guidebook: A Self-Guided Tour



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Synopsis

This revised edition includes newly discovered sites. New photos and maps with full-color illustrations of real life scences from National Geographic Magazine.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Machu Picchu is one of the most stunning archaeological sites on Earth. Located in the heart of the Andes in Peru, this five-centuries-old Incan relic attracts some 300,000 tourists yearly. Yet the significance of the site itself is difficult to unravel without a lot of personal knowledge or a comprehensive guidebook. Wright, who has studied the site for 25 years and has worked at Machu Picchu since 1994, and Zegarra (anthropology and archaeology, Univ. of Cuzco) have teamed up to produce a handy book for visitors who wish to guide themselves at their own pace through the site. A bound-in, fold-out color archaeological map of Machu Picchu keyed to the book's chapters and an array of black-and-white as well as color photographs will help users find and navigate the site easily and not depend on fractured live tour guide information. After reading this book, you will want to hop on the next flight to Peru. If you are unlucky enough never to visit Machu Picchu, the guide will serve as an excellent virtual tour. Recommended for general travel collections. Olga B. Wise, Compaq Computer Corp., Austin, TX Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Promotes a satisfactory low impact visit offering an early step-by-step trail through the legendary Incan site. --Publishers Weekly, June 4, 2011Promotes a satisfactory low impact visit offering an early step-by-step trail through the legendary Incan site. --Publishers Weekly, June 4,

2011Promotes a satisfactory low impact visit offering an early step-by-step trail through the legendary Incan site. --Publishers Weekly, June 4, 2011

I’m a spaz. Anything that goes into my backpack better be dang worth the extra weight. This book 100% was. We hiked 5 days to Macchu Picchu and on the day we arrived 2 of our 5 had food poisoning. They hung outside the bathrooms and didn’t even go in while the rest of us went on our tour.At first, I was bummed because I didn’t use the book at all! The tour moved quickly and I didn’t have time to take it out; just followed along, snapping pictures and listening to the guide.Now thankfully (Ha, I know they would not agree), my friends with food poisoning missed the tour. We ended up staying in Aguas C for a 2nd day so that the next day we could take the bus back up to MP and they could see what they just spent a ton of money and 5 days hiking to see :). That’s when I got a chance to whip out this book and CRAP! It was fantastic. There was so much in here that our tour guide did not mention. Photos and descriptions; it was fantastic!Now: what I would actually recommend so that you get the best experience (heck, you prob only come here once), is get a tour guide and take his/her tour. They will show you around and also give you a chance to get familiar with the layout. They give you great information, great personal experience, etc. Plus they are pretty cheap. THEN either come up the next day, or I am sure your tour isn’t that long. Then have this book and walk around by yourself. Lay out in a grassy area, and read up. Then walk around and read while you see what is in the book. The book also has great photos so now 6 months later when I pick it up, I see the photo, I see the description and then i remember how awesome it was. I’m horribly unorganized so my photos from the trip are great, but nothing is labeled so I’ve forgotten a lot of it. The book is worth keeping after the trip to remember the details.I also always buy a Fodor’s or Lonely Planet book and then highlight or staple in menus. tickets, write notes in the pages about things we did. Such a fun way to reflect back on a trip!

This is a must-read just before a trip to Machu Picchu if you want to have some perspective on what you’re looking at and what you’re walking through. It does a great job of breaking down areas of Machu Picchu into easy to follow sections which are marked on the site map (included). I took it to a local shop to add a spiral binding (for a few dollars, well worth it). Reading it in advance helped in discussions with the group guide and since some of what he was saying wasn’t new, I had the "oh wow here it is" not the "what did he say this was" feeling, which made the whole experience more comfortable, inspiring and less rushed. We had two days there in total, that still wasn’t enough but I can always read the book again to bring it back. FYI: When we hiked up Huayna Picchu in May

2016 (take it seriously) the loop for the summit was mandatory one-way clockwise, which is different from the graphic/info in the book which recommends counter-clockwise (I assume when this was published hikers could choose for themselves).

When you hike at high altitudes, you take your backpack weight seriously. This book is well worth its 15 ounces. It takes you through the ruins with multiple maps and illustrations. It explains what we do and don't know about the functions of the buildings and terraces. The book is organized by areas. When you reach a certain section of the ruins, you can turn to that section for pictures, descriptions and suggestions on how to walk through the area.The section on water management illustrates the brilliance of the Inca engineers.The section on the climb up Huayna Picchu, is detailed and makes the climb less daunting. The description also give appropriate cautions about climbing there in slippery weather.On several pages, there are photographs of the ruins next to artist's renditions of what the buildings might have looked like when they were in use in the 1500s.

Forget the other so called "guidebooks". This one comes straight from people who have actually researched, explored and participated in archeological digs at Machu Picchu. Detailed examinations of all the different areas of this city in the clouds, with no bullcrap explanations concerning the history and uses of the buildings, patios and fountains.There is a color map in the back with suggested routes through the ruins and also a National Geographic painting of the city as it would have been at the height of the Inka Empire.If you are anticipating a visit, or would just like to learn more about Machu Picchu THIS is the guide to buy.

As many others have said, the photos are old and fuzzy, the sketches are sometimes difficult to comprehend, and the text is dense and scholarly. But until somebody creates something better, this is absolutely the best Machu Picchu guidebook you can buy. It will even help you distinguish the true stuff your guide tells you from the made up stories he thinks us gringos want to hear.

I just returned from a trip to Macchu Picchu. I managed to do the 4 day Classic Inca Trek to Macchu Picchu and carrying along this book for 4 days was well worth the efforts. There are divided sections at MP and this book tells you all about it and the best way to tour it. There are detailed maps, drawings, and pictures of the entire area along with what everything was used for and the history.There are also some additional hikes to do while you are there and I would insist that you also visit Huaynu Picchu as it is every bit as fascinating and the views of MP from the tip top are

stunning!I would recommend studying it a bit before you leave. It is impossible to read the whole book while you are there and walking around, not to mention you really want to be in the moment and not worrying about too many details. I would say read the book and use it while you are there to navigate to the important things you don't want to miss. If you are visiting MP, it is a must read!

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