

Peru and Bolivia

By Anne Lishomwa

Machu Picchu – I took the train journey up through the mountains whilst the rest of the group walked the Inca Trail. I had an early morning start to get up to Machu Picchu in time to meet the group coming through the Sun Gate, unfortunately it was very misty first thing but by about 9.30am it was picture postcard stuff and the cameras were working overtime. You definitely need a guide touring the ruins because they bring it all to life with their stories. Just incredible to think that hundreds of years ago they built a village at the top of a very high peak with various facets pointing towards the sun to cast a shadow on the right day. Wow – I made it and so pleased to see it in its glory.



Lake Titicaca – boat trip took us out to the Uros floating islands and although quite touristy it was great to actually walk onto the island and feel the movement. The local family explained how islands are built and maintained and the houses on them. To go for a ride between islands on the reed boat – wow! Then onto our motorboat for the slow ride out to Amantani Island for our homestay with a “mamma” allocated to each couple. We had been given a sheet of Quechua phrases and that helped out a bit in the welcoming. It was all sign language and smiles after that! We enjoyed the hospitality of our homestay including the huge meals. Played soccer with the locals, climbed to the top of the island to watch the sun set over Lake Titicaca. The smiling, colourfully dressed mamas are an image I will carry away with me.



Salt Pans at Uyuni – 4WD transport across this huge flat lake – white (salt) as far as the eye could see. We stopped at the Salt Hotel for a looksee – everything made out of salt, furniture included. The restaurant and bedrooms are intriguing, also the salt outdoor seating area. We arrived at Incahuasi Island which is covered in the most amazing huge cactus. We climbed to the top for stunning views over the white salt pans. We created “optical illusions” on the salt – you know the shots, standing on top of a can, holding someone in the palm of your hand! We drove up the flank of an inactive volcano on the edge of the salt and saw some mummies in a cave. The view back over the salt pan from up high was breathtaking. This is a full day excursion, driving for miles across the salt. In the setting sun we captured the most amazing shots of the hexagonal patterns on the salt.

