

Machu Picchu

Machu Picchu is a historical settlement, now largely in ruins (although 30% of the site has now been restored to its original condition for tourists). It is made of stone and is built on terraces – man-made ‘steps’ in the hillsides. It is considered to be the best example of Incan engineering and boasts a running water system stretching over one kilometre long.

Originally built as a citadel (a fortress on high ground) for an Incan Emperor, the estate in the Andes, Peru was abandoned just 100 years after it was built when the Spanish conquered the country. Machu Picchu then remained isolated and deserted, widely unknown about (apart from by local, native communities) until 1911, when it was brought to the attention of the world by a historian.

Since 1983, Machu Picchu has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

