

Photography in the Mountains of Peru, 2006



**Ron Anderson, Minnetonka Camera Club
Presentation, March 20, 2008**

Peru, Sacred Valley & Machu Picchu



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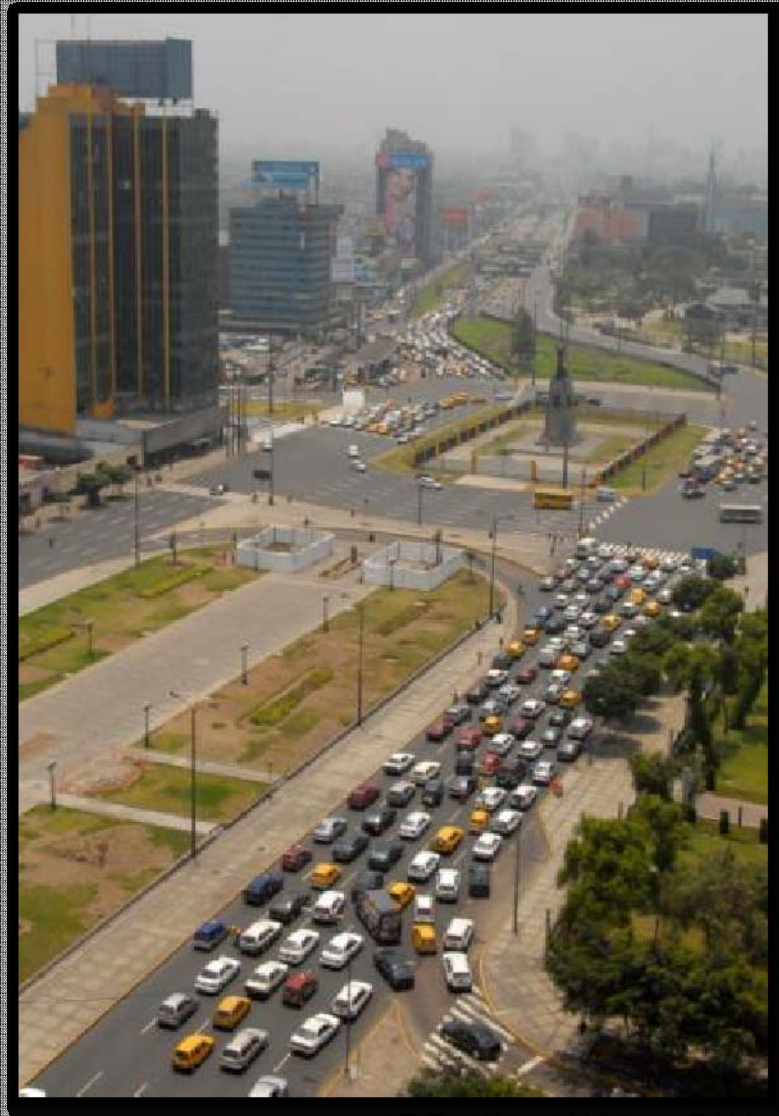
My personal, photo-related question:

Why does religious community thrive in high altitudes?

- 1. Sacred places theory (Martin Gray)?**
- 2. Religion reaches toward the heavens?**
- 3. Accident of geography?**

In that sense, the mountain trips were religious pilgrimages for me.

Lima, Peru (sea level)



ISO 450, 1/400 at F/11

Ron the photographer in Lima



Cusco, Peru (11,000 feet)

Former capitol of Inca Nation of some 13 million people in 16th century



ISO 250
1/350 at F/9
18mm

Closer Up, Cusco Main Square



ISO 250, 1/250 at F9, 120 mm

Sacred Valley

So named for rich river soil, famous for 100s of varieties of corn and beans



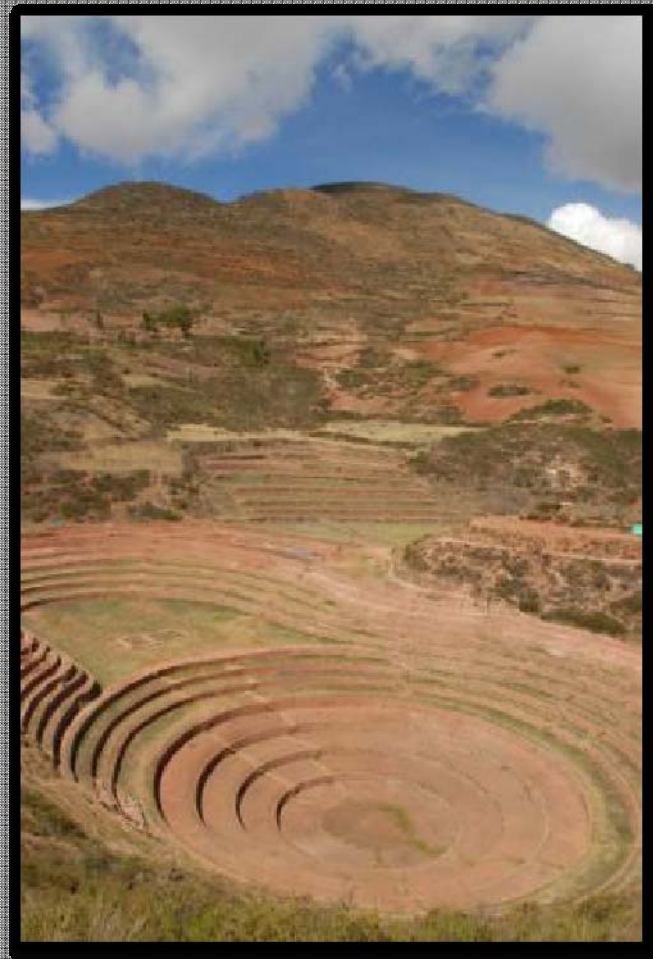
ISO 100
1/320 at F/9
18mm

Moray Agricultural Experiment Station
with complex irrigation & terraces to take
advantages of variations in humidity and



ISO 100, 1/250 at F/9, 18mm

alternate composition



Which do you like best?

Another Ag. Research Station at Moray



Note terraces are about 5 ft high.

Girl enjoying sun in Sacred Valley



Sacsayhuaman Ceremonial Grounds



I like to capture photographers in a composition to help tell a story about what a place means to people.

Machu Picchu

Hidden at the edge of the jungle at 10,000 feet



ISO 800, 1/250th at F/9

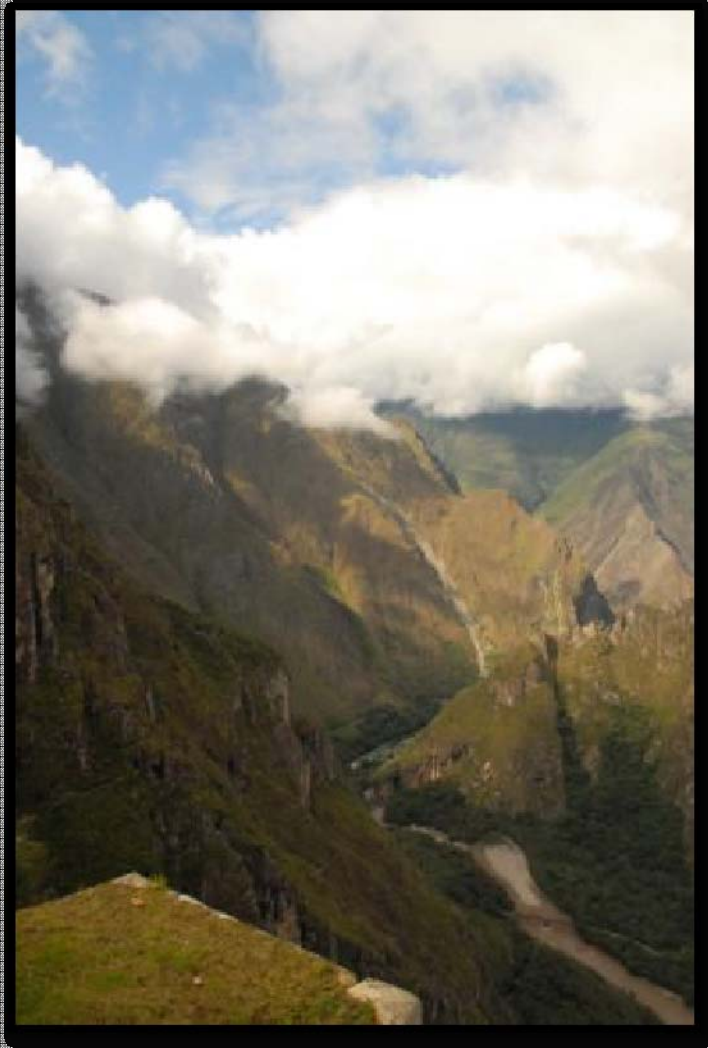
Machu Picchu

The other side of the mountain



Machu Picchu

From the mountain top looking down to the Urabumba River



Clouds or river gorge? Which composition do you like the best?

More light, still mysterious



ISO400, 1/430 at F/9

Mysterious cloud but that's all



Machu Picchu Peak



ISO200, 1/200 at F7.1



Which composition would you choose?
Long or wide?

Good Choice



Another view of the peak



And another with river



Final shot atop Machu Picchu?



Japanese Singing at Machu

Picnic



Sacred Trail

To build Machu Picchu, laborers ran with sacks of rocks on their backs for as far as 25 miles



Town hub at the base of Machu Picchu



One way to shoot a llama or alpaca



A better way



ISO250, 1/250 at F/7.1

Machu Picchu flowers & birds thrive from the jungle climate on one side of the mountain



View of Pisac Valley in Southern Sacred Valley



Which composition do you like best, long or wide?

Remains of Sacred City in Pisac

#1



Remains of Sacred City in Pisac

40



Sacred City ruins in Pisac



ISO250, 1/180 at F/8

Flute Master in Pisac, Sacred



Mother & Child in Sacred City above Pisac



ISO250, 1/250th at F/8

School Field Trip to Ollantaytambo Ruins



ISO 400, 1/20th at F/4.2

Family & Sheep in Ollantaytambo



ISO 800, 1/40 at f3.5

So, why does religious community thrive in high altitudes?

1. It is easy to feel a sense of the sacred in the presence of mountains
2. Mountains symbolize beauty
3. Mountains symbolize spirituality, in the sense of character and virtue, and being above earthly matters.
4. Mountains make us stronger



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