



With the artisans in Huilloc Alto, high above Ollantaytambo

Colorful & Layered Peru, 2019

*with Jim Petkiewicz and Janine Bajus
Arrival in Cusco on October 21st
Departure from Cusco on November 1st*

Peru! Such a vibrant and fascinating country. New flavors, new landscapes, new languages, new textures, new architecture, new animals—the rewards of traveling are the continual challenge to our entrenched assumptions! A new environment forces us to look with new eyes: We'll be on the lookout for the casual juxtaposition of unexpected colors and the motifs hidden in cobblestones, doorways, courtyards, flowers, and fabrics. A welter of colors and patterns that will inspire us long after we return home.



Jim demonstrates Moebius knitting to friends at CTTC

Peru is one of the warmest and most intelligent textile cultures in the world. (This dates back, literally, 1000s of years.) As you read the tour itinerary you will notice our emphasis on knitting. The best way we can enter into a relationship with a culture that has such a deep textile history is by showing a willingness to join in. If you are not a knitter we will happily introduce you to this art/craft, with hopes that you will give it a try! Some of our deepest interactions with people we meet is through sharing knowledge and skills with each other.

On our tour we will also explore the foods of Peru, the traditional dishes and the new and exciting food renaissance that has developed in the last decade.

Most importantly, we will be meeting the people of Peru, who are integrating their traditional culture with a modern world, working hard to keep what is important in the process.

Our travelers are lively, curious, independent folk who love to explore on their own. This is not a lock-step, hand-holding tour; rather, our careful organization is meant to stay in the background so you can breathe and feel the essence of Peru's culture and people. Our local personal relationships allow us, like chefs who find the freshest ingredients in the mercados, to create daily options for you.

If we sound like a good match for you after you've read through these pages, we'd love to welcome you to join us.



View from El Balcón



Our trusted guide and friend Melky with travelers, overlooking the Sacred Valley

Our Itinerary

(subject to change as new possibilities present themselves!)

- 21 Oct: Group arrives on various flights into Cusco. Our great friend, agronomist & guide Melky will welcome & transport you from the airport to El Balcón, our charming family-run hotel near the historic center of Cusco. Settle into your room, drink fluids, eat lightly & adjust to the new altitude. Sleep well & deeply after your long journey!
- 22 Oct: Breakfast, as always, included. The hotel offers a choice of hot dishes as well as yogurt, granola, fruits, juices, and coffee and tea. We will have group introductions and knitting lessons at El Balcón after breakfast. This will be an easy day—take deep breaths, take life slowly. Stroll to La Plaza de Armas and get a feel for the historic center of town. Welcome dinner at Chicha by Gaston Acurio—ranked #39 chef in the world and godfather of the modern Peruvian cuisine renaissance.
- 23 Oct: Breakfast. Knitting after breakfast. Then we will have a cooking class at El Balcón, including a trip to the mercado. Free evening.

24 Oct: Breakfast.
Travel to Chinchero for an all-day natural dyeing workshop with our friends at the amazing Centro de Textiles Tradicionales del Cusco/ Center for Traditional Textiles of Cusco. Lunch included.

25 Oct: Breakfast.
Depart for Ollantaytambo—we will leave the bulk of our luggage behind, bringing only what we need for the next few days.
Visit the Salinas de Maras, salt flats/ ponds dating back to pre-Columbian times.

Visit the fascinating Moray Incan archaeological site.
8-course meal at Mil by Virgilio Martínez—ranked #6 chef in the world and creator of altitude-based local dishes. This meal will leave your senses reeling!
Late afternoon arrival at our intimate and relaxing hotel, El Albergue, in Ollantaytambo. You won't be wanting dinner!

26 Oct: Breakfast.
Guided tour of the hotel's organic farm and nearby coffee & pisco companies.
Free time to explore Ollantaytambo.

27 Oct: Early morning departure for Machu Picchu with professional guide, including a bountiful buffet lunch in Aguas Calientes. You'll ride the train, then transfer to a bus to travel the switchback road up to the entrance to Machu Picchu—hike up the short trail, take a turn, and then it all comes into view. . .



Young weavers at the Center for Traditional Textiles in Chinchero



One of 8 courses at Mil, a feast for all your senses



El Albergue in Ollantaytambo



Machu Picchu—no words!



Skilled hands sharing skills in Huilloc Alto



José makes colorful shoes to order in Cusco

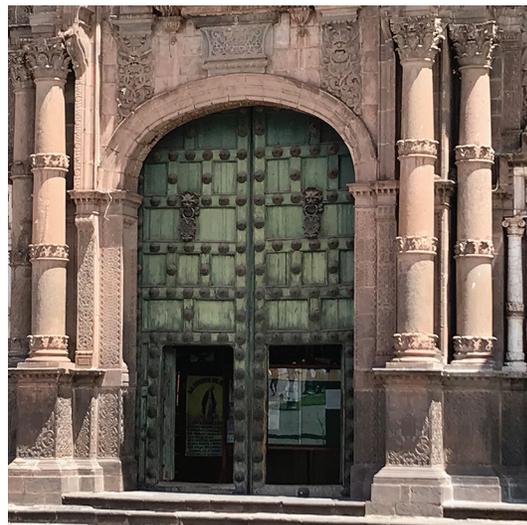
28 Oct: Breakfast.
Free day for exploration on your own. Ollantaytambo is described as a living Inca town—there's lots to see here!

29 Oct: Breakfast.
Depart for all-day workshop high in the Andes with residents of a small village, organized by Awamaki Peru. Lunch is included. Bring your cash for amazing textile purchases, while simultaneously helping the community!

30 Oct: Breakfast.
Back to Cusco, with a stop in Chinchero to view the Inca ruins and the Colonial church. Free afternoon & evening in Cusco.

31 Oct: Breakfast.
4-6 hour tour with Melky to Sacsayhuamán, the Sacred Valley, and the remarkable painted church of Andahuaylillas. Box lunch included. Tonight we'll have our farewell meal together at a local restaurant.

1 Nov: Breakfast.
Departure day for the group. Melky will take you back to the airport.



Colonial Cusco



Your trip leaders, Jim Petkiewicz and Janine Bajus

Jim is a grassroots community activist who has never been known to get cold and who has knit and gifted Felfitos and Moebius cowls all over the world. Small children and dogs fall in love with him in nano-seconds. He holds a BA in History from Georgetown University and a Masters in Latin American Studies from the University of New Mexico. After extensive time in living & working in Bolivia and Peru beginning in 1985, Jim and his wife Mags moved their young family to Oaxaca, Mexico to work with community organizations dedicated to the environment, community-based education, the protection of human rights, health and fair trade, which evolved into the founding of their non-profit, Community Links International. Their children and are now grown, and Mags & Jim are based in San Jose, CA.

Janine has been intrigued by the interplay of fiber and color since she learned to weave when she was 11. She lives in Berkeley, California surrounded by colorful yarn, spinning wheels, piles of fabric, looms, fleeces, and natural dyes. She revels in designing colorful and uniquely personal clothing. Janine has a BA and MA in Near Eastern Languages from the University of Washington (Note: quite unhelpful in Peru!!!), and has spent years working as a technical writer/editor. Now she is known as the Feral Knitter because of her fascination with modern Fair Isle knitting. Her classes on Fair Isle design have inspired hundreds of students to express themselves through color and pattern; her book—*The Joy of Color: Fair Isle Knitting Your Way*—makes her techniques available to everyone. You can learn more about Janine at www.feralknitter.com.

Cost of This Trip

The tour fee is US\$4,695/person and includes:

- ❖ 11 nights of a shared hotel room (a limited number of single rooms are available for an additional \$800). Wi-fi is available at our hotels.
- ❖ All ground travel from your arrival in Cusco, through to your departure from Cusco, including transfers to and from the airport.
- ❖ All breakfasts. Several lunches, dinners, & snacks; including our welcome and farewell dinners.
- ❖ One natural-dyeing workshop in Chinchero with our friends at the Center for Traditional Textiles of Cusco.
- ❖ A lively mercado visit/cooking class with our hosts/friends at El Balcón in Cusco.
- ❖ An 8-course tasting meal at Mil Restaurant, 3,500 meters above sea level. The owner/chef Virgilio Martínez, ranked #6 in the world, has created a magical menu of traditional foods from the Cusco region. We'll also stop at the Moray Inca archaeological site & the Maras salt flats/ponds.
- ❖ All fees for your visit to Machu Picchu with our professional guide—trains, buses, entrance fees, guide fees, and an abundant buffet lunch—are included.
- ❖ An all-day workshop with Awamaki nonprofit in an indigenous village in the mountains above Ollantaytambo, including a traditional lunch.
- ❖ A private guided drive to Sacsayhuamán, the Sacred Valley, and on to the church in Andahuaylillas, with box lunch.
- ❖ Knitting sessions with Janine Bajus, and our travel patterns.
- ❖ We do tip for hotels, drivers, guides, and group meals, etc., but it's also important that you add your own tips, please.

The tour fee does NOT include:

- ❖ Travel/airfare from your home to Cusco and homeward.
- ❖ Most dinners and several lunches.
- ❖ Incidentals such as personal phone calls/social media needs, taxi rides, snacks, personal items, souvenirs, and medical expenses.



Giant stones at Sacsahuaymán



Cusco twilight



Janine teaching her hat design

Reflections from our travelers...

The colors intensified by the high mountain air make an unforgettable kaleidoscope quilt . . . the indigenous clothes, jagged snow-capped peaks, the fields in the varied late-autumn display. Add the sounds, some familiar some not, and you have the perfect sound track to a wonderful adventure. The knitting is a perfect interface to weave our two very different cultures together.

—Kenny, California

This is not a tour. It's a knitting pilgrimage.

—Denise, California

I love how you give us a certain structure each day but so much freedom to make our own journey along the way, We have a safety net and can then go out and make our own connections with people. You are not holding our hands, and it's wonderful.—Sherri, Canada

Best trip out of the country EVER! Also first! If anyone has any concerns about travel, go with this group.

—Nancy, North Carolina

Depth of history, life focus moving through a fantastic culture with new friends. A sense of connection with each person and experience.

—Peter, Washington

As a gay person on this trip, I found it very refreshing that my orientation was a non issue.

—Gill, Australia.

You walk that fine balance of being supportive while allowing us to have our own adventures instead of being in a cocoon the whole time.

—Kat, Oregon

The highlight I'd expected was Machu Picchu but it turned out to be my experience with Matilde, an elderly vendor in Ollantaytambo. We had a really heartfelt exchange with her, and bought things from her, then noticed that she was looking at her knitting up close. Asked if she had glasses, she didn't, so I ran home to get an extra pair of readers and gave them to her. She said gracias, and I wasn't sure if it had made a big difference. We had said good-bye when suddenly there was Matilde running down the hill toward me because she wanted to give me one more gift, as a remembrance of gratitude and friendship. She had discovered what the readers did for her and wanted to express how meaningful our connection was.

—Michele, Arizona



Travel Realities

The trip can be strenuous! You don't need to be an athlete, but you must be in good health and enjoy walking at length, sometimes over uneven surfaces, while carrying a small backpack (with water, camera, snacks, etc.) at a high altitude (Cusco 11,000, Ollantaytambo 9,000, and Machu Picchu 8,000). It is your responsibility to take care of yourself and your luggage so that you can either keep up with everyone or bow out of activities as needed.

If you decide to come with us, you must:

- ❖ Get plenty of exercise before the trip begins
- ❖ Commit to drinking a lot of water at high altitudes
- ❖ Rest when you need to
- ❖ Get altitude medicine if your doctor recommends it
- ❖ Measure your group time against private time as needed



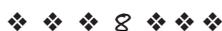
*You never know what you will see when you wander around—
this is the Collegio de San Francisco de Asis band in the Plaza de Armas, Cusco*

Do you want to join us?

Yay! Here's what to do:

- ❖ First, please contact Jim (peckos@me.com) to find out if there is still space in the group.
- ❖ Then print and complete the Registration form (page 9).
- ❖ Also print and sign the Agreement form (page 10).
- ❖ Mail both forms with a \$500 non-refundable deposit to Community Links International, 916 Wren Drive, San Jose, CA 95125.
Please make your check out to Community Links International.
- ❖ The final payment is due July 21, 2019.

We will be sending detailed information about how to prepare, what to bring, and how to get to Cusco when you sign up!



Registration for "Colorful & Layered Peru"

with Jim and Janine
21 October-November 1, 2019

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Email: _____

Home phone: _____

Cell: _____

Emergency contact: _____

Your Lodging Choice:

\$4,695 double occupancy, sharing with _____

Limited single occupancy (add \$800; we will let you know if a single is available). _____

- ❖ Participants MUST be in good health. If you have any doubts about your physical capabilities, please bring a companion who can take care of you as needed, and skip activities as needed. We cannot alter nor slow down the program for a participant who is unable to keep up with the group.

Please sign here to assure us you understand this: _____

- ❖ We cannot assist with airport transfers or accommodations that fall outside our program dates. We organize our own program as described in our itinerary, but are not a travel agency, so we cannot be responsible for coordinating your personal travel, nor arranging additional days. If your schedule will differ from our itinerary, please plan to make your own arrangements.
- ❖ We carefully craft our itinerary to develop community among our travelers, and cannot sell partial trips to family nor friends who prefer to join us later. If you wish to bring someone with you, our policy is that they must join us for the entire trip.

"Colorful & Layered Peru" Agreement

with Jim and Janine, 21 October-November 1, 2019

WAIVER: In consideration of being permitted to participate in any way in the Peru textile program of Community Links International (a registered USA 501(c)(3), TIN #51-0560531), with the collaborative participation of Janine Bajus, herein after called "The Activity", I, for myself, my heirs, personal representative or assigns, do hereby release, waive, discharge, and covenant not to sue the Directors, employees, consultants or agents, including Janine Bajus, Jim Petkiewicz, or Community Links International for liability for any and all claims including the negligence of the Directors, employees, consultants or agents resulting in personal injury, accidents, or illnesses (including death) and property loss arising from, but not limited to, participation in The Activity.

Assumption of risks: Participation in The Activity carries with it certain inherent risks that cannot be eliminated regardless of the care taken to avoid injuries. The specific risks vary from one activity to another, but the risks range from 1) minor injuries such as scratches, bruises, sprains, gastrointestinal issues, and altitude sickness, 2) major injuries such as eye injury or loss of sight, joint or back issues, heart attacks, vehicular accidents, and concussions 3) catastrophic injuries including paralysis and death.

I have read the previous paragraphs and I know, understand, and appreciate these and other risks that are inherent in The Activity. I hereby assert that my participation is voluntary and that I knowingly assume all such risks.

Indemnification and Hold Harmless: I also agree to indemnify and hold the Directors, employees, consultants and agents, including Janine Bajus, Jim Petkiewicz, and Community Links International, harmless from any and all claims, actions, suits, procedures, costs, expenses, damages and liabilities, including attorney's fees brought as a result of my involvement in The Activity and to reimburse them for any such expenses incurred.

Severability: The undersigned further expressly agrees that the foregoing waiver and assumption of risks agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as is permitted by the law of the state of California, legal residence of Community Links International, and that if any portion thereof is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall, notwithstanding, continue in full legal force and effect.

Acknowledgment of Understanding: I have read this waiver of liability, assumption of risk, and indemnity agreement, fully understand its terms, and understand that I am giving up substantial rights, including my right to sue. I acknowledge that I am signing the agreement freely and voluntarily, and intend by my signature to be a complete and unconditional release of all liability to the greatest extent allowed by law.

Signature

Print name

Date