



Visiting Huilloc Bajo

Colorful & Layered Peru, 2020

*with Jim Petkiewicz and Janine Bajus
Arrival in Cusco on November 8th
Departure from Cusco on November 19th*

Peru! Such a vibrant and fascinating country. New flavors, new landscapes, new languages, new textures, new architecture, new animals—some of the rewards of traveling are the expansions of our experiences, our relationships, our mutual circles of participation and community, and our joy in life! 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.

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



Young girl in Huilloc Bajo

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 come from 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 to choose the best daily options for the group based on weather, new discoveries, and other factors—so although we have a list of day trips and activities we hope to do, chances are some will be omitted and others added.

General Itinerary

(subject to change as new possibilities present themselves!)



Dinner at Pachapapa



Mercado

- 8 Nov: Group arrival day—we strongly recommend that you plan to come a day or two ahead, however, to account for flight delays and altitude adjustment. Jim and Janine will be on hand at El Balcón to welcome you when you come in. Settle in, relax, eat lightly, and drink lots of fluids. 5:00 Our tour starts with a welcome dinner at Pachapapa.
- 9 Nov: Breakfast, as always, included. The hotel offers a choice of hot dishes as well as yogurt, granola, fruits, juices, and coffee and tea. Guided tour of the San Pedro Market and then take a cooking class featuring such traditional Peruvian dishes as ceviche del mar and lomo saltado. Afternoon stroll to La Plaza de Armas for public knitting. Free evening.
- 10 Nov: Knitting together after breakfast. Afternoon walking trip through the historic center, including a visit to a custom-made shoe shop. Free evening.

11 Nov: 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. Traditional lunch included.



Natural dye class at CTTC

12 Nov: Depart for Ollantaytambo. Ollanta has been described as “perfect for wandering the mazy, narrow byways, past stone buildings and babbling irrigation channels, pretending you’ve stepped back in time.” Settle into El Albergue, our family-run hotel. Festive pachamanca lunch and a tour of the farm’s gardens, coffee roasting business, and distillery.



Our naturally dyed yarn drying at El Balcón

13 Nov: Early morning departure for Machu Picchu with professional guide, including a bountiful buffet lunch in Aguas Calientes. You’ll ride the train (1.5 hours), then transfer to a bus to travel the switchback road (20 minutes) up to the entrance to Machu Picchu—hike up the short trail, take a turn, and then it all comes into view. . .

Pachamanca lunch





An expert artisan in Chinchero



Machu Picchu

14 Nov: Morning knitting together if you'd like. Free day to explore Ollantaytambo and environs.

You could schedule a meal at MIL Restaurant for a fancy, 4-hour, 7-course meal built around local food traditions—a once-in-a-lifetime experience! The restaurant is about 45 minutes away and the meal costs around \$300.

Or you could book a Sacred Valley sightseeing tour! Lots of options.....

15 Nov: Depart for all-day visit to a small village high in the Andes, organized by Awamaki Peru. Local residents will demonstrate dyeing, spinning, and weaving and you'll get a chance to try your hand. Traditional lunch included.

16 Nov: Knitting in the garden together.
Free afternoon and evening for exploration.

17 Nov: Workshop today (details to come).

18 Nov: Depart for Cusco via scenic route.
Free afternoon in Cusco.
Tonight we'll have our farewell meal together at Chicha by Gaston Acurio—ranked #39 chef in the world and godfather of the modern Peruvian cuisine renaissance..

19 Nov: Departure day for the group.



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 family project, Community Links International. Their children 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. After a lifetime in Seattle she now 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. 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.

Together, we are convinced that learning about different cultures makes for a more peaceful world. Travel offers us the gift of stretching our minds, our bodies, our hearts, and our souls; and at the same time, ironically, it shrinks the world to the deeply personal—and hopefully this molds us into a more patient and loving global community. Our primary goals for our trips are to create opportunities for our travelers to meet and learn from local residents, to contribute to fair local economies, and to see the world from different perspectives.

Cost of This Trip

The tour fee is US\$4,195/person and includes:

- ❖ 11 nights of a shared hotel room (a limited number of single rooms are available for an additional \$800) at family-run hotels. Wi-fi is available at our hotels.
- ❖ All ground travel from your arrival at the hotel in Cusco, through to your departure from the hotel in Cusco.
- ❖ All breakfasts. Several lunches, dinners, & snacks; including our welcome and farewell dinners.
- ❖ All-day natural-dyeing workshop in Chinchero with our friends at the Center for Traditional Textiles of Cusco plus a traditional lunch.
- ❖ Pachamanca lunch in Ollantaytambo.
- ❖ A lively mercado visit, cooking class, and lunch in Cusco.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ 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 (see below).

The tour fee does NOT include:

- ❖ Travel/airfare from your home to Cusco and homeward.
- ❖ Several dinners and lunches.
- ❖ Incidentals such as personal phone calls/social media needs, taxi rides, snacks, personal items, souvenirs, and medical expenses.
- ❖ We suggest tipping room staff \$3/day and 10-15% for restaurants and guides.



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

A woman eyeing my knitting on the plane left with my pattern and a smile. It was a fantastic trip all around. Finishing up my Peruvian coffee this morning and heading to the store today for Pisco Sour ingredients for dinner :). Your involvement and contributions to the trip were so much appreciated. Thank you, thank you!!

—Jill, Washington



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).

You must be in good health, able to walk/trek at a normal pace to keep up with the group, and be responsible for your own luggage (Jim's back doesn't allow him to help you with your bags).

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



El Albergue in Ollantaytambo



Coffee brewing lesson at El Albergue

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).
- ❖ And make a copy of the information page of your passport.
- ❖ Mail both forms and the passport page along 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 August 8, 2020.

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
November 8-19, 2020

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Email: _____

Home phone: _____

Cell: _____

Emergency contact: _____

Your Lodging Choice:

_____ \$4,195 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 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 8-19, 2020

WAIVER: In consideration of being permitted to participate in any way in the Peru textile program of Community Links International, 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