**Machu Picchu** (in hispanicized spelling, Spanish pronunciation: [[ˈmatʃu ˈpiktʃu]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA_for_Spanish)) or **Machu Pikchu** ([Quechua](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quechua_language) *machu* old, old person, *pikchu* peak; mountain or prominence with a broad base that ends in sharp peaks,"old peak", pronunciation [[ˈmɑtʃu ˈpixtʃu]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA_for_Quechua)) is a 15th-century [Inca](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inca_Empire) citadel situated on a mountain ridge 2,430 metres (7,970 ft) [above sea level](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Above_mean_sea_level), located in the [Cusco Region](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cusco_Region), [Urubamba Province](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urubamba_Province), [Machupicchu District](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Machupicchu_District" \o "Machupicchu District) in [Peru](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peru).[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Machu_Picchu#cite_note-4) The site is located above the [Sacred Valley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sacred_Valley), which is 80 kilometres (50 mi) northwest of [Cuzco](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuzco) and through which the [Urubamba River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urubamba_River) flows.

Most [archaeologists](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archaeologists) believe that Machu Picchu was built as an estate for the Inca emperor [Pachacuti](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pachacuti" \o "Pachacuti) (1438–1472). Often mistakenly referred to as the "Lost City of the Incas" (a title more accurately applied to [Vilcabamba](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vilcabamba,_Peru" \o "Vilcabamba, Peru)), it is the most familiar icon of [Inca civilization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inca_Empire). The Incas built the estate around 1450 but abandoned it a century later at the time of the [Spanish Conquest](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_conquest_of_the_Inca_Empire). Although known locally, it was not known to the Spanish during the colonial period and remained unknown to the outside world until being brought to international attention in 1911 by the American historian [Hiram Bingham](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hiram_Bingham_III).

Machu Picchu was built in the classical Inca style, with polished [dry-stone walls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dry-stone_wall). Its three primary structures are the [*Inti Watana*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inti_Watana,_Urubamba), the *Temple of the Sun*, and the*Room of the Three Windows*. Most of the outlying buildings have been reconstructed in order to give tourists a better idea of what the structures originally looked like. By 1976, thirty percent of Machu Picchu had been restored, and restoration continues today.

Machu Picchu was declared a Peruvian Historical Sanctuary in 1981 and a [UNESCO](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UNESCO) [World Heritage Site](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Heritage_Site) in 1983. In 2007, Machu Picchu was voted one of the [New Seven Wonders of the World](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Seven_Wonders_of_the_World#Winners) in a worldwide Internet poll.