

Grade 7

Reading Travelling Itinerary

A Journey to the Magnificent Machu Picchu.

Nestled high in the Andes Mountains of Peru, Machu Picchu stands as a testament to the engineering and architectural brilliance of the ancient Inca civilization. This captivating city was built in the 15th century and remained hidden from the outside world until its discovery in 1911 by an American historian and explorer, Hiram Bingham.

Machu Picchu is often referred to as "The Lost City of the Incas." Interestingly, the locals always knew about this gem, but it remained a secret to the wider world until Bingham's expedition. Comprised of more than 150 buildings, ranging from temples and sanctuaries to homes and workshops, every stone in this city tells a story of its glorious past.

A trip to Machu Picchu often begins in the vibrant city of Cusco, the former capital of the Inca Empire. From there, travelers can embark on one of the most scenic train journeys in the world, heading towards the town of Aguas Calientes. This town is the gateway to Machu Picchu and serves as a base for tourists.

Upon reaching Aguas Calientes, there are buses that transport visitors up a winding road to the entrance of Machu Picchu. Another adventurous option is to hike the famed Inca Trail. This four-day trek offers travelers a chance to walk the same paths the Incas did, passing through cloud forests, ancient ruins, and stunning mountain vistas before reaching the grandeur of Machu Picchu itself.

The best time to visit is during sunrise when the first rays of light touch the stone buildings, bathing the city in a golden hue. Key attractions include the Room of the Three Windows, the Intihuatana stone, and the Sun Temple. Each of these sites is embedded with rich history and spiritual significance.

As you stand atop the terraced fields, with the Urubamba River winding below and the surrounding peaks touching the skies, it's impossible not to feel a deep connection to the land and the people who once lived here. The magic of Machu Picchu is not just in its structures but in its ability to transport visitors to a time long ago, offering a glimpse into a civilization that thrived in harmony with nature.

For those planning a visit, remember that Machu Picchu has a limit on daily visitors to preserve its integrity. It's advisable to book tickets well in advance and always be mindful of the environment, ensuring that this wonder remains intact for generations to come.

Multiple Choice Questions:

1. Who discovered Machu Picchu for the wider world in 1911?

- a) Cusco
- b) Inca Emperor
- c) Hiram Bingham
- d) Aguas Calientes

2. Where do most trips to Machu Picchu start?

- a) Aguas Calientes
- b) Urubamba River
- c) Cusco
- d) Inca Trail

3. How many buildings approximately make up Machu Picchu?

- a) 150
- b) 100
- c) 50
- d) 200

4. Which trail offers a trek through ancient ruins and mountain vistas leading to Machu Picchu?

- a) Cusco Path
- b) Aguas Trail
- c) Andes Walk
- d) Inca Trail

5. What river can be seen from Machu Picchu?

- a) Amazon River
- b) Cusco River
- c) Urubamba River
- d) Andes River

6. What is the best time to visit Machu Picchu to witness a golden hue?

- a) Noon
- b) Sunset
- c) Sunrise
- d) Midnight

Answers and Explanations:

1. c. Hiram Bingham

The passage mentions Hiram Bingham as the American historian and explorer who discovered Machu Picchu in 1911.

2. Answer: c) Cusco *The passage says that a trip to Machu Picchu often begins in the city of Cusco.*

3. Answer: a) 150 *The passage states that Machu Picchu comprises more than 150 buildings.*

4. Answer: d) Inca Trail *The Inca Trail is mentioned as the trek offering a journey through cloud forests, ancient ruins, and mountain vistas*

5. Answer: c) Urubamba River *The passage mentions the Urubamba River winding below Machu Picchu.*

6. Answer: c) Sunrise *The text suggests visiting Machu Picchu during sunrise to see the city bathed in a golden hue.*