

Day 12 Wed 25th

An early start at 4.30am but no one was grumbling, we were all so excited to be actually going to Machu Picchu, one of the seven wonders of the world. We had breakfast from a selection of sugar puffs, toast and fresh fruit and yoghurt and soon we were on our way to Poroy to catch the train. It was a 3 1/2 hour journey in a luxury carriage equipped with skylights to view the mountains and our own guard who served us snacks and a drink along the way. We travelled through some of the most spectacular scenery winding our way through the Sacred Valley keeping close to river we had rafted on two days earlier.



We arrived at A C ready for a quick lunch, after walking through a local market we found our restaurant and enjoyed lunch to the sounds of a live band. In some respects it was a shame to have to make the move, the band were obviously keen to play for the JoLters but Machu Picchu beckoned and we were eager to move on.. The excitement was growing! The drive up the mountain had many JoLters holding their breath, whether from the incredible vista or the steep drops on the dirt track we were not sure!

Before entering Machu Picchu, the group took a few minutes to remember Clive Ridgeon, a much loved member of the JoLt family who died 18 months ago. Clive was one of the original leaders and led, along with Dorothy Dalton and Claire Walford the first four JoLt expeditions. JoLt had meant so much to him, and also his family and we wanted to remember him as a wonderful leader, friend, rugby player, teacher and family man. We then placed a photograph of Clive, along with Dorothy and Claire at the entrance of Machu Picchu, displayed prominently behind glass at the main gate.

We then split into 4 groups and were allocated a guide, and followed slightly different routes but all were unanimous in their enjoyment of the tour and the very special place we visited. Some of the JoLters have shared their thoughts of the day...



Joseph Re
I thought Machu Picchu was indescribably beautiful. I went through the agriculture part which was like large flower bed steps and I learnt about then the history of Machu Picchu. We then walked a bit more and the view opposite Machu Picchu was picture perfect with the greenery covered mountains and the clear fblue sky and I thought no wonder this is one of the seven wonders of the world.

Lauren

Machu Picchu was amazing and although I have a fear of heights I managed to go right to the top. When I reached the top I was so relieved but also so amazed at the view that I

saw, it was just life changing. I was so proud of myself reaching the top but I am even prouder with my team mates because without their determination I wouldn't of had my determination, so thank you to my group for a life changing opportunity as not many people get to visit Machu Picchu.



Vicki

I thought it was an amazing view and I achieved so much, I'm very proud of myself for climbing it and proud of the other jolters. It's another part of the trip I won't forget. All my group was supportive and did their best. It was a hard challenge for all of us but we made it. We saw some llama that seemed nice but we still backed away when they walked towards us.

Theo

We visited one of the ancient wonders of the world Machu Picchu. It was amazing to hear lots of stories about the Inca religion and how people lived those many years ago and to also hear it was simply a work in progress! The Incas seemed very Japanese with their early forms of engineering and were perfectionists as Cusco and the trails across the mountains show. Machu Picchu along with Peru's rustic yet efficient railway systems have been the highlights for me so far, I can't wait to see the comparisons between old town La Paz and new town La Paz, maybe it's like Cambridge!



For many of the JoLters this was a very special day and it very hard to describe the beauty and magic of Machu Picchu, the memories of this day will stay with us for a long long time.