

Machu Picchu & Rapa Nui: Discovering Two Mysterious Civilizations - OCTOBER 2019

The trip story is on the web at: <https://kmfarm.us/2019-10-sa.html>

This trip was a challenge to document. I took well over 3,500 photos and after editing, I reduced it down to the 2,487 on the 13 web pages. Mary and I probably had 120 hours invested into these pages and they are far from complete. We just did and saw so many things on this trip and it was hard to put into a web page.

We went with Road Scholar which is an American not-for-profit organization that provides high end educational travel tours primarily geared to older adults. We booked this trip in mid 2018 and Ken was not looking forward to it so soon after retirement. In the end we had fun but it was intense. The daily reports are up on the web pages. Also, I have the Road Scholar daily write-up on each of the pages.

This trip had 8 flight segments with over 40 hours of flight time covering appx. 16,000 miles. Oh how we love airports and most of it was on LATAM airlines. Looking back, the flights were on-time and professional so we had no issues in flying. LATAM was very good.

As I say in the following daily write-ups. **This was not a relaxing vacation. It was an adventure.** We saw so many things we lost track of what day it was and what was next. But, I don't have any issues with this as there was no other way to see all of this in a two+ week period. I am not sure if we will do this type of trip again and we were satisfied that we covered most of what was to be seen in this part of the world.

Food - I was very concerned with this but we had no issues. We ate a large variety of foods and the quality was very good. Ken lost a few pounds on the trip but it was because of the high activity and good portion sizes.

Hotels - I probably have never stayed at so many different hotels in such a short amount of time. Sure we saw some strange things but had no issues. In most cases we were so tired at the end of the day we were just happy not to be moving.

Money - I was able to use USA money at all locations. I am sure my exchange rate I was getting was not good but it worked. I brought a bunch of \$1 and \$5 bills and used most of them. As always we travel with the Southwest Airlines VISA card and used it all over the place (No international fees). Chile was very credit card friendly and I charged under \$2 a couple of times. All locations used the chip reader. Also, I found it interesting that at restaurants they would bring the card reader to you so your card never left your sight. We need to do that in the USA.

Security - I was very concerned on this trip. I carry a gun most of the time but that is not possible here. But, except for a strange encounter with a guy who kept touching my backpack at Machu Picchu, I had no issues. In Santiago at the General Cemetery we had a couple of street criminals who were sizing us up (the group) but left after being stared down. We were concerned with the riot situation in Santiago but had no issues at all. My worries as usual were not a problem.

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Health - Except for Ken catching a very mild cold in Easter Island and Mary getting it on the way home we were fine. Our feet were tired as we walked countless steps and rocks at the various ruins. It was interesting that we were told that water was safe to drink from a biologic standpoint. Meaning no bugs in the water. But, it was high in chlorine and minerals and that may give you some issues. We brushed our teeth in the water with no issues and drank bottled water which was provided for free in most locations and by Road Scholar (Marco) on the bus. I wish I would have taken Ginkgo Biloba Supplement for altitude as I had one bad night in Cusco trying to sleep at 12,000+ feet. We used this supplement a number of years ago in Colorado and had no issues at all spending time and hiking at 14,000+ feet.

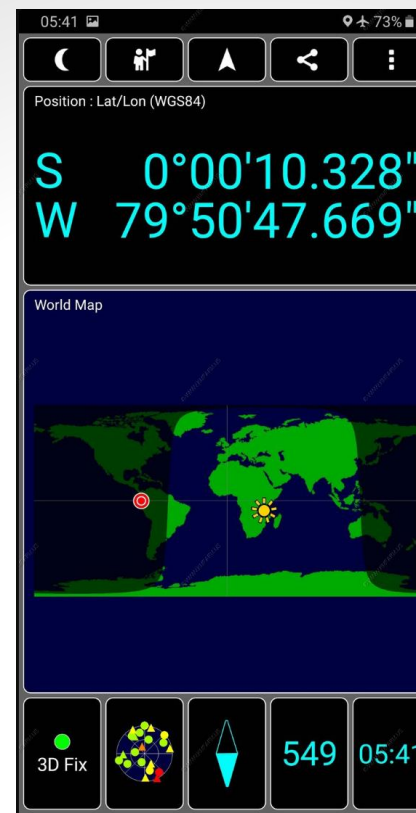
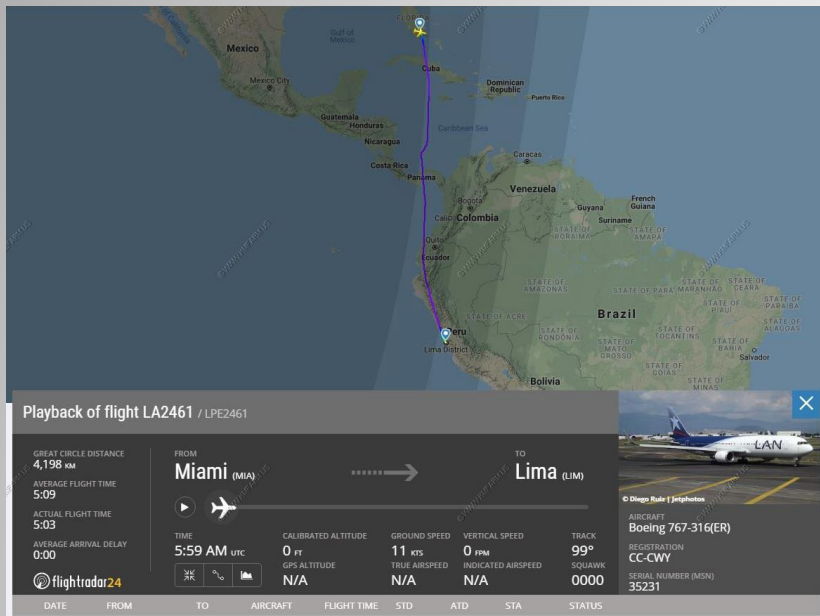
CAMERA EQUIPMENT

I have some really high end camera gear but due to the size of it and the value, I was very concerned in taking it. Looking back, I would not have had a security problem but definitely would have had issues packing & carrying it. I shot many photos with my Samsung 9 Note with a 12-megapixel camera and I shot all video with this phone. I have a 256gig microSD card in the camera for plenty of space

I picked up a **Canon PowerShot G5 X Mark II Digital Camera** w/ 1 Inch Sensor and 512gb card specifically for this trip. This \$900 camera gave me near DSLR performance in a small package. Any zoomed shots on this trip were taken with this camera. Also, to take the limited astrophotography on this trip I picked up a Camera Remote Shutter Release over bluetooth for the G5X which worked very well. The sad thing is that unless we take another trip like this I will probably not use this camera.

I kept all this charged with 3 Portable Charger Anker PowerCore 20,100mAh - Ultra High Capacity Power Banks which I would charge at the hotels. I had no issues with US / South America plugs although at some hotels they were worn out and required adjustment. I did have a bunch of international adaptor plugs but most everything now works on 120/240v

Cell coverage - I paid \$10 a day for ATT international plan. Easter Island was a problem with speed but was still able to read email & check the web. Everywhere else coverage met or exceeded USA networks. Got the bill already and no surprises as I am always worried about that.



We left Miami at 2 am and arrived in **Lima, Peru** at 6 am. During the night I was trying to capture the moment we crossed the equator. I was close. Appx. 975 feet south of it. We were flying 75 miles west of Quito, Ecuador. Not bad considering at 549 mph we are traveling at 805.2 feet per second.



Lima, Peru with a population 12 million is one of the cloudiest large city's in the world. Looking at Museo de Sitio del Cerro San Cristobal on the mountain



One of our first stops was to the **Larco Museum**, which was one of the first museums in the world to open its storerooms to the general public. It showcases chronological galleries that provide a thorough overview of 5,000 years of Peruvian pre-Columbian history.



We explored the Basilica and Convent of Santo Domingo. The statues never showed the feet and many critters were in the paintings.



Cool that the mouse or rat was included in the painting.

Cusco, Peru The capital of the Incan Empire, before they were driven out into Machu Picchu and beyond to Vilcabamba. Taken over and rebuilt by the conquistadors. Beautiful and interesting. Impressive Inca ruins in the surrounding hills. In 2017, the city had a population of 428,450. Located on the eastern end of the Knot of Cuzco, its elevation is around 11,200 ft.

A major earthquake on 21 May 1950 caused the destruction of more than one third of the city's structures. The Dominican Priory and Church of Santo Domingo, which were built on top of the impressive Qurikancha (Temple of the Sun), were among the affected colonial era buildings. Inca architecture withstood the earthquake. Many of the old Inca walls were at first thought to have been lost after the earthquake, but the granite retaining walls of the Qurikancha were exposed, as well as those of other ancient structures throughout the city. Restoration work at the Santo Domingo complex exposed the Inca masonry formerly obscured by the superstructure without compromising the integrity of the colonial heritage. Many of the buildings damaged in 1950 had been impacted by an earthquake only nine years previously

We would spend a couple of days here.

Plaza de Armas del Cuzco in front of the Cathedral of Cusco built in 1560



Compania de Jesus (Jesuit) Church in Cusco from the Plaza de Armas del Cuzco Built in 1576



At night the stone looks wet but its because its polished from people walking on it for the last 500 years.

Even though we are at 12,000 feet the evenings were pleasant and we were impressed at how many people were out. Every night various schools would perform in front of the church.

Plaza de Armas del Cuzco in front of the Cathedral of Cusco built in 1560

Peru has over 4,000 varieties of potatoes and 55 types of corn. Many of the potatoes did not look like potatoes



2019-10-23

Saqsaywaman: Lying on the northern outskirts of the city of Cusco in Peru, lies the walled complex of Saksaywaman. The site is famous for its remarkable large dry stone walls with boulders carefully cut to fit together tightly without mortar. The stones used in the construction of the terraces at Saksaywaman, which weigh up to 200 tons, are among the largest used in any building in prehispanic America, and display a precision of fitting that is unmatched in the Americas. The stones are so closely spaced that a single piece of paper will not fit between many of the stones. This precision, combined with the rounded corners of the blocks, the variety of their interlocking shapes, and the way the walls lean inward have puzzled scientists for decades. The method used to match precisely the shape of a stone with the adjacent stones has been the focus of much speculation and debate. Various theories put forward include: stone softening using a mysterious liquid derived from a plant, mineral disaggregation from the heat generated from large sun mirrors, and even extra-terrestrial intervention.



Saqsaywaman Amazing large boulders in the structure.



I was amazed at all athletic fields up here at 12,400 feet.



Urambamba River valley. We would spend the next three days along this river which is a tributary of the Amazon River.

Dropping down into the Sacred Valley on the switchbacks above Pisac.



Walking along the Urubamba River in Yucay, Peru (El. 9,380) This is a tributary of the Amazon. We would follow this river while on the train to Machu Picchu pueblo. The bad thing about this trip was we have very little free time. I could have spent many hours walking along this river.



I need to see if the moon looks different. Southern vs. Northern hemisphere. It does. Now I am really confused. This would happen again on Easter Island.





Corn growing behind adobe walls with a roof of tile to reduce erosion. You can see a 17,000+ foot snow capped mountain up in the valley above the house.



The Pisac ruins are among Peru's most intact ancient sites, and a perfect example of ingenious Inca architecture. They are built on a side of a mountain at the 10,000 ft. level that towers over the small town of Pisac; the views of the countryside and the ruins are spectacular. Built around 1440.

Pisac Market - Very old bumpy streets with ankle breaking river rocks to keep you alert



Another motorcycle converted to a truck and this one is a dual axel



SAD -- Guinea Pig waiting for its turn in the oven



Guinea Pig statue indicating that they cook and serve them here



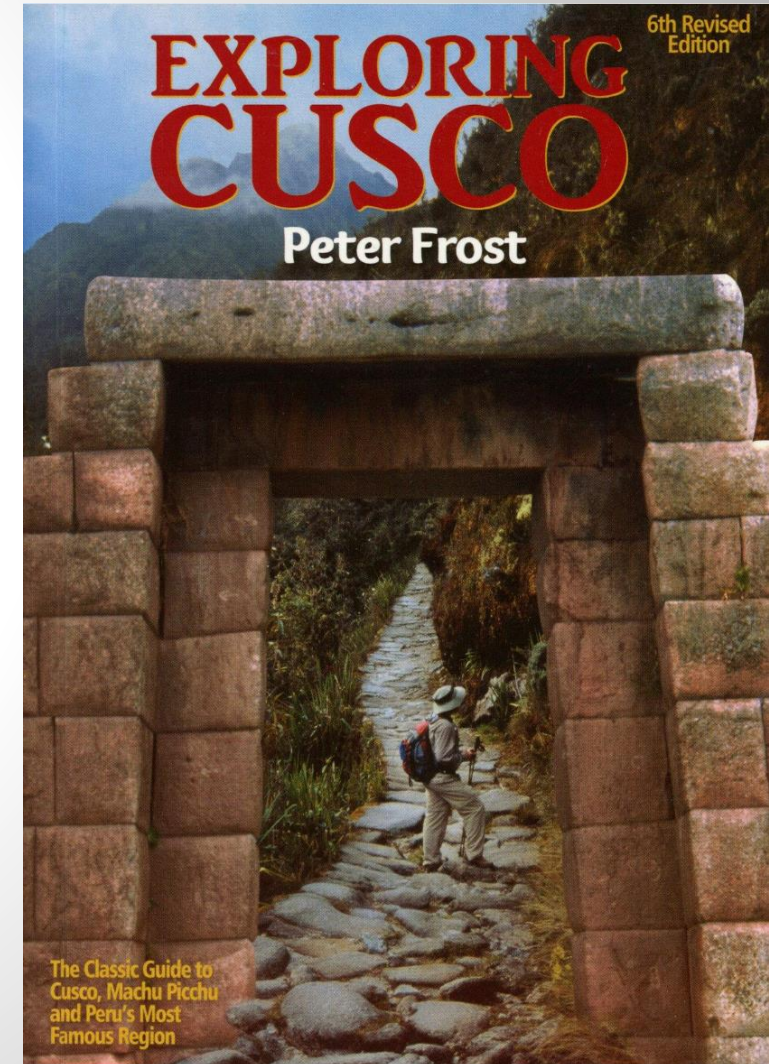
Piggy on a stick on our drive from Pisac to Ollantaytambo.

Ollantaytambo area

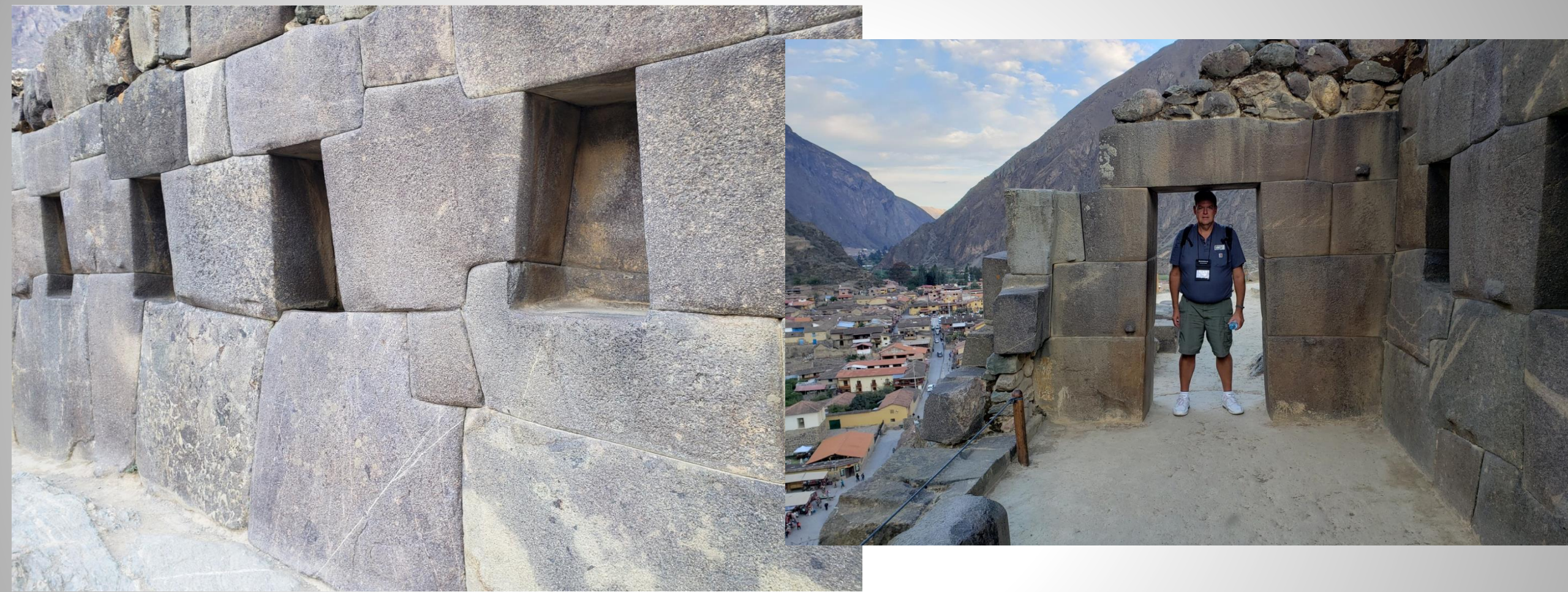
Ollantaytambo (Quechua: Ullantaytampu) is a town and an Inca archaeological site in southern Peru some 45 miles by road northwest of the city of Cusco. It is located at an altitude of 2,792 m (9,160 ft) above sea level in the district of Ollantaytambo, province of Urubamba, Cusco region. During the Inca Empire, Ollantaytambo was the royal estate of Emperor Pachacuti, who conquered the region, and built the town and a ceremonial center. At the time of the Spanish conquest of Peru, it served as a stronghold for Manco Inca Yupanqui, leader of the Inca resistance. Ollantaytambo dates from the late 15th century and has some of the oldest continuously occupied dwellings in South America.

At this point I really wish I had the time to pre-read Peter Frost's book Exploring Cusco as I would have understood some of the areas much better. Some research suggests that the rock structures were here long before the Inca and who built these amazing walls is still being debated.

Sun setting on the Nevado Bonanta
Range from Ollantaytambo 17,388 feet

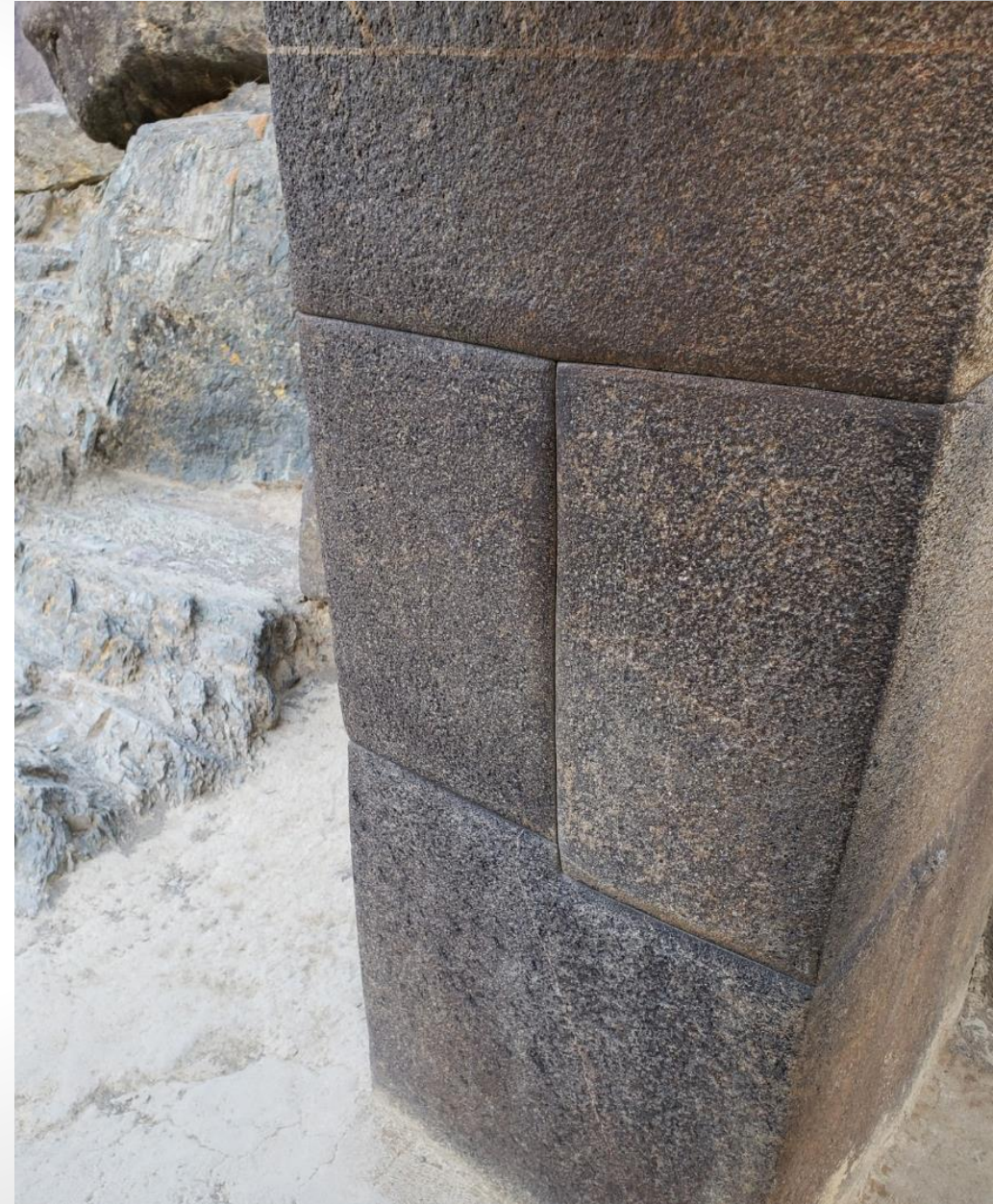


We got to this site an hour before it closed. Seeing the Temple of the Sun was Ken's #1 reason to go on this trip. We had wished for more time but the good thing about arriving at sunset is the lack of people. **Inca temple complex of Ollantaytambo**



In Peter Frost's book it's pointed out that at most of these sites you see three distinct construction techniques. The highly precise stone work, a much less precise and a very sloppy stone work. Above my head you see the best and worse. Some believe that the best stone work pre-dates the Incas by many thousands of years and who built it is unknown.

Stonework in the doorway - The seams are exceptional. Understand that this area gets 7+ mag earthquakes.



Again, Ken's #1 goal of this trip - **Wall of the Six Monoliths** - Without doubt, Ollantaytambo's Wall of the Six Monoliths is one of the most iconic and baffling pieces of Inca (or pre) architecture yet to be discovered. Standing approximately 36 feet wide and 14 feet high, the wall is one of the great mysteries of the Andes. It consists of 6 massive andesite monoliths, which are curiously divided by small strips, which seem to serve little purpose other than to add a modern riveted steel effect to this ancient wall. The rocks are all masterfully crafted to leave not even a paper-thin crack between them. Archaeologists can only guess that its purpose was to face the winter sun, while scientists have only been able to add to the mystery by demonstrating that the stones were dragged 4km from the quarry of Chachiqata on the other side of the 1000ft deep valley and across the Rio Vilcanota. Weighing between 50 and 100 tons a piece, the effort verges on impossible, whilst the reasoning appears to be little more than to dumbfound all that gaze upon them.



Some engineers believe that the small areas in between are to protect it from weather & earthquakes.

Wall of the Six Monoliths – The base may be to protect it from earthquakes. I was scared to touch it.





Wall of the Six Monoliths –
Showing the thickness of the
100 ton stones



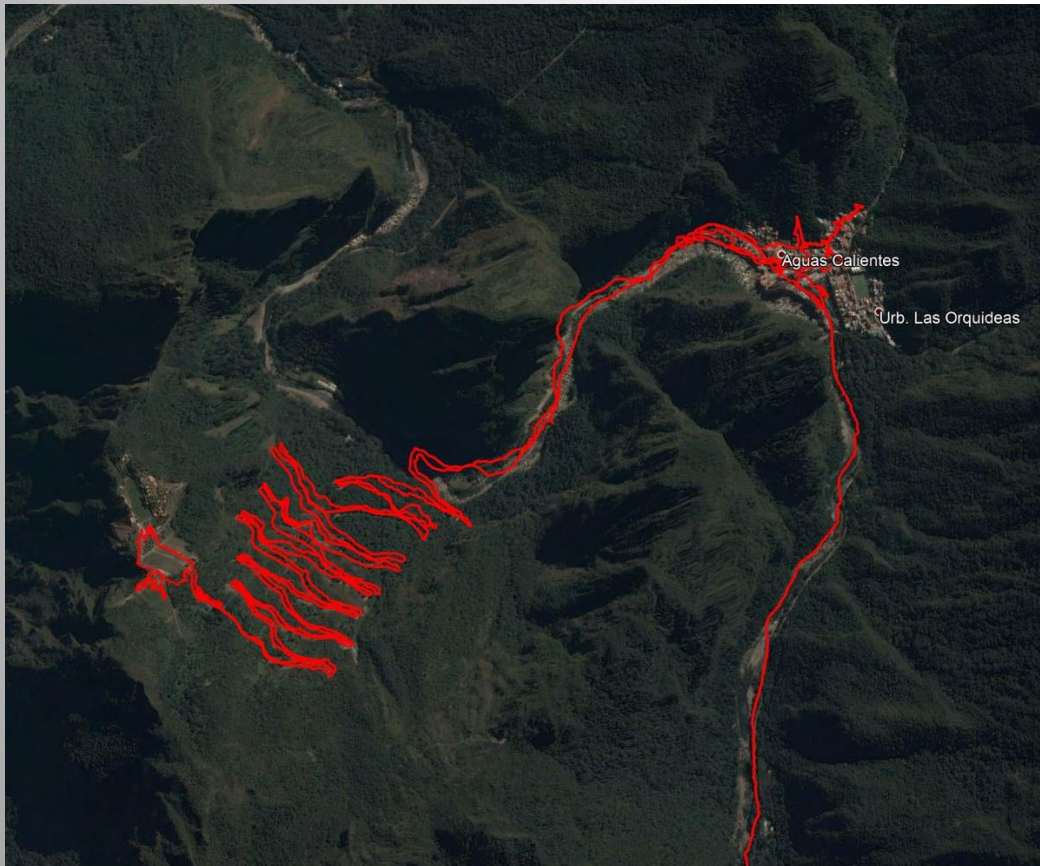
Amazing stonework



Back down to valley level. The
rock face across the valley is
where the Ollantaytambo's
stones came from.

Only 2 ways to get to **Machu Picchu**. Walk or take the train to Machu Picchu (Aguas Calientes) then take the bus. We took the bus. The GPS track shows the switchbacks that we had to go on to get up to Machu Picchu.

Machu Picchu was built around 1450, at the height of the Inca Empire. Its construction appears to date to the period of the two great Incas, Pachacutec Inca Yupanqui (1438-71) and Tupac Inca Yupanqui (1472-93). It was abandoned just over 100 years later, in 1572, as a belated result of the Spanish Conquest. Machu Picchu is situated above a bow of the Urubamba River, which surrounds the site on three sides, with cliffs dropping vertically for 1,480 ft to the river at their base. The area is subject to morning mists rising from the river. The location of the city was a military secret, and its deep precipices and steep mountains provided excellent natural defenses. The Inca Bridge, an Inca grass rope bridge, across the Urubamba River, provided a secret entrance for the Inca army. The city sits in a saddle between the two mountains Machu Picchu and Huayna Picchu, with a commanding view down two valleys and a nearly impassable mountain at its back. It has a water supply from springs that cannot be blocked easily, and enough land to grow food for about four times as many people as ever lived there. To say Machu Picchu was an impregnable fortress in addition to a sanctuary is to overstate the obvious.



Various views of **Machu Picchu**. The weather was in the low 80's a occasional brief shower

They allow up to 5,000 people a day but it was not crowded at all.



The **Temple of the Sun** is one of the most important structures at Machu Picchu. Only priests and higher nobles were permitted to enter, with no commoners allowed inside. The temple's structure mixes man-made and natural features.



Water was running here and its amazing that they set this up over 500 years ago.



We went over a high mountain pass close to 15,000 feet. I have been over 14,200 feet in Colorado a number of times but it was interesting to go up that number. Sleeping in Cusco for a number of nights was interesting as my body was not acclimated to 12,000 feet. I kept getting up during the night and had to catch my breath. The 2nd night was much better.

Various views of Nevado Chicon (El. 18,140), Sirihuani (El. 17,582), and Sahuasiray which is one of the highest mountains in the Urubamba mountain range in the Andes of Peru, about (19,088 ft) high.





2019-10-23

Guinea pig time I did not try it. We went to a late lunch at the **Weaving Cooperative**, enjoy a lunch of traditional foods as Road Scholar tries to expose the travelers to the culture in the region you travel.

Tired old Llama along the road at 15,000 feet.



The **San Pedro Market in Cusco, Peru** (Mercado Central de San Pedro) is a huge food market, open seven days a week. The building itself is one block long and three blocks wide. Vendors are packed into every bit of space inside. Outside, indigenous women and children sell foods and herbs they lay out on blankets, including guinea pigs on a stick. They have many varieties of potatoes.

Our guides stopped at a fruit stand and we sampled local fruits, like lucuma. Lucuma (loo-coo-ma) , is a delicately-flavored fruit native to the cool highlands of the coastal valleys of Peru and parts of Chile. In Peru, the sunshine like color of its flesh is also referred as "lucuma". It is used to make ice cream, and desserts, which we enjoyed. Markets around the world have beautiful produce and assortments of vegetables, but I've never been to a market that sells such a wide variety of items.



Coca products (Cocaine) for sale.



Guinea pigs ready to cook.

Qoricancha Palace - which was the most important temple in the Inca Empire, built in the mid 15th century. Dedicated to Inti, the Sun God, the walls and floors were once covered in sheets of solid gold. Now it is a bizarre combination of Inca and colonial architecture, topped with a roof of glass and metal. In Inca times, Qoricancha (Quechua for 'Golden Courtyard') was literally covered with gold. The temple walls were lined with some 700 solid-gold sheets, each weighing about 2kg. There were life-sized gold and silver replicas of corn, which were ceremonially 'planted' in agricultural rituals. Also reported were solid-gold treasures, such as altars, llamas and babies, as well as a replica of the sun. But within months of the arrival of the first conquistadors, this incredible wealth had all been looted and melted down.



Very interesting portal of some sort. The Spanish ripped the gold out of it but considering the precision of parts of it and the roughness of other parts it does make you wonder what its purpose was.



One last visit to the Plaza de Armas del Cuzco in front of the Cathedral of Cusco built in 1560. and polished by millions of footsteps. Another amazing evening at 12,000 feet.

A local school giving a dance for the public.

We now have flown to Santiago Chile

The Cathedral of Santiago - Santiago Metropolitan Cathedral (Spanish: Catedral Metropolitana de Santiago) is the seat of the Archbishop of Santiago de Chile, currently Celestino Aós Braco, and the center of the archdiocese of Santiago de Chile. Construction of the neoclassical cathedral began in 1753 and ended in 1799.



Funny rules here.
Good that we can
take photos. Bad that
I can't bring in ice
cream cones. I guess
bowls are ok ?





Santiago - also known as Santiago de Chile, is the capital and largest city of Chile and one of the largest cities in the Americas. It is located in the country's central valley and is the center of the Santiago Metropolitan Region, which has a population of 7 million, representing 40% of Chile's total population

Some very high mountains of the Andes are just east of Santiago. It's difficult to know what peaks we are looking at but some go well over 20,000 feet and are active volcanoes.



Day and night views from our hotel. The mountains are over 20,000 feet high.

We were here during the massive riots of 2019 and martial law was in place after 6pm so very little activity on the streets.



Location using Google Sky app.



Southern Cross - We were on the 16th floor. The hotel was 18 floors so I went up to 18 to see if we had any better views. I was amazed to discover the entire floor was open and dark. (added lines as its hard to see in this presentation) We tried to see the cross in Peru but the mountains were too high and blocked our view to the south.



Santiago to Easter Island, Moai of Rapa Nui

It's a 2,300 mile run across water from the coast of Chile to Easter Island. As a comparison its appx. 2,400 miles from the coast of California near LA to the big island Hawaii.



Located roughly 1,300 miles from Pitcairn Island and 2,340 miles from Santiago, Chile, the government that administers it, Easter Island is one of the most-isolated place on the planet
Flying west, the coast of Antarctica is only 3,200 miles away



We are now on Easter Island

The **Tahai Ceremonial Complex** is an archaeological site on Rapa Nui (Easter Island) in Chilean Polynesia. Restored in 1974 by the late Dr. William Mulloy, an American archaeologist, Tahai comprises three principal ahu from north to south: Ko Te Riku (with restored eyes), Tahai, and Vai Ure. Visible in the distance from Tahai are two restored ahu at Hanga Kio'e, projects that Mulloy undertook in 1972. Like other Mulloy restoration projects at Ahu Akivi, the ceremonial village of Orongo and Vinapu, the ceremonial center at Tahai now constitutes an integral part of the Rapa Nui National Park, designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage site.

It was cool as we could walk to this site from our hotel.



Ahu Ko Te Riku is the only moai on Easter Island that has had its eyes restored to how they probably originally appeared. The eyes are obsidian.

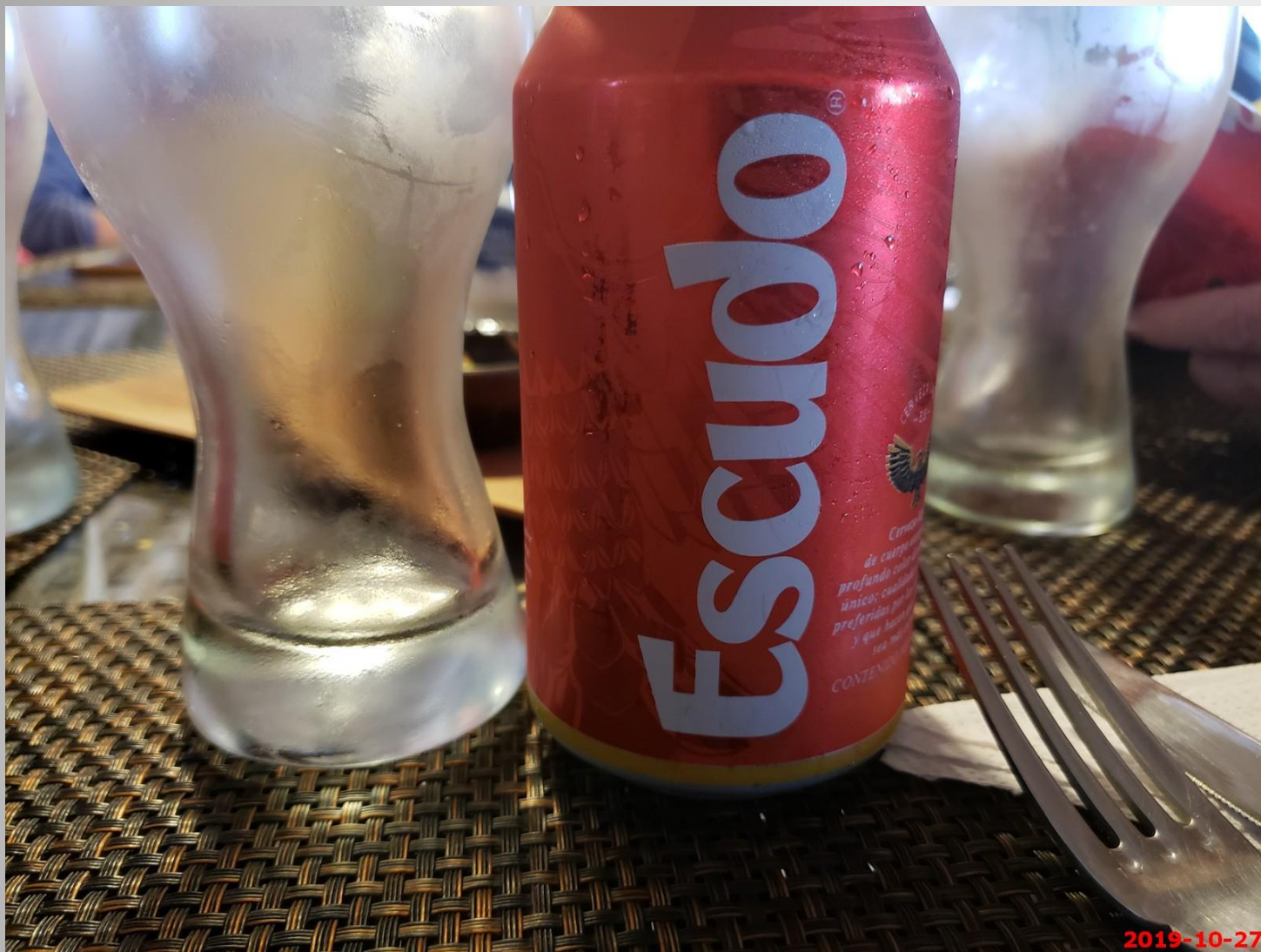
On the north side of Ahu Tahai is Ahu Ko Te Riku, with a topknotted and eyeballed moai. The topknot looks like a large red hat but it is actually supposed to represent hair piled on the head.

The topknots were added to the moai later.

All of the moai topknots come from Puna Pau. This is because Puna Pau is the red stone quarry of red volcanic scoria which has the most intense red color, giving a more intense visual appearance once on top of the moai.

The Rapu Nui likely choose the scoria because it is soft and easy to carve; its intense red color symbolic of spiritual strength.





2019-10-27

Had some of the Chile beer and it was very good.
Then again we were hungry and thirsty.

Large friendly roaches here



2019-10-28

Vinapu - area with Ahu Tahira, most perfect ahu rock wall of Rapa Nui - This wall is by far the most perfectly fit rock wall of on the island. The flawless fittings of Ahu Tahira are made with a different engineering style than virtually all other ahus: the stone blocks were constructed and polished for a perfect fit, as opposed to randomly trying to fit naturally shaped rocks. The back wall is still in perfect condition, except for the center portion that got in the way for American archaeologist William Thompson's destructive curiosity in 1886.

Indicated possible contact with Inca Empire - The high level of rock wall carving that Ahu Tahira shows doesn't really belong in Rapa Nui as well as the rest of Polynesia. This makes many draw conclusions on contact with a different civilization. The most probable option would be the Inca Empire, which co-existed with Rapa Nui high culture (16th century), and the Incas are well-known for being the masters of rock wall building.



Puna Pau is the quarry where the red stone for the pukao, or topknot, for the moai statues comes from. This is an example of the topknot.

In the later period of moai statue carving, a final decoration was built for the statues - a huge red block of stone on the head of the moais. This red stone is called pukao and represents the hair of the person the statue represents. The mana - a magical power - was preserved in the hair, so more hair would potentially mean more mana.

No trees remained on the island after the 1600's

A series of devastating events killed almost the entire population of Easter Island. Easter Island's society so destroyed their environment that, by around 1600, their society fell into a downward spiral of warfare, cannibalism, and population decline.

DNA sequence analysis of Easter Island's current inhabitants indicates that the 36 people living on Rapa Nui who survived the devastating internecine wars, slave raids and epidemics of the 19th century and had any offspring, were Polynesian. Furthermore, examination of skeletons offers evidence of only Polynesian origins for Rapa Nui living on the island after 1680.



Rano Raraku Quarry - This had been a primary quarry for the construction of the large statues, moai, which are found along Easter Island's coast. A large number of moai in various stages of carving are at the quarry today. Erosion may have re-buried the statues but its debatable what really happened.



Rano Raraku Quarry -
These were all over the
place. I am sure they
would not have missed
one.



This is the largest moai called "El Gigante," located in the Rano Raraku Quarry, which would have stood some 72 feet tall. El Gigante weighs in at an astonishing 160-182 metric tons, more than the weight of two full 737 airplanes. However, El Gigante was ambitious even for the master movers of Easter Island. Experts believe that had they finished this Moai (there is some question as to whether they ever intended to), it is unlikely the islanders would have been able to move it.



People for scale



Ahu Tongariki - 15 Stone Statues - Ahu Tongariki is the largest ahu on Easter Island. Its moais were toppled during the island's civil wars, and in the twentieth century the ahu was swept inland by a tsunami. It has since been restored and has fifteen moai, including one that weighs eighty-six tons, the heaviest ever erected on the island. Ahu Tongariki is one kilometer from the quarry at Rano Raraku and Poike in the Hotu-iti area of Rapa Nui National Park. All the moai here face sunset during the summer solstice.



Various views of Ahu Tongariki.





One of the top stones from the Puna Pau quarry where the red stone for the pukao, or topknot.

The quarry is over 10 miles away on varied terrain so they somehow moved it.

Then lifted it up on the moai somehow.

2019-10-28

A distant view of **Ahu Tongariki** - Remote area featuring 15 of Easter Island's legendary moai & picturesque sunrise views. This is a hard place to take photos as it's so big.



You would see the Moai's all over the island



Made you wonder if this was why they were ½ buried in the ground?



Rano Kau is a 1,063 ft tall dormant volcano that forms the southwestern headland of Easter Island, a Chilean island in the Pacific Ocean. It was formed of basaltic lava flows in the Pleistocene with its youngest rocks dated at between 150,000 and 210,000 years ago.

Rano Kau has a crater lake which is one of the island's only three natural bodies of fresh water. The lake is located approximately 330 ft above sea level.

The crater is almost a mile across and has its own micro climate. Sheltered from the winds that wet most of the rest of the island, figs and vines flourish at Rano Kau. The inner slope was the site of the last toromiro tree in the wild until the specimen was chopped down for firewood in 1960.



Sophora toromiro, commonly known as **toromiro**, is a species of flowering tree in the legume family, Fabaceae, that is endemic to Easter Island. Heavy deforestation had eliminated most of the island's forests by the first half of the 17th century, and **the once common toromiro became rare and ultimately extinct in the wild in the 1960s**



Orongo - Ancient ceremonial village located on the western top of the Rano Kau volcano. We saw lots of horses walking around the island.

1000 feet down
to the ocean from
the rim of the
volcano.



Local beer - very good



2019-10-29



2019-10-29

We ate at Oheho Surf Cafe which was very good. The big chunk of butter looking material with chives on it was Mayonnaise. You got it with everything here. Yuck !

Last sunset on Easter Island. North East coast of New Zealand is only 4,300 miles away.



Back to looking at the moon. Yes, it looks different but I am still not sure.



Security here was a JOKE. They x-rayed your checked bags then you came back past people that had not x-rayed yet. So, it would be easy to walk or hand something across the line.

I had purchased two meteorites in Peru and security found them in my luggage. I almost lost them as they are very concerned with people removing artifacts.



Walking to the Boeing 787 Dreamliner

During our journey, we went to two neighboring but quite different coastal cities, **Valparaiso and Vina del Mar, Chile**. Valparaiso, our first stop, is the second largest city in Chile and it enjoys a spectacular location between the mountains and the sea. This historic port and university town is famous for its more than 50 small hills connected by an ingenious network of twisting streets, stairways, cable car lines, flower filled balconies, and lookout platforms, all over a unique cityscape with spectacular views of the bay from which the city takes its name.

In 1906 this area was hit with a magnitude 8.4 earthquake which lasted over 4 minutes. Most of the area was destroyed and over 4,000 were killed. This area is know for very strong earthquakes as they have occurred on 1647, 1730 and 1822. We were told that they are over due.



Chinese made SUV - the joke was it's the last car you will ever have as nobody will buy it from you. - Great Wall Motors Haval M6.



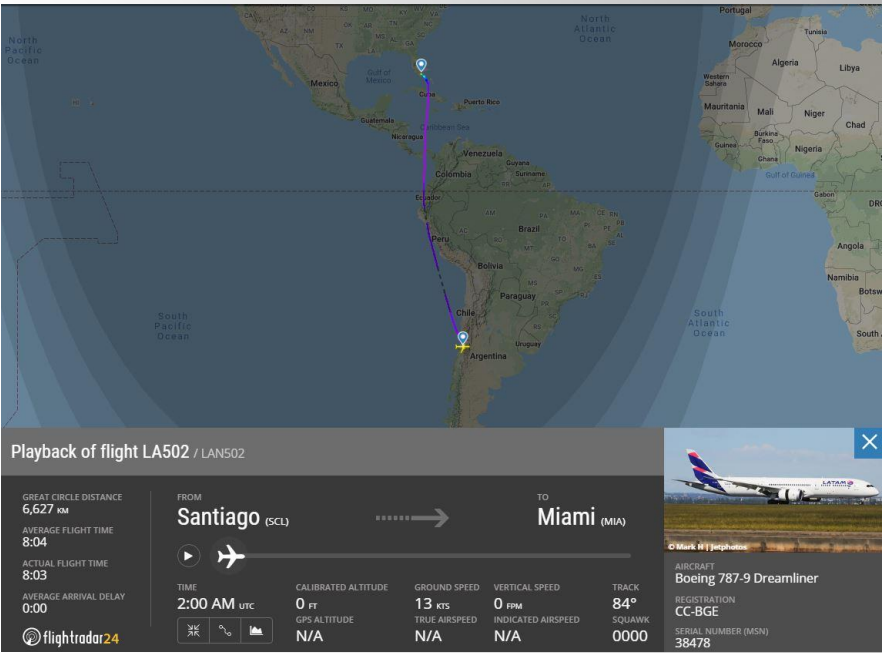
Ascensor Reina Victoria (Valparaíso) - funicular railway - Built in 1903 - Named after the queen of England who died in 1901. These inclines were all over the city.



Driving along Autopista del Pacifico Santiago-Valparaíso (Ruta CH-68) – This area looks like California. We are appx. 2,300 miles south of the equator which is equivalent to being in Wilmington, North Carolina.



2019-10-31



Flight back: LATAM LA-502 - Made it through the Intertropical Convergence Zone and lived.

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