



A GUIDE TO BEST PRACTICES FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOURISM

InkaNatura Travel invites to read the following information:

Visiting an archaeological site can be a very rewarding and educating experience. This visit will increase your awareness of the site, the culture that built and occupied the site, the local environment, the local communities, and the practices and traditions of the area they are visiting.

SITE AWARENESS

- Before you visit a site or a region try to get a basic understanding of the region's cultural and material history. There are many guides that deal specifically with the archaeology of a region and publications that incorporate both the material and social aspects of a region into their narrative;
- Ask questions of the tour operator before leaving so that you are aware of the physical demands of the tour;
- Ask your tour guide questions while on the tour about how you should behave (if you have a doubt) and also about the site's guidelines;
- Follow all guidelines prescribed by the tour operators and the site managers. This includes keeping to the marked paths and obeying all signage.

MINIMIZE IMPACT

- Never climb, sit, or stand on archaeological structures or remains;
- Never remove anything from an archaeological site. If you pick something up from the surface, return it to the same spot before you move on. It is best not to pick anything up. Also remember that removing objects from archaeological sites is illegal;
- Do not enter an area where archaeological excavations are taking place or where archaeological excavations have left exposed features;
- Respect all signage and fences;
- Don't leave anything on the site—carry all your belongings and trash away;
- Do not take off-road vehicles, mountain bikes, or other equipment through archaeological sites;
- Report vandalism at sites—you may be the only one that sees it.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- Support local craftspeople and businesses;
- Participate in local events that are designed to enrich and supplement your site visit.
- This could include re-enactments, special shows, and other cultural activities.

The "DOs and DON'Ts" noted above are part of not a comprehensive listing. Generally, it is important to keep in mind the three principles that were listed at the beginning of this document:

- Sites are fragile and non-renewable. Destruction of a site results in the loss of physical materials and all information that can be obtained from that site.
- Sites are part of a larger context that includes both the environment and local communities. Respect both.
- Removal of any cultural materials is illegal and unethical.

DON'T PURCHASE ARTIFACTS!

It is illegal to purchase artifacts and visitors should not buy "authentic" objects offered for sale. If these objects are indeed authentic they were most likely to have been acquired by looting sites. Purchasing a looted artifact does not help a local individual or community. Purchasing looted objects perpetuates looting and the destruction of sites. Buying replicas and locally produced objects supports the local economy.

For more information about the different archaeological sites that InkaNatura Travel promotes in the North, the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu or our rainforest programs and lodges in Tambopata National Reserve or Manu National Park, please visit our web site:

www.inkanatura.com