

Knitting Trips to Peru with Cat, Jim, and Arturo in 2014

Our team includes world-famous knitting teacher and story-teller Cat Bordhi, never-cold philanthropist and knitter Jim Petkiewicz, and anthropologist and budding knitter Arturo Ortega. Altogether we are 300% fun and 247% bilingual and have lived in Latin America for 59 years. Fees for this trip support *Community Links International*, a rocking nonprofit dedicated to sustainably changing communities through holistic engagement in central California, highland Peru and south-central Mexico. We are jazzed by, and dedicated to, environmental sanity and healing, community-based education with kids and their families, and right relationships. For more information on *Community Links International*, just ask Jim (peckos@me.com).



Cat Bordhi's mission, according to Stephanie Pearl McPhee, "is to make you a more creative, freethinking knitter who problem-solves and experiments with vigor and fearlessness. The best part? She can." Cat's Youtube tutorials exceed three million views, and her innovative knitting books and award-winning novel, *Treasure Forest*, have reached hundreds of thousands of readers. In 2005 Cat convened the first Visionary Retreat for knit designers, resulting in a stream of spirited books and a powerful and generous community dedicated to nourishing the finest elements of the textile world, both ancient and contemporary. Cat has a BA in Russian from the University of California in Santa Barbara, and a teaching credential from Western Washington University. She has done cartwheels in eight different countries, soon to be nine.

Jim (Pecko) Petkiewicz earned a BA in History from Georgetown University and a Masters in Latin American Studies from the University of New Mexico. After extensive time in language and cultural immersion programs in Bolivia and Peru, Jim and his wife Mags moved their young family to Oaxaca to work with community organizations dedicated to the protection of human rights, peace and justice, citizen participation, and sustainably changing communities through holistic engagement. Jim is co-founder and president of Community Links International as well as co-founder of Frog Tree Yarns, a not-for-profit Fair Trade company that supports the same values, and sources exceptionally beautiful and seductive yarns from Peru. Small children and dogs fall in love with Jim in nano-seconds.

Arturo Ortega is an anthropologist, educator, and songwriter, with 28 years of experience working with international delegations in countries throughout North, Central, and South America. He has worked with a multitude of American universities and high schools and has led thousands of U.S. students into the realities of Latin America, and he co-founded Community Links International with Jim Petkiewicz. His musical work *Teoría Híbrida* won the 10th annual Independent Music Awards. Arturo's fluency in English is the result of loving and memorizing virtually every Beatles song decades ago, and he can (and will!) sing almost any of their songs upon request, accompanying himself on one of his guitars. We hope you will ask.

Dates are June 1-10, 2014, and November 6-15, 2014

You'll find our March 2014 itinerary on pages 3-6, *included to give you a general sense* of our June and November trips. These itineraries are likely to shift a little because during each trip we are delighted to discover ways to improve future experiences, which may include revising destinations, hotels, and other details. The 2014 March fee of \$3995 covers Cat's knitting workshops along the way and a special yarn kit, all domestic travel (flying from Arequipa to Cusco, and trains, buses, and vans), all breakfasts, 4 lunches, 3 dinners, some snacks, all entry fees for Machu Picchu, and a shared hotel room (single supplement \$400). The cost of the June and November trips may shift a little depending on the changes we make.

Cat has designed a special knitting project for these trips that will engage you from start to finish without requiring much attention. Each of our travelers will receive a yarn kit in the color of their choice. The design evolved during our 2013 November Peru trip and Cat taught the entrancing trick to dozens of indigenous knitters who were drawn to it; each one left with their fingers dancing and a dreamy look in their eyes. In 2015 Cat plans to release the design to the rest of the knitting world; until then it will be shared only with our travelers to Latin American destinations.

To reserve a spot for either trip, email Cat at cat@catbordhi.com.

We've had many requests, so if you are certain you want to join us, do contact us soon.



The golden glow of Qoricancha, a few minutes' stroll from our Cusco hostel.

We love Peru and are indescribably excited to share the magic of kindred, intimate experiences with indigenous knitters, the stunning beauty of the *altiplano* and Andes, the ancient ruins, the delicious colors of earth, textiles, and cuisine, and much more.

Knitting in Peru with Cat and Jim, March 13-22, 2014



Day 1: March 13, Thursday (*el jueves*)

This is the day you will arrive in Arequipa. Depending on the time of your connecting flight from Lima to Arequipa, you may have spent the night in the Ramada adjacent to the Lima Airport. Before leaving the Lima airport, use the ATM or money exchange so you have some *Soles*; we will facilitate money exchanges in other locations as needed. Once you disembark from your plane in Arequipa, get luggage and look for one of us (or a driver with your name on a sign) waiting outside to take you to what you'll soon think

of as home: *La Casa de mi Abuela*, in the middle of the historic part of the city. Once you arrive, take it easy to adjust to the altitude and inevitable travel weariness. Drinking plenty of *agua* and *mate de coca* tea will help acclimate you. The rooms are tucked into a variety of quaint dwellings inside the *Casa's* walled garden which has the feel and charm of a small village. There is a wonderful restaurant within the walls, with kind and friendly service (our server, Gerda, above, carried Jim's knitting off at one point and returned with a few inches completed and our second course, piping hot). We'll gather this evening in the restaurant for a relaxing welcome supper and begin to enjoy the lovely feeling of being among friends. Welcome to Peru! *Bienvenid@s a Perú!*

Day 2: March 14, Friday (*el viernes*)

You'll want to take time to enjoy the beautiful breakfast buffet in the garden; and will look forward to starting your day this way for the week to come. After breakfast we'll gather for the first of Cat's knitting classes, where she will introduce you to the trip project (you will have received a yarn kit in the color of your choice). We'll also take this time to talk about what lies ahead during our travels together, and then we'll lead you out the gate of *La Casa de mi Abuela* to show you



the entrance to the *Monasterio de Santa Catalina* where you may choose to spend the afternoon on a tour, and also show you the *Plaza de Armas*, pointing out restaurants you may like to choose for lunch and dinner on your own (or you can return to our *Casa* if you prefer). The rest of the day is on your own to explore as you like, to return for a nap (perhaps in one of the garden hammocks), social knitting in the garden, to write postcards, or even have a dip in the *Casa* pool.



Day 3: March 15, Saturday (*el sábado*)

After breakfast we'll gather for Cat's knitting class, and you are welcome to ask her for help with any knitting project you may have brought along. Then we'll tour the Inca Tops mill, where your eyes will be opened wide as you see how different yarn constructions and fiber blends are formed. Afterwards, you are on your own to continue exploring the neighborhood near our *Casa*, or to simply enjoy the beauty and peace of the *Casa* gardens.

Day 4: March 16, Sunday (*el domingo*)

After breakfast we'll gather for more time with Cat and our knitting, and then stroll to Michell's *Mundo Alpaca*. You can browse the shop, art gallery, pat llamas and alpacas, watch demonstrations, and view the museum displays until we will gather in the courtyard for a light lunch together. Afterwards, you are on your own to continue exploring the endless nooks and crannies and charms of our neighborhood.



Day 5: March 17, Monday (*el lunes*)

After our breakfast this morning we'll head to the airport to fly to magnificent Cusco high in the Andes (slightly above 12,000 feet) for the second phase of our adventure. We'll settle into the *Hostal Santa Rosa*, a combination convent/ girls' school/ hostel that we have come to love. It is located directly behind the *Santo Domingo Cathedral* and *Qoricancha*, and once you settle in and feel ready to go for a short walk, we'll encourage you to stroll up our street lined with sacred Inca stones to discover the world that lies on the other side of these ancient walls: massive courtyards, Inca rooms, historical displays, oil paintings, a small gift shop, sprawling gardens,

a variety of Inca stonework, and endless fascination (with many places to sit and daydream). Just for fun, look for the 3 long arm-sized holes in the wall of the street, and then find them again on the other side. We will provide lunch and supper in the *Hostal* today for those who do not feel ready to go out yet.





Day 6: March 18, Tuesday (*el martes*)

By now most of you will be feeling livelier than yesterday, and after our breakfast together in the hostel, we will facilitate your exploration of our amazing surroundings. We'll take you over to the *Plaza de Armas* via another wonderful Inca passageway, and sit on benches in this beautiful fountain-and-flower-filled place for our morning knitting class. We'll translate as needed so you can freely converse with any friendly locals who stop to marvel at your knitting and want to know

what exactly you are doing and perhaps have you give them a little lesson, or to show you something they know. It's an easy stroll between the plaza and our *Hostal*, and we'll encourage you to take your time exploring, resting, and eating. Plan on spending at least several hours in the Center for Traditional Textiles of Cusco, a short stroll past the *Qoricancha* gardens from our *Hostal*, where you will find a small museum, textile artists demonstrating weaving, spinning, and knitting, and the very best textiles for sale in all of Peru. Returning to our *Hostal*, you may be lucky enough to pass through throngs of schoolgirls with hair ribbons and uniforms playing in our courtyard.



Day 7: March 19, Wednesday (*el miércoles*)

After breakfast we'll travel by van to Ollantaytambo (nearly 3,000 feet lower than Cusco) in *el Valle Sagrado*, stopping at points of interest along the way. This ancient town is known for its elaborate Inca ruins and beautiful setting. You'll have the rest of the day to settle into our beautiful hotel, *El Albergue*, where you will love the luxurious beds and lush tropical gardens. You'll also want to explore the ruins, meet artisans, browse the markets, wander ancient Inca walkways, visit the studio of Lucho Soler, one of the most extraordinary potters in the world, and dream of Machu Picchu. Dinner is on your own, either in our hotel or in one of the many restaurants nearby, but come home early enough to get a really good sleep in your cushy bed because we will be taking the early train to Machu Picchu in order to enjoy this other-worldly landscape peacefully before the crowds arrive.





Day 8: March 20, Thursday (*el jueves*)

We'll get you up in time to have a delicious breakfast before we are welcomed aboard the train. As dawn breaks, you'll marvel at soaring glacial peaks, fields filled with crops, wandering chickens, colorful laundry, increasingly jungle-like foliage, and rickety bridges that cross the river we follow all the way to *Aguas Calientes*. There we'll board a bus that switchbacks up a nearly vertical mountain to a place you will never forget, ever: Machu Picchu. A professional guide

will lead you through the ruins and answer all your questions. Then we'll take the bus back down, passing clusters of lush maidenhair ferns and believe it or not, bamboo, and gather for a buffet feast at Toto's in *Aguas Calientes*, perched right over the river. The train will return us to Ollantaytambu, where you can slip back under your luxurious bedcovers if you need a little nap, and then wander out for supper when you are ready (after Toto's lavish buffet, you may not need more than a snack at this point).



Day 9: March 21, Friday (*el viernes*)

After a sweet sleep and leisurely breakfast at our hotel you have until early afternoon to lounge in the gardens or to continue wandering around this stunning jungle-like setting at the foot of steep mountains, perhaps exploring the ruins that climb the sides of the mountain, or browsing the shops and streets. Lunch is on your own. Our private van and driver will return us to our Cusco *Hostal*, and we will gather for our farewell dinner to savor our shared experience. Then it's off to bed with kaleidoscope visions of adventures, people, places, and colors dancing in your head.

Day 10: March 22, Saturday (*el sábado*)

You'll head to the airport and the world you came from, which may now seem as remote as Peru once did. We'll miss you and hope that we've whetted your appetite for more Peru and more Latin America—including the Latin America that blossoms in the United States. And may you long for more encounters with remote textile artists, now that you know for yourself how instantaneous and intimate the kinship and sharing of knowledge and skills and love can be, and that our different languages, environments, and cultures mysteriously make us closer.



WANT TO JOIN US? EMAIL CAT AT CAT@CATBORDHI.COM