

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

Introducing your trip leaders

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 knitting tutorials exceed 3,000,000 views, and her 7 innovative knitting books and award-winning novel, *Treasure Forest*, have reached hundreds of thousands of readers. Cat founded the synergistic Visionary Authors in 2003, resulting in a stream of spirited, independently published knitting books and a powerful and generous force for good. She has a BA in Russian from the University of California, a teaching credential from Western Washington University, and has done cartwheels in 8 different countries. For more information, visit catbordhi.com. **Jim (Pecko) Petkiewicz** holds 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, he 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, and democratic education. Jim is the co-founder and president of Community Links International (www.commlinks.org) and a co-founder of Frog Tree Yarns, a not-for-profit Fair Trade company that supports the same values. Small children and dogs fall in love with Jim in nano-seconds. **Arturo Ortega** is an anthropologist, educator, and song writer, with 28 years of experience working with international delegations in several 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. He co-founded Community Links International with Jim Petkiewicz. His musical work *Teoría Híbrida* won the 10th annual Independent Music Awards. His fluency in English is the result of loving and memorizing virtually every Beatle song decades ago, and he can (and will!) sing almost any of their songs upon request, accompanying himself on one of his guitars.



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 & healing, community-based education with kids and their families and right relationships. For more information, just ask Jim (peckos@me.com). It means everything to Cat, Jim, and Arturo that the proceeds from this trip are supporting the work of CLI.

The tour fee of \$3995 covers:

- All travel between Arequipa and Cusco including airport transfers, trains, vans, and buses.
- All breakfasts, 4 lunches, 3 dinners, and some snacks.
- All entry fees for Machu Picchu.
- Shared hotel room. (Single supplement is \$400 extra)
- The devotion, knowledge, and support of Cat and Pecko

The tour fee does not cover:

- Airfare from your home to Arequipa and from Cusco homeward.
- Most dinners and lunches, and incidentals like bottled water, most snacks, and so on.

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

Today, by mid-afternoon or earlier, 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 and 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!

Day 2: March 14, Friday (*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 in days 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 (*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 Inka 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 (*domingo*)

After breakfast we'll gather for more time with Cat and our knitting, and then stroll to Michell 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 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 (*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/ girl's 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 Inca-walled street 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, with many places to sit and daydream. Just for fun, find the 3 long arm-sized holes in the wall of the street, and then look for 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 (*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 the *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, It's a short stroll past the *Qoricancha* gardens from our *Hostal*. 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 the *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 (*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 afternoon and evening to settle in to our beautiful hotel, the *El Albergue*, where you will love the luxurious beds and lush gardens. You'll also want to explore the ruins, meet artisans, browse the markets, wander ancient Inca-walled streets, 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. 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 (*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 Restaurant in *Aguas Calientes*, perched right over the river. The train will return us to Ollantaytambo, 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 (*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 *Hostal* in Cusco, and we will gather for our farewell dinner to savor our shared experience, and then it's off to bed with kaleidoscope visions of adventures, people, places, and colors dancing in your head.

Day 10: March 22, Saturday (*sabado*)

After breakfast together in our *Hostal* and fond farewells, you'll head to the airport and back to 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