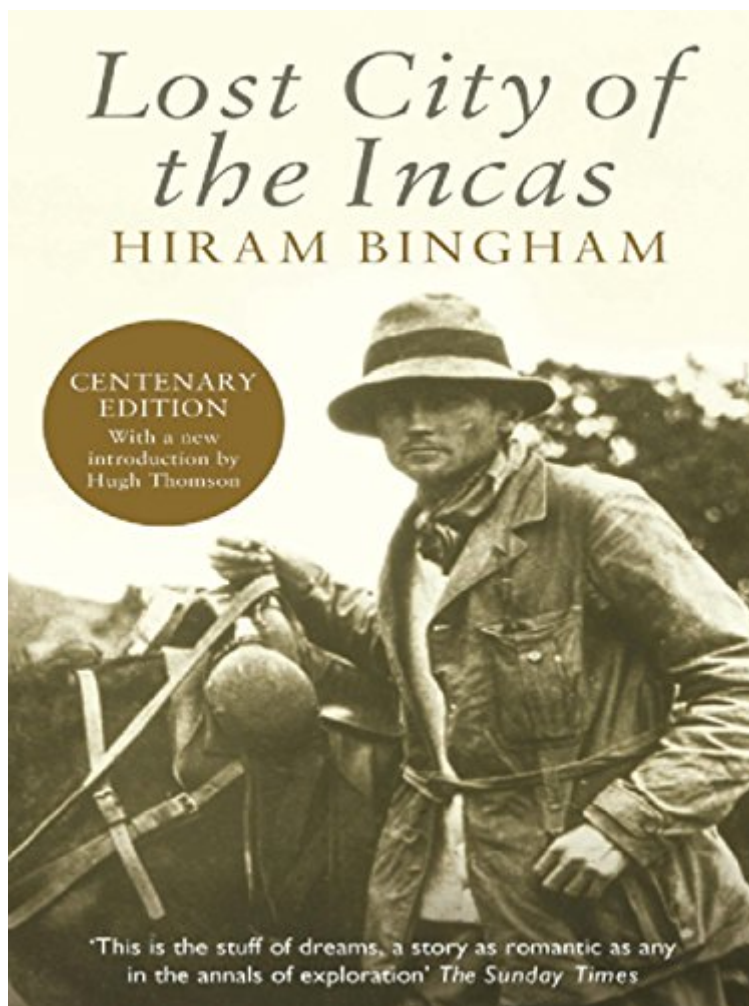


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# Lost City Of The Incas



## Synopsis

First published in the 1950s, this is a classic account of the discovery in 1911 of the lost city of Machu Picchu. In 1911 Hiram Bingham, a pre-historian with a love of exotic destinations, set out to Peru in search of the legendary city of Vilcabamba, capital city of the last Inca ruler, Manco Inca. With a combination of doggedness and good fortune he stumbled on the perfectly preserved ruins of Machu Picchu perched on a cloud-capped ledge 2000 feet above the torrent of the Urubamba River. The buildings were of white granite, exquisitely carved blocks each higher than a man. Bingham had not, as it turned out, found Vilcabamba, but he had nevertheless made an astonishing and memorable discovery, which he describes in his bestselling book *LOST CITY OF THE INCAS*.

## Book Information

File Size: 3370 KB

Print Length: 257 pages

Publisher: Phoenix (December 16, 2010)

Publication Date: December 16, 2010

Language: English

ASIN: B00GVFWA8I

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #78,455 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #5

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## Customer Reviews

GREAT source to prepare for your first visit to Machu Picchu. Lots of history. How much of the book is 'propaganda' ? Yes it was written many years after Bingham made his discovery, and yes some parts may have been embellished a bit - that's ok. Most of the book is very interesting to someone (me) who had not much knowledge of Inca history. I recommend - if you're going, read this book first.

This is a very special book to me. It helped me understand Machu Picchu before and after I visited there. The man explains step by step how he proceeded. I found him a curious and interesting man who should have done more great things--but this was essentially what he is known for.

The book is almost painfully slow in its buildup to the discovery of Machu Picchu, and is a little stiff in its narrative style. Keeping in mind it was written around 1912, with some later updating by the author, it manages to present a fairly compelling story of revelation and discovery. This real life inspiration of the Indiana Jones movies should at its core stir the heart of all would be explorers. One of the disturbing facts was the use of native Peruvians as impressed labor to help in the discovery. It was discussed in a very matter of fact fashion, but read today the forced use of those natives is unseemly at best. Nonetheless, having just returned from Machu Picchu, I can attest to the incredible excitement when the ruins first come into view, and Hiram Bingham does describe this adequately.

Anyone planning a trip to Machu Picchu, or just interested in expeditions to uncharted areas should read this accounting by H. Bingham. Although it was written some years after the actual explorations it still conveys the hardships and difficulties of the original event. Some of Bingham's suppositions, regarding the purpose of this magnificent human dwelling place, have been revised, still there is value in learning the "first impressions" related by this explorer/writer.

Last summer I had the opportunity to visit the Lost City of the Incas. Unfortunately I hadn't got enough time to prepare myself with the basic information about Machu Picchu and the Inca history. Even without that background knowledge it was a very exciting and impressive place but only after reading the book of Hiram Bingham I was able to value what I've seen. I'm extremely sorry that without all the info given by the book I "just" visited the place but did not have the opportunity to study thoroughly all parts of the Lost City. Of course our guide gave us the possible deepest info but it was too much for a one-day visit and the place was fully packed with tourists from all parts of the world and it was a little bit contradictory with the spirit of the place. I think that I should go back sometime in the future, prepared with all the details written in this really enjoyable "tourist-guide".

If you are considering a vacation to Peru, this is a well written, entertaining book which is one of the best preparations.

Classic companion for anyone traveling to Machu Picchu or not traveling.

Wonderful book. A must read if you're traveling to Peru/Machupichu.

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