

Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel joins National Geographic Society Unique Lodges of the World

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Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel has announced it is a founding member of National Geographic Society's newest foray in world-class travel experiences: National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World.

Unique Lodges of the World, a collection of boutique hotels in extraordinary places around the world with a demonstrated commitment to sustainability, authenticity and excellence. The exclusive eco-lodge in Peru is nestled in its own private ecological reserve, close to the iconic Machu Picchu site, and demonstrates a strong commitment to sustainability in all areas of operation.

Selected through a rigorous evaluation process, each lodge offers an outstanding guest experience while supporting the protection of cultural and natural heritage and embracing sustainable tourism practices. The initial collection — numbering 24 properties on six continents — further builds National Geographic's travel portfolio, which includes National Geographic Expeditions, Traveler magazine, travel books, photography courses and the @NatGeoTravel digital and photography community.

"We are delighted to be working in collaboration with National Geographic," said Jose Koechlin, Founder and CEO of Inkaterra Hotels. "This partnership with such an internationally recognized brand can only help and support the ongoing work Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel does in its community and further field."

Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel is proud to offer guests who book their stay through National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World a special "National Geographic Exclusive" experience, which includes joining an Inkaterra Explorer Guide on a private visit to the lodge's Spectacled Bears Rescue Center. Here guests can learn about the rare species' behavior and survival challenges, help with a feeding and discuss rescue and rehabilitation efforts.

As part of a comprehensive vetting process, every lodge in the collection was judged on the following criteria:

- The Property — The design and character are unique and authentic and the property provides guests with a true sense of place by celebrating the surrounding landscape and cultural heritage.
- Guest Experience and Quality of Service — Guests are offered top-quality service and exceptional and inspiring experiences — from activities that enable them to engage with local people to wildlife encounters with seasoned naturalists.
- Sustainable Tourism Best Practices — The property demonstrates a commitment to conservation and green operations; it actively supports the protection of cultural heritage; and it provides tangible benefits to local communities.

National Geographic deployed experts to each site to evaluate operations, meet staff at all levels, scrutinize the lodge's impact on the local environment and community and ensure that these criteria were met.

"By creating this carefully curated group of hotels, lodges and retreats that meet internationally recognized sustainable tourism criteria while providing top-notch guest experiences, National Geographic opens a new chapter in the power of travel to protect our planet," said Costas Christ, a world-renowned sustainable tourism expert and editor at large for National Geographic Traveler magazine, who coordinated an international team to inspect each of the lodges. "Travelers can feel confident when they stay in one of these lodges that they are helping to safeguard cultural and natural treasures in some of the world's most incredible places."

"The National Geographic brand is universally recognized for its commitment to exploring and protecting the planet, so we are uniquely positioned to unite and promote these exceptional properties and to set a new standard for tourism," said Lynn Cutter, National Geographic's executive vice president for Travel. "These lodges share the Society's vision of preserving the planet for future generations and they demonstrate that sustainability and a world-class guest experience can go hand-in-hand."

<http://www.incentivetravel.co.uk/news/hotel/24525-inkaterra-machu-picchu-pueblo-hotel-joins-national-geographic-society-unique-lodges-of-the-world?>

