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Places to Visit in Cusco

SHOPPING

Museo Taller Hilario Mendivil - Plazoleta San Blas (along the right side as you stand in the plaza and face the fountain)

Museum, workshop, and shop of notable Cusco artisan family, famous for their unique long-necked religious figures, dressed with indigenous influences. Also contains small museum of historic pieces. Proprietress may give tour in Spanish. Numerous beautiful works are available for purchase.

Center for Traditional Textiles - Avenida el Sol 603

A non-profit organization founded this center to preserve and continue traditional weaving, and to teach and support this work in numerous communities around Cusco. There is a very nice museum of the history and traditions of Andean textiles, and always a live weaving demonstration in the store. The beautiful items are more pricey than the tourist versions at stores and markets, but are truly hand crafted and naturally dyed.

Central Artisan Market - Avenida el Sol near Tulumayo

Further down Av. El Sol, you will find the large market of crafts, clothing, scarves, hats, textiles, and everything imaginable to bring home as gifts for your friends and family.

Local Food Markets - San Pedro

Venture beyond the covered San Pedro market to the open street markets and local covered food markets. In all markets, be aware and very careful with belonging. Carry bags in front and go with empty pockets.

EATING

Panaderia El Buen Pastor - Cuesta San Blas 579 - San Blas

Bakery and coffeeshop. Watch the racks emerge from the ovens with delicious pastries, sweets, and empanadas. It is also a non-profit organization which benefits a home for orphan girls.

Pachapapa - Plaza San Blas 120 - San Blas

Distinctly Peruvian dishes with international flair, and a relaxed, comfortable atmosphere.

Café Restaurant Aldea Yanapay - Ruinas 415, second floor

A wonderful café-restaurant for lunch or dinner that is decorated like a child's dream! It is run by the founder of Aldea Yanapay, a volunteer organization with various programs for the underprivileged children of Cusco, and all proceeds from the café benefit these programs. Sit on pillows, play games, hold a stuffed animal, wear a silly hat, or just sit at a table and enjoy the delicious French toast, dinner entrees, or the best giant hot chocolate in town.

Jack's - Choquechaka at Cuesta San Blas

Hearty familiar favorites for when your stomach just needs a little taste of home. Just look for the line of eager diners waiting out front.

Granja Heidi Restaurant - Cuesta San Blas 525 - San Blas

Run by a German who long ago made Cusco his home. They serve a variety of Peruvian and Central European dishes. A great place for desserts, many made with milk, cheese, and yogurt fresh from their own dairy. You can also purchase the homemade cheeses and yogurts to take with you.

The Muse - Calle Tandapata 684, Plazoleta San Blas

Cool little café overlooking the Plazoleta San Blas, all the way at the top of the plaza. Outdoor seating with a great view at lunchtime.

(name unknown) Brick Oven Pizza - Maruri near San Agustin

Great brick oven pizzas made with flair as you wait. Try a piece with a couple spoonfuls of spicy aji sauce, and you will never understand how you ever ate pizza without it. Sit by the warmth of the brick oven on a chilly night.

(name unknown) Picarones Shop - (trying to remember location!)

Delicious sweet potato or squash / pumpkin dumplings that are shaped like doughnuts, fried, and immediately served warm with a type of molasses. Ask a local where to find good ones.

Tamale Lady - NE corner of Plaza right in front of Gatos Market

Great tamales – try the “dulces” (sweet ones)

Map Café in the Museo de Arte Pre-Colombino - Plaza Nazarenas 231

One of the city's fanciest restaurants, with creative Andean cuisine in a modern glass box dining room within the museum courtyard.

Mega Grocery Store - Matara near Ayacucho

The best grocery store in the central area - avoid the overpriced Gatos in the Plaza

CULTURE

Andean Children's Art Museum - Museo de Arte de Ninos Andinos, Irq'i Yachay - Calle Teatro 344

A unique museum displaying the artwork of Quechua children from remote Andean communities. A non-profit organization traveled to these communities to introduce the children to art and materials they had never used, and the children responded with incredible creations portraying their lives, myths, dreams, and themselves. An introductory short movie of the project and a free guided tour are provided in Spanish. Donations encouraged.

Taki Andean Music Museum - Calle Hatunrumiyoc 487 #5

An interesting exhibition of Andean and Amazonian musical instruments, and a cultural center that organizes musical and cultural events, gatherings, workshops,

sessions, lectures, concerts, teaching children to play, as well as promoting and supporting traditional music groups.

EMUFEC - Fiestas del Cusco Program Book - Calle Santa Catalina Ancha 333
Pick up a program book here for all the Cusco Week events.

BANK

BCP - Avenida el Sol 189

Safe and reliable ATMs. To exchange for smaller bills to make shopping easier, go just inside, take a number from the kiosk "Sin Tarjeta" (without card), then when your number appears on the TV screens, go to the counter and ask for smaller bills. They have always been very friendly and willing to do this.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Laboratorio Fotografico "Nishiyama" - Calle Triunfo 346

For film, video, or digital camera needs including film, memory cards, CDs, batteries, disposable cameras, etc. Fair prices and good, friendly and helpful service.

HOTELS

Hostal San Juan Masías - Ahuacpinta 600 (Interior Colegio San Martín de Porres)

Tel: 084-431-563 email: hostalsanjuanmasias@yahoo.es

Very clean hostel located within a girls' school. Prepare to be awoken at 7:30 when the nuns start singing for morning assembly in the playground courtyard below. Very helpful, friendly staff. This is where I lived for months at a time.

Mirador de la Ñusta - Tandapata 682, Plazoleta San Blas - Phone: 51-84-248-039

Located above the fountain of Plazoleta de San Blas – at the very top, overlooking the plaza. There is a nice garden patio on the interior, and the rooms are clean, comfortable and attractive. \$10 per person and \$15 for a double. The very colorful owner, Daríos Segovia, also provides local tours, starting at \$100, to the Sacred Valley and other noteworthy archaeological sites, with himself as the guide. Breakfast is offered by request, and laundry as well as taxi service at any hour. Right next door to **The Muse Café**.

Hostal Magico - Calle Fierro 534 - Phone: 51-84-235-870

<http://www.hostalmagico.com/enindex.html>

Located near the Aldea Yanapay school where you can volunteer. This hostel, along with the Yanapay Restaurant / Café, helps support the social projects of Aldea Yanapay. Check out the website for photos and more info. It attracts a young, backpacker crowd.

OUTSIDE OF CUSCO

Ollantaytambo

Hearts Café - on the NE corner of the plaza - (not to be confused with a similar named imitator on the plaza.) www.heartscafe.org

This café supports the work of Sonia Newhouse's NGO *Living Hearts*, which runs health, education, and conservation projects to aid the women and children of poor, rural communities in the Sacred Valley. Great food including lots of vegetarian choices.

Pisac

Café Art Gallery Mullu - Plaza Constitución 352 (on the main plaza, second floor above the gallery)

Others highly recommend Ulrike's Café instead, also on the plaza.

Bakery - Calle Mariscal Castilla

Lima

Peru Artcrafts - Larcomar Mall, Miraflores

A great store for Peruvian handicrafts from all over the country – the nice, high quality real items at a good price, and not the cheap tourist stuff.. Pick up all the souvenirs you forgot to get along the way. Plus nice clothing and alpaca sweaters. There are some other nice stores in this mall but I don't remember their names.

Friends House - Jose Gonzales 427, Miraflores

A friendly, comfortable place to stay during your Lima stopovers. It has basic, hostel accommodations, like staying at someone's house, and is a bit cramped in the living room and dining room, but the staff is incredibly friendly and helpful, the included breakfasts are good, the fellow travelers are fun to meet, and there is free computer use. You can also use the kitchen for cooking. They have two locations, one with private rooms and one with group rooms. Be sure and specify a private room if that is what you want. Make arrangements in advance and they will pick you up from the airport for a reasonable price.