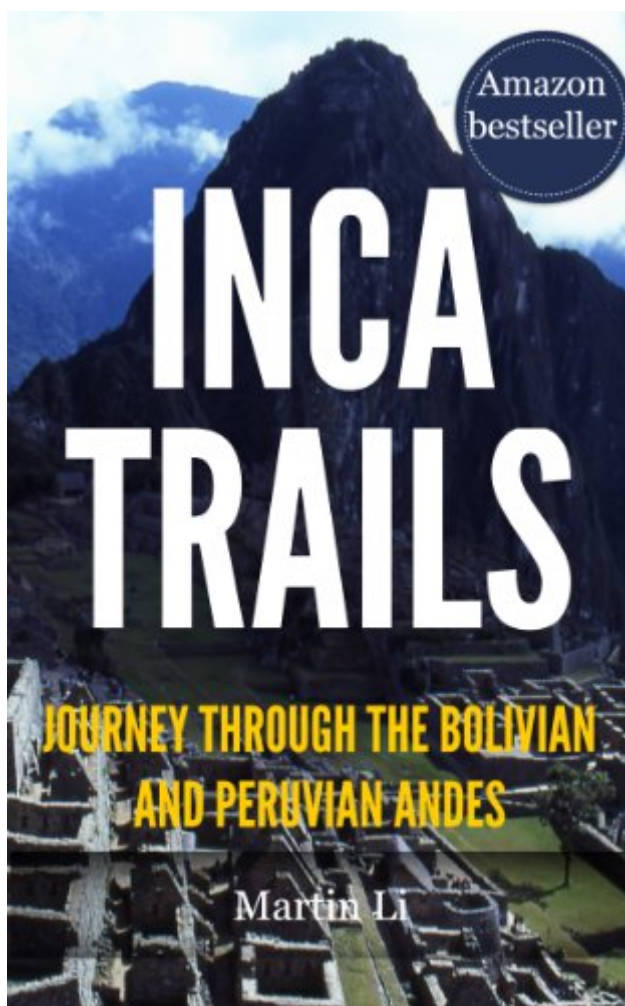


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Inca Trails: Journey Through The Bolivian And Peruvian Andes, Tracing The Rise And Fall Of The Incas



Synopsis

Inca Trails: Journey through the Bolivian and Peruvian Andes. Imagine taking a wondrous journey following ancient Inca trails through the remote, rugged and beautiful wilderness of the Bolivian and Peruvian Andes. Imagine further that during your journey, you discover the gripping, poignant story of the rise and fall of the Inca empire. The Incas were the last great pre-Columbian civilisation to evolve in South America. Believing themselves the chosen people of the Sun God, they forged a vast empire that spanned the length of the Andes. Yet, at the height of their power, the all-conquering Incas themselves fell prey to a tiny band of Spanish invaders. Where did the Incas come from and what is the truth behind the many myths surrounding their meteoric rise and dramatic downfall? Join the author on a breathtaking voyage to find out. From the Incas' mythical birthplace in Lake Titicaca, journey across awe-inspiring Andean ranges to the empire's majestic pinnacle at Cuzco and Machu Picchu, and beyond to the scene of the Incas' final stand in the jungle-choked forests of Vilcabamba. Breathe in the clean, crisp air of the snow-capped Andes. Feel the tingling spiritual stillness of Lake Titicaca. Marvel as shooting stars streak across the Andean sky. Wonder at glorious Inca cities such as Machu Picchu, Pisac, Ollantaytambo and Choquequirao, and the beautiful colonial architecture of Cuzco. Woven throughout the tale of the journey is the gripping, poignant story of the rise and fall of the glittering, but short-lived, Inca empire. Discover the truth about the Incas and their fascinating culture and beliefs. Witness the bloody but daring Spanish Conquest and the doomed Inca attempts to repel the Conquistadores. Virtually the entire journey is a breathtaking palette of spectacular landscapes, historical resonance and vibrant culture that never fails to thrill and inspire. As you read, a deep sense of wonder cannot fail to awaken within you. Please note that this is the author's edition of Inca Trails and is fully illustrated throughout. You can also find out how you can help the author write his next travel book. Reader review: "Must Read Before going to south America""His book is fascinating and informative as well as descriptively beautiful. Anyone going to the Andes should read it first in order to get a lot more out of your trip. We highly recommend it and wish we had had this book before our trip to Machu Picchu. a portion of the proceeds from the book is donated to help finance solar energy and other development projects in Bolivia and Peru. A MUST READ!" - Bonnie Neely

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Customer Reviews

Sometimes reading a travel book can be an exhilarating experience; it doesn't happen very often but when it does it can make your day. I have read many books of this genre in the past, since I've been a traveler for more than twenty-five years now, but none gave me such pleasure as Martin Li's "Inca Trails". What I mostly liked about this book is the fact that it's not a travel guide, but rather a travelogue. The author set out on a journey across Bolivia and Peru to retrace the ancient paths of the Incas, and during it he came to meet a lot of interesting characters, adopt a mule called Coco, taste the local cuisine, spent the nights out in the open or in dreadful lodges, and find his way across the land on packed-up buses. Li does not, at any point, try to impress the reader, and he doesn't seem to care if the people think that he's brave or a coward; all he cares about is the journey, the stories he learns, and the new memories that form in his head day in day out. The people he meets, we meet as well, as he describes every character that has an important role to play in the narration in detail; the landscapes that capture his gaze, also capture ours, through his words and pictures. His journey is far from easy, but the way he describes it makes it sound so. If I were a TV producer I'd use this book to film a series of documentaries that talk about the lands the author visited and the people he encountered, and I'd have someone narrate the history lessons he delivers as well, since this is one of those special books that can offer learning, adventure and bits

and pieces of fun at the same time. I'd highly recommend it to everyone who's not only interested in traveling, but also history and ancient civilizations.

I picked up this book since in a few weeks i'll be doing the Inca Trail and I thought it may help me to get another point of view about Andean Culture. The author's account of his travels thru Bolivia and Peru is interesting and on several parts describes monuments and ruins that he encounters along the way as well as little bits of information regarding the people he comes across. However, soon his account becomes a little tiresome because he is victim of his own words and experiences. In other words, the author spends way too many words describing mountains, rivers and plants instead of focusing on Inca culture and its importance. The book is basically the author's own adventures in the Andes and he seems more interested in enjoying and telling it to us like a family who shows their Hawaiian vacation thru polaroids: Its nice but it doesn't have any substance for the people watching the polaroids. Had he integrated more information about the Incas, their way of life and the significance for us today it might have been a different book but I guess that wasn't the authors intention.

I really liked this book - the author's writing seems genuine and sincere, not to mention it is not pretentious and ego-boosting like some memoirs tend to be. It might be also useful source of information for wanna-be trekkers and travelers through Andes. I just didn't like the chapter about history of Incas, because it simply doesn't fit to the whole narrative. It sounds like a summary of books I've already read about it, like John Hemming's *The Conquest of the Incas*. The writer himself gave at the end of the book due credit to that scientist among others as the source of his knowledge, so it is not the complaint in the authorship's sense, but for the style of the book. However, for those who do not know much about the subject, that chapter may come in handy.

I always approach travel writing with hope and apprehension. Hope, because I love to travel, and reading about where others have gone allows me to find new destinations and relive the feelings inspired by my own journeys. Good travel writing makes you feel like you are actually there alongside the author, taking each step, and experiencing the sights, sounds, and smells of the landscape right along with him. But apprehension comes from the fact that most great travelers are simply not great writers, and often you feel left behind, tangled in unwieldy prose. *Inca Trails* suffers from no such shortcomings, and is a delight to read. Far more than just travel writing, author Martin Li skillfully weaves the fascinating story of the Inca people in modern day Bolivia and Peru with

charming and witty accounts of his own travels through the region. The prose is clear and thoughtful, and successfully brings the reader along each step of the way, from La Paz, Bolivia, tracing an historic and enchanting path through the Andes Mountains. He alternates between stories from his own journey and recounting the tumultuous history of the Incas who dealt there so many years before, yet whose presence comes alive in the culture and landscape of the area. After reading this book, you feel not only a connection with the modern descendants of the Incas who inhabit the land today, but also that the people and events of the past are not so very distant. Inca Trails is not just for history or travel buffs, but also for anyone who appreciates a skillfully written tale--though like me you may find yourself browsing airline tickets to La Paz after you read it. Quick tip: if you have a black and white e-reader like I do, it is worth downloading this book to your PC or Mac to check out Li's beautiful photographs in color.

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