Beat: Arts

Machu Picchu , the Inca Treasure

A Citadel Lost in Time

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USPA NEWS - Rising majestically above the clouds of the Peruvian Andes , Machu Picchu is often regarded as the greatest treasure of the Inca civilization ;Having made five journeys to Peru to explore and document its archaeological heritage , I discovered that Machu Picchu remains the most captivating symbol of the Inca Empire .Built in the 15 th century during the reign of Emperor Pachacuti , this extraordinary citadel reflects the architectural brilliance , spiritual beliefs and engineering mastery of the Inca Empire .Nestled between steep mountain peaks and surrounded by breathtaking landscapes , Machu Picchu remained hidden from the outside world for centuries ;It was rediscovered on July 24 , 1911 by Hiram Bingham III , an American historian and explorer whose expedition brought Machu Picchu to the attention of the world .The city `s carved stone temples , agricultural terraces , ceremonial spaces and residential quarters demonstrate an exceptional understanding of construction , astronomy and environmental adaptation .

The precision with which its stones were assembled continues to astonish engineers and historians alike .Recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the New Seven Wonders of the World , it attracts visitors , researchers and photographers from across the globe .Text and pictures by Cristian Amza , director and journalist .

Beyond its archaeological significance , Machu Picchu has become a universal symbol of cultural heritage . It reminds humanity of the importance of preserving the achievement of past civilizations while protecting the fragile natural environment that surrounds them . For Peru Machu Picchu is more than historic monument , it is a source of national pride .

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