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Machu Picchu Comes to L.A. Largest U.S. Exhibition of Inca Treasures Makes Only West Coast Stop at Natural History Museum

What: Machu Picchu: Unveiling the Mystery of the Incas, a new traveling exhibition, makes its only West Coast stop at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

Overview:



Perched high in the mists of the Andes lies Machu Picchu, one of the world's most mysterious places and most spectacular archaeological sites. Since its rediscovery in 1911, there has been much speculation on why it existed. Was it a sacred spiritual site? The birthplace of the Inca empire? A sanctuary

for training priestesses and Inca brides? Recent research has revealed it was probably a country estate for the Inca elite – a sort of 15th century “Camp David.” Delve into the mysteries behind Machu Picchu in the largest U.S. exhibition on the Incas ever assembled, showcasing more than 400 priceless artifacts. Through interactive and high-tech displays, travel back in time to the 15th century and tour the intricate Inca palace. Walk along a replica of an ancient Inca road. Enter the house of the Inca king. Explore an Inca burial chamber. Visit a state-of-the-art laboratory, and find out why the Inca abandoned their spectacular royal retreat.

Artifacts: More than 400 of some of the finest surviving examples of Inca art including gold, silver, ceramic, bone and textile artifacts, many of which were recovered from Machu Picchu. The exhibition also includes photographs and memorabilia.

When: June 22 to September 7, 2003. This is the first stop on the exhibition’s national tour, after its debut at the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History. Following the Los Angeles presentation, the exhibit will travel to Pittsburgh, Denver, Houston and Chicago.

Information: Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County
900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles, 90007. 213-763-DINO

www.nhm.org

Weekdays: 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Weekends/holidays: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

\$8 adults; \$5.50 students/seniors; \$2 children ages 5-12.

***Machu Picchu: Unveiling the Mystery of the Incas** was organized by the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History. The exhibition is made possible by grants and support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Science Foundation, the Connecticut Humanities Council, The Heritage Mark Foundation, The William Bingham Foundation, Yale University and The Peruvian Connection.*

The Los Angeles presentation of the exhibit is made possible by Union Bank of California.

Additional support provided by The Brotman Foundation of California.

Promotional support provided by the Consul General of Peru and its advisory council in Los Angeles, the Peruvian International Cultural Association and AIPUC (Association of Peruvian Institutions in the United States and Canada).