A view of Cusco, which sits in a large valley.

A local market in Cusco during busy hours. A wide variety of goods are sold the markets.
The stonework at the Incan sites we visited was very precise, and the craftsmanship at Saqsaywaman was even more impressive, considering the size of the rocks used.

These stairs are part of the ruins of a defensive outpost several miles from Cusco.
The outpost. This location was chosen because it gives views up and down the valley it overlooks.

This site was used mainly for farming.
Pictured is a water channel at the Moray complex. The Incas channeled water efficiently in their structures.
A view from the bottom of Moray. The style of stone steps used here are common in Incan terraces.

One day we ate lunch in a small town square where a woman was cooking out in the open. It was delicious.
This large structure was a fort. It was constructed roughly in the shape of a llama, which are important animals in Incan culture.

This path formed the “spine” of the llama. Many of the Incan trails were similar to this one – if you fell off the edge, you probably wouldn’t stop until the bottom of the mountain.
This was a storehouse for crops. It was built in this position so that wind would blow through it and keep the grains dry.
The fort is quite popular with tourists. Luckily we got there before the train of raincoats.
Machu Picchu is a very large site. The terraces in the background were for agriculture. The small building at the top is the guardhouse.

The mountain in the background is called Waynapicchu. A race is held every year in which contestants climb up and down the mountain.
In this picture the structures atop Waynapicchu are visible. The Incas did astounding and dangerous construction.

This structure is called the astronomical observatory. Atop the observatory (but not visible in this picture) is the large stone compass.
An example of the precision of Incan stonework. Sometimes they poured molten metal into grooves cut into the stone to lock blocks together.

This trapezoidal shape is very common in Incan windows and doors. Also, the walls of most Incan buildings slope inwards. These methods, along with excellent stonework, help protect the buildings from earthquakes.
Peru was a lot of fun. It was definitely worth the trip.