When standing on these stairs of a cathedral in Cusco you can see the main square and the surrounding mountains. The main square has tons of shops and religious buildings, and there are hordes of children ready to sell you anything from scarves and hats, to dolls and finger puppets.

Inside this monastery, you can see some examples of different methods the Incas used to join blocks together without the use of mortar. The wall behind the blocks is a good example of stone blocks that fit together like puzzle pieces without the use of mortar, and can withstand anything from heavy rain to earthquakes.
This is the courtyard of what used to be an Incan temple before the Spanish tore it down to build their monastery. Although the Incas were forced to practice Catholicism, they rebelled in small ways such as sneaking pictures of their gods into paintings of Catholic saints.

The Incas built many aqueducts such as this one to transport water from high in the mountains down to their cities and towns. Although this one is dry, many Incan aqueducts are still intact and functioning.
The Incas used structures such as this one to observe the stars. They would fill the flat area with water and study the reflection the stars made in the pool of water.

This is the remainder of an Incan town, the clearing was a central market area, and the buildings behind it are where the people lived. All of the town was surrounded by a stone wall, but much of the wall has been destroyed.
These two pictures (above and below) are what is left of what would have been a house. The family lived and slept on the first floor, and would have a second, or even third floor devoted to food storage.
Everything we saw in Peru was built up a hill or mountain, no city ever leveled the ground before construction, and this picture shows how the houses continue up the mountain. The roads were all steep and followed the mountain as well, which made for some interesting hiking through the city.

Because their land was covered in mountains, the Incas constructed agricultural terraces to follow the curves of the mountains. They used the changes in elevation to grow many different types of crops, and have a large variety of corn and potatoes due to their ability to farm in many elevations.
Here we had a good view down into the houses and some granaries, and could see more terraces in the background. It’s a shame the area is so overgrown, it would have been fun to walk through houses and temples and imagine what it looked like during the Incan times.

Aside from the main square, Cusco has many smaller squares such as this one. They generally have small gardens, fountains, or a church. This one has a parking area on one side where our busses usually waited for us every morning.
Here at Moray the Incas grew many different plants, mostly for medicinal purposes. They even experimented with mixing plant types. The zig-zag pattern along the terraces are the stairs you use to get to the bottom of Moray, and back up again.

Here in Machu Picchu you can see all types of buildings. There are granaries, houses, watchtowers, temples, and rooms for visiting officials. As with all other Incan sites, Machu Picchu has its own terraces to supply food to the inhabitants (seen in the left-middle of the photo).
The Incas would place pieces of wood into the natural fractures of the rock and soak the wood in water. As the wood absorbs the water, it expands and causes the rock to split along the crack. In this way, the Incas broke down large rocks to create the interlocking stones used in their buildings.

These rocks were carved to resemble the mountains in the background and the Holy River running through them. The flat area was used to place offerings to the gods of the mountains.
This rock had many uses and served as a compass, as well as a central part in astronomy and some ceremonies of the Incas. Some people believe that if you touch it, you will receive power and energy. As you can see by the ropes, no one is allowed to touch it anymore for preservation reasons, although we were allowed to get really close.

This is the outside of the temple of the sun god in Machu Picchu. We were not allowed inside because of some damage to the foundation and walls. I was impressed by the ability of the Incas to construct rounded corners as pretty as this one with their very limited technology.
This building is an official building in Lima, something like a palace complete with changing of the guard. It’s too bad we didn’t get a chance to see the changing of the guard, but the building looked pretty cool (even with the gate in the way).

Facing away from the official palace building you can see a cathedral and one of Lima’s main squares. Our hotel had a wooden balcony almost exactly like the one on the building to the right in the photo, balconies are always cool but looking out at the Peruvian landscapes is breathtaking.