A hand full of magical Peruvian beauty
I was intrigued by the stone work done for many walking paths throughout Cuzco and Lima. I appreciated all the work I am certain it took to complete these.

I encountered many insects I did not recognize. They were very interesting!

The photos, above and to the left, were both taken at the Andahuaylillas church.

There were some insects that seemed to certainly cause a detriment to the clay between the stone work, in order to make homes for themselves. I wondered what was done to prevent failure of the structures due to these small homes. How did the Incans handle this type of situation?
Among many of the archaeological sites there were also acres of fields of beautiful flowers, and volunteer plants sprinkled here and there. These photos were taken at Piquillaqta.
I did not notice this type of cactus as being such a common plant, but it definitely thrived in the Peruvian area.

There was quite a variety of flowers; many I’ve never seen, and some that looked familiar, like the common dandelion in Missouri.

If you look close to the right of the yellow flower, the brown circular thing is a fungus of some type; possibly some type of mushroom.
In addition to the beautiful clouds, we often experienced rainbows, as seen, to the left, and below.

A couple days many of us saw full circle rainbows around the sun.

It seemed no matter what day it was, there were beautiful cloud formations somewhere to enjoy. Being an engineer, and using my imagination, I was pleased to capture some geometric shapes framing blue skies against breath taking landscapes, and endless terraces.

In these photos, I saw a rectangle, and a polygon, or mirrored triangles. I was never tired of looking around me.

People making their livings, by selling their ware, were usually huddled around the archaeological sites.

In these clouds I saw a rectangle.
To the left: these are flowers I saw when we stopped to let our horses rest, during our horseback ride. The yellow one looked like it had wings, and was getting ready to fly.

The purple flowers were a common sight, contributing to colorful countryside.
If you look closely, you can see several black beetles climbing all over the broad leafed plant. I don’t know what they were doing, but they were very active.

The alpacas, below, were at a place where the villagers wove and sold their products. The first thing I though when I saw them was, “look at those matted coats!” The second thing I thought was, “how much work do the yarn-makers have do to clean the wool well enough to use?  No doubt, no matter how much work it takes, the wool is cleaned!
The photo to the above left is the horse I rode on our wonderful 2 ½ hour ride in the Andes Mountains. He was a good boy and a steady mount.

To the above right was a typical sight; a donkey carrying some type of goods. What was interesting about this one was it was loose, and the person in “charge” of the two donkeys traveling together was walking ahead of them. I wish MY equidae were that behaved.

This guy looked pretty old, and may have been traveling the same path most his life.

Below are more of those purple flowers! Notice the terraces in the background, near Pisac.
Among other plants, there was a large population of succulents at this location, in Ollantaytambo. For the survey geeks, there were many bench marks and survey marks (geodetic marks) at several of the archaeological sites, for good reason!
I really did not see many mosquitos, but this one managed to fly around me for a while during breakfast one morning, and nearly as soon as I’d said “I am probably going to eat an insect,” it landed on my piece of pineapple. I did not eat the mosquito!

Below, small air plants were growing on the window’s header. The path on the side of the mountain, through the window, is to the quarry in Ollantaytambo. I was straining to see some people in our group who were hiking to the quarry, on that path, while I was standing in one of the many grain bins situated on the side an opposing mountain, taking this photo. I never did see them.
Small plants were perched everywhere.

The stone to the bottom left has “2007” carved in it. From what I understand, the date on this stone represents the year this particular archaeological area was rehabilitated. I noticed similar stones at several other locations during our trip.

All the photos on this page were taken around the grain bins at Ollantaytambo.
Notice the flowers along the top of the wall; a lovely greeting to us entering our hotel in Ollantaytambo. It was common to see tile decorating the outside faces of buildings, mixed with clay brick structures.
The fibrous, stalky plant, below, has fallen victim to graffiti. The buildings in the background were typical construction in the smaller towns, and roofs were mostly clay tile.
This lily was inside the hotel walls in Ollantaytambo. We’d had rain the night before, after our day at Mach Picchu.

A small insect looked to be warming itself on the petal.

I set my camera on ‘macro’ to get these close-up photos.
The flower at the top left was at the Moray Circles.

The flower to the top right was at the lovely Tunupa Restaurant, nestled above the Urubama River. We stopped there for wonderful buffet lunch, after the great hike into and out of the Moray Circles. We had definitely worked up an appetite! There were some musicians playing music on traditional flutes while we ate, which was very enjoyable.

The red plant in the garden, to the left, was at Machu Picchu.
This lower part of a section of Machu Picchu was in the background of a small garden on one of the terraces, early in the morning (before 7:00 AM!)

The lower photo is the upper part of that same section of Machu Picchu, and framed by the same garden, including a flowering tree. We were surrounded by more beautiful clouds, and endless breathtaking sights.

This photo was also taken before 7:00 AM.

This small garden and particular section of Machu Picchu seemed to be quite the hot spot for photographers.
Mirna, Cathy, and I hiked a portion of the Inca trail to see the famous Inca bridge (above, toward the bottom right). It was built against a rock face, with steps built into the wall. The logs were removable to keep enemies from crossing easily. Notice we are holding a cable anchored in the mountain: it's a long way down. Below, is Wayna Picchu ("young mountain"). I hiked to the very top!! (along with a portion of our group.) It was tough, but worth the effort! All our hiking trips earlier in the week were to condition us for this awesome trek to an altitude of over 9,000 feet! What an enriching week while making life long friendships.