Peru 2012
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The Pacific Ocean (Lima)

Lima is the modern day capital of Peru and also the largest city in the country. It was founded by Spanish conquistador Francisco Pizarro in 1535. The beaches in Lima are mainly composed of colorful cobbles that make the view even more beautiful.
Festival in Cusco

On our first day in Cusco we witnessed a large celebration in the main square with colorful outfits, dancing, and a parade!
Designs in the hillside
Granaries

Granaries used by the Incans for food storage. To the left is the face of a god carved into the mountainside.
Horseback Riding

Our view as we took a break from our two hour horseback ride through hills in Cusco.
The City of Cusco

A view of Cusco from Saqsaywaman.
Saqsaywaman

An example of the Incan stonework. The Incas used varying shapes and sizes of stones to make the structures more stable and prevent them from collapsing during earthquakes.
Llamas and Alpacas!

We had the chance to feed and pet the Llamas and Alpacas at a petting zoo.
LANDSLIDE!

A landslide covered part of the road. We had to walk across to get back to the van after our hike.
Salt Mines of Maras

Salt evaporation ponds that have been used since the Incan times.
Moray

This site is comprised of large circular terraces. The cold winds from the Andes cool the upper terraces. The lower terraces are warmer because they are blocked from the cool air. The Incans used the site to determine at which temperature crops grew better. You can also see some slope failure and the methods used to brace the structure.
Machu Picchu

One of the New Seven Wonders of the World, Machu Picchu. The site was built around 1450 and was abandoned sometime in 1572 due to the Spanish Conquest. (Huayna Picchu in the background)
Huayna Picchu

A view of the trail we took to get to the top of Huayna Picchu.
Another view of Machu Picchu

You can see in this photo how the site extends down the side of the mountain. So far, it is believe that only 60% of the site has been uncovered from the overgrown vegetation.