Waterways of Peru

Zane Helwig
Canals running through the streets of Cuzco

Cuzco having been built on Incan foundations still uses the canals under the city for water transport and many roads are as you see here with small canals running right through the middle of the streets.
Tipon

Here you see the end of a long irrigation system running through the terraces in Tipon.
Tipon

As you can see here the aqueducts still work at controlling the water runoff.
Tipon

While the canals are very functional for irrigation, they serve as great fountains as well to inspire awe in any tourist!
Here you see the amazing amount of effort that went into controlling the water flow to the Incan’s crops. This aqueduct runs to the top of this mountain creating quite a large area of controlled water distribution.
Here we see the remains of what some believe to be a large circular reservoir where water was damned up until it needed to be used. Another possible use of this large shallow pool of water may have been to study the stars through the reflection of the water.
This is the water temple of the Incans where many canals meet up to form some impressive man made water fountains. What is amazing about this temple was that despite the amount of rain water received the water flows through these aqueducts at the same rate, this shows the great knowledge the Incans had of engineers these type of structures.
Sacred Valley

An overlook of the Sacred Valley formed by the Urubamba River.
Water filtration in Pisaq

Water flows from above to this shallow pool where dirt is allowed to settle before the water continues to flow. This shows this may have been a bath at some point.

A continuation of the same aqueduct on the left here you could clearly see the water was cleaner.
Ollantaytambo

This was a pretty neat structure at the base of Ollantaytambo where water is flowing off of a rock that was not carved, unlike most of the other fountains we saw.
Salt Mines

Salt precipitating out of the stream flowing through the mines.
Machu Picchu

One of the few aqueducts present in Machu Picchu. Due to city's location aqueducts were not as vital for crop irrigation because of the frequent rainfall.
Waterworks

Machu Picchu’s dirty secret DISCOVERED!