

Pisac Mountain Vista Guest Houses

Information and Guidelines

Welcome to Pisac Mountain Vista Guest Houses!

Our guest houses are ideal for active travelers. Here you'll enjoy stunning views of the Sacred Valley and Pisac, lovely gardens and patios, and birds. We are located at the base of the majestic Apu Linli. **Ccatachacra**, the local name of our property in Quechua, means "farm field on a slope" and is a terraced hillside filled with native trees, fruit trees, and gardens. This property is located in the "Juqui" sector of the "Chihuanco" neighborhood on the west side of Pisac, just above the ancient Incan curved terraces and corn fields.

We have three guest houses located on this unique property. All guest houses have access to a fully equipped kitchen and free WiFi.

- **Pisac Mountain Vista House and Guest Suite** (for up to 6 guests)
- **Pisac Mountain Vista Bungalow** (for up to 4 guests)
- **Pisac Mountain Vista Cottage** (for up to 2 guests)

Property Host and Manager

Michael Skwarczek

Contact information provided upon request

Getting to and from the Property

Guests arrive here via a 15-20 minute walk from town or a 5 minute moto-taxi ride to the base of the property followed by a short uphill walk to the houses. Be aware that this property is not accessible by car and is therefore ideal for active travelers who enjoy walking. The absence of cars in this area offers guests peace and tranquility. **See map below.**

Moto Taxi Information

Moto Taxis can be found on the main highway or near the municipal market. Let the driver know that you are heading to "Juqui" (hookey) in Chihuanco at the end of the road. All moto taxis can take you and we have several who can also be called to arrange a ride (Spanish language only):

- Braulio: 984931701 *preferred
- Romulo: 926495001 *night service and early morning.
- Ermitaño: 937358565

Property Entrances

There are three main entrances to our property. The Lower and Middle doors are on the westside path shown in **blue** color in the map below. The Upper door enters from the highest

northeast corner and follows a separate footpath in **yellow** from the main path (**green**) from town.

Every guest house includes keys for the Middle and Upper pathway doors. The Bungalow House has exclusive access to the lowest property door. The Middle and Upper path doors also have a lockbox with a key that you can use to open that door and the key should be immediately returned to the lockbox after opening the door. Lock combination provided upon arrival.

Never make copies or loan your copy of property keys. Never give out the code for the Lockboxes.



Check-in and Check-out

Check-in time is 1 PM

Check-out time is 10 AM

Guest Check-in/Check-out Protocol

- Access and Keys:
 - The lockbox code has been provided to first enter the property of your guest house or the door may be left ajar with prior arrangements.
 - Your guest house keys will be waiting in the door to your guest house.
 - Leave the keys in the door of your guest house when your stay is over.

- **Payment is due upon arrival or via Paypal.**

Guest House and Property Rules

- **Please respect the quiet and peaceful nature of this property and neighborhood.** Refrain from holding gatherings including ceremonies, creating loud noises, or playing loud music that affects others on the property and neighbors.
- **No ceremony and plant medicine use on the property.**
- **Quiet hours are 9 PM to 8 AM.**
- **Guests shall make no alterations to the guest house.** Do not move or rearrange furniture. **No nails or tacks in the walls to hang personal items.**
- **Dangerous or flammable items that might increase the danger of fire or that might be considered hazardous are prohibited inside the guest houses. No candles. No incense. No smoking indoors.** This policy is the result of past guest behavior that damaged houses.
- **Do not remove any items from the property** including blankets, towels, pillows and kitchen items. Do not bring blankets from the house outside onto the grass (they are difficult to clean).
- **No pets.** There is a cat that lives on the property; however, animals and pets are not allowed in the guest houses. Do not let the resident cat into your house.
- **Public nudity is not allowed.**
- **Electrical heaters or electric blankets are not allowed.** If observed there will be a fine of \$150 to compensate for the excessive impact they make upon our energy bill. These also stress the electric system and could cause wires to burn.
- **No photo sessions and no use of drones.** Normal personal photography only.
- **Any property damage reimbursement is to be handled directly with management.** Please do not attempt to buy replacements of damaged items.

Friend Visits and Gatherings

- **Guest houses may not exceed the maximum number of guests listed for each house.** If you have a long-term stay, and you wish to have a guest stay with you, please notify management. Additional guests may warrant additional payment.
- **Tents or camping is not allowed on the property.**
- **Small gatherings with people not staying on the property require prior approval from management** in order to respect other guests' peace and privacy.

Property Maintenance

Property maintenance is frequent and sometimes aided by our local Quechua community friends. Please do not be surprised by the presence on the property of one or two local grounds keepers. The property is otherwise totally private and secure.

Electric Showers

Most of the houses are equipped with modern, regularly maintained electric shower heads that are very common in Latin America. They provide a good, hot shower if used properly.

Here are some guidelines for their use:

- The lower the pressure, the hotter the shower. Turn the valve slowly until you hear the buzz of the electrical element engage; this is the hottest point. Simply increase pressure to cool the water. Do not change the controls directly on the shower head.
- Do not touch the shower head while it is on.
- An electrical circuit breaker is installed next to every shower as required to cut power to the shower for maintenance.
- If the small shower jets are clogged and not releasing water properly, please notify management for cleaning.
- If the electric shower head stays on (buzzing noise still heard) after the shower water valve is turned off (more than a second), immediately turn off the circuit breaker and notify management for maintenance.

Beware of portable gas heaters that some travelers choose to use

indoors to heat homes. We do provide extra blankets, hot water bottles, and electric tea kettles to fill the bottles with hot water to warm you. While the Andean winter months are cold, our homes are not designed to provide adequate ventilation for the safe operation of gas heaters indoors. Most gas heaters found in Peru also do not have safety features to shut off when carbon monoxide is produced by a gas heater or when the concentration of carbon dioxide from burning gas builds up indoors. Carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide can not be seen nor smelled and they will kill you as the concentration increases in homes. We don't provide indoor gas heaters and will not facilitate the purchase of heaters or gas for heaters due to the inherent dangers of using these indoors.

Garbage/Compost/Recyclables/Burnables

- **Bathroom Paper** - All bathroom paper goes in bins in the bathroom. **Do not put paper or sanitary products in the toilet.**
- **Garbage** (plastic) - garbage goes in the bins marked "garbage."
- **Composting** - food waste goes in the bin marked "compost" in the kitchen.
- **Burnable trash** (paper, cardboard, etc) goes in the bin marked "burnable."
- If you are staying for longer than a week, we will show you where to empty the compost and burn the paper.

Housecleaning

- Guest houses are cleaned weekly. If you are a long-term guest, you'll be notified of the weekly cleaning schedule upon your arrival.
- Bedding and towels are replaced weekly. If you need additional clean linens or towels during your stay, please inform the property manager.

Garden and Landscape

- There is a weekly schedule of watering and garden/ indoor plants maintenance that will happen during the above mentioned house cleaning schedule.
- Please notify the property manager if you see problems with any plants or leaking hoses.
- Garden herbs can be enjoyed in small quantities for personal cooking and teas but please do not harvest for processing or removal.

Laundry

There are many laundry services available in Pisac. Laundry self-service may be available on the property for guests depending on water availability (may not be available during the dry season). Check with the host to see if laundry is available.

Patio Kitchen and Firepit

The patio kitchen and firepit are available for guests staying in the Mountain Vista House and Guest Suite (Upper House). If the Mountain Vista house is unoccupied, guests staying in the Vista Cottage may arrange with the property manager to use the firepit.

- **Firewood** - Guests may purchase firewood for use from the property manager.
- **Wood Fire Oven - Do Not Use.** This oven can only be used by the property manager or owners.

Property Water Systems

The houses are serviced by spring water piped to water tanks at the top of the property. There are filters at the tanks to remove particulate matter and sink filters to reduce potential microbes in the natural water source. Running excess water will clog the filters and potentially cause the tanks to temporarily run out of water. **If water flow becomes limited, please notify the property manager immediately for maintenance.**

Drinking water. All guest houses have water filters attached to the kitchen sinks that are suitable for drinking water for most people. However, we cannot guarantee that the sink filters will remove all potential sources of microbial contamination. If you are immunocompromised we suggest using the electric water boilers in each kitchen for your drinking water.

Emergency Services and Healthcare

- **Cusco Medical Clinics and Hospitals**
 - **S.O.S. Medical Clinic** <http://www.sos-mg.com/>
- **Kausay Wasi Clinic** (in Coya, 20 minute drive from Pisac) <https://www.kausaywasi.org/>
- **Pisac Emergency Clinic** located on Avenida Amazonas.
- **Police:** Dial 105 for the National Police emergency number nationwide.
- **Fire Station:** Dial 116 for the fire brigade.
- **Medical Emergency:** Dial 106 for the Ministry of Health emergency number.

Local Info and Lore

Day Trips and Excursions Near Pisac

Pisac Archaeological Complex

The archaeological complex of Pisac is considered one of the jewels in the Sacred Valley of the Incas and stands out for the good state of conservation of its temples and finely carved stone enclosures, and for its system of terraces, platforms, aqueducts, and canalized water channels. The ruins are located at 3,300 meters above sea level and are erected on the hills of the city of Pisac, offering incredible views of it, the Vilcanota River, and, of course, a large part of the Sacred Valley. The Boleto Turistico must be purchased to visit the site; two versions of the ticket allow visitors to combine Pisac with other sites over 2 days or 10 days.

To visit the Pisac ruins, either hire a taxi (20 minute ride) or hike from town. For those who choose to hike, it is a 5.3-km loop trail that begins above the plaza in Pisac. This hike is generally considered a moderately challenging route. Plan for at least 3 hours. This is a very popular area for hiking, so you'll likely encounter other people while exploring. The trail is steep and many hikers choose to taxi to the top, explore the ruins, and hike down. You'll need to purchase the Boleto Turistico in order to visit the archaeological site. This can be purchased at the entry to the ruins.

Kinsa Cocha Laguna Hiking Trails

There are a couple of different trails that start from Kinsa Cocha Laguna in the community of Paru Paru, above Pisac. The landscapes are spectacular. Trails begin in front of Kinsa Cocha Lake. Hikers can choose to hike around the lake (about 2.5 hours) or take the upper path and continue to Azul Cocha Lake above and back down (around 3 hours). This hiking area is uncrowded, and it's unlikely you'll encounter many other people while exploring. It costs 3 soles per person to hike in the area, paid to the villagers whose land it is. To get there, hire a taxi from Pisac and ask them to take you to Laguna Kinsa Cocha.

Amaru Community Based Tourism

Our Quechua friends Lucia and Walter in Amaru offer an authentic, hands-on, off the beaten path, cultural experience in their Andean highland community of Amaru. Here you can learn about traditional textile production from the field to the weaving, agricultural practices, eat typical Andean dishes from local ingredients, and hike around the stunning mountains and lakes of the area. You may choose a day visit or a multi-day homestay. For more information, visit <https://qantustika.wixsite.com/qantus-tika>. Our property manager is happy to help you organize a visit to Amaru.

Markets

Mercado de Artesanías

Pisac has one of the best artisan markets in the entire Sacred Valley. Located above the plaza, this market is home to artisan and craft vendors from the area. Here you'll find high quality hand made textiles that you can buy directly from the artists as well as sweaters, jewelry, ceramics, instruments, T-shirts, and a variety of gift items.

Sunday Farmers Market

Each Sunday, farmers and produce vendors gather on the perimeter of the main plaza in Pisac. This market has a variety of local produce from the valley and the Amazon basin. Prices are good and the atmosphere is fun.

Mercado Municipal

The municipal market is open daily and is a good place to purchase fresh produce (fruit and vegetables, root crops), poultry, meats, fish, spices, olives, chocolate, coffee, etc. There are also food stalls serving fresh juice, breakfasts and lunch. Located 3 blocks east of the Pisac plaza.

Sofi's Market

Sofi's Market on Calle Bolognesi is a general grocery store with a good selection of fresh and packaged food items. Sofi's is also a good place to change dollars.

Other Grocery stores and markets

There are several other grocery stores across the street from the municipal market. Here you can find organic produce and specialty food items.

Restaurants and Cafes

The following is a list of our favorite cafés and restaurants in Pisac:

- **La Valentina** serves fusion Peruvian cuisine including salads, sandwiches, sushis, bowls and main courses. Located next to the Jardín Botánico on the corner of Calle Arequipa and Calle Grau.
- **Jardín El Encanto** is a café-style restaurant serving juices, coffees, sandwiches, salads, and desserts. Located on Calle San Francisco, next to the Jardín Botánico, just down the street from the main plaza.
- **Cuchara de Palo** serves fine-dining Peruvian cuisine. Located in the Pisac Inn.
- **Sapos Pizzeria and Lounge** serves great pizza and salads. Located on Calle Espinar corner with Calle Arequipa.
- **Antica Osteria** serves homemade pastas, pizzas and handmade desserts. Located across the street from the municipal market.

- **Cervecería del Valle Sagrado Tap Room** offers microbrew beers, kombucha, artisanal liquors and a menu of sandwiches, focaccias, and salads. They are located on Calle San Francisco just down the street from the main plaza going toward the municipal market.
- **Bon Apetit Café Paris** offers croissants and french pastries, coffees, and juices. Located on Av. Federico Zamalloa across the street from the municipal market.
- **Migas del Valle** offers sourdough bread and baked goods. Located on Av. Patacalles.