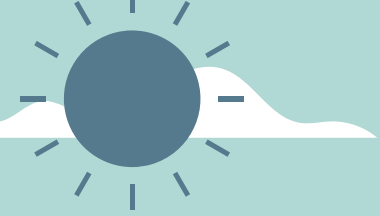




Peru Wintermester 2022-2023

By: Sarah Beamer



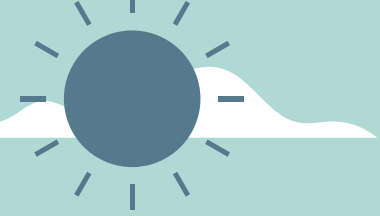


Barranco and Miraflores



While our hotel was in the San Isidro district of Lima, we took a tour of the Barranco and Miraflores districts. We visited various parks, view points, and shops!





Historical Downtown Lima



We took a walking tour of downtown Lima and saw various government buildings, squares and the Monasterio Santo Domingo.



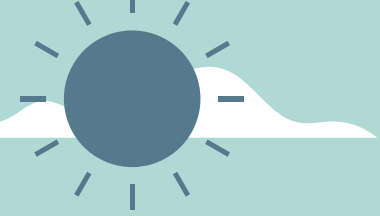


Group Dinner - Huaca Pucllana



This restaurant served as the first group dinner spot. We ate a 3 course meal and tried a pisco sour! It was beautifully located next to the Huaca itself, which is a historical monument built by a Peruvian civilization in the Lima Valley.



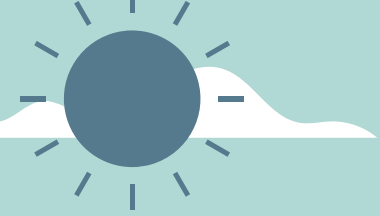


Still in School



Even through the fun activities of the study abroad, we still were students and had lecture every week day! We would eat breakfast together, walk to class, and spent time studying for exams.



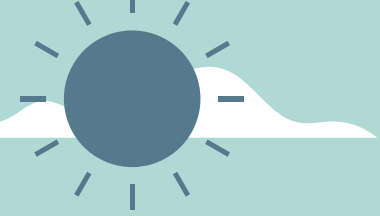


More Views of Lima



On free days, we would walk around the city and catch pretty views! We went down to the beach, walked the Lima coast, and watched the sunset!



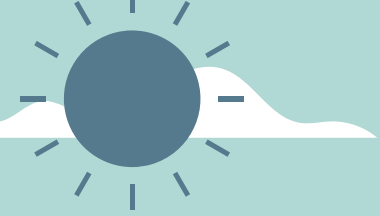


Museo Larco



A group of us went to Museo Larco and ate dinner in the garden cafe! This museum hosted nearly 45,000 archeological pieces from thousands of years of Peru's rich history!





Ceviche!



Ceviche is one of Peru's most notable dishes, containing raw fish, lime juice, aji pepper, cilantro, purple onion and corn. We attended a class to learn how to make our own ceviche and ate it fresh at a few restaurants as well.

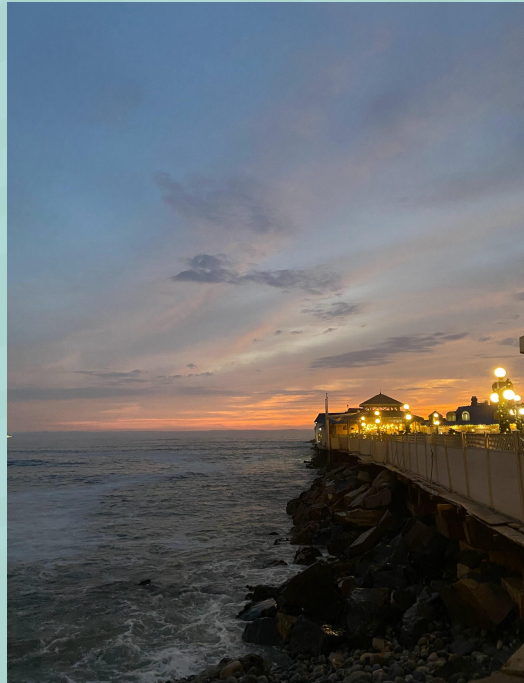


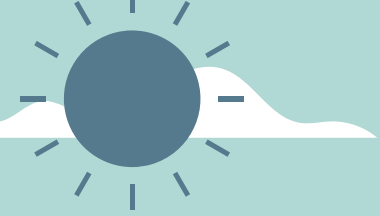


Group Dinner - Rosa Nautica



We had our second group dinner over the ocean at Rosa Nautica. It was peaceful to hear the sound of the ocean while eating!



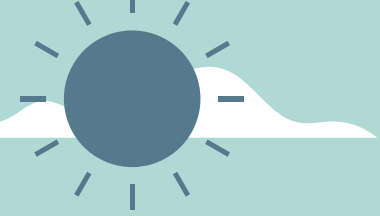


Day Trip to Paracas



In Paracas, we explored vast sand dunes on a buggy and went sandboarding! We also saw penguins and sea lions on a boat tour!



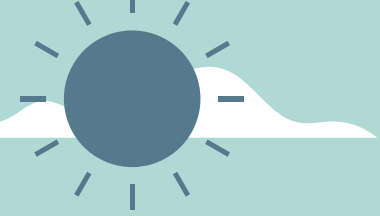


City of Cusco



While adjusting to the 10,000 ft elevation of Cusco, we explored the city and nearby Incan archeological sites. We learned about Inca architecture and how they were able to build foundations that continue to stand after hundreds of years.



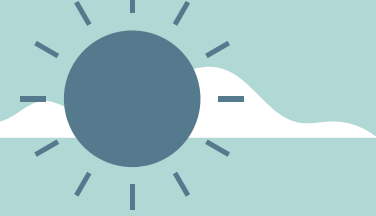


Sacred Valley



We spent the day driving through the Sacred Valley and visiting various monuments, sites, and even the salt mines!

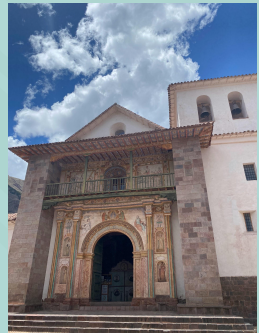


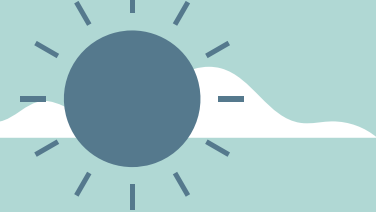


More Incan Sites & The Andes



Since the railway to Machu Picchu was shut down due to civil unrest, we spent a second day exploring more Incan and Colonial sites.



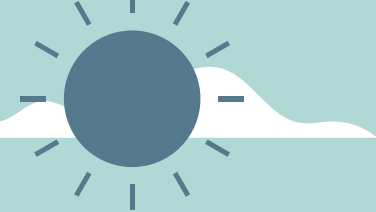


More Good Eats



Outside of our group dinners, I still tried to eat local favorites! Some notable cuisines I tried were piranha, beef hearts, guinea pig, alpaca steak, and others!

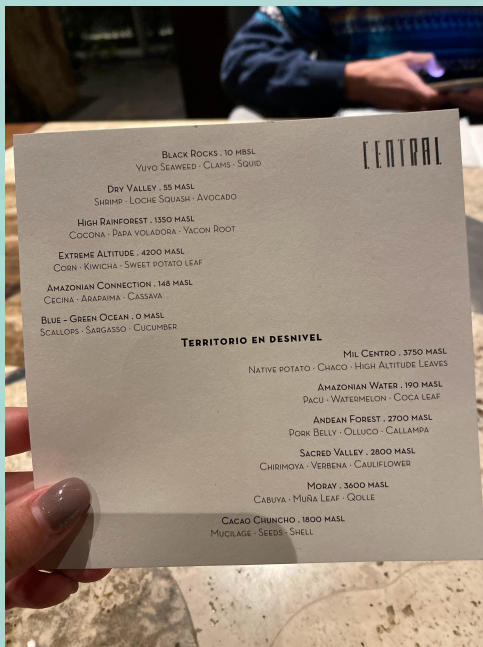


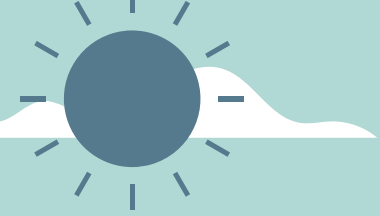


Group Dinner - Central



At Central, we ate a 12 course meal that was themed around the unique ingredients found in the 84 ecosystems that Peru has. Each course took you to a different region of Peru and allowed you to “travel” the country throughout the meal!



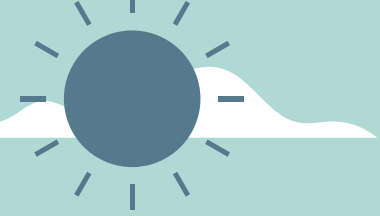


Group Dinner - Central



Just the food!!

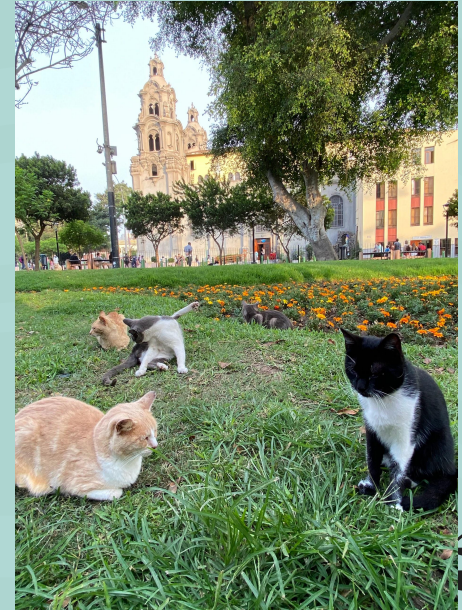




The Cats of Peru!!



There were a lot of cats and dogs around Cusco, and we visited a cat park in Lima!
The animal lover in me was very happy.



Takeaways

- Lima and Cusco were vastly different
 - Lima gets little to no rain and is more modern
 - Cusco has more English speakers and a lot of dogs
- The Inca Empire had very good civil engineers
 - 500+ year old foundation, salt mines, and water channels
- Inca Kola tastes pretty good, Peru loves KFC, and the McQueso is just hamburger buns and cheese
- Dinners took well over an hour and were viewed as social events between friends and family
- Drivers were more disordered, but also more forgiving





Reflection

This study abroad experience has taught me a lot, not just how to travel, but also things about myself. I learned to research and understand a country's culture before you visit. For example, smiling and making eye contact with people is a southern US thing, and can have different connotations in Peru. I also learned how to navigate a country that speaks another language, which was the first time I had needed to do that. It has inspired me to travel back to South America and Peru to continue immersing myself in new cultures.

Peru, I will be back!





Thank You!

This was such a
life-changing experience!

