



“Where earth and sky have made Art”

THE SACRED VALLEY

of the Incas

The name originates from Urubamba, the sacred river of the Inca Empire. It is located 50 kilometers from Cusco, at an average altitude of 2.700 m.a.s.l.

It contains a large number of archaeological sites among which are Pisac, Chinchero, the circular terraces of Moray, Ollantaytambo and the citadel of Huchuy Qosqo.

It also has rich cultural traditions which can be seen in the salt extractors working in the Salt Mines of Maras, in its weavers and the musicians and dancers who participate in local festivities.

Its geography is impressive as the valley is flanked by the Andean mountain range of the Vilcanota River, with the volcanoes Veronica, Sahuasiray and Chicon, in addition to ravines, lakes and forests of native trees that retain great diversity of life.

The Sacred Valley, a place of agricultural experimentation and pantry to the Inca Empire, is also the space that leads us to two of its main attractions, the Citadel of Machu Picchu and the Inca Trail.

INTEREST

Sites

-  Archaeological site and market of Chinchero.
-  Circular terraces of Moray.
-  Salt Mines of Maras.
-  Archaeological Site of Pisac.
-  Community of weavers of Chahuaytire.

ANDEAN BAROQUE ROUTE

South Valley

The Andean Baroque Route, promoted by the Society of Jesus, traverses four temples which exhibit some of the most impressive Andean baroque expressions in Peru. It is an art born from the fusion between the Andean worldview and its nature and Christianity. A culture which creates a world of colour, expressiveness and transgression, which fills ceilings, walls and furniture in the temples.

The Route is composed by the temple of the Society of Jesus (La Compañía) in Cusco, and the temples of Andahuaylillas, Huaró and Canincunca in the South Valley. This geographical space connects the capital of the Inca Empire with the jungle of Madre de Dios and Lake Titicaca. This was a commercial axis, preceding the Incas, for the transport of gold, silver, coca leaves and animal fibres. Since then, archaeological sites can be found in its path, such as Tipón and Rumicolca, and ancient fabric factories as the one that can be found in Lucre. The valley, framed by mountains and lakes, is formed by small villages of farmers, traders and ranchers, and there are also towns of sorcerers, bakers, brick builders, as well as musicians and dancers who pay homage to the Virgen del Carmen and the Señor del Qoylluriti.

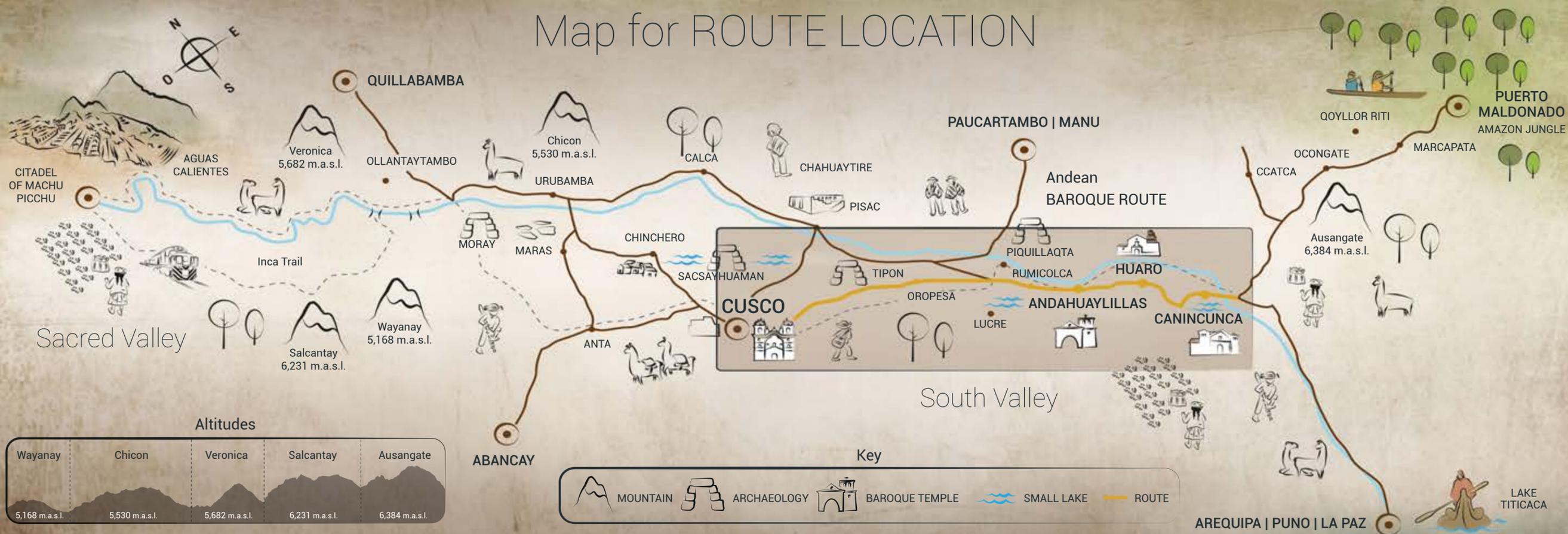
The Andean Baroque Route is focused on the cultural promotion of the region and also contributes to the social works that the Jesuits bring to the area, where vulnerable children, youth and women receive assistance through food and education. Therefore, the Route promotes the sustainable development of the area.

INTEREST

Sites

-  Archaeological Site of Tipón.
-  Towns of Oropesa and Lucre.
-  Lake Huacarpay.
-  Archaeological site of Rumicolca.
-  Andean Baroque Route.

Map for ROUTE LOCATION





The Society of Jesus IN CUSCO

One of the masterpieces of South American baroque colonial art, its façade is made out of carved stone.

The temple, rebuilt after the earthquake of 1650, located in the Main Square or Plaza de Armas, preserves two smaller chapels, Loreto and San Ignacio.



Paintings: There is great wealth of paintings from the Cusqueña School of Art. Among them, there is one which illustrates the marriage between the nephew of the founder of the Jesuit Order, Saint Ignatius of Loyola and a princess of Inca lineage.



Altar: Of imposing size, it was carved by Diego Martinez in cedar wood and decorated with gold leaf. It preserves four minor altars on both sides.



Architecture: The architecture of the temple served as a model for many other temples built in the southern Andes.



Virgen Purificada OF CANINCUNCA

The Purified Virgin, also known as La Candelaria, has a small chapel dedicated to her, located on next to the small lake of Urcos.

With two bell towers, its interior retains murals showing elements of Andean nature prepared with dyes extracted from plants and minerals.



Mural Paintings: Many of them represent flowers, fruits, birds and symbols that are reminiscent of the pallais, geometric designs used by Andean weavers in their textiles.



Small lake: Located in a narrow pass (the meaning of canincunca) next to the small lake of Urcos.



Construction: At the beginning of the XVII century, it has a single nave with two external towers.



San Juan Bautista OF HUARO

The town of Huaró conserves one of the temples with mural paintings from the local artist Tadeo Escalante, which can be considered among the most spectacular to be found in Peru. Its renaissance altar is outstanding, as well as the iconography of the coffered ceiling in which no elements are repeated. Its catechisms are visual, with narrations of the aftermath, as an evangelization method for the native population.



Mural Paintings: Painted by Tadeo Escalante, they show the aftermath of humans, that is, the vision of death, the final judgment, glory and hell, defined by the union of Andean symbolism, their popular beliefs and art from the colonial period.



Style: Built at the end of the XVI century and the beginning of the XVII, it retains a Renaissance style, which combines other historical periods in its interior.



Religious Art: Its interior has more than 60 sculptures and 50 paintings of great quality and beauty, in addition to silverware, altarpieces and other movable property.



San Pedro Apostol OF ANDAHUAYLILLAS

Temple of Andean Baroque style with a Renaissance façade, located in one of the most emblematic colonial towns of the South Valley.

The interior decoration retains Spanish, Arab and Andean influences; its organs are exceptional, the oldest in Latin America, the coffered ceiling and mural paintings from Luis de Riaño.



Paintings: It possesses a large quantity of murals and paintings with cedar-wood and gold leaf frames from Luis de Riaño.



Baptistry: Its baptistry retains the baptismal formula in Latin, Spanish, Quechua, Aymara and Puquina.



Organs: In its interior, it has two operating and beautifully painted organs, Rey David y Santa Cecilia and Los Angeles, which are considered the oldest in Latin America.

Distance from Cusco: 42 kilometres
Tour of temples in the South Valley: 3 kilometres
Altitude: 3,450 - 3,200 m.a.s.l.
Recommended time for Route from Cusco: half a day.

ANDEAN BAROQUE ROUTE Map

