



**Gigi's 2017  
Trip to Peru  
The Flora & Fauna**

## Birds Gigi Saw in Peru



Paradise Tanager

We saw many of these bright birds but they were too quick and shy to get a picture of. All of the pictures of the birds are gathered from the Internet.



There were many other tanagers as well. I only found a few pictures and do not know what type they are.



**Blue Crowned Motmot**

**I saw one of these beautiful birds while at Sacsayhuaman. It flew very fast and stayed in the trees. But you could not miss its long turquoise tail.**



**This dove might look like the ones near your house but it is a West Peruvian Dove.**

**The birds on the left were at Machu Picchu but I have also seen them at the Los Angeles Zoo!**



## Hoatzin

The strange Hoatzin isn't as pretty as toucans, tanagers, and macaws. It wins the prize for the oddest bird in the Amazon. Nearly as large as a turkey, the Hoatzin spends its time loafing around lakes in the Amazon rainforest. It sits in bushes and small trees that grow at the water's edge and grunts. It nips off leaves from the surrounding vegetation. They don't pay much attention to people. When scared, they clumsily flap their way to a nearby branch. (Perunature.com)

I saw one of these was we road on a train to Machu Picchu. I was surprised how large he was.





**The orchid above was everywhere but it hid under its large leaves and was difficult to find.**



**Peristeria sp. (Also known as the Flower of the Holy Spirit) is a fan orchid found from Central America to Ecuador and Venezuela.**



**Epidendrum secundum is the official name of the orchid above. We commonly call it "Poor Man's Orchid" It is growing wild all around Machu Picchu. I also saw it in a red color. The domesticated version of this orchid grows in my yard. I have yellow, orange and lavender varieties.**

**Heliconia subulata (pictured at the right) is a plant in the same family as the Bird of Paradise found in gardens in your neighborhood. It was exciting to see many wild ones.**



# The Food Basket



The passion flower is native to Peru as well as other countries. This plant produces the tasty fruit above.

## Guaba

Also known as the ice cream bean or the cotton candy fruit. The Guaba is really a legume (like a pea). They are often sold by little cholitos (food stands) on the roadside as buses pass by. That is where we got ours.





**There are two wild vegetables in this picture. Circled in blue is a wild form of the tomato plant. The little green covering makes it look more like a tomatillo.**





**Cherimoyas (on the left) are growing wild in Machu Picchu. They are native to the jungle regions of South America. They are such a tasty fruit. They have them here in the Farmer's Market.**

**But what are these strawberries doing at Machu Picchu (on the right)? I don't think they belong there.**



# Guinea Pigs



Guinea Pigs are called Cuy (coo-e) in Peru. They are important household members. There are few wild guinea pigs left in the mountains. They live where there is some rock shelter on the slopes. Guinea Pigs were domesticated over 5,000 years ago.

Needless to say. Cuy are a BIG thing in Peru.



# OLLANTAYTAMBO

## and the Vicuña



The vicuña is a small camel type animal that lives in the wild. They have not been able to be kept even in zoos for any length of time. This is a young boy vicuña who lost his mother and herd. As soon as he is big enough he will be returned to a new herd. We were very lucky to see him.

This vicuña was tied at the hacienda (ranch house) we stayed in one night. He would kick and bite if you got too close.

The vicuña is the undomesticated form of the Alpaca. Their fur is the second most expensive animal fur in the world.



In Peru you have to be licensed to own the fur or the yarn made of the fur. But if you have a license you can protect a herd and shear the animals every few years. You can make garments and sell the finished product.

There are two Alpacas in the picture with the ladies on the right. They look very different from their cousins the vicuña.



## The Animals at Machu Picchu



The llama above don't usually live at Machu Picchu. They are from much higher elevations. These two were brought in for tourists to see.

But the lizard is a resident of the area.



And the viscacha below looks like a very large chinchilla! They were grazing on the grass everywhere in Machu Picchu.



## Sacsayhuaman and Llamas



Many local folk would put on their best traditional clothing and grab a couple of their baby animals to take pictures with tourists. This woman from Chinchero had a brown lamb and a baby alpaca. She charged 1 Sol for the picture. A Sol is worth about 33 pennies of our money.

The llamas live with families around the valley that we visited.





**This big Alpaca had a haircut while we watched. The villagers used sharp knives to cut the hair. They were very careful not to cut too close to the skin.**



**At Machu Picchu the flowers grew right out of the walls.**















**For Declan  
Christmas 2017  
With Love from Gigi**

