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COMINGS & GOINGS } HILARY HOWARD



Machu Picchu and Traditional People, Too

With the globalization of tourism, an authentic experience in a faraway country has become more difficult. Take Peru. It's easy to visit Machu Picchu via an air-conditioned bus and stay separated from the Quechuan communities just an hour away. But what if you'd like to visit them? This is the focus of Peru Cultural Journeys (www.peruculturaljourneys.com), which offers a series of "Andean Special Interest" trips, all of which include interaction within a traditional community and participation in its work-

day. Themes include traditional medicine (bone setting, midwifery); textiles (weaving, above); archaeoastronomy; and music and dance. There is also a culinary package, which features hands-on cooking classes using traditional ingredients like purple potatoes, amaranth and quinoa. Participants stay in the village of Pisac (about 20 miles north of Cuzco), and also have the chance to visit Machu Picchu and Cuzco. Prices for nine-day packages start at \$1,850 a person, based on double occupancy.