

Porter Project – Visit to Machu Picchu



Exodus Porter Project Report

July 2026

As part of the Exodus Porter Project, 15 porters were given the opportunity to visit Machu Picchu, thanks to the continued support and collaboration between Exodus Adventure Travels and the Porters Project.

The selected porters were members of group **TPT260705**, accompanied by:

- **Tour Leader:** Jean Pierre Hurtado
- **Cook:** Julian Aviles
- **Head Porter:** Israel Espinoza

All members of the porter team are from **Calca**; a community located in Peru's Sacred Valley. This group is one of the youngest porter teams currently working with us on the Inca Trail.

For all the participants, this was their **first visit to Machu Picchu**, despite having worked on the Inca Trail for several years. Due to current regulations, porters are

not permitted to visit Machupicchu the archaeological site while working. After reaching the final campsite, they must follow a separate route to **Km 106**, from where they take the train back to Ollantaytambo before returning to their communities. As a result, many dedicated porters spend years supporting travelers on the Inca Trail without ever having the opportunity to experience Machu Picchu themselves.

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The group visited Machu Picchu accompanied by a professional tour guide who delivered the site interpretation in **Quechua**, allowing the porters to engage with the history and cultural significance of the Inca citadel in their native language. Following the guided tour, the group had approximately **two hours** to explore and enjoy the site.

The visit was a truly special and emotional experience for the porters. Many expressed their excitement and appreciation for finally being able to visit one of the world's most iconic archaeological sites, a place they help travelers reach every day.

Shared Lunch Experience

After the visit, the porters joined the customers for lunch at a local tourist restaurant. This was one of the most memorable moments of the day, as the travelers personally served lunch to the porters as a gesture of gratitude and respect.

The customers expressed how much they valued the hard work, dedication, and support provided by the porter team throughout the trek. They acknowledged that the success of their Inca Trail experience would not have been possible without the efforts of the porters.

This simple but meaningful act created a genuine moment of connection between travelers and porters, highlighting the spirit of appreciation, cultural exchange, and mutual respect that the Porter Project seeks to promote.



Conclusion

The Machu Picchu visit was an unforgettable experience for this young porter team from Calca. Beyond providing access to one of Peru's most important cultural heritage sites, the initiative fostered pride, recognition, and a deeper connection between travelers and the people who make the Inca Trail experience possible.

We would like to sincerely thank **Exodus Adventure Travels** and the **Porters Project** for making this opportunity possible and for their ongoing commitment to supporting the well-being, recognition, and personal development of porters in the Peruvian Andes.