

The Andean road system

Qhapaq Ñan

Qhapaq Ñan Sistema Nacional del Ministerio de Cultura



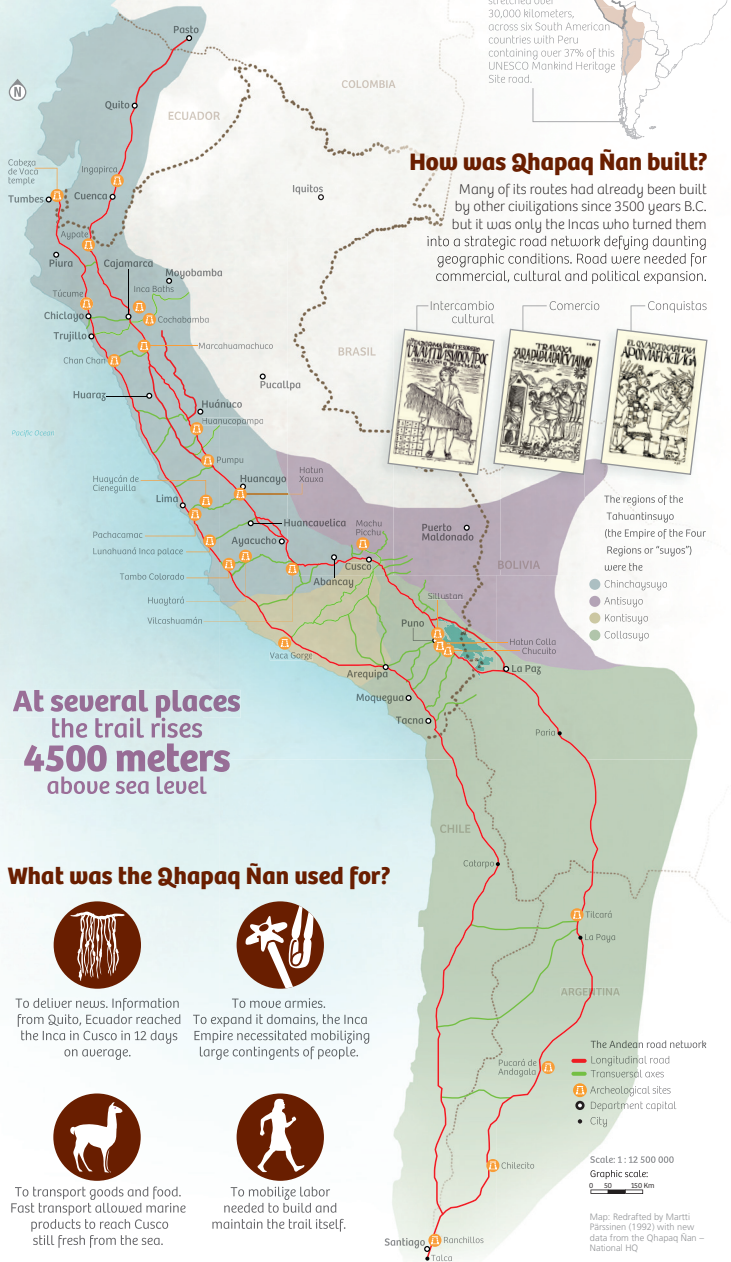
The Andean road system Qhapaq Ñan

Qhapaq Ñan is an amazing road network that once used to connect the vast territory of the Inca Empire, the Tahuantinsuyo. The Incas build a communications network to control new territories, assimilate other contemporary civilizations and manage resources across a range of ecosystems. A restored Qhapaq Ñan will help bring regional cultures together once again.

Extension:

stretched over
30 000
kilometers

The Qhapaq Ñan stretched over 30,000 kilometers, across six South American countries with Peru containing over 37% of this UNESCO Mankind Heritage Site road.



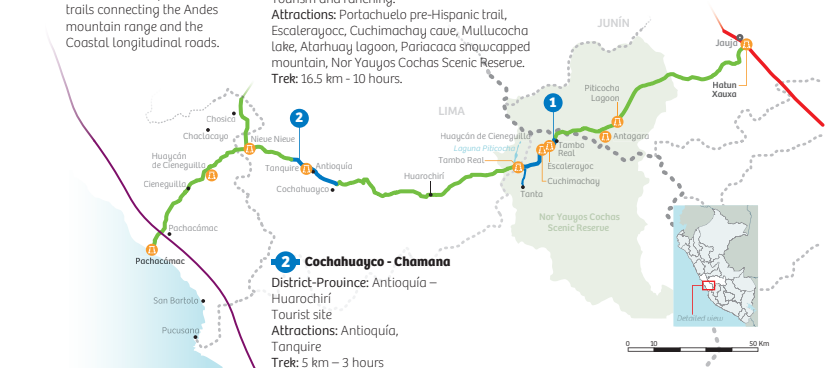
With thousands of miles to explore, these are some Qhapaa Ñan's most fascinating spots.

- Department limit
- Province limit
-  Archeological sites
-  Provincial capital
- City

Trek along the two Xauxa – Pachacámac impressive trails connecting the Andes mountain range and the Coastal longitudinal roads.

District – Province: Tanta - Yauyos / Huarochiri
Tourism and ranching.
Attractions: Portachuelo pre-Hispanic trail, Escalerayoc, Cuchimachay cave, Mullucocha lake, Atarhuay lagoon, Pariacaca snowcapped mountain, Nor Yauyos Cochas Scenic Reserve.
Trek: 16.5 km - 10 hours.

District-Province: Antioquía –
Huarochirí
Tourist site
Attractions: Antioquía,
Tanquire
Trek: 5 km – 3 hours



Roads to the four suyos, the four major regions of the Tahuantinsuyo Empire, left from pre-Hispanic Haucaypata Square, now the city's Main Square

Terrain: paved, cobbled and gravel
Attractions: P'aqlachapata square; 12-angles stone, San Blas small square
Trek: 1.6 km – 45 minutes

Terrain: paved and cobbled
Attractions: Santa Teresa convent, Saphi street, La Conquista street, Santa Ana square
Trek: 1.2 km – 1 hour 20 minutes

Terrain: paved and cobbled
Attractions: Qoricancha temple, Hatun
Rimacpampa square
Trek: 900 meters - 1 hour

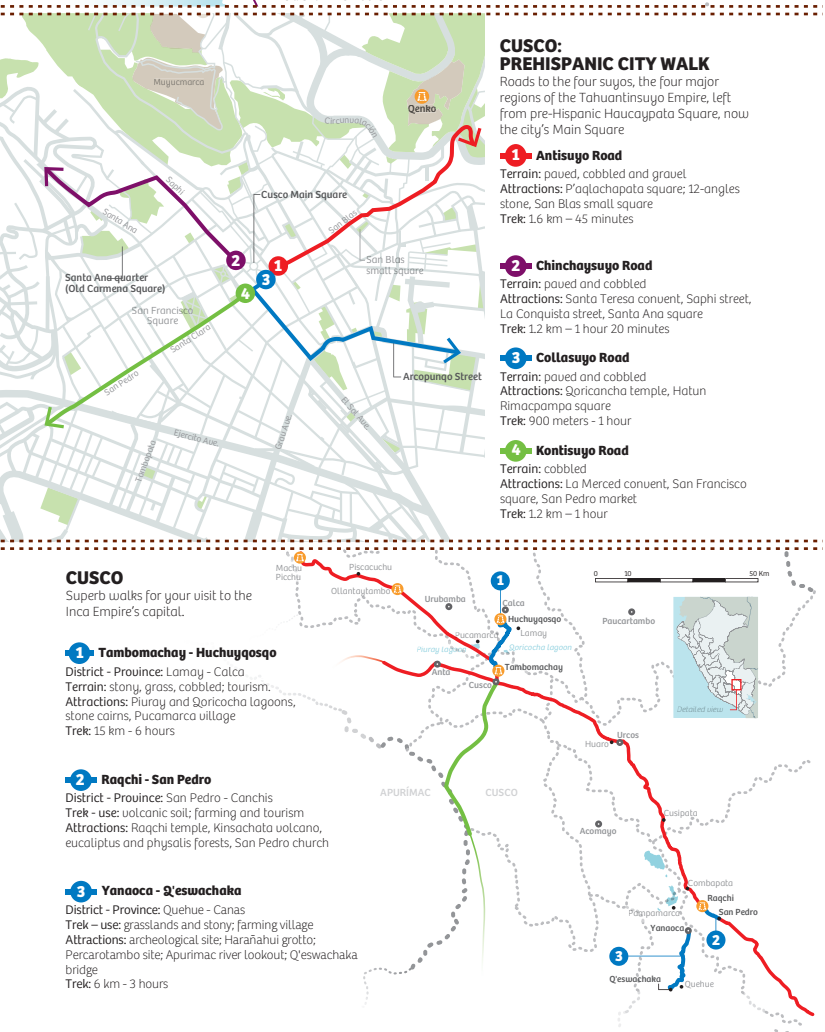
Terrain: cobbled
Attractions: La Merced convent, San Francisco square, San Pedro market
Trek: 1.2 km – 1 hour

Superb walks for your visit to the Inca Empire's capital.

District - Province: Lamay - Calca
Terrain: stony, grass, cobbled; tourism.
Attractions: Piuray and Qoricocha lagoons, stone cairns, Pucamarca village
Trek: 15 km - 6 hours

District - Province: San Pedro - Carchi
Trek - use: volcanic soil; farming and tourism
Attractions: Raqchi temple, Kinsachata volcano, eucaliptus and physalis forests, San Pedro church

District - Province: Quehue - Canas
Trek – use: grasslands and stony; farming village
Attractions: archeological site; Harañahui grotto;
 Percarotambo site; Apurimac river lookout; Q'eshwachaka
 bridge
Trek: 6 km - 3 hours



How was it organized?

Over 30,000 kilometers long, the road grid created a vast communications system comprising:

TRUNK AND TRANSVERSAL ROADS

Many transversal axes branch off the Andes longitudinal road to the Coastal road. Bridges, containment walls, drains, stairways, sidewalks, inns, warehouses and llactas administrative centers dot the road landscape. Varying construction techniques resulted in **four different types of roads**:

1. With containment walls

They were 2.5 to 6 meters wide

2. Cobbled

3. With side walls

4. Aligned stones

BRIDGES

Rough geography required clever bridge construction. Bridges were of four types and featured 70 cm diameter support rails.

1. Hanging

Woven using agave or ccola straw braids anchored to two stone braces

2. Tree trunk

Tied with agave or straw rope

Covered with branches and dirt

Stone foundation

3. Stone bridge

Stone slabs

Stone foundation

4. Rafts

Braided reed rafts

Covered with branches and dirt

Bridges were of four types and featured 70 cm diameter support rails.

Q'eswachaka rope bridge (Cusco)
Woven every year using ccola straw a 500 year old method.

INNS

Strategically built along roads every 20 to 30 km, tambos or inns were rest and lodging stops for official messengers called chasquis, official commissions and armies in military campaigns. In Tahuantinsuyo times, there were an estimated one to two thousand tambo inns.

Tambos were simple one or two room, thatched roof, stone wall constructions.

They were used for:



Relaying goods and messages.



Storing food.



War supplies.

ADMINISTRATION CENTERS

Government administration centers spanning across the Empire's territory.

They provided temporary lodging to a huge floating population made up of state officials, priests, serfs, chieftains, soldiers, aclas or chosen women, and official colonizers or mitimae.

Machu Picchu, in Cusco, is a well-known llacta.

How did the road network contribute to food security?

Qhapaq Ñan allowed to move, manage and redistribute food products from eight different ecological niches to provide ample diet diversity throughout the entire Inca territory.

Coast

- Fish: fish and sea food
- Vegetables and fruits: chili peppers, pumpkin, tomato, cotton, lucuma
- Roots: yams
- Legumes: beans

Andes Mountains

- Indigenous animals: guinea pigs, llama, vicuna, alpaca
- Vegetables and fruits: lima beans, maca, cherimoya custard apple, physalis
- Tubers: potato, ulluco, yacon, oca, mashua
- Grains and cereals: maize (corn)

High Plateau

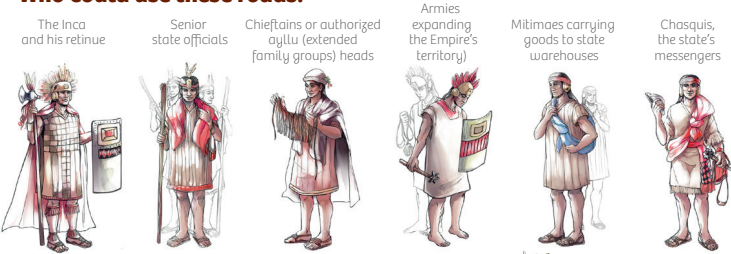
- Grains and cereals: quinoa, sachu inchi, amaranth, kañiwa, goosefoot

Jungle

- Fish: river fish
- Vegetables and fruits: bananas, pacae (ice cream bean tree)

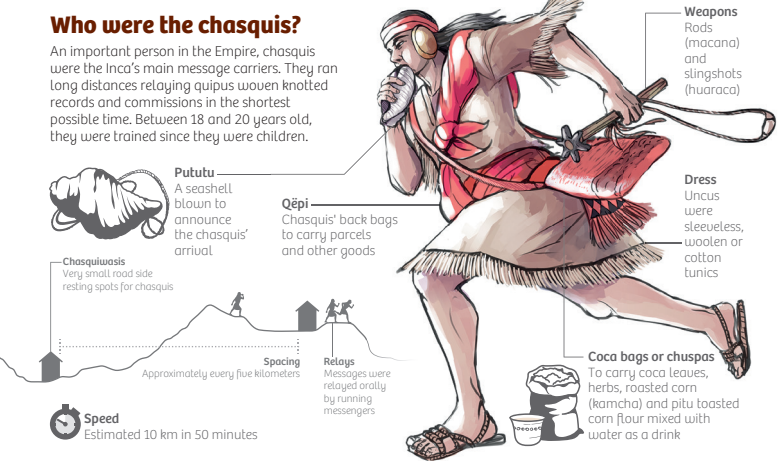


Who could use these roads?



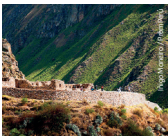
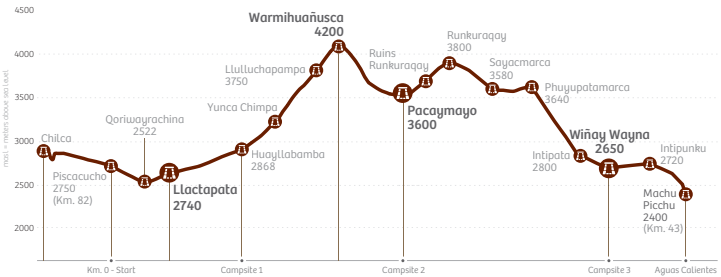
Who were the chasquis?

An important person in the Empire, chasquis were the Inca's main message carriers. They ran long distances relaying quipus woven knotted records and commissions in the shortest possible time. Between 18 and 20 years old, they were trained since they were children.



The Machu Picchu trail

The most traveled trek starts at kilometer 82 of the Sacred Valley road and ends at the entry to Machu Picchu. The road trek takes between three and five days through various climates, from the exotic high jungle close to 2800 meters above sea level to passes rising 4500 meters above the sea, passing by various constructed sites.



Llacatapa
Llacatapa Temple and Observatory discovered by Hiram Bingham is worth exploring.



Pacaymayo
A spectacular view at 3600 masl from the second trekking campsite



Warmihuañusca
A climb to over 4200 masl to the trek's highest pass takes only four hours.



Wiñay Wayna
One of the most beautiful areas around Machu Picchu comprising both urban and farming quarters



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