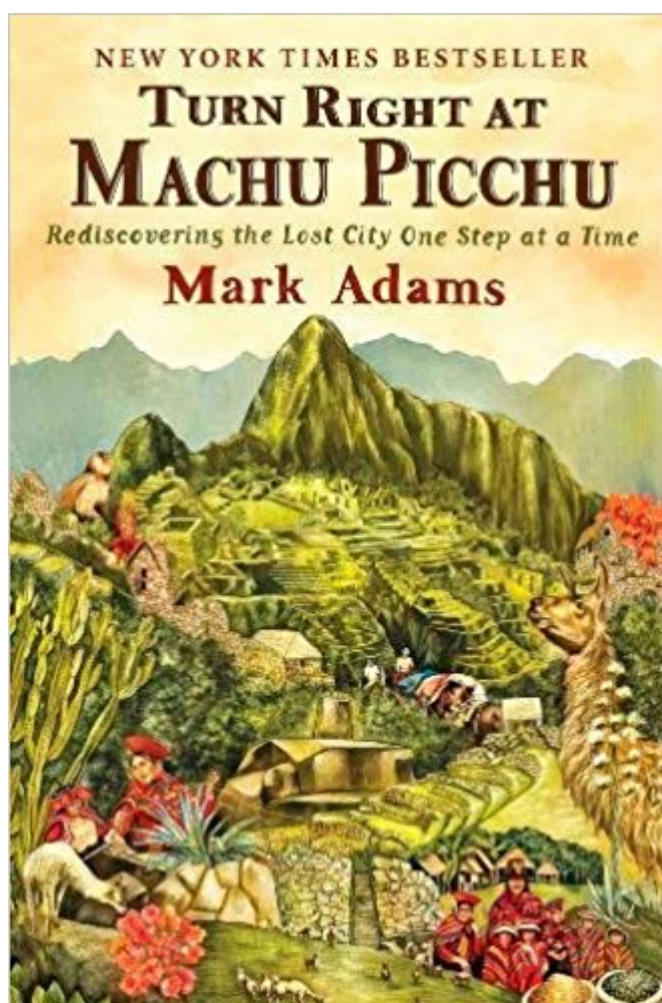


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# Turn Right At Machu Picchu: Rediscovering The Lost City One Step At A Time



## Synopsis

THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER! What happens when an unadventurous adventure writer tries to re-create the original expedition to Machu Picchu? In 1911, Hiram Bingham III climbed into the Andes Mountains of Peru and “discovered” Machu Picchu. While history has recast Bingham as a villain who stole both priceless artifacts and credit for finding the great archeological site, Mark Adams set out to retrace the explorer’s perilous path in search of the truth—except he’s written about adventure far more than he’s actually lived it. In fact, he’s never even slept in a tent. Turn Right at Machu Picchu is Adams’s fascinating and funny account of his journey through some of the world’s most majestic, historic, and remote landscapes guided only by a hard-as-nails Australian survivalist and one nagging question: Just what was Machu Picchu?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“[An] engaging and sometimes hilarious book.”—The New York Times Book Review  
“A serious (and seriously funny) travelogue, a smart and tightly written history, and an investigative report into perhaps the greatest archaeological discovery in the last century.”—National Geographic.com  
“An engaging, informative guide to all things Inca.”—Entertainment Weekly  
“Adams deftly weaves together Inca history, Bingham’s story, and his own less heroic escapade.... Those favoring a quirkier retelling [of Bingham’s exploits] will relish Mr. Adam’s wry, revealing romp through the Andes.”—The Wall Street Journal  
“Quite funny and unpretentiously well

informed...The perfect way to acknowledge the lost city's one hundredth birthday. •Christian Science Monitor (Editor's Choice) "[An] entirely delightful book. •The Washington Post "With a healthy sense of humor...Adams unearths a fascinating story, transporting his readers back to 1911, when Yale professor Hiram Bingham III hiked the Andes and stumbled upon one of South America's most miraculous and cloistered meccas. •NPR.org

Mark Adams is the author of the acclaimed history Mr. America, which The Washington Post named a Best Book of 2009, and the New York Times bestsellers Meet Me in Atlantis and Turn Right at Machu Picchu. A writer for many national magazines, including GQ, Men's Journal, and New York, he lives near New York City with his wife and children.

I just finished this and I loved it. The author (who probably should have never ventured into Peru) brings a very informative and dryly humorous account of how this strange area has been discovered, re-discovered, and over-discovered. His personal insights are interesting and compelling, and his appreciation for the country and its people is commendable. My wife and I read this at the same time and we both have nothing but good things to say about it. History brought alive by a man (like you and me) that challenged himself to get right into it, then tell the rest of us what it's really like - What more could you ask for??? You'll enjoy this one!

Adams, an editor for a travel/adventure magazine, realized that despite his profession he had never been on a proper adventure of his own. For his first endeavor, he chooses to follow in the footsteps of Hiram Bingham, the American explorer often credited with the discovery of Peru's "lost city" of Machu Picchu. Bingham, who originally received a lot of accolades for his discovery, later became a highly controversial figure. To this day, in fact, arguments about his accomplishments and practices are still taking place, particularly regarding the artifacts that he collected (stole? borrowed?) and took to the United States. There are those who maintain that Machu Picchu was never lost at all; that Bingham merely happened to be the first outsider to come across it. Regardless of whether he truly discovered Machu Picchu or simply became its publicist, Bingham is undoubtedly responsible for worldwide awareness of and interest in the mountain city. Following his lead 100 years later ends up becoming a fascinating journey of adventure and discovery for Adams. Interspersed with information about

Incan history and Bingham's expeditions, Adams relates his experiences trekking through the remote regions of Peru with his tough-as-nails Australian guide John Leivers. For a man who has never even slept in a tent before, Adams hangs in there and carries on with his adventure rather well as time goes by, and I was happy to go along for the ride from the comforts of my armchair. His writing is both funny and informative, and I loved learning more about what is undoubtedly one of the world's true wonders.

This is a perfectly fine book. As a travel guide, it merits five stars; it not only conveys the awe-inspiring reality of Machu Picchu (which I visited in 2014), but also tells the story of its "discovery" (the reason for the quotes can be gleaned from reading the book, and I won't repeat it here) and the many theories about what Machu Picchu really is. Its one deficiency as a travel guide is that words cannot come close to doing justice to Machu Picchu, the Peruvian Andes (or any of the other sights and sites described in the book; it would really be infinitely better if it accompanied or were accompanied by a video telling the tale. I do wish that I had read it before I went to Peru, but it's too late for that, so if you're reading this review prior to deciding what to read before you go, read this book. Had I done so I think I'd have taken it with me to refresh my recollections of it prior to seeing Machu Picchu. As literature, it's OK, which is why I gave it only three stars -- but hey, that's nothing to be ashamed of as far as I'm concerned.

I don't know how it could have been any more perfect. Mr. Adams who writes with a sense of humor and a love of history juxtaposes his grueling trips to Machu Picchu with the trips of explorer, Hiram Bingham who has been given credit for discovering Machu Picchu one hundred years ago. It's not just about the history of the discovery, but also about the events that surrounded Hiram Bingham for years. An abbreviated biography. Mr. Adams hired a great guide, John, who knew all the right people to hire. John is an interesting and funny man and Mr. Adams describes him so well that I didn't have to see the pictures to know what he looked like. I enjoyed this book completely and would love to make plans to go to Machu Picchu as soon as possible. This book has made me appreciate it so much more than I would have without it.

Every once in a long while I read a book that's so good I feel I have to write a review. This is one of them. My family and I went to Machu Picchu just a few weeks before I read this, and so of course some of the places mentioned were especially personal, but overall I learned SO MUCH about Hiram Bingham and the "discovery" of Machu Picchu through this book. The author combines

history with his own story and personal relationships and I just found his style very enjoyable and educational. I heartily recommend this book if you have any interest in Machu Picchu, Peru, or Indiana Jones. : ) Great book...I was sad when it was over.

Fun and informative - we read this while traveling through Peru on our way to Machu Picchu - but not really the best written. Adams's narrative jumps all over the place, between Bingham's story and his own, and the effect is not successful. It feels disjointed and confusing, especially with the varied paths, climbs, and topography of the area around Machu Picchu and Cusco. It would have been more engaging and accessible if he'd spent more time with one narrative in a chapter and then switching to the other one in the next. The historical elements in general are informative, I'm currently reading Kim McQuarrie's *The Last Days of the Incas*, and Adams's book did cover all of the main details and events of what happened. Plus, Adams adds some cute details that are very entertaining to read if you've been to Peru - for example, Lima is indeed very grey and constantly overcast. It was fun to read that this was not just bad luck on our part but a very real phenomenon with an actual name. Overall, it's worth a read, but I would get it used or, if you are traveling in Peru, pick it up at a book exchange. Definitely don't pay full price.

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