



COURTESY OF CINDY ROSERO

A Breathtaking View, A Spiritual Connection

WORDS CAN'T DESCRIBE what I felt when I stood in the Machu Picchu peak in Peru, but I was spiritually connected with the beauty that surrounded me. Captivated by the breathtaking views, this city became the highlight of my study abroad experience.

Learning how they made these ruins and what it meant to the Incas was remarkable. The Incas kept this place holy by allowing only the noble, elite priest to practice and teach others. As I learned more, I became more appreciative of this mystical place I instantly connected with. The view wasn't my only motivation for reaching the top—it symbolized a milestone in my Emerging Economies study abroad program in Rio and Santiago. Getting there was a hassle, but in the end, it was all worth it. We had gone through a lot living in Rio for nearly two months, waking up early every morning, paying a ridiculous amount of excess baggage fees, and dealing with elevation sickness. It is these obstacles that I embrace like opportunities! I want to share my experience and inspire others to visit the lost city so that, just like I did, they can find themselves.

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YOU'RE INVITED! We invite you to submit your photos along with a brief (approximately 200 words) description of why these images are important in your understanding of a person, place, idea, or incident from your experiences in international education. The photos could be of a simple moment on your home campus involving international students, a major event in an exotic location, or anything in between. The editors of *International Educator* will run selections on this page throughout the year. Please contact us for submission details at magazine@nafsa.org.