

Anger as work starts on Machu Picchu airport

14th June, 2019



The world-famous Inca site Machu Picchu in Peru is going to get an airport. Peru's government started preparing the ground for the airport earlier this week. Around one million tourists visit Machu Picchu every year. Government officials hope the new Chinchero International

Airport will make it easier for tourists to reach the site. Getting to Machu Picchu currently takes time and requires a bus and train. The nearest airport is 120 kilometers away in the city of Cuzco. The new airport will allow direct international flights into the heart of the Machu Picchu area. The government says this will be a boost for the country's tourism industry. More than 7 million passengers a year may use the airport.

Machu Picchu was built in the 15th century by the Inca people. They built it 2,430 meters up on a misty peak in the Andes Mountains. It became a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1983. Many people are unhappy about the building of the new airport. Conservationists say it will cause a lot of damage to Machu Picchu and its surrounding rural communities. Peruvian archaeologist Abel Traslaviña said: "The airport...endangers the conservation of one of the most important historical and archaeological sites in the world. An airport in the surroundings of the Sacred Valley will affect the integrity of a complex Inca landscape and will cause irreparable damage due to noise, traffic and uncontrolled urbanization."

Sources: npr.org / theguardian.com / wbur.org

Writing

Airports should never be built near World Heritage sites. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

world-famous / airport / tourists / officials / international / flights / boost / passengers / century / peak / heritage / conservationist / communities / valley / integrity / damage

True / False

- a) Over 10 million tourists visit Machu Picchu every year. T / F
- b) The nearest airport to Machu Picchu is currently 120 km away. T / F
- c) The new airport will only be for domestic flights. T / F
- d) Around 70 million passengers a year could use the airport. T / F
- e) Machu Picchu was built in the 1500s. T / F
- f) Machu Picchu became a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1983. T / F
- g) An archaeologist is worried the airport will damage rural communities. T / F
- h) The archaeologist said uncontrolled urbanization would damage the site. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 1. preparing | a. involves |
| 2. visit | b. irreversible |
| 3. requires | c. increase |
| 4. reach | d. go to see |
| 5. boost | e. constructed |
| 6. built | f. neighboring |
| 7. cause | g. getting ready |
| 8. surrounding | h. stability |
| 9. integrity | i. arrive at |
| 10. irreparable | j. bring about |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about Machu Picchu?
- b) What is the best sight in your country, and why?
- c) Should there be more airports in the world?
- d) How does a place change if it comes a World Heritage site?
- e) What do you think of an airport being built near Machu Picchu?
- f) Why is Machu Picchu so important?
- g) What happens if the airport damages Machu Picchu?
- h) What modern buildings today will become World Heritage sites?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. preparing the ground | a. 15th century |
| 2. make it easier for tourists | b. tourism industry |
| 3. direct international | c. communities |
| 4. this will be a boost for the country's | d. flights |
| 5. More than 7 million passengers a year | e. damage |
| 6. Machu Picchu was built in the | f. to reach the site |
| 7. Conservationists say it will cause | g. for the airport |
| 8. rural | h. archaeological sites |
| 9. the most important historical and | i. may use the airport |
| 10. cause irreparable | j. a lot of damage |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Should there be airports next to ancient sights?
- How important is UNESCO?
- Which famous places would you like to visit?
- Would you prefer to visit Machu Picchu or the Pyramids?
- How could Peru boost tourism with the airport?
- What advice do you have for local people near Machu Picchu?
- What questions would you like to ask Peru's government?

Spelling

- started egrpanpri the ground
- Government ioclfasi
- rueresqi a bus and train
- allow dcriet international flights
- boost for the country's tourism urnsydti
- 7 million npssrseeag a year
- Machu Picchu was built in the 15th uecrytn
- 2,430 meters up on a mytis peak
- its surrounding rrlua communities
- lcrhiotsia and archaeological sites
- affect the tirgeyint
- damage due to noise, fftacir and...

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. a	4. i	5. c
6. e	7. j	8. f	9. h	10. b

Role Play

Role A – Traffic

You think traffic is the biggest problem caused by tourism. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the smallest of these problems (and why): noise, litter or higher prices.

Role B – Noise

You think noise is the biggest problem caused by tourism. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the smallest of these problems (and why): traffic, litter or higher prices.

Role C – Litter

You think litter is the biggest problem caused by tourism. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the smallest of these problems (and why): noise, traffic or higher prices.

Role D – Higher Prices

You think higher prices is the biggest problem caused by tourism. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the smallest of these problems (and why): noise, litter or traffic.

Speaking – Tourism

Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest problems of tourism at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| • traffic | • overcrowding |
| • noise | • damage to sites |
| • litter | • ill-mannered tourists |
| • higher prices | • no privacy for locals |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.