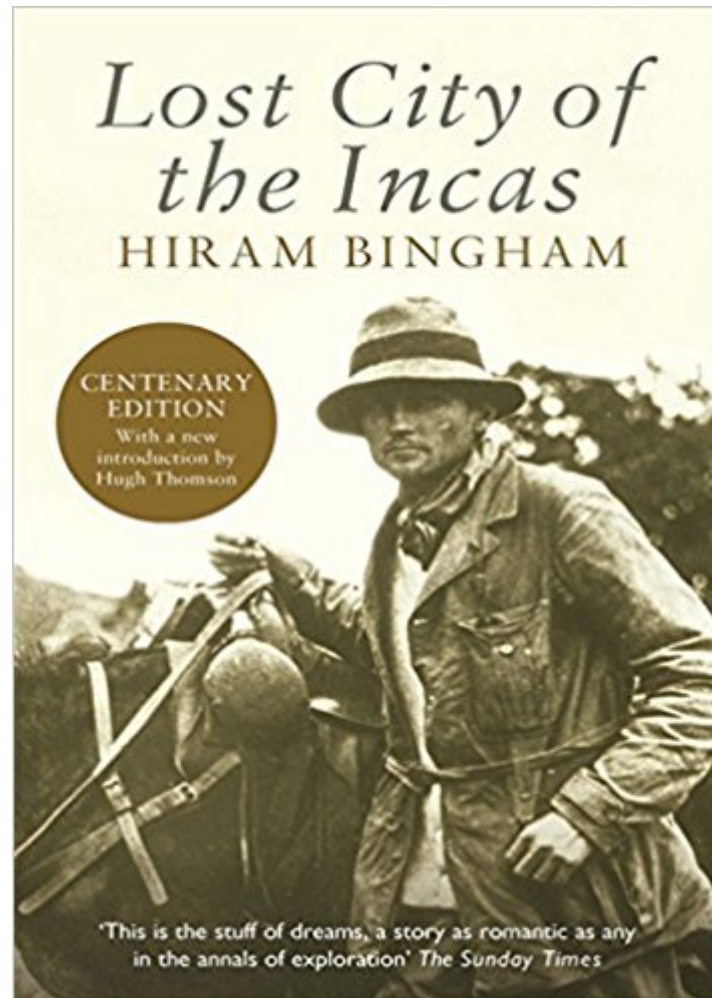




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# Lost City Of The Incas (Phoenix Press)



## Synopsis

A special illustrated edition of Hiram Bingham's classic work captures all the magnificence and mystery of the amazing archeological sites he uncovered. Early in the 20th century, Bingham ventured into the wild and then unknown country of the Eastern Peruvian Andes--and in 1911 came upon the fabulous Inca city that made him famous: Machu Picchu. In the space of one short season he went on to discover two more lost cities, including Vitcos, where the last Incan Emperor was assassinated.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A rich, lively book ... it is the classic adventure •IRISH TIMES This is the stuff of dreams, a story as romantic as any in the annals of exploration •SUNDAY TIMES Bingham catalogues his finds with admirable concision, and indulges his wide interests, revealing little-known facts about the Incas... He captures the majesty of the architecture in its dramatic and wild surroundings •LITERARY REVIEW

Hiram Bingham was born in Hawaii in 1875 and educated at Yale. His early expeditions to South America and his discovery of Machu Picchu were just the start of a long and colourful career: he went on to command air force troops in France during the First World War and to become a Senator. He died in 1956. Hugh Thomson, the editor of this edition, is an explorer, travel writer and documentary filmmaker living in Bristol. Hugh Thomson, the editor of this edition, is a travel writer

and documentary film maker living in Bristol. His first book, *The White Rock*, is published by W&N in July 2001.

GREAT source to prepare for your first visit to Machu Picchu. Lots of history. How much of the book is 'propaganda' ? Yes it was written many years after Bingham made his discovery, and yes some parts may have been embellished a bit - that's ok. Most of the book is very interesting to someone (me) who had not much knowledge of Inca history. I recommend - if you're going, read this book first.

This is a very special book to me. It helped me understand Machu Picchu before and after I visited there. The man explains step by step how he proceeded. I found him a curious and interesting man who should have done more great things--but this was essentially what he is known for.

The book is almost painfully slow in its buildup to the discovery of Machu Picchu, and is a little stiff in its narrative style. Keeping in mind it was written around 1912, with some later updating by the author, it manages to present a fairly compelling story of revelation and discovery. This real life inspiration of the Indiana Jones movies should at its core stir the heart of all would be explorers. One of the disturbing facts was the use of native Peruvians as impressed labor to help in the discovery. It was discussed in a very matter of fact fashion, but read today the forced use of those natives is unseemly at best. Nonetheless, having just returned from Machu Picchu, I can attest to the incredible excitement when the ruins first come into view, and Hiram Bingham does describe this adequately.

Anyone planning a trip to Machu Picchu, or just interested in expeditions to uncharted areas should read this accounting by H. Bingham. Although it was written some years after the actual explorations it still conveys the hardships and difficulties of the original event. Some of Bingham's suppositions, regarding the purpose of this magnificent human dwelling place, have been revised, still there is value in learning the "first impressions" related by this explorer/writer.

Last summer I had the opportunity to visit the Lost City of the Incas. Unfortunately I hadn't got enough time to prepare myself with the basic information about Machu Picchu and the Inca history. Even without that background knowledge it was a very exciting and impressive place but only after reading the book of Hiram Bingham I was able to value what I've seen. I'm extremely sorry that

without all the info given by the book I "just" visited the place but did not have the opportunity to study thoroughly all parts of the Lost City. Of course our guide gave us the possible deepest info but it was too much for a one-day visit and the place was fully packed with tourist from all parts of the world and it was a little bit contradictory with the spirit of the place. I think that I should go back sometime in the future, prepared with all the details written in this really enjoyable "tourist-guide".

If you are considering a vacation to Peru, this is a well written, entertaining book which is one of the best preparations.

Classic companion for anyone traveling to Machu Picchu or not traveling.

Wonderful book. A must read if you're traveling to Peru/Machupichu.

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