

Visit of the Educational Institution "Niño Melchor de Willoq" to the Spectacled Bear Rescue Center at the Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel

On November 20, a group of twenty children of "Niño Melchor de Willoq" Primary School (11 - 12 years old) of the rural community that is located high in the district of Ollantaytambo, in Cusco, who were accompanied by their teachers, visited the Inca citadel of Machu Picchu and were very happy to have seen one of the Seven Wonders of the World; after that they visited the Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel to learn about the Bear Conservation Project (*Tremarctos ornatus*), the children visit the ecological trails with the assistant of the Inkaterra Environmental Interpreters, the Resident Biologist and the Ecology Staff.

During the tour the children identified many species of plants and birds, they know the native name of them as "Achupallas", or the "Waqanki" orchid, hummingbirds with the Quechua name "Qente" and also indicated that they know the Andean bear the native name of "ucumari."

The children were amazed to see Andean bears, was the first time they saw bears and were reported, which is the largest mammal in South America, which is within the CITES as endangered species, these bears come to measure about 2 meters (males), weighing 70 to 200 kilos, is known worldwide as the spectacled bear, having a creamy white markings around the eyes, and give the appearance that they were a pair of glasses or mask, and that these markings are unique to each specimen and they are like fingerprints.

One of the tasks of Inkaterra and Inka Terra Association is to raise local and foreign visitors to work together on the conservation of flora and fauna of the Sanctuary of Machu Picchu.

When children finished the visit the group spent a few songs in Quechua.

It is good to note that the residents of the community Willoq, integrated with all that is experiential tourism, where they maintain their customs and visitors share their agricultural activities and foods. The community provides lodging, guided and all from a predominantly community development, involving the entire community.

