



## Where I Go: L'Wren Scott

The glamorous fashion designer and companion of Mick Jagger is no stranger to the jet-set lifestyle. When traveling for pleasure, she heads to Peru, splitting her time between the historic city of Cusco and the rustic Amazon basin. See her top picks for a mixture of Peruvian town and country.



Q&A by [Anthony Rotunno](#) and [Dana Mathews](#)



**To get away from it all, I go to ...** Peru. I love to first stop in the Amazon to decompress and spend a few days hiking. Then I go to Cusco, which is the total opposite: a beautiful, old city.

**My favorite way to travel there is ...** By plane, then car, then boat.

**Upon departing, I am most happy to leave behind ...** My cell phone and text messages.

**My suitcase must absolutely contain ...** My Kindle, as I need my books. It saves a ton of room packing as I don't have to bring my books along anymore: just my Kindle and a charger! And very

lightweight clothing. I'm all about layering long sleeves. Hiking sneakers (I don't like heavy shoes) and a poncho for when it starts to pour rain. Also very important: a big hat and mosquito spray!

**When it comes to luggage, I'm an ...** I am a fashion designer, so I guess that makes me an overpacker. The clothing options you need range from very light when it's hot and humid to down coats when you are in very cold temperatures. I also went from the Amazon basin to Cusco to shop and indulge myself.

**My favorite places to stay are ...** I stay in the Amazon basin in Puerto Maldonado at the Hacienda Concepción. In Cusco, I stay at La Casona Hotel.

**My favorite travel pastime is ...** Scrabble. I love an iPad game of Scrabble.

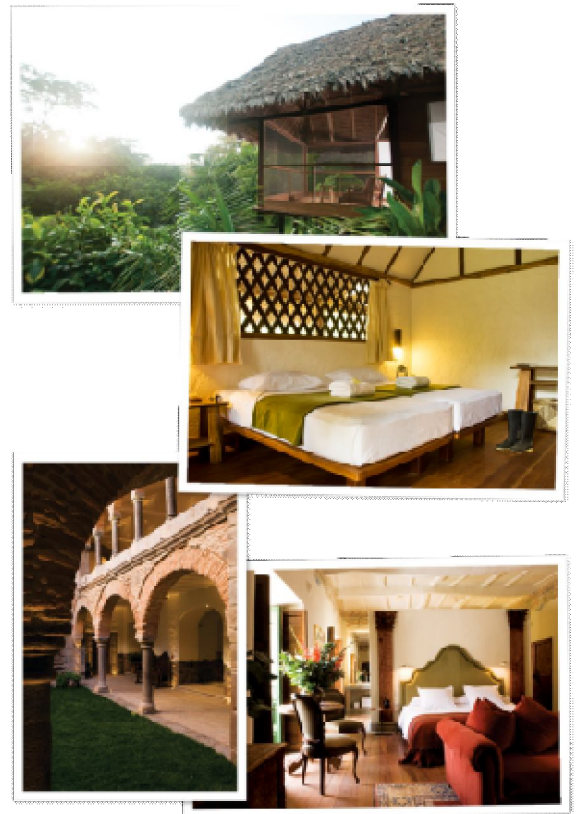
**Upon arrival, I most look forward to ...** I have a new book, *Bring up the Bodies*, by Hilary Mantel, and look forward to reading that. I also am revisiting some old Nancy Mitford books that just came out for the Kindle, like *The Sun King* and *Madame de Pompadour*. I always buy local music and start to get into the groove. But in the Amazon one just listens to the birds!

**When I'm in the mood for room service, my favorite order is ...** There is not a lot of room service in the Amazon, so you have your own chef at the Hacienda Concepción. Peruvian food is so simple yet amazingly flavored with their traditional spices.

**My favorite Peruvian cuisine to indulge in is ...** I eat everything, so I will have whatever they are cooking!

**To stay in shape, my on-the-go fitness regime is ...** When you wake up and go on two or more adventures a day that all include hiking and walking in the heat, that's about it for me! It also makes you drink a ton of water. Though, when in Cusco, the altitude is so high up, one cannot walk too far or really exercise.

**My favorite best-kept secret about Peru is ...** The transformation of one's body and skin after just walking in the Amazon and enjoying all the amazing nature around you.



Also, the fact that your cell phone WILL NOT WORK AND THERE IS NO INTERNET—unless you go near the river, hold your arm up very high, and stand on a stool—so making calls is not really an option, which is bliss and a real vacation. In Cusco, the local markets are so colorful—shopping is just spectacular.



**When I'm in the mood for some retail therapy, I visit ...**

In Cusco there are so many shops for knitted treasures and weaving. I bought a lot of old textiles, my favorite thing to buy.

**When I'm in the mood to paint the town red ...** I ask what bars or fun spots are around and the recommendations normally are not safe, as they don't like tourists going to their local hot spots. I then sneak out the back door and go check on the local scene. I love a real-life, movie moment in living color. Also the *Lonely Planet* guidebook is essential to finding key places the hotel or guide will never tell you about. I never eat where the hotel recommends. I do my own research and then try the most highly rated options.

From top: Courtesy of L'Wren Scott, From Luciano Giordano Photography/Getty images, courtesy of Inkaterra Hotels (4), by Federica Grassi/Getty Images.

---

<http://www.vanityfair.com/culture/where-i-go/2012/06/lwren-scott-peru-travel-guide>