

# Showing the Way

*We know what a difference a good guide can make to your trip, so we always ensure that the guides we use are the best available. One of our favourites is Juan, who has guided many Audley clients around Cuzco and Machu Picchu in Peru. We asked him a few questions about his many years in the job.*

## **What first motivated you to become a guide?**

When I was young, I travelled a lot in Peru with my family, seeing a lot of its contrasting scenery, wildlife, lakes, mountains and deserts, and of course meeting people from its various regions. This is a fantastic education for any child, and in my case it gave me the inspiration to be a tour guide and be able to show my wonderful country, of which I am very proud, to visitors from all over the world.

## **What's the most fascinating place in Peru to tour and why?**

I was born in Cuzco and I cannot find anything better than the four-day Inca trail to Machu Picchu. The route allows you to experience the flora and fauna of the Andes combined with the heritage left by Incas. The adventure is made even more rewarding due to the hard work, sweat and maybe even tears that everyone endures in order to reach the final reward, which is the spectacular sacred city of the Incas, Machu Picchu.

## **What one place in the world would you love to be a guide to?**

That's a difficult one! I would have to choose between two of my favourites, which are Egypt or the Galapagos Islands. In Egypt, similar to Peru, there are the ruins of an ancient civilization to explore. I would love to see the pyramids and compare them to Machu Picchu, whereas in the Galapagos I would like to experience the wildlife made famous by Charles Darwin.

## **What makes a good guide?**

Anyone can learn facts and then repeat the same thing a thousand times. But a good guide should believe what they are saying, love what they are visiting and have passion about the subject. In Cuzco, I find this very easy because I love my home town.

## **What's the best type of client?**

Anyone with a positive attitude and a desire to learn. I guess most people who have booked to travel to Peru are already interested in the country, so that makes my job a lot easier.

## **Have you any interesting stories or anecdotes from your experiences as a tour guide?**

I once had a young man get all emotional at Machu Picchu and he proposed marriage to his girlfriend. I wonder if he regretted it later!



Juan, guiding in Peru