

A pilgrimage is all about experiencing the sacred world of the people and places that one travels through. Traveling through the Andean World of Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia opened up a vista of a sacred landscape known by the Quechua and Aymara people as Pachamama (Mother Earth).

It was only after I had completed the Inka pilgrimage that I could fully appreciate all of the “Hidden Treasures of Pachamama” that I had seen:

The legendary gold at the Museum of Gold in Bogota, Colombia. The Salt Cathedral of Zipaquirá and the Muisca culture. The San Agustín archaeological site, where I walked with Luis Salazar through the groves of living stone statues. The contemplation of all the images of the Virgin Mary at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Las Lajas in Ipiales. Listening to Virgilio as he revealed the secrets of the Pyramids of Cochasqui near Quito. Swimming in the waters of the great Amazonia with Gabriel, who introduced me to the wisdom of the jungle people. Walking through the puma-designed Ingapirca archaeological site near Cuenca. Looking into the face of a centenarian, Lucila Guerrero, and discovering the Sacred Valley of Longevity. Spending a night at Orlando’s Rumi Wilco Nature Reserve, and exploring his trail system. Encountering the Lord of Sipan in Chiclayo, and touring the Huacas de Moche with guide Wilmer Rodríguez near Trujillo, Peru. Seeing the great palace of the Chimú ruler at Chan Chan. Standing at the ancient civilization of Tiwanaku in Bolivia. Paying homage to the Virgin of Copacabana, patron saint of Bolivia. Spending two nights at Isla del Sol at Lake Titicaca, the place of origin of the Aymara and Inca people. Traveling on the Inka Express to Cusco (navel of the world). Hiking the Inka Trail with Hilbert Sumire to Machu Picchu.



Paul John Wigowsky is a lifetime student of comparative religions. He earned two masters degrees from San Francisco State University: English, Russian.

He retired from teaching after a productive twenty-seven year career at the elementary and middle school levels in Oregon. He wrote a book (Freedom For an Old Believer) about the religion, customs, and traditions of a community of Russian Old Believers he worked with in the school district.

In 2006, he wrote *God in Three Persons: A Spiritual Odyssey* – a historico-religious romance (semi-allegorical narrative) about three historical persons who appeared almost simultaneously on the stage of the first century AD to transform the world.

In 2009, he took a pilgrimage to the Maya world of Belize, Honduras, and Guatemala, and ended up writing a book about it and the *Popol Vuh: Maya Pilgrimage: Xibalba, MaXimon, and our GalaXy*. He gave credit to his daughter, Susie Wigowsky, for being an excellent guide throughout the journey.

In 2010, he took a pilgrimage with his daughter to the South American countries of Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia, and ended up writing about it in this book: *Inka Pilgrimage: Hidden Treasures of Pachamama*. He gives credit in this book to his daughter, Susie Wigowsky, as a guide and co-author of an adventure that culminated with the Inka Trail to Machu Picchu.



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Inka Pilgrimage: Hidden Treasures of Pachamama

Paul John Wigowsky



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22.96mm

Inka Pilgrimage: Hidden Treasures of Pachamama

(Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia)



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