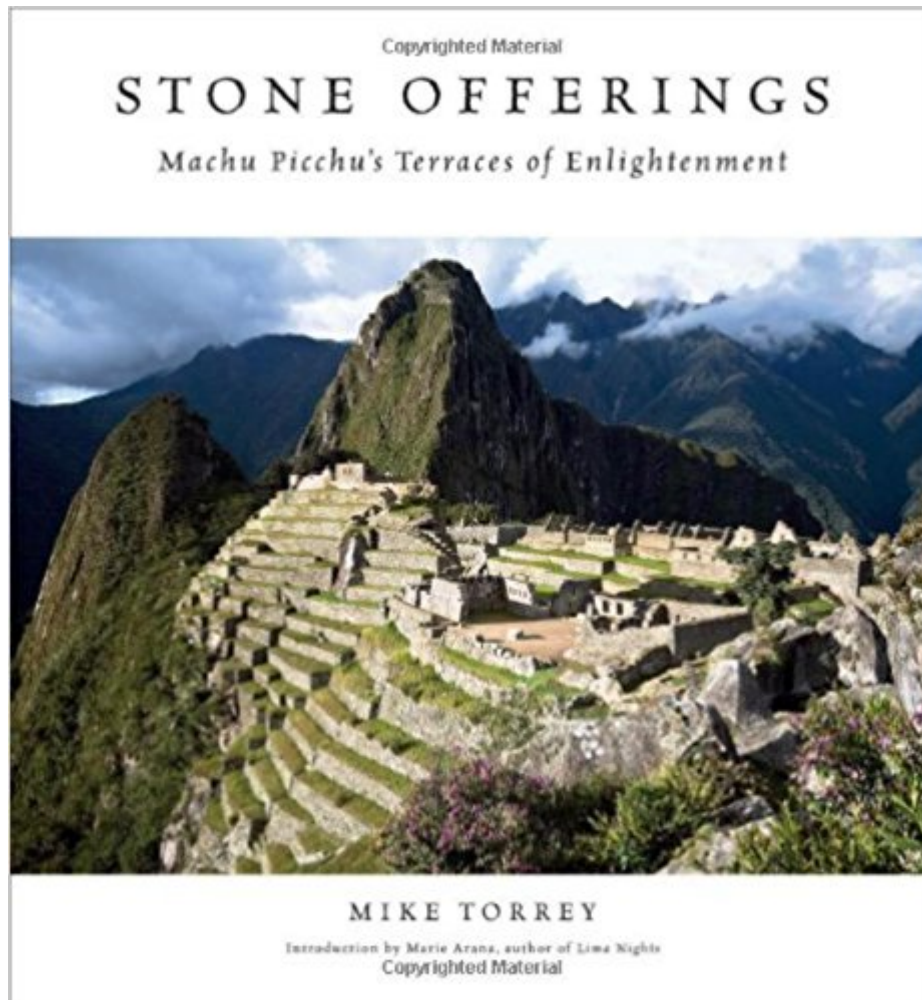




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Stone Offerings: Machu Picchu's Terraces Of Enlightenment



Synopsis

Over 100 stunning color photographs of Machu Picchu taken at both the June and December solstices by architectural photographer Mike Torrey. With hardly any visitors evident, these photographs appraise the artistry of the man-made celebrating the natural, as well as the mystery of how, why, when this magical place was constructed. Includes a photographic map of site plus points of interest descriptions, and a complete index of photographs. Marie Arana's passionate introduction appears in both English and Spanish and illuminates the inspirational essence of this wonder-of-the-world. Author's Note describes how photographer created images without showing all the visitors.

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Customer Reviews

Steps carved from huge rocks, boulders used for the sides of buildings, windows precisely aligned to capture the first rays of the solstice sun, and other amazing features of Peru's Machu Picchu are captured in this collection of Torrey's detailed photographs. An architectural photographer, Torrey finds that the ancient Incan city "framed the implicit harmony between nature and humans...forming an underlying skeleton that signifies our interconnectedness. " Approximately 120 pages of photographs from the "Ancient Peak," sometimes called the Lost City of the Incas, will captivate armchair adventurers and spur travelers' imagination. What is known of the city's history is related in the introduction: built in the 15th century, abandoned not long after, "lost" for several centuries, and then rediscovered (and plundered) in the 19th century. To capture the city drenched in sunlight and etched in fog, Torrey visited Machu Picchu at the summer and winter solstices. Dazzling views of

stone terraces against the green mountainsides reveal the intricate, mortarless construction of each, built from thousands of stones carried and set by hand. Photo captions are spare and far between, but Torrey concludes with a useful long shot labeling the site's points of interest. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

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Accomplished architectural photographer Torrey assembles over 100 color photographs of the stone terraces of Machu Picchu, all carefully executed in reasonably good light over the course of a few days during two trips to the site, one during the summer solstice and a subsequent visit during the winter solstice. Torrey manages to capture a sense of solitude in a fairly cohesive photo-essay with images ranging from majestic views to haunting stone formations no small feat given the number of people who swarm to this popular tourist spot. Marie Arana (Lima Nights) provides a worthwhile introduction to Machu Picchu in both English and Spanish. In reading the text and looking through the photographs, however, one longs for greater substance, perhaps a little more insight into the lives of those who once peopled this sacred place. It would have been helpful, at a bare minimum, for each of the photographs to be captioned. Still, this can be recommended as a solid introduction to Machu Picchu. --architectural photographer

This finely crafted book is far more than just a coffee-table book or glossy eye candy. Although, for certain it belongs to be out where it can be seen and lovingly caressed by the eye. For readers who cannot make the trek 50 miles northwest of Cusco, Peru, "Stone Offerings" is the next-best thing. Through the evocative photographs one can almost feel the near-constant cloudy mists that swirl overhead,

smell the mountain flowers, and hear the ancient chants rebounding off the perfectly shaped and polished blocks. --architectural photographer

I love this book! Machu Picchu is one of my favorite places on this planet and the author captures the true essence of this awe inspiring place. Not only does Machu Picchu have a huge presence, but the textures, weather, light, temperature and colors are so ever dynamic. The author captures the entire experience ... Love the picture spread on page 72-73 ... shooting the perspective of looking thru a stone window opening to the sheer peaks, their sharpness covered with rough overgrowth, wispy clouds passing, and there in the thick stone windowsill is a puddle of water reflecting sunlight. Page 55 how the backside of the stone condor is overgrown with bromeliads, vivid wildflowers, vivid mountains in the background, one peak completely blocked out with the heavy clouds that are constantly blowing thru, but are now the perfect backdrop to jungle like tree which pops from the page. The picture captures 4 focal points each at a different depth. Then the photo on page 39 how each raindrop reflects lights and hangs at the tip of each stick ... you just wait for them to drop ... and the first picture on page 15 well, there are no words ... maybe "it's exactly like that!" would work. The Author's notes at the back of the book also bring more appreciation for each photo ... because in reality you are there with many many other tourists, yet your experience is all yours as if it was only you standing there ... and the Author captures that personal experience. A wonderful book that brought back many memories of Machu Picchu; each picture you could step right into and experience this magical place all over again.

I bought the book for the professional photos and information~while at Machu Picchu I was fully present and enjoyed the total view, not through a view finder. A photographer once told me he buys books of places he visits and only takes a few snapshots~that way he can fully enjoy the experience~it's a practice I've done ever since and this book is a fantastic keepsake of Machu Picchu!

Beautiful photography. Really wished that each photo was labeled.

The book contains beautiful pictures of a magnificent site. Although it has been more than 25 years since I visited Machu Picchu, I still felt some connection with the scenic presentations provided in the book regarding a timeless spot of history.

The pictures are spectacular. The physical quality of the book is very good. It is just the right size.

I have been lucky enough to visit many beautiful places in this world, but Machu Picchu has a majesty and mystical quality, a feeling of sacredness, that I have never encountered anywhere else. Mike Torrey has eloquently captured that essence in his remarkable photographs.

Perfect complement to our recent trip to PERU and Machu Picchu! We can look at the pictures and feel like we are there. It was so great that the author used many different seasons for the book.

I found this book to have many great photos,,,really enjoyed it alot..If one really wants to know more or Machu Picchu, then read from books on it from david childress.....james

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