

Thursday, September 5 – Just loafing around



Since we know we had a free day today we sleep late and have breakfast around 9:00. Then spent the rest of the day just relaxing, reading, loafing around our cabin and the grounds of K'yuchi Rumi. Ann starts getting her luggage "sorted" for our trip to Macchu Pichu on the 7<sup>th</sup>. They only allow 1 small bag on the train, so we need to both get down to that. The rest of our luggage will go with our driver and meet us in Cusco when we get

there after Macchu Pichu. Ed is pretty well sorted out for that trip so he goes up to the deck off our second floor bedroom to sit, read and look for birds. It's a beautiful sunny day in the low 70's, perfect weather for relaxing.

Ann finishes organizing her luggage and goes out to sit on the little patio in front of the cabin. It's a nice day for some computer work too, so she catches up on her trip journal and blog. As soon as we find a decent internet connection (in Cusco we hope) she can do some blog posting.



As far as birds, it's the usual suspects from here; all birds we have already seen around the grounds. Ed takes some pictures of a Giant Hummingbird, a "regular" near our cabin.

They are about the size of a Cardinal or a Cactus Wren and when they fly you can see the wing-beats, unlike the smaller hummers. Must



be common, we see them every day here. Not very good pictures, they generally perched too far away, and even full 20x zoom on his camera was stretched.



Doris had invited us to have lunch with her in Urubamba today and she picks us up about 1:30 to drive into town (about 10 minutes). She takes us to a nice vegetarian restaurant, Kaia, that a friend of hers owns. She brings her kids along and we meet them, Manay, a boy of 5, and Sammi, a girl of 3. Both very "personable" but energetic and active, OH MY! I guess we're not used to kids that age, but they were O.K. and had friends there, so they were off playing much of the time.



We have a nice lunch; a green salad, tomato soup, mushroom pate with toast, then tacos and quesadillas with mushrooms and cheese. And Chicha Morada (their soft drink made from blue corn) to drink. Ed has a passion fruit shake for desert, and the kids have brownies and ice cream. And the "restaurant cat" has a nice nap.



We leave Doris and her family at the restaurant and think we might walk to the main square. We walking start there, but Ann just isn't up for it.



There's a beautiful orange-flowered vine growing on the roof of a building we pass.

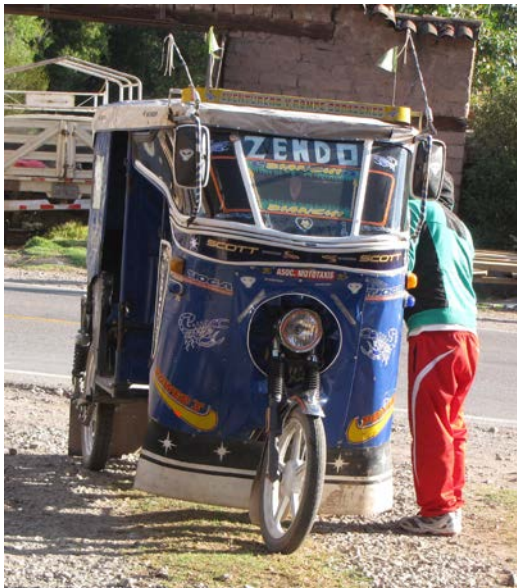


So instead we walk down to our favorite little convenience store and buy some bottled water, bottled iced tea and some chips for snacks. We had decided that we should really ride in one of those little “tuk-tuks” that are all over Peru in rural areas and small towns.



It’s a pleasant walk and not too far to the store. This is such a small, quiet town there is little traffic along the roads. The convenience store (with a gas station attached) is a gathering point for all the drivers, so we catch one there. Not paying careful attention, we of course pick the oldest, smallest (and least powerful) one there. We load in our groceries and ourselves (a tight fit) and start home. K’yuchi Rumi is just 10 minutes up the highway by car. But our poor little tuk-tuk struggles and the ride takes over 25 minutes.

It is generally uphill and on some of the stretches we are sure we’re going to need to lighten the load.



Our poor little machine sputters and struggles and we crawl along at a pace barely above a good, brisk walk. But we finally make it and pay up, about \$1.50 US.

We just read and chill out the rest of the afternoon. Since we had eaten lunch at about 3-3:30, we plan on a late, light dinner, mainly snacks. Another free day again tomorrow; no hurry to get to bed and no rush to get up in the morning either. We’re getting lazy. It feels good.

## Friday, September 6 – another lazy day at our cabin

Up late today and another 9:00 breakfast, hearty and good. And we've discovered some teas here that we both love, Muña and Manzanilla. Herbal, but they don't have that bitter or flowery taste that herbals too often do, just rich and flavorful. We'll probably never find them at home.

We spend the day relaxing, reading, Ann working on her blog on the computer. Snacking throughout the day and have lunch and dinner here. We want to use up all of our food since we leave tomorrow morning for Macchu Pichu.



One thing we notice about the weather here: the mornings are very cold early, but then warmer (about 70-75 degrees) and sunny by 9:30-10:00 am. This perfect weather persists until about 2:30-3:00 pm and then a breeze starts, turning to wind of maybe 20-30 mph, steady not gusty, just blowing down the valley. The temperature cools a little and that wind blows until probably 5 pm. Then the wind slows or stops and it begins to cool off FAST. This little weather pattern is ONLY at K'yuchi Rumi, if we're out somewhere else during that time we don't get that mid-afternoon wind. It must be something about their location in the valley because it has occurred every day when we are at our casita during the afternoon. Carlos and Annette, our hosts at K'yuchi Rumi say that's the typical day here at this time of year.

But we always have a nice fire going before we head up to bed, and a good kerosene heater (it WORKS) in our bedroom as well as heavy quilts for the bed. The sleeping is cozy and we've been getting excellent rest here.

But tomorrow morning after breakfast it's goodbye to K'yuchi Rumi . . . and we're off to Macchu Pichu.