J&M4-15
Early start again. Awake at 4:00
Breakfast at 5:00 and the bus at 6:10 which actually turned into 6:20. This turned out to be plenty of time even though we were timed in at 6:00 am

Hundreds of people are standing in line for a seat on one of many buses running the service to the site itself. The drive to the top was properly rough, lots of switch backs and hairpins.

Site seeing on an industrial scale buses passing every few minutes on the half hour it takes to get there. There's another calculation there that would tell you how many buses there are running… Oh well!! Another day maybe….

It's been raining and cloud surrounds the top of the. Mountain

The ruins of Machupichu are of course amazing and far more recent than one might imagine dating back to the 1500's when the Inca people were looking for a safe place. Their architecture given what they were working with makes the whole thing a massive and complex operation.

We took an hour and some to walk about the site, having a guide Havio explaining way more than we might have guessed at without his guidance. The terraces, the town squares and the temple/religious places, all explained with the passion of an Inca descendant and proud of it as he should be.

Some scenes needed extra explanation, for example the Condor Temple. It needs to be stood in front of in just the right place and all of a sudden it becomes clear as day.

We all meet in a restaurant for the last hoorah. It's been brilliant, tough and enlightening. Super bunch of young folk

that accepted us less young with open arms, hearts and minds. We even understood some of what they said but I suspect they were speaking loud and slow on our behalf.

Next was the train ride from Machupicchu (two ‘c’s) to Ollantaytambo was bizarre in the extreme, containing as it did a fashion show performed by the train staff. All manner of hoot ’n’ holla from the passengers. Meantime, a five piece band was banging out old Peruvian favourites and the scenery blasted your senses. Huge mountain side rising up almost next to the train it feels and rushing white water.

Our next hotel is grea, literally on the station platform although our room is set well back the trains are certainly audible. Massive room, exposed wood beams and well appointed with equipment, kettle, mini bar and nibbles. We've been reunited with our luggage and we've put back tomorrow's start to 9:00 so we can organise ourselves (and our room 🤣)

Tonight we'll dine in the restaurant here, might branch out tomorrow .

At some point today I've been savaged by some biting/stinging creature up and down my legs….