KoMiJ&M4-18

Got picked up by Armando at 4:00 am this morning, we've driven to Cusco to catch a very smart train to Titicaca, 11:00 hours away.
We've had a great few days since we first met Armando, before we did the Salkantay Trek and spent a pleasant day with him and Rodger yesterday.

The train is terrible smart, silver service ‘n’ all. Proper Orient Express look alike.

I've mentioned before, the railway take one to the underbelly of any place you visit. We leave Cusco travelling though miles of corrugated steel sheets and half finished homes without doors or windows. Rubbish strewn alongside the track is the same as everywhere the world over (except Switzerland of course)
Even the apartments with a facade the raider of the building is plain unrendered unfinished brickwork.

The train horn/whistle blasts every few yards, at what we have no idea.
We are travelling at about 10 miles an hour hoot'n and whistle'n like guys on a building site in the 70’s
Hope it speeds up a little soon…

We are passing through the tail end of the suburbs and into the country. Ramshackle building and, quite frankly, slums and rubbish heaps.

We have sped up a little, maybe 20-25 mph but the horn is still blasting and the train is rocking and rolling, things being thrown about.

I guess it's the same the world over, the have’s and the have not’s and the few who are occasionally able to move between.

Peru is rich in gold, silver, copper and other elements. But, it's the few who benefit, the vast majority have nothing and are required to be grateful for it.

We've sped up a little more,aybe 27mph, consequently coffee is splashing about everywhere.

Another fashion show, this time in the observation car at the rear of the train.
Having had breakfast, we are invited by car to make our way to the back of the train to take advantage of the views available from there.

Suddenly, a four or five piece strikes up. Drinks are handed out and a fashion show commences. It’s similar (possibly identical) to that we saw on the Machuppichu to Ollantaytambo, District line.

The pace is very slow, I reckon Lamborghini my horse on the Salkantay went quicker than this train….

We are about halfway, crossing the devide and at 4300M. We are all offered the opportunity to get out and stretch our legs…. And, of course, and unbelievably, a bunch of vendors at the trackside selling the usual paraphernalia, ponchos, scarves, hats…

Now we start down. Big heards of alpaca. The weather clears within a few hundred metres of the top, the rain stops and the sun, (watery) comes out.

The distance between Cusco and Puno appears to be variable….
Odd, those things are normally pretty steady and static…..
Any, between 330 and 350 kM by train…. 10½ - 11 hours the journey time = 30kM/HR or 18.7mph….

I can pedal that fast…. Not for long I grant but WTH.

Dinner was really good, possibly the best meal we've had.
Quenoi salad, slow cooked rib beef (brisket) and a chocolate sponge desert.
Yum.