

Hiking the Inca Trail

by Dennis Smith

In early March Barbara and I, along with several friends from Wenatchee, spent 13 days in Peru including four days hiking the Inca trail to Machu Picchu. The hike was something we always wanted to do and we had no trouble finding friends at Gold's Gym to join us. The hike was a challenge; we hiked between seven and eleven hours each day at elevations up to 13,700 ft. We only had one person turn back because of altitude issues. We had a great guide and the porters were incredible. You have to see them work to appreciate their effort.



Dennis Smith – Inca Trail, Peru



Dennis & Barbara Smith – Inca Trail, Peru

After four days in essentially the same clothes we were happy to make it back to a hotel and a shower. We were told by our guide on the last night that the porters were concerned about our ages when they first met us and joked in their native tongue that we were too old to make the climb. One in our group is a very tough seventy-four-year-old lady and clearly we were the oldest group on the trail. There wasn't a single grey hair on the trail outside of our group.



Dennis & Barbara Smith – Machu Picchu, Peru



Dennis & Barbara Smith & friends – Inca Trail, Peru

We also spent four nights in Cusco, which was great fun, 2 nights out in small villages and three nights in Lima which I would not recommend.

Peru is a great place to travel— inexpensive, safe and very friendly. We are planning a return trip very soon on the Peruvian Amazon if anyone wants to join us.

If you want to visit Peru send me an email: Dene1Smith@msn.com. We have a very good tour group to recommend and we learned some things that we will use on our trip back.