

Yarowilca Sites of the Region of the Alto Marañón, Peru

Images from visits in 1996 and 2015 to 2018

John S Ingham

2018

*for
Sue*

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By
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Abstract

The area of the Alto Marañón, in the departments of Huánuco and Ancash, has many sites of the Yarowilca culture, dating approximately from 1100 to 1450 CE. Some of these will stand comparison with the most impressive archaeological sites in Peru. They are however poorly known, both inside Peru and internationally, to tourists and to science. Moreover they are almost all in poor condition and in desperate need of conservation. The purpose of this paper is to make these sites and the underlying culture better known by sharing photographs I have taken of some of these sites during visits made in 1996 and in 2015 to 2018.

Resumen

La zona del Alto Marañón, en los departamentos (regiones) de Huánuco y Ancash, tiene muchos sitios de la cultura Yarowilca, la cual data de aproximadamente 1100 a 1450 de la era actual. Algunos de estos sitios son comparables a los sitios arqueológicos más impresionantes del Perú. Sin embargo, estos son poco conocidos por turistas al igual que científicos, tanto dentro del Perú como a nivel internacional. Más aún, casi todos se encuentran en mal estado y requieren conservación. El propósito de esta obra es dar a conocer estos sitios y la cultura correspondiente por medio de fotografías captadas durante mis visitas realizadas en el año 1996 y del 2015 al 2018.

Citation

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Contents

Table of contents

	PAGE
Foreword.....	7
Introduction.....	9
The Yarowilca.....	11
The Alto Marañón Today.....	17
Acknowledgements – in chronological order.....	21
The Northern Sites.....	23
The Northern Sites – Huacchis and Rapayán Area.....	77
The Northern Sites – Tantamayo Area.....	119
The Southern Sites.....	157
Tantalising Glimpses from Afar.....	212
The Need for Conservation.....	215
Dramatis Personae.....	219
Brief Bibliography.....	223
Index of Sites.....	224

List of Maps

	PAGE
1. Outline Map of Peru.....	13
2. The Alto Marañón.....	18
3. The Northern Sites.....	24
4. The Sites around Huacchis and Rapayán.....	78
5. The Sites around Tantamayo.....	120
6. The Southern Sites.....	158

Foreword

By Daniela Maria Raillard

In May of 2017, I found myself at 4000 meters above sea level, staring in awe at the sheer size and complexity of dozens of stone buildings. Despite the centuries that have passed since their use, the buildings stand prominently on the rugged mountainous landscape of the Alto Marañón, some reaching five or six stories in height. What were these buildings used for? Who used them? How were they built, maintained, and ultimately abandoned? These are just a few of the questions which we can only begin to ask of the vast number of archaeological sites in the Alto Marañón region. However, through John Ingham's dedication to documenting the region's archaeological material, we have a starting point from which we can explore these questions to develop our understanding of pre-Hispanic life in the Alto Marañón. John's work encapsulated within this book explores the archaeological sites associated with the Yarowilca, a period which relates to the Late Intermediate and spans from 1100 to 1450 CE.

It remains somewhat of a mystery how the region of the Alto Marañón with its wealth of archaeological sites has received relatively little attention by archaeologists. Like in most of the Andes, colonization, globalization, and age have taken their toll on the preservation of the sites. Systematic looting for the antiquities trade, religious destruction of sites, agricultural activity, and human curiosity have all contributed to the deteriorating state of ancient structures. Nevertheless, one only has to venture to a site to experience the durability and magnitude of the structures. Six-storied stone towers with an inner staircase, painted stone tombs covered in a clay containing still traceable grasses and leaves, one-meter wide walls with complex, multiple entrances, and intact corbel vaulted roofs capping multistoried buildings are just a few examples of the incredible amount of visible and accessible architecture, fascinating for archaeologist and tourist alike. Despite the relatively few systematic studies in the region, we must acknowledge the significant contributions of researchers such as Bertrand Flornoy and Alexis Mantha. In particular, Mantha's work in the Rapayán Valley provides substantial insight into relationships between dead and living as demonstrated by the settlement patterns of archaeological sites. He suggests that multistoried towers were used as sites of public display of mummy bundles and tombs were often constructed in relation to residential spaces. While there remain an incredible number of unstudied sites, many undocumented, Mantha's work provides us with a strong analysis which can be used in future studies of the Alto Marañón region. Moreover, work in the Alto Marañón not only has potential for developing archaeological understanding of the region, but it is crucial in addressing the complexity and diversity of the pre-Hispanic Andes.

The ancient material culture that remains embedded in the landscape of the Alto Marañón is one of the keys to understanding interregional relationships and studying the incredible diversity of Andean lifeways. Within the region alone, local guide, professional archaeologist and amateur traveler can all easily recognize the complexity of land occupation and use. Both residential and mortuary sites display elaborate settlement patterns, architectural construction, and overall stylistic components. For example, many sites associated with the Yarowilca period share a fortified construction with head walls and a multistoried tower but they can vary in size and settlement pattern. It is evident that the Alto Marañón contained an extensive human occupation during the Yarowilca period, yet only through systematic study, perhaps beginning by a regional survey, can we begin to identify the various types of sites and the diversity of peoples who lived in the Alto Marañón

Foreword

Furthermore, the Alto Marañón poses interesting possibilities for interregional study. My own observations of “zig-zag” friezes, often associated with above-ground mortuary structures commonly known as *chullpas*, and the cliff-tomb site of Jagraraj containing dozens of mausolea, suggest a possible connection with the Chachapoya to the north. In fact, previous scholars such as Federico Kauffmann-Doig have drawn similar connections between the Alto Marañón and its neighbor to the north. The persistence of similar, free-standing stone tombs throughout the northern Peruvian Andes provides an interesting possibility for interregional study of pre-Hispanic networks. Nevertheless, the first step in working through the rich and complex archaeological material of the Alto Marañón is identifying and documenting the incredible array of sites.

Since his first visit to the Alto Marañón in the 1990s, John Ingham has dedicated himself to not only recording the wealth of archaeological sites, but also developing knowledge of the region’s botanical diversity and directly contributing to the growth of the local community tourism. While John claims a humble background in archaeology, his extensive work in the region has drastically developed our awareness of the archaeological material. The culmination of his dedication to the project is exemplified by the momentous work found within this book, providing a crucial set of descriptive, interpretative, and analytical resources for future study of the Yarowilca within the ancient Alto Marañón. In addition to the efforts seen here, it is essential to attribute the necessary attention to the work in producing such a thorough project. John was extremely devoted to his team and only through his leadership in co-ordination and management was the project made possible. Most importantly, he provided opportunities for myself and other researchers; his generosity in sponsoring the multiple expeditions is unparalleled and enabled the collection of archaeological, botanical and tourism information. Moreover, his generosity and altruism extended beyond the team network in his efforts to foster community development through sustainable tourism. From local guides, to horse (or mule) rental, to lodging and meals, John made certain that the community directly benefited from our travels. As a young researcher, it was critical for me to witness John’s dedication to the team, research, and collaboration with the local Peruvian community, which continues to impact and define my own work today.

The wind whips around the tall, stone structures of the Yarowilca, but despite their seemingly ruined form, they connect us to the ancient past and animate the landscape of the Alto Marañón. Rarely visited by archaeologist and tourist alike, Peruvian and foreign, the Alto Marañón leaves much to be studied, yet thanks to John Ingham’s significant efforts, documented in this book, we can begin to work through the complexity of the region’s ancient past.

Introduction

The upper reaches of the River Marañón of Peru (the Alto Marañón) have many imposing archaeological sites of the Yarowilca period. These are barely known to tourists, either Peruvian or foreign, seemingly little explored by archaeologists and generally in a poor, even precarious state of preservation. Built of stone, with up to five or six storeys and vaulted galleries, some of these will stand comparison with any archaeological site in Peru. They date from between approximately 1100 to 1450 CE, the period between the fragmentation of the Wari Empire and the annexation of the region by the Incas. They were first explored and reported by Bertrand Flornoy (*Exploration Archéologique de l'Alto Marañón* and *Monuments de la region de Tantomayo*) in the 1940s and 1950s.

My purpose here is to introduce some of the sites that I have visited, primarily by the pictures I have taken on my several visits to the area. There are of course many more sites in the region, most of which I have not visited. If it tempts the more adventurous traveller – tourist facilities are fairly basic – to visit, and archaeologists to take a greater interest in the area, I shall feel well rewarded. If it helps bring these sites to greater attention by the authorities and thus to greater measures of conservation – the need is huge – that would be even greater reward.

As a schoolboy, in the 1950s, I had a general interest in archaeology, but I am not an archaeologist by training or profession. However in 1960 I was invited to visit Peru by the family of the late Frédéric Engel (banker and archaeologist) and so was introduced to some of the archaeological sites of Peru. Then, sometime in the early 1970s, I found and read Donald W. Lathrap's book *The Upper Amazon* (London 1970) in Thames & Hudson's *Ancient Peoples and Places* series. There, amongst the illustrations, was a picture of one of the buildings at C(h)apash, near Tantomayo, prompting me to say to myself: "This I must see". (See page 125.) The opportunity finally came in 1996, when I returned to Peru with my elder son and we spent the better part of a week visiting some of the sites around Tantomayo, including Chapash itself.

I was back in Peru in 2011 and again in 2014 and the idea of a return to Tantomayo and the wider area of the Alto Marañón was born. The visit in 2014 was botanical and our local botanist was Daniel Montesinos. Daniel was keen to visit the region of the Alto Marañón – it was new terrain for him and, botanically, as poorly explored as it is archeologically. With that we made plans for the visit in 2015 and have returned in each of the three subsequent years. This is my contribution based on those visits. Daniel in turn has published a number of papers on the flora of the region, including a number of species new to science.

Many people have helped me with this project. The most significant I list by name in the Acknowledgements. Many others helped us during our visits to the various sites, providing us with horses and directions, showing us round, explaining the various structures and their significance, telling us some of the local history and generally adding to the interest and pleasure of these trips. To all of these I offer my grateful thanks. If, despite all this help, errors still persist, these are entirely my fault.

I am aware that I have not always been consistent in the spelling of place names, especially in rendering [w]; in most cases I have stuck to writing /hu/ but occasionally /w/ especially where that was the spelling given to me locally. Furthermore different sources frequently give variant spellings for the same location, even in official documents. Thus the site of Isog, near Tantomayo, is shown as Islog on the IGN map which the locals tell me is incorrect. A nearby village, named Collarbamba on the IGN map, is given as Coyllarbamba on the

Introduction

Ministry of Education's map. Finally there is inconsistency in the sources as to whether certain names should be accented or not. In other words, the spelling of names is not an exact science. This is not helped by the fact that most of the names are Quechua for which there is no one system of spelling universally in use.

Finally I must apologise for the uneven colour of some of the photographs. This is the result of my failure to set the camera's white balance properly in 2017. Heavy, overcast weather on occasion has not helped. A friend has done her best to recover as much of the pictures affected as possible but it has not always been possible fully to recover the original colours of the scene.

The Yarowilca

Who were the Yarowilca?

Civilization in the Andes goes back several millennia. At times there were one or two overarching cultures, either centrally ruled, like the Inca Empire, or simply a cultural or religious continuum covering a large area. In between there were periods of fragmentation, with many separate and independent polities. Around 1100 CE the so-called Wari Empire disintegrated for reasons that are not entirely clear. It is then that the Yarowilca culture appeared in the Central Andes of Peru. Some archaeologists speak of a Yarowilca Empire; others contend that there were a series of smaller, independent polities. This was all absorbed into the Inca Empire during the latter half of the fifteenth century.

It is not my intention to get involved in the debate as to whether there was some sort of Yarowilca Empire or just a series of smaller independent cultures but, based on the physical evidence of the various sites I have visited, there would appear to be support for the proposition that there were multiple different cultures. At the very least there are two different building traditions to be seen within the area that I have visited.

In terms of the physical remains in the area around Tantomayo the sites described as Yarowilca were generally very similar to one another. In particular, they were evidently fortified, with a very high wall with internal galleries and windows facing onto the site – what I term the headwall – at the highest point of the site. Once I extended my visits to the north and south of Tantomayo along the Alto Marañón, within the Departments of Ancash and Huánuco, I found that to the north the sites were similarly fortified whereas to the south the sites were generally not fortified. The sites in the northern area were often laid out on ridges whereas those in the south were commonly on more level ground. Furthermore certain building types were confined to or more common in the north and others in the south. In short the area I had chosen to explore, from Laguna Lauricocha in the south, along the Alto Marañón to its junction with the Río Puchca in the north, looks at first sight to have been the home of two different cultures.

On my most recent visit I also went to some sites, purportedly Yarowilca, also described as Yaro, in the vicinity of Yanahuanca, which lies even further south in the Department of Pasco. The buildings there looked different again, as if part of yet another local culture. I do not propose to address these even more southerly sites in this paper.

The reason given for the massive fortification of the sites in the northern half of my chosen area is usually given as protection from raiding by peoples from the jungle areas just to the east. Some of the sites look to have been fortified villages and others just fortified refuges, these latter usually placed much higher up in the mountains. But if raiding by the jungle peoples was an issue, why were sites just a little further south, and probably just as easy of access to any such raiders, apparently not fortified? Could it be that in the northern area inter-communal violence was a significant issue whereas further south it was not? With this and the differences in building types, I wonder whether this is evidence of two separate cultures. Certainly some commentators in archaeological circles see these as two separate peoples and have given them separate names. Moreover the naming of the peoples of the area is not always consistent and I have taken the liberty of loosely calling them all Yarowilca, but of dividing the main body of this paper into two sections, a northern half and a southern half.

The Yarowilca

Where were the Yarowilca?

The site of Chapash, which had first triggered my interest in the Yarowilca, is close to Tantomayo and it is Tantomayo and the surrounding area that I visited in 1996 and again in 2015. In the three subsequent years I extended my visits both up and down the valley of the Alto Marañón, as far north as Huacaybamba, close to the junction of the Río Puchca with the Alto Marañón (at approximately 9° 00' south latitude), and as far south as Laguna Lauricocha (at 10° 19' south latitude). It is sites of the period 1100-1450 CE within this area that I have included in this paper. But visitors should be aware, there are other fine sites of both earlier and later periods in the area, most especially Tinyash, just north of Huacaybamba, and the *Castillo* at Chupan. The former is probably contemporaneous with the Yarowilca sites, but clearly in a different architectural tradition. There are also extensive Inca remains. The *Castillo* at Chupan is said to date from the same period as Chavín de Huántar (say 900-200 BCE) and, though not as large, is also most impressive. I would recommend any visitor to the region to visit both these sites if they can.

The Río Marañón, properly so called, starts at the junction of the Río Lauricocha, flowing from Laguna Lauricocha, and the Río Nupe from the Cordillera Huayhuash. From Laguna Lauricocha to Huacaybamba, the area under consideration in this paper, is approximately 150 kilometres as the condor flies. From Huacaybamba the Río Marañón continues in a generally northerly direction for a further 500 kilometres, again measured in a direct line, until it finally breaks out of the Andes at the Pongo (i.e. rapids) de Manseriche and enters the Amazonian plains. Thereafter it merges with the Río Huallaga and then the Río Ucayali after which it becomes the Río Amazonas (the Amazon). The Marañón thus forms a major component of the Amazon.

In this paper I use the term Alto (i.e. Upper) Marañón for the section of the river within the area under consideration, but simply Marañón for the whole river, from the junction of the Ríos Lauricocha and Nupe to its junction with the Ucayali.

Throughout much of its long journey north the Río Marañón runs at the bottom of a deep and often precipitous gorge. In the area of the Alto Marañón, wherever the terrain permits, i.e. it is not too steep, the land is intensively farmed. For part of its way the Alto Marañón forms the boundary between the Departments of Ancash and Huánuco.

The Yarowilca



Map 1: Outline Map of Peru

The Yarowilca

Yarowilca architecture

For the purposes of this paper, I have defined a number of terms for the most conspicuous building types to be found in the sites I have visited. These are:

Headwall. This is a high wall, usually at the top end of a site, presenting a blank face to the outside and with galleries built inside the wall and windows facing onto the site. The galleries are roofed with simple lintels or corbel vaults. There may be as many as five or six levels of such galleries and windows, with internal access from one storey to the next. These headwalls are usually connected to defensive curtain walls that surround the site and they stand much higher than those walls. One's immediate impression is that these must have been fighting platforms, seeing that they only occur at fortified sites, but on closer inspection it is hard to see how they could have been used for that purpose. The other explanation is that they were used for the storage and display of the mummies of the ancestors. That would seem a far more likely explanation. It is common to find that the inner wall of these structures has collapsed, exposing the remains of the galleries within. Some sites have more than one such structure, the best example being perhaps Piruro Upper Site (Piruro 2). With the exception of Garu (see further below) these structures are found only in the northern area.

Charnel house. These are gabled structures with sloping roofs and often adorned with triangular decoration reminiscent of the Chachapoyas culture further north. These buildings are to be found in both the northern and southern areas under discussion. They often still have bones in them.

Chullpa. For the purposes of this paper, these are two storeyed towers with ground plans that are either rectangular or rounded with one flat face (D-shaped). Typically they have a small doorway below and a window above. The doorway and window are usually in the flat face of the D-shaped towers. These towers are too small to have been residential, being generally less than two meters across inside. These are found in both the northern and southern areas, but are much more frequent in the south.

Mortuary tower. For present purposes these are like chullpas, as defined above, only taller, with three or more storeys and rectangular or D-shaped ground plans. These are to be found most commonly in the northern area, both within settlements and free-standing in the open countryside.

Torreón. These are massive rectangular structures, typically with a row of niches at the base inside and two horizontal lines of stones protruding higher up along the interior walls. Whether these lines of stones could have supported a wooden floor is questionable. Higher up still, on the wall with the entrance doorway, there are three or four long, narrow, vertical slit windows. The roof is made up of a massive corbelled construction. These buildings can hardly have been residential: they would have been too dark ... and far too grand. Some mortuary or religious purpose would seem the most likely. They are much more massive than the mortuary towers and primarily found in the southern area

The terms *charnel house*, *chullpa* and *mortuary tower* all have much the same meaning in general parlance as repositories for the dead. It is only for the purposes of this paper that I have defined them as above. The term *chullpa* comes from the Quechua, meaning a burial chamber or tomb. I have taken the term *torreón* (meaning tower) from Daniel Morales who gives a reconstruction of such a tower in his *Algunos Sitios Arqueológicos del Reino de Guanuco*. (See page 164.)

The Yarowilca

This is not intended as an exhaustive description of all the building types, as the reader will see as she or he goes through the pictures. In particular I have not sought to describe the residential buildings. These seem in general to have been circular but are mostly poorly preserved, or hidden under the vegetation that covers parts of many of the sites. There are in addition rows of cliffside tombs, such as those at Jagraraj. Whether these are always contemporaneous with the Yarowilca culture is another question!

The bulk of the northern sites are fortified and with a headwall. There appear to be two sorts of sites with headwalls: some residential (i.e. fortified villages) and others fortified refuges. The fortified villages are typically built on sloping ground. What appear to be fortified refuges are generally found much higher up, even above 4000 meters, and sited on ridges. In some instances there are the remains of a trench cut into the ground outside the site and above the headwall. These trenches are presumably also defensive in purpose. Good examples occur at Tucu Waganan near Huacchis and Susupillo near Tantamayo.

In the southern half of the region there also appear to be two sorts of site: one evidently residential and the other seemingly primarily religious, neither of them fortified. The residential sites are generally spread out over flattish ground, typically with a lot of chullpas interspersed amongst the residential buildings. Indeed at sites such as Sahuay (Yanas) it looks almost as if there were one chullpa attached to each residence. The windows of the chullpas were perhaps for displaying the mummies of the ancestors which were stored there. These windows generally face in a more or less northerly direction. Other sites have large torreones. Of these sites some show little evidence of any residential buildings (e.g. Sahuay (Chupan) and Mancopa) whereas others have a mixture of both types of building: secular housing and these massive torreones. Chiquia is perhaps the best example of such a combination.

The division between the northern and southern type sites – by building type, fortified vs. unfortified, built on ridges vs. built on flattish or open ground – shows clearly on the maps, where the boundary between the two is at approximately 9° 40' south latitude. There is one exception to this division, namely Garu. Garu lies well within the southern area, but it has a series of fortified structures built along a long rocky spine, with headwalls. It also has a number of torreones which are typical of the southern sites. I have heard Garu described as the “capital” of the ancient Yarowilca region though not of course of the modern province of that name.

There is one most unusual tomb in the form effectively of a charnel house built on top of a mortuary tower, at Maganpatay, in the northern half of the region. Sadly this unique building is in very poor condition and likely to collapse at the next earth tremor, if not before.

I have not attempted to provide drawings or reconstructions of any of these buildings, with one exception, nor any site plans. That one exception is the reconstruction drawing of a torreón, showing the nature of its construction, especially the corbels that support the roof. (See page 164.)

The individual sites

I have of course only visited a small selection of the sites in the area and, primarily, those easiest of access. There must be many, many more sites in various states of preservation throughout the area. After all Bonnier, in her *Las Ruinas de Tantamayo*, lists something like

The Yarowilca

a hundred sites within just the area round Tantamayo, whereas I have only included ten from there. Indeed, I have also included a number of photographs of distant sites that I did not or could not visit.

The bulk of the pictures that follow are my own but I have used a number taken by others, including the aerial photographs taken by Robert and Daisy Kunstaetter using a small drone. All pictures not taken by me are duly acknowledged in the text.

As will be clear from the pictures, the sites are often in poor condition and in urgent need of conservation, work that is both skilled and complicated. This is not work that the villagers are in a position to do, even if they had the time and willingness to do so. Their efforts tend to be limited to preventing livestock from getting into the areas of the ruins. The mortar used is typically little more than *barro* (mud) and, as a *campesino* (farmer) couple at Mancopa pointed out to me, the seasonal rains are heavy and wash out the mud, with eventually disastrous results. At Tikra, when we looked at one small tower that had recently collapsed, the villagers simply commented along the lines “Oh, that fell down last year”.

Mapping

I have included the geographical coordinates of each site in degrees, minutes and seconds (map datum WGS84) based on GPS readings taken during visits to each site, along with brief details of access to the site. I have also converted these readings to UTM coordinates (zone 18L). These UTM grid references will be more convenient for locating the sites on the 1:100,000 topographical maps of the Instituto Geográfico Nacional del Perú (IGN: <http://www.ign.gob.pe/>).

Many of the sites, whether they have their own name or are named after a village close by, are shown on the 1:100,000 IGN topographical maps. Likewise all the place names mentioned in the access information are based on locations, usually towns or villages, which are to be found in those same IGN topographical maps. In a few instances directions are also given in relation to other sites mentioned in this paper. As noted elsewhere, different spellings of places names are to be found in the different sources. Occasionally the same name may be applied to two different villages in the area. The IGN maps are readily available from the IGN shop in Lima. The four sheets necessary to cover the sites are:

- 19-j: Singa
- 20-j: La Unión
- 20-k: Huánuco (only needed for Papa Huasi)
- 21-j: Yanahuanca

I have not sought to provide detailed trekking instructions. For access I would always recommend seeking assistance (and horses if need be) locally or using some such tour operator as High Tours in Huánuco (<http://www.hightours.pe/>). High Tours took me to all the places mentioned in this paper, except for my visit to Tantamayo in 1996.

The sites that follow have been divided between the northern and southern areas. For the northern region there are further sub-groups for the many sites around Huacchis/Rapayán and Tantamayo. For each group and sub-group there are two separate maps for the area concerned, one a satellite view and one topographical. Additionally there are overview maps: one of Peru as a whole and two of the overall region of the Alto Marañón, again one a satellite view and one topographical.

The Alto Marañón Today

By Robert and Daisy Kunstaetter

In the 21st Century, the steep rugged slopes of the Alto (Upper) Marañón are home to Spanish- and Quechua-speaking farmers and herdsmen. Using ancestral tools such as the *chaki taclla* (foot plough), they produce subsistence crops including broad beans, potatoes and other Andean roots at higher elevations; maize, peas and various grains at lower altitudes. Part of the crop is sold or bartered in order to obtain produce from other areas as well as a few manufactured goods. Living in a largely isolated region, as they do, people here must be as self-sufficient as possible.

The Alto Marañón is part of the departments of Huánuco to the east of the Río Marañón, and Ancash on the west side of the river. Road infrastructure on both sides is rudimentary, with a mostly unpaved main road connecting larger towns with their respective departmental capitals (Huánuco and Huaraz), and rough dirt vehicle tracks leading to smaller villages. New and often precarious roads are being opened all the time, making some remote areas a bit more accessible than in the past. Daily public transport in the form of buses, shared taxis, or four-wheel-drive pickup trucks, is available from the cities of Huánuco (5-6 hours to Tantomayo) and Huaraz (about 10 hours to Huacchis or Rapayán). A four-wheel-drive vehicle may be required, especially for reaching more remote villages and during the rainy season.

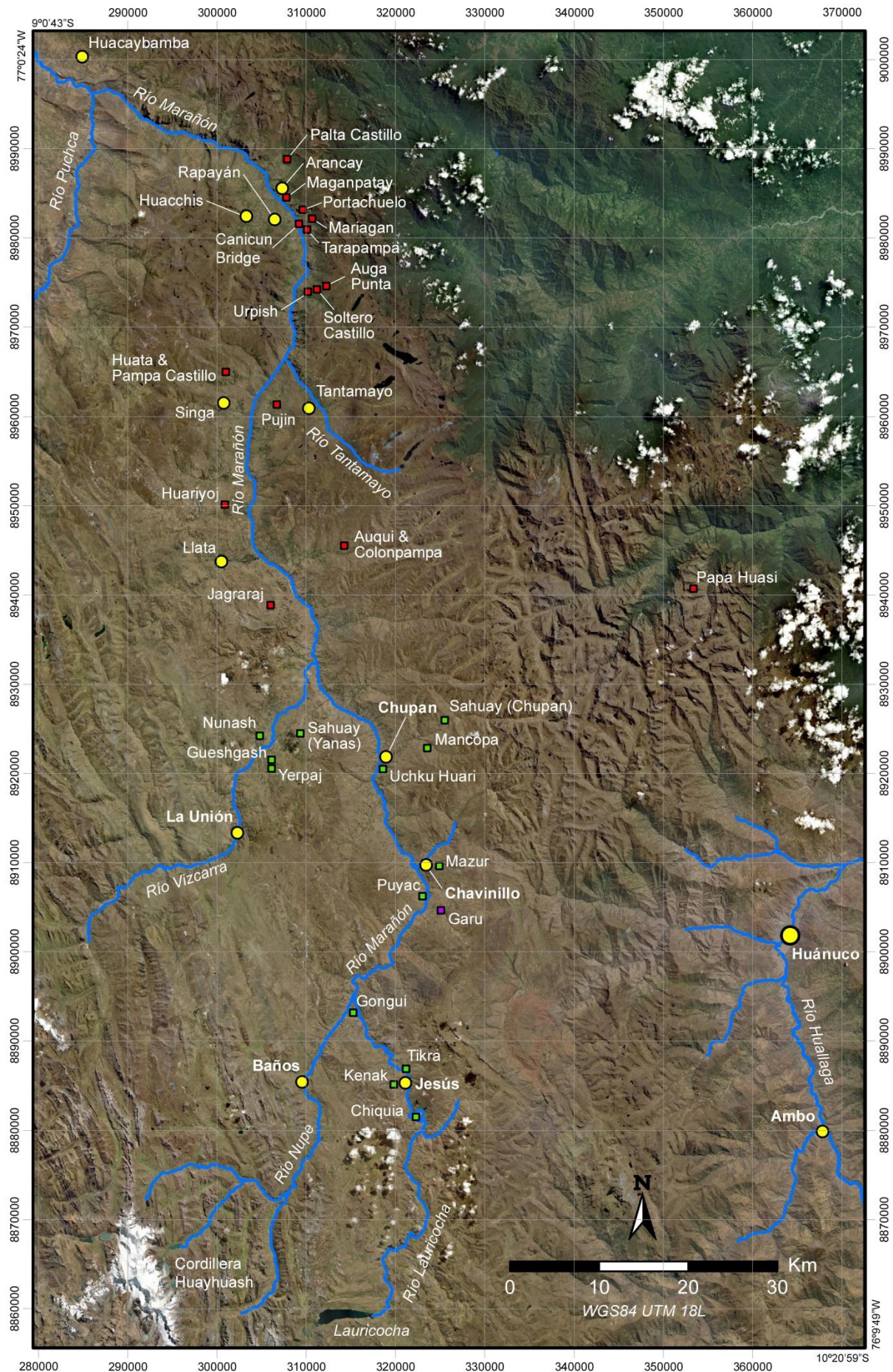
Beyond the Río Marañón, east of the mountains that rise from its eastern shore, lie even more remote hinterlands: the *puna* (high Andean moorland) and cloud forests dropping precipitously to the vast green carpet of *la selva* - the jungle. The next large river east of the Marañón is the Río Monzón, a tributary of the Río Huallaga, which is in turn a tributary of the Amazon. Much of the lowlands surrounding the Monzón were originally colonized by people from the Alto Marañón and cultivated for coca leaf production. Ties between the Alto Marañón and Monzón remain strong, with various trails and a new (in 2018) vehicle road connecting the two areas.

Tourism offers the prospect of additional income for local villagers and they are keen to guide visitors to archaeological sites near their homes and fields but, at present, the Alto Marañón has minimal tourist infrastructure *per se*. Visits can be organized by Huánuco agencies such as High Tours (www.hightours.pe) or undertaken by independent travellers with sufficient language skills as well as plenty of time, patience and curiosity.

Among the few better-known archaeological sites of the Alto Marañón are Piruro and Susupillo, both accessed from the friendly little town of Tantomayo. Hospedaje Maro, in Tantomayo (phones 01-672-6181, 987-412-702 and 960-065-479) offers basic accommodation, meals, and plenty of helpful advice about visiting nearby sites, by owners Eladio and Consuelo Marticorena; it makes a good base for exploration further afield. Basic lodging and meals are also available in other towns of the region.

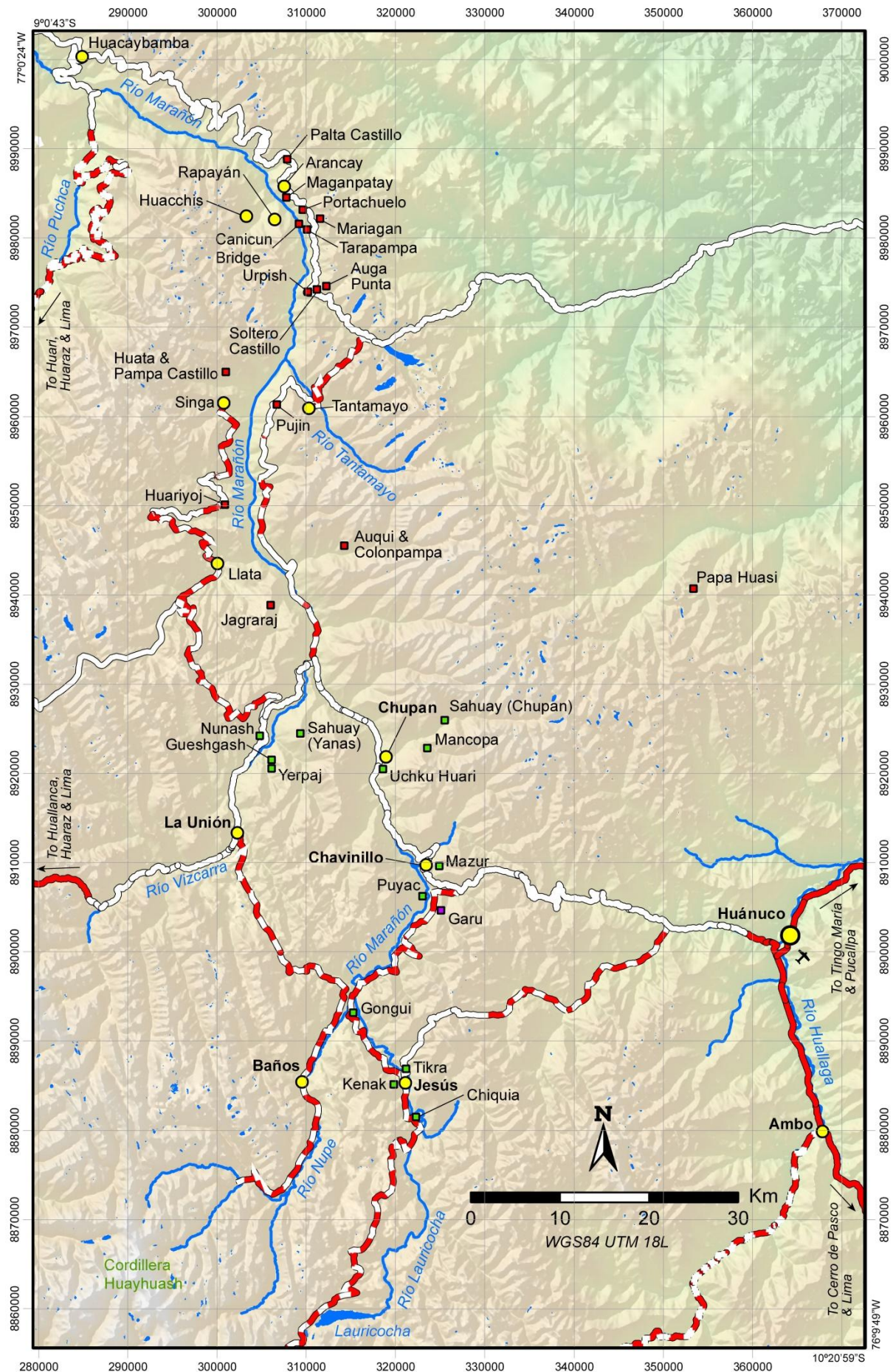
It is the authors' hope that increased awareness of the many superb archaeological sites distributed throughout the Alto Marañón will help contribute to the development of sustainable community tourism in the area.

The Alto Marañón Today



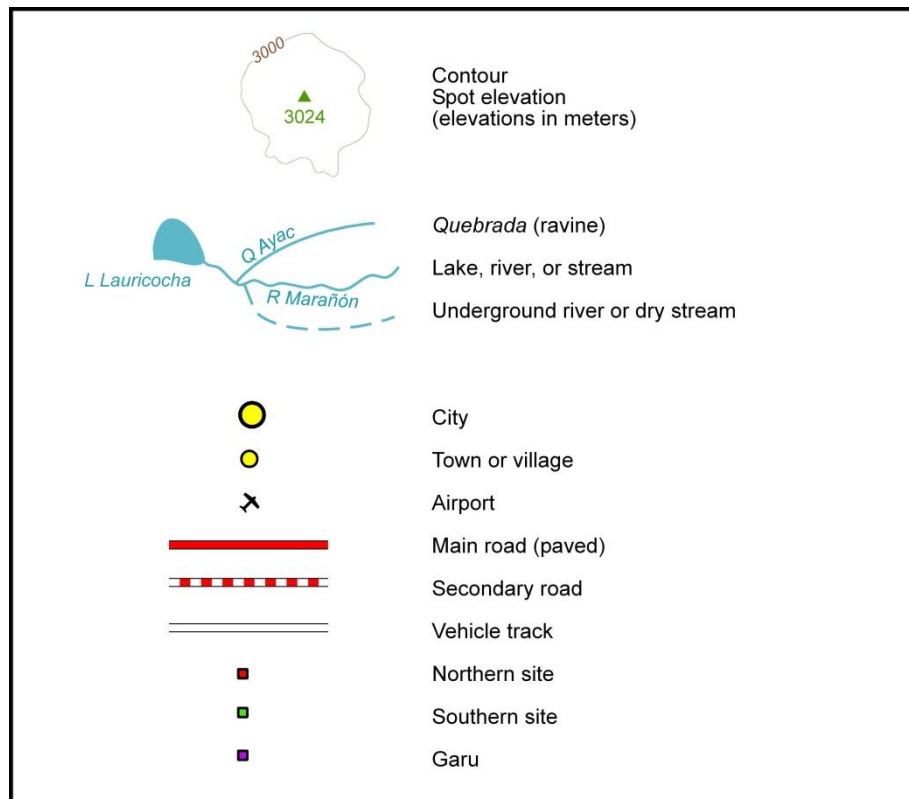
Map 2a: The Alto Marañón – Satellite view

The Alto Marañón Today



Map 2b: The Alto Marañón – Topographical

The Alto Marañón Today



Legend for the Maps 2 to 6

Acknowledgements – in chronological order

The late Frédéric Engel, banker and archaeologist in Lima, whose family had me to stay on my first visit to Peru in 1960 and so introduced me to Peruvian archaeology on the ground.

Donald W. Lathrap, whom I have never met but whose book *The Upper Amazon* (London 1970) first introduced me to the architecture of the Yarowilca and triggered my desire to see it for myself.

My son Fraser who accompanied me on my first visit to Tantamayo in 1996.

Daniel Montesinos, botanist from Arequipa, who came as my minder in 2015 to 2018 and who was blown away by the botanical wealth he uncovered during those trips.

Susana Montesinos, sister of Daniel, who specialises in long distance bicycling and introduced me to High Tours in Huánuco.

The brothers Miquel and Michell Cornelio, respectively guide and driver, of High Tours in Huánuco (www.hightours.pe) who made all the arrangements and took us round the region in 2015 to 2018. I am very grateful to them for all they did to make those visits a success. I would recommend them to any other travellers to the region.

Don Eladio Marticorena of Tantamayo for his knowledge of the region and its ruins and for being our guide while in Tantamayo. I am also grateful to him and his wife Consuelo for the accommodation they provided. I would recommend them to anyone visiting Tantamayo and in need of advice and or accommodation.

Daniela Raillard, graduate student of archaeology from Canada, who joined us in 2017 and, with her trained eye, helped make sense of many a pile of what appeared to be jumbled walls. She also kindly contributed the Foreword.

Tamar Galstyan, who spent many hours trying to recover the original colours of the pictures I had ruined with the mis-set colour balance.

Robert and Daisy Kunstaetter who accompanied us in 2018 and have since provided much assistance in the preparation of this paper. They also created Maps 2 to 6 and kindly let me use various of their photographs. They also contributed the section of The Alto Marañón Today.

Erik Miguel Alvarez who kindly prepared Map 1 for this paper and helped in the definition of what needed to be included in the other maps.

Gisela Sancho, botanist from Argentina, who accompanied us in 2018 and greatly helped Daniel with his plant surveys carried out during the site visits.

Jesús Ronald Valdivia Orihuela and Bryan Venturo Solis, our second driver and our cook respectively on the 2018 trip. Bryan turned out some magnificent meals under less than ideal conditions, assisted by Jesús, Michell and Miquel as circumstances required.

The many villagers who welcomed and guided us at the sites we visited, provided us with horses and directions and generally made the visits so much more enjoyable and productive.

Acknowledgements – in chronological order

Equally, I gratefully acknowledge the owners and staff of the many hotels, hostels, rooms and restaurants who so kindly housed and fed us on our journeys.

Last, but not least, my wife Sue, who has visited Peru though not the region of the Alto Marañón, for her unstinting support for all my forays away from home ... and not only to Peru. Without that support, none of this would have been possible.

The Northern Sites

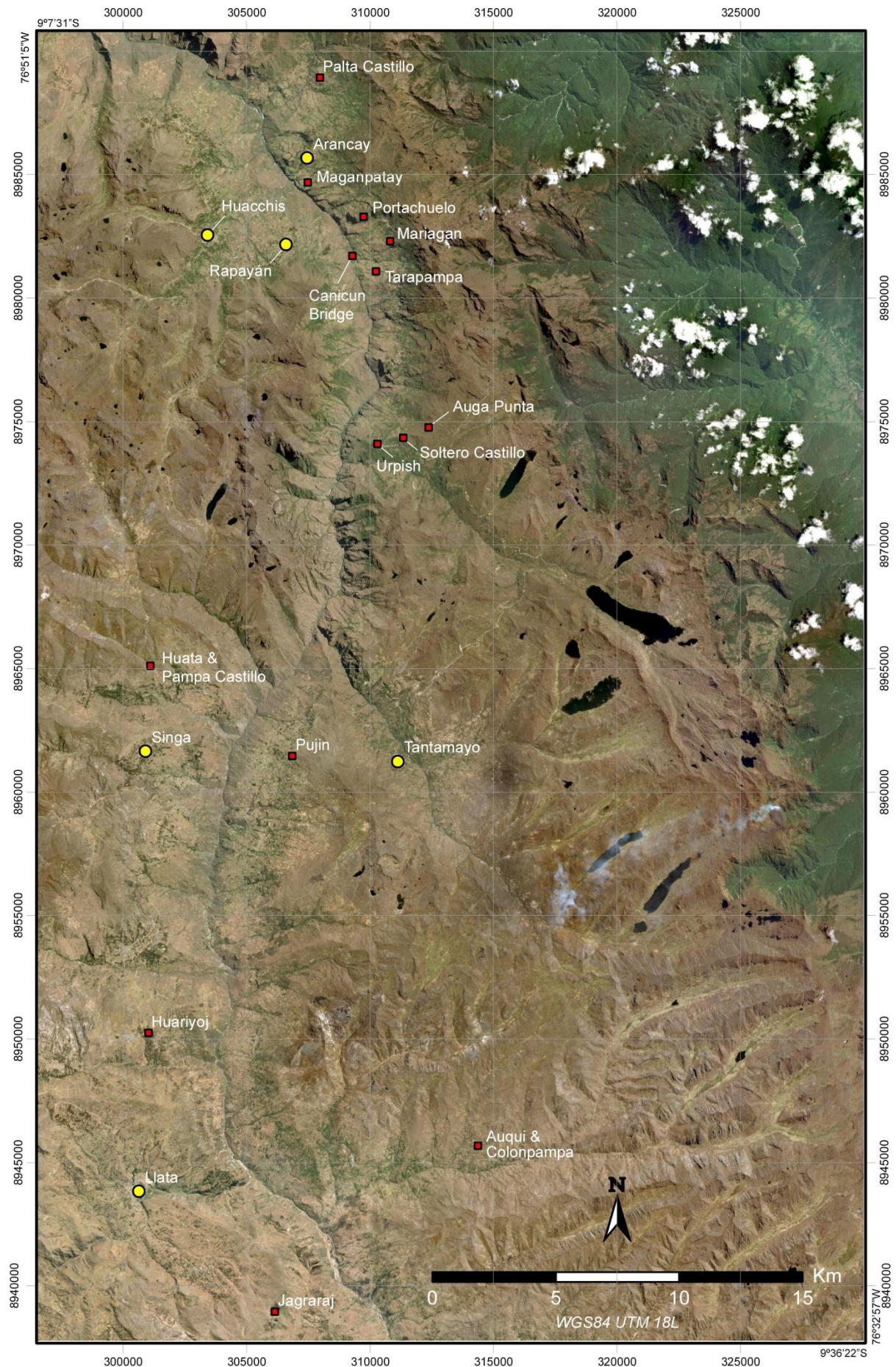
The majority of the sites in the northern area described in this section are fortified sites, with a high headwall and defensive walls all round. In many instances the headwall is the most distinctive remaining structure. All too often the inner side of the headwall has collapsed wholly or partially, exposing the galleries built into these structures but leaving the exterior wall still more or less intact.

Included in the northern sites that I visited are some seventeen sites in the area around Huacchis and Rapayán and a further ten in the area around Tantamayo. These are dealt with separately in the sections following this. These sites are not marked on the overall maps of the northern sites overleaf. Instead the modern towns of Huacchis, Rapayán and Tantamayo are shown in these maps and there are more detailed maps for these groups of sites in the sections that follow.

Within this section are a number of sites that are not fortified residential or refuge sites, namely:

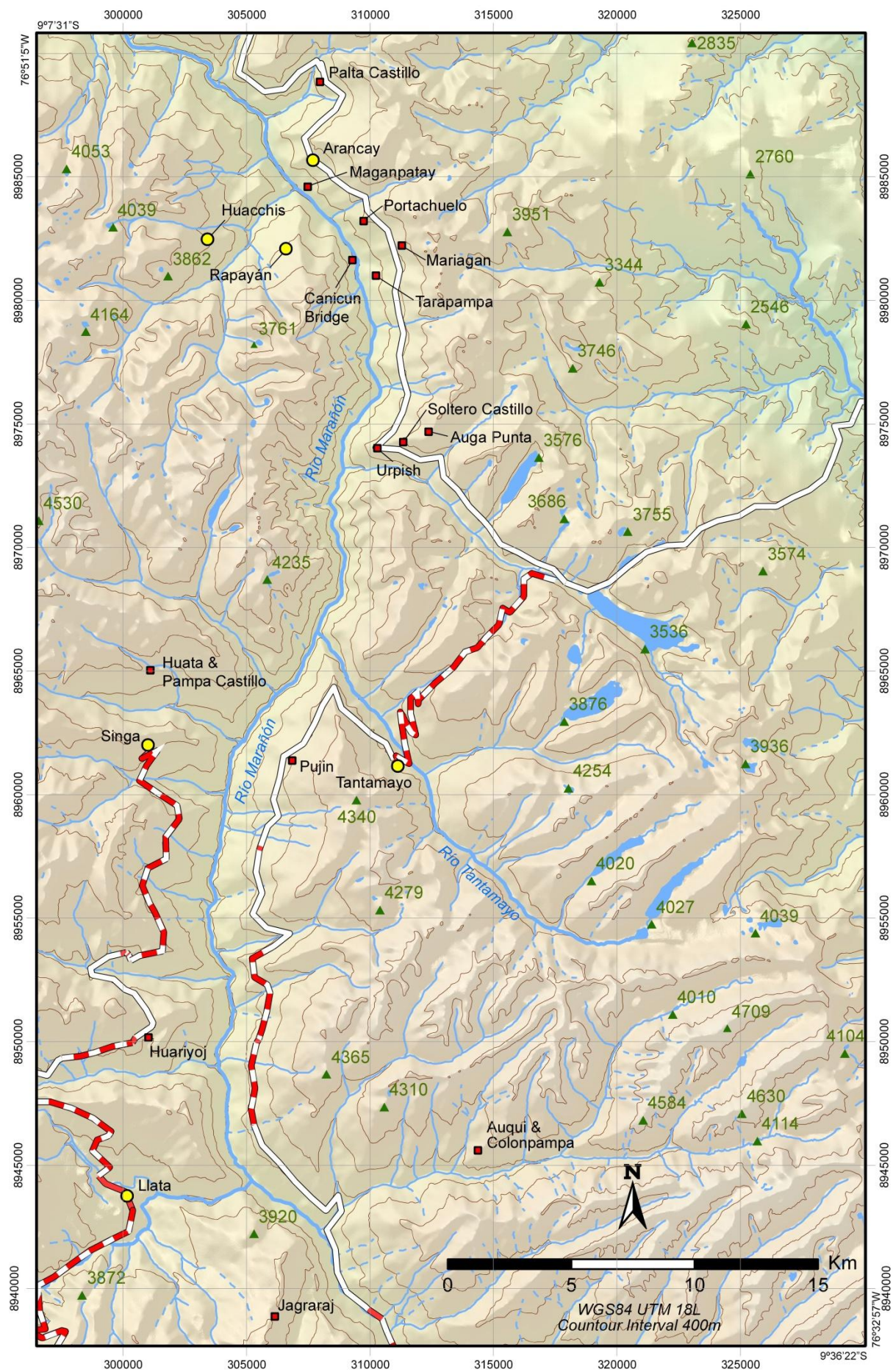
- Canicun Bridge, over the Alto Marañón, which is built on pre-Inca foundations;
- Colonpampa, a unique site with models of tomb fronts;
- Jagraraj, with almost two kilometres of cliff tombs;
- Maganpatay, a unique three storey combination of a charnel house mounted on top of a mortuary tower;
- Papa Huasi, with three small charnel houses high up in the mountains;
- Tarapampa, a charnel house with triangular decoration, reminiscent of Chachapoyas designs.

The Northern Sites



Map 3a: The Northern Sites – Satellite view

The Northern Sites



Map 3b: The Northern Sites – Topographical

The Northern Sites

Auga Punta

Location: 9° 16' 15" S, 76° 42' 26" W, (E 312468, N 8974755), 3990 meters

Access: An hour and a half by horse, directly above Urpish

This site sits high on a ridge above Urpish, with fine views north down the valley of the Alto Marañón, south-east up the valley of the Quebrada Carga, an affluent of the Alto Marañón, and east up a high valley leading towards Monzón. From its location it would seem to have been a refuge rather than a residential site. The site is surrounded by a separate outer curtain wall, which is unusual.



The view from Urpish village. The site is on the skyline, directly above the street lamp.



View of the site as one enters it from the lower end. Note the outer curtain wall on the left (north) side of the complex.

The Northern Sites

Auga Punta



Close up of the entrance to the collection of buildings at the top end of the site. Note the white stone decoration in the wall of the tower over the entrance.



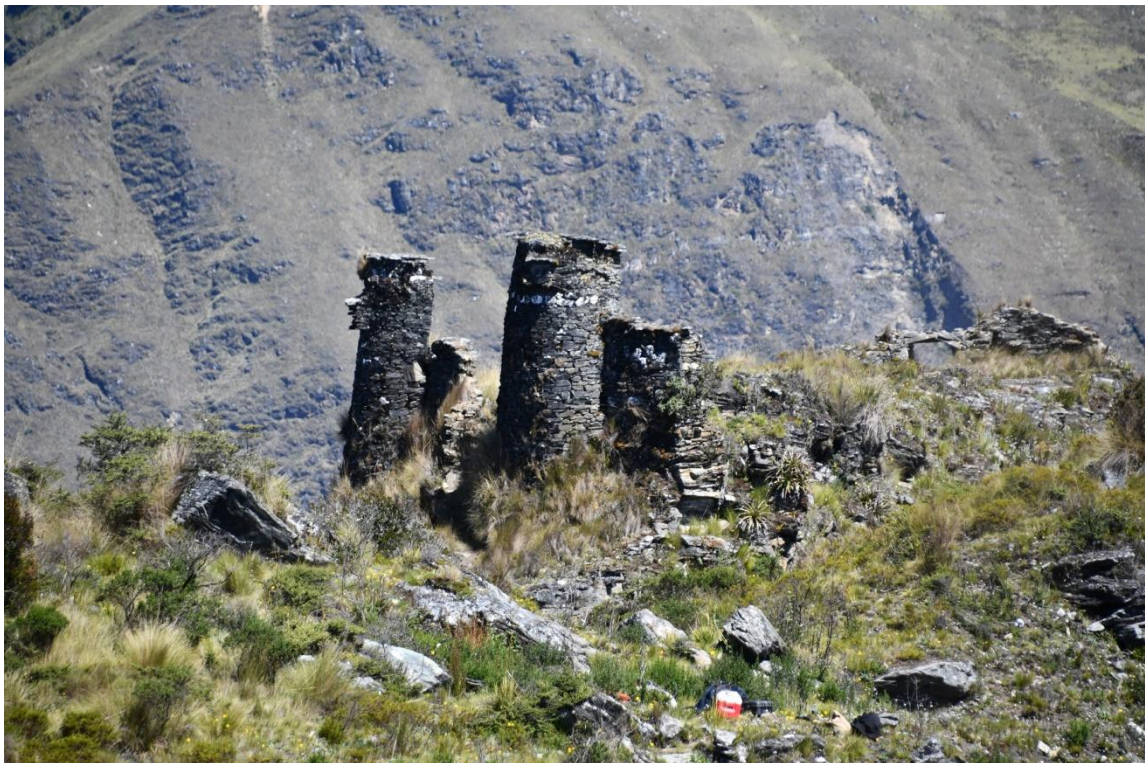
View from outside of the upper end of the complex. Note the headwall inside the outer curtain wall.

The Northern Sites

Auga Punta



Section of the outer curtain wall on the south side of the complex. The road to Monzón is in the distance.



Two half round towers on the inner side of the fortified entrance structure at the lower end of the complex

The Northern Sites

Auqui

Location: 9° 32' 02" S, 76° 41' 25" W, (E 314470, N 8945668), 3930 meters

Access: About an hour by horse or on foot from Carhuapata, to the east of Jacas Grande

The site consists mostly of ruins with no very impressive structures. The most interesting structures are perhaps the charnel houses at Iglesiayoj, nearby.



General views of the site

The Northern Sites

Auqui



Closer view of some of the remains of the site



Charnel houses at Iglesiayoj, about a kilometre to the east of the main site

The Northern Sites

Canicun Bridge

Location: 9° 12' 28" S, 76° 44' 06" W, (E 309381, N 8981714), 2450 meters

Access: The bridge lies along the track, still in regular use, from Huancash to Rapayán, about an hour and a half on foot or by horse down from Huancash or two to three hours down from Rapayán. Huancash lies along the road from Arancay to Jircán.

At this point the Alto Marañón flows through a gorge that is about ten meters wide. The present, wooden bridge, for horses and people, is where the track from Huancash to Rapayán crosses the river. There has been a bridge here since pre-colonial times and the foundations are likely Yarowilca. The bridge deck is supported by wooden logs which, in pre-colonial times, would probably have been of Aliso (*Alnus acuminata*, a member of the birch family), which is native to the area.



The bridge itself

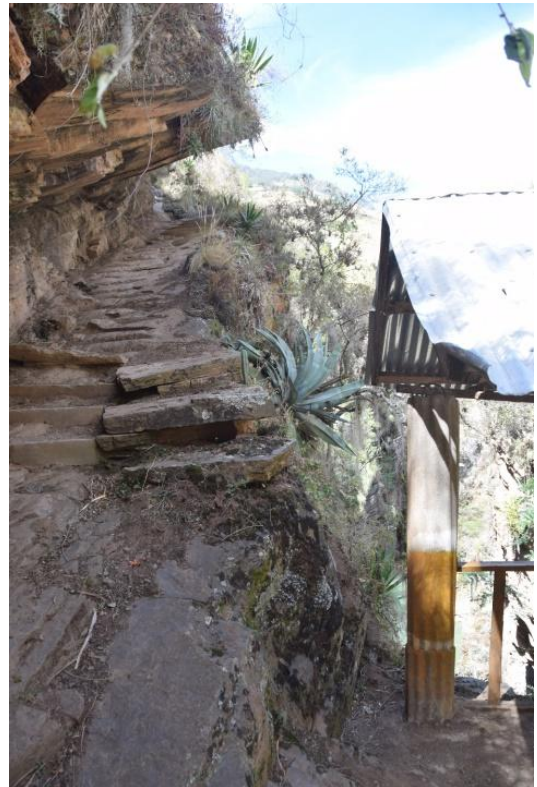
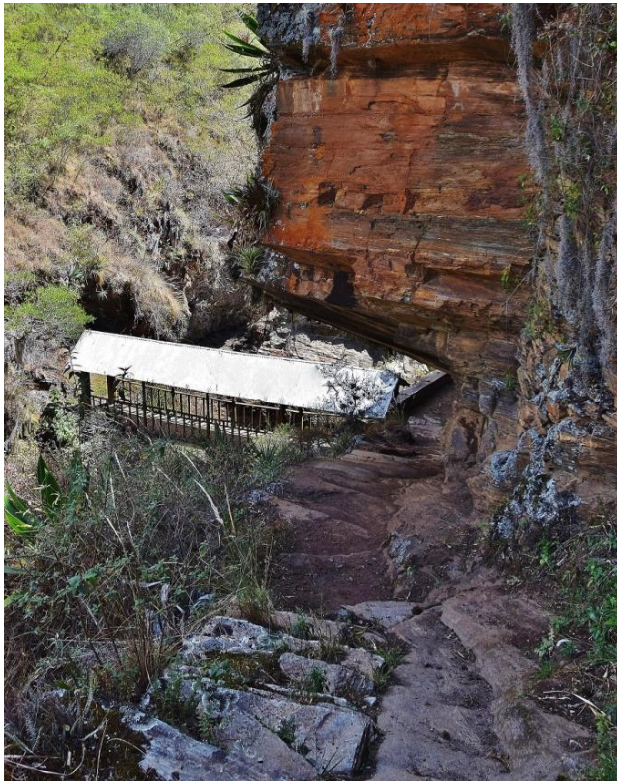


The foundations of the bridge

(Picture courtesy of Robert and Daisy Kunstaetter)

The Northern Sites

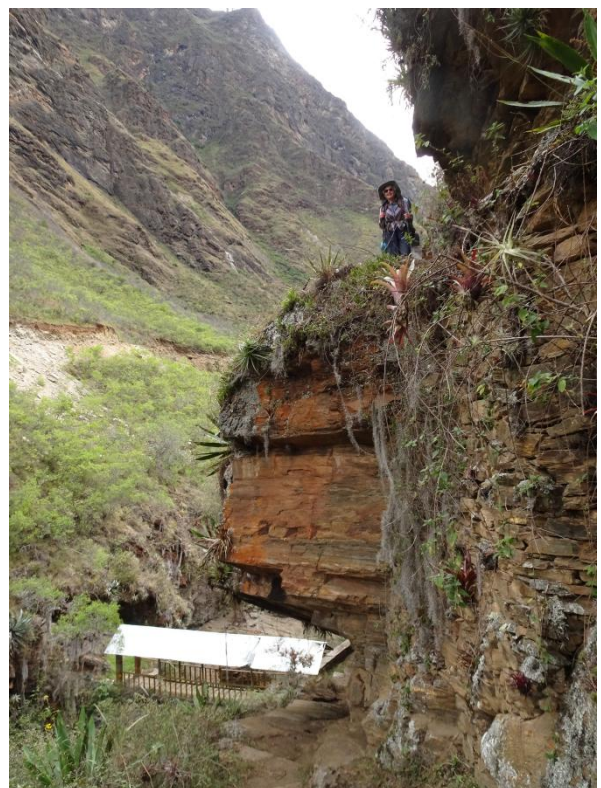
Canicun Bridge



The steps down to the bridge on the right (east) bank



The steps down on the left (west) bank



Another view of the bridge, looking north

(Lower two pictures courtesy of Robert and Daisy Kunstaetter)

The Northern Sites

Colonpampa

Location: 9° 32' 13" S, 76° 41' 22" W, (E 314563, N 8945331), 3785 meters

Access: Half an hour on foot or by horse from Carhuapata. The site lies between Carhuapata, to the east of Jacas Grande, and the site of Auqui.



These look to be models of tombs and are similar to those found at the lowest level inside the large rectangular buildings (torreones) found at such southern sites as Mancopa and Sahuay (Chupan). These were discovered only a few years ago, while building the house in the background.

The Northern Sites

Colonpampa



More images of the models of the tombs

The Northern Sites

Huariyoj

Location: 9° 29' 31" S, 76° 48' 42" W, (E 301117, N 8950240), 3680 meters

Access: This small site is a couple of hundred meters from the road north from Miraflores leading to Punchao and Singa



Overall view of this small, presumably residential site



The outside (left) and inside (right) of the headwall. The apparent doorway in the headwall exterior would appear to be the work of *huaqueros* (tomb robbers).

The Northern Sites

Huariyoj



Exterior (left) and interior (right) of one of the chambers of the interior side of the headwall



The headwall is by the pin. The outline of the original settlement is clear to see to the south of the headwall.

The Northern Sites

Huata

Location: 9° 21' 27" S, 76° 48' 37" W, (E 301193, N 8965112), 3880 meters

Location: An hour on foot or by horse above Bellas Flores, which lies to the north of Singa

This is a large site along the top of a ridge, with some well preserved buildings in the middle of the site.



Overall view of the site



Mortuary tower and headwall in the middle of the site

(Both pictures courtesy of Daniel Montesinos)

The Northern Sites

Huata



The entrance path to the site



View of the headwall (right of centre) and a mortuary tower (to the far right) in the middle of the site

The Northern Sites

Huata



View along the ridge, facing east



The east end of the site

The Northern Sites

Huata



Tower buildings

The Northern Sites

Huata



Inca period structure. Note the gable wall.



Chullpa at the site of Carhua, close by Huata

The Northern Sites

Huata



Note the major buildings to the right of centre



The site of Huinaj, north of Huata, seen from across the intervening valley (Quebrada Luyan)

The Northern Sites

Jagraraj

Location of track followed to view the cliff tombs:

- South-west end: 9° 35' 39" S, 76° 45' 56" W, (E 306239, N 8938960), 3850 meters
- North-east end: 9° 35' 19" S, 76° 45' 45" W, (E 306571, N 8939576), 3875 meters

Access: About half an hour on foot above the road from Pachas to Llata, near Irma Grande, irrespective of which end of the cliff one is approaching

This site comprises approximately two kilometres of cliff tombs, under an overhanging cliff. The tombs are easy of access and have clearly all been looted in the past. Many have been totally destroyed. Some look to have been restored in recent times.



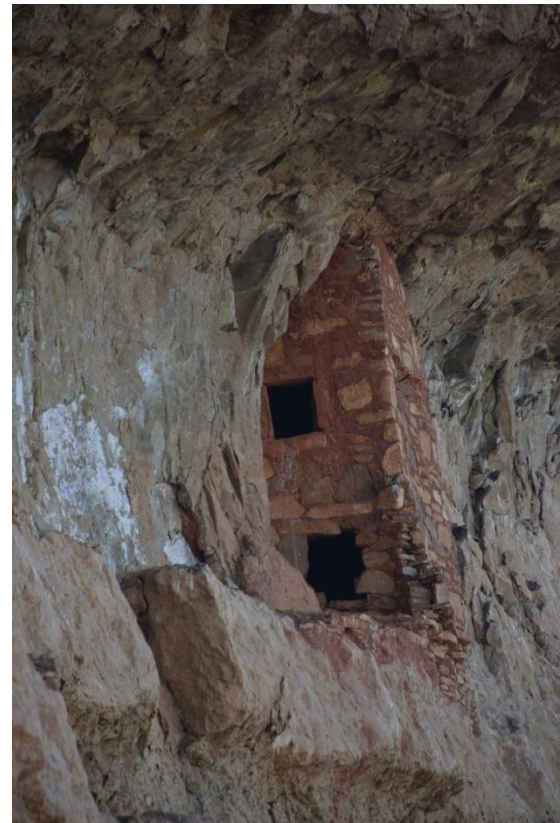
Tomb structures at the south-west end of the cliffs at Jagraraj

The Northern Sites

Jagraraj



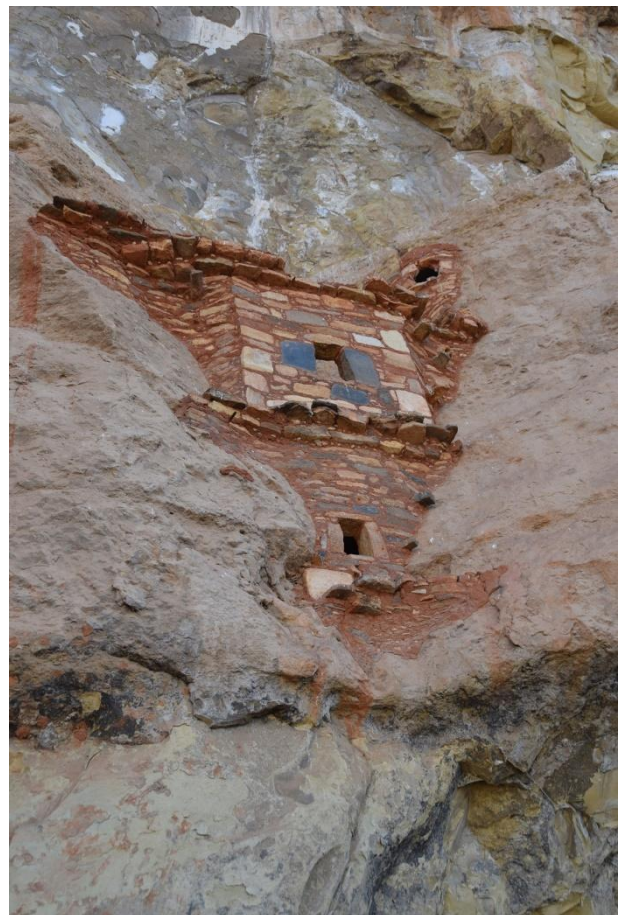
The main cliff face, seen facing north-east



Some of the tombs

The Northern Sites

Jagraraj



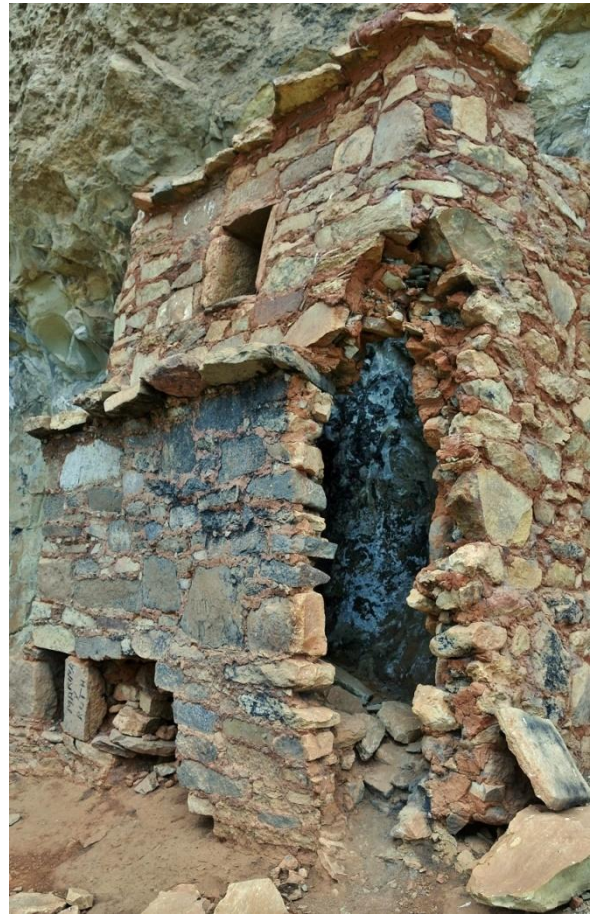
Further tombs. Note the footholds to the right of the “window” tomb, at bottom right.

The Northern Sites

Jagraraj



Cliffside tomb



Broken tomb, showing construction



Stairway up the cliff face



Drill holes for tomb robbers' dynamite

The Northern Sites

Jagraraj



Towards the north-east end of the cliff face, including rock paintings at bottom left

The Northern Sites

Jagraraj



Satellite image of the site, showing the start and end points of our first visit. It is 700 meters in a direct line between the start and end points, but much further following the cliff face. In several parts there are two or more rows of tombs, one above the other. Moreover the path (such as it is) often runs below the rows of tombs themselves. Note: the dark patch around the Start pin is shadow, not a lake!

The Northern Sites

Maganpatay

Location: 9° 10' 51" S, 76° 45' 05" W, (E 307566, N 8984686), 2725 meters

Access: 45 minutes' walk down from Arancay

This building appears to be unique. It comprises what looks to be a gabled charnel house built on top of a two storey mortuary tower. Moreover the charnel house appears to have been offset to the left as one looks at the open face, with a narrow platform to the right and a window between the charnel house and the platform. How that platform was accessed in times past is unclear.

Also of interest is the use of wooden beams in the ceiling of the charnel house chamber as well as in the construction of the ceiling of the chamber immediately below the charnel house. The chamber immediately below the charnel house consists of one large chamber, whereas in the lowest storey there are several smaller chambers which do not interconnect.

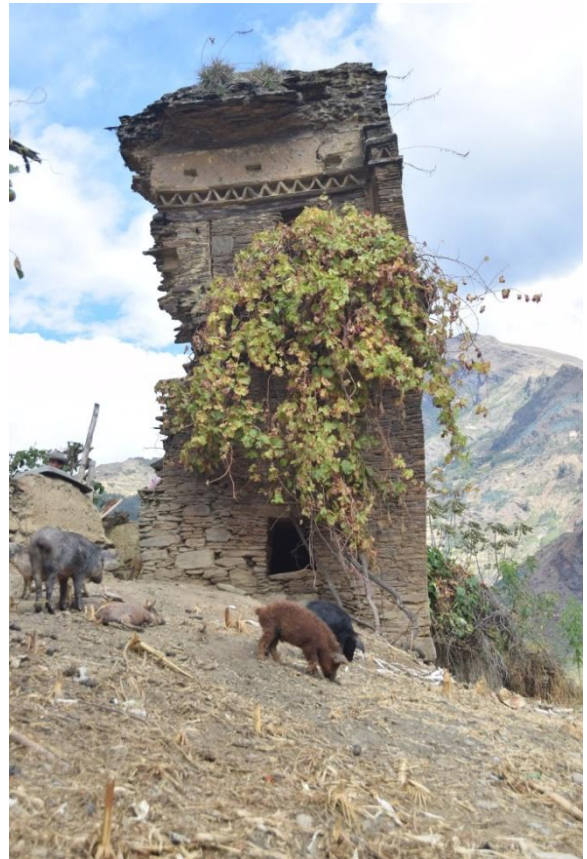
As is clear in the photographs, the building is in a very poor state of preservation and one fears the next earth tremor could bring the whole structure crashing down. I am not aware of its ever having been properly surveyed or published.



General view of the village, with the tower in the middle

The Northern Sites

Maganpatay



The tower seen from all four sides, going round anti-clockwise

The Northern Sites

Maganpatay



Upper half of the tower seen from below. Note zigzag decoration and cracks in the wall.



Exterior wall of the upper chamber, facing the open platform. Note the Andean crosses in the adobe plastered wall above the Chachapoyas style zigzag decoration and the wooden beam immediately below that decoration.

The Northern Sites

Maganpatay



Aerial views of the structure. Note how the charnel house is offset to one side.

(Both pictures courtesy of Robert and Daisy Kunstaetter)

The Northern Sites

Maganpatay



Two further aerial views of the structure. Note the access doorway to one of the lower storey chambers at the back of the tower, in the upper picture. The access to the middle storey chamber is clearly visible in the lower picture

(Both pictures courtesy of Robert and Daisy Kunstaetter)

The Northern Sites

Maganpatay



Wooden beams supporting the ceiling of the middle floor chamber

Right: Wooden log embedded in the ceiling of the upper floor chamber. At either side of the picture one sees the broken wall of what is now the open front of the chamber.



Remains of the roof

The Northern Sites

Mariagan

Location: 9° 12' 09" S, 76° 43' 16" W, (E 310905, N 8982306), 3325 meters

Access: Twenty minutes on foot to the north and above of Huancash, which lies between Jircán and Arancay

This site consists of the remains of a tall headwall and little else. The side facing out from the settlement is complete, but the inner side has partially collapsed, exposing the galleries. There are a few remnants of other buildings in the woodland just below the headwall. The purpose of the structures at the top on the exterior of the headwall is unclear. There are no entrances at the base of the headwall that these might be intended to protect, such as one might find in Europe, the Caucasus or the Middle East.



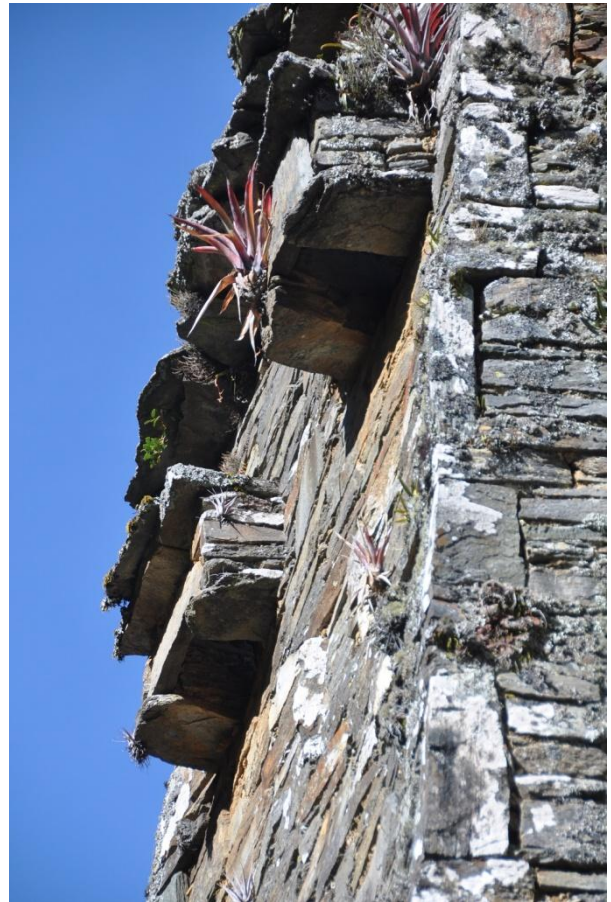
Exterior of the headwall. Ancash, across the Marañón, in the distance.



The apertures in the upper part of the headwall. They would appear to be unique in the area.

The Northern Sites

Mariagan



Exterior of the headwall, seen from the side



The interior side of the headwall, which has collapsed higher up

The Northern Sites

Palta Castillo

Location: 9° 08' 33" S, 76° 44' 48" W, (E 308064, N 8988928), 3080 meters

Access: Just west of the main road, near the village of Chincho (not on the IGN map) which is some 5 km north of Arancay on the road to Huacaybamba and just south-east of Huaylla Cancha

This is a small site close to the main road, just outside the village of Chincho. Nearby is a small charnel house, complete with triangular patterns; see bottom left.



The site seen from the north



Various structures, including charnel house (bottom left)

The Northern Sites

Pampa Castillo

Location: 9° 21' 34" S, 76° 48' 26" W, (E 301530, N 8964899), 3710 meters

Access: 45 minutes on foot or by horse above Bellas Flores, which lies to the north of Singa. Alternatively 15 minutes down from Huata.

The site consists of a solitary headwall, with a few remains of stonework in the bushes below.



Seen from above



Seen from below, with the site of Huata on the skyline above left

The Northern Sites

Papa Huasi

Location: 9° 34' 45" S, 76° 20' 03" W, (E 353584, N 8940832), 3860 meters

Access: It takes approximately six hours drive from Huánuco, via the Churubamba turn-off, Tambogán and Inca Cocha, to reach the village of Papa Huasi. Neither Inca Cocha nor Papa Huasi is shown on the IGN map. A four wheel drive vehicle is essential. From the village it is another 20 minutes' drive to the closest point below the tombs, then at least an hour's walk up to them.

The site comprises three small charnel houses in reasonable condition and are said to date from the Yarowilca period. They lie at the eastern edge of the area we have been visiting and, although the easiest access today is from the east, as described above, the area would have been relatively easy of access from the area of the Alto Marañón in the past.



The three charnel houses lie on the ridge in a curve. The one furthest away (No. 1) is in the middle of the picture above. The next one (No. 2) is at the far right. The closest one (No. 3) is in the foreground at left. Facing the opposite direction is a hill with ruins, but in poor condition and seemingly not of the Yarowilca period or style. (I did not have time to visit these ruins and am therefore relying on descriptions from and photographs taken by my travelling companions.)

The Northern Sites

Papa Huasi



This is charnel house No. 2, with No. 3 in the background and the hill with ruins beyond



This is charnel house No. 1, with a further smaller tomb beside it

The Northern Sites

Papa Huasi



This is charnel house No. 2, with charnel house No. 1 in the distance behind it



This is charnel house No. 3

The Northern Sites

Portachuelo

Location: 9° 11' 37" S, 76° 43' 51" W, (E 309832, N 8983284), 3360 meters

Access: Just to the west of the road where it crosses the Cerro Alaryaco. This is about one kilometre north-west of the village of Chequias (not shown on the IGN map), north of Huancash along the road from Jircán to Arancay.

This is a small site on a promontory along the valley of the Alto Marañón that looks as if it could have been the site of a watchtower. However the one tower on the site looks to be a chullpa such as one sees commonly elsewhere. Was this therefore a funerary site and not a watchtower site?



View from the north



The chullpa



Other ruins, with niches for the remains of the dead

The Northern Sites

Pujin

Location: 9° 23' 27" S, 76° 45' 29" W, (E 306948, N 8961455), 3760 meters

Access: 15 minutes on foot above the main road from Chavín de Paríarca to Tantamayo, a little way north of the town of Chavín de Paríarca

These are the remains of what was evidently a residential site, now in relatively poor condition.



The present way into the site from above, following the old track from Tantamayo to Chavín de Paríarca, via the site of Kipash

The Northern Sites

Pujin



Chamber with remains of corbelled roof



Tower



Wall waiting to collapse

The Northern Sites

Soltero Castillo

Location: 9° 16' 28" S, 76° 43' 00" W, (E 311432, N 8974350), 3655 meters

Access: Some 15 minutes on foot above Urpish, along the track that leads to Auga Punta

This site comprises a number of large structures, including headwalls round what now looks to have been a small plaza. Below are ruined walls, etc. all heavily overgrown.



The site seen from above at Auga Punta. The main structures are at middle left. At middle right is an area enclosed by a stone wall. Behind are extensive ruins all heavily overgrown. At top left is part of the modern village of Urpish.



Incised decoration on stones on the exterior of the headwall of the uppermost construction at Soltero Castillo. See next page.

The Northern Sites

Soltero Castillo



The interior faces of two headwalls, the nearer one partially collapsed. Note Auga Punta on the ridge line at top left.



Exterior of the headwall in the background of the picture at the top of the page. Note the engraved stones part way up the wall. For details see the previous page.

The Northern Sites

Soltero Castillo

Amongst the overgrown ruins lower down on the site we came across a building with a chamber at the back which, based on studies carried out at Rapayán, would probably have been used to store the mummies of family ancestors. We found a similar building at Llincay. The structure was very overgrown, making photography something of a challenge!



Facing in towards the doorway leading to the mummy chamber



The doorway leading to the mummy chamber

The Northern Sites

Soltero Castillo



Facing out from the doorway. Note the small recesses on either side, doubtless used for the storage of the bones of the deceased.



Looking left



Looking right

The Mummy Chamber

The Northern Sites

Tarapampa

Location: 9° 12' 49" S, 76° 43' 35" W, (E 310331, N 8981074), 2800 meters

Access: Less than an hour on foot down from Huancash, on the track leading to Canicun Bridge across the Alto Marañón. Huancash lies between Arancay and Jircán.

This is a charnel house standing a short way above a small, much degraded Yarowilca site. That site had few remains of interest.



The charnel house seen from below (west face)

The Northern Sites

Tarapampa



The north face



North face

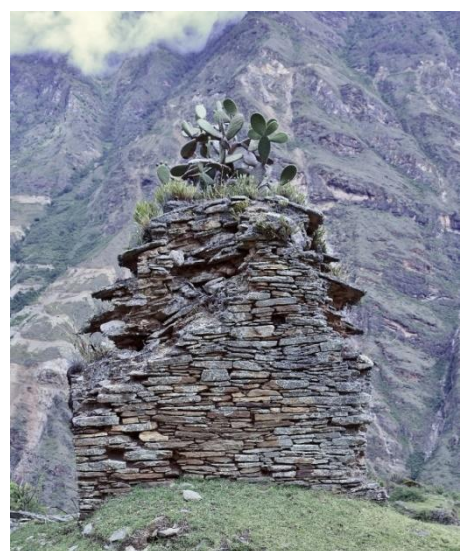


West face

Triangular decoration



South face



East face

The Northern Sites

Tarapampa



Wooden beams supporting the roof

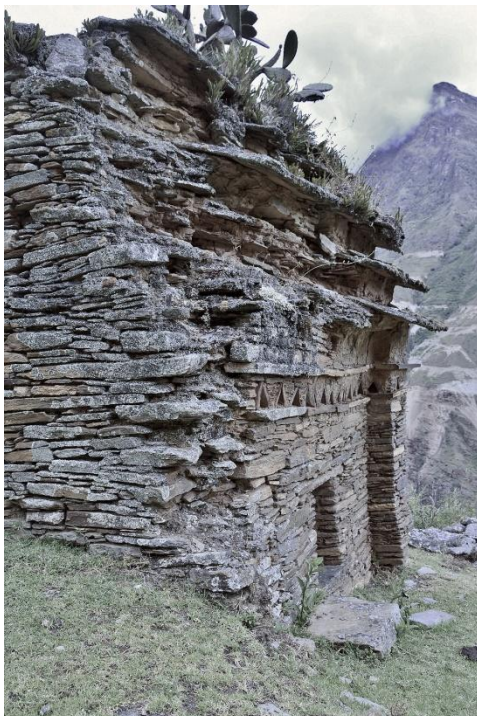


Interior

Platform within the sepulchre



Beam end sticking through the roof, where the outer covering of the roof has broken away



North face seen from the east

The Northern Sites

Urpish

Location: 9° 16' 36" S, 76° 43' 34" W, (E 310395, N 8974100), 3470 meters

Access: The site lies right alongside the village of Urpish, which is some 4 to 5 km south of Jircán on the main road to Tantamayo

This is one of the larger and more impressive sites in the area.



The site, seen from the north



Interior of the site, with the headwall and part of the curtain wall in the middle ground and a mortuary tower in the foreground

The Northern Sites

Urpish



Interior side of headwall



Gallery within the headwall. The walls and buttresses on the right really do lean that far over!

The Northern Sites

Urpish



Other structures within the site



Exterior of the headwall, with part of the curtain wall to the south (at left)



Relief of a face on the exterior of the headwall

The Northern Sites

Urpish



Interior of the curtain wall south of the headwall



Exterior of the curtain wall south of the headwall

(Picture courtesy of Robert and Daisy Kunstaetter)

The Northern Sites

Urpish



Detail of interior of the curtain wall



Incised stones inserted in the exterior wall

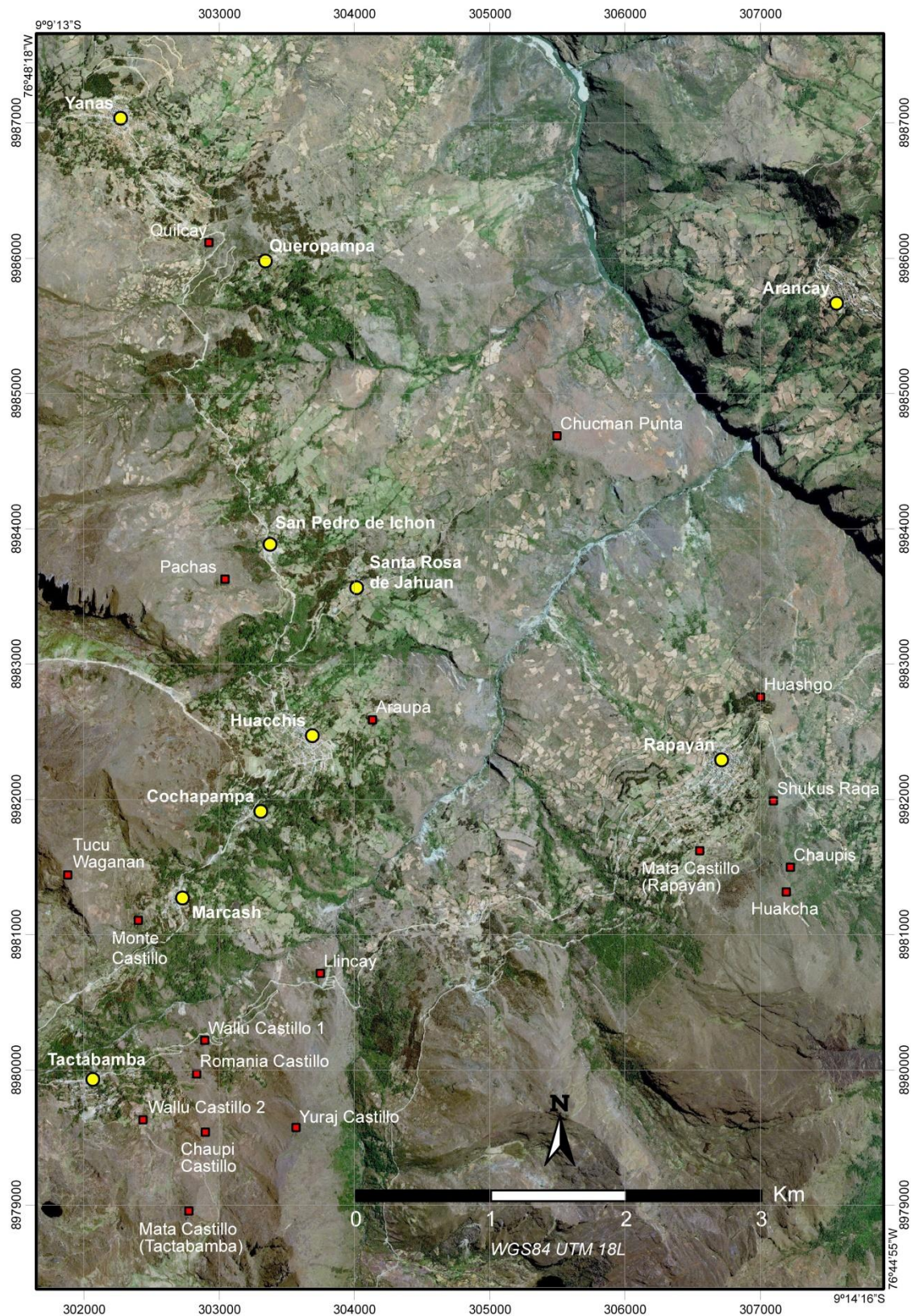


South side of the site with view upstream along the valley of the Quebrada Carga, an affluent of the Alto Marañón. Note the gabled end walls, indicating post-Yarowilca construction.

The Northern Sites – Huacchis and Rapayán Area

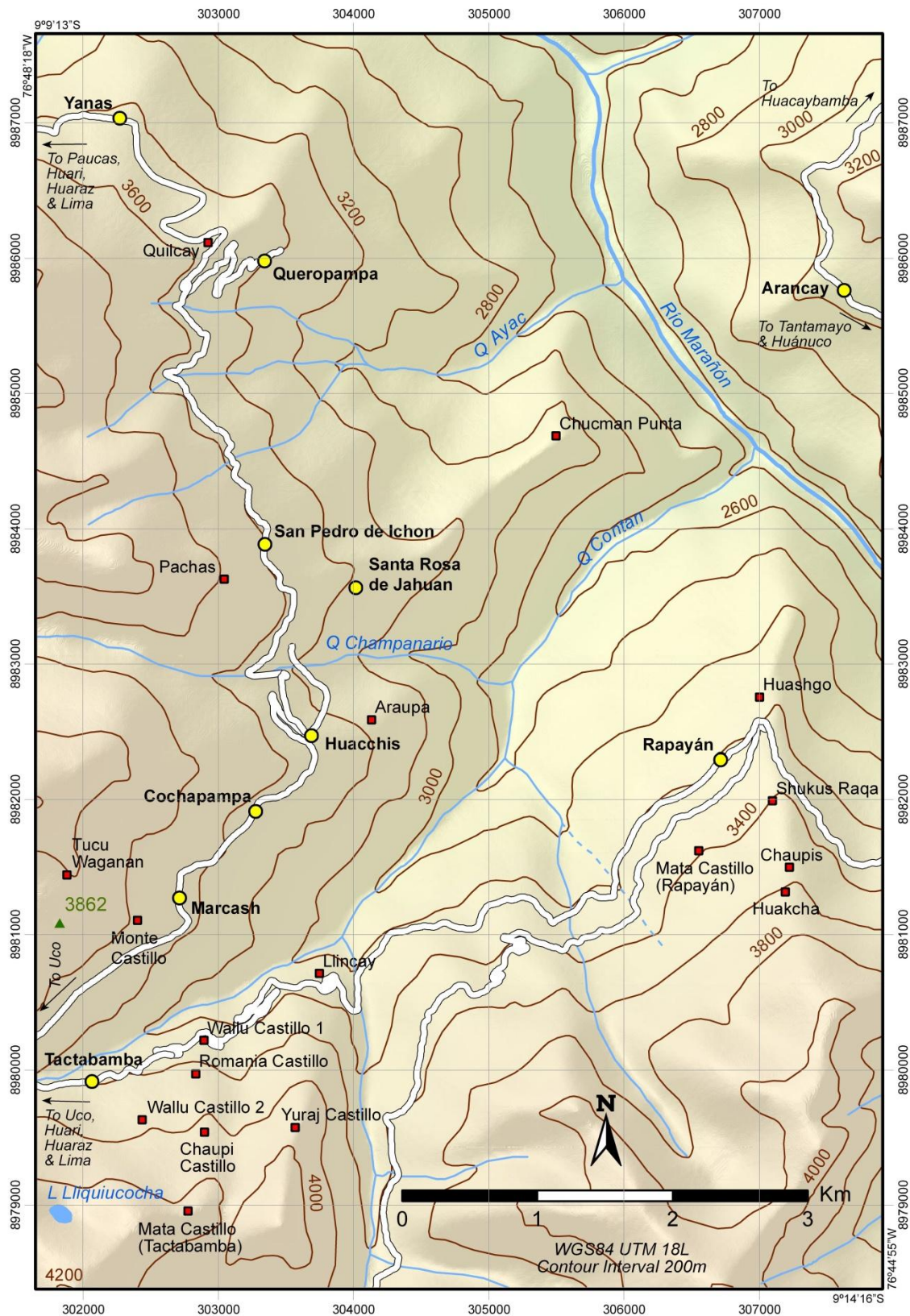
There are some seventeen sites around Huacchis and Rapayán that I visited. Most of these sites comprise fortified settlements or refuges, with headwalls. In a number of cases not much more than the headwall remains. There are also a number of free standing mortuary towers, the most complete that I saw being Romania Castillo. The site of Rapayán - Huashgo has an impressive charnel house.

The Northern Sites – Huacchis and Rapayán Area



Map 4a: The Sites around Huacchis and Rapayán – Satellite view

The Northern Sites – Huacchis and Rapayán Area



Map 4b: The Sites around Huacchis and Rapayán – Topographical

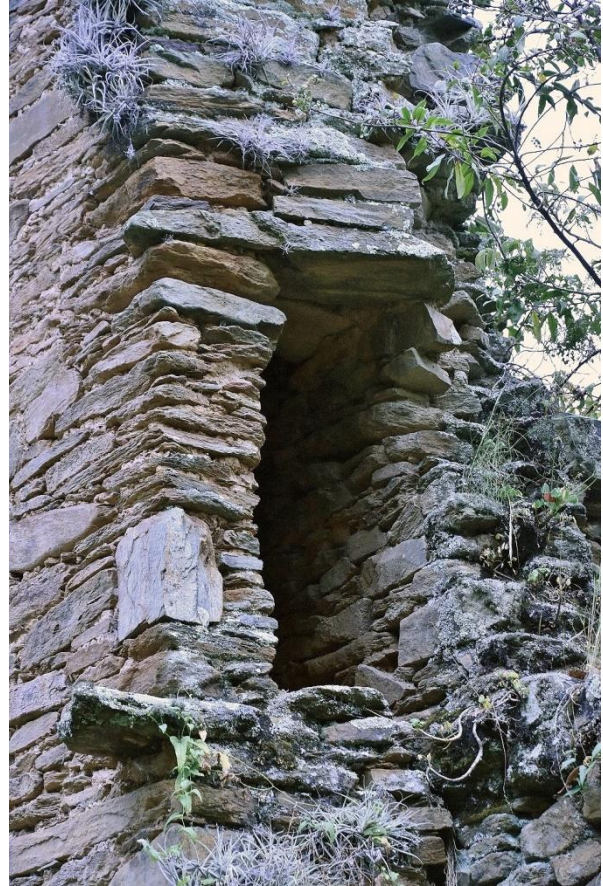
The Northern Sites – Huacchis and Rapayán Area

Araupa

Location: 9° 11' 59" S, 76° 46' 58" W, (E 304126, 8982580), 3375 meters

Access: 15 minutes' walk below Huacchis town

This is a small site close to Huacchis. The headwall is the only significant structure.



Remains of the headwall

The Northern Sites – Huacchis and Rapayán Area

Chaupi Castillo

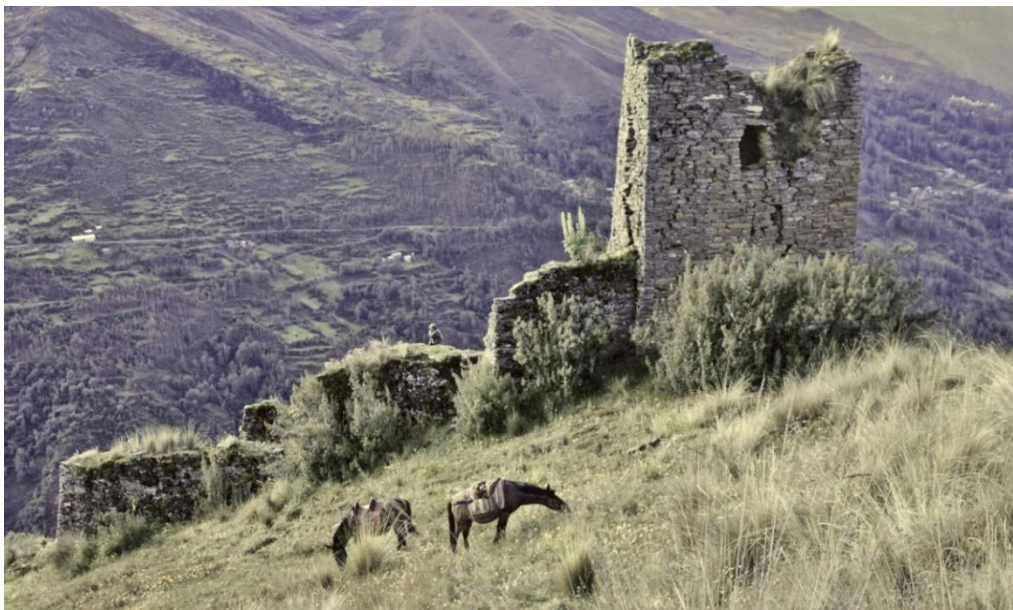
Location: 9° 13' 38" S, 76° 47' 39" W, (E 302890, N 8979532), 3880 meters

Access: To the left (east) of the track up from Tactabamba to Mata Castillo (Tactabamba) and Yuraj Castillo. Tactabamba lies to the west of Rapayán on the road to Uco.

This is a small, presumably residential site, of which the headwall is the only significant remaining structure.



Side of the headwall facing into the settlement, with remains of the curtain wall



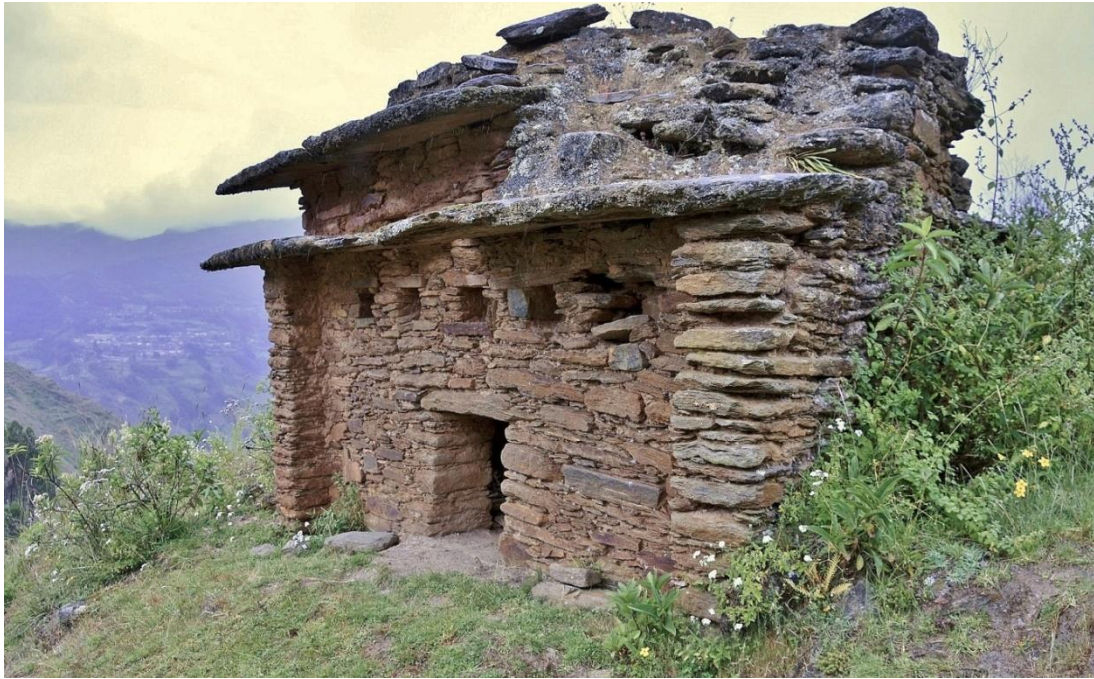
Exterior side of the headwall. Note the window which is unusual in the outer side of a headwall.

The Northern Sites – Huacchis and Rapayán Area

Chucman Punta

Location: Main site: 9° 10' 51" S, 76° 46' 13" W, (E 305490, N 8984676), 3150 meters
Apu Torre: 9° 11' 12" S, 76° 46' 40" W, (E 304669, N 8984026), 3205 meters
Access: Below the village of Chucman, north-east of Huacchis

The main site of Chucman Punta is largely a jumble of bits of former buildings. On the way to it there is a fine charnel house, Apu Torre, and an interesting stone-lined well which proved quite impossible to photograph!



The charnel house known as *Apu Torre*, beside the track leading down to the main site

The Northern Sites – Huacchis and Rapayán Area

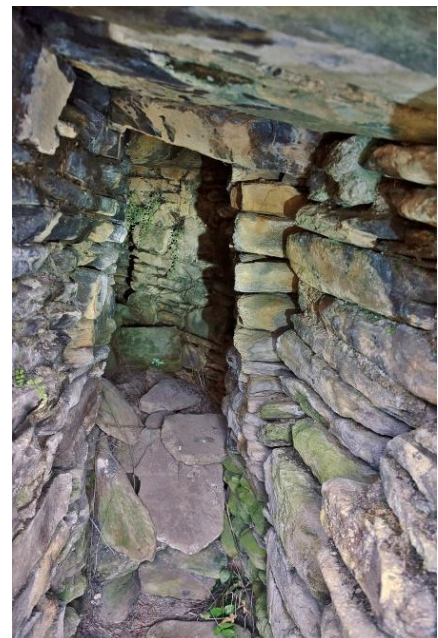
Chucman Punta



Overall view of the site (under adverse light conditions)



Remains of various structures



The Northern Sites – Huacchis and Rapayán Area

Llincay

Location: 9° 13' 00" S, 76° 47' 11" W, (E 303739, N 8980703), 3340 meters

Access: Alongside the road between Rapayán and Tactabamba

This heavily overgrown site is perhaps of most interest for the building with a large, curved and still partly roofed chamber at the back which, based on findings at Rapayán, was likely used for the storage of ancestors' mummies. See the next page.



Overall view of the site, covered in thick vegetation

(Picture courtesy of Robert and Daisy Kunstaetter)



A building with entrance doorway. The gabled end wall, evidence of subsequent Inca influence, is part of a separate building behind.

The Northern Sites – Huacchis and Rapayán Area

Llincay



Entrance and corner wall of the building with the “mummy chamber”



Long, narrow “mummy chamber” behind the main room of the picture above. Note the roofing slabs still in place and recesses in the back wall on the left. The doorway to this chamber is on the right.

The Northern Sites – Huacchis and Rapayán Area

Mata Castillo (Rapayán)

Location: 9° 12' 31" S, 76° 45' 39" W, (E 306543, N 8981608), 3415 meters

Access: 15 to 30 minutes' walk, south from the modern town of Rapayán

This site comprises an unusually wide headwall and little else. It is quite separate from the other Rapayán sites. This site should not be confused with Mata Castillo (Tactabamba).



Rear of the headwall and view to the north-west



Interior face of the headwall, collapsed in the middle. Note the botanist at work.

The Northern Sites – Huacchis and Rapayán Area

Mata Castillo (Rapayán)



East corner of the headwall, outside and inside



Interior detail of the remains of the galleries at the west corner of the headwall

The Northern Sites – Huacchis and Rapayán Area

Mata Castillo (Tactabamba)

Location: 9° 13' 57" S, 76° 47' 43" W, (E 302771, N 8978947), 4085 meters

Access: 1½ hours by horse above Tactabamba which lies on the road west out of Rapayán

This site looks to have been a fortified refuge rather than a residential site, in that it is a long way above the fields in rocky terrain and relatively small. It is generally complete with a headwall, to the right in the picture below, and a further tower to the left, over the entrance passageway. In short it looks and feels like a small castle and is visible from a long way away. This is not to be confused with Mata Castillo (Rapayán).



View of the site from the Tucu Waganan complex, above Marcash, facing south



Aerial view of the site. Headwall in the foreground. Other structures beyond.

(Picture courtesy of Robert and Daisy Kunstaetter)

The Northern Sites – Huacchis and Rapayán Area

Mata Castillo (Tactabamba)



The headwall, seen from the tower over the entrance passage



The tower over the entrance. Note the entrance passageway at the base of the tower.

Both images are distorted by the very wide angle of the lens.

The Northern Sites – Huacchis and Rapayán Area

Mata Castillo (Tactabamba)



Exterior view of the tower over the entrance



Interior view of the site, with headwall

(Both pictures courtesy of Robert and Daisy Kunstaetter)

The Northern Sites – Huacchis and Rapayán Area

Mata Castillo (Tactabamba)



Exterior view of the site from the headwall end (facing south-east)



Exterior view of the site from the entrance tower end (facing south-west)

The Northern Sites – Huacchis and Rapayán Area

Monte Castillo

Location: 9° 12' 47" S, 76° 47' 55" W, (E 302394, N 8981096), 3745 meters

Access: 20 minutes' walk from Marcash, close by the track to Tucu Waganan

This is a greatly overgrown site where only the exterior of the headwall was reasonably accessible at the time of our visit.



Top of the exterior of the headwall. Note the band of white quartz.

The Northern Sites – Huacchis and Rapayán Area

Pachas

Location: 9° 11' 25" S, 76° 47' 34" W, (E 303022, N 8983619), 3795 meters

Access: Just above the road north from Huacchis towards Yanas

This is a site where the headwall is about the only structure left standing.



The headwall seen from Quilcay, near Yanas



Exterior of the headwall

The Northern Sites – Huacchis and Rapayán Area

Quilcay

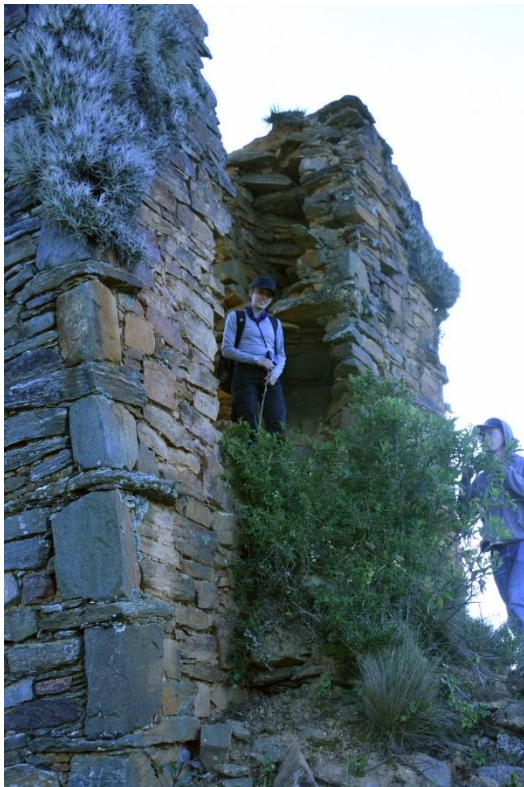
Location: 9° 10' 04" S, 76° 47' 37" W, (E 302918, N 8986107), 3565 meters

Access: Just south of Yanas, on the main road to Huacchis

Another small site where the only significant remains are a headwall and a ruinous tower. Note the quality of the stonework on the corners of both the tower and the headwall.



Tower (left) and headwall exterior (right)



Interior side of the headwall



The tower is clearly ready to collapse

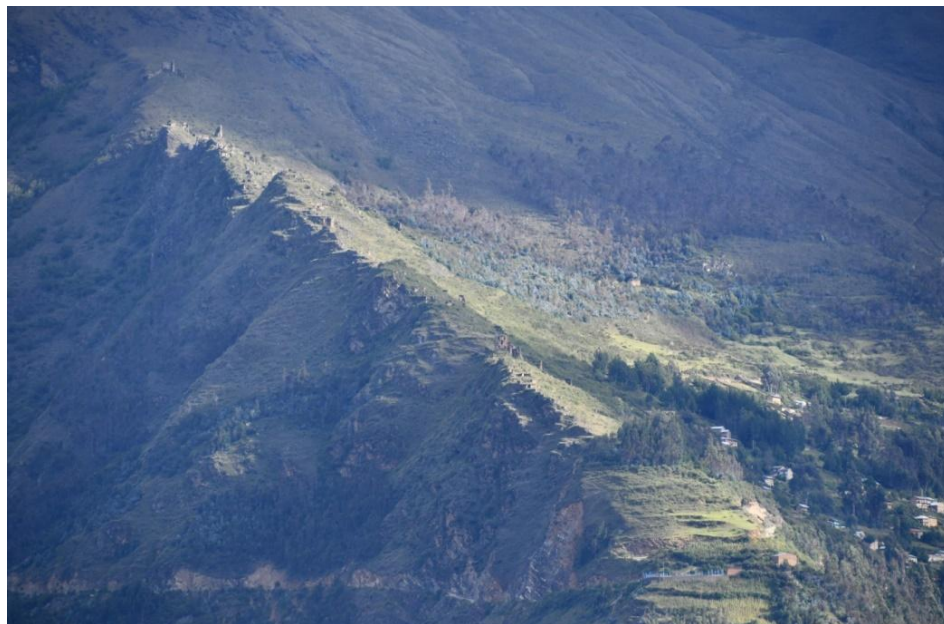
The Northern Sites – Huacchis and Rapayán Area

Rapayán – Overview

The site of Rapayán comprises a long series of structures all down the ridge to the south-east and east of the modern town of Rapayán. Each section of the site has its own name. In the pages that follow these sections are listed in descending order down the ridge and not in alphabetical order. The most noticeable structures are a series of headwalls and various mortuary towers. There are a lot of other buildings in a more or less ruinous state and, at the lowest section, Rapayán – Huashgo, a fine charnel house.



The sites at Rapayán seen from Yuraj Castillo. Half way up at the right hand edge of the picture is Huakcha. In the centre, with the long curtain wall, is Chaupis and at lower left, starting from the big towers is Shukus Raza. Huashgo is out of sight to the left. The far side of the valley of the Alto Marañón is visible in the background.



The sites at Rapayán seen from north of Arancay on the opposite side of the valley of the Alto Marañón. Huakcha is at top left in shadow, with Chaupis and Shukus Raza lower down along the ridge in the late afternoon light.

The Northern Sites – Huacchis and Rapayán Area

Rapayán – Huakcha

Location: 9° 12' 41" S, 76° 45' 18" W, (E 307185, N 8981304), 3650 meters

Access: This headwall lies at the top end of the series of structures built along the ridge of hills to the south-east of the town, some 30 to 45 minutes' walk from the modern town of Rapayán

This is the uppermost headwall along the ridge above Rapayán. The rest of the site was never completed, apart from a portion of the adjacent curtain walls. This is presumed to be because, with the coming of the Incas, mortuary practices changed, as did the manner of building settlements.



Headwall exterior



Inner side of the headwall with flanking defensive walls. The front wall has fallen away, revealing the galleries within the headwall.

The Northern Sites – Huacchis and Rapayán Area

Rapayán – Huakcha



Detail of the headwall interior. Note how all the vaulted galleries have collapsed.



Interior of part of the defensive curtain wall. Note the steps jutting out of the wall.

The Northern Sites – Huacchis and Rapayán Area

Rapayán – Huakcha



Incised decoration on white stone (some enhanced with chalk) on the exterior of the headwall



Detailed view of some of the incised stones

The Northern Sites – Huacchis and Rapayán Area

Rapayán – Chaupis

Location: 9° 12' 35" S, 76° 45' 17" W, (E 307215, N 8981489), 3555 meters

Access: This is part of the series of structures built along the ridge of hills to the south-east of Rapayán, some 30 to 45 minutes' walk from the modern town. This section of the site lies below Huakcha and above Shukus Raqa.



View of the site facing north, with the Alto Marañón in the background at top left



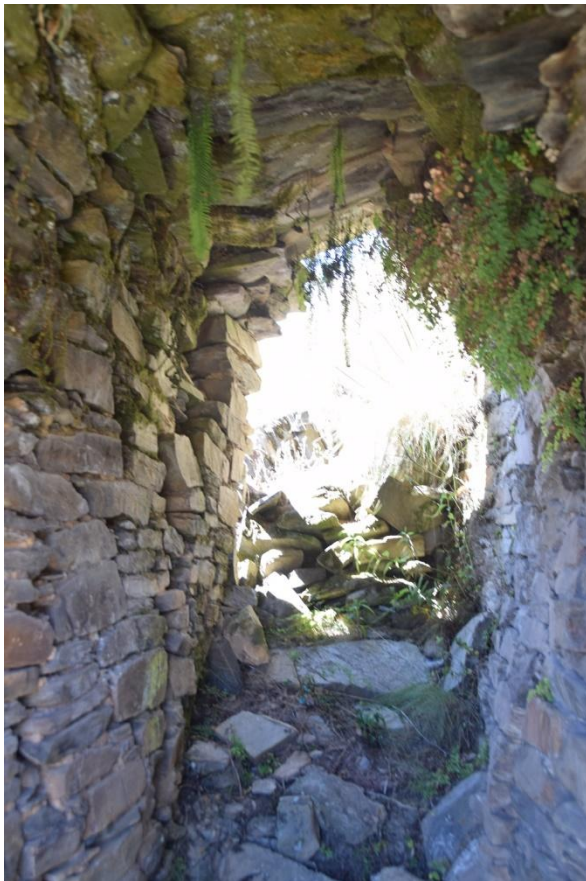
Ruined structure, with Huakcha above in the background

The Northern Sites – Huacchis and Rapayán Area

Rapayán – Chaupis



Charnel house



Vaulted gallery

The Northern Sites – Huacchis and Rapayán Area

Rapayán – Shukus Raqa

Location (top end): 9° 12' 19" S, 76° 45' 21" W, (E 307091, N 8981980), 3455 meters

Location (bottom end): 9° 12' 13" S, 76° 45' 22" W, (E 307059, N 8982164), 3390 meters

Access: This is part of the series of structures built along the ridge of hills to the south-east of Rapayán, some 30 to 45 minutes' walk from the modern town. This section of the site lies below Chaupis along the same ridge.



View facing north, with the Alto Marañón and mountains in the distance



Headwall exterior, at the bottom of the site

The Northern Sites – Huacchis and Rapayán Area

Rapayán – Shukus Raqa

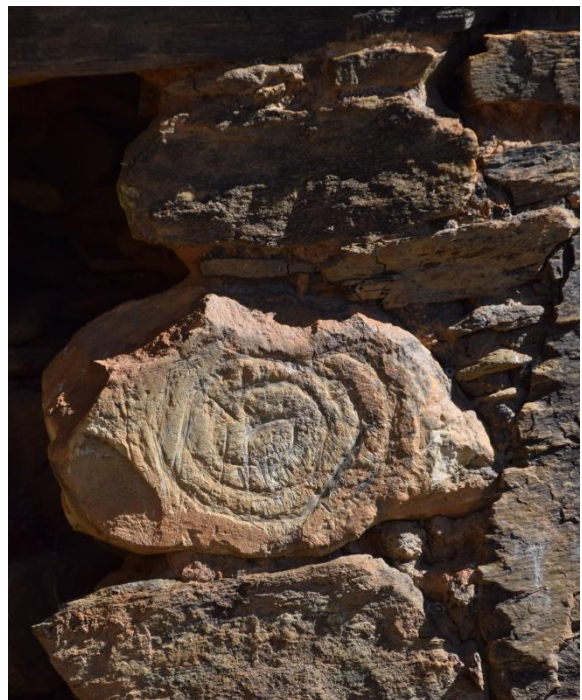


Interior side of the headwall at the bottom of the site

(Picture courtesy of Robert and Daisy Kunstaetter)



Mortuary tower



Detail of engraved stone in tower wall

The Northern Sites – Huacchis and Rapayán Area

Rapayán - Huashgo

Location (top of site): 9° 11' 54" S, 76° 45' 24" W, (E 306995, N 8982747), 3150 meters

Location (charnel house): 9° 11' 42" S, 76° 45' 21" W, (E 307085, N 8983117), 3100 meters

Access: 15 minutes' walk east of the town on the track from Rapayán towards the Alto Marañón and beyond to Huancash, via Canicun Bridge. The site lies some distance below Shukus Raqa.



Walls at the top end of the site



View over part of the site

The Northern Sites – Huacchis and Rapayán Area

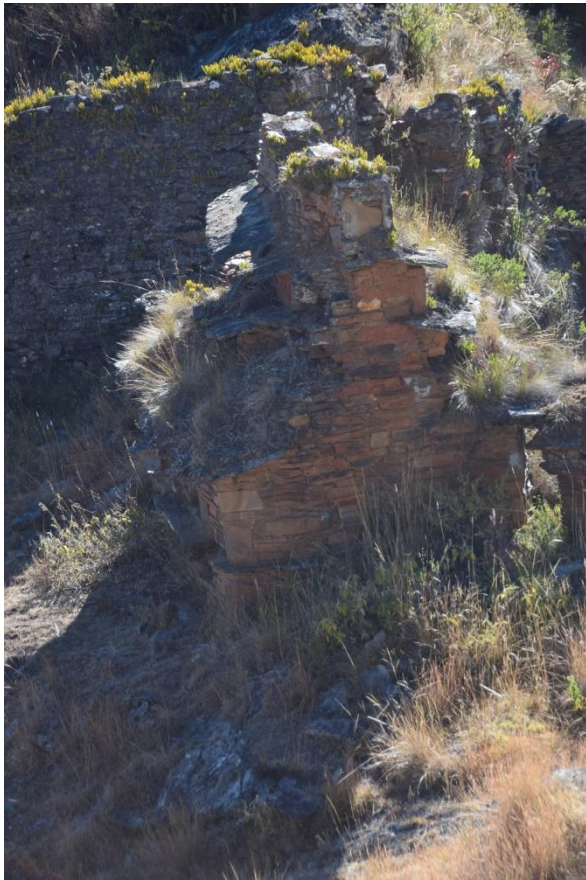
Rapayán - Huashgo



Charnel house

The Northern Sites – Huacchis and Rapayán Area

Rapayán - Huashgo



Chancel house



Bones inside the chancel house

The Northern Sites – Huacchis and Rapayán Area

Rapayán - Huashgo



Mortuary tower



Small tomb by the path down from Huashgo towards the Alto Marañón

The Northern Sites – Huacchis and Rapayán Area

Romania Castillo

Location: 9° 13' 24" S, 76° 47' 41" W, (E 302827, N 8979962), 3665 meters

Access: Some five to ten minutes' walk along the road from Tactabamba towards Rapayán and then fifteen minutes' walk up through some fields to the south

This is one of several free standing mortuary towers on the hillside above the road in the area of Tactabamba and is in very good condition. It comprises several storeys and has a D-shaped ground plan.



The tower seen from the slopes above



Details of the parapet at the top of the tower



Ceiling of the bottommost chamber of the tower

The Northern Sites – Huacchis and Rapayán Area

Romania Castillo



The tower, seen from below

The Northern Sites – Huacchis and Rapayán Area

Tucu Waganan

Location: Tucu Waganan: 9° 12' 36" S, 76° 48' 12" W, (E 301873, N 8981432), 4010 meters
Purwa Castillo: 9° 12' 41" S, 76° 48' 10" W, (E 301935, N 8981278), 3965 meters
Wakcha Castillo: 9° 12' 47" S, 76° 48' 06" W, (E 302058, N 8981094), 3895 meters
Access: An hour by horse above Marcash, which lies on the road from Huacchis towards Uco, as far as Wakcha Castillo. Then on foot along the ridge to the higher sites.

The site comprises three sets of structures: the lowest (Wakcha Castillo – to the left in the picture below) consists simply of a tower and the upper two each consist of a headwall with defensive walls and a separate tower.



The view from Llinca. The complex consists of three separately named sets of structures, from left to right: Wakcha Castillo, Purwa Castillo and Tucu Waganan.



Wakcha Castillo, the structure to the far left in the distant view above

The Northern Sites – Huacchis and Rapayán Area

Tucu Waganan



Exterior view of the headwall of Purwa Castillo and part of the curtain wall



The two sides of the isolated tower at Purwa Castillo, at the left hand edge of the middle complex in the distant view on the previous page

The Northern Sites – Huacchis and Rapayán Area

Tucu Waganan



Interior side of the headwall at Tucu Waganan



Exterior of the headwall at Tucu Waganan. Note the defensive ditches above (this side of) the headwall.

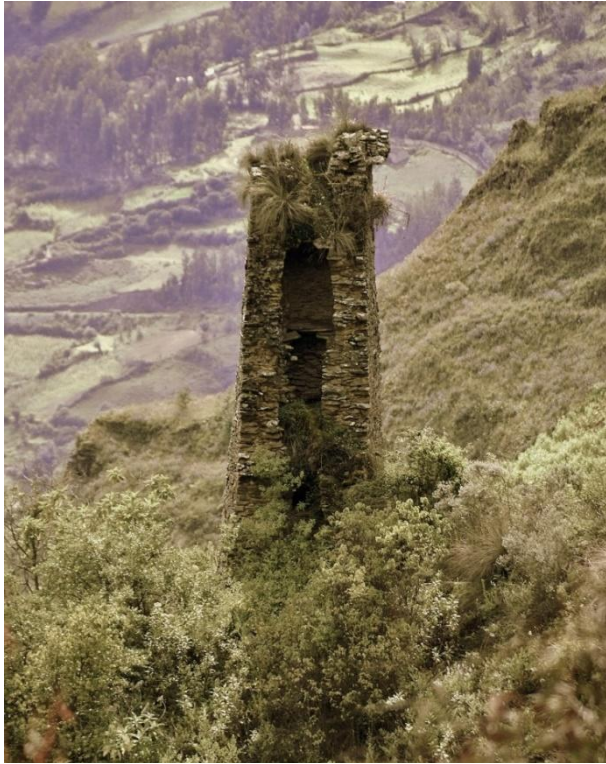
The Northern Sites – Huacchis and Rapayán Area

Wallu Castillo 1

Location: 9° 13' 16" S, 76° 47' 39" W, (E 302886, N 8980208), 3510 meters

Access: Just to the south and above the road between Tactabamba and Rapayán

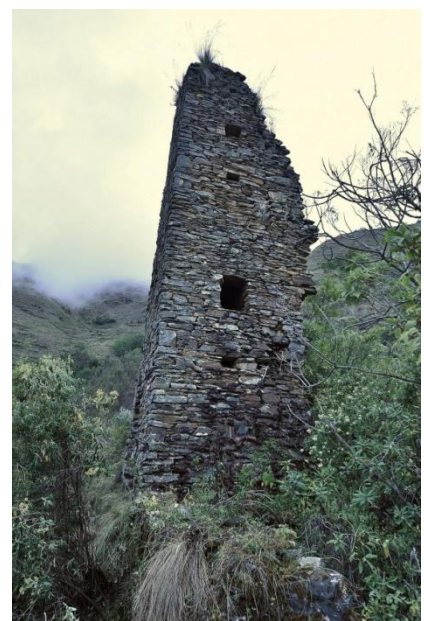
This is another of the free standing mortuary towers on the slopes around Tactabamba, but is in nowhere near as good a condition as Romania Castillo.



The tower, seen from the west and south-west



Support for the parapet at the top of the tower



The northern face of the tower

The Northern Sites – Huacchis and Rapayán Area

Wallu Castillo 2

Location: 9° 13' 35" S, 76° 47' 54" W, (E 302431, N 8979621), 3790 meters

Access: 30 minutes on horse, above Tactabamba on the path to Mata Castillo (Tactabamba) and Yuraj Castillo

This site comprises the remains of a headwall and little else.



The headwall. Note Yuraj Castillo on the skyline to the left.



View of the remains of various towers and headwalls on the ridge above and to the east of Wallu Castillo 2

(Picture courtesy of Robert and Daisy Kunstaetter)

The Northern Sites – Huacchis and Rapayán Area

Yuraj Castillo

Location: 9° 13' 37" S, 76° 47' 17" W, (E 303561, N 8979566), 3980 meters

Access: About an hour and a half on horseback from Tactabamba up to the ridge line to the south and then half an hour's trek eastwards over the side of the hills. The first part of the trail is the same as for Mata Castillo (Tactabamba). Tactabamba lies along the road from Rapayán towards Uco.

This is quite a large and relatively well preserved site, on a ridge overlooking Rapayán to the east, Huacchis to the north and the valley up to the pass for Uco to the west. The east side of the ridge is precipitous; the west side steep but easy enough to walk and fit for grazing or perhaps narrow terraces. There are the remains of an outer curtain wall on the west side, below the main walls of the site.



Yuraj Castillo seen from the Tucu Waganan complex, above Marcash west of Huacchis.
View facing towards the south.

The Northern Sites – Huacchis and Rapayán Area

Yuraj Castillo



Yuraj Castillo, seen from the track leading from Tactabamba to Mata Castillo (Tactabamba)



Yuraj Castillo, seen from above Rapayán facing towards the south-west

The Northern Sites – Huacchis and Rapayán Area

Yuraj Castillo



The site seen from the hills just to the south. View facing north.



Closer view of the site, seen from the south. Note the building at middle left with the white band of quartz just below the roof line.

The Northern Sites – Huacchis and Rapayán Area

Yuraj Castillo



The building with the white band of quartz, south face



The building with the white band of quartz, north face. Note: no white quartz this side.

The Northern Sites – Huacchis and Rapayán Area

Yuraj Castillo



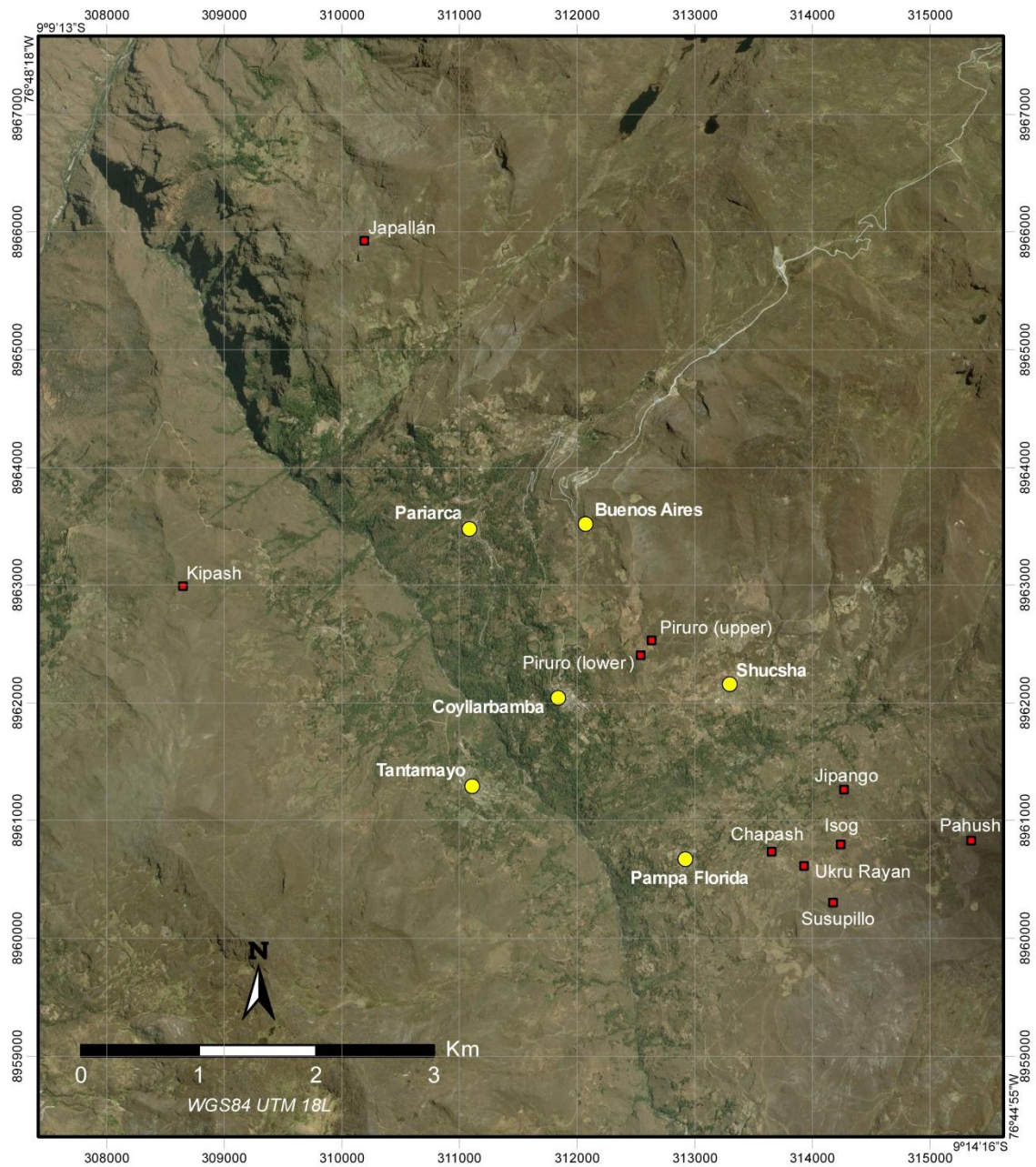
Several concentric lines of walls, presumably defensive, at the southern end of the site, where it adjoins the higher hills to the south.



The Northern Sites – Tantamayo Area

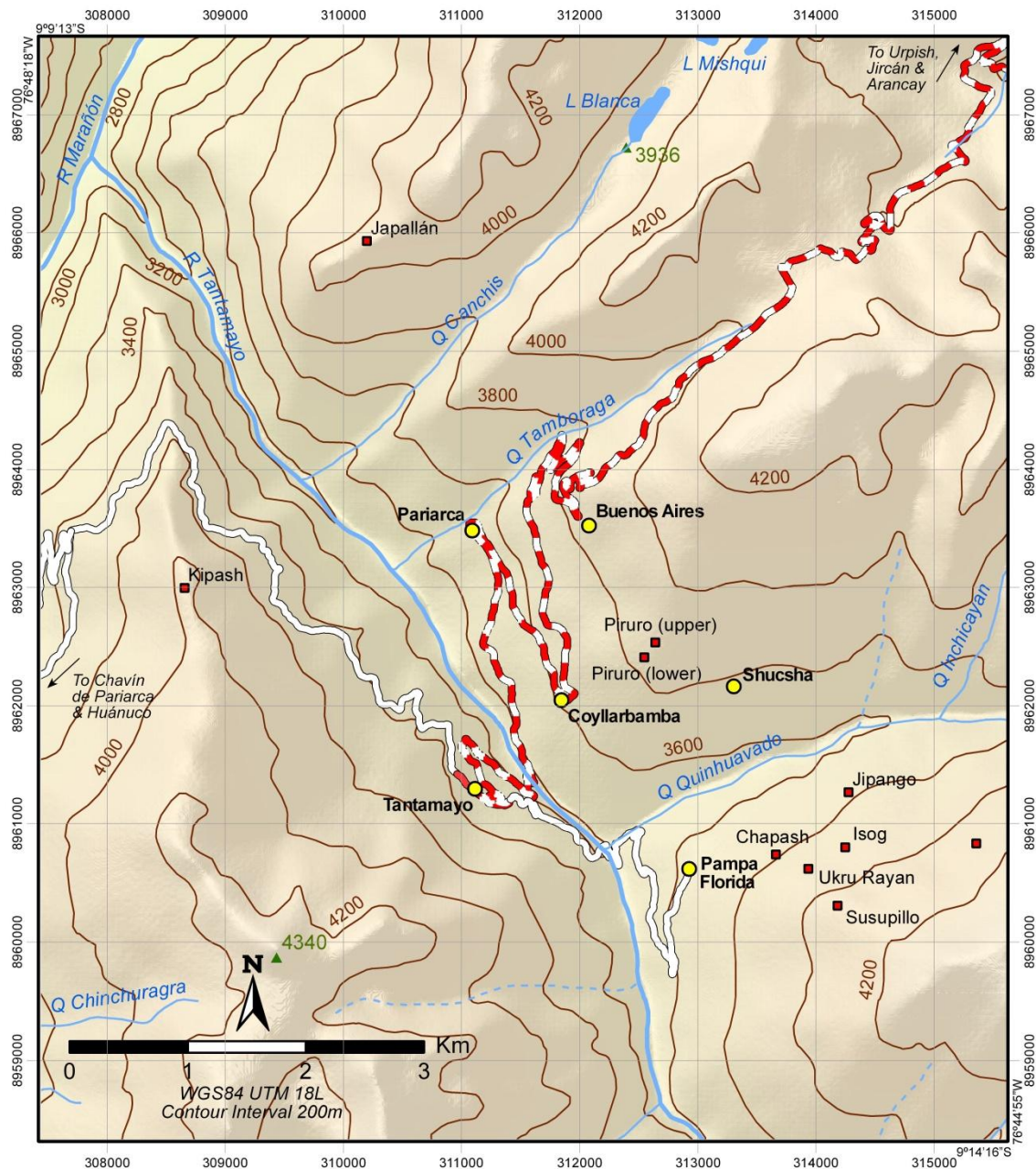
According to Bonnier (*Las Ruinas de Tantamayo*) there are some one hundred plus archaeological sites and remains in the Tantamayo area. In this paper we shall only look at ten, arguably the ten most impressive and interesting. All but one comprise fortified sites, primarily residential, with one or more headwalls. The tenth site, Pahush, comprises several thick walls with open fronted chambers whose purpose is disputed, along with a ruinous headwall. Two significant sites have not been included, Selmin which has been totally destroyed and the nearby series of storage chambers which date to Inca times.

The Northern Sites – Tantamayo Area



Map 5a: The Sites around Tantamayo – Satellite view

The Northern Sites – Tantamayo Area



Map 5b: The Sites around Tantamayo – Topographical

(Erratum: The unlabelled site directly east of Isog is Pahush)

The Northern Sites – Tantamayo Area

Chapash

Location: 9° 23' 51" S, 76° 41' 50" W, (E 313634, N 8960750), 3850 meters

Access: 2½ km due west of Tantamayo and south of the Quebrada Quinquavado

This is a small residential site with a headwall and further towers on either side, perched on the edge of some steep terrain.



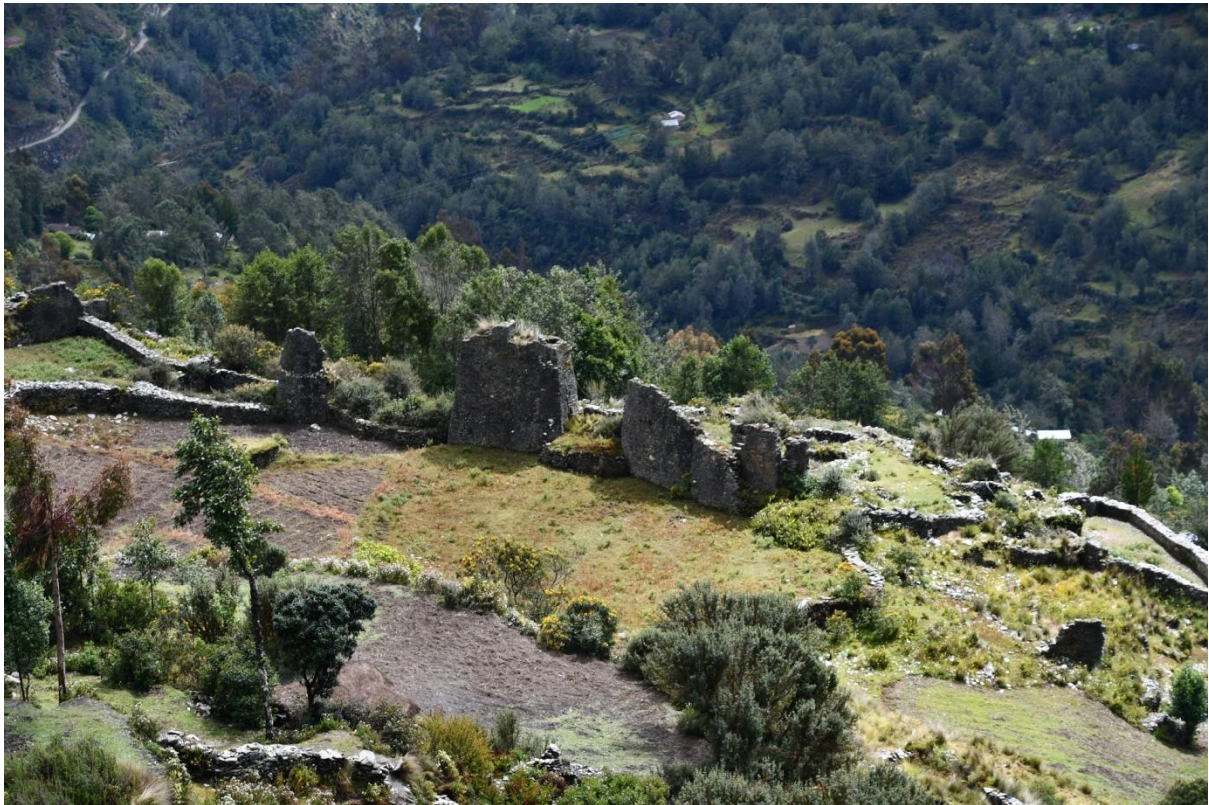
View from above



Same view in 1996

The Northern Sites – Tantamayo Area

Chapash



The main headwall in the middle, a conical round tower with white quartz band to the left and further subsidiary headwalls to the right



Inside faces of the main headwall (right) and subsidiary headwalls (left)

The Northern Sites – Tantamayo Area

Chapash



Outside and inside views of the round tower with conical top



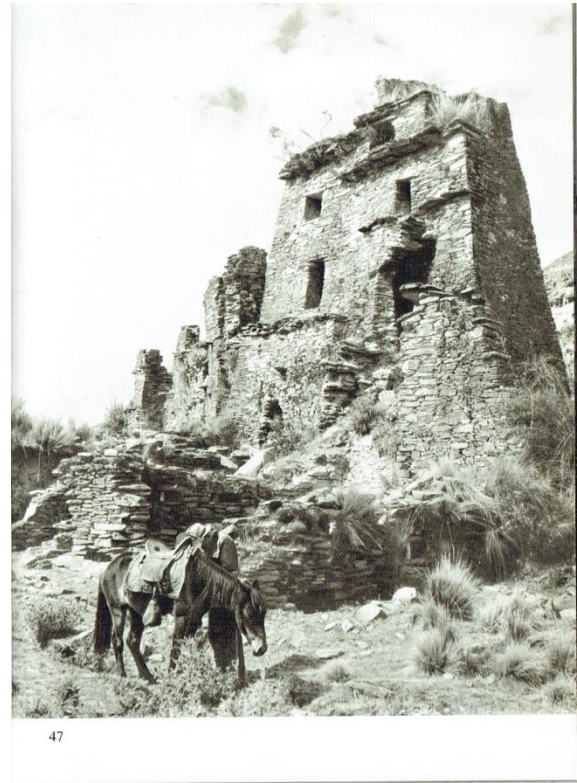
Outside and inside views of the doorway to the courtyard behind the round, conical tower.
Note the pierced stones, presumably for anchoring some sort of door .



Close up view of one of the pierced stones

The Northern Sites – Tantamayo Area

Chapash



Interior side of the main headwall, now and as published in 1970. Note how the right hand side of the headwall has fallen away in the meantime.

(The picture on the right was taken by Pedro Rojas Ponce and published in Donald W. Lathrap: *The Upper Amazon*. It is included here by kind permission of Thames and Hudson, the publishers of the book.)



Another view of the same headwall

The Northern Sites – Tantamayo Area

Chapash



Aerial views of the site and interior sides of the headwalls

(Pictures courtesy of Robert and Daisy Kunstaetter)

The Northern Sites – Tantamayo Area

Isog

Location: 9° 23' 49" S, 76° 41' 31" W, (E 314213, N 8960814), 3945 meters

Access: 3½ km due west of Tantamayo and south of the Quebrada Quinquavado

This is another walled residential site in the Tantamayo area. Note that it is called Islog on the IGN 1:100,000 map (Singa 19-j).



Views of the site seen from above

The Northern Sites – Tantamayo Area

Isog



View of the site from above (1996)



View of the site from below (1996)

The Northern Sites – Tantamayo Area

Isog



Interior view of the site



Inner sides of two different headwalls

The Northern Sites – Tantamayo Area

Japallán

Location: 9° 21' 03" S, 76° 43' 42" W, (E 310191, N 8965895), 4145 meters

Access: 1½ hours by horse more or less north from Pariarca, to the north of the Quebrada Canchis

This consists of a series of sites strung out along a ridge just to the east of the valley (gorge) of the Alto Marañón,



View of the site facing west, with a series of structures strung out along the ridge of the hill



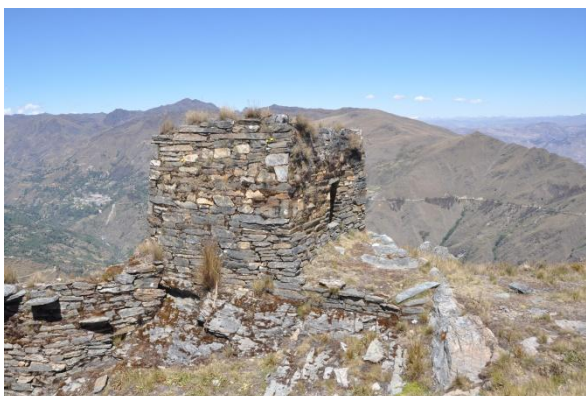
The site, on the nearer skyline, seen from near Piruro (1996). The ruins of Selmin in the left foreground with the line of the Inca granaries to the right.

The Northern Sites – Tantamayo Area

Japallán



The tower at the top of the site with the internal passageway leading to the upper storey



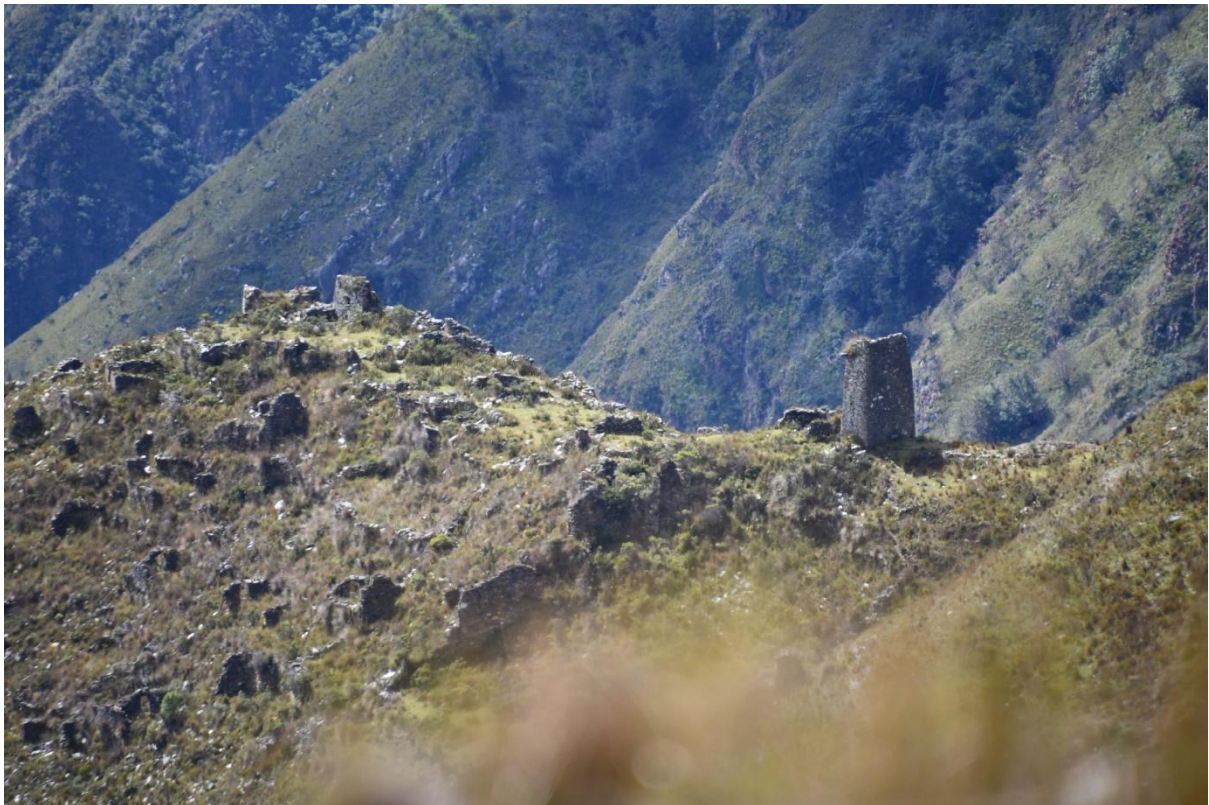
Various structures

The Northern Sites – Tantamayo Area

Japallán



Another headwall and enclosure further downslope from the rest of the site (? Runajirka)



View of another small site (? Jepasin) to the north-west, below Japallán

The Northern Sites – Tantamayo Area

Jipango

Location: 9° 23' 34" S, 76° 41' 30" W, (E 314241, N 8961275), 3810 meters

Access: 3½ km due west of Tantamayo and south of the Quebrada Quinquavado

This is yet another small fortified residential site.



General view from above



The same view in 1996

The Northern Sites – Tantamayo Area

Jipango



Interior of the site. The bent walls are the result of lens distortion, not imminent collapse!



Interior side of a headwall (1996)

The Northern Sites – Tantamayo Area

Kipash

Location: 9° 22' 38" S, 76° 44' 32" W, (E 308680, N 8962969), 4065 meters

Access: 1 to 1½ hours on horseback, north-west of Tantamayo, just to the right (north-west) of the track from Tantamayo to Chavín de Pariarca

The track from Tantamayo
(behind) to Chavín de Pariarca
beyond the crest



View of the site seen from Susupillo, facing west



View of the site, seen from Japallán, facing south

The Northern Sites – Tantamayo Area

Kipash



The track, which dates back to pre-colonial times. This was the main “road” between Tantamayo and Chavín de Pariarca until the motor road was built.



Remains of buildings

The Northern Sites – Tantamayo Area

Pahush

Location: 9° 23' 48" S, 76° 40' 55" W, (E 315311, N 8960850), 4130 meters

Access: Half an hour on foot or horse to the north-east and slightly above Susupillo

The site comprises two rows of structures. The upper row of structures consists of two thick walls with recesses which at first sight look to be for storage. There appears however to be disagreement as to the real purpose of these structures. The lower row consists of one of these possible storage chamber structures (on the left as you face them from below) and a headwall in poor condition to the right.



Pahush is the dark line of structures at top right, here seen from Susupillo



The upper and lower structures are seen clearly from the path leading from Susupillo

The Northern Sites – Tantamayo Area

Pahush



The upper two structures (1996)



The upper structures: storage chambers – or niches for the display of mummies perhaps?



The lower structures, in the foreground (1996)

The Northern Sites – Tantamayo Area

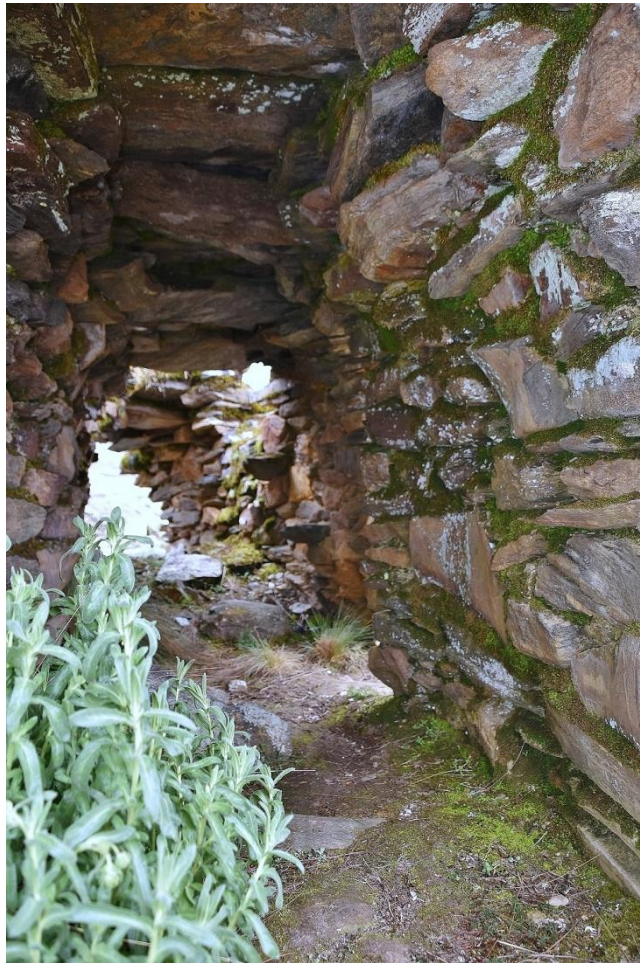
Pahush



Lower right structure: probably a headwall (1996 above, 2017 below).
Note how the left front section of the wall has fallen away since 1996.

The Northern Sites – Tantamayo Area

Pahush



Vaulted gallery within the headwall on the previous page

The Northern Sites – Tantamayo Area

Piruro Lower Site (Piruro 1)

Location: 9° 22' 57" S, 76° 42' 26" W, (E 312527, N 8962404), 3885 meters

Access: Half an hour on foot above Coyllarbamba which lies 1½ km north-east of Tantamayo as the crow flies and north of the Río Tantamayo

Piruro comprises three sites; the lowest is considered to be the oldest and comprises a headwall along with other structures and curtain walls. It is sometimes claimed that this site dates back two thousand years, but this is misleading. Within the site excavations have revealed some much older remains that are of a totally different culture and in no way connected with the Yarowilca. See BONNIER *Arquitectura Preceramica*.



View of the interior of the lower site, with upper site on the skyline



The exterior of the headwall

The Northern Sites – Tantamayo Area

Piruro Lower Site (Piruro 1)



Various structures



The excavation of the earlier (long pre-Yarowilca) remains (1996)

The Northern Sites – Tantamayo Area

Piruro Upper Site (Piruro 2)

Location: 9° 22' 53" S, 76° 42' 23" W, (E 312618, N 8962527), 3915 meters

Access: 45 minutes on foot above Coyllarbamba which lies 1½ km north-east of Tantamayo as the crow flies and north of the Río Tantamayo

At some point Piruro 1 outgrew itself and a further, larger site, Piruro 2, was created just upslope from Piruro 1. A number of sites have more than one headwall type building, with blank wall to the exterior of the site and galleries with windows facing into the site. I know of no site that has more such structures than Piruro 2. Moreover the ground immediately in front of these headwalls inside the site is clear of other structures, as if this had been an open space, possibly for ceremonies. But it is equally possible that the remains of the buildings that had occupied that internal space have simply been cleared away in more recent times. A third site, Piruro 3, was started but comprises only a headwall sited above Piruro 2.



View of the upper (upper right) and lower (lower left) Piruro sites, seen from Susupillo. Piruro 3 lies just to the right of this picture and is not illustrated.

The Northern Sites – Tantamayo Area

Piruro Upper Site (Piruro 2)



Exterior walls of the site



Headwall exterior. Note the band of white quartz at the top of the right hand tower.

The Northern Sites – Tantamayo Area

Piruro Upper Site (Piruro 2)



Inside the site. Note the botanists at work.



Vaulted structure

The Northern Sites – Tantamayo Area

Piruro Upper Site (Piruro 2)



Incised stones incorporated in the walls



Piruro upper site at lower middle. Piruro lower site at lower left.

(Image courtesy of ESRI World Images)

The Northern Sites – Tantamayo Area

Susupillo

Location: 9° 24' 05" S, 76° 41' 33" W, (E 314154, N 8960322), 4125 meters

Access: 1 to 1½ hours on horseback from Pampa Florida, south-west of Tantamayo

Susupillo sits high upon a hillside facing north-west and overlooking the whole of the Tantamayo valley. Although the site is large, from its altitude and location one would suppose it to have been a fortified refuge rather than a fortified settlement.



Views from Piruro

The Northern Sites – Tantamayo Area

Susupillo



Exterior side of the headwalls. Note the band of white quartz at the top of the main headwall and the line of the defensive ditch in front of the lesser headwall to the left in the lower picture. This ditch runs right across the neck of high ground above the site and is just discernible in the upper photograph.

The Northern Sites – Tantamayo Area

Susupillo



Interior side of the headwall



Entrance to the upper section of the site



Interior of the curtain wall, with walkway on the inner side

The Northern Sites – Tantamayo Area

Susupillo



Curtain wall and towers – north side



Curtain wall and tower – south side

The Northern Sites – Tantamayo Area

Susupillo



Interior side of the headwall (1996)



Interior side of the headwall (1996)

The Northern Sites – Tantamayo Area

Susupillo



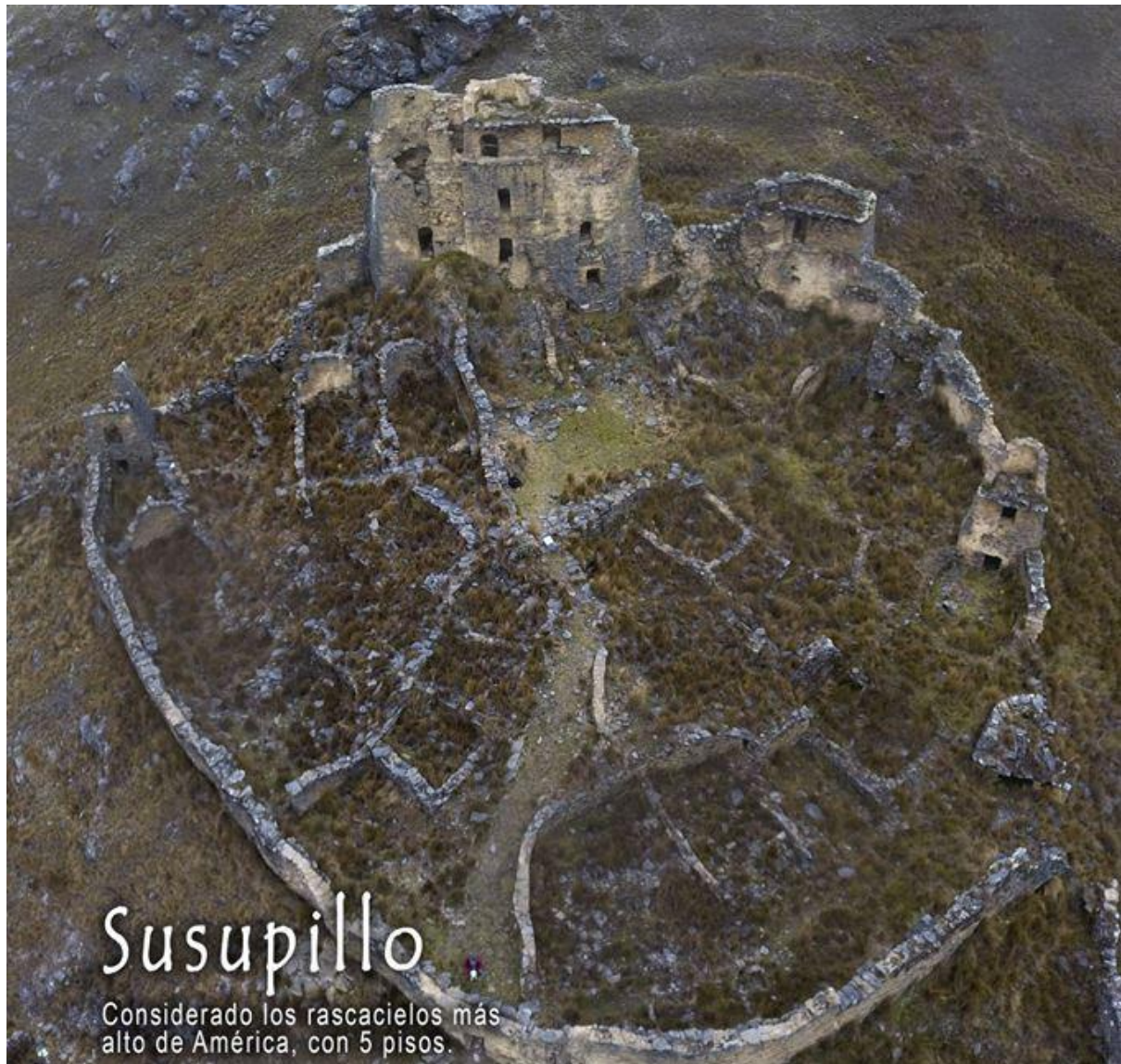
Chamber and access to the next storey in the headwall



Lower end of the site. Note Tantamayo at far left. (1996)

The Northern Sites – Tantamayo Area

Susupillo



Susupillo from the air.

(Picture courtesy of the Municipalidad Distrital de Tantamayo)

The Northern Sites – Tantamayo Area

Susupillo



Susupillo from the air.

(Both pictures courtesy of Robert and Daisy Kunstaetter)

The Northern Sites – Tantamayo Area

Ukru Rayan

Location: 9° 23' 55" S, 76° 41' 41" W, (E 313909, N 8960628), 3960 meters

Access: 4 km due west of Tantamayo and south of the Quebrada Quinquavado

This is another small fortified residential site.



Views of the site

The Northern Sites – Tantamayo Area

Ukru Rayan



The inner side of the headwall



Broken lintel stones

The Southern Sites

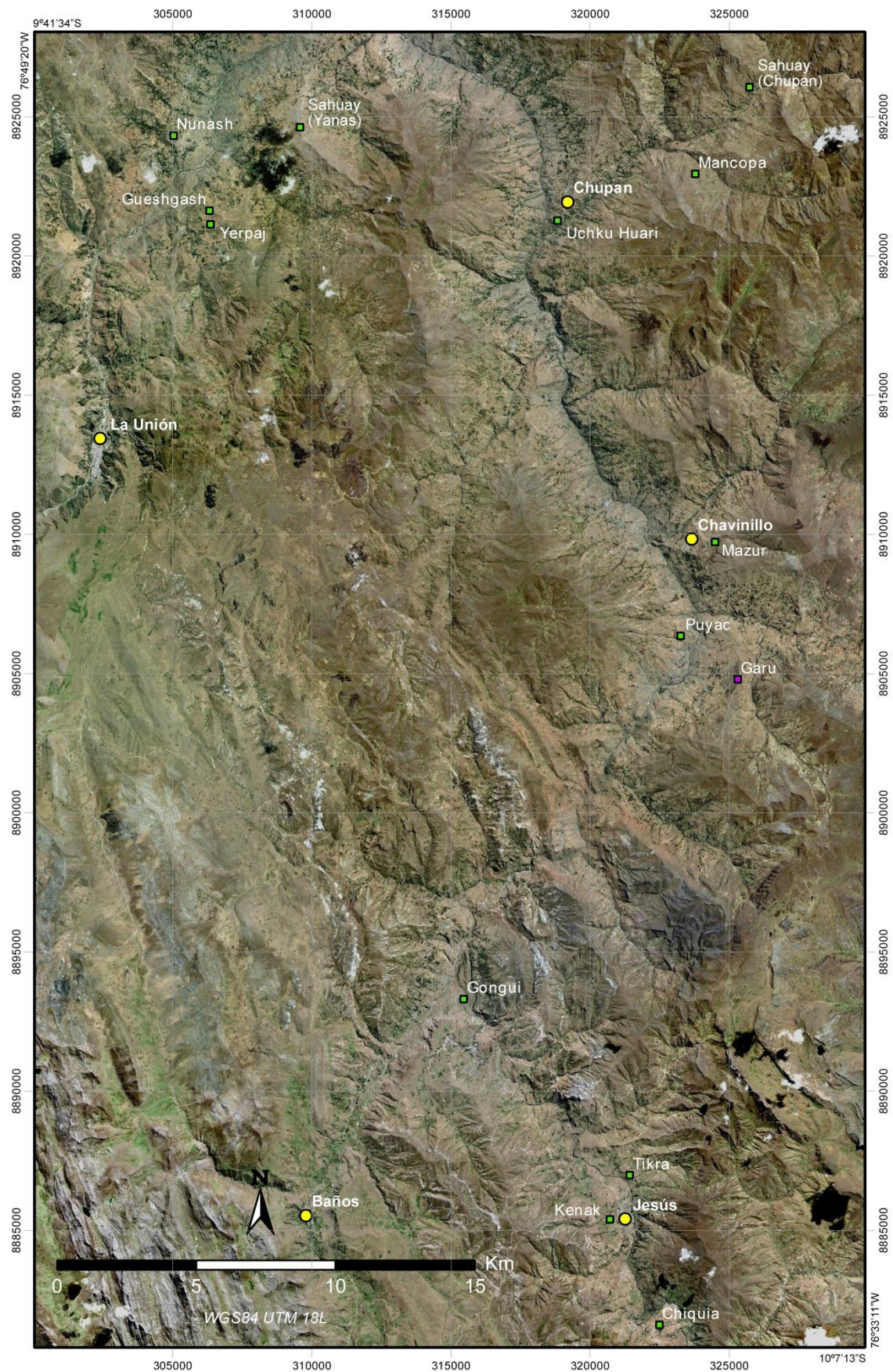
The style of the buildings in the southern half of the area under consideration is quite different. In the first place there is no evidence of fortification, other than at Mazur, and there are no headwalls. Instead many of the southern sites have torreones which do not appear in the northern sites, at least not in any that I saw. The one exception to all this is Garu, said to have been the capital of the area in Yarowilca times. Physically Garu lies well within the southern area but, as mentioned in the introductory section, Garu has elements of both the northern sites and of the southern sites. Thus it has a series of fortified structures along a steep ridge line, complete with the headwalls typical of the northern sites, and torreones which are only found in the southern sites.

The sites fall into several different overall types:

- Residential with the remains of dwellings and, commonly, two storey chullpas with a D-shaped ground plan. The best examples are Sahuay (Yanas), Gueshgash and Yerpaj.
- Religious, with large rectangular buildings (torreones), covered with massive corbelled vaults, but little evidence of residential structures, unless these have been cleared away since to enable agriculture. The best examples are Mancopa and Sahuay (Chupan).
- Some sites (e.g. Chiquia and Kenak) have both residential buildings and torreones all within the same site. Tikra would appear to have had a religious site separate from but adjacent to a residential site.

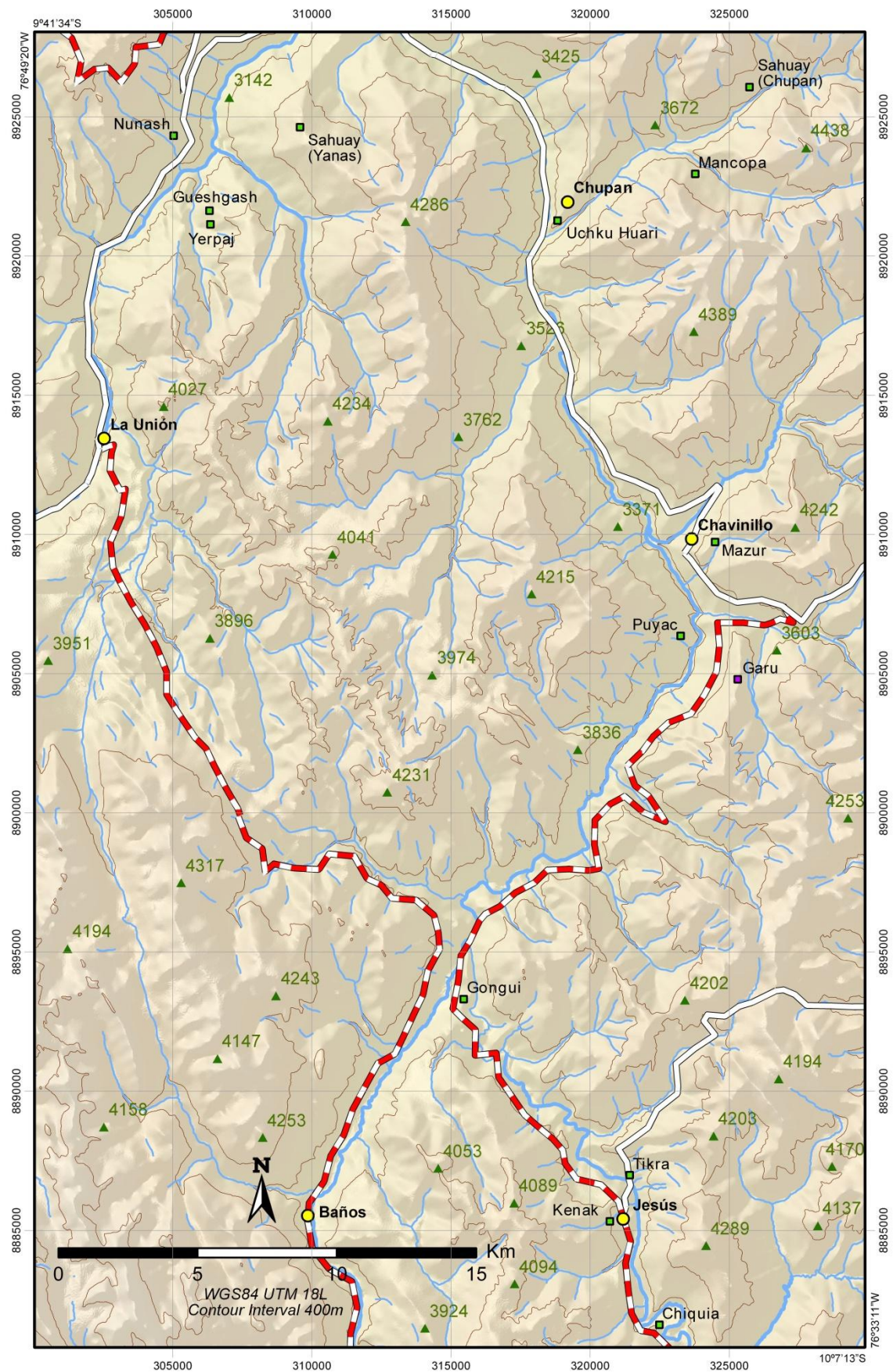
Many of the sites in the southern area are located on more or less level ground unlike those further north which tend to be sited on ridge lines or slopes.

The Southern Sites



Map 6a: The Southern Sites – Satellite view

The Southern Sites



Map 6b: The Southern Sites – Topographical

The Southern Sites

Chiquia

Location: 10° 06' 48" S, 76° 37' 12" W, (E 322495, N 8881616), 3545 meters

Access: Less than half an hour by car along the road south from Jesús towards Lake Lauricocha

This is a large site with a mixture of residential buildings and torreones, located in a plain beside the Río Lauricocha.



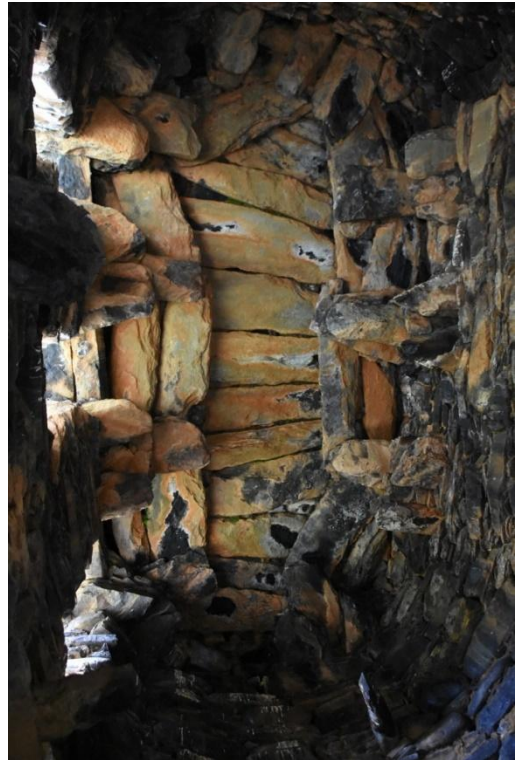
General views of the site

The Southern Sites

Chiquia



Residential housing



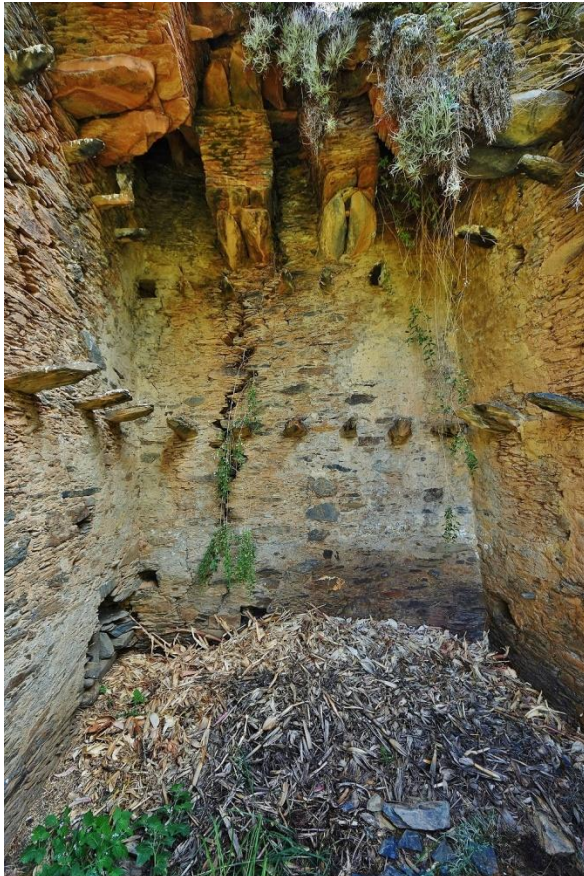
Small torreón, complete with its corbelled roof

The Southern Sites

Chiquia



Exterior remains of a torreón. Note the characteristic upper windows.



End wall



Interior of a torreón, with details of the corbel vaulting

Side wall

The Southern Sites

Chiquia



Corbels at the junction of the end and side walls



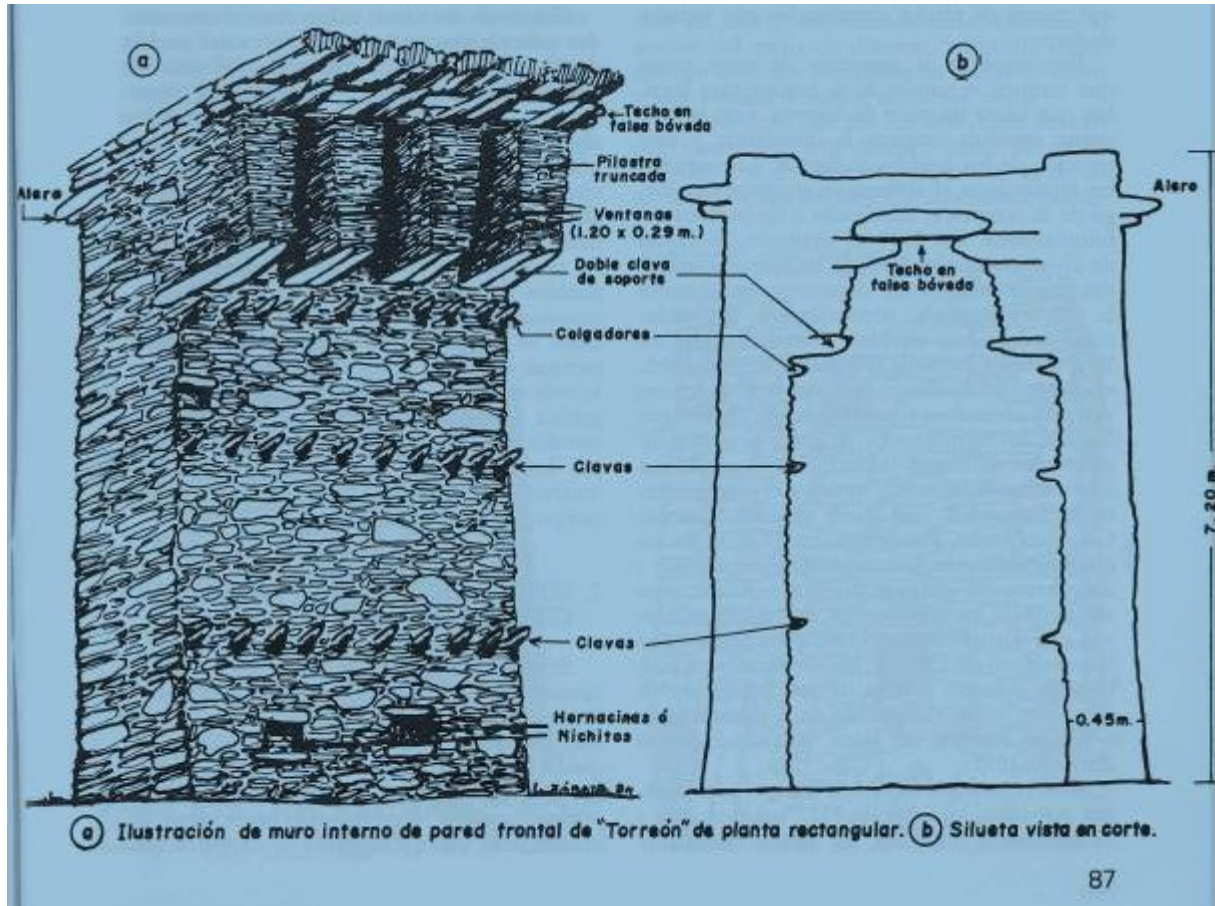
Corbels along the side wall



Satellite view. North to the right. (Image courtesy of ESRI World Images)

The Southern Sites

Chiquia



Reconstruction of the corbel vaulting of a torreón

(From: Morales, Daniel: *Algunos Sitios Arqueológicos del Reino de Guanuco*, Boletín de Lima, Vol. 33 (1984), p. 87, reproduced by kind permission of Boletín de Lima)

The Southern Sites

Garu

Location:

Site entrance: 9° 54' 06" S, 76° 35' 44" W, (E 325060, N 8905041), 3710 meters

South end of ridge: 9° 54' 14" S, 76° 35' 36" W, (E 325305, N 8904796), 3840 meters

Granaries: 9° 53' 37" S, 76° 35' 47" W, (E 324965, N 8905931), 3588 meters

Access: Half an hour on foot from Choras to the site entrance

This large site is one of the few sites where there has been some conservation work and where there is a guardian. There are a number of Inca buildings amongst the ruins with their typical gable end walls to support sloping roofs. As mentioned in the introductory section, Garu is unusual in having features typical of the northern sites, in particular its construction along a ridge with massive fortifications, but also torreones, typical of the southern sites.



View of Garu on and below the ridge, with Choras below to the right amidst the trees, seen from across the valley, facing east



View from across the valley, seen from Puyac, facing east. The modern village of Choras is just out of the picture at bottom right.

The Southern Sites

Garu



View of the ruins along the crest of the ridge, seen from Llicllatambo, facing west



View of the lower ruins seen from the ridge at the top of the site, facing north-west

The Southern Sites

Garu



Uppermost fortification and headwall, seen from below facing east



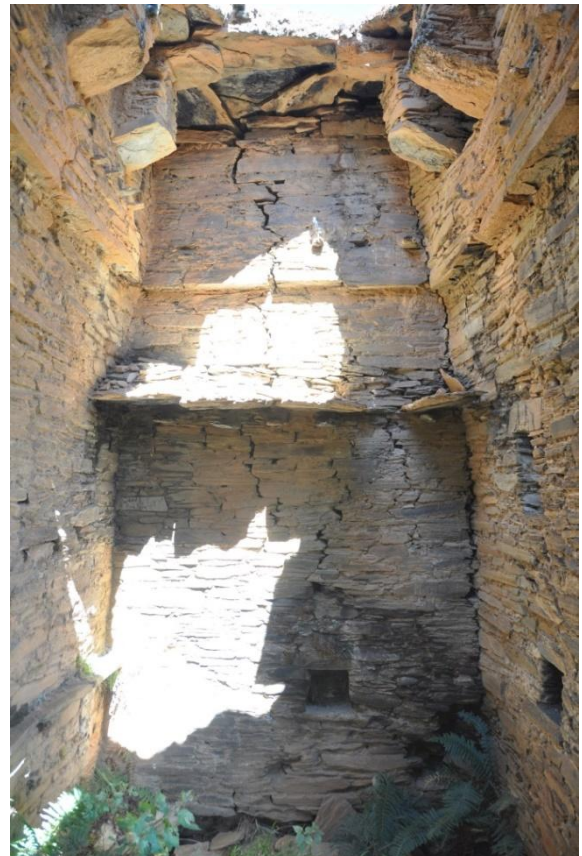
Uppermost fortification, seen from the ridge to the south facing north

The Southern Sites

Garu



Various structures. Note the Andean cross in the walls of the torreón in the upper row.



Funerary tower or small torreón with the remains of corbelled vaulting

The Southern Sites

Garu



Pre-Inca circular granaries to the north of Garu, seen from Puyac across the valley facing east



The granaries seen from above

The Southern Sites

Garu



Interior of one of the granaries



The granaries, with the main site of Garu above in the distance

The Southern Sites

Garu

Granaries



Satellite view of the site. North is to the top of the image.

(Image courtesy of ESRI World Images)

The Southern Sites

Gongui

Location: 10° 00' 26" S, 76° 41' 01" W, (E 315463, N 8893318), 3525 meters

Access: Just above the road from Baños to Jivia and a little to the south of the junction of the Nupe and Lauricocha rivers

This site has largely been destroyed by being ploughed under so that the ground can be farmed.



General view of the site, with chullpas in the foreground. The black triangle in the middle distance is the entrance to a *campesino* (farmer)'s shelter. The area along the ridge further back and to the left of the picture is now devoid of ruins.



The Southern Sites

Gongui



Remains of various buildings



Chullpas

The Southern Sites

Gueshgash

Location: 9° 45' 03" S, 76° 45' 56" W, (E 306328, N 8921631), 3540 meters

Access: Just above the road from Yanas to La Unión

This is a residential site whose significant remains now are two-storey chullpas. The ground in between, where the residential structures would have been, had previously been cleared for farming. It is now no longer farmed, giving the impression of a “chullpa park”.



Seen from across the valley, from Nunash



The way into the site. The ground around the chullpas had been cleared in the past by the *campesinos* (farmers) in order to grow crops.

The Southern Sites

Gueshgash



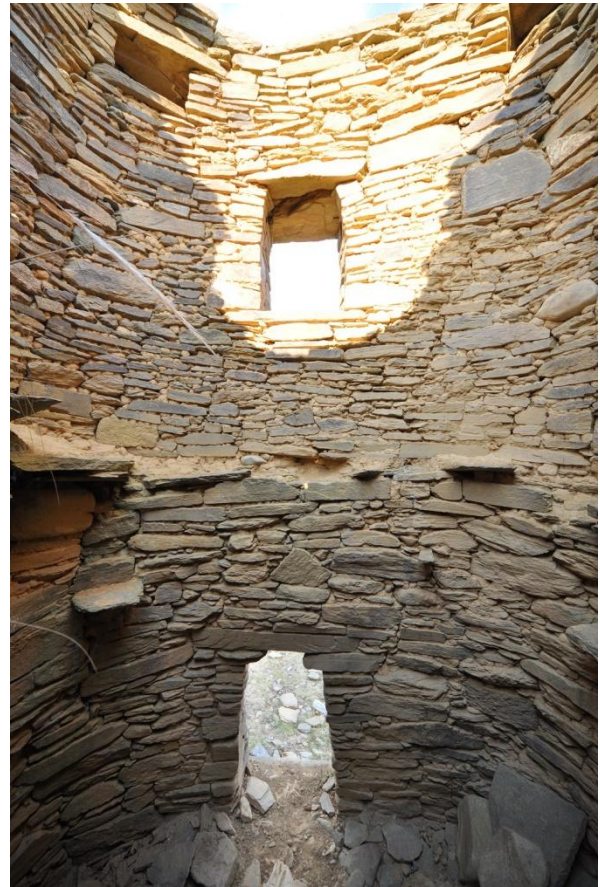
Aerial view of the site. (Picture courtesy of Miquer Cornelio)



Outer perimeter wall facing down slope. This consists of original square towers and a later infill of stones presumably by *campesinos* (farmers) to make the site secure from livestock.

The Southern Sites

Gueshgash



D-shaped chullpa, inside and outside. Note: these pictures are not all of the same structure.

The Southern Sites

Kenak

Location: 10° 04' 49" S, 76° 38' 24" W, (E 320284, N 8885261), 3670 meters

Access: Stairway up from Jesús or a brief drive over a rough road from Jesús

This site, just above Jesús, comprises a variety of buildings, including the remains of torreones and other mortuary buildings along with what were probably residential buildings.



General view of the site



Exterior and interior views of a chullpa



Remains of corbels over windows inside a chullpa

The Southern Sites

Kenak



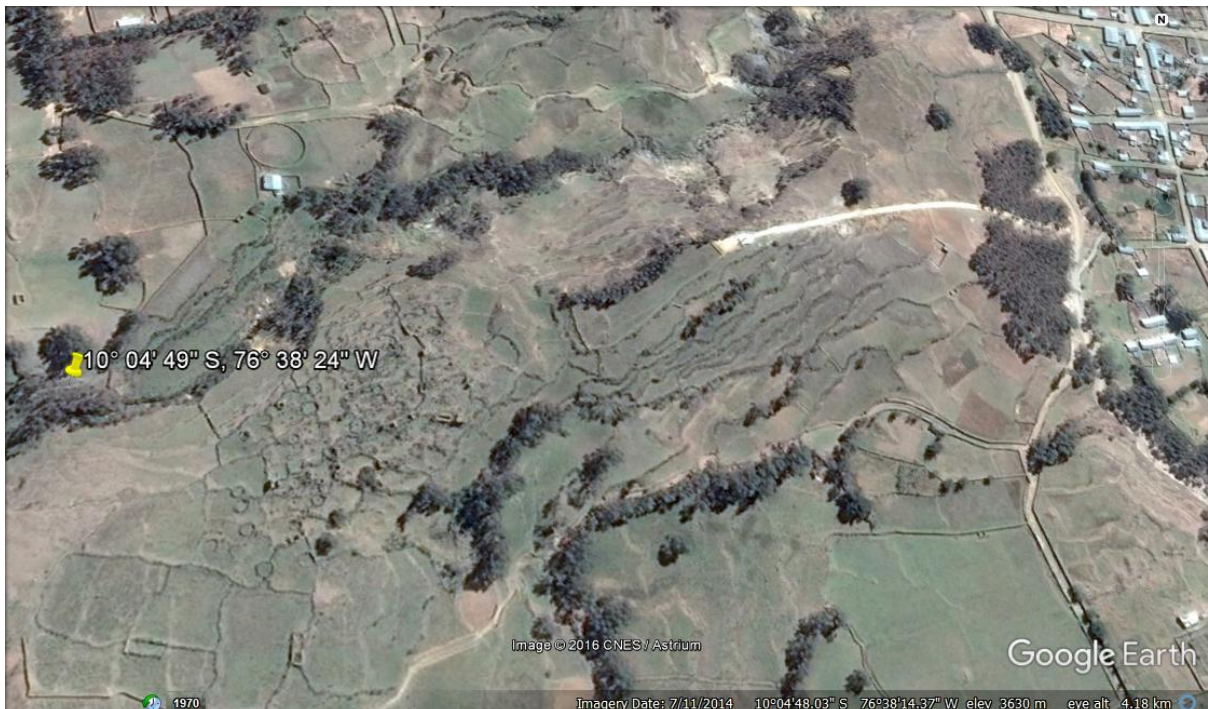
Exterior and interior views of the remains of torreones and similar structures

The Southern Sites

Kenak



Remains of another building



Modern town of Jesús is on the right (east) edge of the picture. The pin marks our point of entry to the site.

The Southern Sites

Mancopa

Location: 9° 44' 23" S, 76° 36' 23" W, (E 323787, N 8922947), 3765 meters

Access: The site is close to the village of Parashapampa above the Quebrada Sogopampa. It took two hours on horse from close to Sahuay (Chupan), riding south-west across the Quebradas Rondobamba and Sogopampa, to reach Mancopa. Sahuay itself is an hour's drive north-east from Chupan. There is said to be direct access on foot or by horse from Chupan to Mancopa.

This site comprises a number of torreones, with the remains of massive corbelled roofs. As mentioned elsewhere, these would appear to have been of religious significance rather than residential. There are no obvious signs of residential structures on the site but these might all have been cleared away to allow the land to be farmed.



Mancopa seen from Sahuay (Chupan)

The Southern Sites

Mancopa



Complex of torreones

The Southern Sites

Mancopa



Front (above) and rear (below) of one of the torreones

The Southern Sites

Mancopa



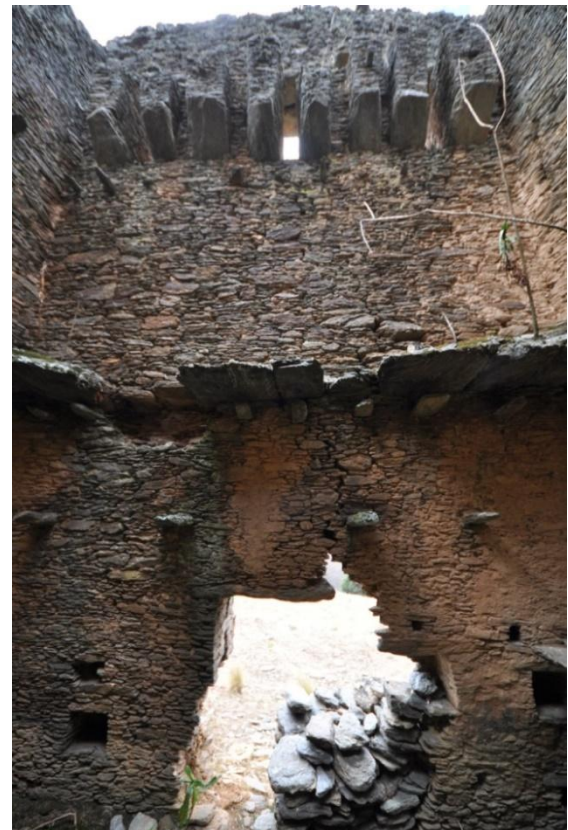
Front of a complex of three large torreones side by side. Note: only the rear and parts of the side walls remain of the torreón on the right hand side. There is a further, free-standing tower in front of the complex, to the far left of the picture (behind the seated person).



Rear of the complex of three large torreones side by side

The Southern Sites

Mancopa



The four interior sides of a torreón: side walls above, back wall (left) and front or entrance wall (right) below

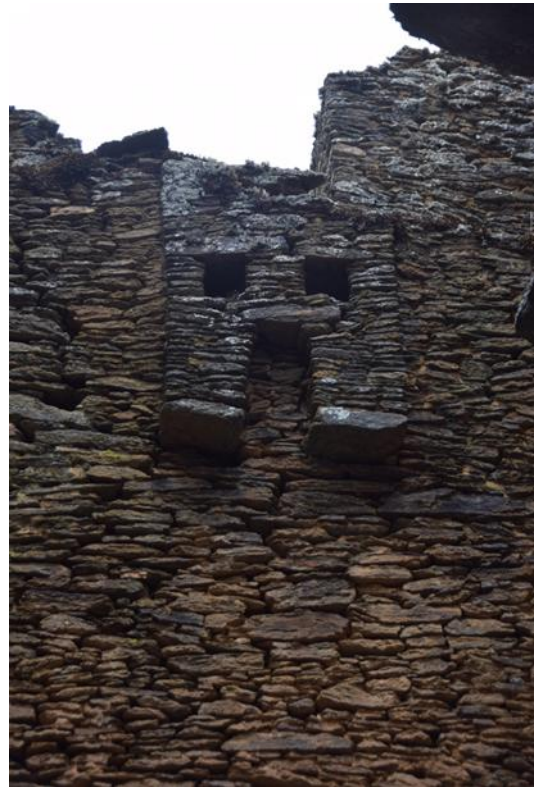
The Southern Sites

Mancopa



Above: the full width of the back wall interior

Right: detail of part of the interior wall. These wall structures were found frequently high up on the side walls of the torreones, both at Mancopa and elsewhere. Their significance is unclear.



This building was largely filled up with detritus, etc. and thus inaccessible inside. Its purpose or significance is unclear. Whilst it looks like the inner face of a headwall, the rear of the structure backs straight into the ground behind, right up to the top of the building.

The Southern Sites

Mancopa



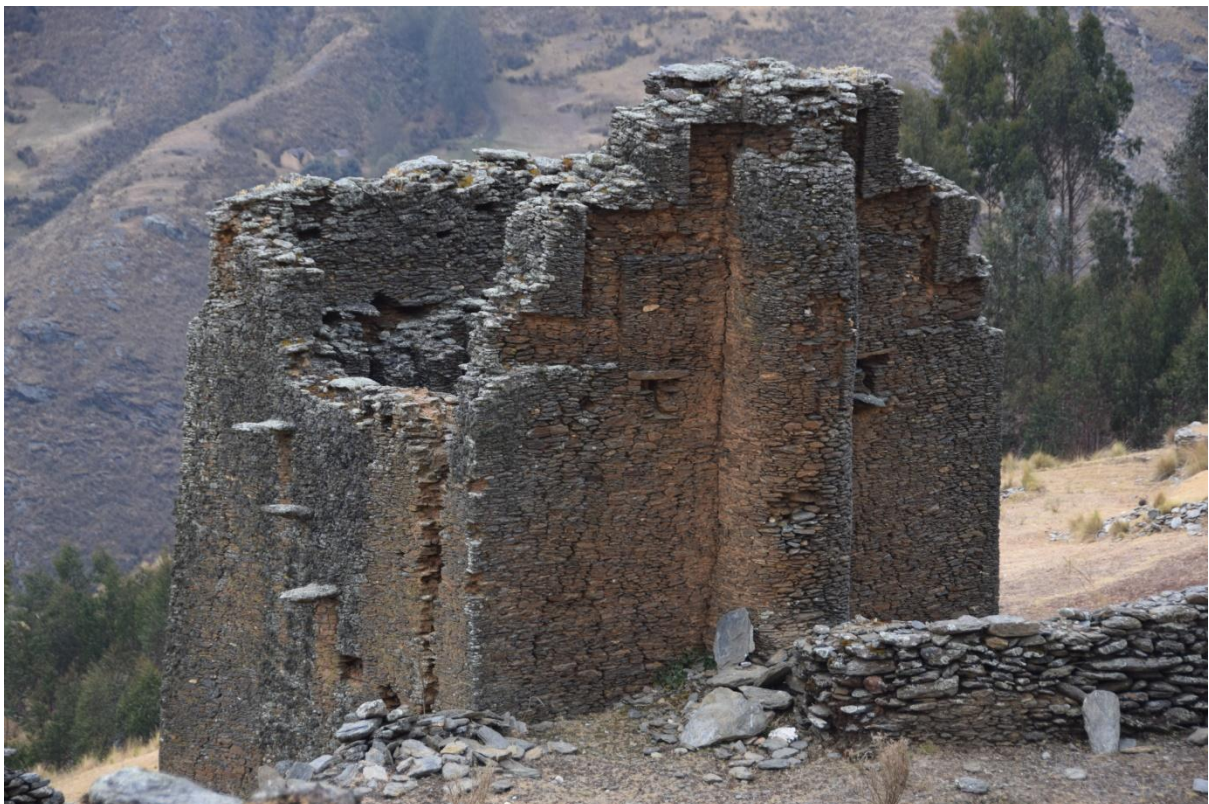
Exterior and interior of a smaller tower building, like a pair of scaled down torreones

The Southern Sites

Mancopa



View from above of one of the “scaled down torreones”



Another rear view of one of the torreones, showing exterior steps in the side wall

The Southern Sites

Mazur

Location: 9° 51' 33" S, 76° 36' 02" W, (E 324490, N 8909739), 3720 meters

Access: Less than thirty minutes by car along a dirt track above Chavinillo

This is a residential site and the only one we visited in the southern area that appeared to have been fortified (other than Garu). In this instance there is no headwall but a fortified gateway.



Overall view of the northern half of the site



Defensive walls and main entrance

The Southern Sites

Mazur



Detail of the main entrance



Various ruined structures, including a recently restored early colonial chapel on top of the hill (with the corrugated iron roof)

The Southern Sites

Mazur



Conical tower at the south end of the site



The pin is above and to the right of the fortified entrance with the rest of the site stretching towards lower left. The town of Chavinillo is at top left of the image.

The Southern Sites

Nunash

Location: 9° 43' 35" S, 76° 46' 38" W, (E 305034, N 8924328), 3515 meters

Access: Five minutes by car west of Pachas

This site has largely been cleared, with just a number of two storey chullpas, a few other structures and the remains of one large corbel vaulted rectangular tower (torreón), similar to those at Mancopa and Sahuay (Chupan).



View across part of the site



View across the upper part of the site, cleared for agriculture, with torreón behind

The Southern Sites

Nunash



The torreón at the top entrance to the site



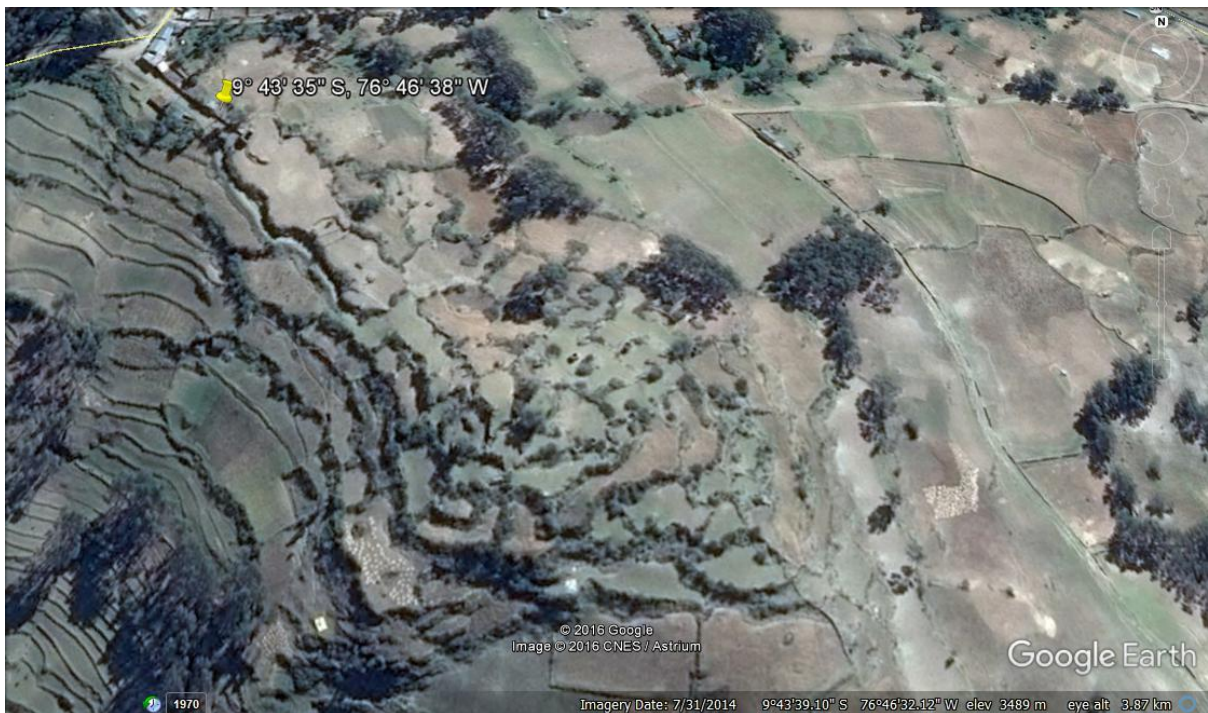
Various structures

The Southern Sites

Nunash



Interior of the torreón



The pin is at the upper entrance to the site. The torreón is just below the pin and slightly to the right.

The Southern Sites

Puyac

Location: 9° 53' 23" S, 76° 36' 43" W, (E 323257, N 8906353), 3430 meters

Access: 15 minutes by car along the road from Chacabamba northwards towards Cahuac

This site consists of a small collection of building remains. The site has evidently been largely cleared in order to permit agriculture.



Telephoto view of the site, taken from near Choras (the village for accessing Garu)



Various ruins on this rather sparse site

The Southern Sites

Sahuay (Chupan)

Location: 9° 42' 42" S, 76° 35' 19" W, (E 325723, N 8926059), 3765 meters

Access: About an hour by car from Chupan along a track headed north-east along the Quebrada Tunahuain and then the Quebrada Rondobamba

Like Mancopa, this site consists primarily of large rectangular towers with the remains of massive corbel vaults (torreones), including one such tower on the edge of the village square.



Looking up at the site from the centre of the village



Two adjacent torreones

The Southern Sites

Sahuay (Chupan)



Office of Justice of the Peace based in a pre-Inca building on the main square



Two towers. Note exterior steps.



Interior of a longer torreón-type building



Detail of corbel vaulting of a torreón



Andean cross (pre-Christian)

The Southern Sites

Sahuay (Chupan)



Detail of the corbels that supported the original vault of a torreón



Detail of the double wall construction of a doorway jamb, common in torreones

The Southern Sites

Sahuay (Chupan)



View over the site of some small tombs, a little to the west of the main site



Two of the small tombs to the west of the main site

The Southern Sites

Sahuay (Chupan)



Two tombs



Interior dividing wall within a tomb



The pin marks the edge of the village square (and football ground) with the archaeological remains above and to the north-west of the square

The Southern Sites

Sahuay (Yanas)

Location: 9° 43' 26" S, 76° 44' 09" W, (E 309574, N 8924628), 3815 meters

Access: Less than an hour on foot above Yanas. There is also a motorable track to within half a kilometre of the site.

This is a large residential site, strung out along the flattish ridge of a hill, consisting of two storey chullpas, the remains of round residential houses and some smaller round constructions, possibly also for mortuary use. The site has long been quarried for stone for building the town of Yanas nearby.



The site, seen from Nunash



View of part of the site

The Southern Sites

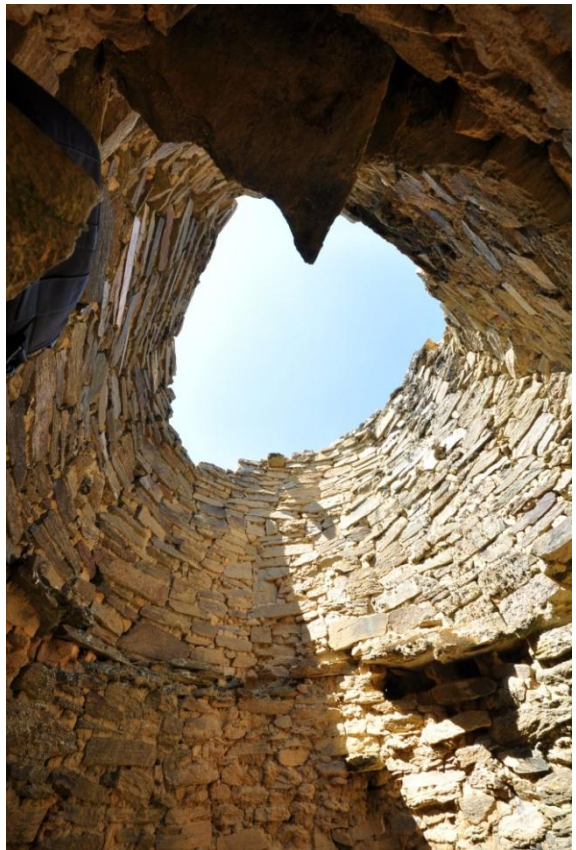
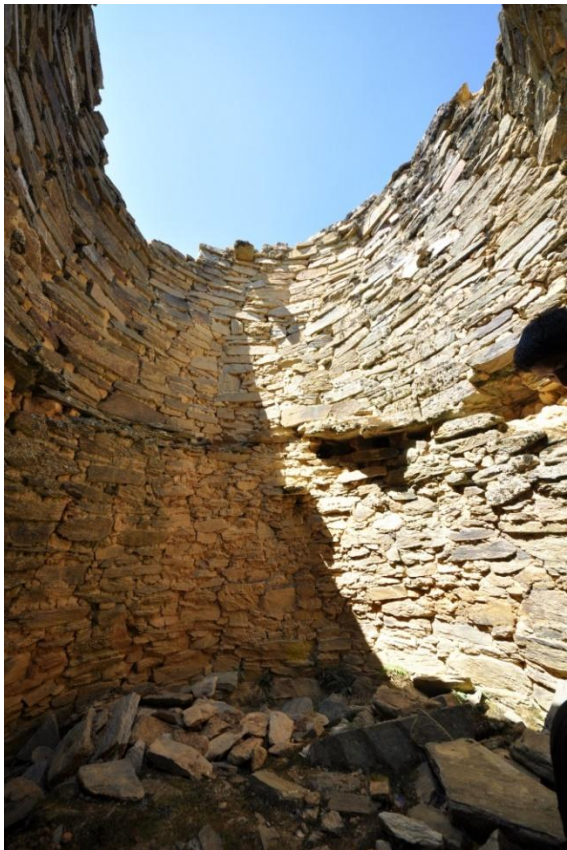
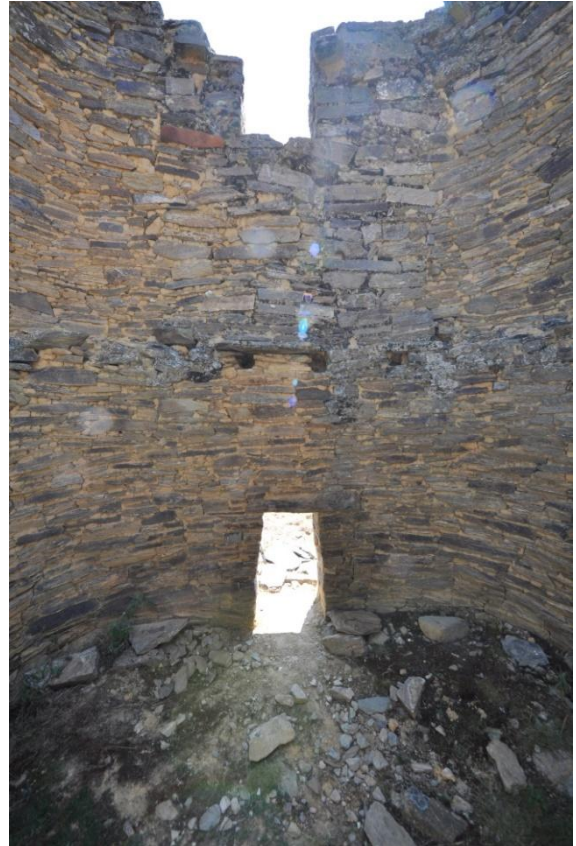
Sahuay (Yanas)



Remains of chullpas

The Southern Sites

Sahuay (Yanas)



Exterior and interior of a typical two-storey, D-shaped chullpa

The Southern Sites

Sahuay (Yanas)



North is to the top and the town of Yanas lies just out of sight west-north-west of the site

(Image courtesy of ESRI World Images)

The Southern Sites

Tikra

Location: 10° 03' 53" S, 76° 37' 46" W, (E 321433, N 8886988), 3555 meters

Access: 10 minutes by car to the north of Jesús along the road to Huánuco

The village of Tikra consists of two parts, divided by a small stream. On the one side are a number of torreones, with corbel vaulted roofs and on the other the remains of a few, smaller, presumably residential structures.



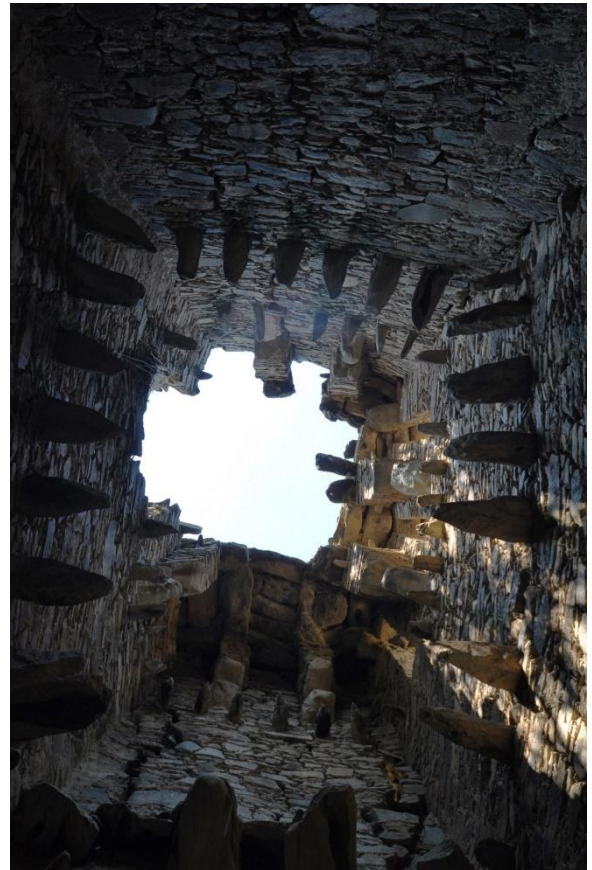
The main torreón, seen from the main road from Jesús towards the north-west

The Southern Sites

Tikra



Exterior of the main torreón



Interior of the main torreón

The Southern Sites

Tikra



Detail of the corbel vaulting of the torreón



Another torreón and the wall of another structure

The Southern Sites

Tikra



Corbel vaulted tower structures



The lower pin marks the site of the torreones. The upper pin marks the current village, with the few archaeological remains just to the south-west of the pin. The road leads from Jesús to Huánuco.

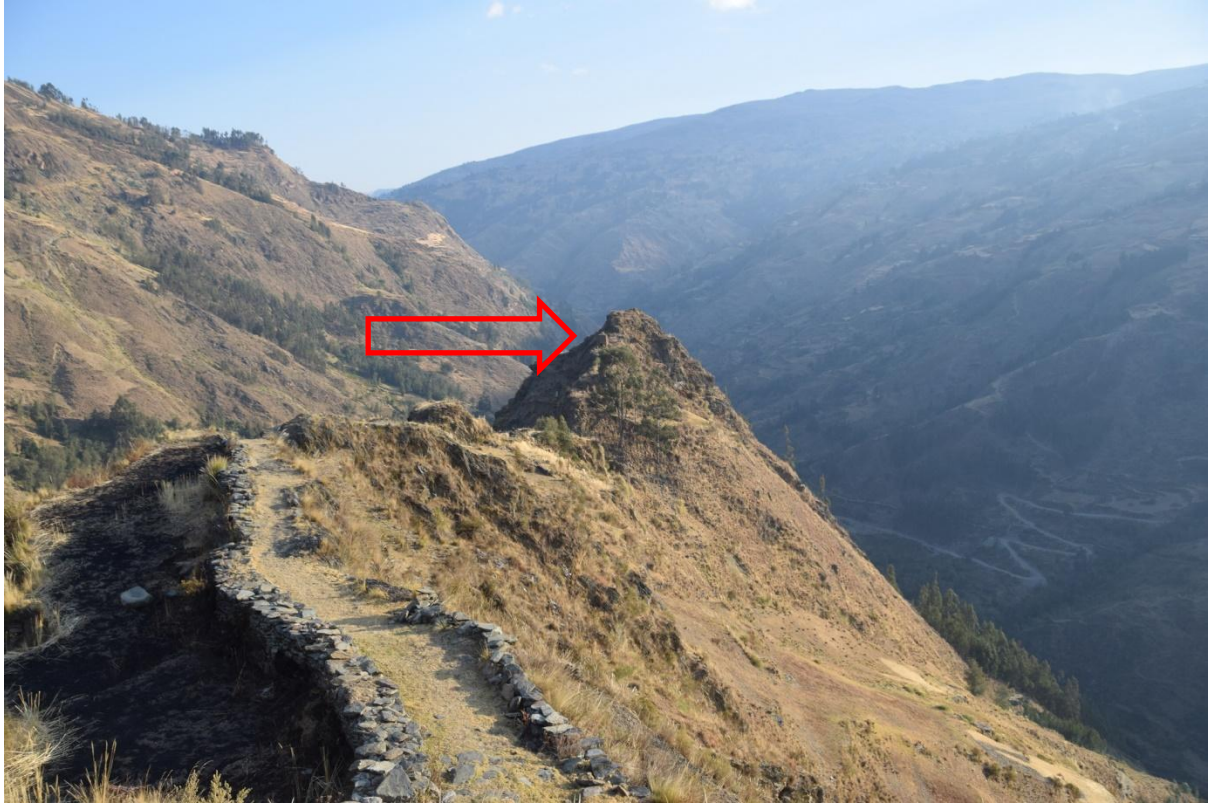
The Southern Sites

Uchku Huari

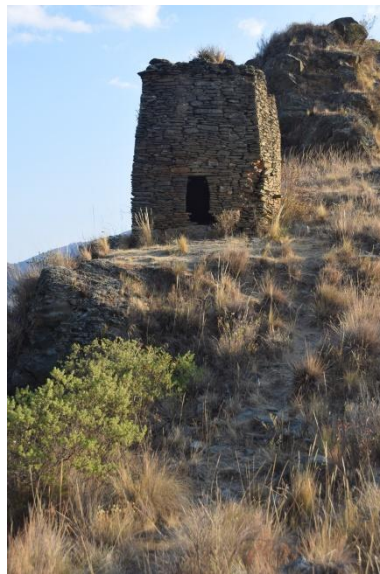
Location: 9° 45' 17" S, 76° 39' 06" W, (E 318827, N 8921264), 3370 meters

Access: 10 minutes' walk south of the "Castillo" at Chupan

This is an isolated chullpa near Chupan.



View of the promontory, with the chullpa just below the far peak



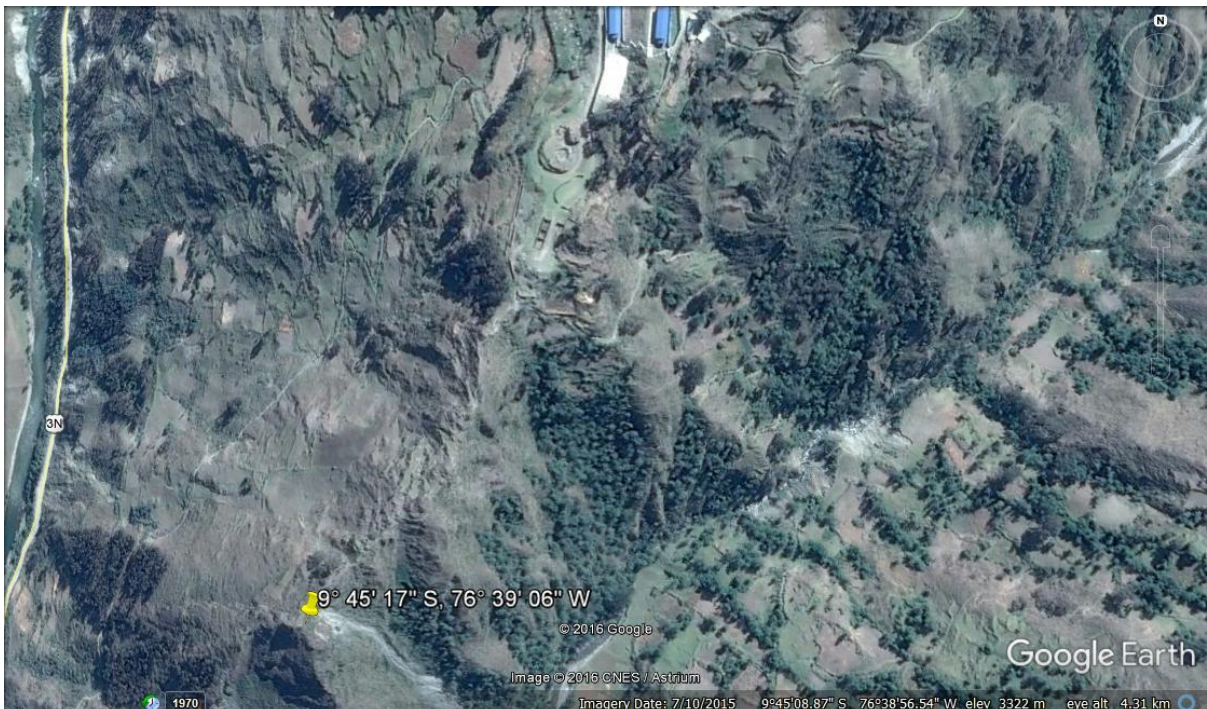
The chullpa, front and rear

The Southern Sites

Uchku Huari



Ceiling of the tower



The pin marks the site of the chullpa. The round structure at top middle is the *Castillo*, a much earlier temple complex said to be of the same age and culture as Chavín de Huántar. It lies at the southern edge of the town of Chupan.

The Southern Sites

Yerpaj

Location: 9° 45' 19" S, 76° 45' 55" W, (E 306361, N 8921139), 3725 meters

Access: Fifteen minutes' walk above the road to a mine that turns off from the road from Yanas to La Unión, via Sillipata. The turn off is near the village of Piruro (not to be confused with the sites of the same name near Tantamayo) and the ruins of Gueshgash.

This is another site, similar to but smaller than, Sahuay (Yanas), consisting of the remains of residential structures and two storey chullpas.



The site as seen from Sahuay (Yanas)

The Southern Sites

Yerpaj



Two storey chullpas. The flat sides with the windows face in a generally northerly direction, anywhere between north-west and east-north-east.

Tantalising Glimpses from Afar



Two towers, seen from above Rapayán towards the north



Huerga, south-east of Urpish, along the Quebrada Carga and the road to Tantamayo

Tantalising Glimpses from Afar

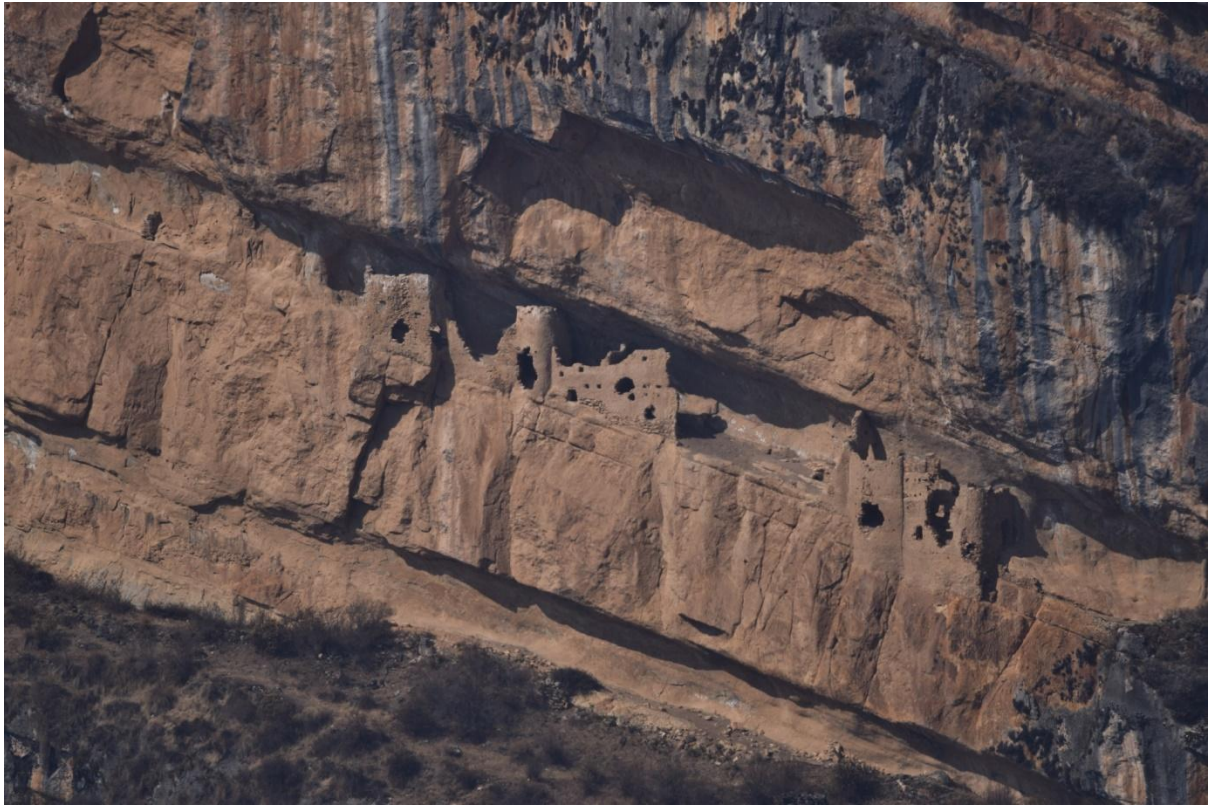


Gateway (name unknown) south-east of Urpish along the Quebrada Carga and the road to Tantamayo. This may not even be of the Yarowilca period or culture.



Huari Ushnu, a Yarowilca site south-east of Urpish along the Quebrada Carga and the road to Tantamayo

Tantalising Glimpses from Afar



Tauri Huayin cliff tombs, seen from Miraflores, facing south across the Quebrada Manish



A site to the north of Auga Punta also on the east side of the valley of the Alto Marañón

The Need for Conservation

Here are a few pictures taken from sites previously described, to highlight the fragile condition of so many of the buildings



A tree growing on the inner side of the wall of a torreón at Sahuay (Chupan)

The Need for Conservation



A tree growing out of a tower wall at Sahuay (Chupan)



Mancopa: Fallen lintel over doorway



Pujin: Bulging wall

The Need for Conservation



Tikra: “Oh! That fell down last year!”



Gongui: Mortar washed out by the rain



Ukru Rayan: Broken lintel stones are very common

The Need for Conservation



Jagraraj: Tomb robbery



Urpish: The lowermost gallery within the headwall. Note how the lintel stones have broken and the interior buttresses and the wall on the right are leaning to the right. How much longer before it collapses is anybody's guess, though it looks sound enough from the outside.

Dramatis Personae



Chucman Punta: (left to right) our local guide (with the binoculars), Miquel Cornelio, Daniela Raillard and Daniel Montesinos



Susupillo: Daniela Raillard working at the top of the headwall

Dramatis Personae



Daniel Montesinos with a *Gentianella* in the highlands of Ancash. This has since turned out to be a species new to science.



Llincay: (clockwise from left) Michell Cornelio, Daniel Montesinos and Daniela Raillard



Miquer Cornelio in a cave mouth near Lauricocha

Dramatis Personae



Piruro Upper site: Robert and Daisy Kunstaetter about to fly the drone under the supervision of our young guide



On the way back from Papa Huasi: Daniel Montesinos and Gisela Sancho with one of their larger plant specimens!

Dramatis Personae



Mata Castillo (Tactabamba): John Ingham sheltering from a rain shower in the entrance passage way to the site. Courtyard and headwall in the background.

(Picture courtesy of Daniel Montesinos)

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Index of Sites

SITE	LOCATION	ALTITUDE	PAGE
Araupa	9° 11' 59" S, 76° 46' 58" W,	3375 m	80
Auga Punta	9° 16' 15" S, 76° 42' 26" W,	3990 m	26
Auqui	9° 32' 02" S, 76° 41' 25" W,	3930 m	29
Canicun Bridge	9° 12' 28" S, 76° 44' 06" W,	2450 m	31
Chapash	9° 23' 51" S, 76° 41' 50" W,	3850 m	122
Chaupi Castillo	9° 13' 38" S, 76° 47' 39" W,	3880 m	81
Chiquia	10° 06' 48" S, 76° 37' 12" W,	3545 m	160
Chucman Punta	9° 10' 51" S, 76° 46' 13" W,	3150 m	82
Colonpampa	9° 32' 13" S, 76° 41' 22" W,	3785 m	33
Garu	9° 54' 14" S, 76° 35' 36" W,	3840 m	165
Gongui	10° 00' 26" S, 76° 41' 01" W,	3525 m	172
Gueshgash	9° 45' 03" S, 76° 45' 56" W,	3540 m	174
Huariyoj	9° 29' 31" S, 76° 48' 42" W,	3680 m	35
Huata	9° 21' 27" S, 76° 48' 37" W,	3880 m	37
Isog	9° 23' 49" S, 76° 41' 31" W,	3945 m	127
Jagraraj	9° 35' 39" S, 76° 45' 56" W,	3850 m	43
Japallán	9° 21' 03" S, 76° 43' 42" W,	4145 m	130
Jipango	9° 23' 34" S, 76° 41' 30" W,	3810 m	133
Kenak	10° 04' 49" S, 76° 38' 24" W,	3670 m	177
Kipash	9° 22' 38" S, 76° 44' 32" W,	4065 m	135
Llincay	9° 13' 00" S, 76° 47' 11" W,	3340 m	84
Maganpatay	9° 10' 51" S, 76° 45' 05" W,	2725 m	49
Mancopa	9° 44' 23" S, 76° 36' 23" W,	3765 m	180
Mariagan	9° 12' 09" S, 76° 43' 16" W,	3325 m	55
Mata Castillo (Rapayán)	9° 12' 31" S, 76° 45' 39" W,	3415 m	86
Mata Castillo (Tactabamba)	9° 13' 57" S, 76° 47' 43" W,	4085 m	88
Mazur	9° 51' 33" S, 76° 36' 02" W,	3720 m	188
Monte Castillo	9° 12' 47" S, 76° 47' 55" W,	3745 m	92
Nunash	9° 43' 35" S, 76° 46' 38" W,	3515 m	191
Pachas	9° 11' 25" S, 76° 47' 34" W,	3795 m	93
Pahush	9° 23' 48" S, 76° 40' 55" W,	4130 m	137
Palta Castillo	9° 08' 33" S, 76° 44' 48" W,	3080 m	57
Pampa Castillo	9° 21' 34" S, 76° 48' 26" W,	3710 m	58
Papa Huasi	9° 34' 45" S, 76° 20' 03" W,	3860 m	59
Piruro lower site	9° 22' 57" S, 76° 42' 26" W,	3885 m	141
Piruro upper site	9° 22' 53" S, 76° 42' 23" W,	3915 m	143
Portachuelo	9° 11' 37" S, 76° 43' 51" W,	3360 m	62
Pujin	9° 23' 27" S, 76° 45' 29" W,	3760 m	63
Puyac	9° 53' 23" S, 76° 36' 43" W,	3430 m	194
Quilcay	9° 10' 04" S, 76° 47' 37" W,	3565 m	94
Rapayán (Overview)			95
Rapayán – Chaupis	9° 12' 35" S, 76° 45' 17" W,	3555 m	99
Rapayán – Huakcha	9° 12' 41" S, 76° 45' 18" W,	3650 m	96
Rapayán – Huashgo	9° 11' 54" S, 76° 45' 24" W,	3150 m	103
Rapayán – Shukus Raqa	9° 12' 19" S, 76° 45' 21" W,	3455 m	101
Romania Castillo	9° 13' 24" S, 76° 47' 41" W,	3665 m	107
Sahuay (Chupan)	9° 42' 42" S, 76° 35' 19" W,	3765 m	195
Sahuay (Yanas)	9° 43' 26" S, 76° 44' 09" W,	3815 m	200
Soltero Castillo	9° 16' 28" S, 76° 43' 00" W,	3655 m	65

Index of Sites

SITE	LOCATION	ALTITUDE	PAGE
Susupillo	9° 24' 05" S, 76° 41' 33" W,	4125 m	147
Tarapampa	9° 12' 49" S, 76° 43' 35" W,	2800 m	69
Tikra	10° 03' 53" S, 76° 37' 46" W,	3555 m	204
Tucu Waganan	9° 12' 36" S, 76° 48' 12" W,	4010 m	109
Uchku Huari	9° 45' 17" S, 76° 39' 06" W,	3370 m	208
Ukru Rayan	9° 23' 55" S, 76° 41' 41" W,	3960 m	155
Urpish	9° 16' 36" S, 76° 43' 34" W,	3470 m	72
Wallu Castillo 1	9° 13' 16" S, 76° 47' 39" W,	3510 m	112
Wallu Castillo 2	9° 13' 35" S, 76° 47' 54" W,	3790 m	113
Yerpaj	9° 45' 19" S, 76° 45' 55" W,	3725 m	210
Yuraj Castillo	9° 13' 37" S, 76° 47' 17" W,	3980 m	114