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Anger as work starts on Machu Picchu airport – 14th June, 2019

Level 0

Machu Picchu is getting an international airport. A million tourists visit Machu Picchu every year. Seven million people could visit with the new airport. Direct flights will fly into the heart of the Machu Picchu area. The government says this will be great for Peru's tourism industry.

Machu Picchu was built 600 years ago. It is 2,430 meters up in the Andes Mountains. It is a UNESCO World Heritage site. People are unhappy about the new airport. They say it will damage Machu Picchu and its farming villages. One person said the noise and traffic from the airport could damage Machu Picchu.

Level 1

Machu Picchu is getting an international airport. Work has started preparing the ground for the airport. Over 7 million passengers a year could use it. A million tourists visit Machu Picchu every year. The new airport will make it easier for more tourists to get there. It currently takes time by bus and train. Direct flights will fly into the heart of the Machu Picchu area. The government says this will boost the country's tourism industry.

Machu Picchu was built in the 15th century, 2,430 meters up in the Andes Mountains. It became a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1983. People are unhappy about the new airport. They say it will damage Machu Picchu and nearby farming villages. One person said: "The airport...endangers the conservation of one of the most important historical and archaeological sites in the world." He said the noise and traffic from the airport could cause big damage.

Level 2

Peru's famous Machu Picchu site is getting an international airport. Work started this week on preparing the ground for the airport. A million tourists visit Machu Picchu every year. The government hopes the new airport will make it easier for tourists to get to Machu Picchu. It currently takes time by bus and train. The nearest airport is 120 kilometers away. Direct international flights will fly into the heart of the Machu Picchu area. The government says this will boost the country's tourism industry. Over 7 million passengers a year may use the airport.

The Inca people built Machu Picchu in the 15th century. It is 2,430 meters up on a peak in the Andes Mountains. It became a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1983. Conservationists are unhappy about the new airport. They say it will damage Machu Picchu and nearby rural communities. An archaeologist said: "The airport...endangers the conservation of one of the most important historical and archaeological sites in the world." He said an airport near Machu Picchu, "will cause irreparable damage due to noise, traffic and uncontrolled urbanization".

Level 3

The world-famous Inca site Machu Picchu in Peru is going to get an airport. Peru's government started preparing the ground for the airport earlier this week. Around one million tourists visit Machu Picchu every year. Government officials hope the new Chinchero International Airport will make it easier for tourists to reach the site. Getting to Machu Picchu currently takes time and requires a bus and train. The nearest airport is 120 kilometers away in the city of Cuzco. The new airport will allow direct international flights into the heart of the Machu Picchu area. The government says this will be a boost for the country's tourism industry. More than 7 million passengers a year may use the airport.

Machu Picchu was built in the 15th century by the Inca people. They built it 2,430 meters up on a misty peak in the Andes Mountains. It became a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1983. Many people are unhappy about the building of the new airport. Conservationists say it will cause a lot of damage to Machu Picchu and its surrounding rural communities. Peruvian archaeologist Abel Traslaviña said: "The airport...endangers the conservation of one of the most important historical and archaeological sites in the world. An airport in the surroundings of the Sacred Valley will affect the integrity of a complex Inca landscape and will cause irreparable damage due to noise, traffic and uncontrolled urbanization."