



Nearly 175,000 tourists got to Machu Picchu through Inca Trail in 2014

Nearly 175,000 domestic and foreign tourists, mostly backpackers, reached the ancient citadel of Machu Picchu using the Inca Trail, reported the National Service of Protected Natural Areas by the State (Sernanp).

In this sense, Sernanp's Secretary General Rodolfo Valcarcel stressed people are becoming more and more aware of the benefits nature-based tourism provides, as evidenced by the increased number of foreign tourists interested in these Inca treks.

Valcarcel clarified the Inca Trail is part of the Machu Picchu Historical Sanctuary, a protected area regulated by Sernanp; while the citadel is under the care of Cusco's Decentralized Culture Directorate (DDC).

The Machu Picchu Historical Sanctuary is a protected area that covers 32,592 hectares or 80,535 acres of nature surrounding the citadel. It is well known for its archaeological complexes, sites and monuments of great historic, cultural value.

Nevertheless, the sanctuary also has an environmental value as it houses wooded areas, steep mountains, snow-caped peaks, mountain slopes and valleys.

It is an interaction site between the Andean and Amazonian domains and is situated inside a transitional area between two different ecosystems.