

PRESS RELEASE

Cornish Charity trekkers reach Machu Picchu

Tuesday, 10 June 2008

The Lost City of the Incas was the backdrop for the St Piran's flag last week as 31 charity challengers reached their final destination of Machu Picchu. The team proudly held aloft the Cornish flag after completing seven days of trekking through the Andes at altitudes of up to 4,445m to raise vital funds for Cornwall Hospice Care.

After flying into the Inca City of Cusco at 3,350m, the team commenced their gruelling physical challenge. Trekking through mountains, across rivers, along narrow steep-sided gorges and descending into valleys all in the shadow of the snow capped, glacier covered Mt Veronica.

Seven days later the team were rewarded with the awe inspiring view of Machu Picchu through The Sun Gate and then made their final descent into the ruins.

"Our trekkers achieved personal and physical goals as they battled the heat and high altitudes. The trek was a real challenge from start to finish and the reward of reaching Machu Picchu was a welcome and well deserved sight," said Karen Holman, Charity Challenge Events Officer.

Trek Peru has already raised in excess of £100,000 for Cornwall Hospice Care. All profits from the event will remain in Cornwall to be spent on patient, community and day care facilities. Last year over 500 patients with life-threatening illnesses and their families were cared for by the charity. Annual costs for the charity are in excess of £5 million or over £11.00 a minute.

"If anyone wishes to have the same life changing experience we have a great portfolio of overseas events – including Trek The Great Wall of China and Trek and Teach Namibia. Get in touch now to start your adventure of a lifetime!" added Karen.

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For further information contact Karen Holman, Charity Challenge Events Officer, on 01726 67012.

Background Information

Cornwall Hospice Care provides Specialist Palliative Care – the term used for the alleviation of pain and management of symptoms – for people in the county who have life threatening illnesses and gives support to their loved ones. The charity provides 24 in-patient beds, day treatments and therapies at its two hospices in St. Austell and Hayle.

It costs over £5 million annually to run these services – in excess of £11.00 a minute and around 85 pence in every £ must be met through raised voluntary income.