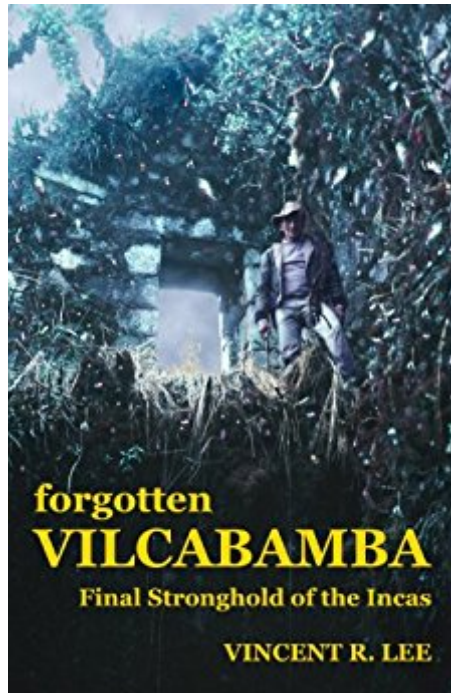




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# Forgotten Vilcabamba: Final Stronghold Of The Incas



## Synopsis

“This is the story of an escape that turned into a quest that became an obsession that has solved, I think, a very old puzzle. What began as a simple adventure soon took on a life of its own and became in time an Odyssey of learning and discovery. Those who think that the frontiers of exploration have all descended into the ocean depths or flown out beyond the rings of Saturn take heart and read on.” A modern-day adventure set against a fascinating historical backdrop, *Forgotten Vilcabamba: Final Stronghold of the Incas* describes a long but successful campaign to uncover the secrets of lost Vilcabamba, the last refuge of the Incas. Combining a dramatic feet-on-the-ground narrative with over 60 original drawings and maps, Vince Lee has produced a must-read book for anyone considering a trip to Peru or wanting to know more about the final days of the Inca empire. Praise for *Forgotten Vilcabamba: Final Stronghold of the Incas* "Vincent Lee reveals the secrets and solves the mysteries of Manco Inca's Vilcabamba in a series of splendid expeditions. His detective work and conclusions are totally convincing (and his) drawings constitute a treasure-house of new information." John Hemming Author of *The Conquest of the Incas* "Forgotten Vilcabamba is destined to be read and re-read for as long as people are interested in the search for and discovery of lost cities from ancient civilizations. A book that not only captures the excitement of exploration but also tantalizes one with the idea that lost cities are still out there waiting to be found. A great and thrilling read." Kim MacQuarrie Author of *The Last Days of the Incas* "No ruin has ever got lost again once Vincent Lee had found it. He combines meticulously thorough exploration with a draughtsman's eye, resulting both in superb plan maps of the Vilcabamba sites and a text that evokes the endless appeal of this rugged and rich landscape. *Forgotten Vilcabamba* has the great virtue too that the author always takes the Incas far more seriously than he takes himself; it is one of those rare books that combines both modesty and insight." Hugh Thomson Author of *The White Rock* "In the category of boots-on-the-ground narratives about the Incas, the true classics can be counted on one hand. Vincent Lee's *Forgotten Vilcabamba* might just be my favorite. No other book captures so well the history and magic of the once-impenetrable territory that lies just beyond Machu Picchu. With his architect's eye and superhuman curiosity, Lee succeeds in conjuring back to life the stone masterpieces erected by some of history's greatest engineers. In the process he manages to have one hell of an adventure." Mark Adams Author of *Turn Right at Machu Picchu*

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This reviewer is pleased to see Vincent R. Lee's incredible tale not only made it to .com (very fitting location) but there is a Kindle edition as well. In the past I could only refer friends to his website. I first heard of Vincent R. Lee when we read from his book sitting in our dinner tent each night high up in the Andes Mountains as our friend who was not only inspired by the book, she loved the book; and thus she created our trek based on his book. We met Juvenal Cobos, Vince's campesino before I owned or read the book in its entirety. As the author cites in the introduction to this edition of his book change has occurred in the intervening years making the exploration he did more accessible to the average Joe. Unknown to our group of seven we were a bit of the guinea pigs as our friend was helping her Peruvian friends put together a guide business. It is not only a well written book about the history of the Incas; it is an engaging Indiana Jones' type adventure tale with a cast of characters jockeying to be the next great Hiram Bingham type hero. We all see the world in different ways and it is with Lee's architect eyes that solves the mystery and puzzle as to the last stronghold of the Incas. It's a fascinating part of the story. This author is a gracious man, a tenacious man, a man of high integrity and while I am not seeing his dedication in my Kindle edition in my hardback copy Lee acknowledged the incredible journey he took was a result of a "promise to

Tupac Amaru", the last member of the royal Inca family to rule Peru. While describing himself as ... "a lifelong skeptic in all matters supernatural..." Lee found out as I did there is a powerful spirit essence in the Andes, in the ruins of the Incas and in the stones. Coming off our fifteen day trek I had a spiritual moment with a spiritual message that did not make sense to me until I got back and read Lee's book. I realized the message was for him. And as with all things spiritual they have a strange way of moving the plot forward and so only a few months after returning I unexpectedly ended up in his corner of the world, dropped in on him and his wonderful wife; and delivered said spiritual message. Now I will read his latest edition (in my Kindle) and see if he heeded said spiritual message. A modest man (it's not in this book), Lee also proposed what technique the Incas likely used to make their walls earthquake proof and NOVA did a program on that in 1995 showing Lee's hypothesis is the best one to date on that question. I hope the author will get his other papers and books up on especially on Kindle so that his work is easily accessible to all. Enjoy the ride. And yes, having met the author he could definitely pass for Indiana Jones' cousin. Smiley face here.

Forgotten Vilcabamba is the first hand story of the exploration of a remote region of the Andes driven by curiosity to complete one of history's unfinished puzzles - the lost last capitol of the Inca empire in exile. Vincent Lee's story of his research and expeditions in search of the people, places and ruins found in the Vilcabamba is a readable page turning tale of adventure and discovery.

Professional skills developed guiding climbing trips and designing architecture in the Rockies of North America became the perfect tools used to explore and map the historically rich but since lost sites in this mountainous region of Peru. His extensive maps and drawings give life to the Inca settlements and are the standard used by archaeologists researching the region and have enabled my personal exploration of sacred sites associated with sun worship. Guided by the available literature and with the council of prominent Andean scholars, Lee has become one of the world's experts on Vilcabamba. This book is his and his wife Nancy's tale of their quest to understand the Inca province of Vilcabamba, the historical conquest of the Inca there, the adventures had and friendships made along the way. If you are thinking to go, this book is must reading. If you are looking for a tale of adventure and discovery in South America this is it.

Really liked this book. Makes me want to go back to Peru and go a little farther from Cusco. Only limitation, is that all of the drawings do not appear to be in the Kindle version. The ones that appear are small and you can't resize them (at least not on my entry level Kindle). Otherwise, 5 stars.

A fascinating story written with grace and scholarship. I thought I knew something of this history, but I learned a lot.

adventure lives! ... from the first page, a thoroughly interesting book on a fascinating topic ... makes me want to return to re-explore the entire Inca region

It's a place I am going so it worked for me a bit but old information applied to the area

Forgotten Vilcabamba: Final Stronghold of the Incas is a narrative of Vincent R Lee's detective work into finding the Incas final stronghold. Many to this day have believed it to be the famed Machu Picchu, which Vincent R. Lee shows it was not. Forgotten Vilcabamba: Final Stronghold of the Incas was especially exciting to the historian in me. Having the book include pictures, maps and drawing makes you feel as if you are on this journey of discovery right along with them. The history of the Incas has always been an interest to me and so I felt honored to read Forgotten Vilcabamba: Final Stronghold of the Incas and to write a review. This is a wonderfully written book.

It is hard to imagine any serious exploration into the Vilcabamba without first reading Vincent Lee's seminal book on the region. His extensive forays into this amazing corner of Peru are documented here in hugely readable style. Important historical breakthroughs, such as the discovery of the exact site of the final and decisive battle between the Incas and the Spanish, are intermixed with fascinating anecdotes about the difficulties of travelling in an area that, in the 1980's, was a hotbed of 'Shining Path' terrorist activity. The post-conquest history of the Incas is well dealt with, but it is the maps that make this book so indispensable. As a trained architect Lee's plans of ruins such as Vitcos and Espiritu Pampa are so accurate and easy to follow that they have become the favoured guides used by both archaeologists and amateur visitors alike. Undoubtedly one of the most important books ever written about the Incas.

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