



Huchuy Qosqo

Who: Viracocha
 What: royal estate
 Why: buildings, views, terracing,

HISTORY

Warq'ana continuously occupied for a long time, way before Inca, starting in the Early Horizon (900 – 200 BCE). Its well-watered lands and dominating position in the valley made it a plum settlement pick. The final phase(s) of occupation at Warq'ana consists of a Cuzco Inca occupation with all the characteristic hallmarks of a proto-classic and classic style of architecture, represented respectively by styles/construction phases A and B (see below).

Viracocha Inca started building Huchuy Qosqo (originally Caquia Xaquixaguana) as one of his royal estates late in the Late Intermediate Period. And once he started building, the center of activity shifted from Warq'ana. During the Chanca war, Viracocha withdrew to here in Huchuy Qosqo while his son Pachacutec stayed in Cusco and fought the war. During the war Pachacutec declared himself emperor. The expansion of Huchuy Qosqo seems to be part of the deal they struck: Pachacutec remained emperor and Viracocha remained alive, as long as he stayed here in his retirement village. Pachacutec even sent workmen from Cusco to expand the royal estate, which account for the Style B.

Both sites show Inca building in 2 phases: 1) straight-walled, sandstone structures using local labor (style A) and 2) inclined-walled, mixed stone and adobe structures using labor from Cusco (style B).

- JC1 - Huchuy Qosqo
- JC2 - Rozascancha (Casa Curat)
- JC3 - Chincana (wak'a)
- JC4 - Warq'ana
- JC6 - Chink'qata
- JC8 - Q'oriwayrachina

Huchuy Qosqo hike

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Warq'ana

Not a lot to see ruins-wise, but great views from its northern end and at the small spur of Qoriwayrachina overlooking the Vilcanota valley. Here there are traces of a circular foundation about 1m in diameter which represent a chullpa (burial tower).

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Sector I - palace and associated support functions, the most important area of occupation — a prestigious living area with a considerable variety of facilities — for an important Inca and his retinue and servants.

Sector II - a residential sector for nobles and/or descendants of Viracocha Inca — and the access controls and community hall, at least six buildings offering family type accommodation with courtyards and patios.

Sector III - oldest part of the site (SW perimeter wall) (sandstone with 'chinky chips' infilling stone, perpendicular) & B16. It is quite different again in character — and rather a confusing mixture of

very prestigious building (B19) and those more like modest residences (B23). Certainly there were changes through time, but the heart of the Sector, including B19, seems to have once been the centre of a cult and possibly the burial place of an important Inca — maybe Viracocha Inca himself. Certainly B19 appears to have had its magnificent NW wall broken down to obtain his body or that of his guayqui or even later on, his ashes.

Down the slope is **Rozascancha**, also known locally as 'Casacural' saying someone religious always lived here. The position of Rozascancha below the main site can be paralleled to the position of Coricancha in the lower part of Cuzco where the main temples to the sun and the sky deities were located with a priests house, and with the Acllahuasi (House of Sun Virgins) adjacent.

And still further is **Chincana**, a wak'a, perched at the edge of the cliff. This was evidently a prestigious building with features oriented to solstice and the sunrise on the horizon, as well as full-length niches for objects of importance. A shrine where rituals were carried out is suggested, while the suitability of the site for a tomb, a place of punishment and/or lookout cannot be discounted.

