

A Conversation with Jeffrey Freedman

Why did you decide to travel to Peru?

After visiting Brazil in 1984, I was intrigued by South America and wanted to see more of the continent. I selected Peru because of its fascinating history.

What photographic training do you have?

None really. I studied Political Science before obtaining my law degree. During my under graduate studies I did have the opportunity to take one class in photography. Most of what I have learned has been by "just doing it".... trial and error you might say.

How did the locals react to you photographing them?

For the most part, people in Peru are very friendly and approachable. Most did not mind me photographing them at all. Some of the people wanted to be paid, so we would give them some money. A few of the portraits were taken using a long distance lens.

How did you communicate with the locals?

The guides we traveled with spoke Spanish and would translate for me. When I was alone, I could get by with the little Spanish I knew. Often, when I wanted to take a picture I would motion with my camera. If they smiled, I knew it was okay.

What problems did you encounter?

After a few days my wife told me she would no longer carry my camera equipment around. In all seriousness, aside from a little trouble adjusting to the high altitude, the trip was problem-free.

Would you go back to Peru?

Oh yes. I loved Peru, especially the Cuzco area.

What are your favorite aspects of photography when you travel?

I really like portraiture using available light. Shooting while wandering around the streets of a locale really appeals to me.

How do you choose a subject?

I look for interesting faces that show some emotion and character.

