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## "Q'eswachaka, the last Inca bridge"

*The Q'eswachaka Bridge, engineering and Andean tradition*



As every year around this time, the Quechua communities of Quehue (Peru) meet to renovate Q'eswachaka, the last bridge of vegetable fibers that is still preserved in the Andes. For three days, men, women and children will work together to raise in the heights one of the most amazing and unknown works on the planet. Risk, dedication, solidarity or love for nature come together in this exciting challenge where the inhabitants of Quehue celebrate the renewal of life and strengthen themselves as a people.

Now you have the opportunity to live this incredible story and get to know its protagonists up close. "Q'eswachaka, the last Inca bridge", is an inspiring documentary film that will forever change your vision of the human being and his ability to achieve goals that seem impossible.

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## Q'eswachaka Bridge

The Q'eswachaka bridge is woven entirely with vegetable fibers following the Inca tradition and is the only one of its kind in the world.

The Q'eswachaka suspension bridge is a creation of the Andean civilization that never ceases to amaze the world with its more than 600 years of life, its exquisite technique, and perfectly planned organization.

Men, women and children sit in the ditches to crush the fibers with stones, dip them in the water and start knitting. The rough and resistant ropes that leave marks on the skin of the weavers, guarantee the resistance of the bridge that can hold up to 15 llamas and a shepherd.

The renovation of the bridge challenges the rugged geography every year and contributes to community unity. It is part of an Inca tradition that has passed jealously from generation to generation, transcending in the identity and customs of the peoples.

The arduous physical effort that involves the entire community, begins weeks before the assembly of the bridge when a type of straw called q'oya is collected from the heights that serves to weave the base and railings of the structure.

Near the Q'eswachaka there is a bridge with iron structures that was built 30 years ago as part of the road that passes through the town of Quehue, however, the Q'eswachaka bridge is still preserved despite not being the only means to cross the river.

At the end of the weaving of the bridge, all the inhabitants gather in a great party that is celebrated the next day, with costumes, dances and typical music of the region.

Source: [PERU: Places, customs and traditions](#)

Various authors

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