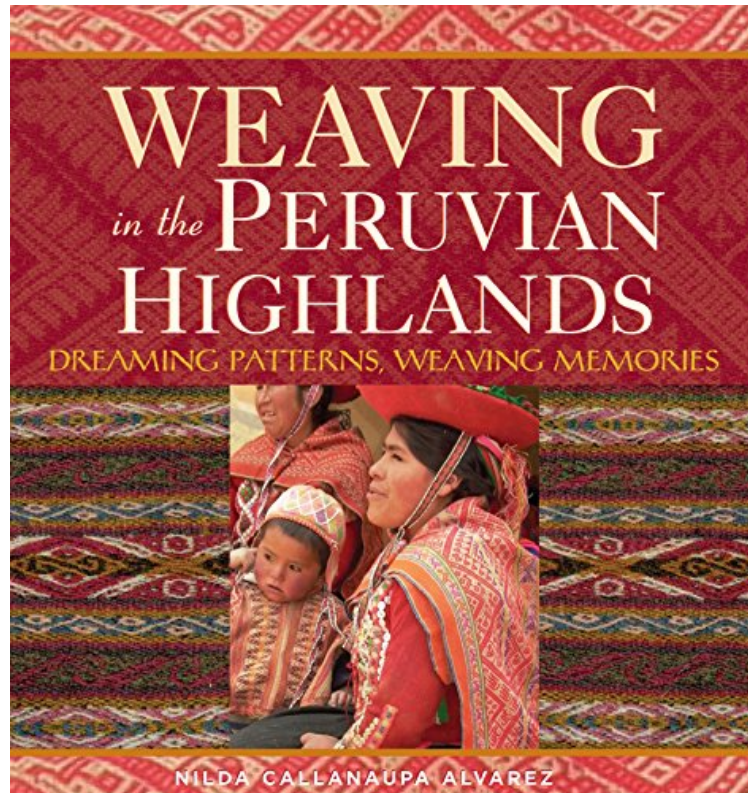


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# Weaving in the Peruvian Highlands: Dreaming Patterns, Weaving Memories

*Nilda Alvarez*

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**Nilda Alvarez : Weaving in the Peruvian Highlands: Dreaming Patterns, Weaving Memories** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Weaving in the Peruvian Highlands: Dreaming Patterns, Weaving Memories:

20 of 20 people found the following review helpful. Visually stunning and not too technical By Soloviajero I admire textiles and have accumulated a lot of them over the years. Peru is a textile lovers paradise, especially Cuzco and more remote places like Chinchero, where you can visit the shops (usually courtyards) and homes (around the courtyards) of native weavers and you can talk with them about their wares. I bought my copy of this book in the author's store in Cuzco, the "Center for Traditional Textiles." The shop is one of the most expensive in Cuzco, but also it has the best inventory of high quality artisan weavings to be found in Cuzco, or Lima, or anywhere else I've seen in Peru. The store is a high class affair, set up as a "museum" with native weavers on the premises to demonstrate their techniques, and there are museum displays of weaving history around Cuzco, weaving techniques and apparatus, native clothing and so forth. The store has an obvious passion for informing customers about the craft. Each fabric sold in the store has the name and photograph of the weaver attached to it, and an identification of the pueblo where the item originated. The idea is to give the customer an appreciation of the piece, where it came from, and to personalize it with the face of the person who made it. This book is an extension of that same philosophy, to personalize it, except the book has 112 pages and lots of beautiful photographs to expand the idea in full detail. I wish I had bought the book before going to Peru

the first time, as it would have made me more knowledgeable and appreciative of these particular textiles when I arrived. The book is not too technical. It does not dwell on weaving patterns or details of techniques, nor does it present a comprehensive history of Andean woven art. It is not a "how to" book that teaches anyone how to weave but, to the contrary, it provides a good overview of the vast variety of textiles to be found in the markets around Peru (especially Cuzco), and it identifies the patterns or designs likely to be encountered with their traditional place of origin. I liked the book and I'm buying another copy for a friend who's going to Peru later this year. She's an intellectual who adores textiles and wouldn't dream of going there without doing her homework first. This book is perfect for her, informative, visually stunning, with a clear philosophical point of view, but not too long nor too detailed. I recommend the book for anyone going to Peru who is interested in artisan weaving, and who wants more information to better appreciate the craft when they see it. It is a good effort and easily worth the price.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Enjoyed by a weaver. By Vince P. Excellent illustrations and discussions of culture and life style. I purchased this book for a friend who is very knowledgeable about textiles and weaving. She was delighted with it. She plans to travel there the later part of the year and found this book helpful.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful book. By aFI bought this book because of an upcoming trip to Peru and a fascination with hand woven textiles. This book helped me appreciate the fine weaving I saw in the highlands of Peru, particularly in the town of Chinchero. The authentic voice of the weavers is expressed in beautiful photos and in their own words. The author states, "Weaving is a living art, an expression of culture, geography, and history. It ties together with an endless thread the emotional life of my people." Thank you, Nilda Alvarez, for giving us a window into that rich life! I brought home several lovely textiles which I cherish all the more because of this wonderful introductory book.

A richly illustrated look at Andean weaving, which embodies the living history and culture of the Peruvian highlands, this guide extensively catalogs many of the intricate patterns found in traditional Peruvian textiles. Exploring the personal histories of the Quechua people who sustain this tradition, it examines how they weave extraordinary amounts of cloth on simple backstrap looms; just as their forebears have done for thousands of years; to make clothing, rugs, bedcovers, potato sacks, hunting slings, and sacrificial fabrics for both their villages and for interested tourists. How pattern names such as Meandering River or Lake With Flowers relate to the geography and history of the region is also discussed, as is how the traditional natural materials and colors enhance the value of the work.