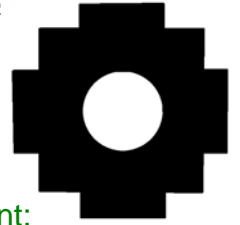


A Surilox Alpacas Information Sheet

Downloaded from www.surilox.com written by Karine Rai

The Chakana



The Chakana is a mystical symbol of the Inca.

The word Chakana derives from “Chakay” meaning “to cross” in Quechua, the Inca language.

Like most mystical symbols, the Chakana has layers of meaning.

In its simplest it represents the Southern Cross. And this image can be seen in many Incan ruins, while the Southern Cross can be found in many representations including in several public buildings at Machu Picchu.

The 4 arms of the Chakana are thought also to represent the Tawantinsuyu – the 4 provinces of the Inca which were centred on Cusco, the Inca capital.

Cusco is represented as the hole in the centre of the Chakana.

4 flat sides represent water air earth & fire

The Steps on each side of the Chakana are thought to represent

1. the celestial world of the gods; Hanan Pacha
2. the world of the living - Kay Pacha
3. the world of death – Ughu Pacha]

but they could also represent:

- underground, earth, and sky;
- earth, thunder, cloud;
- snake, puma, and condor – the sacred animals of the Inca;
- village, Sapa Inca, and temple for dividing the Incan harvest

These tiers might also be reflected in the windows in the temples of Machu Picchu.

The shape of the Chakana, with Cusco in the centre, the left and right arms being the earth and earthly living are the platforms to the heavens above, and the shades below. The thought is that a person walks up the stairs towards the gods, of down the inverted stairs towards interment.

It is also thought that this represents principles by which to live life: live, work, love or don't lie, steal or be lazy

The colourful chakana on this page are the colours of the Inca Flag and represent Cusco.



At Surilox we acknowledge our gratitude to the Inca for raising and refining the Alpaca, and celebrate the spirit of the Chakana