

Bolivian Encounters

Country(ies): Bolivia

Tour type: Small Group

Transport: Local buses, sleeper bus & train

Group size: Min: 2 | Max: 18

Days: 15 days

Start Location: La Paz, Bolivia

End Location: La Paz, Bolivia

Meals: Breakfasts - 14, Lunches - 7, Dinners - 5



Highlights:

Bright & bustling La Paz, Uyuni & the world's largest salt flats, the churches of Potosi, colonial city of Sucre, flora and fauna of Madidi & the pampas

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive into La Paz

Upon arrival our staff will meet you at the airport and transfer you to your hotel in La Paz for the start of your trip.

OVERNIGHT: La Paz Hotel

MEALS: None

EXTRAS: Extra day in La Paz - pre-tour

Day 2: La Paz

The trip begins this morning with a half day tour of La Paz. Situated high up in the Andes and surrounded by 6,000m peaks the capital of Bolivia is a bright bustling city unlike any other. Winding through the narrow streets we will visit Murillo Square & Cathedral, Government Palace, the Incan Gold Museum and the infamous Witches Market before ending the tour with a trip to the lookout point at Killi Killi for panoramic views over the city. The rest of the day is free to enjoy at your leisure.

OVERNIGHT: La Paz Hotel

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 3: La Paz to Uyuni by train

The morning is free to explore La Paz before we take a bus ride to the mining town of Oruro from where we will board the train for the journey into the Salar (salt flats) arriving into Uyuni this evening.

OVERNIGHT: Uyuni Hotel

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 4: Uyuni, journey into the Salt Flats

After breakfast we head out in 4WD vehicles to explore the vast Salt Flats full of stunning lakes, deserts and volcanoes. We start at the eerie Train Cemetery - a remnant of Bolivia's gold boom before travelling on to Colchani village for a brief stop before heading into the Salar proper. Our guide will explain how the unique area formed geologically as we make our way to Huasi Island in the shadow of the beautiful Tunupa Volcano to stop for lunch. The day ends as we arrive into San Juan village.

OVERNIGHT: Basic Accommodation

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

EXTRAS:

Day 5: Salt Flat exploration

Climbing back into our 4WD vehicles this morning we continue south along the Salt Flats passing further volcanoes until we reach Canapa Lagoon situated at a height of 4,130m. Look out for pink Flamingoes and other birdlife here at the lagoon. We also stop briefly at Hedionda (Stinky!) Lagoon, which certainly lives up to its name, due to the high sulphur content, as we travel on towards the Siloli Desert home to incredible natural rock formations eroded by years of wind. This afternoon we arrive at the Red Lagoon, a breathtaking 40 square kilometre Wildlife Sanctuary home to 3 species of Andean Flamingo. We spend the night close to the shores of the lagoon in Wayllajara Village.

OVERNIGHT: Basic Accommodation

MEALS: Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Day 6: Salt Flat exploration

We leave early this morning in order to catch first light over the Sol de Manana Volcano Crater as we venture up it. At almost 5,000m the dramatic landscape here is dotted with steaming geysers and brightly boiling volcanic mud pools. We stop for breakfast on the banks of Challviri Lagoon where those who want to can enjoy a hot spring! After breakfast we head down through the barren Dali's Desert which offers unrivalled views out over the southwestern tip of Bolivia. Look out for Licancabur Volcano cradling the beautiful Green Lagoon in the distance. Returning to Red Lagoon we travel through Rock Valley on our way back to Uyuni.

OVERNIGHT: Uyuni Hotel

MEALS: Breakfast,Lunch

EXTRAS:

Day 7: Uyuni, drive to Potosi

Leaving the spectacular Salt Flats and our 4WD vehicles behind, we travel by mountain road to Potosi. Upon arrival the day is free for you to explore the town including its many churches or take a locally available optional tour to the nearby Silver Mines (note - Health and safety is not to Western standards and we recommend reading up on the mines before choosing whether or not to visit).

OVERNIGHT: Potosi Hotel

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 8: Potosi, drive to Sucre

This morning is free before we board the bus to one of Bolivia's most beautiful cities, Sucre. Known as 'The 4 Names City' because of its long and varied history it previously went by Charkas (its Indian name), La plata (The Silver), Ciudad Blanca (White City) before becoming Sucre. Home to charming streets full of whitewashed buildings and pretty patios it is a very pleasant place to wander around. Sucre is sometimes referred to as the heartbeat of Bolivia. It was here at Liberty House where Bolivia declared itself a free Republic in 1825.

OVERNIGHT: Sucre Hotel

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 9: Sucre, free time, overnight bus to La Paz

Become a trainee palaeontologist this morning when we visit Cretaceous Park, home to thousands of remarkable dinosaur footprints including the biggest ever found. The afternoon is free to enjoy Sucre once more although many people choose to visit Asur, Bolivia's best Textile Museum, where some of the most precious and colourful pre-Incan textiles are kept with some over 1,500 years old. This afternoon we board the overnight sleeper bus for the trip back to La Paz.

OVERNIGHT: Bed Bus

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 10: Arrive in La Paz, free day

Arriving back into La Paz we transfer to our hotel. The rest of the day is free to relax or explore the city at leisure.

OVERNIGHT: La Paz Hotel

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 11: La Paz, fly to Rurrenabaque, Madidi National Park

We begin this morning with a transfer to the airport for our short flight to the jungle town of Rurrenabaque. We then head to the Beni River and board our boat to Madidi National Park. After lunch we take our first trip into the jungle, following the trails while our guides describe the local flora including various medicinal plants. Keep an eye out for beautifully coloured macaws, parrots and parakeets. In the evening we have the chance to see the jungle in a different light as we enjoy another slightly noisier jungle walk.

OVERNIGHT: Rurrenabaque Hotel

MEALS: Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Day 12: Madidi to Pampas

We are able to enjoy the jungle this morning before we climb into our 4WD vehicles for the journey towards Yacuma River, passing by the picturesque towns of Reyes and Santa Rosa. Carrying on by boat towards our lodge we may well see alligators, turtles, squirrel monkeys and capybaras along the river bank.

OVERNIGHT: Pampas Lodge

MEALS: Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Day 13: Pampas, jungle tours

Today we continue navigating the Yacuma River until finding an entrance to the Pampas. On the way we'll see more wild fauna, The pampas is another Amazonian Ecosystem well known as grasslands. Here we are going to walk in search of more wildlife, such as birds, alligators, and the famous Amazonian Anaconda. Later, we get back to the boat to continue exploring the river, and looking for a good spot for fishing piranhas and swimming with the extraordinary Pink Dolphins; known as Bufeó.

OVERNIGHT: Pampas Lodge

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

EXTRAS:

Day 14: Pampas to Rurrenabaque, fly to La Paz

We have the chance to take one more trip into the jungle this morning but this time looking for the various kinds of monkeys found in the area including howler monkeys, spider monkeys and squirrel monkeys. In the afternoon we travel back to Rurrenabaque to catch our flight back to La Paz.

OVERNIGHT: La Paz Hotel

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch

EXTRAS:

Day 15: La Paz, departure transfer

Your time is free today for some last minute sightseeing or shopping until we transfer you to the airport for your departure flight.

OVERNIGHT: N/A

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS: Extra day in La Paz - post-tour

Included:

- All accommodation in simple hotels, guesthouses & jungle lodge as per itinerary
- 3-day/2 night 4x4 Salt Flats excursion with basic accommodation, meals & guide
- All local transport as per the itinerary including train from Oruro to Uyuni
- Internal flights
- Orientation tours in La Paz, Potosi and Sucre
- La Paz city tour
- All transfers, including 24-hour airport arrival & departure transfer service
- Services of a local tour escort throughout the tour
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary

Excluded:

- International Flights
- Visa fees

- Travel Insurance (compulsory)
- Airport taxes
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Optional excursions and entrance fees (see tour notes)
- Park entry fees (allow approx. US\$75)
- Drinks, snacks and other personal expenses (e.g. laundry)
- Tips
- Any other items not mentioned above

Options

Our tours are designed to include all that you need to enjoy a really special time in the destination you're visiting. However, we do also offer some extra options to complement the tour and add some additional sightseeing or activities, or some extra time at either end of the tour.

All accommodation based options (e.g. Single supplements, extra nights, cruise upgrades) should be booked and paid for in advance so that we can make the appropriate arrangements. Other options may either be booked and paid for in advance or while you are on the tour, though we recommend booking in advance to ensure there are no issues with availability.

Many options are priced the same throughout the year, but some may incur single or high season supplements - full details are given on the tour reservation form or on request.

Extra day in La Paz - pre-tour

Min numbers: 1

This option adds an extra day to the start of your tour, staying in the same hotel as the main tour itself (subject to availability). Your airport arrival transfer is still included. Prices shown are per person and based on two people sharing.

Note: Single room and peak season supplements apply.

Extra day in La Paz - post-tour

Min numbers: 1

This option adds an extra day to the end of your tour, staying in the same hotel as the main tour itself (subject to availability). Your airport departure transfer is still included. Prices shown are per person and based on two people sharing.

Note: Single room and peak season supplements apply.

1. Accommodation

We use good quality small & simple hotels & guesthouses on this tour as well as a bed bus that may have half or full reclining seats.

Accommodation is based on twin, triple or double en-suite rooms. We will endeavour to give all couples a private double room. Single travellers may choose to pay a single room supplement to guarantee themselves a single room throughout the tour. Alternatively, they may choose to share a room with one or two other travellers of the same sex. If there are no other single travellers available for you to pair up with at the time of your booking, then we will need to add the single supplement to your tour price, but will refund this or deduct it from your balance payment if we are able to pair you up later on.

2. Transfers

The tour includes a 24-hour airport meet & assist service in La Paz airport, your arrival and departure airport-hotel transfers and all other transfers.

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Note: Please [download an up-to-date copy](#) of these tour notes shortly before you travel as itineraries and information does change from time to time.
