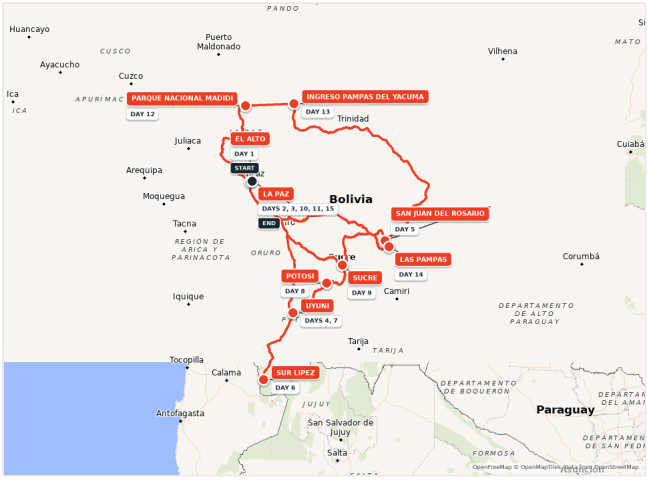
ENCOUNTERS TRAVEL

Your passport to adventure

Bolivian Encounters

COUNTRY(IES)	Bolivia
TOUR TYPE	Small Group
TRANSPORT	Local buses, sleeper bus & train
GROUP SIZE	Min: 2 | Max: 18
DURATION	15 days
STARTS	La Paz, Bolivia
ENDS	La Paz, Bolivia
MEALS	Breakfasts - 14, Lunches - 7, Dinners - 5

TOUR ROUTE MAP **15 Days**



ROUTE: **El Alto** (Start) → **La Paz** → **Uyuni** → **San Juan Del Rosario** → **Sur Lipez** → **Uyuni** → **Potosi** → **Sucre** → **La Paz** → **Parque Nacional Madidi** → **Ingreso Pampas Del Yacuma** → **Las Pampas** → **La Paz** (End)

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

Arrive at La Paz Airport, set high in the Andes, and begin your stay in Bolivia’s dramatic capital city. The transfer from the airport to your hotel offers an early view of La Paz’s steep valley setting and dense urban landscape. This arrival allows time to settle in and adjust to the altitude. The smooth transfer ensures a comfortable and organised start to your time in the city. It marks the beginning of exploration in one of South America’s most distinctive capitals.

ACTIVITIES

- **Arrival in La Paz and Transfer to Hotel**
  Arrive at La Paz Airport in Bolivia and transfer to your hotel in the city. The drive climbs into La Paz's high-altitude neighbourhoods, offering your first glimpse of the dramatic Andean capital as you settle in and get

oriented.

- **Transfer from La Paz Airport to Hotel**
  Transfer from La Paz airport to your hotel in the city. The drive climbs into the high-altitude neighborhoods of La Paz, Bolivia.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS	EXTRAS
La Paz Hotel	None	Extra day in La Paz - pre-tour

DAY 2 La Paz

Spend time visiting key cultural and civic areas of La Paz, including museums, markets and important public spaces that reflect both Indigenous heritage and the city's colonial history. Stops at elevated viewpoints provide useful context to its unusual setting within a deep Andean basin. Once the organised sightseeing is complete, the remaining time is free, allowing you to revisit areas of interest or explore the capital independently.

ACTIVITIES

- **City Tour of La Paz**
  Join a guided city tour in La Paz, Bolivia. Visit key landmarks and viewpoints across the historic center and surrounding areas.
- **Visit Murillo Square and Cathedral – La Paz**
  Visit Murillo Square and the Cathedral in central La Paz, Bolivia. The area is a focal point for national history and city life.
- **Explore Government Palace in La Paz**
  See the Government Palace in La Paz, Bolivia, located near Murillo Square. This stop highlights Bolivia's political heart.
- **Explore Incan Gold Museum in La Paz**
  Visit the Incan Gold Museum in La Paz, Bolivia. Discover displays related to pre-Columbian cultures and regional history.
- **Explore Witches Market in La Paz**
  Explore the Witches Market in La Paz, Bolivia. Browse traditional items, herbs, and local crafts in the bustling lanes.
- **Killi Killi Lookout in La Paz**
  Stop at the Killi Killi lookout point in La Paz, Bolivia. Take in panoramic views over the city and surrounding peaks.
- **Free Time in La Paz**
  Enjoy free time in La Paz, Bolivia to explore markets, museums and city viewpoints. Choose activities based on your pace and interests.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
La Paz Hotel	Breakfast

DAY 3 La Paz to Uyuni by train

Travel by road from La Paz to Oruro, then continue by train towards Uyuni across the open landscapes of the Bolivian Altiplano. The combination of road and rail offers changing views of mining towns, highland settlements and vast plains before arrival in Uyuni, where the next stage of exploration in the remote southwest begins.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from La Paz to Oruro**
  Travel from La Paz to Oruro, Bolivia. The route crosses the high-altitude Altiplano.
- **Train from Oruro to Uyuni**
  Board the train from Oruro to Uyuni, Bolivia. The journey approaches the desert landscapes near the salt flats.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Uyuni Hotel	Breakfast

DAY 4 Uyuni, journey into the Salt Flats

Leave Uyuni by four-wheel drive and travel into the vast Salar de Uyuni, where immense salt flats and open horizons define the landscape. Along the way, encounter remnants of railway history, small desert communities and viewpoints that reveal the scale of southwestern Bolivia. Continue deeper into the Altiplano towards San Juan, moving through remote terrain shaped by salt, wind and volcanic activity after a full day of high-altitude exploration.

ACTIVITIES

- **Travel from 4WD Uyuni to Train Cemetery**
  Depart Uyuni, Bolivia by 4WD and head to the Train Cemetery. This short drive reaches a historic collection of rusting locomotives.
- **Explore Train Cemetery in Uyuni**
  Visit the Train Cemetery near Uyuni, Bolivia. Walk among abandoned locomotives from the region's mining era.
- **Travel from 4WD Train Cemetery to Colchani**
  Continue by 4WD from the Train Cemetery to Colchani village, Bolivia. The route skirts the edge of the salt flats.
- **Explore Colchani Village in Uyuni Salt Flats**
  Stop in Colchani village on the edge of the Salar de Uyuni, Bolivia. Learn about local salt processing and desert life.
- **Travel from 4WD Colchani to Salar de Uyuni**
  Drive by 4WD from Colchani into the Salar de Uyuni, Bolivia. The landscape opens into vast white salt expanses.
- **Discover Salar de Uyuni in Bolivia**
  Explore the Salar de Uyuni in Bolivia by 4WD. Experience wide horizons, salt crust patterns, and high-altitude scenery.

- **Explore Huasi Island in Salar de Uyuni**
  Visit Huasi Island within the Salar de Uyuni, Bolivia. Walk among giant cacti with views towards the surrounding volcanoes.
- **Explore Tunupa Volcano Viewpoint in Salar de Uyuni**
  View Tunupa Volcano from the Uyuni salt flats region in Bolivia. The volcano backdrop adds dramatic color to the salt landscape.
- **Travel from 4WD Salar de Uyuni to San Juan**
  Travel by 4WD from the salt flats area to San Juan village, Bolivia. Arrive in a remote highland settlement for the night.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Basic Accommodation	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 5 Salt Flat exploration

Leave San Juan by four-wheel drive and make your way through some of Bolivia's most isolated high-altitude scenery. Visit Canapa and Hedionda lagoons, continue into the Siloli Desert to see its eroded rock formations, then travel to Red Lagoon before reaching Wayllajara. The drive crosses a dramatic mixture of saline wetlands, open desert and volcanic terrain where wildlife may be seen around the lagoons.

ACTIVITIES

- **Travel from 4WD San Juan to Canapa Lagoon**
  Continue south by 4WD from San Juan to Canapa Lagoon, Bolivia. The route passes volcanic landscapes on the Altiplano.
- **Explore Canapa Lagoon in Bolivia**
  Visit Canapa Lagoon in Bolivia's high-altitude desert. Look out for flamingos and other birdlife around the water.
- **Travel from 4WD Canapa Lagoon to Hedionda Lagoon**
  Drive by 4WD from Canapa Lagoon to Hedionda Lagoon, Bolivia. The journey crosses stark desert terrain with distant volcanoes.
- **Explore Hedionda Lagoon in Bolivia**
  Stop at Hedionda Lagoon in Bolivia. The area is known for mineral-rich waters and occasional flamingo sightings.
- **Travel from 4WD Hedionda Lagoon to Siloli Desert**
  Continue by 4WD from Hedionda Lagoon to the Siloli Desert, Bolivia. The landscape becomes increasingly barren and wind-shaped.
- **Explore Siloli Desert Rock Formations in Bolivia**
  Explore natural rock formations in the Siloli Desert, Bolivia. Wind erosion has shaped unusual desert sculptures.
- **Travel from 4WD Siloli Desert to Red Lagoon**
  Drive by 4WD from the Siloli Desert to the Red Lagoon, Bolivia. The route reaches a striking high-altitude wildlife area.

- **Explore Red Lagoon in Bolivia**
  Visit the Red Lagoon in Bolivia, a vivid high-altitude lake known for flamingos. The colored waters contrast sharply with the desert surroundings.
- **Travel from 4WD Red Lagoon to Wayllajara**
  Travel by 4WD from the Red Lagoon area to Wayllajara village, Bolivia. Arrive near the lagoon region for an overnight stop.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Basic Accommodation	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 6 Salt Flat exploration

Spend the day among the volcanic and geothermal features of Bolivia’s far southwest, visiting areas of geysers and hot springs before continuing through high deserts and vividly coloured lagoons. Strange rock formations and isolated valleys emphasise the remoteness of the region. Later, travel back across the Altiplano towards Uyuni, covering a wide variety of stark landscapes shaped by altitude, erosion and volcanic activity.

ACTIVITIES

- **Explore Sol de Mañana Geysers in Bolivia**
  Visit the Sol de Mañana geothermal area in southwest Bolivia. See steaming geysers and bubbling mud pools at high altitude.
- **Breakfast Stop in Challviri Lagoon**
  Stop for breakfast at Challviri Lagoon in Bolivia. The setting offers stark Altiplano scenery and nearby hot springs.
- **Visit the Hot Springs at Challviri Lagoon**
  Enjoy time at the hot springs near Challviri Lagoon in Bolivia. The warm water offers a relaxing break in the cold highlands.
- **Drive from Challviri Lagoon to Dali Desert**
  Travel from Challviri Lagoon into the Dali Desert, Bolivia. The route passes surreal rock and sand landscapes.
- **Explore Dali Desert in Bolivia**
  Explore the Dali Desert in southwest Bolivia. The scenery is known for unusual shapes and wide-open views.
- **View Licancabur Volcano and Green Lagoon – Bolivia**
  View Licancabur Volcano and the Green Lagoon in southwest Bolivia. The mineral-rich water shows vivid green tones in clear light.
- **Drive from Green Lagoon to Rock Valley**
  Travel from the Green Lagoon area towards Rock Valley in Bolivia. The road crosses rocky highland terrain.
- **Explore Rock Valley in Bolivia**
  Visit Rock Valley in southwest Bolivia. Walk among rugged rock formations shaped by weather and wind.
- **Drive from Rock Valley to Uyuni**
  Return by road from the southwest highlands to Uyuni, Bolivia. The long drive crosses remote Altiplano

landscapes.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Uyuni Hotel	Breakfast,Lunch

DAY 7 Uyuni, drive to Potosi

The journey from the Uyuni region climbs through Andean landscapes towards Potosí, a high-altitude city whose history is closely connected with centuries of silver mining. Colonial architecture and steep streets shape the arrival experience. Free time provides an opportunity to acclimatise to the elevation, rest after the journey or explore the historic centre independently at a suitable pace.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Uyuni to Potosí**
  Travel by mountain road from Uyuni to Potosí, Bolivia. The route climbs into the historic highland mining region.
- **Free Time in Potosí**
  Enjoy free time in Potosí, Bolivia. Explore churches, streets, and viewpoints or consider optional local excursions.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Potosi Hotel	Breakfast

DAY 8 Potosi, drive to Sucre

Travel from Potosí to Sucre and experience the gradual drop in elevation between the two cities. Once in Sucre, enjoy an unstructured period to explore independently before visiting Liberty House, where Bolivia declared itself a free Republic in 1825. The day combines a substantial overland transfer with a focused historical visit and free time in the calmer surroundings of the constitutional capital.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Potosí to Sucre**
  Travel from Potosí to Sucre, Bolivia. The journey descends into a milder climate with colonial architecture ahead.
- **Free Time in Sucre**
  Spend free time in Sucre, Bolivia. Stroll whitewashed streets and courtyards at your own pace.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Sucre Hotel	Breakfast

DAY 9 Sucre, free time, overnight bus to La Paz

Spend part of the day at a nearby fossil site before returning to Sucre for an unstructured period. The prehistoric remains provide the main organised sightseeing focus, while the free time allows you to use the city at your own pace. Later, depart Sucre on the overnight journey to La Paz and begin the long transition back towards the capital without adding further scheduled activities.

ACTIVITIES

- **Explore Cretaceous Park in Sucre**
  Visit Cretaceous Park near Sucre, Bolivia. See thousands of preserved dinosaur footprints across the site.
- **Free Time in Sucre**
  Spend free time in Sucre, Bolivia. Stroll whitewashed streets and courtyards at your own pace.
- **Travel from Overnight Bus Sucre to La Paz**
  Travel overnight by sleeper bus from Sucre to La Paz, Bolivia. Arrive back in the Andean capital the next morning.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Bed Bus	Breakfast

DAY 10 Arrive in La Paz, free day

Arrive back in La Paz after the overnight journey across the Andes and spend the day at leisure in Bolivia’s dramatic high-altitude capital. Use the free time to rest, acclimatise, revisit familiar neighbourhoods or explore independently, with the city’s steep streets, markets and mountain setting offering plenty of possibilities without any fixed programme.

ACTIVITIES

- **Arrival in La Paz**
  Arrive back in La Paz, Bolivia and transfer to your hotel. Use the day to rest or explore independently.
- **Free Time in La Paz**
  Enjoy free time in La Paz, Bolivia to explore markets, museums and city viewpoints. Choose activities based on your pace and interests.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
La Paz Hotel	Breakfast

DAY 11

La Paz, fly to Rurrenabaque, Madidi National Park

Travel by air from La Paz to Rurrenabaque before continuing by river into Madidi National Park. Once inside the rainforest, join guided walks through different forest environments and learn more about the surrounding habitats. A night excursion provides a second perspective after daylight fades, although individual wildlife encounters cannot be guaranteed. The day combines domestic air travel, river transport and both daytime and nocturnal forest exploration.

ACTIVITIES

- **Travel from Flight La Paz to Rurrenabaque**
  Fly from La Paz to Rurrenabaque, Bolivia. The landscape shifts from high Andes to the Amazon basin.
- **Boat from Rurrenabaque to Madidi National Park**
  Travel by boat from Rurrenabaque into Madidi National Park, Bolivia. Follow the Beni River into the rainforest region.
- **Jungle Walk in Madidi National Park**
  Take a guided jungle walk in Madidi National Park, Bolivia. Learn about rainforest plants and look for macaws and other wildlife.
- **Night Jungle Walk in Madidi National Park**
  Join a night walk in Madidi National Park, Bolivia. Experience the forest after dark and listen for nocturnal wildlife.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Rurrenabaque Hotel	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 12

Madidi to Pampas

Leave the Madidi region by road and travel towards the Yacuma River, watching the landscape open from forested lowlands into the wetlands of the Pampas. From the riverbank, continue by boat to the lodge and take in the broad waterways and surrounding vegetation along the way. The transfer introduces the distinctive river environment that will form the base for further wildlife activities in the area.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Madidi Region to Yacuma River**
  Travel by 4WD from the Madidi region toward the Yacuma River area in Bolivia. Pass through Reyes and Santa Rosa en route.
- **Boat from Yacuma River to Pampas Lodge**
  Continue by boat along the Yacuma River in Bolivia to reach your lodge. Look out for wildlife along the riverbanks.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Pampas Lodge	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 13

Pampas, jungle tours

Spend the day exploring the Pampas through river travel, guided walks and traditional activities around the Yacuma River. The wetlands provide opportunities to observe wildlife in a naturally changing environment, while local guides introduce plant life and tracking techniques. A possible swim near pink river dolphins may be offered when conditions allow, but any wildlife encounter remains dependent on the animals and environment.

ACTIVITIES

- **Boat Tour on Yacuma River Pampas**
  Explore the Pampas ecosystem by boat on the Yacuma River, Bolivia. Watch for birds, reptiles, and river wildlife.
- **Wildlife Walk in Pampas**
  Walk in the Pampas region of Bolivia in search of wildlife. Look for birds, alligators and other animals in open grasslands.
- **Piranha Fishing in Pampas**
  Try piranha fishing in the Pampas region of Bolivia. Local guides help you find suitable spots along the waterways.
- **Swim with Pink Dolphins in Pampas**
  Look for pink river dolphins in the Pampas region of Bolivia. Conditions permitting, enjoy time in the water near their habitat.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
Pampas Lodge	Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

DAY 14

Pampas to Rurrenabaque, fly to La Paz

Spend the first part of the day on a final guided walk in the Pampas before returning by road to Rurrenabaque. Wildlife may be encountered naturally, but no specific sightings can be guaranteed. From Rurrenabaque, board the flight to La Paz and complete the transition from Bolivia’s humid lowlands to the much higher capital, combining one last nature-based activity with overland and air travel.

ACTIVITIES

- **Wildlife Walk in Pampas**
  Walk in the Pampas region of Bolivia in search of wildlife. Look for birds, alligators and other animals in open grasslands.

- **Drive from Pampas to Rurrenabaque**

  Travel back from the Pampas region to Rurrenabaque, Bolivia. The route follows rivers and rural settlements.

- **Travel from Flight Rurrenabaque to La Paz**

  Fly from Rurrenabaque back to La Paz, Bolivia. Return from the Amazon lowlands to the high Andes.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS
La Paz Hotel	Breakfast,Lunch

DAY 15

La Paz, departure transfer

Transfer from your La Paz hotel to the airport and prepare for onward travel. The drive provides a final passage through Bolivia’s high-altitude capital before the supported arrangements come to an end. With no scheduled activities included, the emphasis remains on a practical departure connection while leaving enough time to complete your airport formalities independently.

ACTIVITIES

- **Departure from La Paz and Airport Transfer**

  Depart La Paz, Bolivia with a scheduled transfer from your hotel to the airport for your onward flight. Depending on your departure time, you may have a chance for final sightseeing or last-minute shopping before arriving in time for check-in and departure procedures.

- **Travel from La Paz Hotel to Airport**

  Transfer from your hotel in La Paz, Bolivia to the airport. Arrive in time for check-in and departure procedures.

- **Tour Ends in La Paz**

  The journey ends in La Paz, Bolivia after your airport transfer. Depart with memories of Peru and Bolivia's high-altitude landscapes.

OVERNIGHT	MEALS	EXTRAS
N/A	Breakfast	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, get a quote here)
- 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

Tour 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.

Important Notes

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.

3 Booking & Payment

If you would like to book a place on this tour, please complete the online reservation form on our website (via the Dates & Prices tab on the tour page). You may make a deposit or full payment online, or just hold a reservation if you prefer (full payments are due 8 weeks before departure). We will then contact you with more details about how to complete your booking. Payments may be made by debit or credit card (subject to a card processing fee), or by making a bank transfer, or posting us a cheque/bank draft. Full details will be provided in your booking confirmation email. Please contact us if you would like any more information or have any questions before making a booking.

4 Financial Security

We are a UK registered company and are committed to providing our customers with financial protection to provide peace of mind and to allow you to book with confidence.

We have therefore partnered with Trust My Travel Ltd., which provides financial protection services to over 2000

partners around the world. Funds paid to us by our customers are protected via an Insurance policy held by Trust My Travel. Each traveller and the description of services sold is declared against Trust My Travel's insurance policy directly against our financial failure. In the event of our insolvency, you will be refunded for any unfulfilled products and/or repatriation to the UK (where applicable). Please see our website or booking conditions for more information.

5 Responsible Tourism

It is impossible not to have an impact on the local environment, cultures and eco-systems when you travel. However, it is very possible to try and ensure that these impacts are as limited, or positive as possible. We are committed to ensuring that we try to leave our host countries in a better state than we found them and encourage and assist our travellers to help us with this.
The following are a few simple tips that require very little effort on your part but which will help ensure that any effect you have on the locations you visit is positive rather than negative.

- Don't prejudge: Things in different countries will almost certainly be different. That doesn't make them worse or inferior, just different.
- Communicate: Don't expect locals to speak your language. Take the trouble to learn a few words or phrases of the local language. Don't worry about sounding silly. Most locals are patient and accommodating and appreciate you making the effort to communicate in their language.
- Conserve energy: Be careful not to waste valuable resources. Use local resources sparingly. Switch off lights, air-conditioning and fans when you leave the hotel room and don't waste water. Remove superfluous packaging. Many countries have far less efficient waste disposal systems than ours. Remove packaging from newly acquired items before leaving home.
- Don't litter: No matter how untidy or dirty the country you're travelling in may look to you, avoid littering, as there is no need to add to the environment's stress. Many of the countries we visit have a tough challenge dealing with rubbish and waste. Please consider taking home as much plastic waste as you can (e.g. water bottles).
- Choose environmentally friendly products: By using environmentally friendly (bio degradable) sun creams, shampoos and detergents you can help reduce pollution.
- Respect local customs and traditions: As you are a guest in these countries, you should also comply with the local customs. If you are friendly and well mannered, the locals will reciprocate and it will only enhance your experience. It's important to follow dress and behaviour guidelines especially when visiting religious or sacred sites (your tour leader will advise you how best to do this).
- If a client commits an illegal act the client may be excluded from the tour and Encounters Travel shall cease to have responsibility to/for them. No refund will be given for any unused services.

All porters are employed and equipped following guidelines set by the International Porter Protection Group (IPPG).

6 Follow Us Online

You can stay in touch with us online by following us on Facebook and Twitter. We post updates on relevant travel news in our destination countries, special offers and discounts and other interesting travel related news and

information.

www.facebook.com/encounterstravel

https://x.com/encounterstravl (yes, without the 'e')

7 Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory on all of our tours and needs to cover personal accident & liability, medical expenses and repatriation, travel delay & abandonment. We also strongly recommend that you take out cover against cancellation and lost/stolen baggage. Personal medical insurance does not normally provide sufficient cover and is generally not suitable for travel on our tours. You will not be able to join your tour if you have not provided us with details of your insurance or if you arrive without cover in place (no refunds will be due in this event).

Considering travel insurance for your trip? World Nomads Travel Insurance offers coverage for more than 150 adventure activities as well as emergency medical, lost luggage, trip cancellation and more.

If your tour includes car hire, or if you plan to arrange a hot air balloon flight locally or do some scuba diving during your tour, you should check the small print in your policy to make sure these are covered (these are covered in our policy). Please also check the maximum altitude that you will be reaching and that full cover including emergency evacuation is provided up to this altitude.

If you are taking expensive camera gear or other electronic equipment with you then please check the coverage and the fine print of your policy to ensure that you have sufficient cover.

IMPORTANT: We must have your travel insurance details (policy number and type of insurance) before you depart or you may not be allowed to join the tour. If you haven't told us already, please let us know the details when you can. You should take a paper copy of your insurance policy with you as you may be asked to show this at the start of the tour.

Covid-19

Before purchasing any travel insurance, please check the coverage provided for situations related to Covid-19, and for the rules about government travel advice. Your normal policy may not be suitable.

8 Before you travel

It is important when considering and preparing to travel anywhere in the world that you have a good understanding of the country you are visiting, its laws and customs, and the possible risks and situations that may occur. This includes specific risks related to your itinerary (eg. does it involve water & can you swim, are you fit enough for the activities included), as well as more general risks such as terrorism and natural disasters.

General details and links to more information about health risks, visa requirements, money, and travel insurance are given in these tour notes. We recommend that you re-read all these before your departure as well as the small print of your travel insurance policy so you know exactly what is covered and what is not.

You should take copies of your important travel documents with you and ideally also store them online securely as a backup. Make sure that you have given us your emergency contact details and told that person where and when you are travelling. Ensure you take enough money with you and that you have access to emergency funds.

Finally, you should read through and stay updated with the current official government travel advice for your destination. We are registered partners with the UK Foreign Office's 'Travel Aware' campaign which provides further useful and invaluable information.

travel aware
gov.uk/travelaware

9

Reduce Plastic Waste with Water-to-Go Filter bottles

Traveling responsibly means minimizing plastic waste, but staying hydrated on the go is essential. At Encounters Travel we are committed to reducing single-use plastics, which is why we've partnered with Water-to-Go. Their portable filtration system removes over 99.9% of contaminants from any non-saltwater source, turning even questionable water sources into safe drinking water.

Given that tap water is un-safe to drink in many of the countries in which we operate, we recommend purchasing a Water-to-Go bottle prior to departure. This will help you avoid the use of single use plastic bottles and keep you hydrated on the go.

Save big! Get a huge 25% off your Water-to-Go bottle and other Water-to-Go products (such as filters, lids, and carriers). Use code **ENCOUNTERS25** at checkout (valid in the UK, USA and Canada).

How Water-to-Go Technology works:

- Their reusable, BPA free water bottles contain their own unique 3-in-1 filtration technology effectively providing clean safe drinking water from any non-salt water source around the world.
- Three different (1 traditional and 2 nano) technologies are combined in one filter cartridge to remove up to 99.9999% of microbiological contaminants in water.

The three technologies used in a Water-to-Go filter are:

- Mechanical filtration – A tiny pore size, so small contaminants can’t fit through.
- Electrical – A positive charge reduces the pore size even further and attracts contaminants like a magnet, trapping them inside the filter.
- Activated Carbon – Unlike most carbon based filters, instead of using adhesives to glue the carbon particles together, (which vastly reduces the carbon’s efficiency) it is contained within the membrane, helping to reduce contaminants whilst eliminating bad tastes and odours. Try filtering water from your tap at home and taste the difference!

Water-to-Go filter bottles deliver safe, healthy water worldwide

- Water-to-Go filters remove bacteria, viruses, waterborne disease, protozoa, heavy metals such as lead as well as harmful chemicals.
- Their filters remove Chlorine and Fluoride from tap water.
- The filter will eliminate harmful contaminants from the water but allow beneficial minerals such as sodium and magnesium to pass through leaving you with the healthiest water possible.

- Water-to-Go filters have been independently tested against internationally recognised standards by industry specialists including The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (UK), BCS Laboratories (USA), Bangalore Test House (India) and IMI (China).

Use Water-to-Go products and you'll be healthier, wealthier and helping to make the world a better place!

- Depending on filter size, each Water-to-Go filter is able to replace 260 or 400 single-use plastic water bottles!
- They ensure you have access to safe water anywhere in the world without ever having to buy environmentally damaging bottled water.
- Their water bottles deliver safe, clean drinking water at just 5p per litre.
- The filter membrane is biodegradable and the shrouds are recyclable.
- The water bottles are used and approved by everyone from backpackers to commuters, gym users to expecting mums. Perfect for everyday, outdoor and travel.

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10 Private & Tailor-made Tours

While our group departures offer a fantastic way to explore with like-minded travellers, we understand that some guests prefer a more exclusive experience. Most of our group tours can be booked on a private basis, allowing you to enjoy the same expert-led routes with your own dedicated party. The primary advantage of choosing a private arrangement is the flexibility it provides; we can easily customise the itinerary to include your preferred style of accommodation or adjust the pace to suit your needs. Private tours can be run on the same start days as our group tours, or on other dates. However, some activities within our trips are restricted to particular days of the week - we will advise you on anything like this that we need to work around. Pricing will be based on the number of travellers in your party, and any customisations you may like to make.

For those seeking something truly unique, our specialist sales team is available to collaborate with you on a completely tailor-made tour, designed from the ground up to match your specific interests, accommodation level and requirements.

To request a quotation for a private or tailor-made tour, please contact us.

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11 International Flights

We want to give you as much flexibility as possible when it comes to booking your holiday with us. So, to take account of people with varying travel plans, we don't normally include international flights in the main tour price. We are however very happy to suggest flights to go with the tour. Please contact us with your preferred dates and departure airport and we'll give you a selection of airlines, times and fares to choose from.

Your airport arrival & departure transfers are included on the first and last days of the tour.

We do also sometimes advertise flight inclusive packages from selected airports. Where these are shown on our website, prices are correct at the time of quoting, but are subject to continued availability of the fare used. Prices will be reconfirmed at the time of booking, and we will also provide the flight times and airline details before tickets

are issued.

Flight inclusive prices are based on the cheapest Economy ticket class available which is generally non-refundable and non-changeable unless the flight is cancelled for reasons such as Covid-19, in which case the airlines are more flexible. More flexible ticket options, as well as Premium Economy and Business Class tickets are available on request for an additional supplement. Any changes made to flight inclusive bookings will be subject to the airline rules on your ticket.

N.B. ON TOURS THAT VISIT THE JUNGLE, FLIGHT TIMES FROM THE JUNGLE CAN BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE (PARTICULARLY DURING THE RAINY SEASON) SO MAKE SURE YOUR INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT BOOKINGS ALLOW AT LEAST ONE SPARE DAY AFTER THE JUNGLE EXCURSION HAS BEEN COMPLETED!

Flight CO2 Emissions:

Traveling by air is an amazing way to explore the world, but flights also contribute to carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions that impact the environment. By considering the airline's CO2 emissions when you choose your flight, you can help minimize your travel footprint.

When selecting your international flights and airline, we do therefore recommend that you try and also take into account the flight CO2 emissions. Some airlines and flight search websites (eg. Google Flights, Skyscanner) do publish this information, so you can compare between your flight options and make an informed decision. Thankfully, many airlines are working towards sustainability efforts, and choosing a greener option allows you to contribute to positive change while still enjoying your incredible adventure.

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12 Group Size/Tour Leaders/Guides

We are committed to being a small group operator, as we feel this gives everyone in the group the best chance to get to know their fellow travellers and to hear and make the most of their guide. So, our South America group departures are set to have a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 14 travellers.

In South America we provide fully trained, local English-speaking tour leaders to accompany all our Peru and Bolivia tours. These leaders will arrange your accommodation, meals, travel arrangements, as well as pre-booking some excursions and guides and helping you to find the best deals, socialise. Generally they are there to run the tirp and make sure everything goes as smoothly as possible. While they are experienced and knowledgeable about the country and places you're visiting and travelling through, they are not tour guides as such. In most historical areas visited there are specialist local guides available if you wish (your tour leader will assist in booking these). We also have some local representatives in towns and cities en-route who are also at your service. Additional guides may also be used for some of the trekking and jungle sections.

Note: Some of our tours in Peru and Bolivia work as different sections. So, it is possible that you may not be with the same entire group for the whole trip (for example, in Peru some travellers may start their trip in Cuzco, or head to the Amazon after the Inca Trek while some go on to Lake Titicaca. In Bolivia some people may finish the tour early and not continue on into the jungle for the final section.

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13 Entrance Fees

The tour price includes entrance fees to all the tourist sites mentioned in the itinerary. You will need to cover the cost of entrance to any other extra sites that you may wish to visit.

14 Dates and Prices

We run regular small-group departures on this tour from April to November each year. All departures are guaranteed to run with a minimum of 2 travellers. Departure dates and prices are listed on our website and on a separate dates & prices sheet available on request.

15 Health and Vaccinations

You should ensure you are fully insured for medical emergencies including emergency evacuation and repatriation.

Recommended vaccinations and other health protection measures vary according to the country you are visiting and where you are travelling from. We recommend you contact your GP/medical practitioner or a travel clinic for current information on vaccinations needed for your destination. You should ensure that you are up to date with vaccines and boosters recommended for your normal life at home, including for example, vaccines required for occupational risk of exposure, lifestyle risks and underlying medical conditions. In addition, additional courses or boosters normally recommended for the countries in this region are:

Peru: Additional vaccinations: Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Not required. Please read the WHO guidance.
Bolivia: Additional vaccinations: Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if entering from a country with risk of yellow fever and if transitting through an airport in one of those countries for more than 12 hours. Please read the WHO guidance.

Malaria: Vaccinations are not available against Malaria, which is a disease transmitted by mosquitoes that can be very serious and sometimes fatal. You should avoid mosquito bites by covering up bare skin with clothing such as long sleeves and long trousers and applying insect repellents to exposed skin. When necessary, sleep under a mosquito net. Mosquitoes are most active during and after sunset. You should consult with your GP/medical practitioner/travel clinic about the most appropriate malaria prophylactic medication to take for the regions you are visiting. In general malaria risk is present throughout the year in rural areas below 2000m. Risk is highest in the department of Loreto in the Amazon. Risk is variable in other areas below 2000m. Risk is low west of the Andes including Lima (with the exception of the district of Piura) and at altitude (including the Inca Trail, Cuzco, Machu Picchu and Lake Titicaca).

Dengue Fever: Unlike the malaria mosquito, which will bite around dawn, dusk and at night, the mosquito that carries dengue fever bites during the day. There are occasional outbreaks in some areas we visit and we therefore advise that you take precautions during the day to avoid being bitten as well as at night. No vaccine is available.

Yellow Fever: This disease is spread by infected mosquitoes that bite during the day. A Yellow Fever Certificate of vacinnation may be required as a condition of entry depending on which country you are arriving from, or that you have travelled or transitted through recently (including connecting flights with stopovers of over 12 hours). You can view this US CDC information about where the virus is present and follow the links to further information detailing

which countries need you to have a Yellow Fever vaccination as part of their entry requirements. Please ensure you have this certificate with you and a photocopy to hand if necessary.

Please inform us of any pre-existing conditions such as diabetes or asthma and any prescription medicine you may be taking. We also need to know about any food allergies or physical disabilities that you may have.

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16 Passports and Visas

Passports should be valid for at least six months after your departure from the country. Please do not bring an almost full or almost expired passport; your passport should have at least 1 blank page for every country you are visiting on your trip. Please bring two photocopies of your passport with you to give to your tour leader at the start of your tour. Visa arrangements are the responsibility of the traveller, and requirements are subject to change by the local authorities.

Peru: Many nationalities (including UK, European, Australian, New Zealand, South Africa, USA) do not need to obtain a visa to enter Peru as long as your stay is for less than 6 months. Other nationalities should check with their local consulate or embassy.

Bolivia: Many nationalities (including UK, Australia, New Zealand, Canada) do not currently need to obtain a visa to enter Bolivia as long as your stay is for less than 3 months. US citizens can obtain a visa on arrival for 360 Bolivianos (approx. US$55) - a photocopy of your passport, a 3cm x 4cm passport photo, and the fee in local currency will be required. South African citizens are recommended to obtain their visa in advance - the fee is 360 Bolivianos. Other nationalities should check with their local consulate. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the appropriate visa to enter Bolivia if one is required.

On arrival you will be given an immigration card. You should keep this safe with your passport as you will need it again when you leave the country (a fine may be payable if you lose it).

If you are flying through the USA en-route to South America then before you travel you will need to obtain either a USA visa or an ESTA (electronic system for travel authorisation) if your country is part of the visa waiver program).

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17 Tipping

Tipping is common practice in Bolivia & Peru, as a sign of appreciation for services provided. You may therefore wish to tip your guide and driver at the end of the tour. You should not feel obliged to tip any particular amount, and should consider your personal budget. We are often asked to provide a guide however, and can suggest that approx. £5 per person per day would be appropriate.

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18 What to take

Luggage: Whatever you're doing in Peru or Bolivia, you'll find that large rigid wheeled suitcases are cumbersome - you may be able to wheel them inside the airport and your hotel, but due to the condition of roads and pavements that's often about it. As most of our tours involve a degree of adventurous activity, we strongly advise you to bring a more practical bag for these i.e. a rucksack or holdall. These are easier for both your porters/ponies (if trekking), and yourself to carry around. Suitcases are OK if your tour does nothing but cultural sightseeing, but please aim to bring small or medium sized ones rather than very large. If you are trekking, or doing a lot of travel throughout the

country, then as little as possible is the basic message. A rucksack or holdall (50-80 litre approx.) for your main luggage, and a daypack for you to use during the day should be plenty. While trekking your ponies will carry your main luggage, leaving you with just a daypack with things you'll need during the day. You can also leave some luggage locked safely in the pre-trek hotel if you wish. We recommend that couples plan to leave one main bag behind, and pool their remaining luggage in their other bag for the ponies to carry.

Luggage limits: Most international airlines allow 20-23kg per person of hold luggage. Domestic flights often have smaller allowances around 15kg. As airline rules vary we recommend that you take no more than 20kg of luggage if your tour just includes international flights, and no more than 15kg if there are any domestic flights included in your itinerary. Please ask us for details if you are unsure. Any excess baggage fees will be your responsibility to cover. Most airlines allow between 5kg and 10kg for hand luggage so we suggest that you take no more than 5kg unless you have confirmed that your airline(s) will allow more than this.

Clothing & Climate: Peru and Bolivia have a climate that ranges widely depending on where and when you visit. Nights will be cold in the deserts and mountains, and the weather may be hot during the day. It can get down to -15C in the Andes, and up to 47C and 90% humidity in the jungles. The rainy season in the Andes is mostly between November and April with heavy downpours once or twice a day with the remainder of the day mostly warm and sunny. You may be lucky and get no rain at all. The dry season runs from April to October and this is when you'll get the best mountain views. Generally expect it to be warm or hot during the day but very cold at night in the mountains. In the deserts in Peru the hottest time of year is between October and May, but the nights can be cold all year round. The Amazon is very hot and humid with regular rains or showers all year round. Overall, you need to pack for all conditions, from cold to hot, and with at least a light raincoat in case of showers or heavier rains.

A large variety of relatively cheap trekking gear is available in Cuzco (fleeces, waterproofs etc.) and buying some here can save you carrying it with you, and support the local economy. However, you should definitely bring your own walking boots.

What to bring:

- Toiletries - Most available to buy on trip
- Sleeping Bag - 4 season bag, (these can be hired for the Inca Trail and in Bolivia, but most people prefer to bring their own) and a sleep sheet for comfort (especially if you plan to hire a sleeping bag)
- Small day-pack or small bag to carry daily items
- Soft rucksack or holdall (NOT a large rigid suitcase)
- Soap, shampoo, toothbrush/paste, antibacterial hand wash, lip balm & moisturiser
- Sun block (35+) and after sun, sun hat & sun glasses
- Tampons/pads (can buy in most places)
- Contraception

Clothes & Personal Effects

- One pair of trainers or boots, plus Sandals/flip flops/jandals/thongs
- Underwear/socks T shirts/shirts Shorts/swimwear
- Jeans/trousers/jog pants/leggings
- Skirt or dress

- Sweat shirt/jumper
- Jacket/fleece & waterproof jacket
- Camera with protective case, spare batteries, film/memory card
- Torch & spare batteries (head torch is best)
- Alarm clock
- Travel adaptor plug/charger (for cameras & mobile phone batteries)
- Money belt
- Towel &/or sarong

Recommended Medical Kit List (especially for longer or more out of the way tours)
We advise you to bring a small personal medical kit for general everyday use, as well as any personal over-the-counter medicines that you may wish to keep with you. Our guides are familiar with the nearest pharmacies, doctors and hospitals throughout the trip if you need to seek medical attention. It will be your own responsibility to carry your medical kit on included excursions and optional activities as some local operators may not have medical kits to hand.

- Antiseptic ointment/Antihistamine cream & tablets
- Nurofen or equivalent pain-killer
- Eye-drops/bath
- Anti-diarrhoea treatment
- A couple of bandages (elasticated & triangular)
- Medication for personal allergies/asthma etc
- Insect repellent containing Deet
- Re-hydration sachets/vitamin tablets
- Assorted plasters
- 1 - 2 Sterile syringes
- Some suitable antibiotics as recommended by your doctor for infected cuts or to treat severe dysentery

Please note that in the winter months (June-August) it can be very cold, especially at altitude, so we would reccommend that you bring extra layers or be prepared to purchase some when you are in Peru & Bolivia.

Cameras and Electrical Equipment
Any easy to use 'point and shoot' or even a smartphone with a good camera will get you some good photos. For more creative and higher standard shots its worth bringing an SLR camera, but do make sure you're familiar with it first. There are internet cafes in many towns and cities where you can download/upload your photos to online storage. However, we suggest you bring several memory cards in case this isn't possible. A padded camera case or bag and zip lock plastic bags are useful to protect your equipment, especially in the sandy deserts. Polarising filters are good for SLRs to prevent over-exposed looking photos. ard to find USB cable - to connect in internet cafes or for downloading We can recommend Clock Tower Cameras for second hand cameras and lenses.
Important: In Peru and Bolivia it is strictkly forbidden to take photos of any military installations or equipment. Border posts, bridgets and anywhere around airports are also sensitive so please avoid taking photos of any of these (or risk having your camera confiscated). We recommend asking first before taking photos of people, and if doing so, please act respectfully and with discretion.

19 Voltage

Peru: Sockets are mainly two round or flat pronged and 220 volts (Type A,B,C).

Bolivia: Sockets are again mainly two round or flat pronged (Type A,C) but the voltage can range from 115, 220 or 230 volts.

Universal adaptors are available in most airport shops if you don’t have one already. Standard European adapters should work fine, though sometimes they may feel a little loose in the sockets. Most hotel rooms have electrical sockets where you can re-charge cameras, phones etc. Hair dryers are sometimes available on request from the hotel reception if not in your room already but cannot be guaranteed.

If you have US appliances (110 volts) you will need a voltage converter as well as a plug adapter.

20 Time

The time in Peru is GMT minus 5 hours.

The time in Bolivia is GMT minus 4 hours.

Daylight saving adjustments are not applied.