

BOLIVIA - HIGHLIGHTS OF BOLIVIA



INTRODUCTION

Discover the highlights of this fascinating country with its thrilling landscapes and ancient Indian culture in a journey that encompasses rich cultural and scenic attractions. Bolivia is a country of extremes from the snow-capped peaks of the Andes to the vast and dazzling salt flats and the remote Altiplano with its volcanoes and lagoons. Breathtaking vistas and vibrant indigenous cultures are brought together in this seven day adventure.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Puno – Island of the Sun

This morning you will be collected from your Puno hotel and transferred by road to Copacabana. Visit the famous Virgen Morena and its church, have a stroll through the town and board the boat that will take you to the Island of the Sun. Enjoy a typical lunch “Aptapi” and then hike for about 45 minutes to the Ecolodge La Estancia. Dinner included this evening.



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DURATION

7 Days

LOCATIONS

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DAY 2: Island of the Sun: Chincana & Challapampa

Embark on a captivating adventure that celebrates the mesmerizing landscapes, rich Incan heritage, and the breathtaking wonders of the Andean mountains and Lake Titicaca. Awaken early to witness the awe-inspiring sunrise, painting the sky over the majestic Andean peaks on the horizon. Journey by boat across the pristine waters of Lake Titicaca to the mystical Chincana ruins, an intricate stone labyrinth believed to have been a sacred complex for Inca priests. Following a breathtaking hike through the rugged terrain, you'll reach Challapampa Bay, where panoramic vistas await. Continue your boat voyage, cruising towards Challa, where the Cultural Museum offers a captivating glimpse into the vibrant tapestry of Incan culture. After lunch, return to the Ecolodge and immerse yourself in the peaceful beauty of this enchanting place. Enjoy a delightful dinner at the lodge, savoring the flavors inspired by the region's rich culinary heritage.



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DAY 3: Island of the Sun & the Moon - Copacabana -La Paz

This morning after breakfast we hike down through the village of Yumani to the Garden and Stairs of the Incas, and take a boat to the Island of the Moon. Here we visit the ruins of Inak Uyu Inca temple, returning by boat to Copacabana (1 ½ hours). Lunch is included at a local restaurant. In the afternoon we travel by private transport to La Paz (3½ hours), travelling alongside the Andes Royal Range and through the spectacular highlands. La Paz has a spectacular setting in a deep bowl surrounded by snow-capped mountains of the Altiplano. It lies in the shadow of the towering 6,438m high Mt. Illimani, always snow-covered and visible from many parts of the city. The city (from the main square) is 3,636 metres above sea level but the neighbouring city of El Alto where La Paz International Airport is located lies at over 4,000 metres. Some of the highlights of La Paz itself include Plaza Murillo, San Francisco Church and the "Witches Market" where vendors sell dried llama foetuses and frogs, dried llama dung, herbs, remedies and other ingredients used in Aymara traditions and rituals. This afternoon's city tour takes you through the street markets rich in handicrafts and weavings and to the Witches Market where locals buy supplies for ritual ceremonies like the Ch'alla and offerings to Pachamama (Mother Earth). Next we visit the colonial section of the city where you will see the San Francisco Church, Gold Museum and Murillo Square. You will also visit the "Mirador de Killi" viewpoint and the outdoor replica of Tiwanaku Temple. The tour then passes through the modern, affluent residential area of the city and heads out to visit the Valley of the Moon, where a clay mountain has been impressively shaped by erosion resulting in a formation that resembles the face of the moon. There is the option to ride on the "Teleferico" cable car for great views of La Paz. At the end of the tour you will be returned to your hotel.



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DAY 4: La Paz – Uyuni Salt Flats - Tahua

You will be collected from your hotel and transferred to the airport for your morning flight to Uyuni, with beautiful views of the city of La Paz as you ascend to El Alto. On arrival into Uyuni, you will be met and transferred to Uyuni village. Uyuni, founded in 1889 by Bolivian president Aniceto Arce, is still an important military base. It lies in south-western Bolivia, 3,670 metres above sea level and situated on the edge of the Salar de Uyuni, the largest salt flat in the world. The Salar de Uyuni covers over 10,000 square kilometres of the Bolivian Altiplano and is fringed by the mountains of the Andes. Beneath it lies the world's largest lithium reserve estimated to be about 100 million tons and accounting for around 70% of the world's lithium reserves. The salt in the salt flats is over 120 metres deep. The area is remote, arid and cold, stark, yet stunning, boasting extraordinary beauty and a silence that is captivating. From here you will start to explore the vast Salar de Uyuni, a unique natural wonder. You will first visit Colchani village, to observe the methods of salt extraction and salt processing. The tour then continues to Incahuasi Island (better known as Fish Island) - an oasis with a unique and isolated ecosystem that is populated by giant columnar cacti up to 10 metres high, some over 100 years old. We continue north to see the mummies buried in caves near the village of Coquesa in the foothills of the Thunupa volcano. We then head west to Tahua to our hotel for the night, ready to enjoy a great sunset. Lunch and dinner are included today.



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DAY 5: Tahua to Colchani

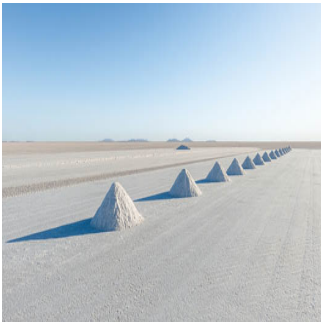
Today see us exploring further with a scenic drive and then a hike to the natural viewpoint of Chillima and the ruins of Pucara, where there are fantastic views of the Uyuni Salt Flats and the surroundings. We then descend back onto the Salt Flats (3 hours) before continuing southeast towards Colchani where we overnight in a salt hotel. Lunch and dinner are included today.



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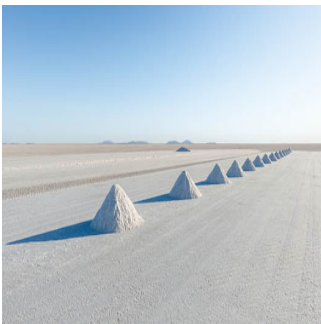
DAY 6: Colchani - Uyuni - La Paz

This morning after breakfast you will be transferred to Uyuni airport for your flight to La Paz. .



DAY 7: Transfer to airport for onward destination

You will be collected from your hotel at the appropriate time and transferred to the airport for your onward flight.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Hotels. Guesthouse in Jirira.
Inclusions	Private airport transfers Accommodation with breakfast daily Sightseeing with local English-speaking guide Other meals where stated Exclusions International flights Visa and reciprocity fees (if applicable) Travel insurance Beverages Personal expenses Gratuities for guides/drivers Any items not mentioned as included Airport taxes
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request, contact us for more details.

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Notes

All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice.
This is a Tailor-Made itinerary which can be customised to create your own unique journey. Contact us to discuss your travel plans.

Price Dependent upon

Season and availability.

SUSTAINABILITY

Being environmentally accountable is a crucial part of our organisation. Chimu is currently striving towards using less paper, taking several initiatives to do so and tracking our progress along the way. Our goal: A paperless organisation. For this reason, all information given to you will be sent electronically. We encourage those who choose to travel with us to support our aspirations and actions and ask that you reconsider printing out documentation. To view these documents, you can download them to your iPad or portable computer before and during your trip.

Chimu is passionate and dedicated to sustainability measures and understands the crucial part sustainability plays within the tourism industry.

We use local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprint. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you're visiting. Our guides are all highly qualified (most with university degrees) or equip with many years of experience and are paid above the standard wage. Whether it be our knowledgeable local guides, locally produced meals or the transport on tour, we do not use imported goods when local products are available. We aim to minimise our impact on the environment and give as much back as possible to the communities we work in.

While visiting the many national parks, heritage sites, museums and landmarks our travellers are encouraged to explore remain culturally aware and sensitive. We further encourage you to buy appropriate souvenirs and discourage the buying of anything wrongfully made or taken from the environment i.e. shells and endangered species products. Information on how you can be environmentally conscious, and travel responsibly will be made available in our Travellers Guides and provided during your travels by guides and staff.

For more information on our sustainability policies, including how we are striving towards being a paperless organisation, click [HERE](#)

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