

BOLIVIA - LA PAZ & UYUNI SALT FLATS



INTRODUCTION

Travel by bus and train from La Paz, via Oruro across spectacular landscapes to Uyuni on the edge of the Salar de Uyuni, the largest salt lake in the world. The salt flats are stark yet stunningly beautiful, dazzling as they extend into the distance with a silence that is captivating and a stillness that is almost eerie. Visit âIsla Incahuasiâ (Fish Island) with its volcanic rocks and giant towering cacti and make your visit to this awe-inspiring landscape even more unforgettable with an overnight stay in a salt hotel.

ITINERARY

TRIP CODE

BOTSLPUS

DEPARTURE

Weekly on Tuesdays
Wednesdays Fridays Sundays

DURATION

3 Days

LOCATIONS

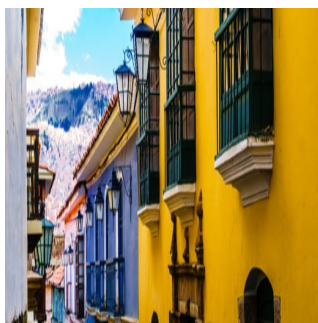
Bolivia



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DAY 1: La Paz - Oruro - Uyuni

Transfer to the bus station in La Paz to take the regular bus to Oruro. The journey takes 3 ½ hours and heads south west from La Paz through spectacular highland landscapes. In Oruro you have lunch in a local restaurant and transfer to the train station to catch the train to Uyuni (6-7 hours), crossing a large portion of the highlands with impressive views of the area. The train runs on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. On arrival into Uyuni you will be transferred to your hotel. 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.



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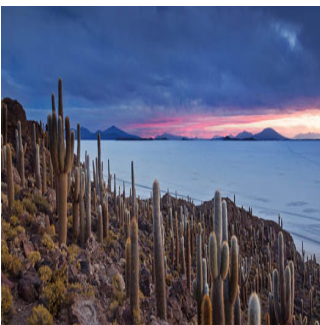
DAY 2: Uyuni Salt Flats

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. Today we depart across the Great Salt Flats to 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 our journey, travelling north to visit the pre-Columbian Pucara de Ayque fort and the nearby chullpares on the foothills of Thunupa volcano, then east to our hotel near Colchani (2 hours). A picnic lunch and dinner are included today.



DAY 3: Uyuni Salt Flats - La Paz

After breakfast at the hotel we visit the pre-Columbian Pucara de Ayque fort and the nearby chullpares on the foothills of Thunupa volcano. We have a picnic lunch and later we head back to Uyuni in time to catch the public bus from Uyuni to La Paz. A light dinner is included.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation

Standard

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Inclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services and meals included as mentioned in the itinerary • English speaking guide • All entrances fees • Private Service with Regular bus from La Paz to Oruro and Uyuni to La Paz • Accommodation as mentioned in the itinerary
	NOT INCLUDED: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anything not listed in the itinerary • Air Tickets • Tips • Airport taxes
Difficulty Rating	3 (High altitude, unsealed roads and basic accommodation)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request
Notes	<p>We would recommend packing clothing suitable for a mountain environment, including sun protection and sunglasses. A sleeping bag is necessary. Weather at high altitude can change very quickly and the sun reflected off the Salt Lake is particularly strong. A private version of this tour with an English-speaking guide can be organized.</p> <p>*** During the rainy season (nov/mar) the visit to Uyuni salt lake & Isla Pescado will be possible only if weather conditions permit it.</p>
Price Dependent upon	Season and availability

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SUSTAINABILITY

Chimu Adventures undertakes a number of sustainability measures within its operations including:

- 1) Only using local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprints. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you’re visiting.
- 2) Where possible, using locally owned and operated boutique hotels to maximise the return to the local community.
- 3) Chimu’s “Pass it on” programme has provided funding to hundreds of local community projects in Latin America. Our aim is to empower local communities, helping them to develop their own infrastructure for the future. Since 2006, we have been working with Kiva (a well-known Non-Governmental Organisation), providing hundreds of loans to

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local businesses all over South America.

4) In our pre tour information we provide a range of tips and advice on how to minimise your impact on both local environments and communities.

5) Chimu Adventures’ offices also take a number of sustainability measures including carbon offsets for company vehicles and most staff travel. Chimu Adventure’s internal processes are also structures to create a paperless office and to reduce waste. There are also internal programmes to help staff minimise their carbon footprint such as our staff bike purchase assistance plan which encourages office staff to commute to work via bicycle. Currently almost half of our office based staff commute to work via bicycle.

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