


SOUTH AMERICA - LA PAZ TO CUSCO



TRIP CODE
MCTSLTC
DURATION
8 Days
LOCATIONS
Bolivia, Peru


INTRODUCTION

Choose this Tailor-Made itinerary or customise to create your own unique journey.
 Departs daily to suit your travel plans. Price based on Standard accommodation.

This spectacular eight day itinerary of South America's high mountain region starts in Bolivia and ends in Peru, taking in both sides of Lake Titicaca along the way. See vibrant locals, incredible scenery and remnants of the Inca culture that has changed very little in the past 500 years. Highlights include La Paz - one of the world's highest cities in a spectacular mountain setting; Lake Titicaca - the world's highest navigable lake lying on the border of Peru and Bolivia and Cusco, the ancient capital of the Inca empire.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrival transfer in La Paz

On arrival, please make your way through to the Arrivals Hall where our representative will be waiting for you to transfer you to your hotel. He/she will be holding a sign with your name on it. Please note this service is with a driver only. El Alto airport is the highest International airport in the world at 4,080 metres above sea level.



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DAY 1: La Paz

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 fetuses and frogs, dried llama dung, herbs, remedies and other ingredients used in Aymara traditions and rituals.



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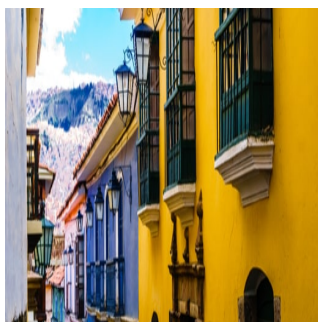
DAY 2: La Paz City Tour & Moon Valley (Full Day)

Today you will discover the fascinating city of La Paz, on a full day city tour with lunch included in a local restaurant. The tour takes you through the Gold, Murillo and Costumbrista Museums and to the "Mirador de Killi Killi" viewpoint, offering magnificent views over La Paz. You will also visit various street markets including a traditional market where agricultural products from the highlands, such as quinoa, tunta, chuño (dehydrated potato) and oca (sweet tuber) are sold and the Witches Market, where locals buy supplies for ritual ceremonies like the Ch'alla and offerings to Pachamama (Mother Earth). We take the "Teleférico" cable car that gives an excellent and beautiful view of La Paz. The tour then passes through the modern, affluent residential area of the city on the way to 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. At the end of the tour you will be returned to your hotel.



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

This morning you will be collected from your hotel for your road journey to Lake Titicaca. Travel north through the highlands and parallel to the Andes Royal Range to Copacabana, a small town on the shores of Lake Titicaca. Visit the famous Virgen Morena and its church and have a stroll through the town. Transfer to the pier to board the boat that will take you to the Island of the Sun. Enjoy a typical lunch "Aptapi" and hike for about 45 minutes to the Ecolodge La Estancia. Dinner included this evening.



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DAY 4: La Chinkana - Island of the Sun

We recommend that you get up early to see the sunrise. This morning after breakfast, we hike down through Yumani visiting the Inca stairs and the Water of the Eternal Youth. We then head north by boat for 1 hour to visit Chincana ruins and the Sacred Rock. We take a short 45 minute hike to Challapampa and then return to Ecolodge La Estancia, with an optional 2 ½ hour hike. Lunch is taken en route. The afternoon is free to enjoy the peace and beauty of this mystical place, with dinner included at the lodge.



DAY 5: Island of the Sun & Moon - Copacabana - Puno

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 Ñak Uyu Inca temple, returning by boat to Copacabana (1 ½ hours). Lunch is included at a local restaurant. From Copacabana you will be taken by private transport to Puno with wonderful views of Lake Titikaka along the way (3 hours). Puno lies on the shores of Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world. It is the largest city in the Southern Altiplano and an important agricultural and livestock (llamas and alpaca) region. It sits at an altitude of over 3,800 metres and is a picturesque hillside city and a melting pot of the Aymara and Quechua culture.



DAY 5: Arrival transfer in Puno

On arrival at Puno bus or train station, you will be met by a representative who will be holding a sign with your name on it, to transfer you to your hotel. Should you have trouble locating him/her, please refer to the front of your itinerary for emergency contact details.



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DAY 5: Puno

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DAY 6: Titicaca Uncover by Speed Boat

Early this morning you will be collected from your hotel and transferred to the port to board a fully equipped speedboat with on board service to visit various islands on Lake Titicaca. First stop is Taquile Island where you will explore a scenic and less touristy area. Enjoy time on a pristine sandy beach to relax and feel the serenity of Lake Titicaca. We then hike along a pre-Inca trail with spectacular landscapes of the island, visiting families of weavers to learn about their textile art and symbolism. In 2005, "Taquile and its Textile Art" were proclaimed "Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity" by UNESCO. After three hours on Taquile, board the speedboat for a short journey to the community of Santa Maria-Llachon, on the tip of the Capachica Peninsula. This is a picturesque off the beaten track destination. We are welcomed by the small Quechua speaking community and introduced to an intensive cultural experience, observing the traditions of the community and participating in an ancient ceremony to learn about their magical world. Experience the preparation of "Pachamanca", a traditional way of cooking meat, fish and potatoes using underground ovens, and one of the main dishes of Peruvian cuisine. Enjoy these delicacies in a small, but scenic restaurant (included in tour price). For the more adventurous there is an optional kayak along the coast of Llachon. After lunch we leave Santa Maria and arrive at a remote area of the National Reserve of Lake Titicaca to explore Uros Ccapi. These are considered to be the last authentic floating islands, less commercial and little visited. The Uros are descendants of one of the oldest cultures in South America. There are optional tours in reed boats before we depart back to Puno. On arrival at the port, you will be transferred to your hotel. Please note this is small group tour. Please note there is a minimum number of passengers requested to operate this tour from December to March, if the required number of passengers is not reached we will offer you a similar alternative. Please also note that between the months of January and March the ceremony of "Pachamama" will be subject to weather conditions.

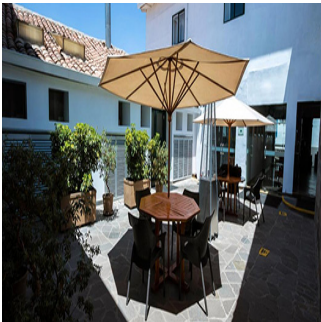


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DAY 7: Transfer from Puno hotel to bus or train station

This morning, you will be collected from your hotel and transferred to either the bus or train station for your journey from Puno to Cusco.



DAY 7: Puno to Cusco

The spectacular journey from Puno to Cusco takes you across the Altiplano and you will travel accompanied by an English-speaking guide. The drive takes you through sleepy Andean villages and past spectacular snowcapped mountains, sheer cliffs and rampaging rivers. Stops along the way include the atmospheric towns of Pucara and Andahuaylillas and the pre-Inca ruin of Raqchi. Lunch is included and you will arrive in the famous city of Cusco in the early evening. The journey will take approximately 10 hours.



DAY 7: Arrival transfer in Cusco

On arrival at Cusco bus or train station, you will be met by a representative who will be holding a sign with your name on it, to transfer you to your hotel.



DAY 7: Cusco

Cusco, set at an altitude of 3,400 metres in the Peruvian Andes, was once the capital of the Inca Empire. It is known for its Spanish colonial architecture and Incan remains. Narrow, cobble-stoned streets lined by Inca walls stretch out from the main plaza in every direction. Many of the colonial buildings were built on top of Incan foundations and the stonework is unparalleled in its precision and beauty.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Hotels
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	2.5 (High altitude and light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request, contact us for more details.
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.

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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

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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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