



Adventure tours that delve deeper

The Classic Bolivia Trip

TRIP LENGTH: 11 days
STARTS: Sucre
ENDS: La Paz

Our flagship Bolivia itinerary includes gracious colonial cities, surreal salt desert, hot springs, boiling mud, pink flamingos, dinosaurs, witches, and more!

Dive deep into South American history in beautiful Sucre, weird and wonderful La Paz, and the silver mines of Potosí, plus spend three days traversing the surreal salt desert of Uyuni.

Day 1 Historic Sucre, the Bolivian Capital

Your guide will meet you at 1pm and take you for a meal at one of our favorite local restaurants, then spend the afternoon sharing Sucre with you - one of the most historically significant places in the Americas, as well as Bolivia's most beautiful city.

Founded in 1538, the scene of the very beginning of the wars for Latin American independence from Spain in 1809, and declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1991, Sucre oozes culture and history.

We'll explore the area around Parque Bolivar, getting a feel for Sucre's serene and elegant vibe, and sample Chocolates Para Ti - Bolivia's most famous chocolates and a beloved national institution.

Accommodation: Comfortable four-star accommodation in Sucre

Meals: Lunch and dinner included

Day 2 Walk with dinosaurs

Cal Orck'o, the world's greatest dinosaur footprint site, discovered in a cement quarry in 1994, is 2.5 miles (4km) outside Sucre, and we'll head out here this morning to see thousands of footprints from 10 different species' of the Cretaceous period, 65 million years ago.

This being South America, the site is marked by a theme park celebrating all things paleontological, complete with life-sized dinosaur statues and roaring sounds. Cal Orck'o truly has something for everyone!

We'll spend the afternoon in historic Sucre, immersed in history, scenery, and colonial elegance, exploring picturesque squares and streets, the local market, a monastery and a *mirador* (lookout), and maybe even a museum or two.

Accommodation: Comfortable four-star accommodation in Sucre

Meals: All meals included

Day 3 Bolivia's Eccentric Pink Castle

This morning, we'll check out la Glorieta, an eccentric pink castle whose features include a Russian minaret and a replica of Big Ben, constructed in the 1890s by the Prince and Princess of Glorieta, the only royalty in Bolivia's history.

Then we'll drive a scenic 56 miles (90km) to Potosí, gaining 9,200 feet (2,810m) in altitude along the way. By the time we arrive to Potosí - an oasis of well-preserved, elegant colonial architecture on a barren plateau in the freezing, windswept altiplano - we're at 13,420 feet (4,090m) above sea level.

In Potosí we'll have time to visit the Casa de la Moneda, once Bolivia's mint, where most of the silver shipped through the Spanish Main came from, and now Bolivia's most famous and beloved museum.

Accommodation: Comfortable accommodation in Potosí

Meals: All meals included

Day 4 Silver and salt!

Potosí sits beneath, and indeed owes its existence to, Cerro Rico - a hill that's pretty much made of silver. It produced most of the world's silver for more than a century in the time of the Spanish conquest. Potosí was then, briefly, one of the richest cities in the world.

The miners of Potosí lead one of the hardest lives imaginable, exposed to cold, danger of many different kinds, and incredibly hard work for incredibly long shifts, all for minimal gain - very few miners rise out of poverty. This morning we take a tour of a local mine with a local miner as our guide. This experience will leave you with a better understanding of the way Europe has extracted wealth from South America for the last 500 years, and how this continues to impact individuals today.

Then we'll drive to Uyuni, where we'll spend the night on the edge of the incredible Uyuni Salt Desert.

Accommodation: Palacio de Sal, Colchani

Meals: All meals included

Itineraries in the Salar vary with the seasons - some sights are at their best in the rainy season, and others are inaccessible! This is a sample itinerary - talk to us about the best program for the time of year you are traveling.

Day 5 Salar de Uyuni - Bolivia's famous salt desert

We'll start with the industrial side of the salt desert - the train cemetery, where we can see the remains of 19th and 20th century steam locomotives, then Colchani, a tiny community where 25,000 tonnes of salt are processed each year for household consumption in Bolivia and Brazil.

The famous surreal scenery of the Salar begins in earnest at our next stop, Incahuasi Island (known as Fish Island), a weird, fuzzy yet spiky outcrop in the sea of white.

Accommodation: Palacio de Sal, Colchani

Meals: All meals included

Day 6 Colored lakes and flamingos

Today we'll see lakes of different colors, crazy rock formations, an active volcano and more, all within the indescribable, other-worldly setting of the mind-bendingly flat, blindingly-white salt desert itself, and populated by llamas, flamingos, vicunas, and foxes. The Salar has to be seen to be believed.

Accommodation: Basic Accommodation in the Salt Flats

Meals: All meals included

Day 7 Rock formations and water features

Our day starts with sunrise over geysers and a dip in a natural hot spring. Then we'll pass through the Valle de Rocas, where we'll see the weirdest rock formations yet, and the mining town of San Cristobal with its elaborate stone church, on our way back to Uyuni where we'll spend our last evening at altitude, toasting the spectacle of sunset over the Salar.

Accommodation: Palacio de Sal, Colchani

Meals: All meals included

Day 8 Welcome to weird and wonderful La Paz!

We'll take a quick flight to La Paz, then spend the day exploring its crazy corners and grueling gradients, and marvelling at the vistas of buildings clinging to the canyon sides. La Paz is a chaotic carnival of color and noise, where indigenous, colonial and modern worlds meet.

We'll share the streets with bowler-hatted ladies and traffic zebras as we wander a labyrinth of street markets, palaces, churches, the world's chilliest jail, backwards clocks and bullet-pocked plazas. La Paz is like nowhere else on Earth!

Accommodation: Comfortable four-star accommodation in La Paz

Meals: All meals included

Day 9 Lunar landscape and breathtaking heights

Today we'll head for the hills above La Paz, starting with Valle de la Luna, a surreal lunar landscape where a clay mountain has eroded away to leave only weird clay spires clinging to the precipitous mountainside.

Later we'll take a scenic ride on the teleférico (cable car) to El Alto, a more indigenous than Spanish area, where we'll experience firsthand the jolting, joyous clash and blend of ancient and modern that is South America's greatest attraction for many (including Katy!).

Accommodation: Comfortable four-star accommodation in La Paz

Meals: All meals included

Day 10 Bike down to the high jungle

The 'death road' from La Paz to Yungas is one of the most dangerous in the world for drivers, and one of the greatest treats in the world for cyclists, due to its steady descent and stunning views. If you enjoy biking, you will love this day, which we will spend dropping 10,000 feet (3,000m) altitude in just a few hours, followed by a yummy lunch and swim in Coroico in the high jungle, before driving back to La Paz in the afternoon.

Accommodation: Comfortable four-star accommodation in La Paz

Meals: All meals included

Day 11 Departure Day

You can book onward flights from La Paz for any time today you like, and we'll get you to the airport on time. If you're keen to explore more of Bolivia, let us know, we're here to help!

Thank you for exploring Bolivia with us – *hasta la próxima!*

Meals: Breakfast included

What's included

- All accommodation (*based on twin-share. Single supplement available for US\$1000*)
- All ground transportation, including airport transfers at start and end of trip
- Flight from Uyuni to La Paz
- All attractions and activities specified in itinerary
- Dedicated guide
- All meals, as specified in the itinerary
- Clean, safe drinking water throughout the trip

What's not included

- Alcoholic beverages
- Laundry and room service
- Tips for guides and drivers

Accommodations

Accommodations on our Bolivia itineraries are our favorites in each town. In La Paz, Potosi and Sucre, we stay in clean, comfortable hotels of four-star standard. We spend one night in two-star level accommodation, which is the best available in the heart of the remote, bizarre Salar. In the Salar de Uyuni, we stay three nights in fascinating boutique accommodations of four-star standard, thoughtfully designed to complement and showcase the unusual materials of the region.

As on all of our trips, we can customize accommodations to suit your style and budget. Wanting to keep it simple or glam it up? Let us know and we can adjust to three-star or five-star level accommodations to make your trip uniquely yours!