



Adventure tours that delve deeper

Bolivia in Style

TRIP LENGTH: Eight days

STARTS: La Paz

ENDS: Uyuni

One of the charms of Bolivia is its ruggedness - outside of Bolivia's two premier destinations, La Paz and the Salar de Uyuni, luxury accommodations aren't available. On this trip you'll stay in a five-star hotel in La Paz, and boutique, unique hotels in the Salar. Talk to us about the many, slightly less luxurious ways we have to see more of Bolivia - it's worth it!

Day 1 Welcome to Bolivia!

Whatever time of day you land today, your guide will meet you, take you to your five-star accommodation, and assist with anything you need to get you set up for your time in Bolivia.

Take time to settle in, rest, and if you like, head out and explore - just please remember to take your time walking La Paz's steep streets, avoid alcohol, and drink a lot - La Paz is one of the highest cities in the world (and the highest capital!) and you need to adjust to the 12,000 foot (3,625m) altitude.

Accommodation: Five-star hotel in La Paz

Day 2 Downtown La Paz

Feeling breathless? It's not just the altitude! La Paz is a trip - a crazy blend of ancient and modern, Spanish and indigenous, where high rises butt up against high altitude, and psychedelic architecture meets its musical match in spicy Bolivian jazz fusion.

Today we'll explore the charming cafes, murals, museums, historic plazas and colonial buildings of the old town. We'll also sniff out the witches' market with its fragrant herbs, aromatic incenses and potent potions, navigate the labyrinthine palaces, churches, and street markets, and perhaps - depending on the season - sample rare Bolivian fruits and vegetables saved from extinction by local restaurateurs.

Accommodation: Five-star hotel in La Paz

Meals: All meals included

Day 3 To the moon and the heights

Valle de la Luna is only six miles (10km) (all uphill!) from downtown La Paz, but it might as well be on the moon – hence the name. The Valley of the Moon features other-worldly clay formations in a mesmerizing desert landscape, a feast for the eyes.

In the afternoon, we'll jump aboard a cable car and head to El Alto, home to the candy-colored over-the-top buildings that have made Freddy Mamani Bolivia's most famous architect. These futuristic mansions, known as cholets, are symbols of indigenous pride.

There's time for a massage in the hotel spa this afternoon, before we head out to celebrate our last evening in the world's highest capital city. We'll dine in style at one of the restaurants that have put South American cuisines on the global map. It could be a vegan fine-diner or a carnivore's delight, but you can be sure of experiencing a taste of Bolivia's unique pantry, sourced from the rainforest, the highlands and the desert.

Accommodation: Five-star hotel in La Paz

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 sometimes inaccessible! This is a sample itinerary - we will confirm the best program for the time of year you are traveling.

Day 4 To the Salar!

Today we'll fly from La Paz to Uyuni - it's only a one-hour flight depending on flight schedules (which change often), we'll have time to spend in La Paz, Uyuni, or both! In La Paz, your guide will know your interests by now and will be there to make the best of your time in the bewitching Andean capital.

Any time we have in Uyuni we might just spend strolling the town, which feels as you'd imagine a tiny desert outpost in the depths of Bolivia would - like you've fallen off the edge of the known world. Or we can check out the amazingly well-preserved (due to being buried in salt!) mummies of ancient kings in the Kawsay Wasi museum, or head out to Pulacayo to visit a train cemetery and a haunted house!

After dark, the incredibly starry night skies of the Salar are yours to explore with a telescope.

Accommodation: Hotel Palacio de Sal, Colchani

Meals: All meals included

Day 5 Trains, rocks, and lakes

This morning we'll visit Uyuni's famous train cemetery, where the remnants of a once-proud rail empire quietly crumble into the desert. Then we'll check out massive rocks which erosion has caused to take on truly unbelievable shapes, in the *Valle de las Rocas* and *Italia Perdida*.

We'll also visit lakes, cave paintings, and a necropolis. For an apparently achingly empty environment, the Salar has a lot to see!

Accommodation: Hotel Mallku Cueva, Villamar

Meals: All meals included

Day 6 Boiling mud and stinking lake!

Pink Laguna Colorada is a sight to see in itself, and the thousands of pink flamingos who hang out here make it utterly unforgettable (as Katy can attest, having first beheld it in 1996, and still smiling about it!).

Our next stop, Sol de Mañana, is just as spectacular in a totally different way - it's a geothermal area where we can walk freely between boiling pools of mud and geysers of steam that shoot up to 50 feet (15m) in the air!

Laguna Hedionda is as beautiful as it is stinky, home to pink and white flamingos, ducks and geese, llamas and alpacas, and with a background of snow-capped peaks. The Siloli desert, and the most amazing rock formation yet, the Stone Tree, are also on our agenda today.

This evening, a massage awaits you in the spa at Hotel Palacio de Sal.

Accommodation: Hotel Palacio de Sal, Colchani

Meals: All meals included

Day 7 Fish island, photos and tasty treats

This morning we'll see how people have carved a living out of this desert at Colchani's little salt processing plant. Next stop is Incahuasi (aka Fish Island, though it's hard to see why), a cactus-covered island that rears suddenly out of the Salar and is one of its most iconic sights.

We'll have a special lunch of *apthapi*, a beloved, traditional, quintessentially Andean celebration meal.

In the afternoon we'll immortalize our time here, taking perspective-defying photos of each other against the most deceptive backgrounds of the Salar.

And then we'll take a seat at the edge of a lake, with a glass of wine and a round of tapas, to raise a toast to our final sunset together.

Accommodation: Hotel Palacio de Sal, Colchani

Meals: All meals included

Day 8 Farewell, Bolivia

We'll see you to the airport to take your flight, and be delighted to help you in any way we can to continue exploring South America. Thank you for traveling with us - *hasta luego!*

Meals: Breakfast included

What's included

- All accommodation (*based on twin-share. Single supplement available for US\$1600*)
- All transportation, including airport transfers at start and end of trip
- Flight from La Paz to Uyuni
- All attractions and activities specified in itinerary, including two massages
- Dedicated Aspiring Adventures 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

In La Paz we'll stay in a five-star hotel. In the Salar we'll stay in boutique accommodations inspired by - and indeed, constructed from! - unique local materials, such as the iconic, four-star Palacio de Sal, made out of salt, and high three-star level Mallku Cueva, literally carved out of a rockface. These are captivating hotels, and the best this part of the world has to offer, and are an experience in themselves.