



# *Bolivia: Splendor of the Andes*

July 17 – 30, 2023



If ever a country had a soul, that country is Bolivia. It's a place like no other: unabashed, unpretentious, proud of its uniqueness. As the world charges at lightning speed toward global homogeneity, Bolivia remains singular and enigmatic. A good deal of its individuality can be attributed to its isolation, as South America's most remote country. This is a dream trip for anyone captivated by stunning landscapes, historical richness, vibrant folkloric music & dance, and stalwart ethnic groups that have maintained their traditions intact for centuries. Discover the cultural treasures of Sucre, the storied history of Potosí, the geological splendors of the Andes Mountains & Uyuni Salt Flats, the enchantment of Lake Titicaca, and the wonders of La Paz. Please join us on a very special journey to this timeless destination.

## **Tour Highlights**

- Sucre, a charming colonial town and cradle of Bolivian independence
- Potosí, an intriguing, once grand mining city of wealth, splendor, tyranny & oppression
- Uyuni, the world's largest salt flat, its petrified coral island, and all their wonders of nature
- Lake Titicaca, birthplace of Inca civilization
- La Paz, the city that touches the clouds
- Tiwanaku, monument to a lost civilization and seat of untold mystery
- Imposing landscapes of the majestic Andes mountains

## **Tour price per person, based on double occupancy**

8 - 9 participants: US\$5,800

10 - 11 participants: US\$5,500

12 + participants: US\$5,200

single supplement: US\$ 700



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## **Tour Price**

The tour price is based on a minimum of 8 participants. It **includes** 14 nights of boutique and deluxe hotel accommodations (including July 16, due to early morning arrival on June 17), all meals from breakfast on July 17 through breakfast on July 30, domestic ground and air transportation, airport transfers, admission fees, gratuities, and the services of a tour director and bilingual guide. It **does not include** international airfare, visa on arrival for U.S. citizens and alcoholic beverages.

## **Deposit and Payment Terms**

A \$500 deposit is required to reserve a place on the tour. The balance is due 90 days prior to departure. All payments are fully refundable before April 17, 2023.

## **Flights**

You must book and pay for your own international flights to Santa Cruz and from La Paz. Most flights arrive in Santa Cruz between 1:00 and 3:00 am. The tour price includes a hotel room on July 16, to accommodate immediate check-in for early arrival on July 17.

## **Altitude**

Our destination cities lie at altitudes ranging from 8,500 to 13,000 feet. If this is a concern, you should seek medical advice before signing up for the tour.

## **Passport & Visa Requirements**

A passport with 6 months validity is required to enter Bolivia. A visa-on-arrival is required for U.S. citizens only. The fee varies from \$50 - \$150. Application instructions will be provided 3 months prior to departure.

## **Tour Director**

Debbie Jefkin's love affair with Bolivia began as an exchange student. The experience left an indelible mark on her life. During that year she was introduced to fascinating ethnic groups; learned to speak Spanish & dance the *queca*; acquired a taste for *chuño*, *llajua picante* & *salteñas*; and discovered her own joy of discovery. And so it was that Bolivia captured her heart, kept her in its grip, and after all these years, keeps calling her back.

## **Preserving the Bolivian Culture**

Much of the world has been conditioned by tourists to beg for money, candy, pens, toys, lipstick and trinkets. This belittles the people, erodes the local culture, perpetuates a negative stereotype of patronizing foreigners, and creates reliance on begging. It also encourages parents to exploit their children by sending them out to beg from tourists instead of to school. In order to preserve the culture and dignity of the Bolivian people, Uncommon Journeys enforces a strict policy against handouts. We are determined that our presence will not endanger the gracious Bolivian way of life. If you feel it would be difficult to comply with our policy, you should reconsider before signing up for the tour. On the other hand, if you share our philosophy of sustainable tourism and our commitment to preserving this gentle culture and dignified way of life, we look forward to sharing our love of Bolivia and the trip of a lifetime with you.

## **Waiver of Liability**

Uncommon Journeys, LLC assumes no responsibility for accidents or injury to participants. You will be required to read, accept and sign an agreement that releases Uncommon Journeys, LLC from any responsibility of liability.





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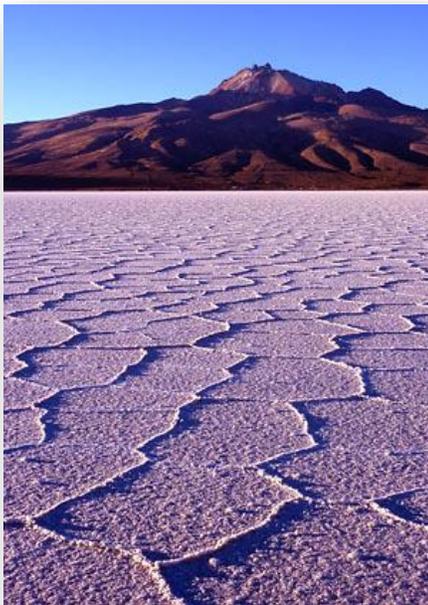
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**Day 1 | Monday, July 17 | Arrival in Santa Cruz**  
Spend the day at leisure, resting up after your journey.

**Day 2 | Tuesday, July 18 | Santa Cruz → Sucre**  
Our flight takes us to the charming colonial town of Sucre, cradle of Bolivian independence.

**Day 3 | Wednesday, July 19 | Sucre**  
Today's highlights include San Francisco Church, La Recoleta, Casa de la Libertad and the ethnographic & textile museum.

**Day 4 | Thursday, July 20 | Sucre → Potosí**  
Drive 3 hours to Potosí, quite possibly the most intriguing place we've ever been. At 13,386 feet, it is the world's highest city, and home of the world's most prolific silver mine. The history of this once grand colonial city is a paradox of wealth, splendor, tyranny & oppression.



**Day 5 | Friday, July 21 | Potosí**  
La Casa Real de la Moneda was built in the 1700's to mint colonial coins. Santa Teresa Carmelite Convent provides a haunting glimpse into the life of Bolivian women under Spanish colonial rule.

**Day 6 | Saturday, July 22 | Potosí → Uyuni Salt Flat**  
A 3-hour drive takes us to Uyuni. Once a bustling railway and mining distribution hub, is now home to a "train graveyard." It's the ultimate fantasy for hobos and dreamers, where rusted steam locomotives have been abandoned, shunted aside and left to the mercy of the elements. We continue to our hotel, constructed mostly from salt.

**Day 7 | Sunday, July 23 | Potosí → Uyuni Salt Flat**  
Uyuni is the largest salt flat in the world, attesting to the lake that existed 40,000 years ago. It has been aptly described as "an enchanting,

breathtaking, blissfully beautiful, vibrant, awesome, eerie force of nature." Today's highlight is the island of Inkawasi, a surreal landscape of cacti and petrified coral. You must see it to believe it! Then again, we've seen it and we still don't believe it!

**Day 8 | Monday, July 24 | Uyuni Salt Flat → Oruro**  
We drive 4 hours to Oruro for the night.





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## Day 9 | Tuesday, July 25 | Oruro → Copacabana (Lake Titicaca)

Drive 4 hours to Copacabana, on the shore of stunning Lake Titicaca. This is the world's highest navigable lake and birthplace of Inca civilization.

## Day 10 | Wednesday, July 26 | Copacabana (Lake Titicaca)

Our private boat takes us to Isla del Sol and the ruins of the Pilko Kaina Inca Palace. Feast your eyes on the breathtaking view and your tummy with a traditional Andean lunch.

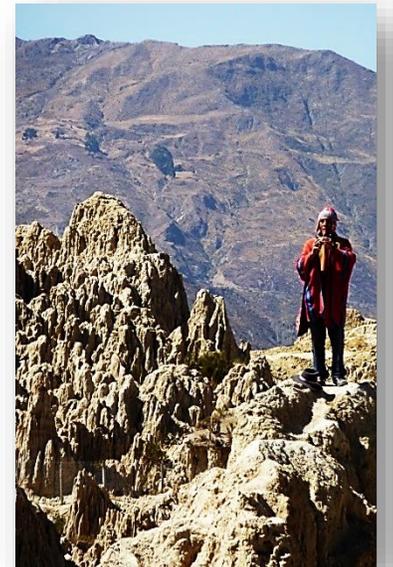


## Day 11 | Thursday, July 27 | Copacabana → Tiwanaku → La Paz

The Tiwanaku ruins are a monument to a lost civilization, and the seat of untold mystery. Hallmarks of their highly advanced society included architectural & artistic masterpieces, ceramics, gilded ornamentation, a sophisticated network of roads & canals, and agricultural terraces & irrigation. We continue to La Paz, "the city that touches the clouds." It lies at the bottom of a funnel, surrounded by the *altiplano*, and it is chock-full of quirky beauty and surprises.

## Day 12 | Friday, July 28 | La Paz

Our city tour includes a cable car ride that lets us soar to heights offering spectacular panoramic views of snow-capped mountains and hillside neighborhoods. We'll also visit the vibrant markets of Sagárnaga Street, Valle de la Luna and much more.



## Day 13 | Saturday, July 29 | La Paz

The *entrada universitaria* parade is a unique opportunity to experience Bolivia's spirited folklore dances, traditional music and spectacular costumes.



## Day 14 | Sunday, July 30 | Departure