



Bolivia: Splendor of the Andes

July 14 – 28, 2024



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, the 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\$5,400

10 - 11 participants: US\$5,000

12 + participants: US\$4,800

single supplement: US\$ 735



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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, all meals from breakfast on July 15 through breakfast on July 28, 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 14, 2024.

Flights

You must book and pay for your own international flights to Santa Cruz and from La Paz.

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. A visa-on-arrival is required for U.S. citizens. The fee is \$160.

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 cultures; learned to speak Spanish & dance the *queca*; acquired a taste for *chuño*, *llajua picante* & *salteñas*; and discovered her own joy of discovery. 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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Day 1 | Sunday, July 14 | Late night arrival in Santa Cruz

Day 2 | Monday, July 15 | Santa Cruz → Sucre

Our flight takes us to the charming colonial town of Sucre, cradle of Bolivian independence.

Day 3 | Tuesday, July 16 | Sucre

Today's highlights include San Francisco Church, La Recoleta, Casa de la Libertad and the ethnographic & textile museum.

Day 4 | Wednesday, July 17 | Sucre → Potosí

Drive 3 ½ hours to Potosí, quite possibly the most intriguing place we've ever been. It's the world's highest city and home to 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 | Thursday, July 18 | Potosí

La Casa Real de la Moneda was built in the 1700's to mint colonial coins, and Santa Teresa Carmelite Convent provides a haunting glimpse into the life of Bolivian women under Spanish colonial rule.

Day 6 | Friday, July 19 | Potosí → Uyuni Salt Flat

A 3-hour drive takes us to Uyuni, once a bustling railway and mining distribution hub that 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.

Day 7 | Saturday, July 20 | 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 | Sunday, July 21 | Uyuni Salt Flat → Oruro

We drive 4 hours to Oruro for the night.

Day 9 | Monday, July 22 | Uyuni Salt Flat → Copacabana

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





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Day 10 | Tuesday, July 23 | Copacabana (Lake Titicaca)

Our boat excursion 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 | Wednesday, July 24 | Copacabana → La Paz

We drive to La Paz, “the city that touches the clouds.” Situated at the bottom of a funnel, surrounded by the *altiplano*, it is chock-full of singular beauty and quirky surprises.



Day 12 | Thursday, July 25 | La Paz

Our city tour includes a cable car ride, as we soar to panoramic heights and spectacular 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 | Friday, July 26 | La Paz (Tiwanaku)

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.



Day 14 | Saturday, July 27 | La Paz

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

Day 15 | Sunday, July 28 | Departure