

## **BOLIVIA: THE HEART OF SOUTH AMERICA**

**August 24 - September 8, 2016**



Journeys International, Inc. has scheduled a truly incredible 14-day trip throughout Bolivia!

Bolivia is one of the most interesting countries in South America with unsurpassable natural beauty and rich indigenous cultures and it is now poised to reveal its hidden treasures. From the capital of **La Paz**, the shores of the great **Lake Titicaca** and the fascinating ruins of **Tiwanaku**, the heights of **Potosí**, the unworldly **Salt Flats of Uyuni**, the historic city of **Sucre** and the colorful, traditional splendor of **Jatun Yampara & Tarabuco**, you will discover a breathtaking variety of landscapes, cultures and experiences.

In the heart of South America lies one of the most remote countries in the Western Hemisphere. Bolivia continually stuns its many visitors with beautiful and geographically diverse landscapes, amazing colonial art and architecture, friendly people, exuberant festivals and impressive markets.

Join us as we encounter some of the world's most surreal terrains. We won't be subtle in our quest for adventure while enjoying the luxuries and hidden treasures that this wonderful country can offer.

**Space is limited; please join us on this special adventure!**



### **LA PAZ**

Nuestra Señora de La Paz or La Paz as it is most popularly known, is Bolivia's third-most populous city and is the highest capital in the world. In fact, Bolivia has two capitals - while the official capital of Bolivia is Sucre and it is the seat of Justice, La Paz has more government departments, hence it is the "de facto" capital of the country.

La Paz is built in a canyon created by the Choqueyapu River (now mostly built over), which runs northwest to southeast. The city sits in a bowl-like depression surrounded by the high mountains of the Altiplano. As the city continues to grow, it climbs over the hills, the buildings clinging impossibly to the mountain side.

Overlooking the city is towering triple-peaked Illimani, which is always snow-covered and can be seen from several spots of the city, including from the neighbor city of El Alto.

La Paz is an important cultural center of Bolivia. The city hosts several cathedrals belonging to the colonial times, such as the San Francisco Cathedral and the Metropolitan Cathedral, this last one located on Murillo Square, which is also home of the political and administrative power of the country. Hundreds of different museums can be found across the city, the most notable ones on Jaén Street, which street design has been preserved from the Spanish days and is home of 10 different museums. La Paz is renowned for its unique markets, very unusual topography, and traditional culture.

## **DAY-BY- DAY ITINERARY**

### **Day 1 Wednesday, August 24<sup>th</sup> – Flight to Bolivia**

Overnight flight from USA to Bolivia.

### **DAY 2 Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup> – LA PAZ**

Welcome to Bolivia!

Arrival in La Paz. At an elevation of over 12,000 feet, we allow time to acclimatize and rest from your travels. Orientation walking tour in the late afternoon and group lunch included.

Overnight: La Paz- Hotel Rey Palace (L)

### **DAY 3 Friday, August 26<sup>th</sup> – LA PAZ**

Located high above sea level, La Paz is the highest capital in the world. It rests in a bowl surrounded by the high Altiplano, which is the most extensive area of high plateau on Earth outside of Tibet. As it grows, La Paz climbs the hills resulting in varying elevations from 9,800 to 13,500 ft.

Today we will have a panoramic full day tour of La Paz, known by the apt description as "the city that touches the sky". We will soar above on the world's highest cable car ride before touring some of Bolivia's most famous museums and historical sights.

Overlooking the city is towering triple-peaked Illimani, always snow covered and majestic. We will visit the Museum of Ethnology and Textiles, the National Museum of Art, and the Museum and Monastery of San Francisco. In the afternoon, we will make a visit to Calle Jaen where travelers can visit the museums of their choice including the Museum of Costumes, the Casa Murillo Museum, the Museum of Gold or the Military Museum.

Overnight: La Paz- Hotel Rey Palace (B, L)





## **TIWANAKU**

Tiwanaku was possibly the capital city of a civilization that emerged in the "Pampa Koani" valley, south of Lake Titicaca, in present Bolivia. The city is estimated to have been in existence already at around 500 BC and have functioned for some 1,500 years up to approximately 1250 AD, when it was abandoned. Its monumental remains testify to the cultural and political significance of this civilization, which is distinct from any of the other pre-Hispanic empires of the Americas.

The settlers of this city perfected the technology for carving and polishing different stone materials for the construction, which, together with profound architectural technology, enriched these monumental spaces.

The first mention of the citadel of Tiwanaku is in 1549, when the Spaniard Cieza de Leon arrived in the area. Certain constructions evidence advanced building methods, such as the remains of the pyramid of Acapana, whose terraces were nearly 50ft wide and 500ft long on each side.

The maximum expression of this culture is reflected in the spatially organized civic-ceremonial center oriented toward the cardinal points, constructed with impressive ashlar stones carved accurately and equipped with a complex system of underground drainage that was controlling the flow of rain waters.

Tiwanaku is located near the southern shores of Lake Titicaca on the Altiplano, at an altitude of 12,630 ft. in the Province of Ingavi, Department of La Paz. The modern town has overlaid most of the ancient city, which was largely built from adobe. However, the monumental stone buildings of the ceremonial center survive in the protected archaeological zones.

### **DAY 4 Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup> – UYUNI**

The city of Tiwanaku was the capital of a powerful pre-Hispanic empire that dominated a large area of the southern Andes and beyond, and reached its climax between 500 and 900 AD. Its monumental remains and architectural precision testify to the cultural and political significance of this ancient civilization, which is distinct from any of the other pre-Hispanic empires of the Americas.

The habitants of this majestic city perfected the technology for carving and polishing different stone materials and were true masters of stonemasonry. These unique stone constructions together with the profound architectural technology make Tiwanaku a true wonder of the ancient world.

We will tour the ruins from 08.30 - 3.30pm (approx.). After the tour we arrive directly at the airport to take a 5:30pm flight to Uyuni and will have a private transfer from the airport to the hotel.

Overnight: Uyuni- Jardines de Uyuni (B,L)

### **DAY 5 Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup> – UYUNI**

Uyuni is a small town situated, quite frankly, in the middle of nowhere. It originally blossomed as a railroad junction but tourism is now its main source of prosperity. What would otherwise be a fairly dull stopover



en route between Salta, Argentina and La Paz or Potosí, Uyuni has become a world-renown destination as the starting place to visit the spectacular Salt Flats of Uyuni.

Salar de Uyuni (or Salar de Tunupa) is the world's largest salt flat. The Salar was formed as a result of transformations between several prehistoric lakes. It is covered by a few meters of salt crust, which has an extraordinary flatness with the average altitude variations within 3 feet over the entire area of the Salar.

Today we will visit an antique Train Cemetery, which houses a collection of trains used by the various mining companies in the region until the 1940s when the mining industry collapsed. British engineers who arrived near the end of the 19th century and formed a sizable community in Uyuni built the train lines.

We will then begin our journey through the Uyuni Salt Flats starting with the natural formations that line the Valle de Rocas and will end the day in the middle of the desert in the a very special Tayka hotel.

Overnight: **Hotel del Desierto Tayka** en Ojito de Perdiz (B, L, D)



#### **DAY 6 Monday, August 29<sup>th</sup> – SALAR DE UYUNI**

Today we will pack up in 4x4 vehicles and see some of the most intriguing landscapes the world has to offer. We will have an incredible opportunity to see one of the beautiful Fauna Andina Eduardo Avaroa, where the wonderful Lagunas de Colores, the geysers of Sol de Mañana, Laguna Colorada, Red Lagoon, Green Lake, Licancabur Volcano and the Stone Tree, among other attractions await your visit.

In keeping with this Andean landscape, the hotel we will be staying at, the Tayka Desert Hotel, opens its doors to welcome visitors from around the world.

Overnight: Hotel del Desierto Tayka in Ojito de Perdiz (B, L, D)



### **SALAR DE UYUNI**

Salar de Uyuni, amid the Andes in southwest Bolivia, is the world's largest salt flat. It's the legacy of a prehistoric lake that went dry, leaving behind a desert-like, 6,800 square mile landscape of bright-white salt, extravagant rock formations and cacti-studded islands. It was part of a prehistoric salt lake, Lago Minchín, which once covered most of southwest Bolivia. When it dried up, it left a couple of seasonal puddles and several salt pans, including the Salar de Uyuni.

Its otherworldly expanse can be observed from central Incahuasi Island. Though wildlife is rare in this unique ecosystem, it does harbor many pink flamingos.

The savage beauty of this vast salt desert makes it one of South America's most awe-inspiring spectacles. From strange islands in a sea of blindingly bright salt to delicately colored mineral lakes in the Andean mountains, this is an unforgettable Bolivian landscape.

## **DAY 7 Tuesday, August 30<sup>th</sup> – SALAR DE UYUNI**

Today we will visit more of these breathtaking landscapes including Lake Honda, Lake Hedionda, Lake Cañapa, Volcán Ollague viewpoint, Ejército de Rocas "Rock Army", Cueva Galaxia "Galaxy Cave, and Isla Incahuasi (Fish Island). Also in the middle of Salar, we will see the "montones de sal" or mounds of salt, the Ojos del Salar "Salt Eyes" and a local "mercado artesanal" or craft market in Villa Mar.

The Palacio del Sal is a famous hotel in Uyuni de Salar built entirely out of salt, including the walls, ceilings, tables and chairs.

Overnight: Palacio de Sal in Colchani (B, L, D)

## **DAY 8 Wednesday, August 31<sup>st</sup> – POTOSÍ**

This morning we take a private bus from Palacio de Sal to Potosí. Known for centuries as the richest and highest city in the world, Potosí is situated on the Bolivian Altiplano at 13,343 feet above sea level. Though some of the silver mines for which it became famous have closed, Potosí still sits atop the Cerro Rico, one of the greatest mineral deposits in the entire world. After exploring the grand National Mint, we will visit a working mine where you will learn about the process of extracting silver from the earth.

You will have the balance of the day to relax at your hotel and acclimate to the altitude or begin your explorations of the town.

Overnight: Potosí- Hotel Santa Teresa (B, L)





## **POTOSÍ**

At a height of over 4,000 meters, Potosí, capital of the Bolivian state of the same name, is one of the highest cities in the world. But even an elevation as high as this does not stop the nearby Cerro Potosí from dominating the surrounding landscape.

Also known as Cerro Rico (Spanish for "Rich Mountain"), the peak's huge supply of silver has led to both immense riches and appalling suffering.

Potosí was founded as a mining town in 1546, while Bolivia was still part of the Viceroyalty of Peru. Over the next 200 years, more than 40,000 tons of silver were shipped out of the town, making the Spanish Empire one of the richest the world had ever seen. But such vast wealth also came at a price. Thousands of the indigenous people were forced to work at the mines, where many perished through accidents, brutal treatment, or poisoning by the mercury used in the extraction process. Around 30,000 African slaves were also brought to the city, where they were forced to work and die as human mules.

In 1672, Potosí became the site of the Spanish Colonial Mint and, with a population of around 200,000, was one of the richest cities in the world. But by the time that Bolivia declared independence in 1825, the silver had largely run out, leaving tin as the main product.

To this day, a workers' collective extracts minerals from the mine. Due to the lack of protective equipment, the work is still very dangerous. Many miners die in cave-ins or from silicosis, a serious disease that damages the lungs, and there's been recent concern of the whole mine collapsing. Because of the hellish conditions, many of the miners survive by drinking extremely strong alcohol, chewing coca leaves, and worshiping Tio — a god of the underworld who holds the power of life and death between his fingers. El Tio, meaning "the Uncle," appears as a devilish creature, and his statues in the mines are given offerings of cigarettes, strong alcohol, and coca leaves.

## **DAY 9 Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup> – POTOSÍ**

After wandering the cobblestone streets and visiting the city's many churches and silver mines, we will catch our breath at **Hacienda Cayara**, where we will have a leisurely lunch. Located in rugged red Andean foothills, the estate was built in 1557; a mere 25 years after the first conquistadors came ashore on the South American coastline. It is one of the oldest haciendas in South America and is one of the few in Bolivia of that age that remains intact. The hacienda played an important role in the management and policies of the time, as it has always been one of the most important families of Potosí. Spend some time strolling the hallways of this beautiful hacienda or visit the museum where numerous exhibits of the colonial period are on display.

Overnight: Potosí- Hotel Santa Teresa (B,L)

## **DAY 10 Friday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> – SUCRE**

Private transfer from Potosí to Sucre.

The delightful city of **Sucre** is the constitutional capital of Bolivia, seat of the Supreme Court, and capital of the department Chuquisaca. The town is located in the south-central part of the country and lies at an altitude of 2,750m (9,100 feet). Sucre is also been known as Chuquisaca, Charcas and La Plata, resulting in the nickname of 'The City of Four Names'. As most of the colonial buildings in the city center are whitewashed, the city also enjoys the nickname of 'the White City'.

Overnight: Sucre- Hotel Independencia (B)



## **DAY 11 Saturday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> – SUCRE**

We will have a full day visit to the indigenous center of Jatun Yampara. The ancient community of Jatun Yampara is a perfect place for initiating contact with the native Quechua and Yampara populations where you can visit some typical indigenous houses and meet community members who will show us their way of life and customs.

Overnight: Sucre- Hotel Independencia (B, L)

## **SUCRE**

Until the 18th century, Sucre was the judicial, religious and cultural center of the region. In 1839, after the city became the capital of Bolivia, it was renamed in honor of the revolutionary leader Antonio José de Sucre. In 1898 the Bolivian seat of government moved to La Paz.

Sucre is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The city attracts many foreign visitors every year thanks to its well-conserved downtown. The beautiful city of Sucre is the constitutional capital of Bolivia, seat of the Supreme Court, and capital of the department Chuquisaca. The town is located in the south-central part of the country and lies at an altitude of 2,750m (9,100 feet). Sucre is also been known as Chuquisaca, Charcas and La Plata, resulting in the nickname of 'the City of Four Names'. As most of the colonial buildings in the city center are whitewashed, the city also enjoys the nickname of 'the White City' with buildings from the 18th and 19th century.

Some of the main attractions of Sucre are la Casa de la Libertad (House of Liberty) (where the declaration of independence of Bolivia was signed on the 6th of August 1825), the museum of La Recoleta (which also served as a convent, barracks, and prison) and many other museums, Palacio de la Glorieta (formerly an outstanding palace owned by a wealthy entrepreneur, it now serves as a military school). Even the local cemetery that manages to preserve the harmonious appearance, sumptuous burials and gardens with ancient trees make it a peaceful place to visit.

Very much a Spanish city during the colonial era, the narrow streets of the city center are organized in a grid, reflecting the Andalusian culture that is embodied in the architecture of the city's great houses and numerous convents and churches.

## **DAY 12 Sunday, September 4th – SUCRE**

Today we will visit the traditional market at Tarabuco, the region's most important indigenous community, is easy to reach from Sucre and fulfills a triple role as a religious, political and commercial center. The town's regular Sunday indigenous market may be the most authentic in all of South America; ancestral customs are maintained, including the pre-Hispanic bartering system. Superb artisan work is available, particularly the Indian weavings featuring geometric and zoomorphic designs.

In both quality and originality, the town's clothing is its major attraction; through these textiles one can trace the history, customs, and traditions of the local residents.

Overnight: Sucre- Hotel Independencia (B, L)

## **DAY 13 Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup> – COPACABANA**

We will have a direct flight from Sucre to La Paz at 12:30pm. We will take an afternoon bus to Copacabana directly from the airport. You will have the late afternoon to relax or enjoy Copacabana.

Overnight: Copacabana- Hotel Rosario del Lago (B, L)





## SUCRE

**Copacabana** is a village with about 5000 inhabitants of the Aymaran indigenous background. Long before the Spanish invasion, Copacabana was a sacred settlement for the Incas. Local traditions and customs are still very much alive and throughout the year it hosts an enormous amount of festivals. The original traditions have formed an astonishing mixture with the colonial Christian culture. For local tourism Copacabana is famous for its virgin statue made by the indigenous sculptor Tito Yupanqui.

On the legendary Island of the Sun, you will visit the gorgeous garden stairs and fountain of the Inca. Continue to the Inti Wata Cultural Complex, which features the underground museum of Ekako, a display about traditional shipbuilding with reeds, a handicraft center, and an exhibit about the intricate agricultural terraces of the Incas.

For anyone who visits, it's a superb location to capture the splendor that is **Lake Titicaca**. In fact, before the Spaniards changed the name to Copacabana, the indigenous people were calling their settlement Kotacawaña, which means the outlook over the lake.

Lake Titicaca, straddling the border between Peru and Bolivia in the Andes Mountains, is one of South America's largest lakes and the world's highest navigable body of water. Said to be the birthplace of the Incas, it's home to numerous ruins. Its waters are famously still and brightly reflective. Around it are national reserves sheltering rare aquatic wildlife such as giant frogs.

#### **DAY 14 Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> – COPACABANA & LAKE TITICACA**

Enjoy a full day of exploration on Lake Titicaca, including a visit to Sun Island, the birthplace of the Inca Empire. On this legendary island, you will visit the gorgeous garden stairs and fountain of the Inca. Continue to the Inti Wata Cultural Complex, which features the underground museum of Ekako, a display about traditional shipbuilding with reeds, a handicraft center, and an exhibit about the intricate agricultural terraces of the Incas. Conclude your time on the lake with a cruise and a visit to the Pilkokaina Inca Palace.

Overnight: Copacabana- Hotel Rosario del Lago (B, L)

#### **DAY 15 Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> – LA PAZ**

Transfer to La Paz.

Spend the day doing as you wish, packing shopping, etc.

Overnight: La Paz- Hotel Rey Palace (B)

#### **DAY 16 Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup> – LA PAZ > USA**

Transfer from Hotel Rey Palace to the airport for your return flight back home! (B)

## **HOTELS**

La Paz	Hotel Rey Palace or similar
Uyuni	Jardines de Uyuni or similar
Salar de Uyuni	Hotel Desierto Tayka or similar
Salar de Uyuni	Palacio del Sal or similar
Potosí	Hotel Santa Teresa or similar
Sucre	Hotel Independencia or similar
Copacabana	Hotel Rosario de Lago or similar

<b>Price per person based on double occupancy</b>	<b>\$4,835.00</b>
<b>Single supplement</b>	<b>\$750.00</b>

## **INCLUDED:**

Round trip airfare from Albuquerque to La Paz

(Note: Airfare from other departure cities will be adjusted according to actual cost)

3 domestic flights within Bolivia

All accommodations and transportation in charter bus

All entrance fees and English-speaking guides for all the tours

All meals as described on the itinerary (Breakfast (B), Lunch (L), Dinner (D))

Tips for porters, bus driver and guides

## **NOT INCLUDED:**

Items of personal nature

Passport & Visa Fees (Bolivia requires a Visa for US citizens)

## **REGISTRATION AND PAYMENTS:**

To register for this tour, please print and fill out our **Booking & Release Form** (Found on our website or you can email me at: [info@journeys-international.com](mailto:info@journeys-international.com))

Please return to us with a copy of your passport.

A deposit of \$500 per person will be required at the time of booking.

Please send the required documentation and check to:

**Journeys International, Inc.**  
**49 Verano Loop**  
**Santa Fe NM 87508**

You can also email the Booking & Release Form along with your copy of your passport to:

[info@journeys-international.com](mailto:info@journeys-international.com)

**Final payment is due May 15th, 2016**

For any questions or comments please contact **Rosa Ramirez Carlson** at the following email address:

[info@journeys-international.com](mailto:info@journeys-international.com)



**OR CALL 505-310-1863**

In case of cancellations, the following penalties will be applicable:

<b>After deposit</b>	<b>\$150.00 administrative fee</b>
<b>After May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016</b>	<b>100% of the total tour price</b>

**Important:** Purchase of trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. If you have any pre-existing conditions for which you would like coverage, most companies require that you must purchase the insurance within 14 days of your first payment for the tour. You can purchase coverage just for the amount of your deposit and later increase your coverage when the final payment is made. In addition, many health insurers, including Medicare, do not provide coverage for insured persons traveling abroad. Affordable health insurance for overseas travelers is readily available with companies such as Medex, Travel Guard, Allianz Travel Insurance and similar companies. Please contact Rosa Ramirez Carlson if you have any questions or need assistance in selecting insurance.