

BOLIVIA - TITICACA LAKE EXPERIENCE & UYUNI SALT FLATS



TRIP CODE
BOTSTLE
DURATION
7 Days
LOCATIONS
Bolivia


INTRODUCTION

La Paz is the world’s highest capital city and its quirky beauty will take your breath away. Experience unparalleled scenery, a fascinating culture and amazing geological phenomena such as the Salar de Uyuni, stark yet hauntingly beautiful, on your journey with us through Bolivia.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrival transfer in La Paz

On arrival, please make your way through to the Arrivals Hall where our representative will be waiting for you to transfer you to your hotel. He/she will be holding a sign with your name on it. Please note this service is with a driver only. El Alto airport is the highest International airport in the world at 4,080 metres above sea level.



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DAY 1: La Paz

La Paz has a spectacular setting in a deep bowl surrounded by snow-capped mountains of the Altiplano. It lies in the shadow of the towering 6,438m high Mt. Illimani, always snow-covered and visible from many parts of the city. The city (from the main square) is 3,636 metres above sea level but the neighbouring city of El Alto where La Paz International Airport is located lies at over 4,000 metres. Some of the highlights of La Paz itself include Plaza Murillo, San Francisco Church and the "Witches Market" where vendors sell dried llama fetuses and frogs, dried llama dung, herbs, remedies and other ingredients used in Aymara traditions and rituals.



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DAY 1: La Paz City Tour & Valley of the Moon

This afternoon you will be collected from your hotel for a tour of the city. Discover the fascinating city of La Paz, visiting the Gold, Murillo and Costumbrista Museums and to the 'Mirador de Killi Killi' viewpoint, offering magnificent views over La Paz. You will also visit various street markets including a traditional market where agricultural products from the highlands, such as quinoa, tunta, chuño (dehydrated potato) and oca (sweet tuber) are sold and the Witches Market, where locals buy supplies for ritual ceremonies like the Ch'alla and offerings to Pachamama (Mother Earth). Take a ride on the Teleférico cable car, the highest in the world. Then continue by road to the Valley of the Moon, where a clay mountain has been impressively shaped by erosion resulting in a formation that resembles the face of the moon. On completion of the tour you will be taken to your hotel.



DAY 2: La Paz - Copacabana - Island of the Sun

This morning you will be collected from your hotel for your road journey to Lake Titicaca. Travel north through the highlands and parallel to the Andes Royal Range to Copacabana, a small town on the shores of Lake Titicaca. Visit the famous Virgen Morena and its church and have a stroll through the town. Transfer to the pier to board the boat that will take you to the Island of the Sun. Enjoy a typical lunch "Aptapi" and hike for about 45 minutes to the Ecolodge La Estancia. Dinner included this evening.



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DAY 3: La Chincana - Island of the Moon - La Paz

We recommend that you get up early to see the sunrise. This morning after breakfast, we hike down through Yumani visiting the Inca stairs and the Water of the Eternal Youth. We then head north by boat for 1 hour to visit Chincana ruins and the Sacred Rock. We continue by boat for an hour to the Island of the Moon. Here we visit the ruins of Iñak Uyu Inca temple, returning by boat to Copacabana (1 ½ hours). Lunch is included at a local restaurant. From Copacabana you will be taken by private transport to La Paz (3 ½ hours).



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DAY 4: La Paz - Uyuni - Uyuni Salt Flats

You will be collected from your hotel at the appropriate time and transferred to the airport for your onward flight. On arrival into Uyuni you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Uyuni, founded in 1889 by Bolivian president Aniceto Arce, is still an important military base. It lies in south-western Bolivia, 3,670 metres above sea level and situated on the edge of the Salar de Uyuni, the largest salt flat in the world. The Salar de Uyuni covers over 10,000 square kilometres of the Bolivian Altiplano and is fringed by the mountains of the Andes. Beneath it lies the world's largest lithium reserve estimated to be about 100 million tons and accounting for around 70% of the world's lithium reserves. The salt in the salt flats is over 120 metres deep. The area is remote, arid and cold, stark, yet stunning, boasting extraordinary beauty and a silence that is captivating. Today's tour starts with a visit to the cemetery of old trains on the outskirts of Uyuni. Uyuni was an important transportation hub and in the late 19th century, rail lines were built by British engineers and the trains carried minerals to the Pacific Ocean ports. After the collapse of the mining industry in the 1940's, many trains were abandoned outside Uyuni with the resulting Train Cemetery. The salt winds have led to the corrosion of the metal. We then set off across the Great Salt Flats to Colchani village, where we observe the methods of salt extraction and salt processing. The salt flats are a vast natural wonder that extend for over 10,000 square kilometres. We cross to the north to visit the mummies of Coquesa, the pre-Colombian Pucara de Ayque fort and the nearby chullpares on the foothills of Thunupa volcano. A picnic lunch is taken in the middle of the salt flats. The tour continues east back towards Colchani to our hotel for the night, a salt hotel, where dinner is included.



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DAY 5: Salt Flats Uyuni (Full Day)

A second day to discover more of the Salar de Uyuni. Today's tour takes us to Incahuasi Island (better known as Fish Island) - an oasis with a unique and isolated ecosystem that is populated by giant columnar cacti up to 10 metres high, some over 100 years old. Against the backdrop of the salt flats extending to the horizon, this landscape makes for spectacular photos. We have a picnic lunch in the middle of the salt flats, and later in the day return to the hotel to enjoy the sunset.



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DAY 6: Uyuni to La Paz

You will be collected from your hotel at the appropriate time and transferred to the airport for your onward flight.



DAY 6: Arrival transfer in La Paz

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DAY 7: Depart from La Paz

You will be collected from your hotel at the appropriate time and transferred to the airport for your onward flight.



INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Deluxe
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Inclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services and meals included as mentioned in the itinerary • English speaking guide • All entrances fees • Private Service • Accommodation as mentioned in the itinerary • Air Tickets including La Paz - Uyuni - La Paz <p>NOT INCLUDED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anything not listed in the itinerary • Tips • Airport taxes
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request
Notes	Contact us for more details
Price Dependent upon	Season and availability

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SUSTAINABILITY

Chimu Adventures undertakes a number of sustainability measures within its operations including:

- 1) Only using local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprints. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you're visiting.
- 2) Where possible, using locally owned and operated boutique hotels to maximise the return to the local community.
- 3) Chimu's "Pass it on" programme has provided funding to hundreds of local community projects in Latin America. Our aim is to empower local communities, helping them to develop their own infrastructure for the future. Since 2006, we have been working with Kiva (a well-known Non-Governmental Organisation), providing hundreds of loans to local businesses all over South America.
- 4) In our pre tour information we provide a range of tips and advice on how to minimise your impact on both local environments and communities.
- 5) Chimu Adventures' offices also take a number of sustainability measures including carbon offsets for company vehicles and most staff travel. Chimu Adventure's internal processes are also structures to create a paperless office and to reduce waste. There are also internal programmes to help staff minimise their carbon footprint such as our staff bike purchase assistance plan which encourages office staff to commute to work via bicycle. Currently almost half of our office based staff commute to work via bicycle.