



BOLIVIA AND THE CARNAVAL DE ORURO

13 days / 12 nights

Oruro, capital of Bolivian folklore

Once a year, the highland city of **Oruro** becomes the beating heart of **Bolivia**. The **Carnival of Oruro** is, above all, an act of faith. For the thousands of dancers who take part, it is not merely a celebration but a **religious pilgrimage in motion**. Each dancer belongs to a **fraternidad**—a brotherhood committed to honoring the **Virgen del Socavón**, protector of miners & patron saint of **Oruro**. Participation is often made as a **personal promise**, fulfilled by dancing for **3 consecutive years**, regardless of hardship, weather, or physical exhaustion. More than 100 fraternities parade for nearly twenty hours, transforming the city into a living sanctuary. Each dance tells a different story of **Bolivia's** history and cultural layers.

La Diablada, the most emblematic, represents the eternal struggle between good and evil, blending Andean deities such as Supay with Christian figures like the Archangel Michael. **Morenada** recalls the suffering and resilience of African slaves during colonial times, while **Caporales**, powerful and rhythmic, symbolize authority and devotion. **Llamerada** evokes ancient caravan routes of llama herders across the **Altiplano**, and **Kullawada** honors the skilled weavers of the Andes. Together with many other dances, these choreographies form a profound cultural mosaic where Indigenous, African, and European traditions converge. Music, movement, and costume become offerings—acts of devotion performed step by step until the dancers reach the sanctuary of the **Virgen del Socavón**. To witness the **Oruro Carnival** is to experience a sacred dialogue between faith, identity, and collective memory, expressed through one of the most powerful cultural manifestations in the Andes.

This unforgettable cultural climax is framed by a journey across **Bolivia's** most extraordinary landscapes. From the tropical lowlands of **Santa Cruz** & the enigmatic carved stone of **Samaipata**, the route ascends to the colonial elegance of **Sucre** and the legendary silver city of **Potosí**. It continues into the otherworldly immensity of the **Salar de Uyuni**, flamingo-filled lagoons, geysers, and volcanic deserts of the **Eduardo Abaroa Reserve**. The adventure culminates in the high-altitude city **La Paz**, the sacred ruins of **Tiwanaku**, & the serene waters of **Lake Titicaca**, cradle of Andean civilization, with time on the mystical **Sun Island**. This is not simply a tour—it is a passage through ritual and history, earth and myth, where **Bolivia** reveals itself through dance, devotion, and breathtaking natural beauty.

DAY 1 (Saturday, January 30) ARRIVAL AT SANTA CRUZ

Arrival in Santa Cruz, the second largest city in Bolivia. Reception and transfer to the hotel. In the afternoon, your guide will accompany you for lunch, and there after city tour in Santa Cruz. You will start by visiting the Basilica of San Lorenzo, the Cathedral Museum, the Prefectural Palace, the Art Museum and the House of Culture, all in the historic center of the city. In addition, you will visit the La Recova craft center and the Art field, where you will find regional handicrafts, textiles and ceramics. Back to the hotel. Overnight at the Senses Boutique Hotel or similar. (L)

DIA 2 (Sunday, January 31) SANTA CRUZ - SAMAIPATA - SANTA CRUZ

After breakfast, departure to Samaipata on a shared transportation. Visit to "El Fuerte", the largest carved stone in the world with 250 meters long and 60 meters wide. It is also believed that it was a ceremonial center of local and Amazonian peoples such as the Arawak-Chané of the plains of Grigotá, of transit through the brave Guaraní, later territory of Contact with the Inca Empire and finally a tambo and fort of the Spanish colony and know much more... Lunch before returning to Santa Cruz. Rest of the afternoon at leisure. Overnight at the Senses Boutique Hotel. (B) (L)

**PRICE PER PERSON
IN DOUBLE OCCUPANCY**

EUR 2.780.-

Surplus single room **EUR**

FIXED GROUP

DEPARTURE 2027

30.01. – 11.02.

13 Days HALB BOARD

INCLUSIONS

- 12 nights at the selected Hotels
- 12 Breakfasts, 12 Lunches, 3 Dinners Included
- All excursions and transfers mentioned in the program.
- All tickets to museums and national parks
- Guide in English during the excursions.
- Numbered seat during the "Entrada" in the gold package

NOT INCLUDED

- International flight to Santa Cruz, Bolivia
- Domestic flights Santa Cruz- Sucre and La Paz/ Santa Cruz
- No guides during transfers between cities
- Meals and drinks and other services not mentioned in the program.
- Tips for guides, drivers and porters.
- Personal expenses





DAY 3 (Monday, February 01) SANTA CRUZ – SUCRE

Breakfast at the hotel. It's time to leave for Sucre, the capital of Bolivia located at an altitude of 2,700 meters above sea level. Transfer to the airport for your local flight. Upon arrival, your guide will be waiting for you at the terminal. Transfer to the hotel and check-in. In the afternoon, after lunch you will visit the city of Sucre. You'll see the sights of Bolivia's capital, including the Cathedral, Casa de la Libertad, Recoleta Monastery and the Textile Museum ASUR. Then, we will make a brief visit to the outskirts of Sucre, including the Dinosaur Park, with the dinosaur footprints discovered a few years ago. Overnight at the Hotel Su Merced, located in a majestic mansion of the eighteenth century that was rescued and remodeled completely preserving all its architectural details. (B) (L)

DAY 4 (Tuesday, February 02) SUCRE – POTOSI - UYUNI

After breakfast, transfer to bus terminal in Sucre around 08:00 am for your transfer to Potosí. Arrival at the bus terminal around 11:00 am. You will visit the mining market to learn about the tools used in mining exploitation, Coca and its catalyst for "acullico", an art of chewing the coca leaves. We provide ourselves with the necessary equipment to visit a mining cooperative and learn about the work inside the min e. Lunch included. In the afternoon, we will visit the Mint, one of the highlights in Potosí from the Spanish colonial time. After the visit, we will continue to the bus terminal for your transfer to Uyuni around 04:00 p.m.. Upon arrival, transfer to the Sal Yokus Hotel. Overnight. (B) (L).

DAY 5 (Wednesday, February 03) COLCHANI – UYUNI SALTFLATS – KOLCHA K

After breakfast, the tour begins with the visit of Colchani town where you will observe the salt process, and purchase handicrafts made from salt or textiles llama or alpaca wool, then get ready to see the wonderful Salar de Uyuni that has more than 12,000 km2. Inside the Salar you will appreciate the Salt Piles (small salt pyramids that the people of the town make to dry and then process the salt), then you will see the Ojos del Salar (which are natural conduits through which salt water circulates and end in holes). Then you will know the first and only Hotel de Sal (Museum) inside the salt flat. Continuing with the tour you will go directly to Incahuasi Island where you will see giant cacti, petrified coral rock formations and a spectacular panoramic view of the Salar. In this place you will have lunch. Continuing with the tour, you will enjoy the scenery in the middle of the salt flats and of course there will be no shortage of photographs taken with perspective. Lunch and dinner included. Overnight. (B) (L) (D)

DAY 6 (Thursday, February 04) KOLCHA K – COLOURED LAGOONS – LAGUNA COLORADA

Breakfast at the hotel. The tour starts very early leaving on the route to San Juan, we continue with the viewpoint of the Ollague Volcano (5,865 m.a.s.l.), from where you can observe the smoke emanating from the active Volcano, then you can observe the Cañapa, Hedionda, Honda, Chircota and Laguna Ramaditas lagoons, which are used by flamingos as feeding and resting points during their migratory movements. After this you will pass through the Siloli Desert where the Stone Tree is located whose evolution and shape are due to the wind erosion of time, then get ready to see the Laguna Colorada named for the reddish color of its waters and which is the gateway to the Eduardo Abaroa Reserve. At the end of the afternoon we arrive at our lodge in Laguna Colorada. Dinner and overnight. (B) (D)

DAY 7 (Friday, February 05) LAGUNA COLORADA – LAGUNA VERDE – UYUNI

Breakfast at the hotel. We continue with the Geysers (4,950 meters above sea level) where you can observe volcanic activity, fumaroles that emanate toxic gas. Geysers where lava boils with a strong smell of sulfur, then you can enjoy a natural hot bath in Hot Springs (280C to 300C), where breakfast will also be served. We will pass through the Dalí Desert where you can observe rock formations and continue visiting Laguna Blanca (White Lagoon) and Laguna Verde (Green Lagoon) which is located at the foot of the Licancabur Volcano (5,930 meters above sea level). Return to Polques and then head to the Villa Mar Village. On the way back to Uyuni we will visit the Valley of Rocks where there are huge and giant blocks of rocks, some on top of each other, reddish in color and polished by nature and wind erosion. Finally, we will visit the town of Alota, a community dedicated to the breeding of camelids and then San Cristóbal with its Colonial Church. We will reach Uyuni around 7:00 p.m. Overnight at Yokus Salt Hotel. (B) (L)





DAY 8 (Saturday, February 06) UYUNI – ORURO CARNIVAL – LA PAZ

Departure from Uyuni at 06:00 am. arriving in Oruro around 10:00 am. American breakfast at Hotel Eden Restaurant. Accommodation in numbered seats next to the presidential box (Plaza 10 de Febrero). Experience the unique traditional dances with colourful costumes, such as the Diablada, Morenada or Caporales. Thousands of dancers show their devotion to the Mamita del Socavón, the Madonna of miners. Explanation of the various dances. The carnival parade takes longer than 18 hours, but you have free movement; that is, you may wish to consider watching the various dances and/or relaxing at the hotel and go in between to the parade. Around 6 p.m we will continue to La Paz. Upon arrival at 09:00 pm, check in at the hotel Las Brisas 3*** or similar. Overnight. (B) (L)

DAY 9 (Sunday, February 07) LA PAZ

Breakfast at the hotel. Today you will visit the city o La Paz. On this walk you will appreciate the cultural, historical, architectural and natural richness. See the Plaza Murillo, the Cathedral, the Government Palace, the artisan market & the witches' market, where local people buy products necessary for ritual ceremonies, as well as local handicrafts. After our visit to the urban center, we descend from 3,900 to 3,100 m.a.s.l. to the southern area of the city in 2 yellow and green cable cars. We continue our visit with the Valley of the Moon passing through the residential neighborhoods of the southern area of this city. The afternoon is at your disposal for private activities. Overnight at the hotel Las Brisas 3*** (B)

DAY 10 (Monday, February 08) LA PAZ – TIWANAKU – LA PAZ

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure to Tiwanaku at 08:00 am and arriving at the archaeological complex 2 hours later. The Tiwanaku culture dates back to 1,500 B.C. in its beginnings and 1,200 A.D. at its extinction. It contemplates 3 periods in the evolution of their culture which are: the Village, Urban and Expansive period. It is located at an altitude of 3,845 meters above sea level. Tiwanaku was a culture that demonstrated its extensive knowledge of architecture, agriculture, astronomy, and ceramics, which allowed it to be named by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site in 2000. We visit the Archaeological site and its main ceremonial centers such as: The Pyramid of Akapana, Semi-Subterranean Temple, Kalasalaya Temple, The Sun Gate and finish at Puma Punku. Lunch and return to La Paz. Overnight at the Hotel night Las Brisas 3***. (B)

DAY 11 (Tuesday, February 09) LA PAZ – COPACABANA

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to the bus terminal and ride to Copacabana by Tourist Bus. Departure to the Sanctuary o f Copacabana, which is located 3 hours and 30 minutes, 160 kilometers from the city of La Paz. After 1 and a half hours we will be able to appreciate the Andes Mountains with its main peaks such as Condoriri, Negruni, Chachacomani and Illampu. We continue our journey to the Straight of Tiquina, which divides Lake Titicaca into the minor and major lakes. We cross the strait by boat to continue our journey to Copacabana. Arrival in Copacabana and lunch. Then we leave by boat to the southern part of the island of the sun, visit the temple of Pilcocaina, continue with a 1h30 hike to the community of Yumani visiting the Yumani Steps, agricultural terraces and the Inca fountain. Arrival and installation in lodging. Ecolodge Casa de la Luna. Dinner included (B) (L) (D)

DAY 12 (Wednesday, February 10) SUN ISLAND – COPACABANA – LA PAZ – SANTA CRUZ

Breakfast at the hotel. Early in the morning we will visit the community of Yumani to learn about the daily life of the population and of course enjoy the scenery offered by the lake and the mountain range. At the given time, return to Copacabana by boat and overland ride to La Paz, to the airport for your evening flight to Santa Cruz. Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel Senses Boutique for the overnight. (B)

DAY 13 (Thursday, February 11) SANTA CRUZ

Breakfast at the hotel. On time transfer to the airport for your return flight or continuation of your adventure in South America. End of our services. (B)

(B) Breakfast (L) Lunch (D) Dinner

