



BOLIVIA AND THE CARNAVAL DE ORURO

13 days / 12 nights

Oruro, capital of Bolivian folklore

In Bolivia, the city of Oruro, at 3,700 meters above sea level, plays a similar role to Puno. The few views of the ancient mining town tell the story of ancient tin barons and, for most, Oruro is simply a stop on the journey to the Salar de Uyuni, the largest Salt flat in the world.

Only once a year, during Carnival, the city of Oruro trembles under the drums of the people of the Altiplano. Hotel rooms must be booked weeks in advance for the colorful Diablada show. There are many dances such as Caporales, Moreno, Tobas ... more than 100 fraternities ... but here dances the devil led by Archangel Michael.

La Diablada is one of the best and most original dances in Bolivia and a symbol for the Carnival of Oruro, which was declared in 2001 by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. In this dance, there is a strong amalgam of the Andes with Christian belief, a stylized battle between good and evil. This is represented by the cult of evil "Supay" to "Huari", the god of the mountains, the Archangel Michael and the figure of Mother Earth, the Pachamama. The key elements of Diablada are the figures of Lucifer, the Archangel Michael, the devil and the devil's women, the seven deadly sins, the bear and the devil's consort, the "China Supay". Forced labor in Bolivia's mines engaged the Aymara Indians to worship in the depths of the mines their God "Huari" who now reinterpreted himself as the Lord of the Caves, el Tío (the "Uncle"), who adopted benevolent traits. And so, the miners began to sacrifice chicha, alcohol, and coke in exchange for wealth and protection.

DAY 1 (Saturday, February 3) 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. (L)

DIA 2 (Sunday, February 4) 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)

**TOTAL PRICE
IN DOUBLE OCCUPANCY
EUR 2.560.-**

Surplus single room: EUR 403.-

Inclusions

- ✚ 12 nights Hotel (with bathroom or shower/WC)
- ✚ 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.

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 5) SANTA CRUZ – SUCRE

Breakfast at the hotel. It's time to leave for Sucre, the capital of Bolivia. Sucre is 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 6) 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 mine. Lunch included. In the afternoon, we will visit the Mint, one of the highlights in Potosi 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 Yukuso Hotel. Dinner on your own **(B) (L)**.

DAY 5 (Wednesday, February 7) COLCHANI – UYUNI SALTFLATS – KOLCHA K

After breakfast, the tour begins with the visit of Colchani small town where you will observe the salt process, if you like to buy handicrafts made from salt or textiles llama or alpaca wool is a good place to choose one, then get ready to see the wonderful Salar de Uyuni that has more than 10,000 square kilometers. 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 at the Kolcha K Salt Hotel. **(B) (L) (D)**

DAY 6 (Thursday, February 8) 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, Chiarcota 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. Lodging with private bathroom. Dinner included. **(B) (D)**

DAY 7 (Friday, February 9) 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 emanating 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. The approximate time of arrival in Uyuni is 7:00 p.m. Overnight at Yokuso Salt Hotel. Dinner on your own **(B) (L)**

DAY 8 (Saturday, February 10) 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 Noviembre). Oruro was founded in 1606 and it's famous for its carnival. Experience the unique traditional dances with colourful costumes, such as the Diablada, Morenada or Caporales. Thousands of dancers show their loyalty 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. You will get following **DISTINCTIVE:**

- 1 Cap, Rain Poncho
- 1 Pack with 2 waters and 1 juice
- Lunch at Hotel EDEN Restaurant (menu of your choice) with 1 Beer or refreshment.
- Snack
- Professional Tour Guide
- Access bracelet to the Eden hotel for the bathrooms
- Private security.

Around 8 p.m we will continue to La Paz. Upon arrival at 11:00 pm, check in at the hotel Las Brisas 3***. Overnight. **(B) (L)**

DAY 9 (Sunday, February 11) 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 and 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 meters above sea level 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 12) LA PAZ – TIWANAKU – LA PAZ

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure to Tiwanaku at 08:00 am and arriving at the archaeological complex 2hours 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, 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*





DAY 11 (Tuesday, February 13) LA PAZ – COPACABANA

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to the bus terminal and ride to Copacabana by Tourist Bus. Departure to the Sanctuary of 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 14) SUN ISLAND – COPACABANA – LA PAZ – SANTA CRUZ

Breakfast at the hotel. Early in the morning we will visit the community of Estancia 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 five time, return to Copacabana by boat and continue by bus to La Paz. Upon arrival at the bus terminal, transfer to the airport for your flight to Santa Cruz at 08:30 p.m. Upon arrival in Santa Cruz, transfer to your hotel Senses Boutique for the overnight. **(B)**

DAY 13 (Thursday, February 15) 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

AN EXTENSION OF YOUR TRIP TO CUZCO AND MACHU PICCHU IS OF COURSE POSSIBLE. YOUR REQUEST WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF IMMEDIATELY

