

EXPEDITION BOLIVIA 2024

4x4 ADVENTURE 17 days / 16 nights

WE
ARE
BOLIVIA

fly & drive

The Amazon, exotic and intriguing like no other part of the planet, covers an area of about 6,100,000 km², of which Bolivia owns a large part. The Amazon River becomes the main river of the basin, which rises in the Andes, in the Peruvian department of Arequipa and flows into the Atlantic Ocean. Many of its tributaries are born in Bolivia, such as the Madera River and Beni River, which we will have the opportunity to visit and navigate. In this habitat we can enjoy a biodiversity that makes it one of the largest on the planet, with at least 2.5 million species of insects, tens of thousands of plants and about 2000 of birds and mammals: a fifth of all bird species in the world are found here and the diversity of plant species is the greatest on earth. In this expedition we will see in addition to the Madidi National Park, the Bolivian Chiquitania, the Moxos region and follow the course of the Mamoré River, one of the main tributaries of the Amazon River. Of course that's not all since we still have something else to show you: The Bolivian highlands. You will continue with the expedition driving your vehicle through the arid plains of the Altiplano, located at more than 3800 meters, until you reach Colchani, on the banks of the Salar de Uyuni, the largest salt surface in the world, with more than 12,000 km² of extension. Live your adventure knowing this wonderful landscape, including the Abaroa National Park. On the way back to the east, we will see the cities of Sucre and Potosi, where we will stay in two historic hotels closely related to the time of the Spanish colony. And to finish this expedition through Bolivian lands, we will visit a reserve of the red-headed paraba, endangered species, before heading to the Santa Cruz airport for the return trip. We will live our adventure in high quality hotels, but we will also spend the night a couple of times in very simple accommodations. Throughout the trip, a support team will accompany us in everything necessary, also having extra mobility of support with driver and mechanic, who can relieve in some stretches to those who feel tired.

DAY 1 (Wednesday) SANTA CRUZ DE LA SIERRA International flight

Arrival at the airport of Santa Cruz de la Sierra and reception by our staff who will take you to the chosen hotel. Santa Cruz was founded in 1560 and has become a thriving pole of development in Bolivia. In the afternoon we will make a visit of the city, including the historic center and the sandy park. Then we will move to Las Lomas de Arena park, with dunes up to 12 meters high. Return to the hotel. In the evening we will introduce the team that will accompany you on this expedition and give you detailed information about the route and vehicles. Distribution of the 4x4 and organization of the crews. Then we will go to a steakhouse to enjoy a huge and juicy beef steak. Return and overnight at the Marriott Santa Cruz Hotel ***** (D)

DAY 2 (Thursday) SANTA CRUZ – SAN JAVIER – CONCEPCION (230 km –3h 40m)

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure in vehicles heading northeast to San Javier, one of the most important Jesuit missions in Bolivia, also called reductions, which were missionary towns founded by the Society of Jesus in order to evangelize the region. On the way on a paved road, we will see impressive landscapes of the Sierra Chiquitana. The road is paved but if the weather allows it, we will experience with pure adrenaline the secondary routes. We arrive at San Javier, a mission founded in 1691 that constitutes the first Jesuit mission installed in Chiquitos in Baroque style and we will visit the church. In this place, in 1730, the first music school in the region was founded for the benefit of the members of the community. Also in San Javier there is a musical instrument workshop where harps, violins and other instruments are made. After the visit, we will have lunch at a local restaurant. Short break before continuing to the charming city

**PRICE PER PERSON
IN DOUBLE OCCUPANCY**
EUR 2.867-
Surplus single room
EUR 682.-

MINIMUM 3 VEHICLES

FIXED DEPARTURES 2024

August 07 – 24
September 04 – 21
October 09 – 26

INCLUSIONS

- 16 overnights incl. salt hotel in Uyuni
- FULL BOARD
- All excursions and transfers mentioned in the program including
 - ✓ Uyuni and Avaroa Park Package
 - ✓ Bufeo Route Package in Trinidad
 - ✓ Colonial cultural package with XVth century Hacienda
 - ✓ Amazonia Package in Nal Park. Madidi
- All entrance fees to museums and parks.
- Accompanying english Spanish guide.
- mechanic support throughout the journey

NOT INCLUDED

- International flight to Santa Cruz, Bolivia and return from La Paz.
- Vehicle (four-wheel drive, motorcycle) that can be your own. In case of rental, we will gladly help you choose one
- Meals, drinks and other services not mentioned in the program.
- Tips for guides, drivers and porters.
- Personal expenses





of Concepción (62 km – 0h 58m), the capital of the province of Ñuflo de Chávez, which was first established as a mission in 1699. Registration at the Gran Hotel Concepción. Rest before dinner and free time to enjoy its facilities. **(B) (L) (D)**

DAY 3 (Friday) CONCEPCION - TRINIDAD (476 km – 7h 46m)

After breakfast at the hotel, early morning departure heading north. According to weather conditions, we will be able to drive some segments "off the beaten track" giving the expedition more adrenaline. Today we will go deeper into the Bolivian Amazon, crossing this time the Plains of Moxos. On the way we will see the town of Ascención de Guarayos, at an altitude of 252 m on the right bank of the Sapoca River. It is a flood plain of more than 100,000 km² in the lowlands of northern Bolivia. Lunch on the way. Then we continue our journey to Trinidad in the Amazon basin on the right bank of the Arroyo San Juan River, which flows into the Mamoré River. The city of Trinidad is located at an altitude of 161 m. and founded in 1686 as a mission station of the Jesuits on the Mamoré River. Once our goal is reached, registration at the Hotel Tapacare*** or similar and distribution of rooms. Stop at the hotel and rest. **(B) (L) (D)**

DAY 4 (Saturday) TRINIDAD Amazon Basin Tour

Breakfast at the hotel. First pause in the driving of the vehicles and technical review of them. Meanwhile, today we will enjoy a relaxed exploration of the Bolivian Amazon River basin aboard a boat. Passing through the primitive Amazon River system in a riverboat is a fascinating experience that will allow us to explore the mighty Mamoré River, the largest tributary of the Amazon River in Bolivian territory. This region is wild and unspoilt, and offers optimal conditions for our remote eco-cruise and wildlife watching. The local guide will make us fly with the imagination accompanied by the sound of parrots and monkeys. Enjoy the surroundings and keep an eye out for surprises, such as seeing pink dolphins playing happily in the morning sun. Imagine also that you meet native people for a cultural experience. Flocks of large egrets, roseate spoonbills and macar storks cross the blue sky. The air is hot but your beer deliciously cold. Further up the river, a beach... This is real life! This trip is the perfect combination of relaxed exploration and active learning with tons of photo opportunities. Return to Trinidad. Rest of the day free for private activities. Overnight at Hotel Tapacare*** or similar **(B) (L) (D)**

DAY 5 (Sunday) TRINIDAD - RURRENABAQUE (386 km – 7h 54m)

Breakfast at the hotel. Our destination today is Rurrenabaque, a small tourist town in the Department of Beni at 274 meters above sea level that is located in the last foothills of the Andes mountain range and at the beginning of the eastern plains, on the right bank of the Beni River. It is the gateway to Madidi National Park, fascinating for its wide diversity of birds, for its landscapes of exuberant jungle, for its exotic flowers, for its rivers and its oriental savannas. On the way we will make some stops to take pictures and also for lunch. Late at night, we will arrive at our lodging in the middle of the jungle, Hotel Maya de la Amazonía. Dinner and overnight at the hotel **(B) (L) (D)**

DAY 6 (Monday) RURRENABAQUE – NATIONAL PARK. MADIDI (Amazonia)

Today we have earned again a well-deserved break after several days on the road. After breakfast, departure by boat to Madidi National Park. The boat tour on the Beni and Tuichi rivers upstream takes 3 hours of travel and is an opportunity to observe the fauna and stunning landscapes of Madidi National Park as well as the Bala Canyon. Around noon we arrived at the Ecodge. Accommodation in traditional style cabins. After lunch, short rest in the hammocks. In the afternoon, we will start a 3-hour guided walk along the Tareche Trail until we reach the Aguapolo River, where you can walk along the banks of the river and observe the natural nesting cliff of parrots and macaws. During the tour you will have the possibility to observe some species of animals such as tropero pigs, capuchin monkeys and howler monkeys. Hike back to Madidi Jungle Ecodge. After dinner, you will have the possibility to take a short night walk to observe insects such as tarantulas, grasshoppers, night butterflies, frogs and hopefully





some mammals. Listening to the symphony of the jungle produced by the large amount of wildlife that hides at night is a magical feeling. Overnight at the Eco Lodge. **(B) (L) (D)**

DAY 7 (Tuesday) MADIDI NATIONAL PARK (Bolivian Amazon)

After breakfast, we start a 3-hour walk through the Biwa Trail, a route where the spider monkey is frequently sighted, as well as capuchin monkeys, troup pigs, macaws, toucans and many other species of birds. The trail will lead us to the Madidi Natural Viewpoint, from where you will have a spectacular view of the primary forest and the meanders of the Aguapolo River. Return to the Ecolodge by the Tareche Trail. Lunch at the Ecolodge and time to rest in the hammocks. In the afternoon, 3-hour guided hike through the Mapajo and Matapalo Trails. Along the route you can observe a variety of giant trees such as the Mapajo (Ceiba Pentandra), Matapalo and Almendrillo, with more than 300 years of life, considered the most leafy of the Amazon rainforest. Accompanied by your local guide, you will have the opportunity to learn about medicinal plants and their healing benefits. Our native guides born and raised in the jungle, maintain ancestral knowledge and combine it with scientific knowledge, facilitating the observation of animals and the interpretation of the humid tropical forest. Return to the Lodge. Traditional dinner "Dunucuabi", cat fish cooked in heliconia leaves. Optionally after dinner, local guides can share with the group a talk about the Uchupiamona culture. **(B) (L) (D)**

DAY 8 (Wednesday) MADIDI – RURRENABAQUE - COROICO (338km 7h 4m)

After breakfast, return to Rurrenabaque. The return trip takes 2 hours and is an opportunity to observe some species of animals and birds. Arrival to Rurrenabaque where we will collect luggage and vehicles to continue travel. In principle, we will cross part of the foothills of the Bolivian Amazon until we reach Caranavi in the sector known as Yungas Belt - Eastern Cordillera of the Andes, where we will pause for lunch. Then we return to the route to the Andes mountain range in the direction of Coroico, one of the most tourist communities in the Los Yungas region with many hotels and restaurants of good quality. Check-in at Hotel El Viejo Molino 4**** and rest until dinner. **(B) (L) (D)**

DAY 9 (Thursday) COROICO – LA PAZ (161km 3h 45m)

Breakfast at the Hotel. Today we leave behind the Bolivian Amazon and ascend from 1750 to 4800 meters above sea level! A very interesting day that combines landscapes of thick vegetation and partially solid mountains with snow. Upon reaching the summit, we will perform a ceremony of gratitude to Pachamama, Mother Earth, who has cared for and protected us all the way. The "challa", as this ceremony is called, is deeply rooted in the customs of the inhabitants of the Bolivian Altiplano. Then we will go to the city of La Paz, located at 3200 meters of altitude. Arrival at the selected hotel. Free time to discover the city **(B) (L) (D)**

DAY 10 (Friday) LA PAZ

Breakfast at the hotel. In the morning, guided walking tour of the city, which includes a visit to the historic center. Then we will go to the western slope of the city to visit several local markets where we will see typical products of the region. We will continue the walk through the city with the modern cable car system that will take us to the city of El Alto with spectacular views, practically bird's eye view. Brief tour with another cable car through the city of El Alto where we will visit a "Cholet", a building with a neo-architecture that includes pre-Inca motifs in its conception. Again with the cable car, we will go on a low trip from 4100 meters to 3200. Finally we will visit the Valley of the Moon, a regional park whose composition is limestone land where interesting formations caused by the winds are appreciated. Return to the hotel. In the evening, we will invite you to dinner at a "peña", a typical restaurant where you can also appreciate music and dances of the country. **(B) (D)**

DAY 11 (Saturday) LA PAZ – LAKE TITICACA (90km 1h53m) – ORURO (293km 4h29m)

Breakfast at the hotel. Early departure with our vehicles to Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world. After 1 hour of driving we will have reached the lake, located at an average altitude of 3812 m a.s.l. between the territories of Peru and Bolivia. It has an





area of 8562 km² of which 56% (4772 km²) correspond to Peru and 44% (3790 km²) to Bolivia; Its maximum depth is estimated at 281 m and its average depth is calculated at 107 m. On the way we will make some stops to take pictures. After lunch at a local restaurant, where we will taste the trout of the lake and enjoy a unique landscape, we continue to Oruro, the folkloric capital of Bolivia and famous for its carnival. We will cross the Altiplano, located at an average of 3800 meters above sea level with desolate and generally dry landscapes and very little vegetation typical of the puna. The route itself is attractive and offers visitors interesting landscapes. Oruro was a mining town, driven by the tin boom in the early twentieth century. Dinner and overnight at selected hotel **(B) (L) (D)**

DAY 12 (Sunday) ORURO - COLCHANI (293 km 3h 29m)

Breakfast in Oruro and departure with our vehicles heading south. The expedition continues to Uyuni in the department of Potosi. Upon arrival in Colchani, we will check-in at the Hotel Palacio de Sal, built entirely with blocks of salt from the region, which makes it an exotic hotel since even the furniture is built of salt blocks. After a short pause, we will explore the Salar de Uyuni, the largest continuous and high salt desert in the world, with an area of 10,582 km² and the largest lithium reserve in the world with 50-70% of the world's lithium, and also has significant amounts of potassium, boron and magnesium. Considered the largest mirror in the world in the rainy season, due to its large size, the high percentage of smooth surface and its high reflectivity, the Salar is used for satellite calibration. During the visit we will make a short break for lunch. Then we will visit the Incahuasi Island that is completely surrounded by the huge saline surface of the Salar de Uyuni. It contains a large number of giant cacti (*Echinopsis atacamensis*), which can reach more than 10 meters in height. We will return to the hotel to rest. When the time comes, the guide will take us to the banks of the Salar to enjoy an unforgettable sunset. Return to the hotel for the hotel and accommodation **(B) (L) (D)**

DAY 13 (Monday) COLCHANI – SALAR DE UYUNI – CAYARA (276km 4h 38m)

Early breakfast at the hotel. Today we leave in a southerly direction, continuing our trip without a fixed goal, only enjoying the natural environment; as much as we can advance go during the trip will be decided with the guide, being able to reach the municipality of San Juan with a natural view of the Ollague volcano (active). Lunch on the way. Continue towards Cayara, a small community on the outskirts of the city of Potosí, where the Hacienda Cayara is located, former Encomienda de don Juan de Pendones, whose original titles date back to 1557, making it the first Hacienda constituted in Nueva Toledo (today Bolivia) and restored to turn it into a museum hotel that shows the greatness of colonial architecture. Seeing is believing says the saying and in this case there are plenty of words to describe this magnificent construction. Upon arrival, check-in and short rest and visit of the museum. After the visit, dinner in its imposing dining room and free time to enjoy a high altitude wine in a setting that will take you to the past. Accommodation **(B) (L) (D)**

DAY 14 (Tuesday) CAYARA – POTOSI – SUCRE (205km, 03h 49m)

After breakfast we will continue our trip to Potosí, one of the most important Spanish colonial cities in South America. To such an extent was the importance of this city, that not only silver coins were minted for the Spanish empire and all European crowns, but the term VALE UN POTOSI was used to indicate something of great value. Potosi was founded by the Spaniards in the sixteenth century at the foot of the hill Sumay Orcko, known as the Cerro Rico de Potosi, rich in silver and exploited since Inca times under the reign of Huayna Kapac, the XI Inca King.

Upon arrival in the city, visit on foot the historic center of the colony, with the Museum of the Casa de la Moneda, colonial streets and craft markets, the Church of San Lorenzo with stone sculptures carved in the mestizo baroque style and the church of San Francisco that stands out for its remarkable ceilings. Finally, the Tower of the Society of Jesus and the Arch





of Cobija. Lunch at a local restaurant before continuing our journey towards Sucre, the capital of Bolivia. Founded by the Spaniards who, affected by the height of Potosí and the consequent disease it generated, made this city their place of residence while working in the mining exploitation. Sucre is the historical and constitutional capital of Bolivia as well as being the seat of the country's judiciary.

Continuation to the hotel and check-in. Dinner and overnight at the Hotel Parador Santa María la Real, located in a majestic mansion of the eighteenth century that was rescued and remodeled completely preserving all its architectural details. The building that houses the Hotel Parador Santa María La Real was built on the dependencies and the orchard of the palace of the Real Audiencia de Charcas, the highest judicial and administrative authority of this part of the Spanish empire in America. **(B) (L) (D)**

DAY 15 (Wednesday) (204km 04h 02m)

Breakfast at the hotel. Guided visit through the city center visiting the sights of the capital of Bolivia, including the Cathedral, the House of Liberty and the Recoleta Monastery. Lunch in Sucre. Later, departure northeast to the community of Omereque, where we will find the Red Front Reserve, an ideal ecotourism destination for bird and wildlife observation. This project is an initiative of the indigenous communities of Omereque and Armonia to protect the most important nesting site of the Red-fronted Paraba (ARA RUBROGENYS), an endemic and critically endangered bird. The flora of this desert habitat and the rugged mountains of the region, make just being in the place a unique experience. Upon arrival, we will check into the reserved hostel, a very simple but clean and cosy accommodation. Free time to explore the area and admire the natural beauties of the region, accompanied by a local guide.

Dinner at the hostel and rest. **(B) (L) (D)**

DAY 16 (Thursday) OMEREQUE – SANTA CRUZ (301km 06h 35m)

Breakfast at the hotel. Early in the morning we will not go to the city of Santa Cruz, but not before visiting the archaeological complex of Samaipata, a pre-Hispanic culture settled at the head of the valley. The archaeological site known as El Fuerte is unique in that and it encompasses buildings from three different cultures: Chané, Inca and Spanish. It was declared Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO in 1998. Although called the Fort, it had also a religious, ceremonial and residential function. After the visit, we will go for lunch at a local hotel, and we head to Santa Cruz to the Marriott Hotel to rest and enjoy the farewell dinner with the group. **(B) (L) (D)**

DAY 17 (Friday) TRANSFER TO SANTA CRUZ AIRPORT

Breakfast at the hotel. Early departure to the airport for your return flight. Your guide will help you with the check-in procedures at the airline and will bid you farewell to this expedition that we hope has fulfilled your expectations. End of our services. **(B)**

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

