



# **DREAM OF BOLIVIA**

Photographic journey to the best regions of the country accompanied by a professional photographer

Santa Cruz – Sucre - Potosi – Uyuni – La Paz 11 days / 10 nights

## With extension to Madidi National Park

**BOLIVIA** is a photogenic country wherever you photograph it. Its people, its landscapes, its architecture, its handicrafts. And that's because we have the greatest diversity we can imagine. High mountains exceeding 6000 meters, deep and fertile valleys, an Amazon that is a gift from God. Anyway, Bolivia has a little for everyone. And photographers will find many reasons to challenge their ability, preparation and technique.

Since you have arrived in the country, its people will welcome you with open arms and the photographer who will accompany you will be waiting to show you the best places to photograph, it will even give you some tips to improve your technique if necessary. Of course, for groups we have considered a free space for an accompanying photographer. In this case, our guides will support you in everything you need.

We start the photographic adventure in Santa Cruz, Bolivia's second largest city with its historic center and the Lomas de Arena, a wonder of nature on the outskirts of the city. Sucre and Potosí are waiting for us with their Spanish colonial legacy before entering Bolivia's most touristic region, the Salar de Uyuni. This, together with Eduardo Avaroa National Park, will show you unimaginable landscapes that will brighten your spirit and challenge you to try your photographic skills. We will continue to Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world where we will enjoy a well-deserved rest on its shores, in a hotel that has a lot to show (and photograph). We finished this first part of the program in the city of La Paz, where you will literally photograph it from above. In the second part of the tour and optionally, we will take you to a national reserve that is characterized mainly by being one of the parks with the greatest biodiversity on the planet for its flora and fauna and ecoregions, since it goes from perpetual snow to the tropical lowlands, hosting ethnic communities in its territory.

Madidi National Park is characterized by a large number of watersheds, especially headwaters, located in areas of high precipitation and high soil fragility for steep slopes. It consists of the Tuichi, Quendeque, Madidi and Beni Basin and the Heat and Madre de Dios River Basin. Its climate is diverse, from the cold in the Andes, the temperate intermediate to warm lands in the northern lowlands with higher temperatures ranging from 31° to 33°C between October and January and from 20° to 29°C between March and September. Madidi National Park was declared by National Geographic as one of areas with the most biodiversity on the planet and one of the 20 most interesting destinations in the world.

## DAY 01 Thursday SANTA CRUZ

## Highlights of the day: the historic center and the La Recova handicraft center.

After your international flight, arrive in Bolivia and reception at Viru Viru airport. Private bus transfer to the hotel and accommodation. Check in and short break. In the afternoon, city tour. Our first visit is 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, we will visit the handicraft centers La Recova and The Art Field, where we find regional handicrafts, textiles, ceramics, carvings and others. We ended up with a snack on the Boulevard de Monseñor Rivero. Back to the hotel. Overnight at Aparthotel Premium Suites or similar. (D)

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## PRICE PER PERSON IN DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

MAIN PROGRAM EUR 2.723.-Surplus single room EUR 453.-

## OPTIONAL MADIDI PROGRAM EUR 567.-

## Surplus single room EUR 134.-

FIXED GROUP DEPARTURES	
2024	
25 April	23 May
17 October	07 November



#### INCLUSIONS MAIN PROGRAM

Transfers IN/OUT Sta. Cruz, Sucre, Uyuni, La Paz
10 nights in selected boutique hotels

- 10 hights in selected boutique notes
   10 breakfasts, 5 lunches and 5 dinners
- City tour in Santa Cruz, Sucre, Potosí and La Paz
- Ground transportation for excursions/visits
- Uyuni package according to the program
- Titicaca Lake Package according to program
- & Bilingual local guides for visits
- Suggestions for the best places to photograph. NOT INCLUDED
- Flights SANTA CRUZ -SUCRE and UYUNI-LA PAZ
- International flights and airport fees
- Drinks in restaurants where meals are included
- Tips for guides, drivers, and porters
- Personal expenses
- Other services not mentioned in the program
- Health Insurance / Life Insurance

## INCLUSIONS OPTIONAL EXTENSION

- ✓ Land transfer to Rurrenabaque.
- ✓ Transfer to Rurrenabaque Airport
- ✓ Boat transportation to Madidi National Park
  ✓ 3 nights at Madidi Jungle Ecolodge
- ✓ 1 night at Hotel Rosario in La Paz
- ✓ All meals (regular and veggie) at the Lodge.
- ✓ Mineral water during your stay at the Lodge
- ✓ Local bilingual expert guide (English and
- Spanish) in appreciation of the jungle. ✓ Guided activities in the park.

## NOT INCLUDED

- National flight RURRENABAQUE / LA PAZ or flight LA PAZ RURRENABAQUE LA PAZ
- Entrance to the National Park (Foreigner Bs 200
- Carbonated and alcoholic beverages.
- Other services not considered in the program.



#### DAY 02 Friday SANTA CRUZ - SUCRE

## Highlight of the day: The greatest colonial architecture of the 17<sup>th</sup> century

Breakfast at the hotel and early transfer from the hotel to Viru Viru Airport to take the flight to the city of Sucre. Upon arrival, airport reception and transfer to your hotel. Accommodation at Hotel Parador Santa María Real. The rest of the day is free for private activities and especially for acclimatization before continuing your journey to the upper regions of Bolivia. Our local guide will help you plan the day or book an optional tour of the surrounding area, such as the Cretaceous Park with dinosaur footprints and other surprises, or to make a trip to Tarabuco where you will see the locals in their typical dresses. Return to Sucre for a welcome dinner and meeting. Your guide will indicate you the highlights of the trip from now on. (B) (D) DAY 03 Saturday SUCRE Highlight of the day:

#### Photo shoot at the House of Liberty and the Church and Convent of La Recoleta

Breakfast at the hotel. In the morning we have planned a city tour with special locations for photo shoots. Visit to the House of Liberty, where the Bolivian Law of Independence was signed in 1825; the Bolívar Park, to see examples of the aristocratic tradition of Sucre, with small replicas of the Eiffel Tower and the Arc de Triomphe in Paris; the church and museum of the Recoleta, and the Museum of Indigenous Textiles of ASUR. Return to the hotel, and accommodation in the Parador Santa María Real. **(B)** 

DAY 04 Sunday SUCRE - POTOSI

#### Highlight of the day: Colonial architecture and mint

Breakfast at the hotel and departure from the hotel towards the city of Potosí. Drive aboard the private bus on a paved road for about three hours until you reach the silver city of Potosí (156 km). Small pause for lunch. In the afternoon, guided city tour with the colonial historic center, including the Mint, colonial streets and artisan markets, the Church of San Lorenzo that has carved stone sculptures in the baroque half-breed style and the church of San Francisco that stands out for its remarkable ceilings. We will continue the day until the Hotel Museo Hacienda Cayara, about 30 minutes away from Potosí. After a short break, dine in its fantastic and historic dining room. Visit of the Hacienda and overnight. (B) (L) (D)

DAY 05 Monday POTOSI - UYUNI

## Highlight of the Day: Interior Mine

After breakfast, visit of a private mine operated by the miners themselves that allows us to see their way of life, their beliefs and working conditions, similar to those during the Spanish colony. Protective clothing and entry helmets will be provided. Then we continue with the trip to the city of Uyuni, driving our same bus for about 3 hours on a good paved road. Check-in and overnight at the Hotel Palacio de Sal, built entirely with salt blocks. **(B) (L) (D)** 

## DAY 06 Tuesday UYUNI - SALAR – ECOLODGE TAMBO COQUESA

#### Highlight of the day: Photo shoot at the world's largest Saltflats

Today we will change our means of transport and drive in 4x4 jeeps (up to 4 people per vehicle). The route is now an unpaved road, a mixture of gravel and salt. The trip will take about 3 hours. At 9:30 a.m. departure to visit the train cemetery, we continue to the indigenous community of Colchani, observing the production of iodine salt in rustic form, salt crafts, entrance to the white deserts in its fullness, typical landscapes of extraction such as salt pyramids, salt eyes and first salt hotel which is now a museum. Arrival at Coquesa Eco Lodge. Lunch after accommodation. In the afternoon we continue with a gentle walk to SAJCHILLA Island, an island with ancient cactii, site not yet explored, followed by the visit of the Chantani Museum with mummies and stone shapes. In the evening, we will return to the salt flat to watch the sunset, accompanied by a welcome cocktail. Return to the hotel, dinner and o in Tambo Coquesa Lodge (B) (L) (D) DAY 07 Wednesday TAMBO COQUESA - LAGUNAS - FLAMENCOS

#### Highlight of the day: Salt, desert and wildlife

Another day driving jeeps on the unfazed roads and entering the Lipez Region to the Eduardo Avaroa National Park. It will take us about 5 hours to travel the 250 km. After breakfast at 08.00 am, we leave the hotel heading south, enter the salt flat again with paradisiacal landscapes and

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visit Incahuasi Island, a typical place with the presence of giant cacti in a volcanic rock habitat. Along the way, visit the community of San Juan, the natural viewpoint of the Ollague volcano (active), the Cañapa lagoon and finally the Hedionda lagoon. Check in at the hotel and later walk along the shores of the lagoon, where you can see the three varieties of flamingos a few meters away. Return to the hotel, dinner and accommodation. **(B) (L) (D)** 

## DAY 08 Thursday LOS FLAMENCOS - LAGUNAS DE COLORES – UYUNI.

## Highlight of the day: Photographing deserts and colorful lagoons.

Unpaved road to Uyuni, about 240 km from Laguna Hedionda. No stops, it would take about 3 hours, but we are driving without pressure of time visiting the area and making many stops to take photos. Departure at 6:30 a.m. visiting Eduardo Avaroa National Park with Hedionda Lagoon, Charcota, Siloli Desert, Stone Tree, Laguna Colorada, Geysers, Hot Springs, Dalí Desert and Laguna Verde. Return to Uyuni visiting the Valley of the Rock, passing through authentic villages such as Villa Alota, Culpina K, the mining village of San Cristobal and its church. Arrive in Uyuni and check in at the selected hotel. Dinner and accommodation (B) (L) (D) DIA 09 Friday UYUNI – LA PAZ

## Highlight of the day: La Paz and its cable cars

Breakfast at the Hotel. On time transfer to the airport to take a local flight to the city of La Paz. Reception at El Alto International Airport and transfer to your hotel in downtown La Paz. Check in and short break before we continue with our visits, this time through the market district and the colonial area with handicrafts. Before we get back to the hotel, we will visit the valley of the moon, bizarre clay formations with interesting forms and return with one of the many cable cars, with spectacular views, literally flying over the city's houses. Overnight (B) DIA 10 Saturday LA PAZ - TITICACA LAKE – COPACABANA – LA PAZ

#### Highlight of the day: Photographing Lake Titicaca, Copacabana and Isla del Sol

Breakfast at the Hotel. Today we walk to the cable car station to drive above the city where our bus will be waiting for us. Oberland ride crossing the Altiplano, the highlands of Bolivia. We will reach Copacabana, the most important religious shrine where we will visit the indigenous and craft markets, as well as the cathedral of the 16th century in which the Virgin Mary was enthroned. After lunch we will continue to the Sun Island to visit the ruins of Pilkokaina Temple, Yumani Stairs, agricultural terraces. Light walk to Yumani to visit an Inca Agricultural Terrace and enjoy a fantastic view of the lake and the Andes mountain range. After a while, boat back to Copacabana on the mainland and return to the city of La Paz with many spectacular stops along the way. Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel. (B) (L). DAY 11 Sunday LA PAZ - AIRPORT.

Breakfast at the hotel. Pick up from your hotel at the agreed time for your transfer to El Alto International Airport for your international flight. We offer you the possibility of an extension of your trip to Madidi National Park, your "meeting" with the Jungle and the Amazon Basin. Happy to have you there. **(B)** 

# **EXTENSION MADIDI NATIONAL PARK**

## DAY 11 Sunday LA PAZ – RURRENABAQUE (415 km – 8h 55m)

Highlight of the day: From high snow-capped mountains to the tropical region.

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight to the city of Rurrenabaque, the gateway to Madidi National Park. Transfer to the Hotel and rest. The flight takes approximately 1 hour. If you prefer, we can leave La Paz by private vehicle to Rurrenabaque crossing the Andes mountain range. Once we reach 4800 m. above sea level. we will perform a blessing ceremony to the "achachilas", the soul of our ancestors. After that, we'll start descending to 600m. through spectacular natural settings where you can challenge your photographic skills. The road is paved at first until you reach Santa Barbara; from there, the road is a dirt road to Rurrenabaque (the distance from La Paz to Rurrenabaque is about 415 km. Registration at Madidi Jungle Ecolodge **(B) (L) (D)** 

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On this day there is the possibility of cycling along the so-called road of death, the old dirt road to the jungle now partially closed to traffic since the paved road was built and is used by cyclists to experience the pure adrenaline that runs along this road. It is an optional tour, only for those who want to do it. The others will travel on the bus until they meet the cyclists in Santa Barbara, to continue the journey together. Duration of the program: about 3 hours. DAY 12 Monday RURRENABAQUE - MADIDI NATIONAL PARK

#### Highlight of the Day: Nature Photography

After breakfast, speedboat departure to Madidi National Park. Our boats are equipped with comfortable seats, life jackets, rain ponchos and a roof. The journey through the Beni and Tuichi rivers lasts 3 hours and is a great opportunity to see the flora, fauna, and stunning landscape of the Bolivian Amazon such as Bala Canyon. Arrival at Madidi Jungle Ecolodge and check-in in traditional cabins. After a short break, lunch and time to relax in the hammocks. Around 3:00 p.m. 3-hour guided walk along the Tareche Way. This offers you the opportunity to observe a variety of bird species, mainly macaws and parrots, and appreciate the surrounding rainforest. You can also see several species of mammals, such as the white lip species, the brown cappuccino monkey and the red howler monkey. After a walk along the Aguapolo River we return to the Ecolodge. Dinner at the hostel and time to rest and relax. After dinner, you will have the opportunity to take a night walk in the jungle to observe the nocturnal wildlife. During this walk you can see many species of insects, amphibians and reptiles, such as tarantulas and frogs. You can hear the symphony of the jungle, which is produced by countless wild species. (B) (L) (D)

#### DAY 13 Tuesday MADIDI NATIONAL PARK

#### Highlight of the day: Nature Photography, wildlife contact

Breakfast at the Ecolodge. After breakfast, a 3-hour walk begins through the Biwa Trail, a tour where the black spider monkey is frequently sighted, as well as capuchin monkeys, trooppigs, macaws, tocans and many other bird species. The trail will lead you 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 we will take a 3-hour guided walk along the Mapajo and Almendrillo trails. On these trails you will appreciate a variety of giant trees, of which stand out the Raccoon (Ceiba Pentandra), Matapalo and Almendrillo, with more than 300 years of life, considered the leafiest in 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 grown in the jungle, maintain ancestral knowledge and combine it with scientific knowledge, facilitating animal observation and interpretation of the wet tropical forest. Return to the Lodge. At dinner, you will try the traditional dish "Dunucuabi", cat fish cooked in heloconia leaves amd local guides will share stories about their ancestors and the local cultures of Uchupiamonas and Tacana. (B) (L) (D) DAY 14 Wednesday MADIDI NATIONAL PARK - RURRENABAQUE – LA PAZ

## Highlights of the day: Nature Photography, wildlife contact

Breakfast at the Ecolodge. Boat departure upstream of the Tuichi River bound for the Serere Trail. We will start a short walk until we reach the Piranha Lagoon, where you can optionally do piranha fishing. On this tour you will get to know the riverside forest where the yellow squirrel monkey is frequently sighted. After the fishing activity we will visit a newly discovered mammal salt flat in the area, where you can learn about the behavior of the animals. Return to the Ecolodge by boat. Lunch at the Ecolodge and short break before returning to Rurrenabaque. On the way - and depending on the season, visit optional Caquiahuara to observe red and green macaws and other species of parrots on a rocky cliff. The return journey takes only 2 hours. Arrival in Rurrenabaque and transfer to the airport to take your flight to La Paz. Reception in La Paz and transfer to your hotel in the city. **(B) (L)** DAY 15 Thursday LA PAZ - RETURN

Breakfast. Early transfer to the airport for your flight home. End of our services. (B)

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