

Journey Idea to Bolivia

18 Days



Salar de Uyuni

Prepared for
Steppes Travel Clients

QUICK REFERENCE ITINERARY

Day 1	Fly UK/La Paz, flying overnight
Day 2	La Paz
Day 3	Fly La Paz/Rurrenabaque
Day 4	Rurrenabaque/Chalalan
Day 5	Chalalan
Day 6	Fly Rurrenabaque/La Paz
Day 7	La Paz
Day 8	La Paz/Lake Titicaca
Day 9	Lake Titicaca/La Paz
Day 10	Fly La Paz/Sucre
Day 11	Sucre
Day 12	Sucre/Potosi
Day 13	Potosi/Uyuni
Day 14	Uyuni
Day 15	Uyuni/La Paz
Day 16	Oruro/La Paz
Day 17	Fly La Paz/UK, flying overnight
Day 18	Arrive UK

DETAILED TRIP ITINERARY

Day 1

UK/La Paz

Depart the UK on a flight to La Paz, flying overnight.

Day 2

La Paz



You will be met upon arrival by the Steppes Travel representative at the airport and transferred to your hotel. All transfers are private (unless stated otherwise) and included in your trip, however it will not detail every transfer on this itinerary.



La Paz is located at an altitude of 3,600 meters; the airport is situated at over 4,000 meters on the Altiplano. La Paz, the highest capital city in the world, is spread out in a deep canyon, and is surrounded by snow-capped mountains - the setting is stunning. Founded in 1548, the location was chosen as a site to shelter from the wind, that blows across the Altiplano and gold was discovered in the local river.

The backdrop to La Paz is the Cordillera Real, with the impressive Illimani snow capped mountain at 6,440 meters, towering over the city. La Paz is a vibrant city, offering the traveller a vast range of sights, plus the local Indians in their colourful dresses and bowler hats.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in La Paz on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 3

La Paz/Rurrenabaque



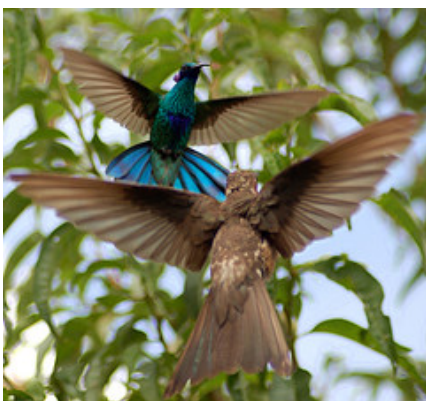
Depart La Paz on a flight to Rurrenabaque.

Rurrenabaque is an astonishingly beautiful place whatever your interests. Whether it is the lush Amazon jungle, the savannah like pampas, the sub-tropical lowlands, or the wonderful Chalalan Eco-lodge. Rurrenabaque is a rapidly growing town and is the logical starting point to explore the Amazon Rain Forest.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in Rurrenabaque on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 4

Rurrenabaque/Chalalan



Madidi National Park is one of the world's most important conservation areas, and is quite possibly the most biodiverse of all protected areas on the planet. There are more plant and animal species here than any other place on earth. It is home to more than 6,000 different plant species and over half of all western hemisphere mammals.

Birdlife ranges from minute Hummingbirds to the Andean Condor with a wingspan of 3m. With 10 species of primate including Large Spider and Red Howler monkeys, there is also a healthy population of Jaguars and Pumas. Reptiles are represented with spectacular Anacondas and Black Caimans



reaching lengths of 9m and 6m respectively.

This morning embark on a transfer by boat along the Beni and Tuichi Rivers to Chalalan. You shall hike from the riverbank to the lodge.

After lunch you will be able to relax at the lodge or swim or kayak in the Chalalan Lake. A presentation of Madidi National Park and the local community is offered by the lodge.

Following dinner embark on a night hike into the rainforest and discover frogs, insects, birds and other nocturnal animals.

Overnight at a local eco-lodge on a full board basis.

Day 5

Chalalan



After breakfast take a hike into the rainforest with an experienced guide who will explain the local medicinal plants, fruits and exotic plants.

Following lunch you will have time to relax, swim or kayak.

Take a further trek into the rainforest and take some time to bird watch and explore the materials used to make the local handicrafts.

Overnight at a local eco-lodge on a full board basis.

Day 6

Chalalan/La Paz



After breakfast follow the river back to Rurrenabaque in time for the local flight to La Paz.

Depart Rurrenabaque on the local flight to La Paz.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in La Paz on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 7

La Paz



Morning private visit to the ruins at Tiahuanaco, 72 kilometres west of La Paz, at one time the 'largest city in the world', and is considered 'the cradle of the American Civilisation'.

The site is believed to be a ceremonial complex, dating back to 1600 BC and the empire covered at one time half of Bolivia, northern Argentina, Chile and Southern Peru.

Afternoon private city tour of La Paz including a visit to the valley of the moon. Visit to the Indian and witches market, the Colonial church of San Francisco, Murillo square, cathedral of La Paz, Government Palace and National Congress.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in La Paz on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 8



La Paz/Lake Titicaca

Full day trip to Lake Titicaca by coach and boat, visiting the major islands with Inca and Pre-Inca ruins. The transfer and boat journey, gives you an opportunity to marvel at the animals, bird life, views and way of life on the highest navigable lake in the world at 3,850 metres.

Visit to Moon and Sun Island, lunch on the island, llamas will be on hand to help transfer your luggage to the lodge.

Remainder of the day at leisure to explore Sun Island.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in Lake Titicaca on full board basis.

Day 9



Lake Titicaca/ La Paz

After breakfast visit the Inca Staircase and drink from the Sacred Fountain - believed to give eternal youth and happiness!

Enjoy lunch in a local restaurant, followed by some time at leisure to visit a small handicraft market before heading back by boat and coach to La Paz.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in La Paz on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 10



La Paz/Sucre

Depart La Paz on a flight to Sucre.

Sucre was founded in 1538, under the name La Plata, and being the Spanish Capital covered an area as far south as Argentina. In 1992 Sucre was declared a UNESCO city, the city has two universities one founded in 1624. Sometimes called the 'White City' due to all the colonial buildings being painted in white, Sucre preserves a courtly air and is a beautiful city to explore.

Overnight your chosen hotel in Sucre on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 11



Sucre

Morning visit to see the dinosaur footprints discovered in the local area.

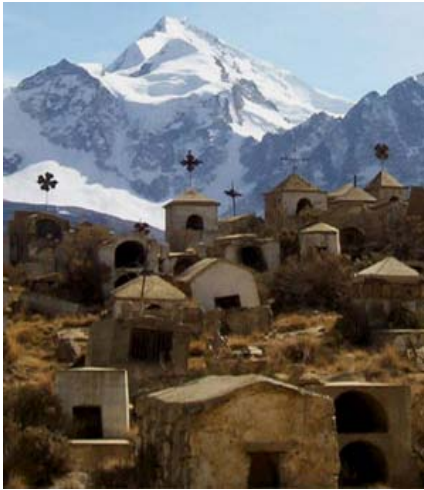
After lunch at a local restaurant, enjoy a city tour of Sucre. The tour could include a visit to the Textile Museum or the Monasteries of San Felipe Nery or La Recoleta.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in Sucre on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 12

Sucre/Potosi

Private transfer by road to Potosi, a journey of approx 6 hours, stopping for lunch en route. The journey will present you with stunning scenery of the high Altiplano.



In the afternoon visit the Casa de la Moneda (National Mint) and discover the procedures for producing coins throughout history, followed by a visit to the beautiful Convent of Santa Teresa.

Potosi is the highest city in the world at just over 4,000 metres, founded in 1545 by the Spanish, where they discovered the Indians mining Silver. By the 18th century Potosi was the largest and wealthiest city in Latin America and produced the largest amount of silver in the world. At this altitude it can be bitterly cold, but to visit the local mines and the UNESCO city is fascinating.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in Potosi on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 13

Potosi/Uyuni



Visit to the Miners Market and an active mine to see the way miners used to and still do extract minerals.

In the afternoon transfers of approximately 3 hours to Uyuni. Box lunch is included today.



Uyuni is the starting or finishing point to the journey across the Salar de Uyuni, Laguna Colorada, Sol de Manana, Laguna Verde and then into Chile to San Pedro de Atacama. Uyuni can be bitterly cold and desolate; however it is a must to visit the graveyard of steam locomotives on the south side of town.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in Uyuni on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 14

Uyuni



Salar de Uyuni, driving across the salt lake and seeing multi-coloured lagoons with vibrant pink flamingos and amazing salt encrusted features must be one of the most fascinating sights to see on this planet. At an altitude of 4,000 to 5,000 metres, with bitterly cold winds and wild barren windswept landscape, the contrast of brilliant white and the vivid blue sky is unbelievable.

The shores and shallows of the lakes and lagoons are encrusted with crystallised salt and gypsum, contrasting with the red algae rich saline water which the vibrant James flamingos along with the more common Chilean and Andean flamingos, feed and breed.



Most tours are in 4WD vehicles with a driver-guide. The journey is arduous, long, very cold and accommodation is basic, however the scenery makes up for the whole experience.

You will have a full day journey through one of the most isolated, rough and beautiful areas in the world, where you will travel through deserts and astonishing stone formations like the Stone Tree, you will also visit the small lagoons of Cañapa and Hedionda (a much visited spot by flamingos and

other birds). Then we will continue along the foot of the Ollague mountain to finally reach the Red Lagoon, a small lake of deep red colour. In the afternoon return to Uyuni, picnic lunch included today.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in Uyuni on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 15

Uyuni/La Paz



From Uyuni visit the local salt artisan factory of Colchani. Continue through the Montones del Sal (salt hills), Ojos de Agua, to Isla Incawasi. Have lunch and then return to Uyuni. Room available for use before the departure by train to Oruro.

Board the train from Uyuni to Oruro, a journey of approximately 7 hours (subject to train timetable this journey may be completed by coach). The coach from Oruro to La Paz, is a journey of approximately 3 hours. It is important to note that train schedules can vary considerably and be changed up to the date of departure.

Overnight on train or by coach.

Day 16

La Paz



This morning arrive back into La Paz for a day at leisure to relax and explore the city.

On your last evening you may like to visit a local Pena show where you can dine on local specialities, listen to traditional music being performed by local musicians and watch a host of colourful traditional dances.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in La Paz on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 17

La Paz/UK

Depart La Paz on a flight to the UK, flying overnight.

Day 18

Arrive UK

TRIP PRICE

In each location there is a variety of different category of hotels, lodges and guest houses, therefore as a guide we have divided these into 2 categories; Traveller and Deluxe. It is difficult to categorise each property as they vary so much therefore this is a general price guide only.

Traveller price from £2,895 per person + flight taxes.

Deluxe price from £2,995 per person + flight taxes.

The rates quoted are subject to the availability of all services, currency fluctuations, written confirmation and Steppes Travels terms and conditions.

The price includes return flight from UK, internal flights, local transport, airport-hotel transfers and tours on a shared basis (or can be organised on a private basis), accommodation (twin/double with private facilities where available) and board. Accommodation is on a bed and breakfast basis, unless staying in a remote lodge when normally this will be on a full board basis.

The price excludes entrance charges to sites, parks and museums, extra local excursions and guided tours, international and domestic airport taxes. Travel insurance, visas, single supplements (if applicable) and items of a personal nature, such as laundry, drinks, etc.

Please note that the above is only a suggested journey, allowing in-depth visits to the highlights of the country and the chance to explore the wide range of possibilities this fascinating country has to offer. We have a separate list of escorted tours and specialise in tailoring individual itineraries to your particular interests and requirements. This journey idea serves more as a general guide on what there is to see and do, as well as a guide on price.

Why Travel with Steppes?

Steppes Travel was founded in 1989 with the objective of creating a travel company where service and knowledge are of the highest priority. We aim to design itineraries and include the highlights of any country, whilst taking travellers off the beaten track to see lesser known, interesting places not frequented by large numbers of tourists. We offer individuals the ability to travel safely in remote areas, with the knowledge that we have travelled there before.

Financial Protection

Steppes Travel is a fully bonded tour operator that complies with the Civil Aviation Authority bonding conditions of the UK. This fully guarantees your money in the unlikely event of us going out of business before you start your holiday. Our ATOL number is 6945 and we have full insurance to cover the financial failure of an airline. In addition, all accommodation-only bookings (such as hotels, lodges and boats) which are not covered by the ATOL regulations are financially protected with all payments being held in a separate trust account until the date of departure. This is in accordance with the Package Travel Regulations Act 1992.

Specialist Knowledge

We demand and employ only a very high calibre of staff. All of our specialists have a wealth of travel experience and have travelled, and continue to travel, extensively throughout their regions of specialisation. You can therefore rely on their first hand knowledge and expertise. Some have been with us for more than ten years. They will tell you about those intimate, friendly hotels and introduce you to our charismatic guides - those little extra qualities that make your holiday both unique and special.

A Tailor-made Journey

After an initial discussion with you, one of our specialists will create a unique itinerary for your trip, designed around your own interests, preferred style of accommodation and the pace at which you like to travel. This will be fine tuned until you are completely satisfied with it. Throughout this whole process, you will be dealt with by the same specialist and you are

welcome to call them at any time.

24 hour Emergency Service

We have an emergency service so that we can be contacted 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Recognition

More than 65% of our business is achieved through recommendations, referrals and repeat bookings. This, for us, is the highest endorsement we could have. In addition, our 20 years of experience in this specialist travel sector confirms our expertise.

Please contact the Latin America team on 01285 885 333 or visit our website www.steppestravel.co.uk for further information.

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