

Discover Santa Cruz, La Paz and the magnificent Salar de Uyuni. Live the past wonders of Potosí, the Imperial City, and of Sucre, the White City

BOLIVIA HISTORICAL CITIES, ORIENTE and SALAR 8 DAYS – Santa Cruz to La Paz

HIGHLIGHTS

ITINERARY

- Day 1 - arrive at Santa Cruz
- Day 2 - Santa Cruz, fly to Sucre
- Day 3 - Sucre
- Day 4 - Sucre, transfer to Potosí
- Day 5 - Potosí, transfer to Uyuni
- Day 6 - Salar de Uyuni, Incahuasi Isle
- Day 7 - fly to La Paz, La Paz
- Day 8 - La Paz, departure

A condensed view of Bolivia's main treasures in a week: tours through the main historical cities and adventures in the unmissable Salar de Uyuni.

See Santa Cruz, La Paz (the “marvellous city”), Potosí (the “imperial city”) and Sucre (the “white city”, one of the finest examples of colonial architecture in South America).

Explore the blinding whiteness of the Salar de Uyuni, the crown jewel of Bolivia's high Andes and one of the most outlandish places on Earth!



DAY 1 – SANTA CRUZ

Arrive in Santa Cruz at any time, hotel check-in and free time to look around. We will have a group welcome meeting to review the trip's itinerary and provide last-minute details and updates.

Meals included: N/A

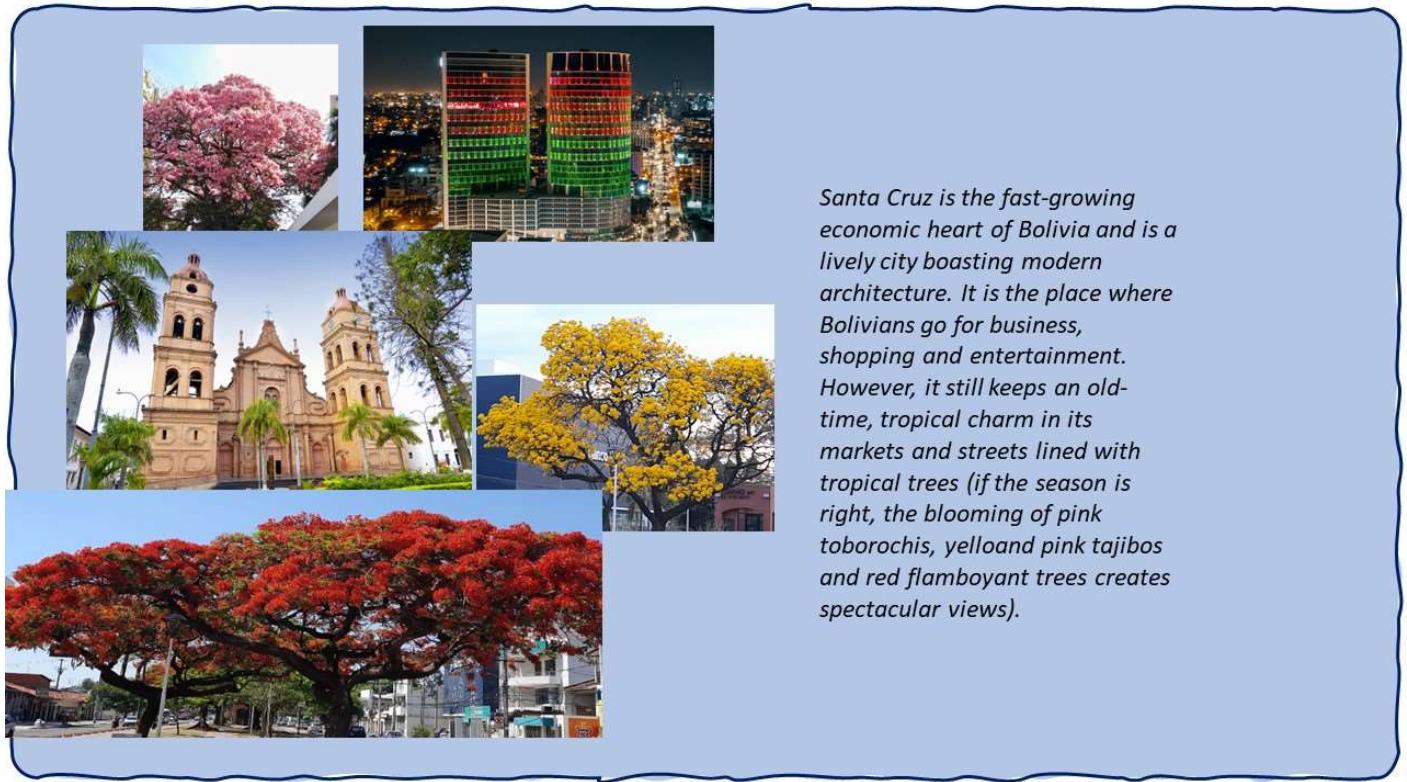
Transportation: N/A

Lodging: Three-star hotel in Santa Cruz (night of day 1)

DAY 2 – SANTA CRUZ, SUCRE

Visit Santa Cruz in the morning: downtown with its cathedral, coffee shops and cultural events, a street market and then the trendiest and most contemporary part of the liveliest and thriving city of Bolivia, the capital of the Oriente (Bolivia's eastern region).

Hop on a morning flight to Sucre, the constitutional capital of Bolivia, and transfer to our downtown hotel.



Meals included: Breakfast (at hotel in Santa Cruz), lunch

Transportation: Commercial flight to Santa Cruz to Sucre, transfer from airport on public transportation (bus)

Lodging: Three-star hotel in Sucre



DAY 3 – SUCRE

Enjoy a city tour of the colonial old town (a UNESCO world heritage) which will include the historical colonial downtown with its main monuments, such as the San Felipe Neri church (with a nice scenic walk on the rooftop) and the Casa de la Libertad (where the first act of independence of Bolivia was signed). Then the city market and a walk up to the Recoleta square, from where we can view the whole city and its surrounding. Around noon, we will transfer to Cal Orck'o to view one of the largest and most interesting collections of fossilized dinosaurs' footprints in the world. The mid-day guided tour has ideal sunlight conditions and allows us to walk close to the footprints.



Standing at 2,800 mts above sea level in the Eastern Cordillera, Sucre has a cool climate all year-round. Sucre is famous for its white-washed colonial and republican historical downtown, and the combination of pleasant weather and well-preserved colonial atmosphere make it a perfect place to stroll around. Enjoy its monuments, museums, lively markets and hearty street food.

Meals included: Breakfast (at hotel in Sucre), lunch

Transportation: Local taxi or microbus to dinosaur's footprints,
Lodging: Three-star hotel in Sucre



DAY 4 – SUCRE, POTOSÍ

Morning free to continue visiting the attractions of Sucre old town.

Break for lunch and time for a last-minute stroll downtown before heading on our private bus to Potosí, where we arrive mid-to-late afternoon after a three-hour trip through a beautiful scenic route.

We will start the day with a slow-paced city tour of Potosí (at 4,000 mt high, no one really wants to run here). Potosí, the “imperial city” is a UNESCO world heritage and intriguing place where an important part of world history was made. We will walk around the historical downtown and its numerous grand churches and palaces, visit the national mint (Casa de la Moneda) that hosts the machinery used to make silver coins, and Santa Teresa monastery. We will also have scenic views of the incredible Cerro Rico and be able to take a glimpse of the chaotic growth of present-day Potosí, and the sharp contrast between past splendor and current reality.



Founded in the mid-16th century after the discovery of incredibly rich silver mines inside the Cerro Rico mountain, Potosí rapidly boomed to become one of the largest and richest cities of the world at the time. The silver, extracted and made into coins in the Casa de la Moneda, started then its long journey to Spain, where it basically funded the ascent and expansion of the Spanish Empire in the world. Present-day Potosí keeps traces of the past glory in its historical downtown, with its spectacular churches and monasteries and the one-of-a-kind museum of Casa de la Moneda (the former National Mint), where visitors can see the actual machinery used to mint coins.

Potosí sits in the Andes at above 4,000 mts. We will use our stop here to enjoy its beauties and to complete our acclimatization in view of the following days in the high plateau.

Meals included: Breakfast (at hotel in Sucre), lunch, dinner

Transportation: Private bus from Sucre to Potosí

Lodging: Three-star hotel in Potosí



DAY 5 – POTOSÍ , UYUNI

Visit the Cerro Rico. In the afternoon, transfer by private bus to Uyuni, the gateway to the immense Uyuni Salt Lake (“Salar de Uyuni”), again on a scenic route filled with geological formations painted in different colors.



Cerro Rico (the “Rich Mountain”) imposingly looms over the city of Potosí. It has been calculated that between the 16th and 18th century, some 80% of the world’s silver supply came out of the mines dug inside this one mountain.

Cerro Rico gave wealth and support to many generations, but also took countless miners’ lives. To enter its underground galleries, you need to ask permission to el Tío, a benevolent protector of this underworld (as long as he is appeased with an offering).

Meals included: Breakfast (at hotel in Potosí), lunch, dinner

Transportation: Private bus to Uyuni

Lodging: Three-star hotel in Uyuni



DAY 7 – SALAR DE UYUNI

And here it is! Today, we really are going to visit an outlandish place: the Salar de Uyuni, the largest salt lake in the world and a Unesco World Heritage. We will drive into this white, immense, empty space where the horizon, the sense of distance and proportions get confused. Even our cameras seem unable to sort out what is close and what is far. We will visit the Incahuasi island, in fact a rock formation that seems to emerge from the whiteness like an island. During the day, we will also stop at the salt crossway, the abandoned salt hotel and a ghostly train cemetery.

After a long day and countless photo opportunities, we drive back to Uyuni.



Salar de Uyuni... Over 10,000 square kilometers of pure white and blue incredible wilderness

Meals included: Breakfast (at hotel in Uyuni), lunch, dinner

Transportation: Private 4x4 car

Lodging: Three-star hotel in Uyuni



DAY 7 – UYUNI, LA PAZ

We fly from Uyuni to La Paz, and we still have time for a guided city tour. We will wander through the historical downtown to see Plaza Murillo, the San Francisco cathedral and the witches' market. We will also enjoy great views travelling in La Paz' famous cable cars system.



La Paz: la Ciudad Maravilla (the “Marvellous City”) sits on a canyon, where the High Plateau transitions into the Yungas régión. Standing between 3,500 and 4,000 mts, it is one of the highest large cities in the world.



Meals included: Breakfast (at hotel in Uyuni), dinner
Transportation: Flight Uyuni to La Paz, taxi from airport to hotel
Lodging: Three-star hotel in La Paz

DAY 8 – LA PAZ

Depart at any time.

Meals included: Breakfast (at hotel in La Paz)
Transportation: public transportation (bus) from hotel to airport
Lodging: N/A