Bolivia: Splendor of the Andes

July 23 – August 4, 2020

If ever a country had a soul, that country is Bolivia. It's a place like no other: unabashed, unpretentious, unapologetic about its uniqueness. As the world charges at lightning speed toward global homogeneity, Bolivia remains singular and enigmatic. A good deal of its individuality can be attributed to its isolation, as South America's most remote country. This is a dream trip for anyone captivated by stunning landscapes, historical richness, vibrant folkloric music & dance, and stalwart ethnic groups that have maintained their traditions intact for centuries. Discover the wonders of La Paz, the enchantment of Lake Titicaca, the geological splendors of the Andes Mountains & Uyuni Salt Flats, the cultural treasures of Sucre, and the storied history of Potosí. Please join us on a very special journey to this timeless destination.

Tour Highlights

- **La Paz, "the city that touches the clouds"**
- **Lake Titicaca, birthplace of Inca civilization**
- **World's largest salt flat, its petrified coral island, and all their wonders of nature**
- **Lofty landscapes of the majestic Andes mountains**
- **The mining town of Potosí, and its history of wealth, splendor, tyranny & oppression**
- **The charming colonial town of Sucre**

Tour price per person, based on double occupancy

8 - 9 participants: US$4,500

10+ participants: US$4,300

single supplement: US$ 529

(Prices are based on 2019 hotel rates, and subject to modification when 2020 rates are available.)

P.O. Box 791020, Pā'ia, Maui HI 96779 (808) 214-6053 info@uncommonjourneys.biz www.uncommonjourneys.biz

Bolivia: Splendor of the Andes

July 23 – August 4, 2020

Tour Price

The tour price is based on a minimum of 8 participants. It **includes** 13 nights of boutique hotel accommodations (including July 22 due to early morning arrival on June 23), all meals from breakfast on June 23 through breakfast on August 4, domestic ground and air transportation, airport transfers, admission fees, gratuities (except to local guide) and the services of a tour director and bilingual guide. It **does not include** international airfare, visa on arrival for U.S. citizens, extra hotel nights and meals if required, alcoholic beverages, expenses of a personal nature, and optional gratuity to our local guide.

Deposit and Payment

A $500 deposit is required to reserve a place on the tour. The balance of the tour cost is due 60 days prior to departure. The deposit is fully refundable if notice is given 60 days prior to departure.

Flights

You must book and pay for your own international flights. Most flights arrive in La Paz between 1:00 and 6:00 am. The tour price includes a hotel room on July 22, to accommodate immediate check-in upon early morning arrival on July 23. Occasionally airlines change flight schedules with very little advance notice, which could incur additional hotel and meal charges.

Altitude

Our destination cities lie at altitudes ranging from 8,500 to over 13,000 feet. If this is a concern, you should seek medical advice before signing up for the tour.

Passport & Visa Requirements

A passport with 6 months validity is required to enter Bolivia. A visa-on-arrival is required for U.S. citizens only. The fee varies from $50 - $150. Application instructions will be provided 3 months prior to departure.

Tour Leader

Debbie Jefkin's love affair with Bolivia began as an exchange student. Such an experience early in life leaves an indelible mark. During that year she was introduced to fascinating ethnic groups; learned to speak Spanish & dance the *queca*; acquired a taste for *chuño, llajua picante* & *salteñas*; and discovered her own joy of discovery. And so it was that Bolivia captured her heart, kept her in its grip, and after all these years, keeps calling her back. To learn more about Debbie, please visit www.uncommonjourneys.biz and click on Video.

Preserving the Bolivian Culture

Much of the world has been taught by tourists to beg for money, candy, pens, toys, lipstick and trinkets. This belittles the people, erodes the local culture, perpetuates a negative stereotype of patronizing foreigners, and creates reliance on begging. It also encourages parents to exploit their children by sending them out to beg from tourists instead of going to school. In order to preserve the culture and dignity of the Bolivian people, Uncommon Journeys enforces a strict policy against handouts. We are determined not to allow our presence to endanger the graciousness of the Bolivian way of life. If you feel it would be difficult to comply with our policy, you should reconsider before signing up for the tour. On the other hand, if you share our philosophy of sustainable tourism and our commitment to preserving this gentle culture and dignified way of life, then we look forward to sharing our love of Bolivia and the trip of a lifetime with you.

Waiver of Liability

Uncommon Journeys, LLC assumes no responsibility for accidents or injury to participants. You will be required to read, accept and sign an agreement which releases Uncommon Journeys, LLC from any responsibility of liability.

Bolivia: Splendor of the Andes

July 23 – August 4, 2020

Day 1 | Thursday, July 23 | Early morning arrival in La Paz
The enchantment begins in "the city that touches the clouds." It lies at the bottom of a funnel, surrounded by the high *altiplano*, and it is chock-full of quirky beauty and surprises. Rest and acclimatize in the morning and enjoy a spectacular introduction by cable car in the afternoon.

Day 2 | Friday, July 24 | La Paz
Our city tour includes Plaza Murillo, San Francisco Church, the vibrant markets of Sagárnaga Street, Valle de la Luna and much more.

Day 3 | Saturday, July 25 | La Paz
The *entrada universitaria* parade is a unique opportunity to experience Bolivia's spirited folkloric dances, traditional music and spectacular costumes.

Day 4 | Sunday, July 26 | La Paz → Tiwanaku → Copacabana
The Tiwanaku ruins are a monument to a lost civilization, and the seat of untold mystery. Hallmarks of their highly advanced society included architectural & artistic masterpieces, beautiful ceramics, gilded ornamentation, sophisticated network of roads & canals, and agricultural terraces & irrigation. Then ee drive to Copacabana, on the shore of stunning Lake Titicaca. This is the world's highest navigable lake, which the Inca considered to be the birthplace of their civilization.

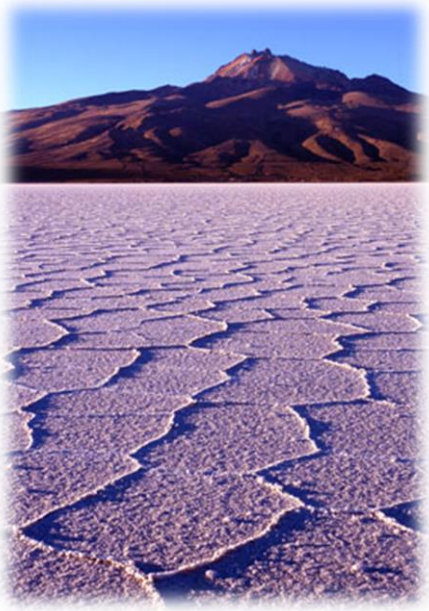
Day 5 | Monday, July 27 | Copacabana
Our private boat takes us to Isla del Sol and the Inca ruins of the Pilko Kaina Palace. Feast your eyes and tummy with a breathtaking view of Lake Titicaca and a traditional Andean lunch.

P.O. Box 791020, Pā'ia, Maui HI 96779 (808) 214-6053 info@uncommonjourneys.biz www.uncommonjourneys.biz

Bolivia: Splendor of the Andes

July 23 – August 4, 2020

Day 6 | Tuesday, July 28 | Copacabana → Oruro
A leisurely 7 hour drive takes us to Oruro for the night.



Day 7 | Wednesday, July 29 | Oruro → Uyuni Salt Flat
A 5 hour drive rewards us with our first glimpse of Uyuni Salt Flat, the world's largest salt flat, which attests to the lake that existed 40,000 years ago. It has been aptly described as "an enchanting, breathtaking, blissfully beautiful, vibrant, awesome, eerie force of nature."

Day 8 | Thursday, July 30 | Uyuni Salt Flat
Today's highlight is the island of Inkawasi, a surreal landscape of cacti and petrified coral. You must see it to believe it! Then again, we've seen it and we still don't believe it!

Day 9 | Friday, July 31 | Uyuni Salt Flat → Potosí
Uyuni, once a bustling railway and mining distribution hub, is now home to a "train graveyard." It's the ultimate fantasy for hobos and dreamers, where rusted steam locomotives have been abandoned, shunted aside and left to the mercy of the elements. By day's end we reach Potosí.

Day 10 | Saturday, August 1 | Potosí → Sucre
Potosi is quite possibly the most intriguing place we've ever been. At 13,386 feet, it is the world's highest city, and home of the world's most prolific silver mine. The history of this once grand colonial city is a paradox of wealth, splendor, tyranny & oppression. We visit La Casa Real de la Moneda, built in the 1700's to mint colonial coins, then on to Santa Teresa Carmelite Convent for a haunting glimpse into the life of Bolivian women under Spanish colonial rule. This afternoon we drive 3 hours to Sucre.

Day 11 | Sunday, August 2 | Sucre
Sucre is a charming colonial town that has always served as an important cultural and educational center. Its liberal thinking set the stage for the 1809 independence revolution. Today's highlights are San Francisco Church, La Recoleta, Casa de la Libertad and the textile museum.

Day 12 | Monday, August 3 | Sucre → Santa Cruz

Day 13 | Tuesday, August 4 | International Departure