



**BOLIVIA: RED-FRONTED MACAW, YUNGAS AND
TITICACA GREBE
(WITH OPTIONAL BLUE-THROATED MACAW EXTENSION)**

We have temporarily suspended the set departure version of this tour shown here, because strikes prevented us from operating the 2022 trip, so please e-mail info@birdingecotours.com if you want us to potentially run the trip for you privately by special request.

06-21 NOVEMBER 2023 (EXTENSION: 21-23 NOVEMBER)



*The endemic and localized **Red-fronted Macaw** is an important target of our trip (photo Ken Logan).*

Bolivia may be one of the less-frequently visited birding destinations in South America, but it has truly great potential and magnificent birds. The country holds 1,455 bird species, the sixth-largest country bird list after Colombia, Peru, Brazil, Indonesia, and Ecuador. There are 18 endemic bird species and Bolivia also holds several range-restricted and globally threatened birds that are very difficult to find elsewhere in South America. The reason for this impressive avian diversity is because of the large number of different ecosystems throughout this country. From Amazon rainforest through to cloudforest (Yungas) mountains, tropical and flooded savanna, cerrado, Chiquitania forest, and Chaco, to high Andean mountains and Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world, Bolivia is likely the most biodiverse landlocked country on earth.

Our 16-day Bolivian birding tour will give you the opportunity to explore the best that this country has to offer, including some unique southern South American habitats, such as the Chiquitania region in the Santa Cruz province, an area dominated by xerophytic vegetation with acacia-like trees, and lowland grasslands and surrounds near the Viru Viru International Airport. We will begin the tour's birding close to the airport where we will be looking for **Toco Toucan**, **Chopi Blackbird**, **Sayaca Tanager**, **White-bellied Nothura**, **Red-winged Tinamou**, **Campo Flicker**, **Yellow-chevroned Parakeet**, and with luck, **Greater Rhea**.



*With luck, we may see **Greater Rhea** in the grasslands around Viru Viru International Airport.*

The lush tropical forest of the beautiful red-walled canyon near Bermejo at the edge of the Amboró National Park will be our next port of call. We will stay at the Refugio Los Volcanes Lodge, where we could find **Bolivian White-crowned Tapaculo**, **Grey-throated Leaf-tosser**, **Military Macaw**, **Rufescent Screech Owl**, **Two-banded Warbler**, **Dusky-green Oropendola**, **Black-streaked Puffbird**, **Blue-browed Tanager**, **White-backed Fire-eye**, **Yungas Manakin**, **Yungas Dove**, **Ochre-cheeked Spinetail**, **Slaty Gnateater**, and with some luck **Bolivian Recurvebill**.

Next, we will explore the dry valleys between Samaipata and Saipina in search of several range-restricted species such as **Dot-fronted Woodpecker**, **Tucuman Amazon**, and with luck the hard-to-find **Red-faced Guan**. In addition, we will search for the recently split **Yungas Guan**, **Bolivian Earthcreeper**, as well as the trio of Bolivian endemics **Bolivian Blackbird**, **Cliff Parakeet**, and **Red-fronted Macaw**.

Leaving the dry valleys behind, we will visit the cloudforest of the Siberia area, where we will look for **Trilling Tapaculo**, **Light-crowned Spinetail**, **Pearled Treerunner**, **Fulvous-headed Brushfinch**, and the endemics **Black-throated Thistletail** and **Rufous-faced Antpitta**.



Giant Conebill can be seen in the Polylepis forest above Cerro Tunari

The city of Cochabamba, in the center of the country, at 2,550 meters (8,366 feet) above sea level, will be our base for the next four nights as we explore the slopes of the snow-capped Cerro Tunari, where several interesting species occur, such as the endemic **Cochabamba Mountain Finch** and **Bolivian Warbling Finch**. We will have a chance to see the gorgeous **Red-tailed Comet**, **Andean Condor**, and several *Polylepis* specials including **Tawny** and **Brown-capped Tit-Spinetails**, and **Giant Conebill**. The beautiful mountain scenery is a picture in itself with **Andean Gull**, **Andean Goose**, and **Andean Lapwing** further adding to the scene. The cloudforest and upper tropical foothills hold several range-restricted species that are otherwise found only in the extreme southeast of Peru and are hard to find there, such as **Hooded Mountain Toucan**, **Orange-browed Hemispingus**, **Yellow-rumped Antwren**, **White-eared Solitaire**, **Blue-banded Toucanet**, and **Straw-backed Tanager**.

Then we will fly to Bolivia's capital city, La Paz to explore Lake Titicaca, looking for **Titicaca Grebe**, **Chilean Flamingo**, **Andean Avocet**, **Yellow-winged Blackbird**, and **Many-colored Rush Tyrant**. We will also explore other habitats in search of the endemic **Berlepsch's**

Canastero, and finally our journey will take us along the legendary “Death Road” that used to join the high Andes with the lush and humid Yungas. Along the different altitudinal sections of this road, we will look for high-elevation species such as **Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe**, **Scribble-tailed Canastero**, and **Diademed Tapaculo** as well as low-elevation species such as **Versicolored Barbet**, **Yungas Tody-Tyrant**, and **Upland Antshrike**.

For those who would like to target the Critically Endangered (IUCN) **Blue-throated Macaw**, we will be offering a three-day extension. On this short trip we will visit the Trinidad area where three pairs of this huge macaw live.

We invite you to join us on our fantastic Birding Ecotours Bolivia birding tour, which can also be combined with our preceding **Paraguay: Birds and Wildlife Adventure**.

Main itinerary (16 days/15 nights)

Day 1. Arrival at Santa Cruz de la Sierra and transfer to the hotel

Most flights normally arrive at the Viru Viru International Airport in Santa Cruz de la Sierra in the afternoon. If time permits, we will spend a couple of hours birding around the airport, looking for species such as **Chopi Blackbird**, **Orange-backed Troupial**, **Rufous Casiornis**, **Toco Toucan**, **Yellow-chevroned Parakeet**, **White-bellied Nothura**, **Red-winged Tinamou**, **Campo Flicker**, and **Greater Rhea**.

Overnight: Hotel Cortez, Santa Cruz de la Sierra

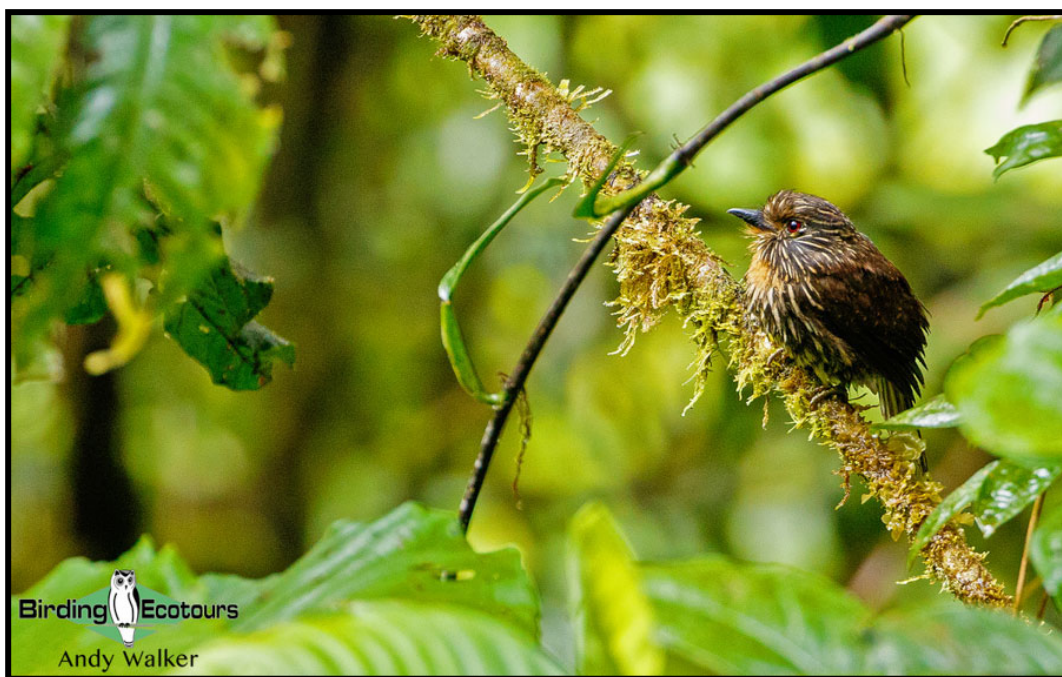


*The shy **Red-winged Tinamou** is possible around Santa Cruz airport (photo Anne Koke).*

Day 2. Lomas de Arena and Santa Cruz Botanical Garden

We will have an early start to explore the Lomas de Arena Regional Park, where we will focus on **Red-legged Seriema** and **White-eared Puffbird**, and will search some nearby ponds for **Ringed Teal**. After a couple of hours here, we will be transferred to the Santa Cruz Botanical Garden where we will spend the rest of the morning looking for **Bolivian Slaty** and **Great Antshrikes**, **Green-cheeked Parakeet**, **Fawn-breasted Wren**, **Blue-crowned Trogon**, **Amazonian Motmot**, **Chestnut-eared Aracari**, **Yellow-tufted** and **Golden-green Woodpeckers**, **Crowned Slaty** and **Suiriri Flycatchers**, **Purplish Jay**, **Creamy-bellied Thrush**, **Olivaceous** and **Buff-throated Woodcreepers**, **Black-capped Antwren**, **Flavescent** and **Golden-crowned Warblers**, **Guira Tanager**, and **Guira Cuckoo**. With luck, we may find the elusive **Stripe-backed Antbird**. In the afternoon, we might return to the airport surroundings looking for **Red-winged Tinamou** and **White-bellied Nothura**, if we still need these target birds.

Overnight: Hotel Cortez, Santa Cruz de la Sierra



Black-streaked Puffbird may be seen in the forests around Refugio Los Volcanes.

Days 3-4. Refugio Los Volcanes Lodge

We will have another early start, leaving Santa Cruz de la Sierra for Refugio Los Volcanes. This basic lodge (where we will spend two nights) is located in an outstanding location surrounded by rocky cliffs at the edge of the Amboró National Park. We will be looking for species such as **Two-banded Warbler**, **Black-goggled** and **Blue-browed Tanagers**, **Dusky-green Oropendola**, **Plush-crested** and **Purplish Jays**, **Green-cheeked Parakeet**, **Military Macaw**, **Blue-throated Piping Guan**, **Striated Antthrush**, **Slaty Gnateater**, **Ochre-cheeked Spinetail**, **Bolivian White-crowned Tapaculo**, **Red-necked Woodpecker**, **Yungas Dove**, **Sunbittern**, **Black-streaked**

Puffbird, Yungas Manakin, and if we are lucky, the secretive duo of **Bolivian Recurvebill** and **Grey Tinamou**. At night, we will try for **Rufescent Screech Owl**.

Overnight: Refugio Los Volcanes Lodge

Day 5. Transfer to Samaipata

After a last morning's birding around Refugio Los Volcanes, we will transfer to Samaipata.

Overnight: El Pueblito, Samaipata

Day 6. Quirusillas forest and transfer to Comarapa

We will have a very early start as we drive the unpaved road to the Quirusillas forest. This remote location holds a remnant patch of temperate Tucumán forest (a unique habitat found in this part of Bolivia and in northwestern Argentina). Our goal is to be there by dawn to look for **Red-faced Guan**, **Tucuman Amazon**, and **Dot-fronted Woodpecker**. Later we will descend into the dry valleys, dominated by scrub and cacti. Along our drive to Comarapa, we might see **Blue-crowned Parakeet**, **Grey-crested Finch**, **White-fronted Woodpecker**, **White-tipped Plantcutter**, and **Black-and-rufous Warbling Finch**.

Overnight: Montebanco B&B, Comarapa

Day 7. Perereta for Red-fronted Macaw

Today we have an early start to drive to Perereta, a special place where the endemic **Red-fronted Macaw** roosts. These birds roost here and as such the sighting and chance of photographing this unique species is almost guaranteed. Other birds here include the endemic trio of **Cliff Parakeet**, **Bolivian Earthcreeper**, and **Bolivian Blackbird**, as well as **Chaco Puffbird**, **Black-capped Warbling Finch**, **Rufous-sided Warbling Finch**, **Striped Woodpecker**, and **Spot-breasted Thornbird**. On the way back to Comarapa we might see the elusive **Giant Antshrike**, the recently split **Yungas Guan**, and with luck, the majestic **Andean Condor**.

Overnight: Montebanco B&B, Comarapa

Day 8. Siberia forest and transfer to Cochabamba

Today we will leave the dry valleys and climb in elevation as we explore the humid patch of montane forest above Comarapa, looking for the distinctive subspecies of **Azara's** (Buff-browed) **Spinetail**, **Light-crowned Spinetail**, **Trilling Tapaculo**, **Rufous-faced Antpitta** (endemic), **Common Bush Tanager**, **Olive-crowned Crescentchest**, **Bolivian**, **Fulvous-headed** and **White-browed Brushfinches**, and with luck, the scarce **Black-winged Parrot**. We will then drive to a slightly higher elevation and try for the endemic **Black-throated Thistletail**. Later we will arrive at Cochabamba for a four-night stay.

Overnight: Hotel Diplomat, Cochabamba

Day 9. Birding the Cerro Tunari

Today we explore the Cerro Tunari, looking for the endemic **Cochabamba Mountain Finch**, **Bolivian Warbling Finch**, **Brown-capped** and **Tawny Tit-Spinetails**, **Puna Tapaculo**, **Maquis Canastero**, **Cordilleran** and **Rusty-vented Canasteros**, **Streak-fronted Thornbird**, **Black-hooded Sierra Finch**, **Greenish Yellow Finch**, **White-capped Dipper**, **Andean Condor**, **Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle**, **Grey-hooded Parakeet**, **Puna Tapaculo**, **Tufted Tit-Tyrant**, and the striking **Red-tailed Comet**.

Overnight: Hotel Diplomat, Cochabamba



Tawny Tit Spinetail can be seen in Cerro Tunari near Cochabamba.

Day 10. Birding the upper Chapare

The Chapare area is the habitat of the localized **Hooded Mountain Toucan** and also **White-eared Solitaire**, the uncommon **Orange-browed Hemispingus**, and the rare **Straw-backed Tanager**. Other species include **Yungas Pygmy Owl**, **Band-tailed Pigeon**, **Barred Antthrush**, **Blue-banded Toucanet**, **Grey-bellied Flowerpiercer**, **Scarlet-bellied** and **Hooded Mountain Tanagers**, **Grass-green Tanager**, **White-eared Conebill**, **Chestnut-crested Cotinga**, **Barred Fruiteater**, and **Southern Mountain Cacique**.

Overnight: Hotel Diplomat, Cochabamba

Day 11. Birding the lower Chapare

We'll have another day to bird the upper Chapare in case we missed some of our targets in the area. We will then descend in elevation, looking for the localized **Yellow-rumped Antwren**, **Versicolored Barbet**, **Blue-banded Toucanet**, and **Upland Antshrike**.

Overnight: Hotel Diplomat, Cochabamba



*The gorgeous **Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager** can be seen in the Chapare area.*

Day 12. Flight to La Paz, transfer to and birding at Lake Titicaca

We will have an early flight to La Paz, and on arrival at El Alto International Airport we will be transferred to Huarina along the shores of Lake Titicaca. The main target for today is the localized and most-wanted **Titicaca Grebe**, which is easy from the grounds of our comfortable hotel. Other birds include **Yellow-winged Blackbird**, **Many-colored Rush Tyrant**, **Wren-like Rushbird**, **Spot-winged Pigeon**, **Yellow-billed Teal**, **Yellow-billed Pintail**, **Andean Duck**, **Puna Teal**, **Andean Gull**, **Chilean Flamingo**, **Plumbeous Rail**, **Andean Goose**, **Andean Lapwing**, and **Cinereous Harrier**.

Overnight: Inca Utama Hotel, Lake Titicaca



*The near endemic **Titicaca Grebe** is another important trip target.*

Day 13. Search for Berlepsch's Canastero

Today's excursion will take us to Sorata to look for the endemic and localized **Berlepsch's Canastero** and other high-Andes species. Then we will drive back to La Paz for an overnight.

Overnight: Hotel in La Paz

Day 14. Birding La Cumbre and Coroico Road

Today we will explore the high-elevation mountain pass of La Cumbre at the base of the snow-capped mountains, at an altitude of over 14,400 feet (4,000 meters). Surrounded by stunning scenery, we will look for **Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe** and **Grey-breasted Seedsnipe** and at slightly lower elevation for **Scribble-tailed Canastero** and **Diademed Tapaculo**.

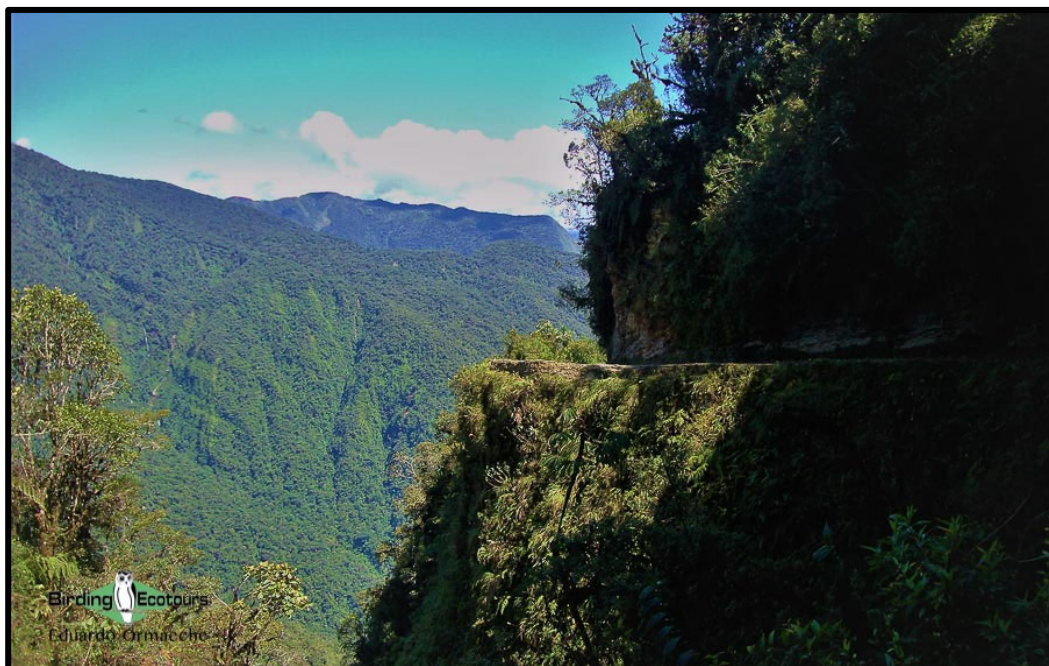
We will reach the famous Coroico Road (once the infamous Death Road), which is used these days only by cars and mountain cycles. Here we will look for the scarce **Scimitar-winged Piha**, **Band-tailed Fruiteater**, **Rufous-capped Antshrike**, **Bolivian Tyrannulet**, **Mountain Wren**, **Fulvous Wren**, **Blue-winged Mountain Tanager**, **Andean Solitaire**, **Drab Hemispingus**, and **Orange-browed Hemispingus**. Then we will descend to Coroico in the tropical Yungas.

Overnight: Rio Selva Resort, Coroico

Day 15. Coroico Road and transfer to La Paz

We will spend the morning looking for the localized **Brown Tinamou**, **Upland Antshrike**, **Andean Cock-of-the-rock**, **Stripe-chested Antwren**, and **Torrent Duck**. In the afternoon, we will return to La Paz.

Overnight: Hotel in La Paz



Impressive views of the Coroico Road in the Bolivian Yungas.

Day 16. Transfer to El Alto International Airport and departure

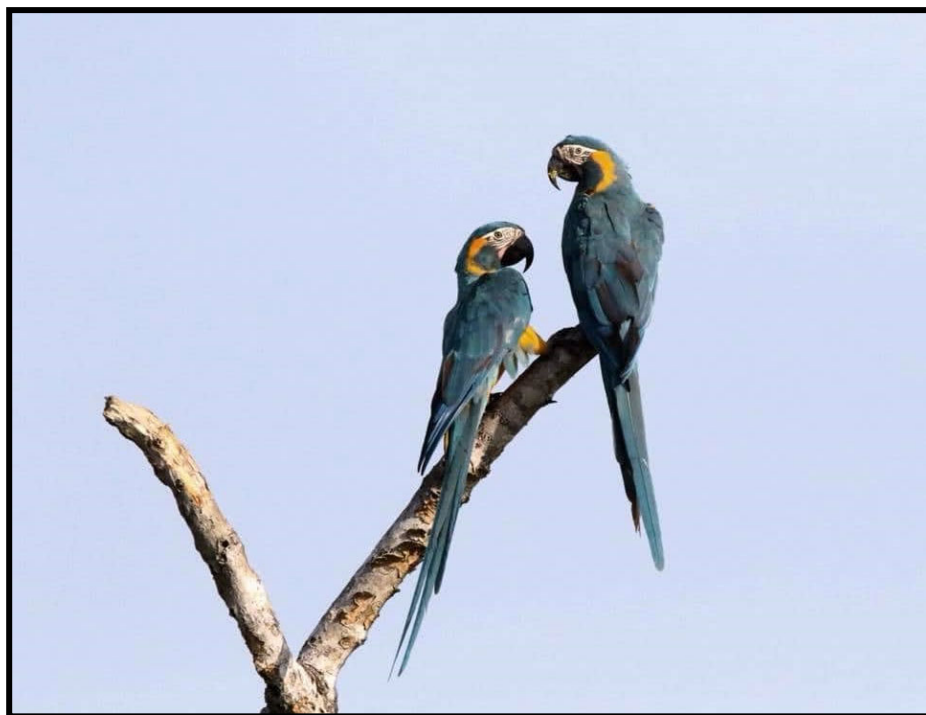
You will be transferred from La Paz to El Alto International Airport to connect with your international flight home, or if you are joining us for our **Blue-throated Macaw** extension, we will catch flights to Trinidad.

Blue-throated Macaw extension (3 days/2 nights)**Day 1. Flight from La Paz to Trinidad**

We will start this tour on the final day of our main Bolivia tour where we will catch flights from La Paz to Trinidad, in the Beni Department. We will spend the afternoon birding the Trinidad area. The wetlands of Trinidad provide good numbers of species like **Jabiru**, **Wood Stork**, **Roseate Spoonbill**, **Limpkin**, and **Wattled Jacana**. We will also look for **Snail Kite**, **Black-collared**

Hawk, Long-winged Harrier, the local subspecies of **Plain Softtail**, and **Velvet-fronted Grackle**, **Greater Thornbird**, **Grey-crested Cacholote**, **Black-collared Hawk**, **Snail Kite**, and **White-bellied** and **Rusty-collared Seedeaters**.

Overnight: Tapacare Resort, Trinidad



Blue-throated Macaw will be targeted on our extension (photo Jose Luis Avendaño)

Day 2. Loreto Road and Blue-throated Macaw

We will depart early in the morning to look for our main target here, the Critically Endangered (IUCN) **Blue-throated Macaw**. Until 1992, the natural habitat of this species was completely unknown, and with fewer than 250 mature individuals left in the wild, it is one of the most endangered bird species in the world. Around Trinidad there is an accessible site where three pairs live. We will also look for other species such as **Blue-and-yellow**, **Red-and-green**, and **Chestnut-fronted Macaws**, **Mato Grosso Antbird**, **White-lored Spinetail**, **Narrow-billed** and **Great Rufous Woodcreepers**, **White** and **Black-and-white Monjitas**, **South American Snipe**, **Large-billed** and **Yellow-billed Terns**, **Undulated Tinamou**, **Scarlet-headed Blackbird**, **Solitary Cacique**, and **White-tailed Goldenthrout**.

Overnight: Tapacare Resort, Trinidad

Day 3. Departure from Trinidad

We will spend the morning birding in Trinidad visiting the Chuchuni Ecological Reserve, where we might find species such as **Hoatzin**, **Sunbittern**, **Black-tailed** and **Blue-crowned Trogons**,

Chestnut-backed, Great and Barred Antshrikes, Band-tailed Antbird, Buff-throated Woodcreeper, Band-tailed Manakin, Purplish Jay, Plain-crowned Spinetail, Fawn-breasted Wren and White-backed Fire-eye. With luck we might find the secretive **Bare-faced Curassow, Undulated Tinamou or Pheasant Cuckoo.** We will then transfer in the afternoon to Trinidad Airport where you can catch your flight home.

Please note that the itinerary cannot be guaranteed as it is only a rough guide and can be changed (usually slightly) due to factors such as availability of accommodation, updated information on the state of accommodation, roads, or birding sites, the discretion of the guides and other factors. In addition, we sometimes have to use a different international guide from the one advertised due to tour scheduling.

Main Tour

Duration: 16 days
Group size: 4 - 8
Dates: 06-21 November 2023
Start: Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia
End: La Paz, Bolivia
Prices: US\$7,290 per person sharing (2023)

In the event of only 3 participants, there will be a 10% surcharge to guarantee departure if all participants agree.

Single supplement: US\$930 (2023)

Price includes:

Domestic flight from Cochabamba to La Paz
All transfers airport/hotel/airport
All accommodation
All meals except (except lunch on Day 1 and lunch on Day 16)
Private transportation
Tour leader
Entrance fees

Price excludes:

International flights
Insurance
Gratuities (please see our [tipping guidelines blog](#))
Personal expenses such as drinks, laundry, phone calls, internet access, etc.
Any activity not described in the itinerary

Extension

Duration:	3 days
Group size:	4 - 8
Dates:	21-23 November 2023
Start:	La Paz
End:	Trinidad
Prices:	US\$1,850 per person sharing (2023)

In the event of only 3 participants, there will be a 10% surcharge to guarantee departure if all participants agree.

Single supplement: US\$190 (2023)

Price includes:

2 x domestic flights, but see * below
All transfers airport/hotel/airport
All accommodation
All meals except
Private transportation
Tour leader
Entrance fees

** We can assist booking your flight from Trinidad to La Paz or Santa Cruz at the end of the extension, to connect with your international flight home; this connecting flight is actually included in the tour cost but if you book it as part of international flight then we subtract a small amount off your balance payment*

Price excludes:

International flights
Insurance
Gratuities (please see our [tipping guidelines blog](#))
Personal expenses such as drinks, laundry, phone calls, internet access, etc.
Any activity not described in the itinerary