

## Bandits & Badlands in Bolivia (M-ID: 3311)

<https://www.motourismo.com/en/listings/3311-bandits-and-badlands-in-bolivia>



**from \$2,310.00**

Dates and duration (days)

On request

14 days

**We spend the first day beating the pavement south towards the border, setting ourselves up for an adventures riders dream ride on day two as the road we travel clings or more accurately is cut out of the side of a mountain high above a river.**

We push on to Tarija, Bolivia's wine country, before following the footsteps of Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid near the town they were said to have taken their last breaths. Next, we ride the Uyuni Salt Flats where we'll leave plenty of time to take some crazy photos. On we go exploring two cities listed by UNESCO as World Heritage Sites. We learn about the life of Bolivian miners before we pick up the trail of another famous rebel, Ernesto "El Che" Guevara. From here the ride back home is a perfect mix of gravel and curvy blacktop.

### DAY TO DAY GUIDE:

#### DAY 1 (SUNDAY) - WELCOME TO SANTA CRUZ!

We'll personally pick everyone up at the airport and settle you into a hotel in Santa Cruz. After dinner we have an informal orientation and prep session and a good night's sleep.

#### DAY 2 (MONDAY) - TO THE GARDEN OF EDEN (230KM/145MI)

We take the bikes on a 70km (43 mile) roundtrip practice run up to the Jardin de las Delicias, a waterfall on the edge of Amboró National Park. Hanging bridge, dirt roads, stream crossings, photo ops galore and a picnic lunch are just part of today's adventure. We'll cap off the riding portion of the day with a cruise down some slab before arriving to our hotel in the town of Abapo, located in the Chaco region of Bolivia.

#### DAY 3 (TUESDAY) - STRAIGHT SOUTH: EL TORNO TO VILLAMONTES (310KM/190MI)

From Abapo we continue straight south to Villamontes at the foot of the Cordillera range, gateway to the Pilcomayo river canyon and to the East, the thorn forests of the Chaco.

#### DAY 4 (WEDNESDAY) - THROUGH THE NARROWS: VILLAMONTES TO TARIJA (250KM/155MI)

We follow the Pilcomayo river through the dramatic El Angosto (the Narrows) up through subtropical Entre Rios, over the ridge and into the valley of Tarija, Bolivia's wine country. Wine tasting, then dinner and lodging in the lovely city of Tarija.

#### DAY 5 (THURSDAY) - VALLEY TO RALLY: TARIJA TO TUPIZA (230KM/145MI)

Up the new highway from Tarija and into the tunnel through el Sama mountain to the high plateau country. Then we start negotiating the narrow gravel switchbacks up and down the canyons on the road to picturesque Tupiza, the valley along the Argentine border where the Dakar rally crossed into Bolivia.

#### DAY 6 (FRIDAY) - THE BUTCH & SUNDANCE ROUTE: TUPIZA TO UYUNI (220KM/140MI)

Part of today's route follows the Dakar rally's cross country route as the day begins by riding in the dry riverbed. We eat lunch in the village of Atocha not too far from where Butch and Sundance were gunned down. We climb to the high desert, reaching Uyuni, the old railroad town on the edge of the world's largest salt flats.

#### DAY 7 (SATURDAY) - THE FLATS: EL SALAR DE UYUNI (195KM/120MI)

We visit the train cemetery and ride the salt flats following the Dakar route to Isla Incahuasi, the only island in the salt lake with ancient cactus plants, some over 500 yrs old. Lots of photo ops, lunch in the Salt Hotel.

**DAY 8 (SUNDAY) - TO THE SILVER CITY: UYUNI TO POTOSI (205KM/125MI)**

Leaving the salt plains we climb higher!! ...to the imperial city of Potosí, capital of 17th century Spanish America. The whole city is an architectural treasure listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. At over 4,000 meters (13,000 feet) it sits in the shadow of El Cerro Rico, the huge dome holding the richest silver mines in the history of the New World.

**DAY 9 (MONDAY) - EL CERRO RICO**

We explore the city of Potosi and the historic silver mines of Cerro Rico. Photo ops everywhere! ...from expansive mountainscapes to claustrophobic mine shafts.

**DAY 10 (TUESDAY) - POTOSI TO SUCRE (155KM/100MI)**

An invigorating cruise over the mountain highway before descending to the city of Sucre, Bolivia's judicial capital. It's also known as "la ciudad blanca" (the white city) for the whitewashed walls of its pristine old city center. Its many churches and mansions from the 17th and 18th centuries still adorn the downtown streets.

**DAY 11 (WEDNESDAY) - CHARANGO & CHE: SUCRE TO LA HIGUERA (285KM/180MI)**

Today we take the back roads to La Higuera, the lonely village where revolutionary Che Guevara was executed in 1967. The road to La Higuera is a pilgrimage of sorts for the more adventuresome historians and admirers of el Che. On the way, we'll pass through Tarabuco and then stop for lunch in the town of Villa Serrano to admire what the town boasts as the world's largest charango. Reaching La Higuera in the evening we stay at the rustic Casa del Telegrafista, once home to the telegraph operator that informed the authorities of el Che's presence.

**DAY 12 (THURSDAY) - CHE'S MEMORIAL: LA HIGUERA TO EL TORNO (285KM/180MI)**

After a wonderful breakfast we visit the memorial room in the schoolhouse where el Che was executed. The days route takes us through the mountains of Vallegrande and down the old highway. By late afternoon we'll arrive once again to our base in Santa Cruz where our journey began.

**DAY 13 (FRIDAY) - CITY STREETS OF SANTA CRUZ**

It's a decompress day before returning to life as usual, so we relax the pace. We'll spend the day exploring the city, it's day of sight-seeing –last minute souvenir shopping, open markets and good food are a few of the options. To cap off the day and the tour we'll celebrate with a "farewell" dinner in the evening.

**DAY 14 (SATURDAY) - DEPARTURE DAY**

We'll take you from the hotel to catch your flight home at the airport. You'll want to stretch out your sore backside before you board your flight and flip through your pics as you grin (and groan) thinking of all the fun that was had. From here it's time to start planning your next adventure!

Countries	Bolivia
Category	Motorcycle Tour
Terrain	Combo On-/Offroad
Vehicle	your own motorcycle motorcycle rent optional
Tourguide / Coach	yes (guided)
Accommodation	Hotel / B&B or similar
Flight to / from	no, not incl.
Ferry	yes, incl.
Support vehicle (luggage/service)	yes
Level of difficulty	medium
Customer payment protection	yes
* PRICING	Minimal without optional extras, see pricing

## Pricing

per rider in a shared twin/double room, with own motorcycle (the booking of a double room is only available for a booking of two people. All single travelers are asked to choose the single room surcharge or choose to share a twin room with another tour participant)	\$2,310.00
per rider in a shared twin/double room, incl. rental motorcycle (the booking of a double room is only available for a booking of two people. All single travelers are asked to choose the single room surcharge or choose to share a twin room with another tour participant)	\$3,710.00
per pillion passenger in a shared twin/double room (pillion passengers cannot book without an accompanying rider)	\$2,310.00
per person single room (surcharge - only available with an additional selection of the basic price "per rider in shared twin/double room")	\$280.00

## Included

Motorcycle rental (depending on booking): Kawasaki KLR650 (low-milage, meticulously maintained, with a medium-sized, waterproof case on the rear rack)

Lodging

English and Spanish speaking tour guide

Meals

Fuel

Fees for activities during the tour

Tolls

Ferry crossings

Airport transfers  
Support-truck with parts  
First aid kit  
Auxiliary bike

## **Not included**

International flights  
Visas  
Alcoholic beverages  
Snacks  
Riding gear  
Vaccinations  
Traffic citations  
Souvenirs (personal expenses)

## **More details**

Distance: 2100 km / 1300 miles

Minimum number of participants: 3 riders. The tour can take place with less riders and without a support vehicle. Please enquire.

Maximum number of participants: 9 riders. If you are a group with more riders, please enquire.

Arrival:

When you arrive we'll be waiting to pick you up at the airport with a clearly marked sign. If another participant will arrive soon after you, we'll wait for them as well, otherwise we'll head straight to your hotel near our base in El Torno, about an hour's drive from the airport. The rest of the day is simply for resting and shaking off the jet lag before the adventure starts the following morning. The hotel is equipped with a nice pool or you could take a walk outside if you'd like, to help unwind after the long trip.

Luggage/What to Bring:

Feel free to bring a full-sized checked baggage, however when we depart on the tour, we have space in the support truck to accommodate one carry-on size piece of luggage per participant. Whatever you decide not to take we'll store it for safekeeping until we return. Keep in mind that all of our bikes come equipped with a medium-sized, waterproof case located on the rear rack of the bike, which participants can use to carry items such as rain gear, extra gloves, snacks, and the like. Here's a good starter list of important things to bring:

- adventure motorcycle riding gear – preferably Hi-Viz (minimum: helmet, gloves, boots)
- backpack-style hydration pack
- rain gear
- sunglasses
- sun block/screen
- bathing suit

- warm/hot weather clothes is a must, likewise cool weather clothing is also a good idea in the case of our higher elevation tours where it can get chilly at night

- pain reliever and anti-diarrhea meds

- for liability purposes, tank bags are not permitted

#### Insurance:

All of our bikes are insured according to the requirements of Bolivian law. This means that the rider (and passenger) and third parties are covered for medical costs up to \$3,500 per person. That being said, we also require proof of insurance from each participant that covers the participant in the event of an accident or emergency while traveling abroad, specifically riding a 650cc motorcycle. If your insurance provider doesn't cover you for such activities, you'll need to purchase traveler insurance.

In the event that a motorcycle is damaged by the participant, while on tour, we offer our participants a direct insurance agreement, which can be purchased before the start of the tour at an additional cost of \$15 per riding day, which provides coverage up to \$3,500 of accidental damage. Damage to a motorcycle not caused by a participant is our responsibility.

#### Responsibility waiver:

Before you receive your motorcycle you will need to sign a responsibility waiver form where you will agree that we will not be held responsible for any accidents, illnesses, or the loss, theft, or damage of any personal items.

#### Legal requirements for participants:

- be at least 18 years old (except for passengers)

- possess a passport that upon entering Bolivia has at least 6 months of validity

- possess a valid motorcycle driver's license/endorsement from your country (except for passengers)

- possess an international driving permit with a motorcycle endorsement to accompany your motorcycle driver's license/endorsement (except for passengers)

#### Medical:

For the most up-to-date information regarding vaccinations for traveling in Bolivia, contact your local health clinic for recommendations. Additionally, some people could experience symptoms of altitude sickness in the higher elevations of some of our tours. Symptoms can take on a variety of forms, some of the most common being headache and nausea. Due to the nature of our location in the foothills of the Andes Mountains, altitude sickness is not a concern upon arrival. Likewise, on our tours that include spending some time up in higher elevations, we will work our way up gradually, allowing our bodies to become acclimated as we travel, which will help in minimizing the symptoms. For participants that experience an uncomfortable level of altitude sickness, drinking lots of fluids, including coca tea oftentimes proves helpful in combatting the symptoms, which typically last no longer than 24 hours. For slightly more severe cases, almost all pharmacies carry an over-the-counter pain reliever, used especially for cases of altitude sickness.

#### Safety & Security:

With a land size of 1,098,581 km<sup>2</sup> (424,164 mi<sup>2</sup>) and a population of close to 12 million people, most of which are concentrated in the principal cities, comparatively speaking Bolivia is scarcely populated. For that reason, in addition to cell phones, which will inevitably be without service during stretches of our tours, both guides are equipped with two-way radios. Furthermore, we also carry a satellite-based "Personal Location Beacon" (PLB) device, meaning that we're never further away from help than the click of a button. We also carry a well-stocked 1st aid kit, however, we do ask that participants with diabetes, severe allergies (of any kind), or that react adversely to stings or bites, would bring the necessary medicine or treatments they would need to counteract those conditions. We also ask that you would inform us of these conditions pre-tour so that we may be of assistance if the need were to arise.

#### Patience & Flexibility:

As a developing country Bolivia still experiences many of the pains that go along with that status, which in turn gives it a rustic and adventurous feel. Sometimes things happen that are out of our control, like changes in weather that can deteriorate road conditions or the sudden discovery that our hotel reservations disappeared, etc. We might find it necessary to adjust our route or schedule slightly due to a number of unforeseen circumstances that in the end will just add to the adventure. For these reasons being patient and flexible are important.

Note: Our bikes are not available for use on scheduled non-riding days, we often use these times to conduct routine bike maintenance.