

Bolivia: The Sky is the Limit (M-ID: 3313)

<https://www.motourismo.com/en/listings/3313-bolivia-the-sky-is-the-limit>



from \$2,801.60

Dates and duration (days)

On request

16 days

We get things started by taking the "old," less traveled road to city of Cochabamba, known for being the culinary capital of Bolivia.

The real climb begins and the air gets thin, with landscapes of snowcapped mountains in nearly every direction, before we descend into the quaint village of Quime. We'll see our fair share of dirt roads the next couple of days, including riding the infamous "Death Road" from the bottom to the top, then climb some more until we reach the "La Cumbre" which sits at an elevation of 4,700 meters/15,500 feet, and then drop down into an expansive valley, home to the city of La Paz, where we'll spend the night just a few blocks from the Presidential Palace. After riding through the altiplano (high plains) region, we'll arrive at the old railroad town of Uyuni, which resides on the edge of the largest salt flats in the world. We spend an entire day exploring the salt flats before pushing on to the cities of Potosi and Sucre, both of which are listed by UNESCO as World Heritage Sites. We'll get a first-hand perspective of the life of Bolivian miners before we pick up the trail of the famous rebel, Ernesto "El Che" Guevara during his last days. To wrap the tour up it's a perfect mix of gravel and curvy blacktop as we wind our way back to where the tour began.

DAY TO DAY GUIDE:

DAY 1 (SUNDAY) - ARRIVAL: WELCOME TO BOLIVIA
We'll personally pick everyone up at the airport. After making the short trip from Santa Cruz to El Torno, we'll help you get settled into your hilltop cabin. After dinner, we have an informal orientation and prep session, followed by a good night's sleep.

DAY 2 (MONDAY) - TO THE GARDEN OF EDEN
(165KM./103MI.)

We take the bikes on a 70km. (43 miles) round-trip practice run-up to the "Jardin de las Delicias," where we'll encounter a series of breathtaking waterfalls on the edge of Amboró

National Park. Hanging bridges, dirt roads, stream crossings, hiking, swimming, and a picnic lunch are just part of today's adventure. Back in town, we'll cap off the riding portion of the day with a ride up some curvy new slab to the mountain village of Samaipata where we'll spend the night.

DAY 3 (TUESDAY) - JUMPING OFF DAY: SAMAIPATA TO COCHABAMBA (360KM./225MI.)

We leave our quaint hotel in Samaipata and take the mountain route 360km up to Cochabamba, central Bolivia's green farming valley. We'll maneuver our way up a picturesque older highway with a mix of dirt and pavement riding.

DAY 4 (WEDNESDAY) - THE BIG CLIMB BEGINS: COCHABAMBA TO QUIME (317KM./197MI.)

Leaving the city we're back out on the highway again this morning. The first of many passes that we traverse today sits at 4,000 meters above sea level, with the highest being over 4,700 meters. As we ride we'll get to take in the majestic beauty of the snow-capped Andes Mountains. We then descend into Quime through a steep glacial valley.

DAY 5 (THURSDAY) - QUIME TO CHULUMANI
(191KM./119MI.)

We pick up where we left off yesterday as we continue our descent today, there's no pavement today though as we head towards the Amazon Basin. Our journey today is a roller coaster of sorts as we ascend and descend through several valleys with steep drop-offs.

DAY 6 (FRIDAY) - DEATH ROAD AND BEYOND: CHULUMANI TO LA PAZ (181KM./113MI.)

We continue traversing the mountain roads throughout the morning hours. At midday, we'll take a break for lunch and

try our hand at zip-lining high above the valley floors. From here it's all uphill as we embark onto the infamous "Death Road" with its many twists, sheer drop-offs, and spectacular views. We keep climbing after we reach the highway, the summit pass (La Cumbre) sits at an elevation of 4,700 meters. From there we descend into the city of La Paz, one of Bolivia's capital cities, with its vibrant mix of Aymara, Quechua, and Spanish cultures.

DAY 7 (SATURDAY) - THE GREAT ALTIPLANO: LA PAZ TO ORURO (224KM./140MI.)

After climbing up out of La Paz it's an easy ride cruising along the Altiplano (High Plains) region on the tarmac to the city of Oruro, the capital city of the department of Oruro.

DAY 8 (SUNDAY) - ORURO TO UYUNI (317KM./197MI.)

Leaving Oruro we head straight south, along the way expect to see plenty of wildlife, namely llama, alpaca, and the occasional vicuña. It's a long(ish) day in the saddle but the roads are in good shape, so we'll make good time. As we near our destination we'll get our first glimpse of the world's largest salt flats.

DAY 9 (MONDAY) - THE FLATS: EL SALAR DE UYUNI (193KM./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 10 (TUESDAY) - TO THE SILVER CITY: UYUNI TO POTOSI (204KM./126MI.)

Leaving the salt flats 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 11 (WEDNESDAY) – 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 12 (THURSDAY) - POTOSI TO SUCRE (156KM./97MI.)

It's 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. We'll arrive with plenty of time to explore the downtown area as well take a tour of the "Casa de la Libertad."

DAY 13 (FRIDAY) - CHARANGO & CHE: SUCRE TO LA HIGUERA (286KM./178MI.)

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 admirers of el Che. On the way, we'll stop to check out the market in Tarabuco and then again 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 14 (SATURDAY) - CHE'S MEMORIAL: LA HIGUERA TO

EL TORNO (266KM./165MI.)

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

DAY 15 (SUNDAY) - CITY STREETS OF SANTA CRUZ

It's a decompress day before returning to life, as usual, so we relax the pace, we'll pack our bags and say goodbye to El Torno and head into the city for a 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 16 (MONDAY) - 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
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)	\$2,801.60
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)	\$4,367.20
per pillion passenger in a shared twin/double room (pillion passengers cannot book without an accompanying rider)	\$2,801.60
per person single room (surcharge), (surcharge, only available with an additional selection of the basic price "per rider in shared twin/double room")	\$329.60

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 Spanisch speaking tourguide

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

Drinks of the alcoholic variety

Snacks

Riding gear

Vaccinations

Traffic citations

Souvenirs (personal expenses)

More details

Distance: 2,600 km / 1600 miles

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

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

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.

In the event that a motorcycle is damaged while on tour as a result of a participant, 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.

Lodging: Each participant can choose between single or double/shared room occupancy. Occasionally, on certain tours, single room occupancy may not be available for a night or two on the tour for reasons of availability. Participants that come alone but choose double/shared room occupancy may have to share a room with another participant on the tour that they don't know.

Luggage/What to Bring: Feel free to bring 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 to not take we'll store it for safe-keeping 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

- sunblock/screen
- bathing suit
- warm/hot weather clothes are 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

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 motorcycle drivers license/endorsement from your country (except for passengers)
- possess an international driving permit with a motorcycle endorsement to accompany your motorcycle drivers 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 km² (424,164 mi²) 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), meaning that we're never further away from help than the click of a button. Likewise, 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.