



The Joint Chinese College Alumni Association of Southern USA
Leisure Learning Club 2019 Trip

14 Days Bolivia & Lake Titicaca + Torres Del Paine

January 24, 2019 – February 6, 2019

Easter Island Tapati Festival Post Tour

February 5, 2019-February 11, 2019

Early Bonus: For LLC members who complete their registration and postmarked by:

On and before 5/15/18 \$500, on and before 6/15/18 \$300



Day 1 – 24 JAN Thursday: USA/Lima UA854 4:40pm-12:15am (1/24)

Fly from the US to Lima, Peru, stay overnight at airport hotel and connect to next morning flight to Juliaca where Lake Titicaca is located.

Day 2 – 25 JAN Friday: Lima / Juliaca / Puno (L/D)

After arriving in Juliaca you will first visit Sillustani, pre-Incan ruins on the shores of Lake Umayo near Puno in Peru. The ruins are built above ground in tower-like structures called chullpas. They were first created by the Qulla people, who were part of the Aymara nation and then adopted by the Incas. Afterwards, continue onwards to Puno to rest and adjust to the high altitude. Overnight at Jose Antonio Puno Hotel.



Day 3 – 26 JAN Saturday: Uros Islands / Taquile Island (B/L/D)

The Uros are an Aymara-speaking indigenous people of Peru and Bolivia that live on about 100 self-fashioned floating islands made from reeds in Lake Titicaca near Puno. You will visit two of their islands (15 min boat ride) and learn how they survive on these floating structures and how their customs may soon be lost due to assimilation with modern society. Afterwards, we will head to Taquile Island (1.5 hr boat ride). Learn about the unique history here whose residents migrated from the shores of Lake Titicaca to this volcanic rock island and how they live in communities that completely support one another in growing crops as well as their unique societal customs. Lastly, take a short city tour of Puno, which was established in 1668. It has several churches dating back to the colonial period originally built by the Spanish to evangelize the natives and has a unique history where the Incas, Aymaras and Spaniards struggled for control for many years. In the evening, enjoy a dinner show featuring dozens of traditional folklorico dances from around Peru.



Overnight at Jose Antonio Puno Hotel.

Day 4 – 27 JAN Sunday: Puno / Bolivia border crossing / Tiwanaku / Uyuni (B/L/D)

Drive from Puno to Desaguadero (3.5 hrs. drive), the border town with Bolivia. We will stop for photos at a small unique set of Incan ruins dedicated to fertility as well as a lookout point of Lake Titicaca. After clearing immigration at the border, continue to Tiwanaku (1.5 hrs. drive), which is the predecessor civilization of the Incas, with great achievements in pottery, metallurgy, stone construction and agriculture even more advanced than the Incas that came afterwards. Later, transfer to the La Paz airport located in El Alto, which is currently the highest International airport in the world at 4,080 m / 13,115 ft. above sea level, for your flight to Uyuni to begin your salt flat adventure. Please note the group will be split between 3 flights due to use of smaller jet aircraft that have weight limits.

Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel, the Palacio de Sal. This is an amazing hotel with walls and ceilings made of salt. The purpose of this special construction is to be in balance with nature and the surrounding landscape while enjoying a pleasant and unforgettable rest. It is only luxury hotel in the world made from salt, and includes your breakfasts and dinners while in Uyuni. The hotel will distribute waterproof boots for use during your stay. Your transportation in Uyuni will be by Sport Utility Vehicles (SUVs) for 4 travelers each in order to traverse the wet salt flats and dirt roads of this amazing region.

Overnight at Palacio de Sal Hotel.

Day 5 – 028 JAN Monday: Uyuni Salt Flats (B/L/D) – Wet flats, dry flats, Playa Blanca & stargazing

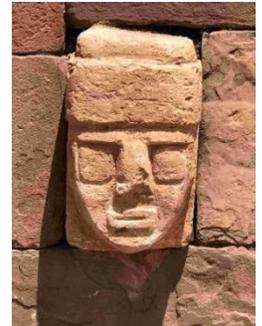
Depart for the great salt flats for amazing photo opportunities. We will stop in the dry, white parts of the flats, which are perfect for taking amusing photos due to the lack of visual perspective when all you see is an expanse of whiteness to the horizon. We will also move to wet areas of the flats that will provide you the unbelievable mirror effect Uyuni is known for with just 2 cm of rain water on the ground.

*** Make sure to bring any props and costumes from home that you would like to use for photos! ***

Later, we will visit Playa Blanca, and outpost in the middle of the salt flats that was once a hotel but now used as a cantina and restroom stop for tourists. Be sure to take photos in front of the numerous flags from countries around the world.

Please note, due to rapidly changing weather conditions in the Uyuni salt flat region, the order of your activities will likely be adjusted over the next few days. You can easily experience 4 seasons in 1 day! For wet flat photos, it is very important to have little or no wind to produce the mirror effect. Rain also makes it difficult to enjoy the flats. Your expert guides and drivers will scout out conditions each morning and communicate with other guides throughout the day to help locate ideal photo locations. Please be flexible as the group may suddenly change plans in order to take advantage of better weather conditions. We appreciate your understanding.

Overnight at Palacio de Sal Hotel.



Day 6 – 29 JAN Tuesday: Uyuni (B/L/D) – Sunrise, Photo opps, geothermal formations

Start the day early in the morning in a wet area of the salt flats to catch the spectacular sunrise. Return to the hotel for breakfast and a short break.

Due to the unpredictability of weather, particularly wind and rain, we will have another opportunity today for picture taking in both the dry and wet regions of the salt flats. Perhaps you may have seen a pose or prop from a fellow member that you would like to try as well.

Afterwards, we will visit Ojos del Salar (eyes of the salt flats), where small geothermal pools less than 1 m deep bubble with cold water; many guests believe a quick soak of your feet is good for arthritis.

After dinner, you will have an extraordinary experience being in the middle of Uyuni salt flats at night. It will be a trip to the stars without leaving Earth with the Milky Way truly shining across the sky. Please note that clear skies with little to no wind is essential.

During these few days you will also learn how Bolivians and Peruvians live at these high altitude where some communities are at over 4,000 m (12,000 ft.) and still able to grow crops like quinoa. We hope to see some of the unique local fauna such as llamas, alpacas, vicuñas, guinea pigs and flamingos (Andean, Chilean and James species that thrive at high altitude).

Overnight at Palacio de Sal Hotel.

Day 7 – 30 JAN Wednesday: Uyuni / La Paz (B/L/D) – Valley of the Moon

After checkout, we will first stop in the nearby town of Colchani where the 70 resident families make a living off producing table salt and selling local handicrafts. Afterwards, visit the Train Cemetery, an outdoor resting place for 19th and 20th century steam locomotives that were once an integral part of the Bolivian economy.

We will then head to the city of Uyuni for lunch featuring k'alapurka, a unique Bolivian soup made from yellow corn, potato, savoury meat and local herbs that bubbles due to the hot volcanic rock placed in each bowl. Afterwards, head to the airport for your flight back to La Paz.

Upon arrival, we will visit the Valley of the Moon, a region of unique clay mountain formations created by millennia of erosion. We will then continue to your hotel for check-in.

Overnight at Camino Real Suites.

Day 8 – 31 JAN Thursday: La Paz (B/L/D) – City Tour & Bolivian Dinner Show



The marvelous city of La Paz is located in a valley at the foothills of the Andes Range, situated at 3,632m/11,942 ft. above sea level. The tour goes through several neighborhoods of this incredibly mountainous capital city.

We will stop at the viewpoint “Mirador de Killi,” from where there is a magnificent view over La Paz. There will also be a visit to various street markets including a traditional market which sells local agricultural products from the highlands such as quinoa, tunta, chuño (dehydrated potato) and oca (sweet tuber), as well as the infamous Witch Market where locals buy supplies for ritual offerings to Pachamama (Mother Earth) and other gods. Lastly, we will take a ride on the “Teleférico” which is a unique system of large cable cars used throughout La Paz as public transportation that is ideal due to its hilly nature.

For your farewell dinner, you will enjoy a dinner show that features the dances and costumes from around the various regions of Bolivia including the high Andes Mountains, temperate valleys, and tropical rain forest. The performers will present traditional dances in hand woven clothing and play handmade instruments such as zampoñas (bamboo flutes) and charangos (small guitars made of wood or armadillo skin). You can compare and contrast these dances, music and costumes with that of Peru you saw in Puno.

Overnight at Camino Real Suites.



Torres Del Paine Tour



Day 9 – 01 FEB Friday: La Paz / Santiago, Chile (BD)

After check-out this morning, transfer to the airport for your late morning flight to Santiago, Chile arriving at 3:30PM. After customs and immigration, you will head to your hotel. Check-in, freshen up, and depart for dinner. After dinner, you will have a short city tour of Santiago to see the evening landscape of this modern city. Return to your hotel for a good night's rest before your morning flight tomorrow to Patagonia.



Overnight at Hotel Atton Santiago

Day 10 – 02 Saturday: Santiago / Puerto Natales / Torres Del Paine (B/Box Lunch/D) – Wildlife sightings

Transfer to the airport for your morning domestic flight to Punta Arenas, the gateway to Patagonia. You will then travel by bus to Torres del Paine (2 hours), one of the top 10 mountain destinations in the world known for its uniquely shaped mountain peaks, astounding beauty and numerous bucket list hikes. Your bus may stop for wildlife sightings of guanaco (smaller than llamas), rhea (cousin to the ostrich), armadillo, Andean condor, cara cara vulture, red fox, Andean deer, and if you are truly lucky, the revered puma. Arrive in time for an orientation regarding the excursions for the next 3 days, and dinner at your all-inclusive hotel.



Overnight at Rio Serrano Hotel, Torres del Paine.



Day 11 – 03 FEB Sunday: Torres Del Paine National Park (BLD) Begin our adventure with breakfast, then a full day Full Day Grey Glacier excursion.

The most incredible and intense blue you will ever see! That is what you'll experience after navigating through the waters of Lake Grey and marvelling at one of Patagonia's most famous natural wonders. The Grey Glacier is a 'must-see' southern Patagonian ice field for anyone wanting to have an unforgettable experience. Return to hotel for dinner and overnight.



Overnight at Rio Serrano Hotel, Torres del Paine.



Day 12 – 04 FEB Monday: Torres Del Paine National Park (BLD)

We will enjoy a full day of Torres del Paine. This is an excellent option to discover most of the areas of the National Park. Lakes, rivers, colorful flowing cascades, and the majestic Paine Massif together with the surrounding flora and fauna will be the traveler's experience throughout this excursion.



On our way towards Grey Lake, we will stop to appreciate the views of the swaying Serrano River course together with the beauty of the same named local town. Guardería Grey will be the starting point of the trek following the imposing path the glacier once left. The lake is known for the striking huge ice blocks resting on its waters. We will then connect with the main stream of this fluvial area called Paine River. You will be amazed by the turquoise colored waters of Lake Pehoé situated nearby Pudeto, and after a short hike we will be faced with the magnificent views of Lake Nordenskjold plummeting into the famous 'Salto Grande', where we will also encounter the famous Paine Horns.



Our journey will continue with the enjoyment of various aspects of the mountain range, as well as the exquisite views of Lake Sarmiento, the largest in the National Park. Here the Patagonian steppe invites herds of Guanacos to run freely through the clear forests.



By this stage we will have reached the north/east area, just outside the park to Laguna Amarga, where weather permitting, the lake will act as a mirror to the renowned Torres del Paine. Laguna Amarga shores feed the elegant flamingos on the algae and plankton that live beneath its waters.



Following our adventure we continue to be in awe by the spectacular Cascada Paine, as its unique fall flows into Laguna Azul the last location of our trip, ending the day with an unforgettable view to the magic that is Torres del Paine.

Return to hotel for dinner and your final night in Torres Del Paine.

Overnight at Rio Serrano Hotel, Torres del Paine.

Day 13 – 05 FEB Tuesday: Puerto Natales / Santiago / USA (B) UA846 9:55PM-4:50AM (02/06)

After check-out this morning, transfer to the Puerto Natales airport for your flight back to Santiago at 3:00p.m., with immediate connection to your flight home..

Day 14 – 06 FEB Wednesday: Arrival in the US

Welcome home. We hope you have enjoyed your amazing adventure to Bolivia, Lake Titicaca and Torres Del Paine, and have many memories and photos to cherish.



Easter Island Tapati Festival Post Tour

February 5, 2019-February 10, 2019



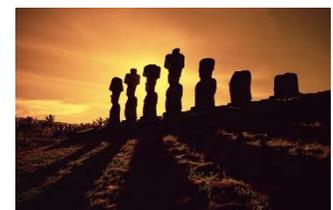
Day 13 – 05 FEB Tuesday: Puerto Natales / Santiago (B/Box Lunch/D)

After check-out this morning, transfer to the Puerto Natales airport for your flight back to Santiago at 3:00p.m. Overnight in Santiago for your flight connection tomorrow morning.

Overnight at [TBD Santiago].

Day 14 – 06 FEB Wednesday: Santiago / Easter Island (BLD)

After breakfast, board your 9:30a.m. flight for **Easter Island** (5hr 25min flight on Boeing 787-900), which arrives at 12:55p.m. Welcome to the most remote island on Earth with one of the most extraordinary and



isolated cultures in the world. It is now described as an open-air museum featuring its nearly 900 moai stone statues that were celebrated by the Rapa Nui people, named by the European sailors that visited this part of the South Pacific.

The moai statues were considered by the early people of Rapa Nui as their ancestors or *tupuna* that were believed to be the reincarnation of important leaders of their clans.

Your trip coincides with the famous **Tapati Festival**, which celebrates Rapa Nui culture and is reminiscent of the historical Birdman competition to crown the island's King for the next year amongst the various tribes. Today, the festival consists of numerous dancing and singing competitions, as well as traditional sporting events such as swimming, canoeing, horse racing, haka pei (sliding down the island's steepest slope on banana trunks) and the island triathlon. Each year, two young female 'candidates' compete with each other to become the Queen of the Tapati for that year, and all of the above competitions carry points, meaning that the candidate with the most points at the end of the fortnight is crowned the Queen.

The main events take place each night on the stage at Hanga Vare Vare, while daytime competitions such as horse racing take place at different locations all around the island. It is a fabulous festival that involves everyone who is on the island at that time, locals and visitors alike. This is a once in a lifetime trip during the most exciting time of year.

After landing, you will be transferred to your all inclusive sustainable hotel, the Hangaroa Eco Village and Spa Resort, which is the best hotel in all of Easter Island known for its beautiful minimalist yet warm design and delicious cuisine (all food and beverages including standard alcohol are included). The inspiration for the hotel, its designs, textures and colors come from local ethnic roots, and a tribute to the Rapa Nui culture and its numerous archeological sites. It was ranked #2 hotel in South America and among the Top 25 Best Resorts in the World by Conde Nast in 2017.

Your excursions during your stay are also bundled at no extra cost, and will be finalized the day prior based on weather conditions and forecasts. The program designed below is our normal selection of tours but may be subject to change. We will also re-arrange the program about 1 to 2 months prior to arrival in order to incorporate Tapati Festival events as its schedule will only be released at that time. The island is only 30 minutes driving time from side to side so please be flexible for schedule changes to catch special events or better weather in other parts of the island. Please wear good hiking shoes and bring rain gear as well as sunscreen everyday for every excursion. Weather changes extremely quickly here in the navel of the world, aka middle of nowhere.

After check-in and lunch, you will have an afternoon excursion to learn about the Birdman Legend and its famous competition that was used to avoid civil war between tribes. You will stop at the archaeological sites of Orongo, Rano Kau and Vinapu all on the western side of the island. You will see how the competitors were able to climb down the side of the volcano, swim across a shark-infested channel, and carry a bird's egg back on his head back across the channel and to the top of the volcano to be declared



the winner for that year. In the evening, we may attend one of the many events that are part of the Tapati Festival.

Overnight at Hangaroa Eco Village and Spa Resort.

Day 15 – 07 FEB Thursday: Easter Island (BLD)

Enjoy a half day visit to Ahu Akahanga, located 250 meters above sea level, and that you would be able to overlook the surrounding environment. Then we will visit Rano Raraku, the main quarry of the Rapa Nui to create the stone bodies of the moai. There are dozens of moai of different sizes visibly in various stages of development, the biggest one (if it were completed) would be nearly 21 meters tall, or about 7 stories high. We will finish at Ahu Tongariki, which is arguably the most photographed set of moai framed by a beautiful beach and the ocean behind it. Return to the hotel for lunch.

In the afternoon and/or evening, we will attend one of the many events that are part of the Tapati Festival.

Overnight at Hangaroa Eco Village and Spa Resort.

Day 16 – 08 FEB Friday: Easter Island (BLD)

In the morning, you will visit Anakena where we will find Te Pito O Te Henua, also known as “the Navel of the World”. You will learn more about the pink volcanic stone that was used to form the ceremonial headdresses, or *pukao*, of the moai that came from another volcanic quarry on the other side of the island. Why did the Rapa Nui form the bodies from grey volcanic rock and pukao from red volcanic rock, all transported to the far reaches of the island? Or did aliens visit the Rapa Nui and Find out the theories today from your expert local guide. Return to the hotel for lunch.

In the afternoon and/or evening, we will attend one of the many events that are part of the Tapati Festival.

Overnight at Hangaroa Eco Village and Spa Resort.

Day 17 – 09 FEB Saturday: Easter Island / Santiago (B/L/D on plane)

For your final morning, visit Ahu Akivi after breakfast. The site has seven moai, all of equal shape and size, and is also known as a celestial observatory that was set up around the 16th century. The site is located inland, rather than along the coast. A particular feature of the seven identical moai statues is that they exactly face the sunset during the Spring Equinox and have their backs to the sunrise during the Autumn Equinox. Such an astronomically precise feature is seen only at this location on the island. Depart for the airport for your 2:55p.m. flight to Santiago landing at 9:25p.m. (4hr 30 min on Boeing 787-900)



Overnight at [TBD Santiago].

Day 18 – 10 FEB Sunday: Santiago (B/L/D on plane)

Revel in the vibrant color and culture of UNESCO Heritage Site Valparaíso and Viña del Mar on a full-day tour of the coastal cities from Santiago. Travel through Chile's spectacular countryside, stopping in the picturesque Casablanca Valley to taste Chilean wine, and then arrive in the verdant city of Viña del Mar. Admire the gorgeous beach and revitalize with a delicious seaside lunch, and then take a tour of Valparaíso's kaleidoscopic sprawl of houses and hills. Capture photographs of street art and hear of the city's interesting history before returning to Santiago.

After an early dinner, head to the airport for your 9:40p.m. United flight back to Houston.

Overnight on plane.

Day 19 – 11 FEB Monday: Arrival in Houston

Welcome home. We hope you have enjoyed your amazing adventure to Bolivia, Lake Titicaca, Torres Del Paine, and Easter Island with many memories and photos to cherish.

SPECIAL NOTES:

1. Please note that everything will depend on weather conditions. For those that want to do hikes and/or horseback riding on their own, you can choose to skip the full day group excursions and arrange for your own activities with the Excursion Team (which costs are already included in your All Inclusive package, and those trips are listed in the excursion description file).
2. **Recommended clothing** - As Torres del Paine National Park is susceptible (because of its location) to strong winds, intense heat, rain and snow, it is vital that you bring appropriate clothing for these conditions. We suggest:
 - Head - Woolen knitted beanie thermal knitted scarf, sunglasses with UV protection and sunscreen 50+.
 - Top - high neck thermal long sleeve shirts, thermal quick dry singlet, polar or fleece jacket, waterproofed jacket and gloves
 - Legs - Quick dry thermal legging tights, waterproof long pants and shorts.
 - Feet - Polar or polypropylene socks and trekking shoes.

PRICING

- **14 Day \$6,788**
- **Easter Island Post Trip \$2498**
- **Price without US to South America air – deduct \$570**
- **Single supplement – 10 days \$1400, 14 days \$2000**
- **Prices are per person double occupancy**
- **Pricing is based on 80 travelers which is the maximum capacity of the Palacio de Sal Hotel.**



INCLUDED IN PACKAGE

- Airfare package includes Houston – Lima, La Paz - Santiago – Houston
- Additional airfare package for post trip members – Santiago – Torres del Paine round trip.
- Torres del Paine: Hotel Rio Serrano, in all-inclusive basis (includes excursions, meals, standard alcoholic beverages, non-alcoholic beverages)
- Lodging in Standard Rooms unless otherwise specified
- English speaking guides
- All meals as specified in Itinerary
- All transportation in air-conditioned vehicles
- Entrance fees for all activities in Itinerary
- Basic US Travel insurance policy
- 2 small bottles of water daily per person

NOT INCLUDED IN PACKAGE

- Entry Visas – the Bolivia visa should be obtained before departure in the USA. The current cost is USD \$160
- Air Tax – 10 days tour \$488, 14 days tour \$588 (Tax are subject to change based on airline charges when issue the tickets)
- Baggage fees charged by the airlines
- Daily tips for hotel maid – please pay daily due to hotel shift changes; bellhop tips
- Additional tips at Client's discretion for outstanding service
- Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages throughout the trip unless otherwise specified
- Personal incidentals

Payment Schedule

- **Deposit due 6/30/18**
- **Deposit Amount - 10 days \$2000, 14 days \$2500**
- **Final Payment due 8/15/18**

Registration starting 4/20/18: With registration form, waiver form, deposit check and passport copy

Registration Dead Line: 06/30/18

Cancellation Policy

- 06/01/18-06/30/18 no Penalty
- 07/01/18-07/31/18 \$200 Penalty
- 08/01/18-08/31/18 \$1000 penalty (or \$200 Name Change Fee).
- 09/01/18 and onwards 100% none refundable (\$500 Name Change Fee for land portion).

Special Notes for Cancellation

- If air tickets have been issued, those are non-refundable and subject to high fees for changes (if allowed by air ticket fare rules). We will inform you of all tickets that will be issued.
- Name Changes not allowed for air tickets after issuance.
- Cancellation insurance policy must purchase within 2 weeks of trip deposit