



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

10 Days Discover the Spectacular Bolivia & Lake Titicaca

January 30, 2019 – February 8, 2019

14 Days Bolivia & Lake Titicaca + Post Tour to Torres Del Paine

February 8, 2019 – February 12, 2019

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

5/15/18 – 10 Days 300, 14 days \$500 and 6/15/18 - 10 Days 200, 14 days \$300



Day 1 – 30 JAN Wednesday: USA/Lima

Fly from the US to Lima, Peru and connect to your flight to Juliaca where Lake Titicaca is located.

Day 2 – 31 JAN Thursday: 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 are the vestiges of the Qulla people, who were part of the Aymara people conquered by the Inca Empire in the 15th century. Afterwards, continue onwards to Puno to rest and adjust to the high altitude. Overnight at Libertador Puno Hotel.



Day 3 – 01 FEB Friday: 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 at Balcones de Puno featuring dozens of traditional folklorico dances from around Peru.



Overnight at Jose Antonio Puno Hotel.

Day 4 – 02FEB Saturday: 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.

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 – 03FEB Sunday: 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 – 04FEB Monday: 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. We have planned your trip to coincide with the new moon for the least amount of light, which makes the stars appear brighter. 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 altitudes where some communities are at over 4000 m (12,000 ft.) and still able to grow crops like quinoa. We hope to see some of the unique local fauna such as llama, alpacas, vicuña, guinea pigs and flamingos (Andean, Chilean and James species that thrive at high altitude).

Overnight at Palacio de Sal Hotel.

Day 7 – 05FEB Tuesday: 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 before heading 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.

This evening, you will have a special Chinese New Year's dinner banquet at the best Chinese restaurant in La Paz.

Overnight at Casa Grande Hotel.



Day 8 – 06FEB Wednesday: La Paz (B/L/D) – City Tour & Bolivian Dinner Show

The marvellous city of La Paz is located in a valley at the foothills of the Andes Range, situated at 3,632 m /11942 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 ceremonies like the Ch'alla and also offerings to Pachamama (Mother Earth). 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 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. It is recommended to experience the diversity of folkloric singing and dancing in a performance showcasing. The performers 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 Casa Grande Hotel.

Day 9 – 07FEB Thursday: La Paz / USA (B) – Adiosito! (Goodbye for now!)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

Day 10 – 08FEB Friday: Arrival in the US

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



Torres Del Paine Post Tour

February 7, 2018-February 12, 2019



Day 9 – 07FEB Thursday: La Paz / Santiago, Chile (BD)

After check-out this morning, transfer to the airport for flight to Santiago, Chile. Upon arrival, be met by our guide and transferred to the hotel for check-in. Freshen up, and dinner this evening. Return to hotel for a good night's rest.

Overnight at Hotel Atton Santiago.



Day 10 – 08FEB Friday: Santiago / Puntarenas - Torres Del Paine (BLD)

Transfer to airport for your flight to Puntarenas, the gateway to Patagonia. After a lunch in town, we drive to Torres Del Paine (approx. 5 hr. scenery drive with photo stop) for check-in to your hotel inside the park. Arrive in time for dinner, at our all-inclusive hotel.



Overnight at Rio Serrano Hotel, Torres del Paine.

Day 11 – 09FEB Saturday: 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 – 10FEB Sunday: Torres Del Paine National Park (BLD)

We will enjoy a full day of 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 – 11FEB Monday: Puerto Natales / Santiago / USA (B)

After check-out this morning, transfer to the Puerto Natales airport for your flight back to Santiago, with immediate connection to your flight home.



Day 14 – 12FEB Tuesday: 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.

Special Notes:

1. Please note that everything will depend on whether there. For those that want to do hikes and/or horseback riding on their own, you could choose to skip the full day group excursions and arrange for their 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. **Dates might shift.** We might shift the dates +/- 1 week in order to try to match a flight that would avoid the 5 hour drive from Punta Arenas, and instead, only have a 2 hour drive from Puerto Natales. We need to hear back from the airline and hotels next week if that is possible or not.
3. **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

- **10 Day Main Group \$5,088**
- **14 Day Post tour Group \$6,788**
- **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 roundtrip international air and local flights
- Accommodations as specified
- Torres del Paine hotel, Rio Serrano, in all-inclusive basis (includes 2 full day tours in the park)
- 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 7/15/18**

Pre - Registration: by email wendy.lam9888@gmail.com

Registration: With registration form, waiver form, deposit check and passport copy

Registration Dead Line: 06/30/18

Cancellation Policy - To be announce