



American
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The Spirit of Alpinism

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Bolivia Trek and Expedition Complete Itinerary

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Bolivia's Cordillera Real offers some of the finest and most varied alpine climbing in the world without the crowds seen in many other international climbing destinations. Due to Bolivia's remoteness, the Cordillera Real is lesser known and off the beaten path of major tourism compared to neighboring countries and other mountain ranges. Those who value minimally impacted, uncrowded areas, and wilderness will enjoy an unparalleled opportunity to explore the remote and exotic land of Bolivia's Cordillera Real.

The itineraries described below are the ones usually followed. Depending on conditions, some programs may climb in the more remote central part of the range.

Program Characteristics

- Long walks and climbs of 6 to 12 hours
- Some staff assistance is provided for group gear. Moderate to big gains/drops in altitude (400 to 1000 m; 1300 to 3200 ft).
- Some hotel stays; mostly tent camping.
- A solid level of physical fitness is required to ensure an enjoyable time.

Program Cost Inclusions and Exclusions

Inclusions: Land and lake transportation; shared hotel in La Paz and tents while climbing (available on a private basis, subject to availability and at added cost); group cooking equipment; group climbing and safety equipment (ropes, climbing protection, medical kit, navigation and communication equipment); admissions to archeological zones; meals while climbing (Breakfast **(B)**, Lunch **(L)**, Dinner **(D)**) depending on the daily itinerary provided below).

Exclusions: Airfare; airport taxiing to hotel; personal equipment; meals in town; gratuities to guides; expenses incurred because of late arrival or early departure; evacuation costs; insurance; government and airport taxes; inoculations; excess baggage.

Expedition Part 1: La Paz & Cordillera Real Trek 7-Days

Our exploration of western Bolivia includes a tour of La Paz, Inca, and Aymara archaeological sites and a five-day trek that takes us over a 15,000-foot pass and through Aymara mountain villages, which are largely unaffected by the modern world. Join us for the trek only, or continue with our climbing expeditions to Huayna Potosi and Illimani.

Difficulty Grade: Beginner to Moderate

Prerequisites: Previous backpacking and cold weather experience

Day 1 – Arrive in La Paz, Bolivia

This is the first scheduled day of the program. You should arrive this day (Saturday) or early the next morning. If you arrive this day, you will experience sleeping at 11,913 feet and start the acclimatization process.

- **Accommodations:** Rey Palace Hotel
- **Meals:** No meals included on Day 1

Day 2 – City Tour in La Paz

This day will be spent exploring the city of La Paz, the highest capital in the world (11,913ft/3,630m). We keep our pace moderate on our first day of activity, visiting historical sites and the city's busy traditional markets, run by bowler-hatted Aymara women. Guides will join you for dinner at a restaurant in the city before returning to your hotel for the night.

- **Accommodations:** Rey Palace Hotel
- **Meals:** No meals included on Day 2

Day 3 – Leave La Paz, Trek to Refugio Ajuane

We leave La Paz early in the morning and head north to the central part of the Cordillera Real. As we start our trek, we can see distant views of Lake Titicaca and native flora and fauna including condors, gulls, and the large Andean geese. On our trek, we move through a series of valleys and over several passes, each of which reveals a new group of amazing Cordillera Real peaks. From here, we drop down into an alpine valley where we camp for the night.

- **Accommodations:** Tent camping
- **Travel time:** 2 hour drive
- **Meals:** B, L, D

Day 4 – Hike to Camp at Anchanianilla or Cistaña Lake Jan Lleyani

We climb out of the valley and over a 15,000 foot pass with views of Huayna Potosi and the peaks of the Condoriri region of the Cordillera Real. We stop for lunch at an alpine lake and then continue down to our next camp.

- **Accommodations:** Tent camping
- **Meals:** B, L, D

Day 5 – Trek from Cistaña Lake to Refugio Juri Khota (Laurahuan)

Today we trek over several beautiful mountain passes and past another alpine lake to a camp very close to the Condoriri region.

- **Accommodations:** Tent camping
- **Meals:** B, L, D

Day 6 – End of Trek, Return to La Paz

We walk for a few hours to the plaza where we meet the bus for the ride back to La Paz.

- **Accommodations:** Rey Palace Hotel
- **Travel time:** 2 hours drive
- **Meals:** B, L

Day 7 – Explore La Paz and Prepare Equipment

Spend the day in La Paz and prepare for the mountains. Those leaving after Part 1 can leave on Day 7 or explore the city on their own.

- **Accommodations:** Rey Palace Hotel
- **Meals:** No meals included on Day 7

Expedition Part 2: Huayna Potosi Skills Expedition 10-Days

The Huayna Potosi Skills Expedition is a 10-day climbing program that includes skills instruction and review that is presented at both introductory and more advanced levels. The introductory level (Part 2A) includes a day learning fundamental alpine mountaineering skills and is designed for those with little or no glacier climbing experience. The more advanced level (Part 2B) includes a day to review basic and intermediate techniques and helps experienced climbers further advance their route finding, hazard evaluation, and technical climbing skills.

Difficulty Grade: Challenging and very physically demanding (Huayna Potosi and Illimani itinerary sections).

Prerequisites: Previous backpacking and cold weather experience is REQUIRED.

Previous mountaineering experience is helpful. Participants must acclimatize for seven days before beginning this program segment, ideally spending most of that time between 10,000 and 12,000 feet, either by joining the La Paz and Remote Cordillera Trek or by conducting their own comparable trip immediately prior.

Day 8 – Tiwanaku Archeological site

The first day of the Huayna Potosi Skills Expedition is spent exploring the ancient ruins at the Tiwanaku Archeological Site. The day will be spent at about 12,550 feet.

- **Accommodations:** Rey Palace Hotel
- **Meals:** No meals included on Day 8

Day 9 – Hike to Refugio Huaña Khota

Hike into base camp at 14,000 feet near the Huaña Khota lake in the Condoriri Valley.

- **Accommodations:** Tent camping
- **Travel time:** 2 hours drive
- **Meals:** L, D

Days 10-14 - Approach and Camp at Chiar Khota Lake

Work on climbing skills while further acclimatizing and continue skills development while ascending a series of beautiful peaks in the Condoriri Cirque area. Peaks climbed are 17,000 – 18,000 feet and can include Pico Austria, Farija, and Pequeño Alpamayo among others in the area.

- **Accommodations:** Tent camping
- **Meals:** B, L, D

Day 15 – Hike to El Alto and Drive to Zongo Pass

Hike out to El Alto trailhead and drive to Zongo Pass. Stay at Casa Blanca Refugio.

- **Accommodations:** Refugio camping
- **Meals:** B, L, D

Day 16 – Establish Huayna Potosi High Camp

Begin the ascent of Huayna Potosi. Establish high camp at 18,000 feet.

- **Accommodations:** Tent camping
- **Meals:** B, L, D

Day 17 – Summit attempt on Huayna Potosi, Return to La Paz

Climb Huayna Potosi, 20,000 feet, and return to La Paz. Those leaving after Part 2 fly home on day 18.

- **Accommodations:** Rey Palace Hotel
- **Meals:** B, L

Expedition Part 3: Illimani Expedition (21,201') 5-Days

Illimani is the highest peak in the Cordillera Real. It is a massive mountain with three summits over 20,000 feet and has a profile visible from hundreds of miles out on the Altiplano to the west and from far out into the Amazon Basin to the east.

Difficulty Grade: Challenging and very physically demanding.

Prerequisites: Huayna Potosi Expedition or equivalent experience and acclimatization.

Day 18 – La Paz Rest and Preparation Day

Spend the day in La Paz preparing for the Illimani approach and ascent. You will be free to explore the city; your guide will be making final equipment and food arrangements for your climb.

- **Accommodations:** Rey Palace Hotel
- **Meals:** No meals included on Day 1

Day 19 – Drive to Pinaya Village and Hike to Puente Roto Camp

Drive to the remote village of Pinaya, meet support staff, and climb to Camp 1 at 15,000 feet with animal assistance.

- **Accommodations:** Tent camping
- **Meals:** L, D

Day 20 – Approach Nido de Condores High Camp

Ascend to Camp 2 “Nido de Condores” at 18,000 feet with the assistance of porters.

- **Accommodations:** Tent camping
- **Meals:** B, L, D

Day 21 – Summit Attempt of Illimani, Return to Camp

Climb to the 21,201-foot summit of Illimani and descend to Camp 1 or return to Pinaya at the base of the mountain for an evening of celebration and relaxation.

Summit days are long and demanding. Expect a 10-12 hour day hiking, scrambling, climbing, and descending.

- **Accommodations:** Tent camping
- **Meals:** B, L, D

Day 22 – Return to La Paz

Return to La Paz for an evening of celebration and relaxation. Those leaving after Part 3 fly home.

- **Accommodations:** Rey Palace Hotel
- **Meals:** B, L