



BOLIVIA MOUNTAINEERING ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrive in La Paz, Bolivia. La Paz, the highest capital city in the world, stands at 11,900' above sea level. Its population of roughly one million people is diverse and rugged. The air at this altitude is quite thin and for most people it takes a few days to acclimatize. We will explore the cities hilly streets and gain valuable acclimatization for our climbs.

Day 2: Visit Tiwanaku, one of Bolivia's most important archaeological sites. We will spend the day hiking through the monumental stone figures, courtyards and the impressive Gate of the Sun. The Gate of the Sun is part of an elaborate observatory that is believed to have functioned as a solar calendar dating back to 600B.C. While not as imposing as Machu Picchu, it provides a fascinating glimpse into the culture of the ancient Aymara peoples.

Day 3: Visit Isla Surique, Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world, and the "holy land of the Incas."

Day 4: Base camp Condoriri group. Drive from La Paz (12,500') to the village of Tuni. Burros will carry all our gear to our basecamp near the shores of Lake Tuni Condorini (15,000 + feet).

Day 5: Acclimatization hike to about 16,000 feet at the glacier terminus. This is an easy day geared toward acclimatization & reviewing crampon technique, running belays, and other basic mountaineering skills.

Day 6*: Skills review and prep for the climb of Ilusion or another peak in the area. We will review advanced roped-travel techniques.

Day 7: Early departure for the climb of Ilusion. This climb traverses a heavily crevassed glacier and steep snow ridges with excellent views of nearby peaks!

Day 8: We attempt Pequeno Alpamayo. This stunning peak remains hidden until we reach a subsidiary peak before the summit. The route is quite beautiful, following an aesthetic, airy ridge! From the summit, we have breathtaking views of the Amazon Basin, the barren Altiplano, the impressive bulk of Mt. Sajama and our next objective, Huayna Potosi.

Day 9: After a leisurely hike out we will drive back to La Paz for some much needed rest.

Day 10: We will spend this day resting in La Paz. We will visit museums, go shopping and relax.

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Day 11: Drive to Huayna Potosi overnight in tents or hut near the beautiful Laguna Zongo (elev. 15,700).

Day 12: Move to high camp at 18,400ft. (5600m) at Campo Argentino. This is a full day of climbing.

Day 13: Summit day. We will wake up early as our ascent can take up to 8 hours. After some exciting glacier travel through ice falls and around crevasses we reach the thrilling final ridge leading to Bolivia's famed summit. Fantastic views of the Cordillera Real await us on the top!

Day 14: End of 14 day trip. We will return to La Paz for the conclusion of the 14 day itinerary. Those individuals on the 21 day expedition will take a rest day here.

Day 15: Drive to Illimani trailhead where we will begin our approach to base camp from the village of Pinaya. Burros will carry our food & equipment, making the 3-5 hour approach more reasonable. Base camp is at approximately 14,500ft.

Day 16: Climb to Camp I at 16,700 feet.

Day 17: From Camp I, we scramble over easy rock and to our high camp known as Nido de Condores (The Condor's Nest) located at about 18,372 feet (5600m).

Day 18: Summit Day Illimani. After threading our way through a series of crevassed areas we reach moderately steep slopes (30-40 degrees) for several hours before reaching the scenic summit ridge. At 21,125 ft., the view from the summit of one of South America's finest peaks is outstanding. A great reward to a strenuous and fantastic day of climbing..

Day 19: Optional summit/weather day.

Day 20: After our summit climb we return to the trailhead for the drive back to La Paz.

Day 21: Depart La Paz for home or another exciting destination!

*The climbs listed during days 6 through 8 in this itinerary are examples of peaks we may have the opportunity to climb. They are given to show the natural progression we will employ during this section of the expedition to gain mountaineering experience and acclimatize. Actual peaks may be different depending on weather, current climbing conditions, and individual/group needs.

** Alaska Mountain Guides itineraries are intended to provide individuals with a positive high altitude experience. They include ample time for weather and rest days, and our camps are spaced at optimum intervals for acclimatization. This itinerary is intended as a general guideline. It can change at any time due to events or conditions that are beyond our control.

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