

B O L I V I A T R A V E S I A

amazing**escapes**⁺
luxury camp experiences





You're about to take part to an adventurous journey through one of the wildest and most incredible lands on the planet. Starting in La Paz, Bolivia, the highest capital on the planet at 3'600 m, your expedition will take you across the Altiplano down south at an average altitude over 4'000 meters along the Andes before tumbling over the Chilean side, ending in one of the driest deserts of the world, the desert of Atacama.

You'll have to make your way across wide plateaus, deep rivers and canyons, stone forests, blue and green lagunas filled with pink flamingos, the dazzling Salar de Uyuni and finally the breath-taking Valle de La Luna. In this incredible scenery, towering volcanoes are around every corner, shaping the stunning landscape of the Altiplano!



DAY 1 Start early morning from La Paz, with your driver and guide, a 5 hour drive on a good paved road will take you to Sajama National Park.

Here at the bottom of the highest peak of Bolivia, ice-capped Sajama volcano (6'542 m), next to a natural hot spring, your luxury yurt is ready to welcome you in a cozy atmosphere. Camp altitude 4'313 m



DAY 2

With your guide, discover the National Park and its natural wonders: volcanos, hot springs, the evergreen 3'000 years old iareta plant, get to know everything about alpaga breeding and sheering with local herders. For the ones who feel comfortable with the altitude, take a 01:30 hike to the Laguna Khasiri, (4'800m) on the Chilean border at the bottom of Nevado Condoriri (5'648m). Back to the camp, enjoy a plunge in the 36 C° water of the natural pool next to the camp.

DAY 3

Today, you will be cruising down south on easy wide dirt roads across never ending plains surrounded by volcanoes. Along the way, you'll discover the first lagunas and their famous residents, the pink flamencos. On the last part, losing 900m altitude, you'll spot the first giant cactus which can grow up to 10 meters high.

Finally, after a 8-hour drive, you'll hit the northern tip of Salar de Uyuni at the bottom of Tunupa Volcano. Salar de Uyuni is the world's largest salt flat at an altitude of 3'660 m. The Salar was formed between 40,000 and 25,000 years ago as a result of the drying up of several lakes, leaving behind 10'852 Km² of thick salt crust. Its white hexagonal tiles of salt look like a giant endless puzzle. Here and there, small mountains covered with cactus emerge like islands in the middle of the sea.

Standing directly on the salt flats, looking like a space station on Mars, our luxury dome camp waits for you. Altitude 3'600 m





DAY 4

Early morning, if weather conditions permit, you'll have the opportunity to embark for a unique moment that you'll remember all your life. Our hot air balloon, operated by a professional English or Australian pilot, will take you for a magical flight over the Salt Flats, when the sun rises. From above, you'll discover the vastness of the Salar like never before!

Back on the ground, with your guide, you'll spend the day on the Salar, discovering every aspect of this unique environment, the mummies of Coquesa and the charming villages that seem to come straight out a Western movie, at the edge of the Salar. At night, the sky of the Altiplano unveils its show with thousands of glittering stars.

Night on at the dome camp.

DAY 5

Leaving the dome camp, you'll cross the entire Salar towards its southern edge at about 70 km. Then, the track takes you to the entrance of Sud Lipez, probably the wildest area of Bolivia. Here, mountains rise higher, wind blows stronger, temperatures drop lower at night than anywhere else in Bolivia. Passing through the village of San Augustin, you'll enter a huge valley leading to the bottom of several volcanoes. Here the track becomes more challenging. You'll get higher in altitude, crossing a pass at 4'300m before reaching Villamar, as small community lost in the middle of nowhere.

Your camp is located at about 5 km from the village, in a kind of stone city made of odd-shaped red rocks, sheltering the tents from the wind. Altitude 4'500 m.



DAY 6

Today, you'll find out why South Lipez attracts nature lovers from all over the world. Shining colorful Lagunas, hundreds of Flamingos, wild antelopes, stone forests and geysers are composing a unique scenery. Driving a challenging track through a canyon your driver will take up to Laguna Pastos Grandes in about 1:30. From a pass overlooking the laguna, at 4'800m, the highest point of your itinerary, the view is absolutely breathtaking! You'll see as far as your eyes can see stone deserts, turquoise lagunas and smoking volcanoes. A mouth-watering lunch is waiting for you down at the laguna. On the way back, at the pass, choose between your 4wd car or a fat-tires mountain bike and drive the track through the canyon all the way down to the camp, a 500 m drop...



DAY 7

Driving your way through canyons, passes over 4'800m, stony plateaus and sand dunes, you'll enter the Eduardo Avaroa Natural Reserve. Here the strong winds and the volcanoes shaped the landscape over million years into a true natural jewel. Head to beautiful Laguna Verde at the bottom of world famous volcano Licancabur. A few kilometers further, you'll cross the Bolivia – Chile border, before starting a long downhill to Valle de la Luna, offering awesome views over the Atacama Desert. As you're about to lose 2'000 m, you'll find yourself breathing again by the time you reach San Pedro de Atacama, end of this travesia.



THE CAMPS

Sourced for the right altitude and climate, Amazing Escapes' tented suites are perfectly fitted for any given adventure: they offer the comfort of a hotel room with a private bathroom, comfortable bedding, interior decoration and proper heating when needed.

Amazing Escapes' catalogue includes a variety of tents that are best adapted to certain weather conditions, latitudes and type of terrain.





On every camp, our high-tech mobile all-in-one water system not only provides running hot and cold water for each bathroom but simultaneously recycles it in a closed loop, thus minimizing consumption. Powered by solar panels, wind-mills or river turbines, the system is virtually self-sufficient.



THE YURT

(SAJAMA NP AND SUD
LIPEZ)

The yurts, set up on National Park grounds, next to natural hot springs, faces the glorious snow-capped summit of Mount Sajama (6549m): they are perfectly sustainable on these noble grounds. Placed on the ground rather than anchored, they have been around for 3000 years: the earth is their foundation. Known as the traditional dwelling of Central Asian nomads, the Mongolian yurts are the most advanced and the only ones still used year-round. Over the centuries, they have been shaped by the climate, the wind, the cold, and need for mobility.



They are incomparable when confronted to the most rigorous weather. Built out of felt, they minimize the use of wood – a very scarce resource in the high-altitude plateaus – and nonetheless shelter humans from the cold in winter and the heat in summer. Yurts are an intricate combination of necessity, technique and symbolism: they don't leave a trace, use the cleanest materials and support the local community.

Inside the cozy yurts, Eucalyptus headboard and large washbasins compose a contemporary vision, emphasized by rusty-grey, hammered sinks, dream-catchers, round lampshades and large metallic boxes on both sides of the bed. Outside, next to the entrance, daybed in woven cotton thread matched the spectacular surroundings.



DOMES CAMP UYUNI SALT FLATS

Set on the very Salar, Dome camp is somewhat of a Mad Max Adventure. From a distance, the white pods look like a space station designed by Buckminsterfuller. The dome camp also has something of an observatory, or a folly built for a passionate astrophysicist! Composed of repeated equilateral triangles, their metallic structure is the very essence of mathematical elegance. In front or on top of the dome, a transparent panel offers wide-open views on the Salar and its star-studded sky. Lit up at night, with solar panels placed in between the domes, they are one of the coolest, and most surrealist viewing stations ever seen in the arid region.



Inside the domes, a wooden screen has been mounted to protect the shower area, the ceramic washbasins and the restrooms. Covered in soft beige carpet, the interior feels cozy; the double bed centrally placed for maximum view. A wooden trunk is placed on the side of the bed to host lanterns, while light wooden stools and a small ladder compose a minimalist set-up around the central stove. The décor naturally embraces the cold outside.

In the central dome, a long wooden table comes enhanced with a line-up of multi-colored Moroccan lanterns, directly attached to the metallic structure. Around, dozens of oversized hemp cushions stitched with bright threads on the edges are arranged around copper floor-lanterns. A few indigenous plants and bushes, low tables and primitive wooden bowls mix cultures and influences with style. Outside, old cactus trunks are intertwined to compose a natural, protective barrier: wooden banquettes and bayadere cushions in bright Altiplano hues are placed next to them under a white triangular sail. White against white, the set up is quintessentially perfect.

When the mirage starts operating at midday, the domes duplicate in the distance to form a line-up of astronaut helmets or space hubbles. Later, the sky turns to shades of grey and the Salar suddenly looked brownish: by contrast, the Camp never seems so perfectly white, a wild vision, out of this world.

At night, under the moon, the Salar becomes crystal white and the Space Station takes another dimension: Star Trek feels at one's fingertips. From inside the pods, the iridescent crust shines through, mimicking the strength of the stars. Under them, the domes look like small telescopes. In the morning, the sun rises on the bend horizon, irradiating the salty earth with golden hues





P A C K A G E S

Bolivia Travesia will operate from 1st August to 31st October 2018.
There is no set departure date, you can start any day, depending on availability.
The program is sold on all inclusive basis only.

6 NIGHTS / 7 DAYS LUXURY PACKAGE:

11'500 USD per person on shared double tent basis (public rate)
50% discount in extra bed (kids)
Single supplement 6 nights 10'500 USD

- 2 nights in Sajama National Park in a luxury double yurt
- 2 nights on the Uyuni Salt Flats in a luxury double dome
- 2 nights in Sud Lipez in a luxury double yurt
- All ground transportation from La Paz to San Pedro de Atacama in private 4wd car with English speaking driver
- Full board from lunch day 1 to lunch day 7 including local beers, soft drinks, tea, coffee.
- Wines and spirits on supplement
- All activities during days on the camps with English speaking guide
- Balloon flight at Salt Flats Camp

Not included

Nights in La Paz and San Pedro de Atacama
Flight in and out
Personal expenses
Tips

Camp privatization

We will be happy to privatize Bolivia Travesia for you. Prices on request.
Maximum capacity 6 units / 12 guests (Adults)

F A Q

WHAT ABOUT ALTITUDE ?

The word Altiplano says it all. The average altitude of the trip is over 4'000 M / 13'000 Ft. It takes a little while to get used to the altitude. That's why we would recommend you to arrive 2 days before in La Paz so you have some time to get acclimatized. You could also possibly start your trip by staying 2 or 3 days on the shore of beautiful Lake Titicaca. There are no strenuous activities, so if you're in acceptable physical condition, you'll be all fine. There is oxygen available in all our cars and on all camps.

If you're still concern about your capacity to cope with high altitude, you should consult your doctor. Some tests can also be performed in specific medical centers.

WHAT WILL THE WEATHER BE LIKE?

Weather is usually fair and dry at that time of the year. The range of temperatures goes from 12 to 15 C° during the day, possibly down to -15 C° at night in August, in particular in Sud Lipez. The good thing is that you're enjoying crystal clear skies. Temperatures rise slowly 'till October. Our tents are heated so don't be afraid to be cold inside!

In Sud Lipez, occasional snow falls may occur. The border between Bolivia and Chile in Hito Cajon might close for a couple of days if it's getting too icy. In this case, we offer an alternate solution through Ollagüe border to get to San Pedro de Atacama

WHAT TYPE OF COMFORT SHOULD I EXPECT?

Our camps are designed to offer the maximum of comfort to our guests i.e. comfy bedding with tick duvet, private bathroom, towels, wardrobe, ambience lightning and proper heating to keep you away from the cold. Housekeeping is done daily. However, don't forget that you're about to live an experience close to nature with a camp spirit, so it's not to be compared to a luxury hotel room.

IS THERE A RISK OF INTOXICATION OR FIRE WITH THE WOOD STOVE?

No. Our wood stoves are designed to fit in the dome. Your host will explain how to light and look after the stove or will be happy to do it for you. Each tent has a smoke and CO2 detector + a fire extinguisher.

WHO WILL TAKE CARE OF ME WHILE STAYING ON THE CAMP?

Our host team is composed of a camp leader, an operation manager, a chef, a service team and housekeeping team. During the activities, an English speaking guide will accompany you so you can make the best out of your experience.

F A Q

DOES THE RESTAURANT OFFER A-LA-CARTE DINNER?

No. It's a set menu with a choice between two starters, two main dishes and two desserts. Choice has to be done the day before in the evening. We'll be happy to consider your diet requirements or allergies when possible.

CAN I HAVE DINNER ON MY OWN?

As we want to convey the good old times camp feeling, you're invited to share the table with the other guests.

IS IT POSSIBLE TO EXTEND THE STAY ON SOME CAMPS?

Yes, if availability allows, we'll be happy to extend the stay, adding activities to the program. Price on request

ARE THE EXCURSION ON THE CAMP DONE IN GROUP?

Depending on the occupancy of the camp, yes, you might join other guests to share the same activity. However, a group will never exceed 12 persons at the same time.

IS THE HOT AIR BALLOON FLIGHT GUARANTEED

As any aerial activity, ballooning depends on weather conditions for obvious safety reasons. Weather during August, September and October is pretty stable so there is a 90 % chance that the balloon will operate one of the two mornings you'll be on the camp. If the flight is not possible, no refund will be granted.

EQUIPMENT

Good pair of walking shoes, wind stopper fleece, down jacket, light gloves, hat and cat. 4 sunglasses. At this altitude and especially on the Salt Flats, sunlight is unbearable without sunglasses and can lead to serious eye burns.

TRANSFERS

On day 1, your driver will pick you up at your hotel. On day 7 in San Pedro, we'll drop you at the Chilean border in San Pedro, where the shuttle of your hotel can pick you up.

