

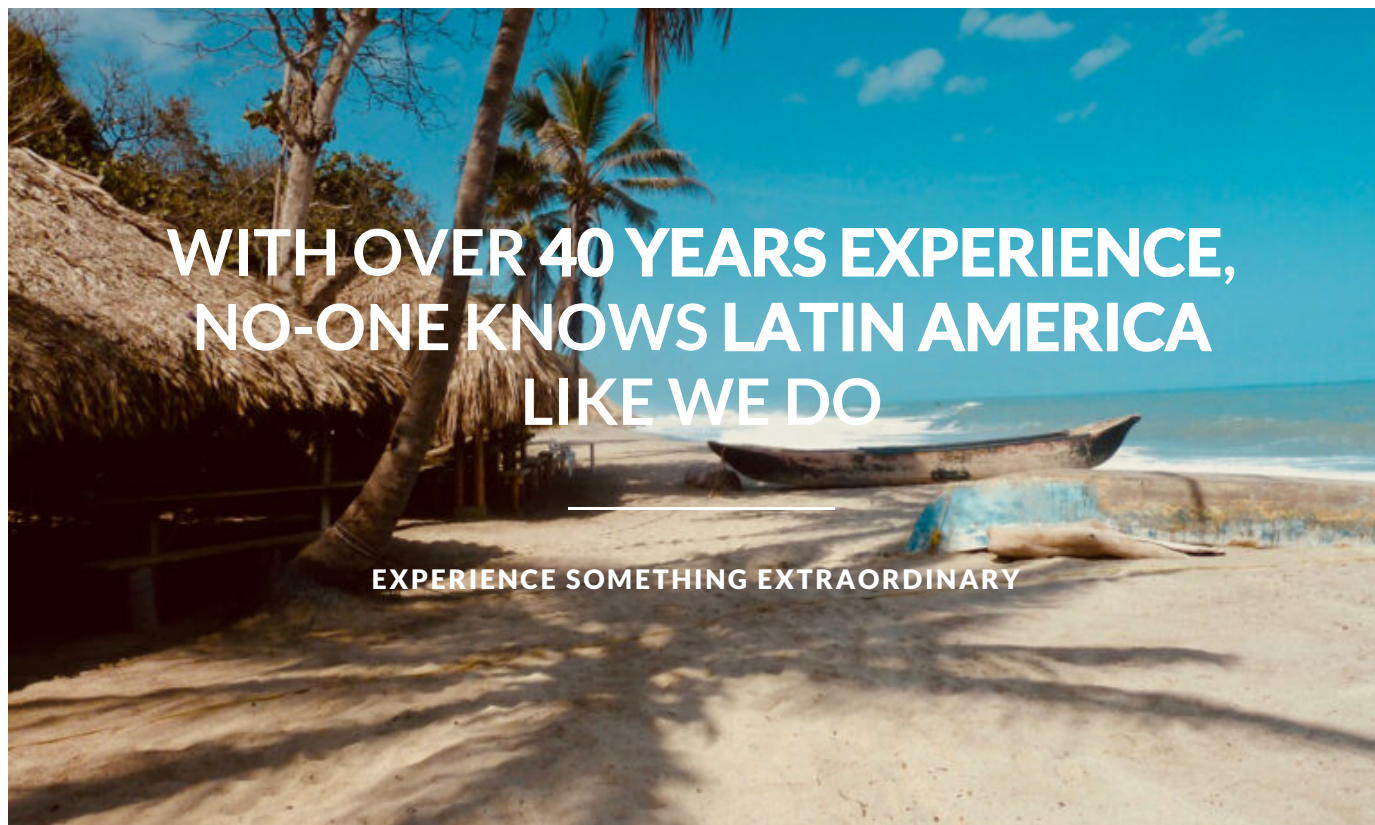


**DISCOVERY GROUP TOURS**

## **ZAMPULLIN: VISTAS OF BOLIVIA**

13 days from **£3,736pp**

**BOLIVIA / SANTA CRUZ AND THE ORIENTE / SUCRE AND POTOSI / UYUNI SALT FLATS /  
LA PAZ AND THE ALTIPLANO**



## WHY US

We are the UK's No.1 specialist in travel to Latin America and have been creating award-winning holidays to every corner of the region for over four decades; we pride ourselves on being the most knowledgeable people there are when it comes to travel to Central and South America and passionate about it too.

## OUR JOURNEY

As our name suggests, we are single-minded about Latin America. This is what sets us apart from other travel companies – and what allows us to offer you not just a holiday but the opportunity to experience something extraordinary on inspiring journeys throughout Mexico, Central and South America.

### WE LOVE LATIN AMERICA

A passion for the region runs through all we do

All our Consultants have lived or travelled extensively in Latin America

Up-to-the-minute knowledge underpinned by 40 years' experience

### TRAVEL WITH CONFIDENCE

Fully bonded and licensed

ATOL-protected

On your side when it matters

Book with confidence, knowing every penny is secure

### THE REAL LATIN AMERICA

Our insider knowledge helps you go beyond the guidebooks

We hand-pick hotels with character and the most rewarding excursions

Let us show you the Latin America we know and love



## OVERVIEW & OUTLINE ITINERARY

A journey of discovery into the far corners of Latin America's most adventurous and evocative destination, Andean Bolivia.

	UK clients depart on an overnight flight arriving Santa Cruz, Bolivia, the next day.
<b>DAY 1</b>	Transfer to your hotel Santa Cruz. City tour.
<b>DAY 2</b>	Drive to mountain town Samaipata via el Fuerte ruins.
<b>DAY 3</b>	Drive to Vallegrande, visit Che Guevara's museum, on to La Higuera.
<b>DAY 4</b>	Drive on through highland landscapes to Sucre.
<b>DAY 5</b>	Guided city tour of Sucre.
<b>DAY 6</b>	Continue by road to Potosí on the altiplano.
<b>DAY 7</b>	Visit a co-operative mine in Potosí and continue to Uyuni.
<b>DAY 8</b>	Explore the Uyuni salt flats.
<b>DAY 9</b>	Fly to La Paz, by road to Lake Titicaca
<b>DAY 10</b>	Return to La Paz.
<b>DAY 11 - 12</b>	Explore La Paz and the ruins of Tiwanaku.
<b>DAY 13</b>	Transfer to the airport. UK clients arrive home the following day.

## ITINERARY

Bolivia is the Latin America of your imagination. It's a country of outsized wilderness landscapes, of rock-falls blocking cliff-hugging dirt roads, boozy fiestas, far-flung weaving villages, and age-weathered colonnades. It's where otherworldly features such as sun-blistered salt pans sit within wind-blasted plains, pinpricked by ice-coated Andean spires.

This holiday fizzles with adventure: add to the above the sapphire waters of Lake Titicaca, the panoramic cable cars of La Paz and the remote trail tracing the route of Che Guevara's last stand: we've created an innovative group tour trip where surprises lurk round every corner. You'll need a flexible attitude to enjoy the experience, and be ready for your mind to be blown away.

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**UK clients depart on an overnight flight arriving Santa Cruz, Bolivia, the next day.**

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### DAY 1

**Transfer to your hotel Santa Cruz. City tour.**

The dynamic city of Santa Cruz doesn't quite reflect how most people imagine Bolivia. With plate glass and concrete, the sparkle of luxury four-wheel drive vehicles, and good restaurants and shopping malls the rapidly growing city wears its new-found oil wealth on its sleeve.

This prosperous lowland metropolis is wholly different from its Andean sisters, in climate, in politics and in ethnic mix. People have poured in from the altiplano to join German Mennonites, Brazilians and even Japanese in search of a better life. The sun can be fierce, the siestas always long, with heavy rain showers in the summer months.

You'll all meet up with a local guide for a tour of the city, purpose-built in a series of rings. You will visit the huge, shady main square, the baroque cathedral which dominates it, and the indigenous Abasto craft shops.

The tour continues with some informal sight-seeing : there are lovely parks with lawns, fountains and street art, tawdry but fascinating street markets selling everything from mobile phones, electric saws to gold jewellery and mangoes, spread over the streets around the handsome colonial core. A little further out you discover up-market, tree-shaded residential quarters. After all that exploring you'll appreciate the chance to enjoy a cup of coffee in one of the traditional cafés in town

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## DAY 2

### Drive to mountain town Samaipata via el Fuerte ruins.

Drive out of Santa Cruz up in to the mountains. You pass through several market towns, and the landscape soon changes from cattle farms and fields of sunflowers to orchards and villages speckled with summer homes.

Canyons with blood-red cliffs fringe a winding river; follow the valley up to the prosperous little resort of Samaipata (120km), which has a glorious setting in the now unfolding mountain scenery.

Just before reaching the town you will turn off to visit the Inca Ruins at el Fuerte, a UNESCO World Heritage Site sitting on a ridge from where there extensive mountain views. The site has pre-Inca carvings and post-Inca Spanish colonial buildings superimposed on Inca walls. Owing to its relatively remote location there may well be no-one else there: this is an evocative and fascinating site.

Samaipata is a great place to spend the evening and overnight. To cater for them and the captivated foreigners who have moved here, there is a clutch of good restaurants and literary café style hang-outs, some around the leafy main square. The market is worth a look too, bulging with a dazzling display of fruit and vegetables.



### DAY 3

#### Drive to Vallegrande, visit Che Guevara's museum, on to La Higuera.

You depart Samaipata for Vallegrande on a winding paved road, undulating over the rugged hills for 185km. You'll enjoy lovely valley views, cattle farms, dusty agricultural towns, pig farms, peach groves and maize fields. The drive should take two hours but it can take longer – up to 3hrs – if there is a lot of traffic.

Vallegrande is another typical Spanish-style mountain town, but less-visited than Samaipata. It's the place to which Che Guevara's body was taken following his death at the hands of the Bolivian military. You can visit the laundry where he was laid out, now a shrine for his followers, and the museum dedicated to his exploits. The museum has photographs of Che in both Cuba and Bolivia and a few items of clothing. There is a good chronology of the Bolivian campaign. The Tumba Mausoleum was built over Che's grave. Ghoulishly, it is now just a room with an empty cordoned-off pit: Che and his comrades' bodies have been returned to Cuba.

Continue 60km to La Higuera on an unmade road. It's a beautiful route through arid canyons, where you'll rise to over 3,000m and descend a spectacular cliff-edge road. The road follows the folds of the ranges of craggy hills, increasingly rugged with exposed rocks, scrubby vegetation and free-range cattle.

La Higuera is a quiet hamlet, deserted during the day when most of the inhabitants are out working their farmsteads. It is the place where Che Guevara was killed, and you will visit the tiny former schoolroom where he was imprisoned and shot. There are many written tributes to the revolutionary leader alongside faded photographs. A few T shirts adorned with his face are on sale. The walls of the buildings in the hamlet are covered with vivid murals and the public spaces are festooned with statues of the man who is still regarded as a hero in these parts.

Overnight in one of the simple hostels in this remote, evocative spot.

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## DAY 4

### Drive on through highland landscapes to Sucre.

It's back on the road for 3hrs along an unmade road to red-roofed Villa Serrano, home of famous sculptor and musician Mauro Nuñez which has a museum and the largest charango (Andean lute) in the country.

Continue on a good quality road to Sucre (4hrs) which lies in a remote valley at, for Bolivia, a relatively benign altitude of 2,800m. Provincial in outlook, it is nevertheless the legislative capital of the country.

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## DAY 5

### Guided city tour of Sucre.

Your guided city tour takes you to view some of the city's loveliest colonial parks and buildings: these may include Casa de la Libertad on the main square where the declaration of Bolivian Independence was signed in 1825. You also visit the ASUR indigenous Art Museum – a 17th century colonial building. Exhibits include ancient textiles, musical instruments, costumes and ritual artefacts. A highlight is the Weavers' Gallery, where you learn about indigenous techniques and designs.

Another interesting visit may be made to La Recoleta, a Franciscan convent which offers splendid views over the valley. It has beautiful cloisters and gardens where an ancient cedar tree still stands. The adjoining chapel is notable for its intricate woodcarvings. In the third cloister is a museum exhibiting sculptures, paintings and other religious works.

## DAY 6

### Continue by road to Potosí on the altiplano.

This scenic 3hr journey passing through fertile landscapes with fields of peas, beans and cereals. Agriculture peters out as you ascend up to the cold, high plains of the starkly beautiful altiplano.

At 4,090m Potosí is the highest city in the world. Its former wealth lay in its silver; today it lies in the vestiges of its history and the grand buildings born from a city that was quite literally founded on a mountain of wealth – the Cerro Rico. Nowadays it's a relatively poor city, isolated from the economic power engines of the country. However, with its narrow streets and grandiose architecture it is one of Bolivia's great treasure troves.

There is a walking tour that takes you to the market and some of the city's principal historical attractions. Among these are Santo Domingo church and the vast 16th century cathedral. San Lorenzo church, with its baroque façade of flesh-coloured stone, has works of art adorning the ornate altar along with two original paintings by Holguin.

You'll have a guided tour round the Casa de Real de la Moneda which occupies an entire block near the cathedral. This mint created the currency for the entire Spanish Empire. The museum has a fascinating history, comprising not just the Royal Mint, but also a prison, fortress, and HQ for the Bolivian army during the Chaco War. The museum displays crafted silverware, oil paintings and Bolivia's first locomotive train.



## DAY 7

### Visit a co-operative mine in Potosí and continue to Uyuni.

The tunnels which honeycomb the Cerro Rico are as dark and poisonous as the city's gruesome past. If conditions look harsh in the blood red hills that surround Potosí, they are nothing compared to those endured by the miners who plummet the depths of this warren-ridden mountain. Inside temperatures can rise into the 50°C and plunge to below freezing point. Ceilings are low, conditions cramped and the tools used primitive. Miners get by on a staple diet of cigarettes – the least noxious of the mine's cocktail of fumes – coca leaves and dogged determination. You'll see altars with offerings to the devil: miners cannot believe that a benign God reigns here.

This is a working mine: you see the miners at work and wagons coming along the tracks. You are provided with safety gear. You need to be agile and not suffer from claustrophobia or allergy to sulphur. So of course if you prefer not to enter the mine or wish to come out early that's fine.

In the afternoon drive on to Uyuni. Along the way you will pass site of a mine in production since colonial times and reach the Cañón de San Juan, distinguished by the rust-red colours of its steep rocky walls over which crash the waters of Lake Toro. Continue through rough pastures with grazing llamas towards the fringes of the Uyuni salt flats.

Pass Pulacayo, once a stop on the first Bolivian railway and home to one of the silver barons. This is wild and remote Butch Cassidy country, dotted with the vestiges of colonial settlements. 18km further on is the town of Uyuni and your first glimpses of the glistening white salt pans.

## DAY 8

### Explore the Uyuni salt flats.

Visit the “train cemetery” full of abandoned, rusting engines evocative of more prosperous and dynamic times.

Travel on by 4WD vehicle to the Salar de Uyuni. The bleak plains of the southern altiplano make for an austere, uncompromising wilderness, scoured by bitter gales, where cut-glass lakes and un-trodden, luminous salt pans reflect the vast dome of an icy sky.

At 3,650m the salar is the highest salt desert in the world and arguably the largest. When the rains fall, the desert is turned into a mirror, salt plains and sky fuse, and the world is turned upside down. In the dry season, however, the dazzling white of the salt crystals extends as far as the eye can see: an other-worldly sight.

While its few wind-buffed Aymara inhabitants scratch a meagre living from the dusty soil, there are landscapes of unexpected variety and surreal beauty. You'll observe desolate, denuded peaks, sunlit lagoons of gem-stone clarity and a white sea of salt that bends the horizon.

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## DAY 9

### Fly to La Paz, by road to Lake Titicaca

Fly from Uyuni to la Paz in the morning before travelling over the Altiplano to the little town and religious sanctuary of Copacabana on the shores of Lake Titicaca. The pretty port attracts many pilgrims who make the trip on foot. To get there you will make a 20min crossing of Tiquina straits on the lake by boat.

Lake Titicaca, the world's highest navigable lake, is also the most sacred in the Andes. Set on the grassy altiplano, its deep sapphire water laps fertile shores where cereals and vegetables are cultivated by indigenous communities. The people use the swaying tortora reeds to build their traditional boats and even islets and homes (Uros Islands). Birdlife here is abundant and varied.

After lunch take a boat ride to Isla del Sol – Sun island, birthplace of the Inca gods. It's a bit of a cliché but this sacred spot really is a haven of tranquility, there are a few small communities clinging to the shores but no motorized vehicles. The island is crisscrossed by Inca trails connecting Inca ruins including gardens, stairways and fountains.

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## DAY 10

### Return to La Paz.

Take an early morning walk to visit the town's market and church. If there's time you may like to climb the hill which overlooks the town for some superb lake views. The path is punctuated with Catholic "stations of the cross" but pre-Columbian religious rites also take place here.

After lunch, return to La Paz. At first sight the city is an anarchic jumble of buildings clinging to craggy slopes and marching down a sinuous river bed but over the next few days you'll get to know this unique city.

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## DAY 11 - 12

### Explore La Paz and the ruins of Tiwanaku.

Head west to the archaeological site of Tiwanaku. The journey takes about 1½ hours via the town of Laja (the original site of La Paz) before climbing onto the altiplano with its uninterrupted views of the Cordillera Real. The ruins are thought by some archaeologists to date back to 1600 BC. The site is still under excavation, and it is now believed that its inhabitants were more advanced than the Incas in pottery, mathematics, art and astronomy. As well as a new museum which houses over a hundred artefacts, the site is home to several many important ruins including a semi-subterranean temple and the Gateway of the Puma.

Return to La Paz for a guided tour taking you through the narrow lanes around the colonial heart, exploring markets such as the famous Mercado de las Brujas (Witches' Market) as well as the stately boulevards of the modern business and residential neighbourhoods.

How the city's structure knits together is best appreciated from the air, you will enjoy stupendous views from a new cable-car connecting the centre and residential areas of La Paz with city of El Alto on the canyon rim way above.

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## DAY 13

### Transfer to the airport.

Drive to the airport for your international flight or a domestic flight for your jungle extension.

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UK clients arrive home the following day.

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## WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

Services of our team of experts in our London office

Services of Journey Latin America local representatives and guides

All land and air transport within Latin America

Accommodation as specified

Meals as specified

Excursions as specified, including entrance fees

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## INCLUDED EXCURSIONS

Santa Cruz: city tour

Ruta Ché: El Fuerte Inca Ruins

Ruta Ché: Ché Guevara sites

Potosi: city tour

Potosi: Royal Mint and mines

Sucre: city tour

Uyuni: exploration of salt flats

La Paz: Tiwanaku

La Paz: city tour

Lake Titicaca: boat ride and Sun Island

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## WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

Tips and gratuities

Meals other than specified

International flights to Latin America

Airport taxes, when not included in the ticket

Optional excursions

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## ESSENTIALS

### ABOUT OUR GROUP TOURS

To find out more about how our group tours including group sizes, solo travellers and why to choose us. Please click [here](#).

### TOUR LEADER

On this tour, you'll be accompanied from start to finish by one of our **exceptional Journey Latin America tour leaders**. From the moment you land in Latin America until the day the tour ends they will deal with all the practicalities, expertly adapting to the circumstances and individual needs of the group. Rather than different guides in different cities, your leader will get to know the group and keep you informed and entertained as you go.

### SUMMARY OF NIGHTS

13 days, 12 nights: Santa Cruz 1; Samaipata 1; La Higuera 1; Sucre 2; Potosi 1; Uyuni 1; Salt Flats 1; La Paz 2; Copacabana 1; Santa Cruz 1.

### ACCOMMODATION

On this journey we stay at simple hotels and guesthouses. The nature and size of the accommodation means that we use a number of properties depending on availability.

We use the following properties on this tour:

- Santa Cruz: Hotel LP Equipetrol
- Samaipata: Pueblito
- La Higuera: Posada La Casa del Telegrafista (shared bathroom)
- Sucre: Hotel Independencia
- Potosi: Hotel Santa Teresa
- Uyuni: Hotel Palacio de Sal
- La Paz: Hotel Rosario
- Copacabana: Hotel Rosario del Lago

On very rare occasions these hotels can change, however please speak to one of our consultants who can provide full details for each departure if you have any doubts. Address and contact details will be sent out with your final documents

### TRANSPORT

2 flights (45mins each). All land transport is operated privately for the group.

### MEALS

Breakfast daily; Lunch days 4, 8 and 11; Full board days 2, 3 and 9.

### OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

On this tour the price includes excursions in all the places you visit as per the itinerary. There will however be some free time when you may choose to take part in an optional excursion. These are booked locally through your tour leader once you are in Latin America, however we are more than happy to advise you of what is on offer in advance of your holiday so you can best plan the excursions that suit you.

### TRAVELLING ALONE

There is no extra cost for single travellers who are willing to share a room. You will be accommodated with another same-sex member of the group who is also travelling solo. For single travellers who wish to have their own room there are a limited number of single rooms available, which carry a surcharge.

### TRIP SUITABILITY

There are a few long days of travel on this trip, but as journeys are taken by private transport you will have maximum comfort and we can make a stop at will. Bolivia is still one of the more underdeveloped countries in Latin America and this trip visits some of the more remote areas. Therefore for some days facilities will be more basic and eating opportunities more limited.

## ALTITUDE

Your stays in Sucre (2,800m), Potosi (4,090m), Uyuni (3,656m), La Paz (3,632m) and Lake Titicaca (3,812m) are at high altitude. Because the trip gains altitude slowly, most people are only mildly affected and if you drink plenty of water and allow your body to acclimatise (don't exert yourself or drink alcohol for the first couple of days at altitude), you should be OK. Symptoms vary: most common are mild headaches, slight nausea and breathlessness. If you don't recover in a day or two speak to our representatives; in very rare instances it is necessary to descend to lower altitudes.

## CLIMATE

We run this tour in June when the climate is optimal to enjoy the varying regions the tour visits. This dry season is the most accessible time for visiting the salt flats but it can be cold at night especially at altitude.

The weather in La Paz and Lake Titicaca is dry with pleasant daytime temperatures. A comprehensive overview of the weather in all the regions you are visiting can be found in our Destination pages. Our Travel Experts can answer your questions on climate and further details will be sent with your confirmation documents.

## CLOTHING, EQUIPMENT AND LUGGAGE

A daypack is essential for carrying rainwear, snacks, books/tablet and a water bottle. It will be warm in the sunshine but at altitude chilly in the shade, and at night so you'll need layered clothing, including fleece, hat, scarf and gloves. Sunblock, sunglasses and good walking shoes or boots are necessary.

## MONEY

Please see the Country Info tab on this holiday for our latest currency information and advice about how to take your spending money. Tipping in Latin America is almost always done using cash. It is customary to tip tour leaders, local guides, drivers, boat crews and other service providers such as restaurant staff and porters. Full tipping guidelines are sent with your confirmation documents as is advice on local costs.

## HEALTH, ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND INSURANCE

For health information on travelling to Bolivia including recommended vaccinations, please see <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/>

All Latin American countries have specific entry regulations related to Covid 19. Please also check our Travel Hub for further information.

Holders of a full British passport do not require a visa, although passports should be valid for at least 6 months after the trip begins. Other nationalities should enquire with us or check with the consulates.

Travel insurance is essential. Details of our recommended policy can be found on the Travel insurance website.

Our full briefing dossier contains more information on vaccinations, visas and insurance and will be provided with your final travel documents or can be requested from your travel consultant at any time.



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### **GET IN TOUCH WITH US...**

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Our friendly, knowledgeable team of travel experts are always happy to chat about holiday ideas and share helpful advice. Give us a call today and begin planning your perfect trip to Latin America.

#### **GIVE US A CALL**

We'd love to chat

**0208 747 8315**

#### **OPENING HOURS**

Monday – Friday: 9am – 6pm

Saturday & Sunday: Closed

#### **SEND US AN EMAIL**

[tours@journeylatinamerica.com](mailto:tours@journeylatinamerica.com)