



ARACARI

Luxury meets Authenticity

Travel since 1996



Founder-Led Journey to Bolivia

Sucre, Bolivia - San Pedro de Atacama

11 - 20 November 2017

Specially prepared by

Marisol Mosquera

Jr. Schell 237 Of. 602, Miraflores, Lima 18, Perú

T: + 51 (01) 651 2424 | **F:** + 51 (01) 651 2426 | **Email:** travel@aracari.com



Dear friends and travellers,

I am delighted to warmly welcome you to join me on this special 10-day trip to Bolivia to commemorate 20 years of Aracari.

11 - 20 November 2017
Sucre, Bolivia - San Pedro de Atacama, Chile
Special promotional price - US \$3,950 per person

Neighboring my home country of Peru, Bolivia has never failed to entrance me over my countless visits exploring the country in-depth. From the colonial cities of Sucre and Potosí to the mesmerizing natural wonder of the white salt flats of Uyuni and other-worldly landscapes of the Eduardo Avaroa National Reserve, Bolivia boasts unrivalled scenery and rich history, having been one of the hubs of Andean civilizations for centuries.



Over the years I have met fascinating people who have become friends, and who have added insight to my understanding of Bolivia. It will be my pleasure to have the opportunity to introduce some of my Bolivian friends to you during your journey. You will agree, meeting and connecting with local people adds a special dimension to any trip. Through them, we will enjoy insider access to places not always accessible to the public. I truly believe that connecting with locals is the way to gain an understanding of a country.

I am proud to have been recognized as Conde Nast Top Travel Specialist to Bolivia and selected numerous times on Travel + Leisure's A-List for Bolivia. Drawing on my own travel experience, I have carefully designed this group journey to encompass my destination highlights - as well as planning a few special experiences with my personal contacts in the region along the way!

I look forward sharing my love of this fascinating, diverse country in South America with travellers who share a spirit of adventure.

Saludos,

Marisol Mosquera
Founder & CEO



ARACARI
Luxury meets Authenticity
Travel since 1996



TRAVEL+LEISURE
A-list
TOP TRAVEL SPECIALIST 2015

Traveller Made®
DMC Partner



ROUTE MAP

THE SALAR DE UYUNI
EDUARDO AVAROA NATIONAL RESERVE
THE ATACAMA DESERT



LEGEND

- Towns & Villages
- Hotels & Accommodation
- Key Attractions
- ▲ Mountains
- ▲ Volcanoes
- Laguna Colorada
- Laguna Verde
- ARACARI's Recommended overland route
- Air Access:
 - Uyuni/Sucre to La Paz
 - Calama to Santiago de Chile

Day by Day at a Glance

Day	Date	Location	Summarized Program	Meal Plan Included
1	Sat 11 Nov 2017	Sucre	Arrival in Sucre. Private transfer to hotel 4 nights at Parador Santa Maria La Real (standard Room)	
2	Sun 12 Nov 2017	Candelaria & Tarabuco	Hacienda Candelaria and Tarabuco market <i>Full day tour with expert guide</i>	Breakfast Lunch
3	Mon 13 Nov 2017	Sucre	Local Handicrafts and Factories of Sucre <i>Half day tour with expert guide (3hrs)</i> Dinosaur Footprints <i>Excursion with expert guide (2hrs)</i> Visit the Monastery of San Felipe Neri Welcome dinner at Casa Aranjuez	Breakfast Dinner
4	Tues 14 Nov 2017	Sucre	History and Traditions of Sucre <i>Half day tour with expert guide (3hrs)</i> Afternoon at leisure	Breakfast Lunch
5	Weds 15 Nov 2017	Potosí	Private transfer to Potosí Potosí City Tour <i>Half day tour with expert guide (4hrs)</i> Dinner and overnight at Hacienda Cayara	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
6	Thurs 16 Nov 2017	Uyuni	Private transfer to Uyuni Star-gazing on the salar Dinner and overnight at Palacio de Sal (standard room)	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
7	Fri 17 Nov 2017	Uyuni	Salar de Uyuni salt flats <i>Full day tour of the salt flats with expert guide</i> Private transfer to San Pedro Quemez Dinner and overnight at Tayka del Piedra	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
8	Sat 18 Nov 2017	Chiguana Salt Flats	Small Lagoons <i>Full day tour through the Chiguana salt flats and small lakes with expert guide</i> Dinner and overnight at Mallku Cueva	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
9	Sun 19 Nov 2017	Eduardo Avaroa Reserve	Eduardo Avaroa Reserve <i>Full day tour of the Eduardo Avaroa Reserve with expert guide</i> Private transfer to San Pedro de Atacama (Chile) Overnight at Kimal Hotel	Breakfast, Lunch
10	Mon 20 Nov 2017	San Pedro de Atacama	Private transfer to Calama airport	Breakfast

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1

Saturday 11 November

Domestic Arrival and Transfer to Hotel | An Aracari representative will be expecting you in Sucre from your domestic flight from Santa Cruz, with a sign bearing your name. She will greet you with a welcome pack, brief you on your trip, and escort you to your hotel to assist you with check-in.

Within the welcome pack, you will find a hard copy of your itinerary for your trip with local times, maps, recommended shopping and eating and background information of the sites you will visit. She will also talk you through this information and will be happy to answer any questions that you may have at this point. All hotel vouchers are sent electronically prior to your check-in.

We expect that you will be arriving in the afternoon after a long journey, so there are no activities planned for today. Instead, take the time to settle in, rest at the hotel or take a stroll around the beautiful colonial city of Sucre.

You will be personally welcomed by the hotel owner, Mr Luis Rodriguez, who is the honorary consul for Spain.



4 nights at Parador Santa Maria La Real | Conveniently located one block from Sucre's Plaza de Armas and only 35km from the airport, Parador Santa Maria La Real (2,750m) is a beautiful colonial house that has been restored and adapted into a comfortable and charming 23-room hotel. Preserving the traditional style and even some furniture from the 18th-century home, Parador Santa Maria also features modern amenities like free high-speed internet and spa facilities. Guests can relax on the charming terrace overlooking the churches of Sucre or explore the small museum featuring items discovered during the renovations. With its convenient location and old-world splendor, Parador Santa Maria is an excellent choice for anyone spending time in Sucre. We recommend dinner at the Alliance Francaise or El Solar restaurant, both cozy and informal options with good food.

Day 2

Sunday 12 November

Today you will have a full day excursion, visiting two villages to the south east of Sucre. The market village of Tarabuco and the traditional Hacienda Candelaria both offer fascinating insight into traditional indigenous life in Bolivia.

Tarabuco Market | This morning your private vehicle and guide will collect you from your hotel to head to the village of Tarabuco, approximately 1hr 15min away. On Sundays, a visit to the Tarabuco market is a rich cultural experience in this Andean town. Artisans and weavers arrive early and set up stands to sell and barter their colorful works of art until around 3pm. Visitors will have the opportunity to purchase textiles and ceramics or just enjoy the bustling market environment.

Hacienda Candelaria | Leaving Tarabuco, you'll continue south east for approximately 40 min. Enjoy a typical Bolivian countryside lunch at the colonial Hacienda Candelaria. After lunch you will meet with locals in the community and visit some indigenous homes to see how the men and women in this community live. You will visit the local community museum which displays beautiful local weaving work and also have the opportunity to buy textiles from the local people. Afterwards, take a tour of Hacienda Candelaria which includes a chapel and agricultural museum, and participate in a textile workshop, learning to spin and dye the wool, and then try the intricate weaving process. At the end of the visit you will be transferred back to Sucre.

Overnight at Parador Santa Maria La Real.

Day 3

Monday 13 November

Local handicrafts and products | *3-hour visit with expert guide* | This morning you will get a taste of Bolivian culture through the handicrafts and products traditionally produced in Sucre.

First visit the *Chocolates Para Ti* factory in the Garcilaso neighborhood of Sucre. Tour the factory to see the step-by-step process of how the chocolate is made. The long glass window lets visitors take a peek at the workers during all parts of the chocolate-making process. Afterwards, be sure to have a taste of their products!

Hats form an integral part of Bolivian attire and Sucre's hat production offers an insight to the wide variety of regional styles. During your visit, enter the working factory of hat company *Sombreros Sucre* to follow the step-by-step production process. You will see how it all begins with the making of a *fuste*, a floppy, bell-shaped felt "hat" from which all finished hats are then shaped. Once the *fuste* has been made, it is flattened, shaped, dyed, shrunken, stiffened and detailed, until it has been transformed into a hat. The on-site museum includes a hat shop where you can purchase hats made in the factory.

The Foundation for Anthropological Research and Ethno-development, Anthropologists of the Southern Andes (ASUR) has a museum with beautiful intricate textiles that is another stop during this morning's visit. The Museum of Indigenous Art started as part of ASUR's Indigenous Art Renaissance Program in 1986 with the objective of promoting contemporary indigenous art, particularly traditional textiles from two cultural groups, the Jalq'a and Tarabuco. Today the program includes more than 800 associate female weavers in 17 communal workshops and 200 male tapestry weavers and embroiderers reviving pre-Columbian techniques.

The museum has a screen showing a documentary that explains the history of weaving and information about ASUR and the weavers. In addition to exhibition rooms displaying unique pieces, weavers give live demonstrations of the techniques used in the creation of their textile designs. Textiles, blankets, purses and more are also sold at the museum. The sales provide the indigenous communities with additional resources to provide for themselves and protect their cultural heritage.

Dinosaur Tracks | *2-hour excursion with expert guide* | The largest set of dinosaur tracks found in the world are located in the outskirts of Sucre, just 15 minutes from the city centre, in the region of Chuquisaca. Dating back to around 65 million years ago, the impressive dinosaur footprints are located on a vertical limestone slab in a quarry where vibrations causing the earth to move exposed over 5,055 tracks in 1998. Paleontologists have discovered the tracks belong to at least 8 species of terapods with examples of both biped and quadruped prints, indicating that different species co-habited the area, including the mighty *Tyrannosaurus Rex*. For this afternoon's excursion you will also visit the Cretaceous Park, located near to the footprints where life-size dinosaur replicas help visitors imagine a time when these massive creatures roamed the earth.

Monastery of San Filipe Neri | Once back in Sucre, you will visit one of the most important constructions in the city, the Monastery of San Filipe Neri, which was built between 1795 and 1799 in the

neoclassic style. The cloister is very interesting with two levels of four-centered arches that rest on massive columns. The beautiful roof terrace offers panoramic views over the city.

Art by Edgar de Urioste | This afternoon you will also stop off to visit the home and workshop of local painter Edgar de Urioste, who depicts the life and culture of the Spanish who came to Bolivia, and their descendants. You'll have the opportunity to meet the artist and learn about his work.

Dinner at Casa Aranjuez | Converted from an old hacienda, this private home is located 15 minutes from the centre of Sucre, in a pleasant residential area. Restored and owned by the Rodriguez family, who are friends of Marisol and Aracari, they will host you for a typical Bolivian meal.

Overnight at Parador Santa Maria La Real.

Day 4

Tuesday 14 November



In and Around Sucre: History & Traditions | 3-hour visit with expert guide | Sucre's history and importance has always been closely linked to that of Potosí; Spanish royalty and wealthy families involved with the silver mining in Potosí lived in Sucre, seeking refuge from the high altitudes and cold temperatures. Today, Sucre shares capital city status with La Paz and is considered to be the most beautiful city in Bolivia. Its gleaming white buildings and preserved colonial architecture, green parks, and streets lined with cafes and restaurants make it a pleasant and historical city. Besides its aesthetic charm, Sucre's highlights include the second oldest University in South America and many 16th century churches.

There are a variety of unique museums and historical sites in Sucre which will be incorporated into your tour, including: The main square – *Plaza 25 de Mayo*, The House of Liberty and the Monastery of La Recoleta, which is at the highest point in the city offering incredible views. You will also visit the University Colonial and may also be able to visit the Anthropological and Modern Art Museums, which are currently closed for restoration, but should be reopened in time for this trip. The tour will also include a stop at the beautiful manicured Bolivar Park where you can enjoy a stroll. The exact route may vary. During the tour you'll stop for a mid-morning snack of *salteñas*, a traditional Bolivian pastry, and later have lunch at a local restaurant.

Enjoy the afternoon at leisure exploring Sucre or relaxing.

Overnight at Parador Santa Maria La Real.

Day 5

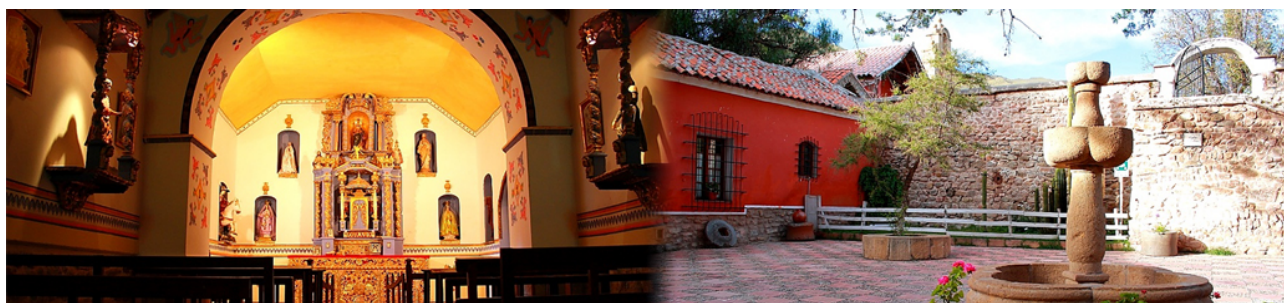
Wednesday 15 November



Overland Transfer to Potosí | After breakfast, your private vehicle and guide will collect you from your hotel for the drive from Sucre to Potosí, approximately 2hr 30min.

Potosí City Tour | Sitting at around 4000 meters above sea level, Potosí is one of the world's highest cities, and although it is a strange and often chaotic town, it still displays the grandeur and importance of its past. Founded in 1546, Potosí was established after the discovery of what seemed to be an endless supply of silver deposits in the Cerro Rico mine. In the 16th century, the city evolved into a metropolis with a larger population than Paris. Potosí was the source of silver during colonial times and today is deemed by UNESCO a city of "The Historical and Cultural Legacy of Mankind." According to legend, the mountain that towers over the city has produced enough silver to build a solid silver bridge from Potosí to Madrid!

Today you will visit a few places of interest in the centre of Potosí including the Casa de la Moneda (Royal Mint), filled with fascinating wooden machinery used to make coins for the Spanish colonies. You'll also visit the local miners' market and delve into a functioning silver mine for a glimpse at the industry's past and present. After lunch at a local restaurant, head to the Convent of Santa Teresa, which besides its aesthetic beauty, is a great representation of religious life during colonial times. At the end of the tour you'll transfer to Hotel Museo Cayara for a traditional home-style Bolivian meal and to spend the night.



Overnight at Hotel Museo Cayara | Situated on the outskirts of Potosí (approx. 30-40 min drive), at a lower altitude (3,500m) than the city, Hotel Museo Cayara was built in 1557. Nowadays it is home to an on-site museum and 14 guestrooms. They are basic but comfortable and open onto two beautiful courtyards. The owners are more than hospitable, making guests feel like they are staying in a home away from home. Browse through the restored library, the private chapel and museum with 16th century masks and indigenous Aymara armour on display.

Day 6

Thursday 16 November

Overland Transfer to Uyuni | After breakfast, and a tour of the hacienda, depart for your private transfer of approximately five hours to Uyuni, where you'll have lunch in a local restaurant.

Train Cemetery | As you near Uyuni, make a brief stop to see the eerie Train Cemetery, the fascinating resting place of freight trains that once passed through the area in the late 1800s. You'll also briefly stop to see a quinoa processing plant, before continuing to Colchani for dinner at Palacio de Sal Hotel.

Astronomy Stargazing | *2-hour celestial experience with an astronomy specialist* | After dinner you will have the opportunity participate in a special presentation with an astronomy specialist, who will share detailed knowledge about the southern celestial bodies and constellations. The unobstructed expanse of the isolated salt flats makes this a truly spellbinding experience, as the full breadth and immensity of the night sky can be observed and appreciated with the telescope provided or with the naked eye. Enjoy the experience with a cup of warm Bolivian wine. Note that stargazing is dependent on a clear sky and favourable weather conditions.



Overnight at Palacio de Sal Hotel | The Palacio de Sal was the first hotel in the world to be constructed completely out of salt. Located 25 km (15.5 miles) outside the city of Uyuni, the 16-room hotel overlooks the stunning salt flats. Many of the rooms are designed to look like igloos and each offers a private bathroom, hot water and central or electric heating. Guests can enjoy local cuisine prepared in the restaurant and the views from the terrace, relax at the spa or have some fun in the games room.

Day 7

Friday 17 November



Salar de Uyuni | Spend the day at the largest salt flat on earth, the Salar de Uyuni, with stunning sceneries unmatched anywhere else in the world. Covering 12,000 square km (4,633 square miles) of Bolivian Altiplano, the salt flats of Uyuni are an awe-inspiring natural phenomenon that is sure to be an unforgettable experience. The surreal pentagons of crystalline salt and the endless sky will certainly make you feel that there is no place like this in the whole world.

During today's tour you will stop at the small town of Colchani, a village on the edge of the Salar de Uyuni, where the salt is processed. In the small market locals sell handicrafts made of salt and bags of authentic Salar de Uyuni table salt as souvenirs. Nearby you'll visit the *Ojos de Agua* (eyes of water), round holes where water wells up from under the salt crust.

You'll then enter the majestic salt flats, stopping to take fun perspective photos, and then head for Incahuasi Island - a unique view point with cacti towering over you. You will stop for a picnic lunch at secluded spot in the middle of the Salar, before continuing north to the village of Coquesa. Here you will see the massive

Thunupa Volcano rising up in front of you. It stands on the northern side of the Salar de Uyuni at an elevation of 5,321 m (17,457 ft) on the Bolivian Altiplano. The village of Coquesa affords excellent views all around and you can take a short walk up the hill to the entrance to a cave containing the Coquesa mummies.

Cave Exploration | Head to the southern shores of the salt flats, admire the unusual subaquatic formations found in Galaxy Cave - their unusual appearance provided the inspiration for the cave's name. Next door is a second cave, *Cueva del Diablo*, or 'Devil's Cave'. This site is an old cemetery from pre-Inca civilizations. Learn about how these places were found and the local legends and traditions associated with them.

You'll end the day driving to San Pedro de Quemez, a small Andean town, where you'll have dinner at the Hotel Tayka de Piedra.



Overnight at Hotel Tayka de Piedra | Constructed out of stone and volcanic sand, the Hotel Tayka de Piedra (3,663m/12,017ft) takes its design inspiration from the nearby town of Pueblo Quemado, known for its stone masonry. The cozy bedrooms are heated with radiators and portable gas stoves, and each room has a private bathroom and hot water. This hotel provides guests with all the basic comforts one needs during an adventurous trip to the salt flats.

Day 8

Saturday 18 November



Surreal Landscapes | After breakfast, you'll head off to enjoy the surreal and highly photogenic landscapes of this region. You will drive through the Salar Chiguana, an enormous expanse of borax deposit. From here visit a lava-filled valley which looks as if the liquid flow of lava has been stopped in time. The ebbing movement that occurred in a bygone era is easy to imagine while the presence of the region's only active volcano, Ollague Volcano, adds to the dramatic backdrop. There is a viewpoint offering impressive views and photo opportunities.

Small Lagoons | Visit the small lagoons of this area, including Laguna Hedionda and Laguna Negra, each exceptional in its own way. Laguna Hedionda is a small lagoon that has a characteristic smell of sulphate due the mineral composition of its water. Stop at the *Arbol de Piedra*, which translates to 'tree rock' and is named for its fascinating tree-shape, in the Valley of the Rocks before heading to Mallku Cueva for dinner and to spend the night.



Overnight at Mallku Cueva | Located near the lakes of Lipez and perched upon a rock, this is a rustic and basic but comfortable Andean hotel. All 12 rooms have private bathrooms as well as electricity. The restaurant and bar area includes a cozy fireplace. This hotel, while remote, has magnificent natural surroundings and is located between Uyuni and the Eduardo Avaroa Reserve.

Day 9

Sunday 19 November

Overland Transfer to Eduardo Avaroa Reserve | After breakfast, you'll continue south with your private vehicle and guide, towards the Eduardo Avaroa Reserve.



Excursions in and around the Eduardo Avaroa Reserve | Today you will stop at the Laguna Colorada which displays various hues of red, depending on the light conditions. It is also the most important nesting site for three types of South American flamingoes. Continue to the *Sol de Mañana* Geysers, with intensely active fumaroles and volcanic craters filling with boiling lava. Afterwards, head to the Chalviri Lagoon, where you have the opportunity to take a dip in the natural hot springs. Finally, pass through Dali's Desert and make your way to the Laguna Blanca then the Laguna Verde, which looks like a liquid emerald, varying between shades of turquoise and green. Along the way you'll stop for a box lunch, and have many opportunities to enjoy and photograph the stunning scenery. Afterwards you will be taken to your accommodations for the night.

Overland Transfer to San Pedro de Atacama | You will continue south, crossing the border into Chile, to the town of San Pedro de Atacama, at the edge of the Atacama Desert.

Overnight at Kimal Hotel | Located in the centre of San Pedro de Atacama, Kimal Hotel reflects local aesthetics, constructed out of adobe and wood and decorated with terracotta tones. The rooms offer ensuite bathrooms, fans and heating, and a minibar. The hotel has an on-site restaurant, outdoor pool, hot tub and a massage and relaxation centre.

Day 10

Monday 20 November

Transfer Hotel to Calama airport | After breakfast (or depending on your flight time) you will take a private transfer to El Loa Airport, outside the city of Calama, a drive of approximately 1 hr and 15 mins.

END OF SERVICES

About this trip

GROUP SIZE

The group size for this tour is kept to a maximum of 12 to ensure you can enjoy the trip and conversations with your guides. The small group size also ensures that your experience of a particular site is not marred by the presence of too many people.

There is a minimum requirement of 6 passengers to run this tour, so the first 5 people to book will do so on a provisional basis until minimum numbers are reached. We will confirm the trip will run when the minimum has been met, or at the latest, 90 days before departure, and deposits will be fully refundable should the tour not operate.

SINGLE TRAVELLERS

We warmly welcome single travellers on this trip. You have two options - you can choose to share a room with another single traveller on the tour and pay the standard tour price (this option will only be available if another single traveller of the same sex is also willing to share), or you can choose to guarantee the sole occupancy of your room, in which case a single supplement is payable.

TOUR GUIDES

You will be accompanied on your tour by Aracari's Founder and CEO, Marisol Mosquera. In addition, you will have expert local guides who are specialists in their regions and to ensure that your trip runs smoothly and are on hand to solve any problems that may occur.

SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

Special dietary requirements should be highlighted by you on our booking form. Please note that we cannot guarantee availability in remote parts of Bolivia, but the more notice we have, the easier it is to make special arrangements to accommodate your requests.

Pricing

Land Services - Price per Person:

- Double accommodation based on a party of 2 persons **US\$ 3,950**
- Single person supplement **US\$ 720**
- Please be aware that this is a suggested itinerary and is subject to availability and minimum group size being met.
- Domestic flight from Santa Cruz to Sucre is included
- All other flights (international or domestic) are not included

IMPORTANT: Please be aware that airfares are subject to change until payment is made.

Domestic flights (within Bolivia) booked are non-refundable and can be flexible according airline policies with a surcharge starting at **US\$100.00** per person per route.

This itinerary includes:

- Accommodation at hotels as mentioned above.
- Meals where indicated.
- Trip accompanied by Marisol Mosquera, Aracari founder and CEO.
- Local English speaking guides throughout.
- Entrance tickets to locations specified.
- All transfers to and from the airport.
- A customized detailed itinerary which includes historical information about the places you will visit, tips for the traveler, where to eat and where to shop, maps of the places you will visit, and a comprehensive reading list.
- Local airport taxes.

Not included:

- Alcoholic beverages.
- Tips.
- Travel Insurance.
- International flights and airport taxes.
- Visas
- Border taxes
- Neither personal expenses nor any other service not specified in the itinerary.

COMMENTS:

- All prices in this quotation are per person.
- We will be providing the exact services that are included in this quotation.
- If you request different services at later stage, there will be additional charges.
- International flights are not included. Only one domestic flight is included (Santa Cruz – Sucre one way)
- We recommend you travel with a passport that is valid 6 months after your return date.
- Please check with the nearest Bolivian and Chilean consulate or embassy in your country for the most up-to-date information about Visa requirements as it varies by country and entry requirements are subject to regular change.

METHOD OF PAYMENT:

1. Payment by Wire Transfer: This is how most of our clients pay and most can do an electronic transfer through their online account.
 2. For credit card payment options, additional fees apply
-

Please be aware that this is a suggested itinerary and is subject to availability.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please be advised that travel in Peru and Bolivia, and South America in general, is occasionally subject to disruptions due to circumstances beyond ARACARI's control. These disruptions may affect your trip and may result in delays and changes of plans. These include but are not limited to: adverse weather conditions, unannounced schedule changes in museums and other attractions' opening times, flight cancellations and delays etc. (Please refer to our booking conditions under "force majeure"). Likewise, infrastructure is still limited in places so water and power shortages might occur as well as substandard service even in the best hotels. Therefore, to enhance the enjoyment of your holiday, we STRONGLY ADVISE you to be understanding and patient, as nobody can or will be held responsible for changes to your itinerary as a result of the aforementioned. ARACARI is there to mitigate the hassle and rearrange activities wherever possible to suit your needs, but sometimes the circumstances are beyond our control. The upside is the privilege of visiting a largely unspoiled country and region, with a rich culture and delightful population.