



## BOLIVIA TEXTILE & CULTURAL TOUR 2025



APRIL 22 – May 5, 2025

Explore the traditional arts, cultures, and natural wonders of Bolivia

- Visit the artisans of ARTECAMPO in Santa Cruz and Cochabamba weavers at ASUR in Sucre.
- Spend time with Jalq'a and Candelaria weavers in their villages, and explore the famous Tarabuco Market.
- Tour a silver mine in Potosi (UNESCO World Heritage site) and visit the Royal Mint House.
- Travel through the high plateau and see herds of llamas and vicunas.
- Watch the sunset over the magical salt plains of Uyuni, and lodge at a salt hotel on the edge of the flats.
- Fly over the high Andes to La Paz to visit the National Museum of Ethnography and Folklore.
- Wander through the Witches' Market in La Paz, and view the city from above on *telefericos*.

Bolivia is a land of enchantment. Join us!

For further information, email [tours@andeantextilearts.org](mailto:tours@andeantextilearts.org)

## REGISTRATION\*

Prices are per person, double occupancy

**\$5555** (12-15 people)

**\$5780** (10-11 people)

Single supplement **\$650**

For groups of fewer than 10 people, additional surcharge of \$380 per person.

\$950 non-refundable deposit required at time of reservation.

\*Trip cost based on the number of registrants. We will stay in touch with you during the registration period.



## TOUR LEADER



**Raul Jaimes Callañaupa** grew up in the village of Chinchero, Peru, as the child and grandson of weavers. He received his degree in tourism from the University of San Antonio Abad. The number one thing that he wants his travelers to experience is his Andean culture. He has led tours in Peru and Bolivia for twenty-three years

with travel companies such as Andean Treks and Overseas Adventure Travel in the U.S. and Exodus in Great Britain, before opening his own travel agency in 2014, Day Hikes and Self-Guided Tours Peru (D.H.S.G). In 2004 Raul was named one of the “Best of the Best” tour guides internationally by Overseas Adventure Travel.

## Additional Experts

Paula Saldaña, the director of CIDAC-Artecampo (The Center for Research, Artisanal Design and Cooperative), will join us during our visits to the Santa Cruz artisan communities. CIDAC was founded in 1980, as a non-profit social development institution that works to promote the recovery, preservation, revaluation, and development of popular and native art of indigenous and intercultural communities in the lowlands of Bolivia.

Jimena Montero, the executive director of ASUR (Antropólogos del Sur Andino), a foundation founded in 1985 for anthropological research and ethnodevelopment, will join us for a few days. ASUR started as a textile project aimed mainly at reviving traditional textiles and generating additional income for the indigenous communities of the Jalq’a and Tarabuco cultures.



Andean Textile Arts is a U.S. 501(c)3 non-profit dedicated to supporting the people and communities of the Andes in their efforts to preserve and revitalize their textile traditions. [www.andeantextilearts.org](http://www.andeantextilearts.org)

## TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Experienced tour guides
- Hotel accommodations, including early check-in at Santa Cruz
- All entrance fees for sites mentioned in the itinerary
- All breakfasts, ten lunches, and six dinners
- Domestic airfares: Santa Cruz –Sucre; Uyuni – La Paz
- Ground transportation
- Tips for included meals, drivers, hotel staff, local guides
- Water throughout trip
- \$500 tax-deductible donation to Andean Textile Arts

### Not included:

Tips for main guide, international airfare, any meals not specified, any additional hotel nights that may be necessitated by international airline schedule changes, personal expenses such as alcoholic beverages, any necessary visas and vaccinations to enter Bolivia.

**The cost of the tour does not include travel insurance, which is strongly recommended.**

**For further information or to register, email [tours@andeantextilearts.org](mailto:tours@andeantextilearts.org)**

Post-tour extensions are available.

## BOLIVIA TOUR ITINERARY

**April 22** Fly to Santa Cruz de la Sierra with arrival evening of the 22nd or early morning of the 23rd. Explore Santa Cruz at your own pace.

*Altitude: 1,365 feet*

**April 23** Morning briefing with Raul, group lunch followed by a visit to the ARTECAMPO museum and store. ARTECAMPO represents 14 associations producing Indigenous and campesino crafts of the eastern lowlands.

**April 24** Drive to the community of Buena Vista. Founded in 1694 as a Jesuit mission, it overlooks Amboro National Park. We will visit ARTECAMPO artisans who weave an array of attractive projects made from the jipi japa palm.

**April 25** Flight to Sucre, one of the most charming cities in Bolivia. We'll take a walking tour and spend the afternoon at ASUR, a nonprofit that helps weaving communities maintain their cultural integrity and needed income by promoting the production and sale of their high-quality textiles. ASUR works with the Jalq'a and Tarabuco communities among others. We'll have a demonstration by the highland weavers of Cochabamba, known for natural dyes.

*Altitude 9,200 feet*

**April 26** We visit Jalq'a weaving communities several hours' drive from Sucre to learn about their eye-opening designs and traditions. Nearby, the Land of the Craters is a unique geographic feature, popular in many Bolivian tours.

**April 27** Visit Tarabuco to experience one of the most famous markets in all of Bolivia. Many of the local people in Tarabuco, including members of the Yampara community still wear traditional dress. We'll visit a Tarabuco weaver and have time to wander the market.

**April 28** Free day to explore Sucre with many options in this walkable city.

**April 29** Drive to Potosi. The city came into existence after the discovery of silver there in 1545 and became famous for its wealth. Within three decades its population surpassed 150,000, making it the largest city in the New World. A walking tour will include a visit to the UNESCO-listed Royal Mint, which occupies an entire block. Our tour will continue to Miners' Market, and we'll enjoy the sunset as we climb the foothills to interact with the miners, with an optional tour into the mine.

*Altitude: 13,340 feet*

**April 30** We'll start the morning with an incredible drive to Uyuni across the Andean *altiplano*, see llamas and wild vicuñas grazing, and view quinoa fields before descending to the high plateau. Uyuni is adjacent to picturesque *salares* or salt flats. After lunch we will drive to the hotel for a panoramic view of the salt flat (*salar*) to enjoy the sunset.

*Altitude: 12,025 feet*

**May 1** Drive across the salt flats. The *salares* cover more than 4,086 square miles and are so level that the surface is used to calibrate the altimeters on satellites. On a still day, the thin layer of water covering the salt forms a great mirror reflecting the sky. We'll visit Inka Wasi, an island formed by fossilized/petrified coral reefs.

**May 2** Morning flight to La Paz. Guided tour of NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ETHNOGRAPHY AND FOLKLORE. Bolivia's diverse Indigenous culture includes 39 independent ethnic groups. In the afternoon we'll enjoy a tour of La Paz itself. Bolivia's capital perches in the magnificent, snowcapped Andes Mountains; it is crowded, noisy, and decidedly rough around the edges. We'll pay a visit to the "Witches' Market" where members of the Indigenous Aymara community sell beautiful handmade products, fresh local produce, and a variety of potions, medicinal plants, spells, and spiritual advice. La Paz also has a cosmopolitan vibe, a city undergoing rapid change. Hipster cafes, chic boutiques, fine dining restaurants, and a burgeoning art scene have in recent years transformed La Paz into the continent's coolest urban center.

*Altitude: 10,950 feet*

**May 3** We have a relaxing time with the association of Weavers A.R.P.A.K. (Asociacion Regional de Productoras de Artesania Kallahuaya) who will join us in La Paz to demonstrate their special weaving techniques. Our farewell dinner will be at the top-rated foodie spot GUSTU!

**May 4** Our last day and a chance to explore more of the unique features of La Paz and its Andean mountain environment. Perhaps cap off your tour of Bolivia with the magnificent views of La Paz provided by its famous cable cars?

**May 5** Fly home.