

# Excursions

**Mission:** Connect2Bolivia empowers individuals to experience and understand the multicultural communities of Bolivia through a global classroom setting. This allows for a unique, firsthand experience with the geographically diverse and ever-changing world of Bolivia.

**Vision:** To establish a rewarding educational travel experience from a wide variety of cultural, religious, political, ethnic, and racial backgrounds in hopes of achieving long-lasting global relationships.

## Introduction

**About Us:** Connect2Bolivia acts as a liaison between the Bolivian people and people from across the globe. To achieve lasting intercultural relationships, we offer a wide variety of services including but not limited to housing, transportation, excursions, field trips, independent and group traveling packages, private classes and tours with locals, medical travel assistance, service-learning, student teaching, Spanish & Quechua language courses, and exchange programs in Bolivia & the United States. We are seeking interest in Connect2Bolivia programs as well as University affiliated programs and developmental opportunities.

**We welcome independents, students, educators, and professionals alike who seek a unique, cultural experience filled with adventure and learning.**

## Excursions

As well as the Bolivian Culture, the Bolivian topography varies from location to location. It is very exciting to travel throughout this geographically diverse country. On our programs, we include several field trips outside of the Cochabamba area.

### Several Excursion Options

**Salar de Uyuni** is the world's largest salt flats. It is located southwest of Cochabamba, Bolivia. It was prehistorically a salt lake called "Lago Minchin" that dried up and became a vast awe-inspiring salt flat. It stretches to around 4,600 square miles. There are still several bright mineral colored lakes that exist with pink flamingos living nearby. On the tour, one will see many different strange islands, animals, and rock statues. It is one of the most famous visiting sights in Bolivia!



**Incachaca** is an hour outside of the city of Cochabamba, heading to the lowlands. It was used by the Inca Empire as a path through the jungle up through the Andes. It is a two to three hour hike through the historical site. On the path, you will see the first electrical plant in Bolivia, beautiful site-seeing such as plants, waterfalls, and mountains.

**Chapare** is a three-hour drive outside of the city Cochabamba, located in the lowlands. It is well-known because of its beautiful rainforest, Chapare-Amazon River, natural landscapes, and national parks. Students will have the opportunity to visit the Monkey Park and take amazing guided hikes through the rainforest.



**Toro Toro National Park** is famous for the caves of Humajalanta. On a guided tour, students may visit ancient caves and view exotic landscapes. There is a large canyon with a beautiful outlook over the valley. Also, Toro Toro is famous for its dinosaur footprints, fossils, and other prehistoric creatures.

**Lago Titicaca** is the largest natural lake located at its altitude of 12,500 feet. It was close to becoming a “Wonder of the World.” Individuals will be able to take awe-inspiring hikes and boat tours while learning about the Aymara culture.



**Potosí** is an old Spanish colonial town located South of La Paz. It was considered one of the wealthiest silver and tin mines in South America. The city is located high in the Andes at around 13,400 feet. The Spanish conquistadors extracted the minerals from the mine to pay off their debt in Europe. Individuals will experience the colonial architecture, museums, and mine tour.

### **Cochabamba Excursions**

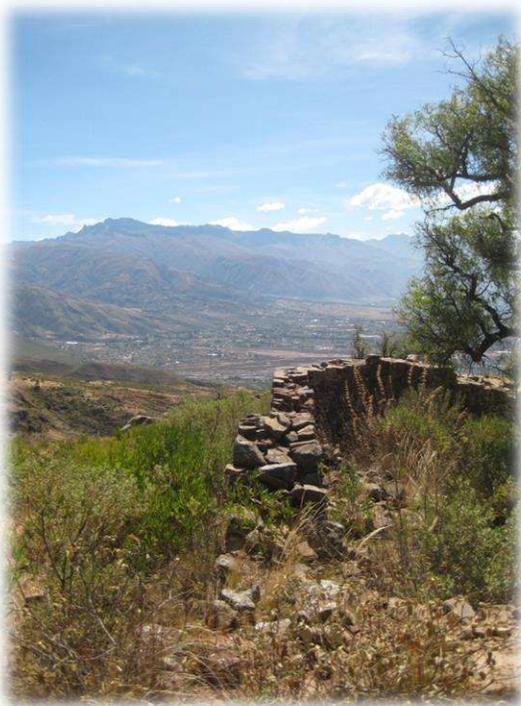
In the city of Cochabamba, there are many different excursions for students and individuals. Some of these tourist attractions have small entrance fees. Others are completely free! Below is a short list of possible visiting sites.

**El Cristo** is a statue of Jesus Christ that can be found in the heart of the city. When traveling to the top, one can view the entire city of Cochabamba. The statue is also used for a directional point in the city (North, South, East, and West).

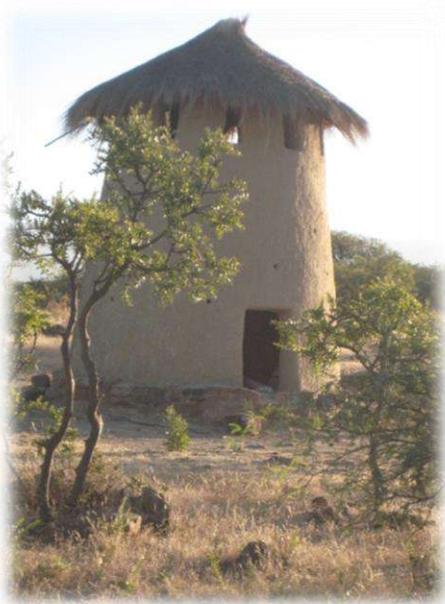


**Santa Teresa** is a convent that was founded in year 1760. The guide allows you to look into the astonishing lives of cloistered nuns. The tour shows you how the nuns studied early medicine, made candles, prayed, and lived their daily sheltered lives. It was very common in Bolivia for one of the females in the family to become a nun at Santa Teresa. Today, the convent is still housing nuns, but they live next to the old structure in more modern commodores.

**Palacio Portales** is a beautiful home designed by French architect, Eugene Bliault for Simón Iturri Patiño, the famous tin mine owner. The house was designed between years 1915 to 1927. The gardens were modeled after Versailles Palace in Paris. The home is an amazing look into the level of wealth accumulated by miners long ago in Bolivia. Today, it stands as a museum for the public. It also features art galleries for new artists, and it houses a theater inside for special events.

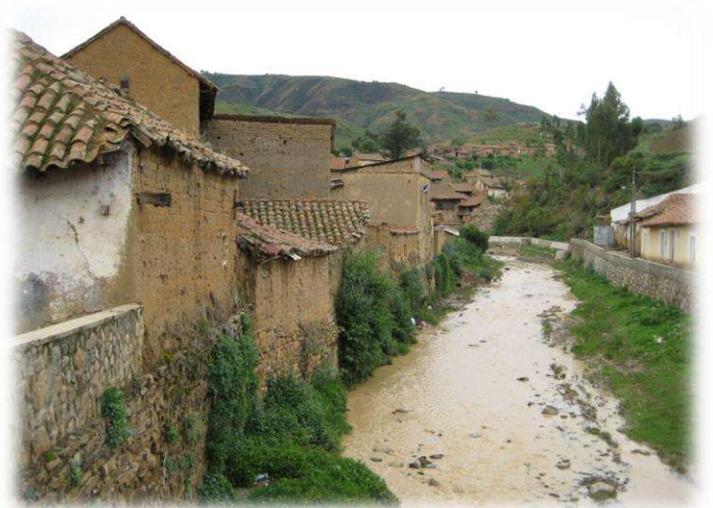


**Incarracay** is an Inca administrative sighting located close to the village of Sipe Sipe. It was used as an administrative capital during the Inca period. Individuals will experience vast scenery which overlooks Cochabamba along with an adventurous hike.



**Cotapachi-Quillacollo** is a huge maize storage facility used during the Inca period. It provided close to 25% of all the maize of the Inca Empire. More than 3,000 circular Qollqa or Silos in basket form were built to keep the state corn for military, ritual, and natural disaster circumstances.

**Totora** is a beautiful colonial town located right outside the city of Cochabamba. When walking through the town, individuals will see the influence of Spanish architecture and style. It is a quiet town that is rich in tradition and the Catholic faith.



**Urkupiña** is a location devoted to the sighting of the Virgin Mary. Every year in August, millions of Bolivians walk the road from Cochabamba to this location as a pilgrimage to the Virgin Mary. When arriving at the site, a special mass is said. People pray and dance while giving thanks to the Virgin Mary and God.



*\*Note: If additional points of interest and travel are identified or requested, Connect2Bolivia will consider these on a case by case basis. Inquiries may be made directly through website:*

[www.connect2bolivia.com](http://www.connect2bolivia.com)