

MOUNTAIN



LINK

BOLIVIA: HUAYNA POTOSÍ & ILLIMANI



- Day 01** Depart the US for La Paz, Bolivia.
- Day 02** Upon your arrival at the La Paz airport, a trip representative meets you outside of the customs area. Keep in mind that the airport is at 13,000 feet. Therefore, plenty of hydration on the flight is highly recommended. Ground transportation takes you to the hotel in the city. The remainder of the day is spent relaxing, hydrating, and acclimatizing. We have an evening orientation meeting in the hotel lobby followed by a welcome dinner. The meeting time is determined once all team members have arrived. (D Only)
- Day 03** An early morning departure to Lake Titicaca starts the day. Our journey takes us across the Altiplano (high plateau) where we get our first view of the Cordillera Real and Huayna Potosí. Our group visits Suriki Island, home of the reed boat builders. This island was made famous by Thor Heyerdahl's RA Expedition, which attempted a transoceanic voyage in a reed boat constructed on Suriki Island. Here we have an acclimatization hike and take in the beautiful views of the lake and surrounding countryside. (B, L, D)
- Day 04** We leave La Paz for the next few days to train and climb in the nearby Cordillera Real. We use burro support for our trek into a beautiful alpine lake located near the base of Condoriri. We spend the next two nights at a campsite (15,000 feet) overlooking a lake. This site is a few hours from a great training area on a glacier. (B, L, D)
- Day 05** Today, the team reviews basic mountaineering techniques. We learn more advanced skills such as fixed line travel, ice climbing, and crevasse rescue. Most of the day is spent training, the extra time allows for more personalized hands-on experience. The evening is spent relaxing or possibly trout fishing. (B, L, D)
- Day 06** We head for Zongo Pass (15,000 feet) located at the base of Huayna Potosí. After our morning trek, we enjoy a picnic lunch before boarding our private bus for the journey to the pass. The evening is spent preparing for the climb that awaits us. (B, L, D)
- Day 07** Today we begin our ascent of the mountain Huayna Potosí. We climb through the lower moraines to the glacier at 16,300 feet. We rope up to begin our glacier travel to high camp at 17,500 feet. We use high-altitude porters to assist us in carrying group gear to high camp. The campsite is located in a beautiful basin. (B, L, D)
- Day 08** An early alpine start and light breakfast begin our summit day. Our ascent is both physically and technically challenging. The upper slopes and summit ridge are steep and demanding; fixed line travel may be involved in the final push to the summit. Upon reaching the summit, we take time for photos, beautiful views, and reflection. Being attentive, we carefully descend to high camp where we spend the night. (B, L, D)



- Day 09** Today, we break camp, pack up, and descend to Zongo Pass. Our private transportation meets us at the pass to take us to La Paz for much needed rest and celebration! Join the Mountain Link guides for dinner. The rest of the evening is free for festivities of your choice. (B, D, L)
- Day 10** Today is a rest day. Meals are not provided.
- Day 11** Departure from La Paz in 4X4 vehicles into the southern end of the Cordillera Real to the village of Una at 12,500 feet. Mules transport equipment to the Puente Roto base camp at 14,700 feet. Overnight at base camp. (B, D, L)
- Day 12** With the assistance of high altitude porters, we move to an intermediate camp at 16,000 feet. This camp is located on a ridge crest that provides excellent sunset views of the mountain and surrounding countryside. (B, L, D)
- Day 13** Our climb continues along the ridge crest to a high camp called Nido de Condores, at 18,100 feet. High-altitude porters support this section of our climb. Once camp is established, we make final preparations for an early alpine summit bid. (B, L, D)
- Day 14** An early morning wake-up call, followed by hot drinks and breakfast is the beginning of a big day. Our route begins at the southwest buttress of Illimani where we climb steep, snow-covered glaciers to the summit. Technique and positive mental attitude are the keys to success on this day. The route culminates on a narrow ridge leading to Illimani's summit 21,195 feet. After celebration and some photos we descend to high camp to spend the night. (B, L, D)
- Day 15** Possible extra acclimatization or weather day. This day may be used at anytime during the Illimani portion of the trip depending on team strength and route conditions. (B, L, D)
- Day 16** We make the journey from high camp back to the village of Una. Our transportation meets us there to take us back to La Paz for a much-needed shower, rest, and a celebration dinner!. (B, L, D)
- Day 17** Transportation to the airport for outbound flights to the United States.

**Itinerary is subject to change*

***B = Breakfast; L = Lunch; D = Dinner: Initials note where meals are included. Lunches on the mountain are snack lunches they are not an organized meal.*