

ALTIPLANO TOUR A CHALLENGE REACHABLE TO ONLY A FEW CHILE – BOLIVIA – PERU

Fourteen nights – fifteen days
Total Kilometers 3.800

An **ADVENTURE** which can only be described as *Authenticity at its very best.*
*Discover some of the highest, most isolated, coldest, warmest, windiest, spots on earth. Combine is with the most indigenous country in South America and you have a true **ADVENTURE.***

DAY 1

Fly to Antofagasta

There are very few counties that you can see both international borders from an aircraft at the same time. On one side on the aircraft you will see the Pacific Ocean coastline and from the other, the majestic Andes mountain range.

Antofagasta is a coastal town on the edge of the Atacama Desert. The highlight of its shoreline is La Portada, a beautiful natural rock arch located in the ocean, which nature has crafted perfectly. Declared as a "Natural Monument", it is now visited by many tourists.

Afternoon ride to visit La Portada (bike familiarization) Lodging and dinner in Antofagasta, Chile.

DAY 2

315 km.

We leave Antofagasta towards San Pedro de Atacama in which we will cross the famous Atacama Desert which is renowned as being the **driest desert in the world.**

Upon entering San Pedro de Atacama we will stop to admire and take some photos of the fantastic landscape of the hills which have unusual shapes and a variety of colors due to the combination of numerous minerals.

Lodging and dinner at San Pedro de Atacama.

DAY 3

Non riding day

San Pedro de Atacama is considered Chile's archeological capital.

Today we will start our day early, as a private vehicle provided by the hotel will take us on an outing to the Geysers.

Located in a landscape of imposing, arid beauty, the **El Tatio Geysers** is a volcanic geothermal field where water and vapor sprout violently from the depths of the earth. As the Geysers are located at over 4.000 m above sea level, the air temperature in the morning -the time when the jets of boiling water sprout- is very low.

The time when the Geysers are on their best form is between 05:30 and 07:00 hours in the morning, when they easily reach up to 10 meters.

**Breakfast organized by the Hotel at the Geysers.
Lodging and dinner at San Pedro de Atacama.**

DAY 4 340 Km.

Today we leave San Pedro de Atacama early and head off to Ollagüe which is at 3.500 meters above sea level. The road is approx 150 km. paved and 190km of gravel. The Ollagüe community has its foundation in the old station of the Antofagasta-Bolivia Railroad, located on the border of both countries. The intense flow of passengers and minerals that once used this railroad to move between Chile and Bolivia and vice-versa, gradually created the small town that has now become a small frontier village. The majority of inhabitants in Ollague are Indigenous (Quechua).

Lodging in a basic Ollague lodging.

DAY 5 270 km.

Today we head towards Uyuni which will require us to ride 250km on a gravel road. The road is relatively well maintained due to the location of a relative large mining operation along the way. With an area of 12.000 km² and located in the Southeast of Bolivia, the **Uyuni** Salt Flat is the largest in the world.

We will lodge and have dinner at the **Luna Salada Hotel**, (Salty Moon Hotel), which is located on the shore of the salt flats. Apart from the obvious, the entire hotel is made of salt including the walls, the floor, beds, tables, chairs, etc. With a marvelous view of the salt flat from the restaurant -a must at dusk- this is one of the world's most unusual hotels.

Lodging and dinner at Hotel Luna Salada, Uyuni, Bolivia.

DAY 6 180 km. approx.

Today, the day will be devoted to discover the magic of the Uyuni Salt Flat. On the flats we will visit the Island of the Fishermen (Incahuasi). Uyuni is the only place in the World that has an island which, instead of being surrounded by water is surrounded by salt. The **Island of the Fishermen** is a fragment of rocky land in the midst of this oceanic whiteness, from which hundreds of giant cacti crop out, the only vegetal species in thousands of square miles. To ride

through the imperturbable centuries-long immensity of the salt flats, within the enigmatic strength of its loneliness, and its incomparable beauty is a unique, non-repeatable opportunity.

Lodging and dinner at Hotel Luna Salada.

DAY 7

280 km.

Today we will travel on approximately 250km of gravel road to Potosí, Bolivia. Having said that, the Bolivian Government is in the process of sealing this road which is expected to be completed in 2009.

At an altitude of 4.070 meters above sea level, **Potosí City** is the capital of the province that bears its name. In 1987, UNESCO declared it as a **Heritage of Humanity**. After a challenging but breath taking road (Uyuni to Potosi) we will arrive at the Hacienda Cayara Farm where we will spend the night. Here we will be welcomed by Edgar Soux who runs the Farm and the Dairy that processes and provides milk to the entire city of Potosi. The hacienda is an authentic museum of original historical pieces. The foundation of **Hacienda Cayara date back to 1557**, twelve years after the founding of Potosí.

Lodging and dinner at the Hacienda, Potosí.

DAY 8

230 km.

Potosi city was created by miners and continues to be a miner's city. Today we will have the opportunity go down a **mine shaft** and see how people work, without adequate lighting or equipment, no gloves, little air, and under extreme conditions.

If you don't suffer claustrophobia or asthma, and dare to, this will be an unforgettable experience. Once you are inside, the miners Hill come to visit and chat with the group, something they appreciate as it is the only thing that will distract them from their exhausting routine for a few minutes. The guided tour will take place in the morning.

If there are any group members who would prefer not to go in the mine, we can arrange a city tour. After lunch we'll start our trip to our final destination for the day, **Sucre**, the Capital of Bolivia (sealed road).

Sucre is a beautiful colonial city and is well-known for its lovely churches. **Founded in 1540** Sucre as been declared by **UNESCO as a Cultural Heritage of Humanity**, a living museum of the splendorous lifestyle of the Spanish colonial aristocracy.

Guided visit to the cathedral and the house of Freedom. (Optional).

Lodging at the Plaza Hotel, Sucre.

DAY 9

360 Km.

Today we head towards Cochabamba on a mixture of gravel and sealed road. Along the way we'll pass several small towns; just before reaching Cochabamba, we will visit **Totora, a colonial town** that has resisted time. Located at an altitude of 2300 mts, this town stands out because of its rich colonial architecture of stately old homes and churches, a true jewel of the history of Bolivia. This is a charming place that will make us recall other times and enjoy the beauty that time has painted on its streets.

**Lodging at Hotel at a 5* hotel, Cochabamba-Bolivia.
Dinner in Town.**

DAY 10

360 km.

Our 360km run today will take us to **La Paz** (the largest city in Bolivia). After our arrival, you may visit the surroundings of a city that has different tourist attractions such as ancient churches and museums that flaunt a fascinating colonial architecture. You cannot miss visiting the **Market of the Sorcerers** (witches) in a narrow cobblestone street where traditionally, for many years, the witch doctors or Yatiri (in Aymara language) have kept shop in tables full of innumerable elements from the three kingdoms of nature.

Lodging and dinner at the Radisson Hotel.

DAY 11

150 km.

For those of you who were looking forward to a run full of adrenaline and with an incomparable landscape today is your day!

Leaving La Paz we will head towards Coroico and the **famous Death Road**.

It is one of the few roads that connect the country's northern **Amazon jungle** with La Paz City.

Because of its steep slopes, its one-way width (3mts in some places), and the lack of road guards, this road can become extremely dangerous.

The landscape is a mixture of green slopes, abysses, rivers, waterfalls, and overwhelming vegetation.

Nowadays (fortunately) there is a much more modern, safer road connecting La Paz and Coroico, so the traffic and number of accidents have decreased considerably and what you see on the road are mostly bicycles with their support vehicles.

Lunch at Coroico.

Lodging and dinner at La Paz.

DAY 12

300 km.

Today we have a long trip to Puno, Peru.

We skirt around **Lake Titicaca** and Cordillera Real Range to reach **Copacabana** town, where the **bikes will be ferried on a barged** across Tiquina Strait to Puno, Peru.

Our trip will be accompanied by the impacting immensity and beauty of the clear waters of Lake Titicaca. This lake, located on the highland shared by Bolivia and Peru, is the natural border between these two countries. It is the highest navigable lake in the world (3810 mts above sea level) and the largest in South America, with an area of 8.300 square kilometers.

Lunch in Copacabana Restaurant.

Lodging and dinner at Puno.

DAY 13

Non riding day

On the shores of Lake Titicaca, at 3860 mts in altitude is **Puno**, a captivating city that manages to charm with the strange magnetism that seems to emerge from its hills and from its lake that looks more like a sea.

Visit to the **floating islands of the Uros**, one of the most unique attractions of world tourism. The urban legend had it that the islands of the Uros float magically as a blessing of the Gods; nowadays, however, we know that the islands float because they are build on blocks of cattail roots which upon decomposing produce gases which are trapped in the maze of roots and aid the floating.

The boat excursion begins at 9 a.m. and ends around noon.

Lodging at Puno.

Dinner in Town.

DAY 14

500 km.

We leave Puno today and start our descent towards Arica, Chile. The road will take us across the arid desert to the coast of the deep blue Pacific Ocean together with the majesty of the highlands.

We will stay at Hotel Arica which is located on the shores of the Pacific Ocean.

Farewell Dinner and lodging at Arica, Chile.

DAY 15

Fly to Santiago

END OF TOUR

Prices (Based on double occupancy)

Rider with BMW R 1200 GS 2008 / 2009 Model	- USD\$ 7,532
Pillion passenger / support vehicle passenger	- USD\$ 2,906
Single room supplement (optional)	- USD\$ 650

Includes

- Bilingual Motorcycle guide (English and Spanish) for the entire tour
- Flights: Santiago – Antofagasta / Arica - Santiago
- A combination of 3, 4 and 5 star hotels and lodges (depending on location), with breakfast included
- Fuel and oils for entire trip
- 4 x 4 Support vehicle with driver
- One spare motorbike towed on a trailer
- Motorbike Spare Parts
- One mobile phone per rider
- Coffee, tea, soft drinks, biscuits, sandwiches all the way
- 4 dinners including farewell dinner (alcohol not included)
- 12 lunches
- Motorbikes with panniers and tank bag
- Maps of Chile, Bolivia and Peru
- Documents for borders crossing
- Admission and guides fees to see the Geisers del Tatio in Atacama
- Entrance fee and guide at Uyuni salt flats
- Potosi mine tour with bilingual guide or city tour
- Boat ride and entrance fee to the Uro Islands
- Airport /hotel transfers
- Insurance in Bolivia for third parties
- Insurance for third parties in Chile
- Storage and parking for the motorbikes
- Transportation of the motorbikes from Santiago - Antofagasta / Arica Santiago
- Satellite phone for receiving calls
- Personal gift from South America Motorbike Tours

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