

# FMC Travel Club

A subsidiary of Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand (Inc.)

[www.fmc.org.nz](http://www.fmc.org.nz)

Club Convenor : John Dobbs

Travel Smart Napier

P O Box 352 Napier 4140

P : 06 8352222 F : 06 8354211 E : [john@tsnapier.co.nz](mailto:john@tsnapier.co.nz)

## \*\*\* Peru Adventure \*\*\*

10<sup>th</sup> May to 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2012, 25 days

**\$6995 ex Auckland. Leader : Eileen Cameron**

*Requires a minimum of 8 people and is subject to currency fluctuations*

## \*\*\* Bolivia + Atacama Adventure \*\*\*

May 31<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> June 2012, 26 days

**\$8595 ex Auckland. Leader : Eileen Cameron**

*Requires a minimum of 8 people and is subject to currency fluctuations*

**Save \$2600!!! Combine Both Trips, 10<sup>th</sup> May to 25 June, 47 days. \$12,995**

*Any payments by visa or mastercard adds \$150 to the cost of each trip*

### PRICE INCLUDES :

- International airfares and internal flights as per the itinerary, all flight taxes and departure taxes
- All accommodations in Peru and Bolivia and Chile
- All internal transportation (bus, boat, flights etc.)
- Experienced Spanish speaking NZ trip leader throughout
- Most meals (as shown by B.L.D.)
- Airport transfers, national park and other fees, qualified local guides, cooks and tramping support staff
- Various other inclusions detailed in the itinerary, group tipping

### PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE :

- Travel insurance (mandatory)
- Some meals
- Items of a personal nature such as internet, free choice options, such as flight over Nazca Lines

**Trip Leader**

*Eileen hails from the Waikato, but has lived in South America for more than a decade, currently in Caxias do Sul, Brazil. She has worked in various aspects of tourism for 15 years' led tours through Latin America for GAP, and more recently has been a regular tour leader for 'Grassroots' the Auckland based company. Eileen designed and will lead our exciting trip to Patagonia in late 2011.*

*She has a wealth of knowledge and understanding of Latino culture and speaks Spanish and Portuguese fluently. She also holds a BA in Spanish and Latin American studies.*

*I'm delighted to have Eileen to lead both trips and I know that you will enjoy a great experience with her, particularly as she has led a number of trips into these areas.*

*She welcomes your contact at : [spantranz@gmail.com](mailto:spantranz@gmail.com)*

## **Trip Organisation**

### **Overview :**

*Both trips are very comprehensive and cost inclusive, and include international flights from NZ and all domestic flights. The vagaries of airline services to and within South America make it essential to have these flights included within our advertised price, to maintain proper control. Pricing includes the effects of currency fluctuations and oil prices and we have allowed for some movement within our advertised price. However, we are at the mercy of such changes that are not in our control, so cannot guarantee the final trip price until full payment has been received.*

### **Operations:**

*A variety of local operators are used as we go from region to region. These will include transport services, local guides, drivers, cooks, porters, horsemen and muleteers. As opposed to having one operator throughout each country, we will enjoy a variety of local services in each region.*

### **Your trip leader :**

*Eileen has assembled the trip components, so has full control 'on the ground' as the co-ordinator ensuring everything runs as smoothly as possible. Eileen facilitates accommodation check-ins and briefs the groups, responds to questions and issues and helps with language and cultural issues. She has a wide range of local contacts to assist and ensure you enjoy the best possible experience and feels very much at home in Latin America, even though she is Kiwi by birth, so this helps bridge cultural gaps.*

### **Accommodation :**

*A mix of small family run hotels, cabins and hostels, often with private facilities. In the jungle we will stay in a purpose built lodge and while on extended tramping sections e.g. the Inca Trail, Asungate Trail, El Choro Trek and Huayna Potosi ascent, we will be camping in tents.*

### **Transport :**

*A varied mix of public and private transport, including two overnight sleeper buses in Peru, which assist with acclimatization, internal flights (1 in Peru, if doing Peru only, and 3 in Bolivia), boats, taxis, and 4WD landrovers.*

### **Meals :**

*Generally speaking, most breakfasts are included and there are also many lunches and dinners included particularly on the excursions and tramping sectors which take us to remote regions, and therefore we'll have our own cook for many legs of the journey. These are all indicated with B, L and D in the daily itinerary. If you have any food allergies or preferences, please advise in advance so we can let the local crew know and prepare accordingly. On the Peru trip there are 22 breakfasts, 11 lunches and 9 dinners included; while on the Bolivia trip there are 23 breakfasts, 13 lunches and 9 dinners included. If choosing the combined trip then you have one more included lunch on the day we cross into Bolivia.*

### **A typical day :**

*There is so much variety that it is hard to generalize, nevertheless, we can say that most days start early and the range of activities will keep you enthralled as this region has a lot to offer, no matter what your interests. Before we move on to a new town, Eileen will give you a briefing on what to expect at the next stop so you can prepare.*

#### **Newsletter :**

*Typically, at least one newsletter will be compiled to inform of things not included here. Recommendations on how to prepare for the trip, accommodation list, group members, recommended gear list, cultural and food details inoculations and anything else relevant.*

*There are many books and publications on Peru and Bolivia, trekking in the Andes etc to read up, and of course the Lonely Planet series and Rough Guides can be helpful. The more you find out the more you will enjoy the trip.*

#### **Options :**

*While not a definitive list, this does give some idea of extra activities that are possible and costs to allow for.*

- *Flight over the Nazca Lines. USD \$130 approx' and subject to weather conditions.*

## **Peru Overview and Programme**

*Peru is one of the best known countries in South America, whether it is for its rich Inca heritage and inspiring archaeological sites like Machu Picchu, or because it is home to the highest navigable lake in the world or hundreds of varieties of potatoes and an abundance of other crops. It is also the birthplace of the Amazon River, has an incredibly rich and varied marine life, and a myriad of colourful cultures and history to go with it. Travellers return to Peru time and time again to enjoy the friendliness of the locals, the handicrafts, the fresh, tasty and varied cuisine, and for trampers this is one of the best places in all the Americas to try high altitude trekking because of the wide range of accessible summits with relatively low technical difficulty. Come consider the intrigue of this ancient Inca land!*

*Our itinerary includes the best of central and southern Peru.*

*We start in **Lima**, the capital, known as the City of Kings. From here we head south along the Pacific coast consisting of a dusty desert broken up by verdant, fertile river valleys. We visit the **Ballesta Islands**, an abundant wildlife reserve where you will see penguins, pelicans, sealions and cormorants to name a few.*

*From there we travel to Nazca, home of the famous gigantic, geometrical figures and patterns which were etched in the desert floor hundreds of years ago. The **Nazca Lines** have stood the test of time and continue to amaze people today, making you question where they came from and how they were made.*

*Next, we travel inland to the foothills of the Andes with **Arequipa**, Peru's 2<sup>nd</sup> largest city situated at 2600m. Known as the White City, it has beautiful architecture, pleasant climate, a picturesque square and sumptuous cuisine. You are bound to be impressed by the 3 volcanoes, over 5000m, which overlook the city. Arequipa is also the jumping off point to visit the **Colca Canyon**, one of the deepest in the world at 4160m and the best place in Peru to observe condors in flight. We will tramp into the canyon near Cabanaconde and overnight in the tranquil oasis at the bottom. After we hike out, we visit other villages dotted along the canyon. The locals continue to wear their typical dress which has exquisitely detailed embroidery, and distinguishes their ethnic origins. There are also some lovely hot springs in the canyon to enjoy.*

***Cuzco** is the 'naval' of the Inca Empire. This imperial city will be our base for many days as we explore the nearby **Sacred Valley** and embark on the most popular tramp on the continent. The **Inca Trail** takes us through a variety of landscapes including river valleys, farmland and paramo (zones above the treeline) and over 3 breathtaking passes (one over 4000m). Eventually descending into cloud forest and bringing us to the world famous site of **Machu Picchu** on the morning of Day 4. After enjoying an extensive visit of this UNESCO World Heritage site, we return to Cuzco by train.*

*Our next expedition takes us about 100kms east of Cuzco to superb **Mt. Asungate**, at 6384m, the highest in southern Peru. The tramp around Asungate begins in the Andean grasslands of the Altiplano and crosses 4 high passes, (2 over 5000m) en route. Consequently, it features quite varied scenery, including fluted icy peaks, tumbling glaciers and*

turquoise lakes, rolling brown puna shrublands and green marshy valleys. There are warm mineral springs at the start and finish to soak your weary bones! Along the way you will also find huge herds of alpacas and tiny hamlets unchanged for centuries.

Our final stop takes us across the altiplano to **Puno**, on the shores of **Lake Titicaca**, at an altitude of 3900m. We spend our last day in Peru visiting 3 diverse communities that live near or on the lake. **Taquile Island** is home to Peru's best knitters and a pre-Inca culture that continues to retain many of its ancient traditions. We then visit **Santa Maria** on the Capachica Peninsula. Here we enjoy a typical Peruvian meal called Pachamanca, similar to a hangi, and enjoy the cultural interaction learning about their dances, crafts and art. Last but not least we visit the **Uros floating islands**, another pre-Inca culture, that sought refuge in the lake on manmade reed islands to avoid paying tax to the Inca. It is truly fascinating to see how they have created a lifestyle out of the totora reeds on Lake Titicaca. We return to Puno for one last night out on the town before either flying back to Lima the next morning or continuing on to Bolivia, well acclimatized and ready for the next leg.

## **Peru Itinerary**

### **Day 1. Thu 10<sup>th</sup> May. Lima**

Depart Auckland on Lan Chile Airlines via Santiago, Chile and arrive Lima. Transfer to the accommodation and meet up with Eileen. We stay in Miraflores which is a good area to walk around with plenty of shops and restaurants nearby.

### **Day 2. Fri 11<sup>th</sup> May. Paracas**

Head into downtown Colonial Lima for a city tour including a visit to the Cathedral and the Catacombs of San Francisco. After lunch we head south and hug the barren Pacific coastline for around 240kms to Paracas/Pisco. This is nothing like the Pacific we are used to in NZ, as due to the Humboldt Current it is more like a desert and there are small fishing villages dotted along the route in the middle of nowhere. Pisco is the town that the national drink Pisco is named after, normally drunk in a 'Pisco sour'. We will learn more about this grape based spirit on day 3, but you can enjoy a Pisco sour pretty much anywhere throughout the trip. We stay at Paracas near the Paracas Reserve, which protects a rich ecosystem of wildlife, and is also a World Heritage site. **B.**

### **Day 3. Sat 12<sup>th</sup> May. Ballestas, Ica and Nazca**

We enjoy a boat trip around the peninsula and should see penguins, sea lions, cormorants, boobies, pelicans, dolphins as well as amazing cultural and archaeological sights.

Continuing south, we pass through Ica, a city known for its wines and production of pisco as well as the oasis of Huacachina where enormous sand dunes invite sand boarders and buggy riders to have fun. We eventually come to Nasca, made famous in 1939 by the discovery, from the air, of a series of extensive lines and shapes of animals, people, birds etc. etched into the sub-bleached pampa. The intrigue behind this huge work is now a UNESCO World Heritage listed site and is best seen and understood by taking a flight. **B.**

### **Day 4. Sun 13<sup>th</sup> Nazca and night bus to Arequipa**

An optional flight over the Nazca Lines can fit around the excursion to the Chauchilla Desert Cemetery, where we see mummies, hundreds of years old, from the Nazca culture. The arid climate assists in retaining the mummies intact. Timing of the flights is weather dependent. We also visit a local ceramic and artisan gold workshop. Free afternoon in Nazca, and the bus to Arequipa departs after dinner. **B.**

### **Day 5. Mon 14<sup>th</sup> May. Arequipa**

Nearly 600km further south and inland, we come to the beautiful city of Arequipa, framed by ice-capped volcanoes and packed with enchanting colonial architecture and fascinating ice-mummies. Nestled in a verdant valley, a great base for exploring the spectacular landscape that surrounds it, superb museums and one of the places that Eileen calls home! She will reveal the best of the city and its surroundings. We arrive early morning and breakfast will be served at the hotel, a great place to relax and adjust to the altitude. **B.**

**Day 6. Tue 15<sup>th</sup> May. Carbanaconde**

Departing Arequipa we pass through the altiplano and the Salinas y Aguada Blanca Reserve where it is common to see vicunas, smaller cousin to the llama. We carry on to Chivay, the main town of the Colca region and then continue along the rim of the Colca Canyon. We do a short walk before our picnic lunch, then continue to the little village of Cabanaconde. From here, we start descending to the oasis at the base of the canyon, one of the world's deepest at 4160m. This is the best area in Peru to observe the magnificent Andean Condor, which is the national bird of a number of South American countries, including Peru. The track takes us down a series of gravel switchbacks where we are rewarded with a swimming pool and rustic accommodation for the night. Enjoy this wonderful setting with a drink at the bar! **B.L.D.**

**Day 7. Wed 16<sup>th</sup> May. Colca Canyon / Arequipa**

Start early to beat the heat as we climb up out of the canyon. On our drive back to Chivay, we make stops along the way with visits to several different ethnic communities, a mix of the Collaguas and the Cabana, who still use traditional dress and create intricate embroidery. We can enjoy the hot springs at Chivay before heading back to Arequipa. **B.L.**

**Day 8. Thu 17<sup>th</sup> May. Arequipa and night bus to Cuzco**

Free time in Arequipa to visit the museums, local market, Santa Catalina Convent : a city within a city and the prettiest main square in Peru. In the evening we transfer to the bus terminal to catch a bus to the centre of the Inca Empire – Cuzco, located at 3300m. Night buses help us acclimatize naturally to the higher altitude and are generally comfortable. **B.**

**Day 9. Fri 18<sup>th</sup> May. Cuzco**

Arrive early morning and transfer to the hotel. Cuzco is wonderful to explore on foot, so after we give you a Cuzco Tourist Pass which is valid for 7 days and includes free entrance to a number of museums, churches, galleries and exhibitions, you can do as much sightseeing as you wish, as well as let your body acclimatize. We have a briefing for the Inca Trail in the evening and leave our main bags at the hotel in Cuzco. A duffel type bag is provided for your gear for the trail. **B.**

**Day 10. Sat 19<sup>th</sup> May. Sacred Valley, Ollantaytambo**

Our first stop is the archaeological site of Pisac, perched on a hill with a fantastic view over the verdant valley. We visit Moray, an ancient Inca agricultural centre, then Maras, a group of imposing natural salt ponds which have been exploited since the time of the Incas. Finally we come to Ollantaytambo, the great Inca fortress with huge rock slabs overlooking the Urubamba River. Overnight in the town of the same name, a well preserved, living Inca town. **B.**

**Day 11. Sun 20<sup>th</sup> May. Inca Trail**

Depart early by bus to the km 82 trailhead. A trail guide, cook and porters accompany us until Machu Picchu so we are well catered for. The first day takes us along river valleys and over farmland past some small Inca citadels. Camping. **B.L.D.**

**Day 12. Mon 21<sup>st</sup> May. Inca Trail**

Great 360 degree views of the Andes today. This is the toughest day of the trail ascending the highest pass, known as Dead Woman's Pass (4200m). You should be well acclimatized by now and there is plenty of time to enjoy your efforts! Camping. **B.L.D.**

**Day 13. Tue 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Inca Trail**

We climb up the second pass (3900m), past highland lakes and more Inca citadels. On the other side of this pass we descend into cloud forest, habitat of the elusive Spectacled Bear. The final pass will barely be noticed as you ascend through the cloud forest to 3700m, then descend 2000 steps to Wina Huayna, the campsite and archaeological area closest to Machu Picchu. Camping. **B.L.D.**

**Day 14. Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> May. Inca Trail to Machu Picchu, return to Cuzco**

An early start brings us to Sun Gate, Intipunku, as the sun rises. There we behold the amazing World Heritage site of Machu

Picchu itself, to enjoy a guided visit of this magnificent and extensive site before the crowds of day trippers arrive. Later we visit nearby Aguas Calientes and from there take a train and bus back to Cuzco. **B.**

**Day. 15. Thu 24<sup>th</sup> May. Cuzco**

Free day in Cuzco to catch up on laundry, emails, shopping, or visit more sites on your Tourist Pass. In the evening we will have a briefing for the Asungate Trail and once again leave our main bags at the hotel in Cuzco. A duffle bag is provided for trail gear. **B.**

**Day 16. Fri 25<sup>th</sup> May. Asungate Trail, Cuzco – Tinki - Upis**

Approx' 100kms east of Cusco is superb Mt Asungate, at 6384m, the highest in southern Peru. The tramp around Asungate begins in the Andean grasslands of the Altiplano and crosses four high passes (two over 5000m) en route. Consequently, it features varied scenery, including fluted icy peaks, tumbling glaciers and turquoise lakes, rolling brown puna shrublands and green marshy valleys. There are warm mineral springs at the start and finish (soak your weary bones!). Along the way you will find huge herds of alpacas and tiny hamlets unchanged for centuries. We will be joined by a local guide, cook and horsemen with horses to carry our gear and equipment. The drive will take up to 6 hours to reach Tinki. The tramp from there to Upis is about 5 hours. Our campsite is around 4200m. **B.L.D.**

**Day 17. Sat 26<sup>th</sup> May. Asungate Trail, Upis – Jatun Pucaqocha**

Ascend for 3 hours to reach the La Arapa Pass at 4850m, passing through areas with viscachas (related to the chinchilla and rabbit). The view of Asungate is impressive from the pass and as we descend we see beautiful lakes of green and turquoise colours. We set up camp close to Jatun Pucaqocha, which means Big Red Lake in Quechua. **B.L.D.**

**Day 18. Sun 27<sup>th</sup> May. Asungate Trail, Jatun Pucaqocha – Uchuy Finaya**

Today we cross over two passes, Apuchata at 4900m and Palomani at 5200m to finally arrive at Uchay Finaya and set up camp. The views from here are spectacular because we look onto the back of Asungate, also on the way we'll see many herds of alpaca. **B.L.D.**

**Day 19. Mon 28<sup>th</sup> May. Asungate Trail, Uchuy Finaya – Pacchanta**

Today we cross the 4<sup>th</sup> pass, the Q'ampa Pass at 5000m. It is likely we will see vicunas and also different bird species on the lakes or in the air, e.g. Crested Duck, Ground Tyrants and Puna Hawks. The viscachas are common close to Pacchanta and there are hot springs near our campsite. **B.L.D.**

**Day 20. Tue 29<sup>th</sup> May. Asungate Trail, Pacchanta – Tinki - Cuzco**

Our tramping time back to Tinki is about 2 hours, where we catch a bus and return to Cuzco in the afternoon. **B.L.**

**Day 21. Wed 30<sup>th</sup> May. Puno**

Today we take a day trip by bus ride across the picturesque Altiplano, stopping for sightseeing and a buffet lunch en route. Arrive at Puno on the shores of Lake Titicaca around 5pm. **B.L.**

**Day 22. Thu 31<sup>st</sup> May. Lake Titicaca Reed Islands**

A full day excursion to discover three interesting cultural groups who live on the shores of Lake Titicaca, or on islands. The boat ride takes 75 min's and we arrive at a secluded sandy beach on Taquile Island for an easy yet panoramic hike, stopping along the way to visit a household of weavers. There we can learn about the ancient techniques and impressive textile art of the islanders. We then sail to Santa Maria, located on the peninsula of Capachica. On arrival we are welcomed by the locals and are invited to participate in the preparation of Pachamanca. This is an ancient way of traditional cooking in underground ovens, not unlike a hangi, however with different ingredients, herbs and spices. We also participate in a cross-cultural activity learning about their traditions, dances and art. Enjoy the Pachamanca lunch with splendid views over the lake, then continue the boat trip to visit the Uros Islands. Here we will observe a pre Inca civilization that builds their homes on the lake from reeds. They use them not only for homes, but also to make canoes, for fuel and food.

Return to the hotel to pack and enjoy a dinner to celebrate the end of the trip. **B.L.D.**

**Day 23. Fri 1<sup>st</sup> June. Bus to La Paz or flight from Juliaca to Lima**

If you are just doing the Peru trip, you will transfer early to the nearby city of Juliaca and fly to Lima, with onward connections via Santiago in Chile to Auckland. **B.**

**Day 24. Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> June. In flight**

**Day 25. Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Auckland**

Early morning arrival into Auckland and the end of your holiday.

## **Combination trip**

**Day 23. Fri 1<sup>st</sup> June. La Paz**

Today we travel by bus to Bolivia and La Paz, the highest capital in the world, a journey of less than 200kms. We stop along the way to visit the pre Inca site of Tiwanaku, where we will have a guided tour and lunch. Arrival at the hotel around 5pm. We meet up with those who arrived just a few hours earlier that are coming to just do Bolivia and will have a trip briefing together with Eileen Cameron. **B.L.**

## **Bolivia Overview and Programme**

Perhaps the most varied country in South America, fully land locked Bolivia is the hemisphere's highest, most isolated and most rugged nation. It is among the earth's coldest, warmest and windiest spots, with some of the driest, saltiest and swampiest natural landscapes anywhere. Although a poor country, it is rich in natural resources and cultural fascination.

This itinerary combines elements of it all : Tramping in the Andes to a well known 6000m peak, La Paz the world's highest capital, Potosi one of the highest cities of the world at 4090m, the contrast of the tropical jungle and the world's largest salt flats in Uyuni, which we will drive across into the Atacama Desert of northern Chile! An awesome adventure with a skilled and experienced leader.

**La Paz** is dizzying, not only due to its altitude of 3660m, but also for its quirky beauty and steep streets full of surprises and sprawling street markets. Buildings cling to the sides of a canyon and spill spectacularly downward. Imposing, snowy Mt Illimani (6402m) looms in the background. **La Paz** is Bolivia's largest city and centre of commerce, finance, industry and the seat of government. You need time to acclimatize and experience the city's many faces. There are many museums, markets, neighbourhoods and lots of restaurant styles.

We then head away to the nearby **El Choro Trek**, an excellent 3 day trek of 57kms. It begins at La Cumbre (4725m), before descending 3250m into the humid Yungas region. Experience a rapid change in climate, vegetation and wildlife as you leave the Altiplano and plunge into the jungle. End up at the splendid Senda Verde eco-resort which is also an animal refuge. We then return to La Paz.

By now everyone should be acclimatized and we head into the **Cordillera Real** (Royal Range) which has more than 600 peaks over 5000m. **Huayna Potosi** is Bolivia's most popular major peak because of its imposing beauty and ease of access, as well as the fact that it's 88m over the magical 6000m figure. It is appealing because it can be climbed by fit trampers with a good guide and good equipment – which are of course provided. Expect incredible views and a great thrill of achieving the summit!

Next up is an Amazon jungle experience, rich with wildlife, flora and indigenous culture. **Madidi National Park** is an incredibly diverse place. We explore the flora and fauna on fascinating boat excursions and local treks, while enjoying a relaxing stay at Chalalan eco-lodge. The experience will be a total contrast with other sections of the itinerary.

We then fly to the beautiful colonial city of **Sucre**, another World Heritage listed site. Superb architecture and a rather genteel atmosphere pervade this city which is the constitutional capital of Bolivia. There are dinosaur tracks nearby and a visit to the local cemetery makes for an interesting cultural experience. There is plenty to see and do

here before we head to Bolivia's highest city **Potosi** (4090m). It is famous for the Cerro Rico (Rich Mountain) that towers over the city and has been exploited for silver since the time of the Incas. We will visit this harsh working environment to learn something of the daily realities of life for many Bolivians.

From here we travel west to **Uyuni**, a windblown military outpost. We then head out on a 4WD safari onto the vast **Uyuni Salt Flats**, where the salty crust varies from 30cm to 6 meters deep. This title belies an absolutely magical area, an wilderness of harsh landscapes, bubbling geysers and psychedelic mineral colours, bright lakes with huge flocks of flamingoes, a petrified forest, vicunas, visachas and other wildlife, 'islands' of giant cacti, and volcanoes. You may feel you are on the moon, the landscape is so strange, or alternatively a scene from the epic Clan of the Cave Bear series! Many people consider the region to be the highlight of their holiday to Bolivia. We include some fascinating walks on our way across the border on the **Atacama Desert of northern Chile**. The geology of this area is also breathtaking and we enjoy a fascinating hike through Death Valley and an unforgettable sunset.

From here we connect with a flight to Santiago and on to NZ. This means there is no backtracking anywhere in Bolivia.

## **Bolivia Itinerary**

### **Day 1. Thu 31<sup>st</sup> May. Flights**

Depart Auckland on LAN Airlines via Santiago, Chile to Lima, Peru. Arriving late afternoon, you will be met and transferred to the hotel. Flight connections are more convenient up to Lima and without the very long transit plus altitude issue of flying directly into La Paz.

### **Day 2. Fri 1<sup>st</sup> June. La Paz**

After a good nights sleep, transfer back to Lima Airport for the LAN Airlines flight to La Paz. Arrive into La Paz, Bolivia early afternoon and be met and transferred to the hotel. Your arrival is just a few hours ahead of the people coming off the end of the Peru trip .Everyone meets up with Eileen Cameron for a trip briefing in the evening. **B.**

### **Day 2. Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> June. La Paz**

The morning is free to relax and acclimatize. In the afternoon, a city tour, visit to the Witches Market and Valley of the Moon. **B.**

### **Day 3. Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> June. La Paz**

Today we travel to Valley of Souls about 1 hour from La Paz and enjoy a countryside walk through a small farming community with gigantic geological formations. A picnic lunch follows and then more time to explore back in La Paz. **B.L.** (we can leave excess luggage at the hotel there and just take what we need for the 3 day hike.)

### **Day 4. Mon 4<sup>th</sup> June. Choro Trek**

Drive to La Cumbre at 4770m and begin the Choro Trek. Follow a good track above the valley of the Rio Chukara to the Apacheta Pass at 4900m. Then a spectacular descent of around 5 hours from the high Puna grasslands to the cloud forest of yungas, arriving at the small village of Challapampa at 3200m where we overnight. **B.L.D.**

### **Day 5. Tue. 5<sup>th</sup> June. Choro Trek**

Pass through one of the few untouched areas of cloud forest left in Bolivia, protected by the Cotapata National Park, passing a beautifully paved old Inca road and crossing several suspension bridges. The trail descends through narrow valleys with more trees, orchids, bromeliads and larger cloud forest trees. Colourful birds and butterflies should also be seen. This habitat is also the home of the Spectacled Bear, however visitors rarely see it. Enjoy lunch along the way and after around 7 hours of descent, we reach the Kusillunani (San Francisco) Camp at 2600m. **B.L.D.**

### **Day 6. Wed 6<sup>th</sup> June. Senda Verde**

The trek continues down the Rio Jucumarini Valley where the forest is more developed and the canopy larger, adorned with bromeliads, mosses and orchids. Bird life is also more abundant. After 6 – 7 hours we reach Chairu at 1400m, where we have a short drive to Senda Verde, a spectacular setting on the banks of two rivers and a great spot to relax after the tramp. **B.L.**

**Day 7. Thu 7<sup>th</sup> June. La Paz**

Return to the capital with the rest of the day at leisure.

**Day 8. Fri 8<sup>th</sup> June. Huayna Potosi**

The climb of Huayna Potosi is very popular and can be completed by most fit trampers. This is a fully supported trek with a local mountaineering guide and cook. Beginning at the Paso Zongo trailhead at 4700m, with around 1500m to reach the summit over 2 days. Hut or campsite at Camp Rocas Glacier. **B.L.D.**

**Day 9. Sat 9<sup>th</sup> June. Camp Rocas Glacier**

After a good breakfast we start our ascent to 'Campo Alta' 5000m. The route is well marked and heads up to an evident moraine edge. We will set up our tents or use the mountain refuge and after a short break begin to check the mountain gear. An early dinner and rest to get ready for our attempt of the summit. Great satisfaction from the stunning views over the areas already visited and the experience of being at a really high altitude. **B.L.D.**

**Day 10. Sun 10<sup>th</sup> June. La Paz**

An early breakfast, then the climb to the glacier, heading up the east face all the way up to the summit at 6080m, about 6 hours of hard effort! Enjoy the awesome vistas, then descend to "Campo Alto" and on to base camp where our vehicle awaits to return us to La Paz, for a well earned rest. **B.L.**

**Day 11. Mon 11<sup>th</sup> June. Fly to Rurrenabaque**

A 50 minute flight into the western Bolivian Amazon region and the laid back, lovely town of Rurrenabaque. The flight is a fabulous opportunity to see the Andes and a panoramic view of the Amazon rivers and forests. Transfer to the hotel in Rurrenabaque and the rest of the day at leisure to enjoy the extra oxygen and tropical heat. **B.**

**Day 12. Tue 12<sup>th</sup> June and Day 13. Wed 13<sup>th</sup> June. Chalan Jungle Lodge**

This morning we have an enthralling boat trip to bring us to the Chalalan Eco-lodge where we spend the next two nights. This is a community based ecology project deep inside the jungle of Madidi National Park. The flora and fauna are vivid and magnificent and the dawn chorus, the evening frog symphony and the chorus of howler monkeys will blow you away! This tropical Andean hotspot has the highest biodiversity of endemic plants on the planet and is host to some 45000 different plant species and over 1000 tropical bird species, whose song wakes you up each morning. There are many options available to explore the region with excursions on foot and by boat. **B.L.D.**

**Day 14. Thu 14<sup>th</sup> June. Fly to Sucre**

Transfer by boat back to Rurrenabaque, to fly to La Paz and then on to Sucre, the constitutional capital of Bolivia. This beautiful city, now a World Heritage listed site for its beautiful and largely intact colonial architecture, is a wonderful place to explore on foot. There is much to see and do, and it is a real contrast to the chaos and hilliness of La Paz, but still quintessentially Bolivian. **B.**

**Day 15. Fri 15<sup>th</sup> June. Sucre**

Continue our exploration in and around Sucre with different options for hiking, mountain biking and ATVs. **B.**

**Day 16. Sat 16<sup>th</sup> June. Potosi**

This morning we catch a public bus to the silver and tin mining city of Potosi, at 4090m. Full of colonial architecture, we will have an eye opening tour of the Cerro Rico Mine in the afternoon, which is bound to make you glad of whatever occupation you hold. Free time to explore Potosi, which has a rich history as it was founded in the mid 1500s. **B.**

**Day 17. Sun 17<sup>th</sup> June. Uyuni**

After lunch we catch a public bus across the windswept and isolated altiplano to Uyuni, a small military town in the far southwest. Time to gather last minute supplies before heading away from civilization for 3 days. **B.**

**Day 18. Mon 18<sup>th</sup> June. Uyuni Salt Flats**

Meet the crew after breakfast. Head out of town in 4X4 vehicles to visit the nearby train cemetery, and then on to Cochani, a small settlement near the salt flat, where salt is processed in a small family run cottage industry. From here we venture onto the world's biggest Salt Plain, known as Salar de Uyuni, to arrive at the Salt Hotel, where everything is made out of salt, including the furniture and bricks! In the afternoon we visit some pre Inca cave dwellings belonging to the Lepi-lepi civilization, before arriving at our rustic lodging. **B.L.D.**

**Day 19. Tue 19<sup>th</sup> June. Uyuni Salt Flats and San Juan**

We enjoy the gentle morning light on the Salar, observing flamingoes, llamas and other wildlife and eventually come to a peculiar piece of land in the middle of the salt flats called Fish Island, because of its shape and because it is surrounded by a white sea of salt. Here we hike to the summit, through giant cacti, some hundreds of years old, and observe the playful viscachas. Continue across the salt plain, visiting another group of caves with ancient marine geological formations, to reach the township of San Juan where we overnight in a salt hotel. **B.L.D.**

**Day 20. Wed 20<sup>th</sup> June. Uyuni Salt Flats**

Driving southwest through breathtaking country that includes sandy deserts, deep valleys, barren highlands, icy rivers, as well as passing by active volcanoes. The geological formations of this region, juxtaposing colours, wildlife and isolation are memorable and we do some short walks to take it all in. The accommodation is basic and the outside overnight temperatures often fall below freezing, but it is worth it for the amazing landscapes you will see. **B.L.D.**

**Day 21. Thu 21<sup>st</sup> June. San Pedro de Atacama**

An early start takes us through the Siloli Desert, past the impressive geysers and fumeroles of Sol de Manana (4850m), and the colourful lakes of Colorado, Verde and Azul – these change colour depending on how the wind is blowing. It is common to observe flamingoes in this area even though we are well over 4000m.

We cross the Chilean border, and make a dramatic descent (approx 2000 vertical meters), to arrive at our B & B in San Pedro de Atacama. The town has a 'wild west' feel to it, with wind blown streets and adobe buildings. After settling in we will head out to Death Valley for an informative hike taking in the impressive geology of the region. To top the day off we'll observe the sunset from the breathtaking Moon Valley. **B.L.**

**Day 22. Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> June. San Pedro de Atacama**

A full day trip to the Altiplano Lagoons, including the Atacama Salt Plain and Chaxos Lagoon, a breeding place for flamingoes. Three out of five known species can be seen here along with other bird species. The setting of snow laden mountains mirrored in still lakes is a photographer's dream. We also visit the altiplano towns of Toconao and Socaire, where we see how local agricultural traditions have been retained and gain an idea of daily rural life and that of their hardy ancestors. Walk to the sister lagoons of Miscanti and Meniques in the middle of the Puna de Atacama, a region where the immensity of the landscape will overwhelm you. Return to San Pedro de Atacama to enjoy a typical Chilean meal to celebrate our final night of the trip. **B.L.D.**

**Day 23. Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Calama and begin flights home**

Morning transfer to Calama Airport, from where we fly to Santiago and enjoy a half day tour of the Chilean capital and a local vineyard. Return to the airport in the evening for the onward connection to NZ, which departs Santiago late at night to arrive in Auckland early in the morning two days later. **B.**

**Day 24. Sun 24<sup>th</sup> June. In flight**

**Day 25. Mon 25<sup>th</sup> June. Auckland**

Early morning arrival into Auckland and the end of your holiday.

## **Booking Conditions**

1. *The FMC Travel Club (FMC) offers this small group trip in conjunction with Travel Smart Napier (TSN). All travel arrangements are made through TSN. Participants agree to all terms and conditions by signing the Registration Form.*
2. *FMC and TSN are not responsible or liable for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may arise from weather, defect in any vehicle, vessel or aircraft or through the acts or default of any person or company engaged in carrying out any of the arrangements of the trip.*
3. *We reserve the right to cancel either or both trips if minimum numbers don't eventuate. In such an event, all monies paid will be fully refunded. We also reserve the right to make any modifications that may be necessary, or to offer a modified trip to a smaller number of people.*
4. *Pricing includes a payment to FMC and apportioned cost of the leader's travel. **The final price may be impacted by adverse currency fluctuations or newly imposed charges unknown when the trips were planned and costed (August 2011). The final price therefore cannot be guaranteed until full payment has been received.***
5. *Registrations are accepted in good faith on a first comers basis on receipt of the **Registration Form and deposit of \$2500 per person for each trip. This goes towards international airfares only.** All payments may be made by cash, cheque, EFTPOS, internet banking, visa or mastercard to the office of TSN. **All or any payments by visa or mastercard adds \$150 to the cost of each trip, per person. Our preferred method of processing payments is internet banking. Please use : 010685 0151601 00 at ANZ Napier. Heerlen Ltd T/A Travel Smart Napier. Make cheques payable to Travel Smart Napier. The final trip payment will be due by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2012.***
6. *Cancellations. If you have to cancel your registration for any reason, you must advise TSN in writing as soon as possible. An email is acceptable, if this follows a phone call. Fees apply as follows :*
  - *Cancellations received up to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2011, we will retain \$500 per person per trip*
  - *Cancellations received from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2012, we will retain \$2500 per person per trip*
  - *Cancellations received from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2012 onwards, we will retain 100% of trip costs*
  - *If you find a suitable replacement person, the above cancellation fees may be waived.*
7. ***Travel insurance is mandatory.** We recommend QBE Travel Insurance and a brochure/application can be emailed or posted on request. You will receive a special FMC discount on premium calculation. You may chose to buy travel insurance cover elsewhere, but please ensure that cover extends to the activities of the trip plus rescue and repatriation back to NZ, along with personal liability cover. If the policy being considered does not cover all these elements, it is inadequate. We need to ensure your policy adequately covers all these aspects before you depart on either trip.*
8. *We need a scan or photocopy of your passport when your register. For NZ passport holders, you don't need a visa to enter Peru, Bolivia or Chile, for the purposes of tourism. Other rules may apply for other passports, just ask TSN if this applies to you.*

# Registration Form for Peru and Bolivia 2012

Complete this form and send to John Dobbs at TSN with deposit and passport copy. Minimum and maximum numbers apply and we appreciate your early commitment. This enables us to ascertain viability as soon as possible and confirm with those who do commit early on. We hope to close registrations by 30<sup>th</sup> November 2011. Our preferred payment method is internet banking, as any payments by visa or mastercard attract extra costs.

Names as shown in passport(s).....

I / We are registering for : Peru only Bolivia + Atacama only Both trips (circle which applies)

Mailing address.....

Home phone.....Business phone.....Cell.....

Email.....Date(s) of birth.....

Specify any dietary requirements, allergies, medical conditions we should know about.....

Tramping club affiliation (if any).....

Summarise recent tramping experiences NZ and overseas. Types/durations, frequencies etc.....

Contact person in NZ for any emergencies : name, relationship to you, address, phone numbers, email. In the event of any emergency, this is the sole person you are authorizing us to liaise with :

I / We have read the full trip dossier and I / We enclose My /our registration deposit of \$2500 per person for each trip indicated. I / We agree to pay the remainder of trip costs by due date, as advised by invoice. I / We understand that the final trip price is subject to securing minimum numbers , and to currency fluctuations; therefore the final trip price cannot be guaranteed until such time as full payment has been made.

.....signed and dated by each person registering

Please send to : John Dobbs, FMC Travel Club Convenor  
Travel Smart Napier, P O Box 352 Napier 4140.  
P : 06 8352222 F : 06 8354211 E : [john@tsnapier.co.nz](mailto:john@tsnapier.co.nz)

