

Center for Global Education (CGE)
Travel Seminar Program Planning Checklist
Bolivia

Mission of CGE:

The mission of the Center for Global Education (CGE) at Augsburg College is to provide cross-cultural educational opportunities in order to foster critical analysis of local and global conditions so that personal and systemic change takes place, leading to a more just and sustainable world.

Pedagogy of CGE:

The pedagogy of CGE is rooted in experiential education and Freirian theory. Our travel seminar programs are organized to give participants the opportunity to learn through experience, and then reflect upon and analyze these experiences. The basic principles of CGE educational philosophy include process (learning how to learn), community (learning in the context of community), content (engaging students holistically), critical analysis (reflecting), and action (encouraging students to be agents of change.)

CGE in Bolivia

CGE does not have an office or permanent staff in Bolivia, however we have staff who work in other sites in the Americas who will lead the travel seminars in Bolivia along with a local consultant, if appropriate. We do not own any facilities there. We utilize local hotels and guesthouses for housing for our short-term programs.

Programming at CGE Bolivia:

In light of our mission, all travel seminars include the following components: country orientation, including history and economy; health, safety, and cross-cultural adaptation; analysis/reflection every 2-3 days; and re-entry discussion before returning home. Programming is planned to include dialogue with leaders at both government and local levels, plus visits, activities and speakers based on your themes and goals. Possibilities:

Bolivia and Peru themes/topics:

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|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| ▪ Globalization | ▪ U.S. relations | ▪ Ecotourism |
| ▪ Autonomy | ▪ Poverty | ▪ Education |
| ▪ Human Rights | ▪ Health | ▪ Women/Gender Issues |
| ▪ Fair Trade | ▪ Liberation Theology | ▪ Environment |
| ▪ Migration | ▪ Indigenous Communities | ▪ Sustainable Development |

Additional, specific Bolivia themes/topics:

There are about 37 different ethnic groups living in the country and the three main largest groups are: Aymara, Quechua and Guarani. The Afro-Bolivian culture also plays an important role in the country.

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|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ▪ Discussion on Autonomy | ▪ Aymara Spirituality |
| ▪ Afro-Bolivian Culture | ▪ Aymara Culture and Identity |
| ▪ War against Privatization of Water | ▪ Archaeology: Tiahuanacu Site |

(It is also possible to arrange a side trip to Machu Picchu in Peru.)

Program Planning

In order to help us to plan activities, visits and travel that support the goals of your travel seminar, please complete the following checklist with as much detail as possible. You will work directly with the Center's in-country staff to develop a general itinerary.

Bolivia Checklist:

All of our trips are customized to your interests. Visits are grouped by theme or topic area. Recommended visits for general interest trips are indicated with an asterisk (*). We recommend 2 visits per full program day. This is just a sample of the visits that can be arranged! **Check one or more circles** for the MAIN focus of your trip. **Mark any of the boxes** for your visits - 1 for a priority visit and 2 for a preferred visit. Please leave blank the visits that hold limited interest.

○ Agriculture, Sustainable Development

- Field trip to a cooperative or private poultry farm
- Visit a banana/coca plantation
- Discuss the privatization of water
- Meet with indigenous peoples' associations to discuss land issues and territory
- Visit a protected area
- Visit a technology project (Agro-ecology)

○ Education

- Visit to primary or secondary schools
- Meet with teachers and unions *
- Visit an NGO working on popular education
- Visit a college or university
- Meet with NGO's and government entities working on children's rights
- Dialogue with university students

○ Globalization and Trade

- Presentation on the Bolivian economy *
- Visit to women's sewing cooperative
- Meet with representatives from World Bank, IMF
- Discuss poverty reduction
- Meet with member of the business sector

○ Health

- Visit a women's clinic
- Visit a public/private hospital
- Visit a nursing school
- Visit with a midwife
- Meet with non-governmental organizations working on HIV/AIDS *
- Visit a practitioner of medicinal plants

○ Human Rights

- Visit with groups involved in children's rights
- Visit with groups involved in land issues
- Visit to the United Nations Mission in Bolivia
- Visit a marginalized urban neighborhood

○ Indigenous Issues/Rights

- Visit a Museum
- Discuss indigenous identity
- Discuss Aymara culture and spirituality

- Participate in an Aymara ritual and ceremony in Copacabana at la Isla del Sol
- Visit to the Inca ruins Tiahuanacu
- Visit an indigenous community
- Visit to a traditional women's weaving cooperative
- Visit to a Museum

○ Politics

- Meet with leaders of the major political parties
- Visit the Congress of Bolivia
- Visit USAID
- Meet with local government authorities and judicial branches
- Discussion on issues of Autonomy

○ Religion

- Worship in a local church
- Discuss state-church relations and the role of the hierarchy of the Catholic Church
- Discussion on Liberation Theology
- Visit a Pentecostal Church
- Participate in an Aymara ceremony
- Visit with faith-based NGO's working on development

○ Women's Issues

- Meet with representatives from the women's movement and emerging women's organizations
- Meet with spiritual guide women
- Meet with the Defender of Women organization
- Meet with indigenous women leaders

○ Other Options

- Trip to Lake Titicaca
- Visit a craft market (in Cochabamba and La Paz)
- Experience Bolivian folkloric music
- Visit the Incan site of Machu Picchu (Peru)
- Visit to the Statue of Christ of la Concordia (Cochabamba)
- Visit to Simón I. Patiño Cultural Center (Cochabamba)

Key Cities and Destinations:

◇ **La Paz:** More than a million people live in this bowl-shaped city that lies at 3,650 meters above sea level. La Paz is the official government site, making it a good place to meet with government officials and non-governmental organizations. The US Embassy is also located there. As the first indigenous president of Bolivia, Evo Morales and his policies are an interesting topic to look at here.

◇ **Cochabamba:** The third largest city in Bolivia, Cochabamba is located in the center of Bolivia—between La Paz and Santa Cruz. Cochabamba in Quechua means “Valley of Lagoons” and the population is about 700,000 people. Cochabamba is a city famous for its “Water Wars”; it was the site of a series of protests that took place between January and April 2000 because of the privatization of the municipal water supply. The privatization was spurred by the World Bank, which declared it would not renew a \$25 million dollar loan to Bolivia unless it privatized its water services. The protests prevailed; the law allowing privatization was reversed by Congress. Its climate is temperate. It can be reached by land in 8 hours from La Paz and by air in half an hour.

◇ **Lake Titicaca:** The highest lake in the world, nearly 2 miles above sea level. It is located about three and half hours away from La Paz and it contains ceremonial sites, the famous astronomical Inca observatory and the Island of the Sun and the Moon. Plan a day visit to the site, and it can be combined with a visit to an indigenous community in the way, like the indigenous Achacachi community.

◇ **Tiahuanacu:** The archeological site of Tiahuanacu is an ancient sea port. It contains the famous Gate of the Sun, ceremonial areas, a temple and many statues. Nearly 2 miles above sea level, it is located about 12 miles from Lake Titicaca (see above).

◇ **Carmen Pampa College:** The Unidad Academica Campesina (UAC) de Carmen Pampa is dedicated to making higher education available to young Bolivians, especially *campesinos* with talent and ambition but with few economic resources. UAC strives to give young Bolivians the tools to become leaders in the development of their own communities through programs that address the needs of rural people: health, education and income-generation. It is located about three and a half hours from La Paz.

◇ **Machu Picchu:** The pre-Columbian Inca site of Machu Picchu was built around the year 1450, but abandoned a hundred years later, at the time of the Spanish conquest. It is now a Peruvian Historical Sanctuary, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. Although this site is located in Peru (the closest city being Cusco), with about a year’s advance notice we are able to arrange side trips to this site, with the preferred timing being on your way home.