

Bolivia Project

Information Packet

Location: Cochabamba, Bolivia

Project Dates: January 31 – February 13, 2018

Participation Fee: \$820

Children 12 and Under: \$670

(Age determined on start date of project)

**International and domestic flights are not included in the participation fee*



Maranatha in Bolivia

Bolivia first received the Seventh-day Adventist message in 1897, when a literature evangelist entered the country with copies of Patriarchs and Prophets and Steps to Christ. But it wasn't until 1907 that Adventist missionaries, Edward W. Thomann and his wife Flora, were assigned to Bolivia. Today, Bolivia is home to nearly 120,000 Seventh-day Adventists. Many congregations are meeting in rented spaces or in churches that are too small or run-down. This often creates problems when trying to evangelize and invite community members to church services.

After meeting with church officials, Maranatha committed to begin work in Bolivia by building churches in late 2017. Starting in 2018, volunteers will be an important part of the construction efforts as Maranatha has committed to building several church frames and school classrooms throughout the country.

Project Overview

This will be Maranatha's first volunteer project in Bolivia. When Maranatha first enters a country, it is common for us to build a few churches, early on, to serve as an example for other congregations who are in need of a place of worship. Adventist leadership has identified the Chimba congregation to be the perfect spot for one of the first Maranatha churches in the country. Volunteers on this project will build this church using block masonry.

In 2000 and 2004 evangelistic campaigns were held in the southwest part of Cochabamba, in a community called Chimba. However, with no church to meet in, the group of newly baptized members faded away. In 2007 there was another campaign in the community. This time the new members were committed to continue meeting as a congregation. The 40-member group has

Project Schedule

Wednesday, January 31
Arrival in Cochabamba

Thursday – Friday, February 1-2
Work days

Saturday, February 3
Worship with the local congregation

Sunday – Tuesday, February 4-6
Work days

Wednesday, February 7
Local excursion in Cochabamba

Thursday – Friday, February 8 - 9
Work days

Saturday, February 10
Worship with the local congregation

Sunday, February 11
Fly to La Paz; afternoon city tour

Monday, February 12
Tiahuanaco ruins and Lake Titicaca

Tuesday, February 13
Departure from La Paz

been meeting in homes and rented spaces since they have not had the money to build a church of their own.

Now, with the help of Maranatha, the Chimba congregation will receive a brand-new church. This community is also a great place for continued outreach including children's ministry programs and health education. If you are interested in leading either of these outreach opportunities please call Maranatha and find out how you can join the leadership team for this project.

Accommodations

During the project, volunteers will stay at a Nazarene retreat center located in Cochabamba. The retreat center is a beautiful setting with lots of flowers and green spaces around the campus.

The dorm rooms are clean with single beds in most rooms. Some rooms will have two beds and will be reserved for couples. Bedding is provided, but February will be in the cooler, rainy season, so if you know you get cold at night, you might consider bringing another blanket. Please note that Cochabamba, while not as high as La Paz, is still located at 8,000 feet, so it can be chilly at night. Volunteers should plan on bringing their own towels and washcloths. A full packign list will be included in the final information packet. A few of the dorm rooms have private bathrooms, but the majority of them share bathrooms located down the hall. The campus has WiFi, but it might not be as fast as you would have at home.

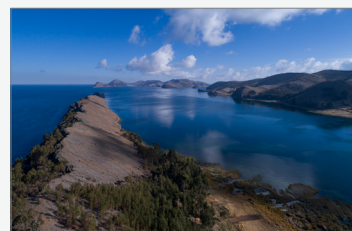


The group will worship in the meeting area of the retreat center and the group will use the large kitchen and dining room for meals. The group will travel to the construction site daily by private bus.

At the end of the project, volunteers will travel to La Paz where they will stay at the Casa Prado Suites Hotel. This colonial-style hotel is located in the downtown area of the city. Volunteers will stay in double occupancy rooms. Bedding and towels are provided, but volunteers may want to bring a washcloth since they are not commonly provided in Bolivia. The rooms have a heater and private bathrooms with hot water. WiFi is available at the hotel.

Excursions

Midweek, volunteers will take a short break from their work to see the sites around Cochabamba. Plans are still being finalized for this day, but the current plan is to visit some colonial areas of the town where volunteers will be able to see remnants of the colonial period of Bolivia's history. In addition, volunteers will visit the famous, Cristo de la Concordia (Christ of Peace). This statue of Jesus with outstretched hands is located on a mountain top to the east of Cochabamba and was modeled after the Christ the Redeemer statue in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It is the second largest statue of Jesus Christ in the world. Visitors can take a cable car up the mountain to the base of the statue.



At the end of the project, volunteers will travel to La Paz, the highest seat of government in the world at altitude of nearly 12,000 feet above sea level. Upon arrival in La Paz, volunteers will visit the main plaza of the city where they will see the presidential house, cathedral, convent, and many colonial buildings. In addition, there are many souvenirs available throughout the city.

The following day, volunteers will visit the ruins of Tiahuanaco (Tiwanaku). This ancient archeological site is named after one of the most important civilizations prior to the Inca Empire and was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2000. Volunteers will be able to walk through the excavated structures, including palaces, temples, gateways, statues, and pyramids. Volunteers will also have access to two museums on the ruins' grounds. After visiting the ruins, the group will travel to Lake Titicaca, the highest lake in the world and the largest lake in South America. The lake crosses the border of Bolivia and Peru and is famous for the floating islands constructed of reeds. Volunteers will visit the Tiquina Straits where boats will take the group on a tour of the lake and visit a reconstructed floating island where there will be an opportunity to buy snacks and souvenirs. The group will then return to La Paz for departures the following day.

Leadership

David and Judy Shull | Project Coordinators

Judy and David Shull have joined Maranatha on numerous projects in North America, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. They are the parents of two grown sons who have accompanied them on many of the trips. David is an architect at Progressive AE in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and works on various projects around the United States. Judy is the director of the independent ministry Childhoods With Jesus, which works to improve children's Sabbath School programs in the US and Canada. They enjoy helping volunteers and local church members grow together through the construction of a new church home.



We Need Your Help

The team is looking for a children's ministry and health education leader. If you would be interested in leading out in this area, please contact Maranatha at (916) 774-7799 and join the Bolivia Project.

Expenses

The participation fee of \$820 covers housing, three vegetarian meals a day, ground transportation to and from the airport and project site, translators, local excursions, short-term travel insurance, a Maranatha t-shirt, and luggage tags. It does not include flights, passport, entrance visa, or vaccinations.

Maranatha must receive all funds and forms by January 1, 2018 due to application processing time. Wait for confirmation of acceptance on the project before purchasing your airfare.

All prices are listed in U.S. dollars. Payments can be made by cash or check sent to the Maranatha office in California (please include your name and "Bolivia Project – February") or by credit or debit card online or over the phone.

For Canadian tax-deductible receipts, payments must be made by check to the Maranatha Volunteers International (Canada) Association (address located at the end of this information packet. At this time Maranatha cannot issue tax-deductible receipts for credit card payments.

If you are fundraising or receiving donations please either have them sent directly to you or work with your local church treasurer to collect funds and issue tax-deductible receipts, since it is difficult for Maranatha to track individual small checks. If your church will not work with you, please wait until you have collected the full amount of your participation fee before submitting your participation fee to Maranatha.

Estimate of Additional Costs

- **Flight to Cochabamba, Bolivia: \$800-1500**
- **Domestic Flight to La Paz: \$30-60**
- **Passport: \$130 or \$110 for renewal**
- **Visa (US Citizens Only): \$85 or \$160 depending on visa type**

About Bolivia

Bolivia is located in South America, and it is the largest landlocked country of the Americas. The country is formed by the Andes mountain range to the west and the Amazon to the north. It was a part of the large Incan Empire that covered much of western South America. However, in the 16th century it was colonized by the Spanish, who hoped to export the mineral wealth back to Spain. Simon Bolivar helped the Bolivians gain their independence in 1825, and the new country was named in his honor.

After independence, Bolivia still struggled with internal strife and wars with neighboring countries. Bolivia had a hard time keeping its borders protected, and it lost great portions of territory to neighboring countries. Now, Bolivia is considered a stable country. The local economy relies heavily on the exportation of tin, lithium, and petroleum. Within the last 50 years, the population has tripled its size. Now 62 percent of the population live in urban areas.

Due to its early colonization, Spanish remains the official and predominant language throughout the country, but 26 local indigenous languages also have official status, including Quechua, Aymara, and Guarani. Bolivia's culture is heavily influenced by the various Andean people groups, such as the Quechua and Aymara. But the influences from Spain are also evident in Bolivia's healthy population of Spanish-influenced artisans, builders, dancers, and other cultural leaders.

Bolivia has a very diverse terrain including three distinct regions: the Andean highlands (or Altiplano), dry valleys, and tropical rainforests. The Altiplano, in the southwest part of the country, is a plateau formed between two chains of the Andes mountains and is home to La Paz, the world's highest seat of government. It is, by far, the most occupied region with approximately half the population residing in the Altiplano. The northern part of the country is primarily composed of the "North Basin," the rivers that feed into the Amazon river. Due to the great variety in terrain, Bolivia also has a very diverse climate. The Altiplano has a desert polar climate characterized by dry, strong, cold winds. The valleys are often temperate, and the rainforests are wetter and more humid.

Travel Information

Volunteers will purchase their own plane tickets into the city of Cochabamba and out of La Paz. The arrival flight will most likely require a transfer to a domestic airline in either La Paz or Santa Cruz, and you will have a domestic flight to La Paz at the end of the project. The domestic flights usually have a tighter luggage restrictions and additional fees for excess weight per kilo. Please be aware of this as you plan for your travel.

If you arrive or depart outside the posted time frames, you may have long wait times at the airport or may be responsible for paying the additional transportation for your individual airport transfer.

Please wait for confirmation from Maranatha before purchasing your airfare to ensure there is still space on the project. The volunteers will travel together by bus to the project location.

Flights

Arrival

Please plan to arrive in Cochabamba (airport code CBB) in the afternoon or evening of Wednesday, January 31.

Departure

1. Please book Boliviana de Aviacion flight BOA 610 departing from Cochabamba (CBB) at 11:00 a.m. and arriving into La Paz (LPB) at 11:45 am on Sunday, February 11.
2. Please plan to depart from La Paz (LPB) in the morning or afternoon of Tuesday, February 13.

Arriving Early or Staying Late?

Bolivia has some beautiful travel destinations. Some of you may choose to arrive earlier than January 31 or stay beyond February 13 to explore the country on your own. Please make your own hotel and transportation plans for any days outside of the Maranatha project dates. If you have any questions, feel free to call Maranatha at (916) 774-7700.



Facts and Figures

Capital: Sucre

Population: 10.97 million

Language: Spanish 61%, Quechua 21%, Aymara 15%

Climate: Varies with altitude, cold and semiarid in the southwest, humid and tropical in the northeast

Religion: Catholic 77 %, Protestant 16%

Currency: Bolivian Boliviano

Travel Resources

Azumano Travel: 800-777-5149 or by email with Erle Dpenha or Azumano Team at corporatetravel@ciazumano.com

Butler Travel: 503-879-5005 or by email with Nathanael at nathan@butlertravel.com or with Ellen at ellen@butlertravel.com.

Kayak: www.kayak.com

When contacting the Azumano or Butler travel agencies, make sure you mention Maranatha to receive a discounted service charge.

Entry Requirements

Passport | All passports must be valid for at least six months from the dates of intended travel (valid until August 14, 2018) If you do not have a passport, U.S. citizens can apply at any U.S. post office or online at <http://travel.state.gov>. Canadian citizens can apply online at www.passport.gc.ca. It can take up to two months to complete the entire process, so plan accordingly to give yourself enough time to receive your passport.

Entrance Visa (U.S. Citizens Only) | In addition, travelers from the US must also have a tourist or specific purpose visa in order to enter Bolivia. Currently there is no visa requirement for Canadian citizens. Volunteers can choose between a tourist visa (\$160, valid for multiple entries for 10 years) or a specific purpose visa (\$85, valid for one trip of 30 days).

Volunteers can receive a tourist visa ahead of time or upon arrival in Bolivia. The specific purpose visa must be processed ahead of time through the Bolivian embassy. Processing ahead of time can take 10-15 business days not including shipping time, so this process should be taken care of with plenty of time before traveling.

Requirements include a valid passport, passport photos, flight itinerary or invitation letter, bank or credit card statement, and the visa fee. A full visa procedure packet with instructions for completing this process will be sent with your confirmation email.

Yellow Fever Vaccination | According to Bolivia Immigration, the yellow fever vaccination is no longer required to receive an entry visa into Bolivia. However, some embassies still list the requirement on their website and the online application requires something to be uploaded for that section if you are applying ahead of time. If you already have a valid certificate, we would recommend that you include a copy of it with your visa application.

Citizens of other countries, please consult the Bolivian embassy or consulate in your home country for entrance requirements.

Staying Healthy

Maranatha requires that every volunteer have a current tetanus vaccine (within the last 10 years). The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also recommends vaccines for typhoid, hepatitis A, and yellow fever and malaria depending on the location of travel.

Some of these you may already have and some of them you may deem unnecessary for this trip. You should schedule a consultation with a travel clinic doctor to talk about the medical risks in Bolivia and the ways to minimize them.

Altitude Sickness

Many parts of southwestern Bolivia are located in the Andes mountain range at or above 8,000 feet above sea level. These high altitudes puts those visiting these parts of the country at risk for altitude sickness.

Symptoms of altitude sickness range from mild cases of headache, dizziness, shortness of breath, and nausea to more severe cases of extreme fatigue and cerebral or pulmonary edema. Certain medications and preexisting medical conditions including lung or heart disease, asthma, diabetes, and pregnancy can put you at a higher risk for altitude sickness. However, even otherwise healthy individuals can feel mild symptoms due to the lack of oxygen. Symptoms that do not improve could require evacuation to a lower elevation. The best course of action is

to take it easy and not over exert in the first few days. Visitors should discuss the trip with their personal physician prior to departing.

Due to the potential risks, each participant/family on Maranatha projects in Bolivia will sign a high-altitude acknowledgement as part of the application process.

Zika

Recently the Zika virus has been spreading around Latin America. This mosquito-borne disease acts similar to a hard-hitting flu with symptoms lasting about two weeks. There is currently no vaccine or treatment for the disease, and the CDC has issued a Level 2 warning. This warning does not suggest that you postpone all travel, but it does urge travelers to take heightened precautions to avoid being bitten. In Bolivia, the CDC states that areas above 6,500 feet elevation, which includes Cochabamba and La Paz have a low likelihood of Zika infection.

This virus is still being studied, and information is continuing to be released. Currently, there are no known long-term effects; however, there does seem to be a link between the virus and possible birth defects in babies born from women who were infected during their pregnancy. The virus can remain in a woman's body for approximately eight weeks and in a man's body for approximately six months, and it can be spread through physical contact. If you or your partner is pregnant, think you might be pregnant, or are trying to get pregnant in the next six months, Maranatha recommends speaking with your doctor to determine if you should travel.

How to Register

To register, please complete the online registration and pay the full participation fee or an initial deposit of at least half the total participation fee. You can make this payment by credit card online or over the phone or with a check made out to Maranatha Volunteers International and sent to the address below. If for any reason you need to cancel your participation, Maranatha will do their best to refund your deposit up until one month before travel. After that point, \$150 is non-refundable and the remainder will depend on the reservations and the project arrangements already made.

Register online at Maranatha.org or over the phone.

Contact Information

Phone: (916) 774-7700

Fax: (916) 774-7701

Email: volunteer@maranatha.org

Website: www.maranatha.org

Mailing Address:

Maranatha Volunteers International
990 Reserve Drive
Suite 100
Roseville, CA 95678

Canadian Payments Only:

**Maranatha Volunteers International
(Canada) Association**
c/o V06494C
PO Box 6494, Station Terminal
Vancouver, BC V6B 6R3
CANADA

THE MARANATHA

STORE

BUY MARANATHA MERCHANDISE!

Share the spirit of service with Maranatha-themed apparel and accessories.*



TO ORDER, VISIT MARANATHA.ORG/STORE OR CALL (916) 774-7700

All prices are excluding sales tax and shipping.

2017 MARANATHA T-SHIRT \$10



This 50/50 blend of polyester and cotton is an ultra-soft, ultra-comfy unisex T-shirt that feels like you've owned it for years. Represent Maranatha anywhere you go!

CAP \$12



All cotton and easy to pack, this cap is sure to keep the sun off your face on a mission project and at home.

HARD HAT \$11



This MSA V-Gard hard hat, with Staz-On suspension, ensures excellent shock absorption on the job site.

WATER BOTTLE \$15



The autospout water bottle by Contigo features a one-touch-button spout for convenient one-handed drinking. It also has a spout shield to protect the spout from debris and dirt when not in use—perfect for the project site.

MARANATHA.ORG

*All confirmed volunteers on an International Maranatha Open Team receive a Maranatha t-shirt as part of their participation fee.

