

Family Project Bolivia

Information Packet

Location: Cochabamba, Bolivia

Project Dates: December 20 - 30, 2018

Optional Excursion: Dec. 30, 2018 - Jan. 2, 2019

Total Fee: \$650

Children 12 and under: \$500

Optional Excursion: \$325

(Age determined on the start date of the project)

International and domestic flights are not included in the listed fees

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 building churches in Bolivia. Starting in 2018, volunteers will help to construct churches and school classrooms throughout the country.

Project Overview

Volunteers on this project will be working at the Alto Paraguay Church. This church was formed in response to membership growth directly connected to the Adventist university located nearby. The school, located in the western part of the city of Cochabamba, has fostered a strong Adventist presence in the area. The growing Adventist membership, along with an expanding city population, has created a need for more churches.

The Alto Paraguay congregation was started by a small group from the Vinto Central Church in September 2016. A woman named Leocadia Romero started giving Bible studies in the community. When an evangelistic campaign was held during the Easter holiday, attendance at Leocadia's group grew to 50 people!



Project Schedule

Thursday, December 20

Arrival in Cochabamba, Bolivia (CBB)

Friday, December 21

Orientation and first work day

Saturday, December 22

Worship with the local congregation

Sunday - Friday, December 23 - 28

Work days

Saturday, December 29

Worship with the local congregation

Sunday, December 30

Departure from Cochabamba, Bolivia (CBB)

OPTIONAL EXCURSION

Sunday, December 30

Fly from Cochabamba to La Paz.
Afternoon City Tour.

Monday, December 31

Lake Titicaca tour. Drive to La Paz.

Tuesday, January 1

Relaxing morning at Lake Titicaca.
Return to La Paz.

Wednesday, January 2

Departures from La Paz, Bolivia (LPB)

The members are overjoyed that, through Maranatha's assistance, they will finally have a church of their own. Before this group arrives, the foundation and structure will be in place, and volunteers on this project will complete the block walls and put on the roof once the walls are completed.

In addition to the construction work at the Alto Paraguay Church, the group will conduct other community outreach activities such as children's ministry programs. If there are enough medical professionals interested, we could also put together a full medical and/or dental team to serve the local community. We would need physicians, nurses, dentists, physical therapists, and other medical professionals who'd like to use their talents at the clinic, either full-time or part-time during the project.

About the Family Project

Each year, Maranatha offers at least two mission projects specifically for families. One takes place in the summer, and the other is during Christmas. Designed to accommodate volunteers of any age, the project is an excellent alternative to a theme-park family vacation or gift-centered holiday. Volunteers who participate say the experience has not only broadened their perspective on the world and missions, it's brought them closer together as a family. Families of all types and sizes are welcome, and individuals are also welcome to join. Family projects fill up very quickly, so register early if you are interested in joining this mission trip!

Children at the Project Site

We have different expectations for young volunteers, depending on their age and maturity. We expect children ages 13 or older to put in a full day of work, whether it's on the construction site, in the kitchen, or with outreach activities. Children 12 years and under may help with construction, but they must work under the supervision of a parent or designated adult.

For younger volunteers, Maranatha will have a day camp with different activities organized during work hours (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.), which could include the following:

Work | We'll plan simple tasks so kids can put in a few hours on the construction site.

Play | We'll schedule time for kids to let loose and have fun, because playtime is an important part of being a kid. Children's activities will include swimming one or two days during the project.

Cultural Experiences | We'll introduce kids to local customs, such as visiting a marketplace or washing clothes in a river.

Outreach | We'll encourage kids to help with children's ministry programs and other service activities.

We won't necessarily have all of these components every day, but these categories will make up the activities available for young volunteers. Parents can drop their child off with the program leaders, stay with their child, or keep their child with them throughout the day.

Accommodations

During the project, volunteers will stay at the Adventist university in the suburbs of Cochabamba, about a 20 minute bus ride from the Alto Paraguay Church. The dorm rooms where the group will stay are clean and comfortable with 3-4 individual beds plus a private bathroom with hot water. Some rooms will share a bathroom down the hall. Usually one of the beds is elevated (bunk bed style). We will room families together as much as possible with the dorm rooms we have available to us. Single volunteers will be put with other single volunteers on the project. Expect double to quadruple occupancy rooms. If you want to room with someone in particular, please notify Maranatha at the time of your application.

All bedding (including pillows and towels) are provided, although washcloths are not commonly provided in Bolivia. The group will clean their own rooms, but volunteers can turn in their sheets and towels, during the project, to be laundered; sheets can be laundered once, and towels can be laundered twice.

The group will meet together in the cafeteria for meals and worships. The university has a clean and safe environment and spacious play areas.

Excursions

Midweek, volunteers will take a short break from their work to see the sites around Cochabamba. The group 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. It 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. Afterwards, the group will head to the city market to do some souvenir shopping and then to one of the downtown parks for some sightseeing of the remnants of the colonial period of Bolivia's history.

Optional Excursion: La Paz and Lake Titicaca: \$325

At the end of the project, volunteers can choose to join the optional excursion to La Paz. The excursion fee will cover all housing, food, ground transportation, insurance, and tours. It does not include the domestic airfare from Cochabamba to La Paz. Volunteers will need to book a specific flight number (see flight guidelines later in this packet).

On Sunday, December 30, volunteers will fly to La Paz, the highest seat of government in the world at an altitude of nearly 12,000 feet above sea level. Because of the elevation, we'll start off a bit slower to give people time to adjust to the altitude.

On Sunday afternoon, we'll have a light lunch and then a city tour of La Paz to see some of the colonial buildings, the gondola transportation system (teleferico), and the "Valle de la Luna" (Valley of the Moon), an area with topography similar to what you'd see on the moon. Then people can rest and relax or walk to several sightseeing options within a few blocks of the hotel including a souvenir market, cathedral, a large plaza with the capital building and president's residence.

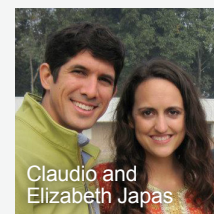
On Monday, the group will leave their large luggage at the hotel in La Paz and will bus (with a small overnight bag) to Lake Titicaca which will take approximately 3 hours. Lake Titicaca is the world's highest navigable body of water and is famous for its floating islands. Unfortunately, most of the floating islands are on the Peru side of the lake, but the part where our group will visit has a small floating island constructed for tourists to see. On Monday afternoon the group will tour the lake area including a boat tour and a visit to a nice museum showing rural life around the lake, the history of the area, and how they make reed boats.

On Tuesday, January 1, the group will have a relaxing morning at the lake before heading back to La Paz after lunch. The group will return to the hotel in La Paz where they can continue to explore the town and enjoy a relaxing evening before a final dinner. Volunteers can choose to depart that evening or the following morning.

Leadership

Claudio and Elizabeth Japas | Project Coordinators

Claudio and Elizabeth join the group from Texas. Claudio has enjoyed participating in and leading Maranatha projects since his first mission trip to Mexico more than 20 years ago. In the year 2000, Claudio was a student missionary in Nicaragua, serving as Maranatha's Volunteer Support Coordinator in the country. Soon after Claudio and Elizabeth got married, they spent part of their honeymoon leading Maranatha's Young Adult Project. Since then, the couple has led several more Mission trips. Claudio and Elizabeth have two young children, Giselle and Mattias, who will also be joining them in Bolivia. Both Claudio and Elizabeth work in the medical field. They look forward to serving God and fellow brothers and sisters in Bolivia, as a Maranatha family, this Christmas season.



We Need Your Help

The team is looking for children's ministry leaders, a day camp leader (for the volunteer children), and a medical team coordinator. If you would be interested in leading out in any of these areas, please contact Maranatha at (916) 774-7799 and join Family Project Bolivia.

Expenses

The participation fee of \$650 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. The extended optional excursion at the end of the project has an additional cost of \$325 per person.

Maranatha must receive all funds and forms by November 19, 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 "Christmas Family Project 2018 Bolivia") 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: \$900-\$1,500**
- **Domestic Flight to La Paz (Optional Excursion): \$60-100**
- **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 exporting 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 sizeable 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. It is the most occupied region by far, 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.

Cochabamba isn't the most well-known city in Bolivia, but it is the third-largest city in the country. It is an 8-hour drive east of Santa Cruz and about an 8-hour drive west of La Paz. This city sits in the middle of a large valley surrounded by mountains at about 8,000 feet elevation.

Travel Information

Volunteers will purchase their own plane tickets to the city of Cochabamba. 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 complete the online registration and wait for confirmation from Maranatha before purchasing your airfare to ensure there is still space on the project. Volunteers will travel together by bus to the project location.

Flights

Arrival

Please plan to arrive in Cochabamba, Bolivia (airport code CBB) on Thursday, December 20, 2018.

Departure (Project Only)

Please plan to depart from Cochabamba, Bolivia (CBB) in the evening of Saturday, December 29, 2018, after 8 p.m., or in the morning or early afternoon of Sunday, December 30, 2018.

Departure (Optional Excursion)

1. Please book Bolivia de Aviacion flight BOA 612 leaving Cochabamba (CBB), at 11 a.m., and arriving into La Paz, at 11:45 a.m., on Sunday, December 30, 2018. *Please book this flight as soon as possible to ensure you get a seat. If this flight has been fully booked when you arrange your travel, please call Maranatha for an alternate flight number.*
2. Please plan to depart for home (or other extended travels) from La Paz (LPB) in the evening of Tuesday, January 1, or in the morning Wednesday, January 2, 2019.

Arriving Early or Staying Late?

Bolivia has some beautiful travel destinations. Some of you may choose to arrive earlier than December 20 or stay beyond January 1 to explore the country on your own. The Maranatha dates are firm and any extra travel must coincide with the arrival and departure windows above. 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.

Travel Resources

CI Azumano Travel: 800-454-4099 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.



Facts and Figures

Capital: Sucre

Population: 10.97 million

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

Climate: Varies with altitude. Cold and semi-arid in the southwest, humid and tropical in the northeast.

Religion: Catholic 77%, Protestant 16%

Currency: Bolivian Boliviano

Entry Requirements

Below are the requirements for U.S. and Canadian citizens. Citizens of other countries, please consult the Bolivian embassy or consulate in your home country for entrance requirements.

Passport | All passports must be valid for at least six months from the dates of intended travel (valid until July 1, 2019). 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 U.S. 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, hotel reservation 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.

Traveling With Minors

If you are traveling with a legal minor (under the age of 18 on the date you depart), both parents or legal guardians must travel with the minor. Otherwise, you must have two parental consent forms notarized. This provides government entities with evidence that both guardians have consented to their child leaving the country with the other guardian and Maranatha. One original must be mailed to Maranatha, and the other original must stay with you while you travel. If a parent is divorced, the missing parent still needs to sign the form unless the parent traveling with the minor has sole legal custody. In that case, a copy of the divorce paperwork, indicating sole custody, must also be included. If a parent has died, a copy of the death certificate must be included.

You can download a PDF of the Parental Consent Form at <http://www.maranatha.org/resources>. This form will ask for two people as appointees of the minor. The first appointee will be the guardian traveling with the child. The other will be Claudio Japas, Maranatha's project coordinator for the Family Project in Bolivia.

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 recommend vaccines for typhoid, hepatitis A, yellow fever, and malaria depending on the destination within Bolivia. Due to the elevation of Cochabamba, you will most likely not encounter yellow fever or malaria on this project.

You may already have some of these vaccinations and they may still be good for this trip. Others you may deem unnecessary for this trip. Maranatha recommends that you schedule a consultation with your physician or a travel clinic to discuss the medical risks in Bolivia and the ways to minimize them.

Food and Water

If you have special dietary needs, such as a food allergy or restricted diet (vegan, gluten free, etc.), we'll do our best to accommodate as much as we can, but you'll most likely need to bring some supplemental food items. Please contact Maranatha for more information.

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 pre-existing 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 is required to return a signed high-altitude release prior to your departure.

Zika

While the Zika virus has been spreading around Latin America, including parts of Bolivia, the CDC states that areas above 6,500 feet elevation, which includes Cochabamba and La Paz, have a low likelihood of Zika infection.

There is currently no vaccine or treatment for this mosquito-borne disease, and the CDC has issued a **Level 2 warning**, which encourages travelers to take heightened precautions to avoid being bitten during their trip. Currently, there are no known long-term effects; however, there is a link between the virus and possible birth defects. 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
Association
c/o V06494C
PO Box 6494, Station Terminal
Vancouver, BC V6B 6R3

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2018 MARANATHA T-SHIRT \$10



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HARD HAT \$13



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



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All prices are excluding sales tax and shipping.

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. Available in Khaki and Navy.

WATER BOTTLE \$15



The autosport 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.

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

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