

# Bolivia Project

## Information Packet

**Location:** Entre Rios, Bolivia

**Project Dates:** October 16/17 - 27/28, 2019

**Total Fee:** \$920

**Children 12 and under:** \$770

(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 dilapidated. 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 work at the Entre Rios Adventist School, the only Adventist school in the region. This elementary school was once educating more than 400 students, annually, from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. The campus is a good size with classrooms surrounding an open-air gymnasium. However, in recent years the government has opened new and more modern public schools in nearly every neighborhood. Many parents are choosing to send their children to these free government-run schools out of convenience, even though the quality of education is far superior at the Adventist school. Enrollment at Entre Rios began to drop.

In 2018, the Entre Rios School only had 162 students. In order to increase their enrollment, they needed better facilities. The

### Project Schedule

**Wednesday, October 16**  
Evening arrival option in Santa Cruz, Bolivia (VVI)

**Thursday, October 17**  
Morning arrival option in Santa Cruz, Bolivia (VVI). Drive to Entre Rios. Orientation.

**Friday, October 18**  
First work day

**Saturday, October 19**  
Worship with the local congregation

**Sunday - Friday, October 20-25**  
Work days with a midweek excursion

**Saturday, October 26**  
Worship with the local congregation

**Sunday, October 27**  
Return to Santa Cruz. Afternoon local activities. Evening departure option from Santa Cruz, Bolivia (VVI)

**Monday, October 28**  
Morning departure option from Santa Cruz, Bolivia (VVI)

Adventist leadership requested Maranatha's assistance and in the summer of 2018, Maranatha started work at the school. Several volunteer groups have helped to build new classrooms and bathrooms. They've also re-wired the existing classrooms with new lighting and fans and donated new computers to create a lab.

Volunteers on this project will finish the final block work on the last classroom, roof the final structure, and pour sidewalks. Volunteers will also have the opportunity to coordinate outreach activities, such as children's ministry programs and health education, with one of the local churches.

## Accommodations

During the project, volunteers will stay at the Hotel Llave, about ten minutes from the Entre Rios School. The hotel is basic, between a 1- and 2-star facility, depending on how you rate hotels. We chose this hotel because it's safe, clean, and adequate for our group. It will most likely be a lower standard than where you currently reside.

The hotel has basic rooms with air conditioning and hot water. Bedding and towels are provided; although washcloths are not commonly provided in Bolivia, so you may want to bring your own. There is a WiFi connection in the reception area of the hotel, but not in the rooms, and the connection will be slower than what you might have at home. You should be able to send an email, but you probably won't be able to video chat or stream anything.

We will rent out the top floor of the hotel where we'll create a makeshift kitchen. We'll also meet here for meals and worships. Volunteers will need to be mobile enough to climb several flights of stairs each day.

Volunteers should plan on staying in double or triple occupancy rooms with a roommate. If you would like to room with someone in particular, please let us know before the final deadline for the project (September 16). There may be some single occupancy rooms available for an extra cost of \$150 per person, due on or before the final deadline. If you are interested in a single occupancy room, please email [volunteer@maranatha.org](mailto:volunteer@maranatha.org) or call (916) 774-7700.

## Excursions

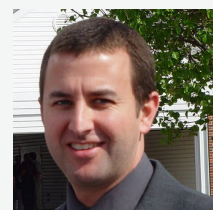
Entre Rios is located on the edge of the Amazon rainforest, in the lowlands of Bolivia. We'll take a break midweek from our normal schedule to visit a small town called Villa Tunari, a popular ecotourism destination in Bolivia. The exact activities are still to be finalized, but it will probably include some hiking, swimming, and monkey-viewing as well as going out to eat as a group. There may be the opportunity for some more adventurous volunteers to do some canoeing, rafting, or zip-lining.

At the end of the project, volunteers will return to Santa Cruz where they'll be able to visit a small souvenir market for shopping.

## Leadership

### Brandon Westgate | Project Coordinator

Brandon is the pastor of a three-church district in Arkansas where he has served as a full-time pastor for eleven years for the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference. In 2010, Brandon joined Maranatha to co-lead a project to Chiapas, Mexico. The trip had a positive and profound impact on him, his wife, and his daughter. Since then, Brandon has led a number of projects for Maranatha, including the Young Adult Project and the Ultimate Workout. He is looking forward to seeing the transformation that will take place in the local community as well as in the volunteers as they become actively engaged members of the body of Christ.



### Peter Thomas | Construction Superintendent

Peter joins the group from Fort Worth, Texas, where he works as a home builder and land developer. He was born in Kenya and lived as a missionary's kid in Zimbabwe and Tanzania during the 1960s. He has a deep love of mission service, and he is excited to be serving on this project. Peter also serves as one of Maranatha's board members.



## We Need Your Help

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

## Expenses

The participation fee of \$920 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.

Maranatha must receive all funds and forms by September 16, 2019, 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 Oct 2019 ) 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 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 Santa Cruz, Bolivia: \$900-\$1,500**
- **Passport \$130 or \$110 for renewal**
- **Visa (U.S. 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 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 export 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 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. 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 Santa Cruz, Bolivia. If you arrive or depart outside the posted time frames, you may have long wait times at the airport or 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 Santa Cruz, Bolivia (airport code VVI), either late in the evening, after 8:00 p.m., on Wednesday, October 16, or early in the morning, between 3:00 a.m. and 7:45 a.m., on Thursday, October 17.

#### Departure (Project Only)

Please plan to depart from Santa Cruz, Bolivia (VVI), in the evening, after 8:00 p.m., on Sunday, October 27, or in the morning, between 2:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m., on Monday, October 28.

#### Arriving Early or Staying Late?

Bolivia has some beautiful travel destinations including La Paz, Lake Titicaca, and the Uyuni Salt Flats. Some of you may choose to arrive earlier than October 16 or stay beyond October 28 to explore the country on your own. You are welcome to do so, but you'll be responsible for making your own hotel, transportation, and tour arrangements 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](mailto:corporatetravel@ciazumano.com)

**Butler Travel:** 503-879-5005 or by email with Nathanael at [nathan@butlertravel.com](mailto:nathan@butlertravel.com) or with Ellen at [ellen@butlertravel.com](mailto:ellen@butlertravel.com).

**Kayak:** [www.kayak.com](http://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 April 28, 2020). 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](http://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).

Both visas must be processed ahead of time through the Bolivian embassy in your jurisdiction. This requires filling out paperwork and mailing your original passport to the embassy for them to stamp your visa. This process can take 10-15 business days, not including shipping time, so this 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 [www.maranatha.org/resources](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 Brandon Westgate, Maranatha's project coordinator for this mission trip.

## 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. The cities this project will visit (Santa Cruz and Entre Rios) are on the border of the potentially affected area for malaria and yellow fever.

You may already have some of these vaccinations, and they may still be good for this trip. Others you may deem unnecessary. 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.

## 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](http://maranatha.org) or over the phone.

## Contact Information

**Phone:** (916) 774-7700

**Fax:** (916) 774-7701

**Email:** [volunteer@maranatha.org](mailto:volunteer@maranatha.org)

**Website:** [www.maranatha.org](http://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

## Social Media

*Share your mission trip with family and friends! And be sure to tag us on social media!*



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@gomaranatha



@maranatha

Use our hashtag,  
**#maranathavolunteersinternational**  
when posting, so we can feature  
your trip!

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### 2019 MARANATHA T-SHIRT \$10



The 2019 Maranatha shirt features a 50th anniversary logo on the sleeve, made with a poly/cotton heather blend by Bella + Canvas. Mens cut only; color is "heather deep teal."

### HARD HAT \$13



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

**MARANATHA.ORG**

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



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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 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.

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