



**QUAKERS in BOLIVIA: CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS and ADAPTATION**  
BQEF's QUAKER STUDY TOUR (QST)  
**July 9- 22, 2020**

*"The ecological and climate crisis is, at its heart, a spiritual and moral crisis." - Dr. Jennie Ratcliffe*

Come to beautiful Bolivia to learn about climate change's impacts on the land and people of Bolivia, and the adaptations that are occurring to meet these rapid and significant changes. Travel to impacted areas to meet and exchange ideas with local climate change activists and former BQEF students working in areas impacted by climate change. Our study focus will be grounded in the work of U.S. Quaker Dr. Jennie Ratcliffe, author of *"Nothing Lowly in the Universe: an Integral Approach to the Ecological Crisis"* and *"Integrity, Ecology, and Community: The Motion of Love"*. Drawing on Quaker testimonies and wisdom from other traditions and visionaries, the text explores the spiritual principles that underpin an integrated deep ecology. Preparing in advance, we will discover how to envision attainable paths to long-term sustainability and a more peaceable and just world, and weave these principles into discussions among us throughout the trip.

Come, too, to learn about Bolivia's history and culture, from the pre-Inca traditions to the emergence of the Plurinational State of Bolivia. Visit those who have dramatically improved their lives and communities with the educational support of the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund (BQEF), make warm personal connections with fellow travelers and Bolivian Friends. There will be opportunities for cultural exchange and learning, and getting to know former and current BQEF students.

To ease participants into higher altitudes, participants will fly into Sucre, Bolivia (altitude 9,220') and spend some time adapting to that altitude. Then we'll travel to La Paz, Achocalla, Yolosita, Tiwanaku, Uyuni, Sorata, Huatajata, Copacabana, and Amacari, with the trip ending back in La Paz. ***An itinerary is included below, more details will be available after registration.***

We understand that right now Bolivia is in upheaval, but we are going forward anticipating that the situation will become less volatile as we move towards the summer. Trip price is \$1950. Registration and first deposit of \$500 are due by February 1, 2020, 2<sup>nd</sup> payment of \$725 is due by March 15, 2020, final payment of \$725 is due by May 1, 2020. Payments are non-refundable unless we can fill your spot from the waitlist, or if the trip is cancelled by BQEF.

Individuals will be expected to purchase flights to and from Bolivia themselves. All in-country flights which are part of the tour are arranged by the QST staff and included in the price. Except where noted, meals are paid for by participants, with complimentary hotel breakfasts and modest lunch and dinner prices available.

For more details, please contact registrar Jim Morgan, 412-535-2078 (EST), [gst.bolivia@gmail.com](mailto:gst.bolivia@gmail.com)

**Itinerary (as of November 22, 2019. Subject to change.)**

**Each day will begin with opportunity for silent worship, time/place TBD.**

**Thursday, July 09. Arrive in Sucre, Bolivia to begin tour.**

(altitude: 9220') Boliviana de Aviación (BoA) has a direct nonstop night flight from Miami to Santa Cruz, arriving around 6 a.m. to connect with BoA flight OB582 leaving Santa Cruz at 9:20 a.m. and arriving Sucre at 10:05 a.m. We will meet that flight at the Sucre airport. Ask us for info about your BoA ticket purchases.

**Friday, July 10. Rest in Sucre.**

**Morning Silence.** Rest from your travels and adjust to the altitude while enjoying Sucre, Bolivia's second capital city. Sucre is home to South America's oldest university and was the site of Latin America's first call for independence from Spain. Visits to the House of Freedom, Cretaceous Park, and La Recoleta, a monastery founded in 1601 by the Franciscans. **Evening discussion: *Nothing Lowly in the Universe, TBD.***

**Saturday, July 11. Travel from Sucre to La Paz**

**Morning Silence. Morning:** BOA flight to El Alto/La Paz. **Afternoon:** Travel through La Paz by cable car. **Evening lecture:** "Food Security in Bolivia" discussion led by BQEF graduate and agronomist Wilmer Mamani Canaza.

**Sunday, July 12. La Paz**

**Morning: Meeting for Worship with scholarship students** followed by a traditional lunch with BQEF scholarship students and graduates.

**Evening lecture:** "Interculturality, Ethnic Diversity, and Multilingualism in Bolivia", a discussion led by BQEF graduate and linguist Ruben Hilari.

**Monday, July 13. La Paz.**

**Morning Silence. Morning:** Walk the historic center of the city of La Paz, including Murillo Square, Plaza de San Francisco, Jaen Street, the Witches Market, and El Prado.

**Afternoon:** Visit the Valle de la Luna and marvel at the maze of clay and sandstone canyons and spires, followed by the Cacterium, then a visit to the Environmental Defense League of Bolivia, where we'll meet with director Andreas Salinas, a leading environmental activist in Bolivia.

**Evening:** "Climate Change and Health in Bolivia", discussion led by Dr. Stanley Blanco, M.D.

**Tuesday, July 14. Yolosita Daytrip.**

**Morning Silence.** Enjoy Senda Verde, a wild animal refuge and ecological education center. **Box Lunch included**

**Wednesday, July 15. Tiwanaku Daytrip.**

**Morning Silence.** Visit Tiwanaku, a pre-Columbian archeological site and center of an ancient Andean culture. The site includes temple remains of the Tiwanaku culture, the Puerta del Sol, and two pyramids currently undergoing excavation.

Returning to La Paz, stop in El Alto to visit Las Gregorias, a women's weaving cooperative (many of whom are Quakers) for warm hospitality and fine alpaca woolens.

**Evening:** Festival in celebration of Independence Day (July 16)

#### **Thursday, July 16. Department of La Paz' Independence Day.**

**Morning Silence. Morning:** enjoy the processions and parades and other festivities.

**Afternoon and Evening:** visit the home and family of Dr. Stanley Blanco, BBQ and music included.

**Evening lecture:** "Water, Pollution, and Mining in Bolivia" presentation and discussion by BQEF graduate and environmental engineer Guido Quispe.

#### **Friday, July 17. La Paz to Uyuni.**

**Morning Silence. 6:30 AM** Depart from El Alto airport on Amazonas Airline. Land transportation in Uyuni via 4x4 land cruiser or equivalent. Visit a train cemetery featuring locomotives of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, then on to Colchani to visit a salt processing plant, before continuing to the Eyes of Salar and Playa Blanca, the first salt hotel. Hike to the top of the Island of Inkahuasi, with a 360° view of the Salar, to enjoy a picnic lunch. Then on to the town of San Juan, for the night's lodging. **Dinner on your own.**

#### **Saturday, July 18 Uyuni to La Paz.**

**Morning Silence. Morning:** Depart very early to cross the Chiguana salar to view the Ollague volcano and have breakfast, then on to Cañapa, Hedioda, and Honda, high Andean lagoons where there are a large number of pink flamingos. Cross the Siloli desert while enjoying the photogenic scenery. Visit the Tree of Stone and the Red Lagoon. Head towards the "Morning Sun" geysers, then descend to Plques Hot Springs, having lunch on the way. On to the Dalí Desert, the Green Lagoon, and a return to Uyuni.

**Dinner on your own.**

**9 PM** Depart on Amazonas Airline for La Paz.

#### **Sunday, July 19. La Paz to Sorata.**

**Morning Silence. Morning:** Travel by bus to the town of Sorata, located at 8778' but with a mild climate. Stop along the way in Achacachi to worship with and visit the Friends of Achacachi Holiness Church, one of the first Quaker churches in La Paz. Share in a **traditional potluck lunch.**

**Afternoon:** Explore the Grotto of San Pedro, aka "Chussek Uta" (House of Owl), the site of legends about secret flooded tunnels filled with Inca wealth. The cavern features an enclosed lagoon that you can boat on, bats, electric lighting, and a defined path.

**Dinner and Lodging** at Hotel Toro Bravo.

**Evening:** Discussion on *Nothing Lowly in the Universe*.

#### **Monday, July 20. Sorata to Huatajata.**

**Morning Silence. Morning:** Community work cleaning and recycling garbage in the town of Sorata, visit with school students for discussions on waste reduction and management. **Lunch prepared by Sorata residents.**

**Afternoon:** Travel to Huatajata, on the shores of Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world.

**Evening:** Dinner and lodging at the Inca Utama Hotel and Restaurant, Huatajata.

#### **Tuesday, July 21. Huatajata to Copacabana.**

**Morning Silence. Morning:** Bus to Copacabana, home of Bolivia's patron saint.

**Lunch** on Floating Island.

**Afternoon:** Boat to Isla del Sol (Island of the Sun), legendary origin site of the first Incas. Optional hike to Inca site and Sacred Rock.

**Evening:** Farewell Group Dinner (included in trip price) and lodging at the Hotel Rosario del Lago

### **Wednesday, July 22. Copacabana to Amacari to La Paz**

**Morning:** Return by bus to La Paz, visiting the Quakers of Amacari along the way. Amacari is the site of one of the first Friends' churches in Bolivia. Visit the clinic built with financial support by Quakers from the U.S. and UK. Return to the city of La Paz for your departure.

**The trip fee of \$1950 includes double-occupancy hotel rooms with private bath and light hotel breakfasts, three lunches and dinners, admission fees, and all land, air, and water transportation from your arrival in Sucre on July 9 until arrival in La Paz on July 22. Please contact us with any questions and for information about purchasing your airline tickets.**

**CONTACT: registrar Jim Morgan, 412-535-2078 (EST), [qst.bolivia@gmail.com](mailto:qst.bolivia@gmail.com)**

### **Your Tour Leaders:**

**Dr. Stanley Blanco, MD**, has over 25 years of experience in social development programs and projects focusing on women and children, health program design, and other aspects. He has also lived and worked in the United States, Nicaragua, Uruguay, Switzerland, Rwanda, and Guatemala.

He has strong ties to Bolivian Quakers, having served as general practitioner in an INELA clinic in La Paz. Dr. Blanco also oversaw the construction and opening of the Amacari Health Clinic on Lake Titicaca, a project funded by US and UK Quakers. For the last 15 years, he has been the referral medical practitioner for visiting Quaker groups and volunteers, also giving talks and lectures on Bolivian culture, health, and development.



**Alicia Lucasi** is a professor of education administration at the public university in Achacachi. A BQEF graduate, Alicia also serves part time in the BQE-Bolivia office in La Paz, where she counsels and tutors scholarship students, welcomes and advises volunteers, and works on other education projects.

Alicia was a co-leader on the 2018 Quaker Study Tour, receiving rave reviews for her work on the tour.



# Registration Information & Application Process

## GENERAL INFORMATION

There is space for 20 participants. Participants must be 18 years or older. Participants will have the opportunity to travel to several areas in Bolivia with experienced guides. Lodging and some meals will be provided on the tour.

## REGISTRATION

To register, please complete the registration and waiver forms below (one set per person), and mail along with a deposit for \$500.00 per person payable to BQEF. Write “**QST2020**” in the memo area. Mail to: BQEF 65 Spring St., Fredonia, NY 14063.

Payments are non-refundable unless we can fill your spot from the waitlist, or if BQEF has to cancel the trip.

## PAYMENT PLAN

The total cost for the Quaker Study Tour is **\$1950.00**. This price includes double occupancy lodging for 14 nights, complimentary light breakfasts at the hotels, 3 lunches, 3 dinners, bus travel, site entry and tour guide fees, and in-country airfare once you arrive in Sucre. The fee also includes one shuttle from the Sucre airport to the local hotel on July 9.

**This fee does not include airfare to and from Bolivia.**

Payments are due as follows:

February 1, 2020 (or before)	\$500 (with registration form)
March 15, 2020	\$750
May 1, 2020	\$750

## REGISTRATION CONFIRMATION

We will email each applicant to acknowledge receipt of your registration form and deposit. After 7 days, we will confirm your participation status. If we have more applicants than spaces, we will create a “wait list.”

**Note: Please wait for registration confirmation from us before making any travel reservations.**

## **FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS/ SHUTTLE INFORMATION (Sucre Airport)**

Each participant is responsible for arranging and paying for individual travel to and from Bolivia. In the northern summer, Bolivia time is the same as EDT in the U.S. We recommend flying into Sucre airport. We have arranged for one shuttle (included in the registration fee) from the Sucre airport to the hotel midday on **July 9th**.

Note: If planning to ride the shuttle from the Sucre airport, your flight must arrive before 10:30 a.m. the morning of July 9th. The shuttle will leave at noon from the Sucre airport.

We encourage you to make arrangements for a climate offset.

## **TRIP INSURANCE**

The cost of the trip is not refundable unless we are able to fill your space with someone who has been put on a “waitlist”, or BQEF has to cancel the trip. We encourage you to purchase airline travel insurance to cover unforeseen trip disruptions as well as medical evacuation insurance. One well-respected source for such insurance is <https://www.diversalertnetwork.org/insurance/>.

## **PLANNING COMMITTEE:**

Jim Morgan	<a href="mailto:morganji@gmail.com">morganji@gmail.com</a> (Registrar)
Pam Schwingl	<a href="mailto:pschwingl82@gmail.com">pschwingl82@gmail.com</a>
Jens Braun	<a href="mailto:sjbraun@taconic.net">sjbraun@taconic.net</a>
Vickey Kaiser	<a href="mailto:office@bqef.org">office@bqef.org</a>

We are thrilled to be able to offer this extraordinary journey! If you have questions or concerns, please contact us.

## **MAILING REGISTRATON**

Return completed Registration Form and Waiver with \$500 deposit per person made payable to “BQEF”. Registrations forms, waivers, and deposits **must be received by February 1st, 2020.**

Attn: QST2020  
BQEF  
65 Spring St.  
Fredonia, NY 14063

## 2020 Quaker Study Tour Bolivia—Registration Form

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Passport No. \_\_\_\_\_

Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_

Check all that apply:

I am applying to participate in the 2020 Bolivian Quaker Study Tour. Enclosed is a \$500 deposit payable to **BQEF**, refundable only if my space is filled, or if the trip minimum is not met.

Please tell us if you have a Quaker affiliation:

\_\_\_\_\_

1) Dietary Restrictions? **YES** / **NO** (Circle one) If "Yes," Specify: (be as specific as you can)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2) Please rank your desired level of activity for this trip:

a) Strenuous

b) Moderate

c) Light

3) Please let us know your preference for more sites, more down time, or vigorous walking

a) More travel, visitations

b) More down time

c) More opportunities for vigorous walking

4) Do you have any physical limitations that might impair your mobility, particularly at high altitudes?

**YES** / **NO** If yes, please explain:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5) Spanish language proficiency:

a) None

b) Tourist level

c) Some conversation

d) Fluent

6) Please list two Emergency Contacts (individuals in the United States):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

7) Do you have a preferred roommate? **YES / NO** If Yes, name of roommate:

\_\_\_\_\_

8) QST goals: What is drawing you to participate in the Quaker Study Tour at this time?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9) What else would you like for us to know? (Use the reverse side if necessary).

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Bolivian Quaker Education Fund Study Tour July 2020  
PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT, RELEASE AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK**

In consideration of the services of Bolivian Quaker Education Fund, their agents, owners, officers, volunteers, participants, employees, and all other persons or entities acting in any capacity on their behalf (hereinafter collectively referred to as "BQEF", I hereby agree to release, indemnify, and discharge BQEF, on behalf of myself, my children, my parents, my heirs, assigns, personal representative, and estate as follows:

1. I acknowledge that my participation in service work, travel and hiking entails known and unanticipated risks that could result in physical or emotional injury, paralysis, death, or damage to myself, to property, or to third parties. I understand that such risks simply cannot be eliminated without jeopardizing the essential qualities of the activity.

**The risks include among other things:** slipping and falling; falling objects; motor vehicle accidents; water hazards; exhaustion; exposure to temperature, altitude and weather extremes which could cause: altitude sickness, hypothermia, hyperthermia, (heat related illnesses), heat exhaustion, sunburn, dehydration; and exposure to potentially dangerous wild animals, insect bites, and hazardous plant life; equipment failure; and improper lifting or carrying. Furthermore, BQEF employees and volunteers have difficult jobs to perform. They seek safety, but they are not infallible. They might be unaware of a participant's fitness or abilities. They might misjudge the weather, the elements, or the terrain. They may give inadequate warnings or instructions, and the equipment being used might malfunction.

2. I expressly agree and promise to accept and assume all of the risks existing in this activity. My participation in this activity is purely voluntary, and I elect to participate in spite of the risks.

3. I hereby voluntarily release, forever discharge, and agree to indemnify and hold harmless BQEF from any and all claims, demands, or causes of action, which are in any way connected with my participation in this activity or my use of BQEF's equipment or facilities, **including any such claims which allege negligent acts or omissions of BQEF.**

4. Should BQEF or anyone acting on their behalf, be required to incur attorney's fees and costs to enforce this agreement, I agree to indemnify and hold them harmless for all such fees and costs.

5. I certify that I have adequate insurance to cover any injury I may cause or suffer while participating, or else I agree to bear the costs of such injury myself. I further certify that I am willing to assume the risk of any medical or physical condition I may have.

6. In the event that I file a lawsuit against BQEF, I agree to do so solely in the state of New York, and I further agree that the substantive law of that state apply in that action without regard to the conflict of law rules of that state. I agree that if any portion of this agreement is found to be void or unenforceable, the remaining portions shall remain in full force and effect.

**By signing this document, I acknowledge that if anyone is hurt or property is damaged during my participation in this activity, I may be found by a court of law to have waived my right to maintain a lawsuit against BQEF on the basis of any claim from which I have released them herein.**

**I have had sufficient opportunity to read this entire document. I have read and understood it, and I agree to be bound by its terms.**

Signature of Participant \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Witness \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name \_\_\_\_\_

email or mailing address \_\_\_\_\_