



QUAKERS in BOLIVIA

CLIMATE CHANGE: IMPACT and ADAPTATION

BQEF's QUAKER STUDY TOUR (QST) July 10-25, 2024

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

Travel to beautiful Bolivia to learn about the impacts of climate change on the land, to see how Bolivians are adapting to meet these rapid and significant changes and to learn about its history and culture. Visit impacted areas to meet and exchange ideas with local climate change activists and former BQEF students working in communities vulnerable to climate change.

Come learn about Bolivia's history and culture, from the pre-Inca traditions to the emergence of its plurinational state. 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 to connect with former and current BQEF students.

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*. Drawing on Quaker testimonies and wisdom from other traditions and visionaries, the texts explore the spiritual principles that underpin an integrated deep ecology. Weaving these principles into discussions throughout the trip, we will explore attainable paths to long-term sustainability and a more peaceful and just world.

For more information or questions email gst.bolivia@gmail.com.

Itinerary

Each day will begin with an opportunity for silent worship.

Wednesday, July 10

Travel day - fly into Sucre, Bolivia to begin the tour. See flight information below.

Thursday, July 11

Sucre. Rest from your travels and adjust to the altitude while enjoying Sucre, Bolivia's constitutional capital city, home to South America's oldest university and the site of Latin America's first call for independence from Spain. Visit to the House of Freedom. Evening discussion: *Nothing Lowly in the Universe*.

Friday, July 12

Sucre. Visit Cretaceous Park to learn about it. Afternoon: Visit to La Recoleta, a monastery founded in 1601 by the Franciscans.

Saturday, July 13

Travel from Sucre to La Paz. BoA flights to El Alto/La Paz, travel through La Paz by cable car. Evening lecture: *Food Security in Bolivia*' discussion led by BQEF graduate, agronomist Wilmer Mamani Canaza.

Sunday, July 14

La Paz. Meeting for Worship with scholarship students followed by a traditional lunch with BQEF scholarship students and graduates. Evening discussion: *Interculturality, Ethnic Diversity, and Multilingualism in Bolivia*, led by BQEF graduate and linguist Ruben Hilari.

Monday, July 15

La Paz - Achocalla. 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. Visit the Valle de la Luna to marvel at the maze of clay and sandstone canyons and spires there, then on to the Cacterium, followed by a visit to the Environmental Defense League of Bolivia to meet with director Andreas Salinas, a leading environmental activist in Bolivia. Evening discussion on *Climate Change and Health in Bolivia*, led by biologist and educator, Lucia Blanco.



Tuesday, July 16th Enjoy the processions, parades, and other Department of La Paz Independence Day festivities. Visit Yolosita and enjoy Senda Verde, a wildlife refuge and ecological education center.



Wednesday, July 17th

La Paz - Tiwanaku day trip. 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.



Thursday, July 18th

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



Friday, July 19th

La Paz - Okola. Visit a traditional farming and fishing village on the shore of Lake Titicaca comprised of approximately 80 families. Afternoon: Lunch with the community and a visit to the beautiful and scenic "Sleeping Dragon."

Saturday, July 20th

Okola - Sorata. Workshop with community members on the topic of climate change. Travel to the lovely town of Sorata, with a mild climate, located at 8778'.



Sunday, July 21st

Sorata. Visits to the Holiness Friends Quaker Church, and St. Peter's Grotto, with a boat tour of the legendary caves and tunnels built by the Incas during the time of the *Conquista*.

Monday, July 22nd

Sorata - Huatajata. Visit the Museum of the Totoro reed rafts at Huatajata and visit the Utama Museum at the Inka Utama Hotel. Free time.





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Tuesday, July 23rd

Huatajata - Copacabana. Travel to Copacabana, home of Bolivia's patron saint. Lunch on a floating island. Boat to Isla Del Sol (Island of the Sun), legendary origin site of the first Incas. Optional hike to the Inca site and Sacred Rock. Evening farewell group dinner (included in tour price).



Wednesday, July 24th

Copacabana - Amacarito - La Paz. 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 Amicari clinic, built with financial support by Quakers from the U.S. and U.K.

Thursday, July 25th

Travel day - Return flights from La Paz in the evening of the 24th or the morning of the 25th.

End of BQEF Quaker Study Tour

Your Tour Leaders

Alicia Lucasi is a professor of education administration at the Public University in Achacachi, La Paz, Bolivia. 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.

Lucia Blanco is a biologist focusing on botany, medicinal plants, and genetic toxicology. Currently, she teaches middle school biology in La Paz, Bolivia. Her interests are in circular economy, sustainable development, and climate change adaptation. Lucia, with her strong Aymara roots, offers the Study Tour a great depth of knowledge and experience in local culture, history, and geography.

Rebecca Cutter, U.S. Coordinator for BQEF lives in Ithaca, NY. Rebecca has worked in solidarity with Indigenous communities with organizations in Latin America, the U.S., and Palestine for 26 years. In 2000 she co-founded the Mesoamerican Permaculture Institute on the shore of Lake Atitlan in Guatemala. Rebecca's areas of interest are in food sovereignty, climate resilience, and education.



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Tour Fee

The cost for the Quaker Study Tour is \$2,200.00. This price includes double occupancy lodging with a private bath for 14 nights, complimentary breakfasts at the hotels, all land and water travel, site entry and tour guide fees, and the flight from Sucre to La Paz. Except where noted, meals are paid for by participants, with complimentary hotel breakfasts. Lunch and dinner prices are modest.

*This fee does not include airfare to and from Bolivia or the in-country connecting flight to Sucre.

EXTENDED Registration deadline

Registration and the first deposit of \$700 are due by **March 30th**.

The 2nd payment of \$750 is due by **April 15th**.

The final payment of \$750 is due by **May 15th** for a total of \$2,200 for the tour.

Payments are non-refundable unless we can fill your spot from the wait list or if the trip is canceled by BQEF.

Please contact registrar Jim Morgan with questions: +1(412) 535-2078 (EST), qst.bolivia@gmail.com.

Expression of Interest and Application Process

The Study Tour can accommodate up to 20 participants. Children and teens under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. While there are no strict age limitations for this trip, please consider physical mobility and capacity to participate in the many visits to rural communities, bus rides, evening presentations, and walks at high altitudes. Participants will have the opportunity to travel to several areas in Bolivia with experienced guides. Previous participants would be happy to share their experiences with the tours and altitude. If interested, email qst.bolivia@gmail.com.

If you have not already filled out this expression of interest [questionnaire](#) please do. Once we receive your completed questionnaire our registrar will send you the [Registration and Waiver forms](#).