

yonGO TRAVEL

| [Group Feb2007 Trip Report](#) | [Photo Album Peru Bolivia](#) | [Yongoer Hon Too Fang writes](#) | [PDF file of this Trip](#) | [Trip MAP](#) |

**20 Feb - 15 Mar 2019 (24-days) Peru Bolivia & Chile (Lima, Cuzco, Machu Picchu, Lake Titicaca, La Paz, ORURO FESTIVAL, Salar Uyuni, Nazca Lines & Isla Ballestas)**

**Cost Rm15,950 (14 pax group) Rm15,450 (16 pax group and above)**

**Based on USD1=Rm3.98 as at 10 Apr 2018.**

**We will make final adjustment on the cost based on the USD exchange rate in Jan 2019.**

Check out [www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carnaval\\_de\\_Oruro](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carnaval_de_Oruro) for more info on this fabulous event ORURO. Do read more on the 18 different types of dances.

**Update 13 Jun 2018** This trip is FULL. We are looking to offer a second trip starting 12 Mar 2019. Do email us if interested in the second trip..

**Update 26 Apr 2018** Trip cost based on Group Fares Rm4000 and will be adjusted up or down, depending on final fares. Online individual fares today is Rm5503 and taxes Rm2226.38. Please confirm early so that we can quickly secure lower fares. Group fare for Sep 2018 trip range from 3404 to 4025. Do note that airport taxes/fuel surcharges about Rm2500 are not included in the trip cost. Trip starts after [Chinese New Year 5 Feb 2019](#). Note your deposit is used to for KLM booking fees, domestic flight tickets to Cusco, train tickets Machu Picchu and bus tickets Tacna-Arequipa and San Pedro-Arica.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** This is meant to be a "free and easy" adventure trip. Participants should be relatively fit, with a good sense of humor, and above all, have the right attitude for close travel with others through possibly some trying times. Most definitely, this is not a trip for prudes, whiners, fuss-pots, and other similarly assorted types! We had a couple of those before and it wasn't pleasant for us or them. Although every effort will be made to stick to the given itinerary, ground conditions may change and cause some disruption and/or deviation from the norm. Otherwise, have fun.



Uyuni Laguna Canapa/ Group Photo at Salar Uyuni (Salt Plains)/ Flamingo

This will be a [semi-backpack experience using a couple of local express bus rides and some chartered buses](#) traveling from town to town. We stay in good clean guesthouse in all places except for 3 days Salar Uyuni tour. It is important participants are able to manage their own luggage and backpacks are a must. Like most Yongo trips, you pay for your own meals and entrances, except for those specified below. You also pay the within-the-town taxis and other activities not specified below.

**[DAY 1 KLIA to Amsterdam](#)**. Gather by **[9PM WED 20 Feb 2019](#)** for KLM flight KL810 departing 1150PM to Amsterdam (12.5hr flight). No need to take leave on this day.

**DAY 2 Amsterdam to Lima.** Arrive Amsterdam at 600AM local time. Transit 6:40hr until the flights to Lima KL743 at 1235PM, arriving in Lima 12.5hr later at 715PM. Transfer to Hotel and overnight (ON) Lima.

**Day 3 Lima Old City.** Group go by a convenient local bus Rm1 or by arranged taxis to UNESCO listed Lima Old Town Center with its imposing Plaza de Mayor (Central Square), founded in 1535 by Francisco Pizarro, the Spanish conqueror for a 3hr guided walking tour. There are numerous colonial churches and buildings. We also visit the nearby Barrio Chino or Lima's Chinatown for some good Chinese restaurant perhaps! ON Lima.

**Day 4 Fly to Cusco** We fly to Cuzco in the morning, the flight taking 1hr 15min. We transfer to our hostel (Spanish for guesthouse) located a short walk from the main Town Square. Visit Mercado San Pedro and lunch here. Cusco is UNESCO listed and once served as capital of the vast Inca empire, then after, the highland capital of the Spanish colonist. Cusco Cathedral is reputed to be Peru's best with grand paintings and decor. Cusco Boleto Turistico or Cusco Tourist Ticket 130soles included in trip price. ON Cusco.

**Day 5 Chincero Market, Moray & Maras Salt Pans** Early start to Chincero Village, a typical Andean village for its less touristic and colourful Sunday Market. Goods are better priced here and much of the money goes directly to the villagers who make them. We then visit the 700m long salt pans of Maras, which for centuries, have been producing salt. Moray Amphitheatre, a mind-boggling Inca construction of huge circular terraced depression believed to be for agricultural experiments. Finally to Ollantaytambo ruins - said to be the biggest pueblo (town) in the Inca empire at one time. From here we board the 436pm Turista train to Aguas Calientes, the town at the bottom of Machu Picchu, arriving at 609pm. ON Aguas Calientes.

**Day 6 Machu Picchu** Start at 6am with a 25min bus ride up to Machu Picchu. Entrance fee Rm200 (includes Huayna Picchu fees) is included. We engage a professional guide for Machu Picchu which means small mountain, who will take the group to the various viewpoints. The usual places of visit are the farm terraces, Main Square, Temple of the Sun, Temple of Condor and the residential areas. The city was abandoned for unknown reasons and was not "harmed" by the Spanish as most of the buildings are original. The guide spends 4 hr with the group. Then it is free time to explore the ruins. Recommended is a 1 hr walk/trek/climb up Huayna Pichhu translated big mountain, for amazing top-down views of Machu Picchu as well as the high ruins and temples located on top of Huayna Pichhu. Those who are less physically inclined can walk the gentle Inca trail to the Sun Gate for alternative views of Machu Picchu. We late lunch in Aguas Calientes before taking the Turista train 412pm-550pm to Ollantaytambo, where a bus takes us to Cusco 89km 2hr. ON Cusco.



Capital of Incas Cusc / Locals / Reed boat at Lake Titicaca

**Day 7 Pisac Ruins & Market.** We first visit the Bolivia Consular for visa application. Our destination this morning is the Pisac Ruins 2hr bus, with several photo stops along the way. The agricultural terraces found here were used for crop research and test cropping. At the very top one finds a few sets of ruins used for ceremonial and residential purpose. We adjourn to the famous Pisac Market 30 min away. On the way back, we visit Sacsayhuaman (easy pronunciation as Sexy Woman), the largest that is sited on top of a hill overlooking Cusco. The site was also a great place for scenic photos of Cusco. All these entrances are included in the Cusco Boleto Turistico. We return to Cusco for more City wanderings and our last night stay. ON Cusco.

**Day 8 Cusco to Puno.** We go on a 730AM bus tour on the Wonder Peru Tour Bus to Puno, a journey of 380km over the surreal Altiplano (high altitude Andean plateau), its highest point at La Raya 4335m. The stops include Andahuaylillas, a 3122m Mestizo baroque architecture church and Raqchi at 3400m Inca temple of Wirachocho God and home to Raqchi people with their distinct clothing. It is amazing to note that there were 20,000km of Inca Trail,

which are rock paved trails linking the vast Inca Empire. It also passes through towns like Raqchi. Estimated arrival time in Puno is 5PM. Tour cost includes lunch and entrance fees are included in trip cost. ON Puno.

**Day 9 Lake Titicaca.** We go on a cruise on huge Lake Titicaca taking a 3 hr tour of Uros floating islands, which number some 50, big and small. This was apparently the only place on the huge lake where the water is shallow enough to allow building of these unique floating islands. The oldest islands are some 150yr old and the totora reeds are up to 30 meters deep. Lake Titicaca covers an area of 8560sq km, deepest point 280m with 24 rivers flowing in and one river flowing out in Bolivia. Boat tour included in trip cost. ON Puno.

**Day 10 Copacabana, La Paz BOLIVIA.** We transfer at 630AM to the bus station to travel the scenic route to Copacabana. We lunch on lake trout at this small town beside Lake Titicaca. We cross the border and will arrive in La Paz around 5PM. This scenic route runs beside the lake with views of grazing animals and lakeside villages. La Paz is the highest capital in the world at 3700m. ON La Paz.

**Day 11 La Paz Oruro Carnival.** At 9AM, we have a private bus and tour of Oruro 5hr, for the biggest carnival in Bolivia, with 20,000 dances and 10,000 musicians in a 3km long procession, viewed by some 40,000 visitors (Check out my photo album by clicking the link at the top of this page). We spend a couple of hours immersing in this huge party. The best parade are held in the evening. This event is extremely popular and locals outnumber the small groups of tourist. After a long tiring day, we travel back to La Paz for a good night rest. Seat tickets, transport and packed lunch is included. ON La Paz

**Day 12 La Paz Market, City Tour, Overnight Bus.** Our hotel is next to a 3 km long street with a lively and colourful market. Bolivia is one of the poorest countries in South America and the street scenery is very different from that of Lima and other towns in more developed Peru. The morning market is especially attractive with kilometers long stalls exhibiting a wide range of products. Optional half-day City tours can be arranged at own cost. At night we take an overnight express bus to Uyuni. ON Bus



Chincheru Sunday Market / Maras Salt Pans

**Day 13 Uyuni Day 1.** ETA 6AM. After breakfast and a short rest, we start our 3 days 2 nights tour of the beautiful Salar Uyuni (Salt Plains of Uyuni) in Toyota 4WD vehicles. First stop is Colchani village, where locals process salt blocks into iodised table salt. This UNESCO listed site, area 9000 sq km, is the biggest salt lake on earth and one of the flattest as well. What is amazing is the fact that a hard 7m layer of salt sits on top of several meters of salt water at the bottom of the lake, making driving across the white watery surface a real treat. At 3653m, it's probably one of the highest as well. Lunch stop is at a disused Salt Hotel b4 heading to Isla de Pescado 60 km. Located in the middle of Salar Uyuni, this small island is wholly surrounded by a sea of white salt. We then drive to a Guesthouse made of salt blocks for our night stay. Salar Uyuni 3D2N tour, meals and entrance fees included. **(NOTE: Accomodation on the 3 days Uyuni trip is very basic in multi-bedded rooms and shared toilets/bath).**

**Day 14 Uyuni Day 2.** We cross Salar de Chiguana, a thin salt crusted plain. The track climbs 4000m plus to the only active volcano in Boliva, the 5865m Ollgue. The scenery along the way is excellent, flanked by rust coloured plains and topped by snow-capped mountains. The area abounds with wild vicunas, related to the Llama, Alpaca and is a distant relative of the camels. We visit a number of lakes including the surreal Laguna Canapa with its multi-coloured mineral-filled waters. The thriving mirco-organisms provide ample food for the large populations of flamigos (3 kinds), ducks and various other birds. The road goes even higher to 4500m across Pampa Siloli, a high altitude desert of volcanic ash and gravel., scattered with rock outcrops blasted into contorted shapes included the famous "stone tree". Soon after we enter Reserva Eduardo Avoro, where one finds the biggest lake in Uyuni. Laguna Colorada (Red Lagoon/lake), which has a huge seasonal population of reddish flamingoes which feeds on the natural red pigmented algae. The fringes or the lake are coloured white with chemical Borax. ON dorms near Laguna Colorada.

**Day 15 Uyuni Day 3.** We leave at 430AM without breakfast and first stop at 5AM is the Sol de Mauana geyser, shooting up to a height of 40m. This thermal active area located at 4900m has several mud pools with temperatures reaching 2000 degrees C. So watch where you put your feet! By 7AM we reach Lagunas Polques, our breakfast place and also a place for refreshing dip in a 36 degrees C natural hotspring pool. Next stop is Laguna Verde (Green Lake) with no flamingos. This beautiful lake reflecting the snow mountains contains poisonous arsenic causing the green colour. At 10AM we arrive at the Bolivia/Chile border for our 1hr bus transfer to Pedro de Atacama, a popular backpacker rest place. We arrive about lunch time and rest well here. ON San Pedro.

**Day 16 San Pedro de Atacama.** We have a free day to take it easy in pretty little village, catching up with emails and relaxing. Recommended trips include horse trekking or bicycling to some sights in the vicinity. After dinner, we board the 810PM for the 10hr overnight express bus to the town of Arica, located the Chile/Peru border. ON Bus.



Machu Picchu Standard View / Machu Picchu from Huayna Picchu

**Day 17 Border to Arequipa.** Arrive 540AM and cross the border by taxis to Peruvian town of Tacna 1.5hr, where we have breakfast. We proceed by public bus to Arequipa 5hr. We have time to visit the Plaza de Armas, the Churches and more colonial buildings. ON Arequipa.

**Day 18 Arequipa.** Half day Arequipa city tour on the Tourist Bus, finishing around lunch time. Then, free day to wander about this pleasant tourist town also listed by UNESCO. Founded in 1540, it retains an elegant historic center constructed entirely out of white volcanic stone, which gives the city its distinctive look and the nickname "the white city". Members can visit UNESCO listed Monasterio de Santa Catalina, one of the most important and impressive religious monument in Peru, also known as a City within a City. Tourist Bus tour included in trip cost. ON Arequipa.

**Day 19 Nazca.** We charter a bus for 3 days to Lima. First day is to Nazca 623km 9-10hr. Nazca is a small town famous worldwide for the giant desert drawings including an image of an ancient "astronaut". On the way to Nazca, we lunch in a local seafood restaurant in Camana. ON Nazca.

**Day 20 Fly Nazca Lines.** These are a series of giant desert figures, clearly visible only from the air. From 7AM we transfer in small groups to the town's small airport for the flights over the famous UNESCO listed Nazca Lines. Planes flying are either 6 or 4 seaters small planes and plastic bags are provided for those with weak stomach! Some of the giant desert figures viewed from the air included whale, dog, spider, monkey, tree, flamingo, humming bird, trapezoids and an astronaut! We leave for Pisco 4-5hr after lunch by our chartered bus with a stop at Huacachina Desert Dunes, time permitting. Nazca Lines flight US\$100 and Dune buggy Soles30 not included. ON Pisco.

**Day 21 Isla Ballestas & Pisco.** A half day tour starting at 8AM takes us to the jetty in Paracas 30min. There we board a 30-seats speedboat to visit what is dubbed by the locals as "Poor man's Galapagos Island". You will be able to sight thousands of birds including pelicans, penguins, comorants, oyster catchers, seagulls and huge colonies of sea lions. On the way, boats stop for a view of the famous landmarked Candelabra, a giant candle-like figure etched into the coastal hills. Seafood lunch in Paracas before we bus 4-5hr to Lima. Isla Ballestas Boat Tour included in trip cost. ON Lima.

**Day 22 Lima, Fly Home.** We have an easy day revisiting Lima town and it's many side street full of shops and colonial buildings. A 30min walk from our hotel takes us to popular San Miguel Mall, a huge complex of modern shops, McDonalds, Pizza Huts and KFC. Another alternative is the nearby Magdalena Market, a local place with virtually no tourist. At 530PM, we leave for the airport for our Amsterdam flight KL744 departing 905PM. ON Plane.

**Day 23 Amsterdam.** Arrive in Amsterdam at 325PM after 12hr flight. Those who wish can pop onto a convenient 20min train ride to the Central Station, which cost Euro11 return. You land right in the middle of Amsterdam tourist area and will have about 2hr for a quick look-around. Transit 5:20hr at Amsterdam before flight KL809 to KUL leaves at 845PM. ON Plane.

**Day 24 KLIA.** Arrive home **350PM FRI 15 Mar 2019** after 12hr flight.



Fly over Nazca Lines / Ballestas Island Sea Lions &amp; seabirds

### **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

1. Cost cover airfares, accommodation, town-to-town travel and tours specified in the itinerary as included.

2. Accommodations will be in guesthouses (hostals in Spanish) except for 3D2N Salar Uyuni tour, which will be in basic multi-beds room.
3. Not covered are airport taxes & fuel surcharges (Rm2500 approx), meals (Rm80 x 18 days = Rm1440) and other entrance fees (most of the main fees already included in price).
4. In town taxis are not covered except for transfers to and from bus stations to our place of stay.
5. Cost is subject to change depending on fluctuations in exchange rates and/or airfares.
6. A deposit of Rm3000 will be payable to confirm your place.

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