

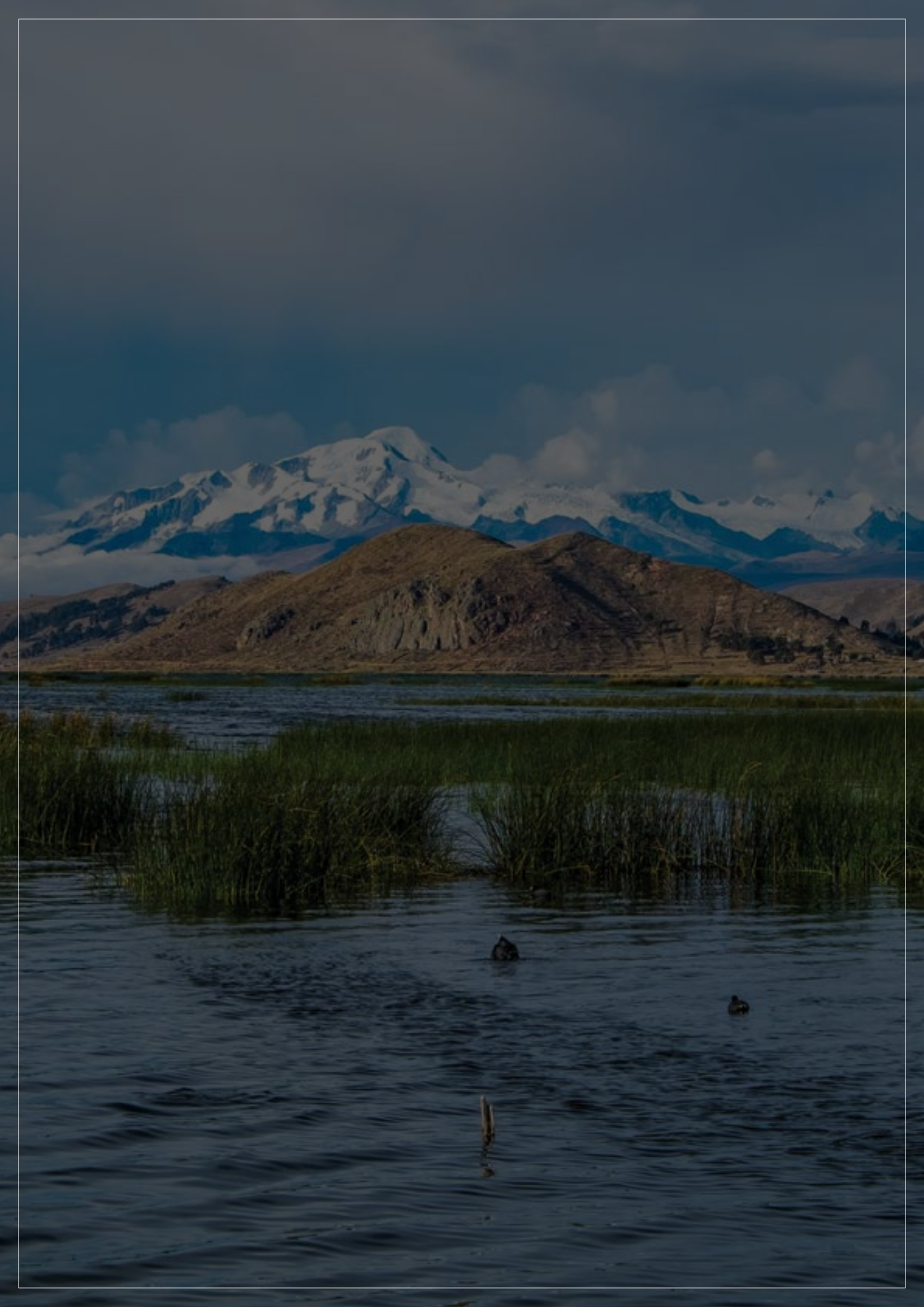


BOLIVIA-HUAYNA POTOSI

SKILLS EXPEDITION

6,200M / 20,341FT

2021 EXPEDITION TRIP NOTES





BOLIVIA–HUAYNA POTOSI SKILLS EXPEDITION TRIP NOTES

2021 EXPEDITION DETAILS

Dates: August 8–25, 2021 **Dates to be confirmed*
Add-on Dates: August 26–30, 2021
Duration: 18 or 23 days
Departure: ex La Paz, Bolivia
Price: US\$4,470 or US\$5,800 including Illimani Add-on

▲ Condoriri Massif from Refugio Laguna Tuni. Photo: Erin-Leigh Hardy

The Cordillera Real of Bolivia is one of the world's major ranges and offers some of the finest and most varied alpine climbing. Our Bolivia programme allows for significant instruction time while completing some fantastic climbs at low-intermediate grade at altitudes up to 6,200m/20,340ft.

For those who would like the experience of climbing in an uncrowded area, exploring a remote and exotic land leaving a minimal impact, the Cordillera Real offers an unparalleled opportunity.

A five-day ascent of the massive Nevado Illimani (6,438m/22,401ft) is an ideal add-on to capitalise on your existing acclimatisation and make this expedition even more enjoyable. It is the highest peak in Bolivia's Cordillera Real and allows you to climb a serious high altitude peak without the hardships of climbing in very low temperatures.

HISTORY

The Cordillera Real of Bolivia is one of the world's major ranges and offers some of the finest and most varied alpine climbing. However, due to the country's remoteness and its lack of any traditional tourism, the Cordillera Real is probably the least known and

least climbed range among comparable mountain groups. As a result, for those who are used to climbing and backpacking in wilderness areas, for whom the experience of a minimally impacted and uncrowded area is important, and who find great appeal in exploring a remote and exotic land, the Cordillera Real is an ideal destination.

HOW THE EXPEDITION OPERATES

After spending two days in the city of La Paz, we head north to the central region of the Cordillera Real. We begin our trek and travel over a series of valleys and passes over a period of three days, and enjoy camping out each night. This is an opportunity to take in the scenery and enjoy spotting the native wildlife. After a final day of trekking, a vehicle is waiting to transport us back to La Paz, where we will have a day to prepare for the next stage of the adventure.



▲ The West Face of Huayna Potosi. Photo: AAI

The next day we visit the Tiwanaku Archaeological Site, a ruined ancient city near Lake Titicaca. Dominating the ruins of this UNESCO World Heritage site, once the seat of the pre-Columbian Tiwanaku culture, are the Akapana Pyramid and a semi-subterranean temple with carved images of human heads.

We then drive to the foot of the central Cordillera Real and proceed to a trailhead, where we meet our llamas and support staff. With the animals carrying the bulk of our gear, we make an easy-paced ascent to our Base Camp. The trek takes us through some beautiful valley landscapes and our camp provides excellent views of the many surrounding mountains.

We tailor our schedule of instruction and practice climbing to suit the needs of the participants acclimatising at different rates. We give instruction in climbing technique on a glacial practice area near our camp, while team members gradually acclimatise to the higher altitudes, and then cover additional skills in the process of making summit climbs. Possible peaks include Pico Austria (5,320m/17,454ft), Pico Tarija (5,344m/17,533ft) and our primary goal, Pequeño Alpayayo (5,917m/19,412ft); a hidden peak with a very impressive pyramidal summit. We climb a broad glacier to a col, traverse along a ridge to the base of the summit pyramid and then ascend directly to the top. The entire route is photogenic, offers excellent climbing and makes use of all the skills taught earlier in the programme.

We then move south past a series of colourful altiplano lakes and make our way to the Zongo Pass, right at the very foot of Huayna Potosi. We camp a night at Casa

Blanca Refugio before taking a full day to establish a high camp at 5,500m/18,000ft. Setting off from camp the following morning with sunrise over the Amazon Basin to our east, we climb a beautiful route which includes serious glacier travel and intermittent sections of moderately steep ground—challenging climbing but well within the skill level developed by the climbing team during the preceding days of the program. With Huayna Potosi's summit (approximately 6,088m/19,974ft), a well-defined point at the end of a beautifully sculptured ridge and the last few steps to the top provide an exhilarating finish to a great climb.

Following our ascents, we return to La Paz and either depart for home, or for those also undertaking the optional Illimani Ascent, begin preparations for the next stage of the expedition.

SKILLS COVERED

Topics intended to be covered during instruction include:

- Selection and use of personal equipment
- Anchors for fixed and running belays
- Selection and use of ropes, knots, and harnesses
- An introduction to high altitude physiology
- Design and selection of technical equipment
- Response to high altitude illness
- Principles of glacier travel
- Nutrition during extended trips at altitude
- Belaying techniques on snow and ice
- Introduction to natural hazards evaluation
- French and German crampon techniques



▲ Illimani from La Paz. Photo: Francois Schollaert Paz

- Crevasse rescue procedures
- Principal ice axe positions
- Rappelling
- Concept and application of the self-belay
- Route finding and evaluation

ILLIMANI ASCENT ADD ON

We leave the city, travelling south-east over very rugged roads to a small settlement, where we meet our *arrieros* and their llamas. With our gear loaded, we climb gradually higher while enjoying brilliant views of Illimani. In this region, Aymara life is very traditional with thatch-roofed homes constructed of mud brick and stone, and villagers busy attending to the soaking, drying and freezing of their potatoes.

We establish Base Camp at Puente Roto (4,572m/15,000ft), where in the evening we enjoy the beautiful view of the sunset over the Altiplano.

The next day, we make a 915m/3,000ft ascent up trails and a rock ridge to reach a snowy bench at Nido del Condór High Camp (5,500m/18,000ft). From this camp, we get great views into the enormous, steep-walled cirque of Illimani and across Lake Titicaca into Peru. The next morning we begin our ascent of the peak's steep

Southwest Buttress. The route is broken by a series of large crevasses and we carefully zig-zag our way up, using snow bridges and ice ramps where we can to shorten our route.

Eventually, we climb a 40 to 45-degree glacial face and gain the final ridge to the summit. A gently rising, exposed and very photogenic finish that provides some of the finest views in the Andes. Always scenic and offering rewardingly varied alpine climbing, this is an exciting expedition on one of South America's greatest peaks.

PREREQUISITE EXPERIENCE

To climb in Bolivia you need to be physically fit, have a strong mental stamina and be capable of strenuous exercise for several days' duration. Expedition members need to be capable of carrying a moderate pack.

Climbing at altitude affects people differently; most climbers notice a lower performance rate than normal. Our climbing days are mostly short to accommodate this and vital rest days are usually welcomed! Our graduated acclimatisation program allows you to progressively consolidate your fitness.

ITINERARY

Dates: August 8–25, 2021 **To be confirmed*

Illimani Add-on Dates: August 26–30, 2021

- Day 1 Arrive La Paz and overnight at hotel
- Day 2 La Paz exploration and city tour
- Day 3 Depart La Paz for the Cordillera Real, trek to first camp at Rifugio Ajuane (4 hrs)
- Day 4 Continue to next camp at Laguna Sistana (6 hrs)
- Day 5 Trek over mountain passes and onwards to Refugio Juri Khota to camp
- Day 6 Trek out of the valley and transfer back to La Paz for the night
- Day 7 Preparation day in La Paz for the remainder of the expedition
- Day 8 Visit the ancient Tiwanaku Archaeological site
- Day 9 Drive to the Condoriri trail head and hike to Base Camp in the Condoriri Valley (4,600m/15,000ft)
- Day 10–14 Work on climbing skills and ascending peaks in the Condoriri Cirque area

- Day 15 Trek out and drive to Rifugio Casa Blanca to camp for the night
- Day 16 Begin the ascent of Huayna Potosi and establish High Camp at (5,500m/18,000ft)
- Day 17 Climb Huayna Potosi (6,088m/19,974ft) and return to La Paz
- Day 18 Either depart for home or spend a day in La Paz preparing for the Illimani ascent if continuing on

ILLIMANI ASCENT ADD ON ITINERARY

- Day 19 Drive from La Paz to Pinaya and trek to Illimani Base Camp at Puente Roto (4,600m/15,000ft)
- Day 20 Climb to Nido del Condór High Camp (5,500m/18,000ft)
- Day 21 Climb to the summit of Illimani (6,438m/22,401ft) and descend to Base Camp or Pinaya
- Day 22 Return to La Paz for an evening of celebration and relaxation
- Day 23 Depart for home



▲ Trekking towards Pequeño Alpamayo. Photo: Roberto Gomez



▲ The summit of Illimani. Photo: Roberto Gomez



▲ Climbers point to the summit. Photo: Richard Riquelme

TEAM SIZE

The maximum climber to guide ratio is 4:1. The team will have a minimum size of 1 climber and 1 guide and a maximum size of 8 members and 2 guides.

THE ADVANTAGES OF CLIMBING WITH ADVENTURE CONSULTANTS

Adventure Consultants is renowned for the quality of its service and strategy applied to high altitude expedition climbing. Our reputation is attributed to meticulous planning and experienced logistics coordination. We have a philosophy of investing in every expedition to offer our climbers the best possible chance of success.

We employ strong and specialised Expedition Leaders and staff, who are some of the most pre-eminent in the industry. We pride ourselves on operating with small teams, the best backup and support available. This includes nutritious and ample quantities of food, comfortable Base Camp facilities, reliable communications systems and the necessary medical back up.

Many of our expedition members come to us because they have seen us in action on a previous trip and decide to opt for our level of service and proven experience. Others return because they know we do our very best to make expeditions safe and successful.

FOOD

During the expedition, you will enjoy high quality and nourishing food. Please indicate any specific dietary requirements you may have on your application form.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION

Expedition members will be provided with a medical questionnaire and asked to visit their family physician to receive a full medical examination. This information will be sighted by our medical adviser and the guides only and is treated with full confidentiality. Advice on immunisations will be provided at this time.

VISAS

Generally, entry visas are not required for travellers staying less than three months, but please check with your travel agent. Climbing permits are a separate matter dealt with by the expedition agent.

EQUIPMENT LIST

Expedition members will be sent a list detailing all necessary clothing and equipment to be procured.



▲Descending to Lake Cistaña. Photo: Richard Riquelme



▲Climbers on Huayna Potosí. Photo: Andrew Wexler



▲Camp life at Lake Cistaña. Photo: Erin-Leigh Hardy



▲Climbers on the summit of Huayna Potosí. Photo: Richard Riquelme



▲ Climbers descend off Huayna Potosi. Photo: Toomas Tartes

We will correspond with you prior to the trip to answer your queries and ensure you have met all the equipment requirements. Having the correct equipment is key to your performance on summit day and to achieving success.

EXPEDITION FEE

The cost of the expedition ex La Paz, Bolivia US\$4,470 or US\$5,800 including the Illimani Add-on.

This is an inclusive cost and covers the following:

- Mountain guides
- All expedition organisational requirements
- Land and lake transportation
- Hotel nights in La Paz and shared tents while trekking or climbing
- Meals while trekking and climbing
- Admissions to archaeological zones
- Group equipment and all supplies necessary to make a safe and strong bid for the summit

The expedition fee **does not** include the following:

- Roundtrip airfare to La Paz, Bolivia
- Meals except while trekking and climbing

- Personal clothing and equipment
- Personal insurance including medical evacuation and trip cancellation
- Excess baggage
- Any rescue costs
- Any costs associated with early departure from the expedition
- Gratuities to guides
- Government and airport taxes
- Inoculations

NOTE: All prices subject to change.

PAYMENT DETAILS

All payments should be made by bank transfer to the following bank and account:

Bank of New Zealand
Offshore Branch
42 Willis Street
Spark Central
Wellington
New Zealand

For the account of Adventure Consultants Limited

Account Number: 1000-594771-0000

Account Type: US Dollars

Swift Address: BKNZ22

NOTE: All bank transfer charges are for the remitter's account.

We can also accept your deposit and balance payment by credit card (Visa, Mastercard, Amex) plus a 3% credit card fee.

DEPOSIT

A non-refundable deposit of US\$500 is payable to secure a place on the expedition.

BALANCE

The balance is payable 90 days prior to the expedition start date.

CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY

An expedition member may then cancel their participation on the following basis:

- Cancellations outside of 90 days will result in the loss of the trip deposit.
- For cancellations made within 90 days of the trip commencement date we reserve the right to retain 50% of the balance payment fee.
- For cancellations within 60 days of the departure date a cancellation fee of 100% of the full fee applies.

We strongly recommend you take out trip cancellation insurance via your travel agent if you wish to be covered against cancellation due to medical or personal reasons.

HOW TO JOIN THIS EXPEDITION

If you would like to join our 2021 Bolivia—Huayna Potosi Skills Expedition, please complete our online application form at <https://www.adventureconsultants.com/expeditions/south-america/bolivia-huayna-potosi-skills-expedition/book-now> and submit your trip deposit.

CONTACT US

Please contact us if you'd like any further information or assistance in planning your trip:

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Phone: +64 3 443 8711

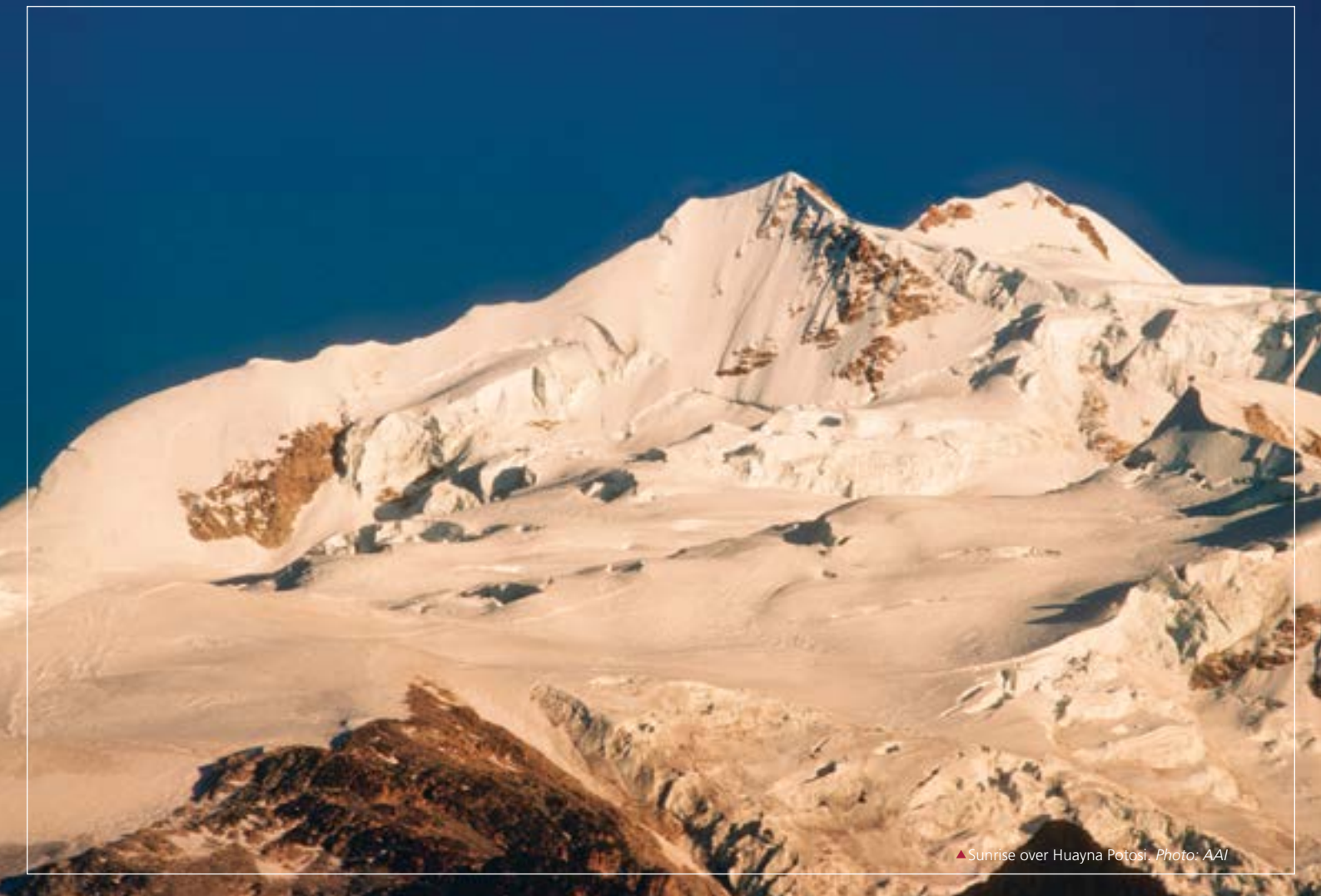
Freephone from North America: +1 866 757 8722

Email: info@adventure.co.nz

Website: www.adventureconsultants.com



▲ A friendly pack donkey at Laguna Chiar Khota. Photo: Erin-Leigh Hardy



▲ Sunrise over Huayna Potosi. Photo: AAI



Adventure Consultants is affiliated to the New Zealand Mountain Guides Association (NZMGA), New Zealand Alpine Club (NZAC) and a corporate member of the American Alpine Club (AAC). Adventure Consultants is a supporter of the dZi Foundation in Nepal for their 'Revitalise a Village' programmes.

Adventure Consultants perform to IFMGA/UIAGM standards and are world leaders in high altitude guiding.

