

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 26, 1996

MEMORANDUM

TO: Greg Cresser, State
FROM: Nicole Rabner, OFL *NR*
RE: Travelling Party to La Paz, Bolivia

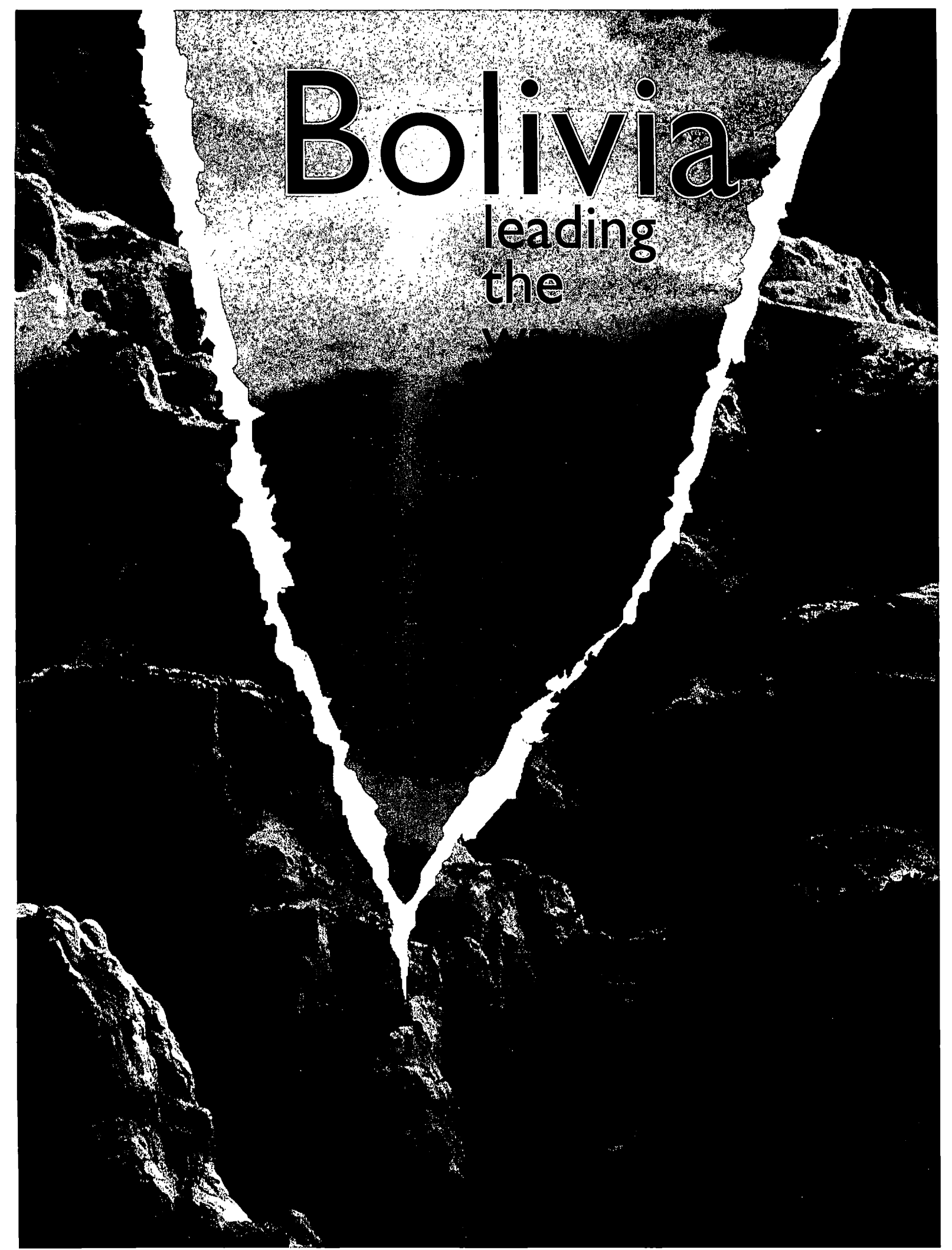
Patti Solis Doyle asked me to send a brief description to you of the responsibilities of the four people who will remain in La Paz for two days following Mrs. Clinton's departure on December 4, 1996.

As you know, Mrs. Clinton will travel to La Paz to participate in the 6th Conference of Wives of Heads of State and Government. Last year, she participated in the 5th Conference in Asuncion, Paraguay. Similar to last year, Mrs. Clinton will depart La Paz before the conclusion of the Conference. Following her departure, Ambassador Hattie Babbitt will remain in La Paz as Mrs. Clinton's official representative, and will sign the Conference declaration on her behalf. Deputy Secretary of Education Madeleine Kunin played that role last year. Donna McLarty will remain in La Paz, as she did in Asuncion, as a personal emissary of Mrs. Clinton. Last year, Mrs. McLarty paid for her own travel and hotel expenses, and it is my understanding that she intends to do so this year as well.

Remaining behind at the Conference in a staff capacity, helping to negotiate the declaration and following the issues that Mrs. Clinton will highlight, will be myself and Liliana Ayalde of USAID. She and I played the same role last year in Asuncion.

I hope that is helpful. Please call me at 456-7263 with any questions.

cc: Patti Solis Doyle



Bolivia

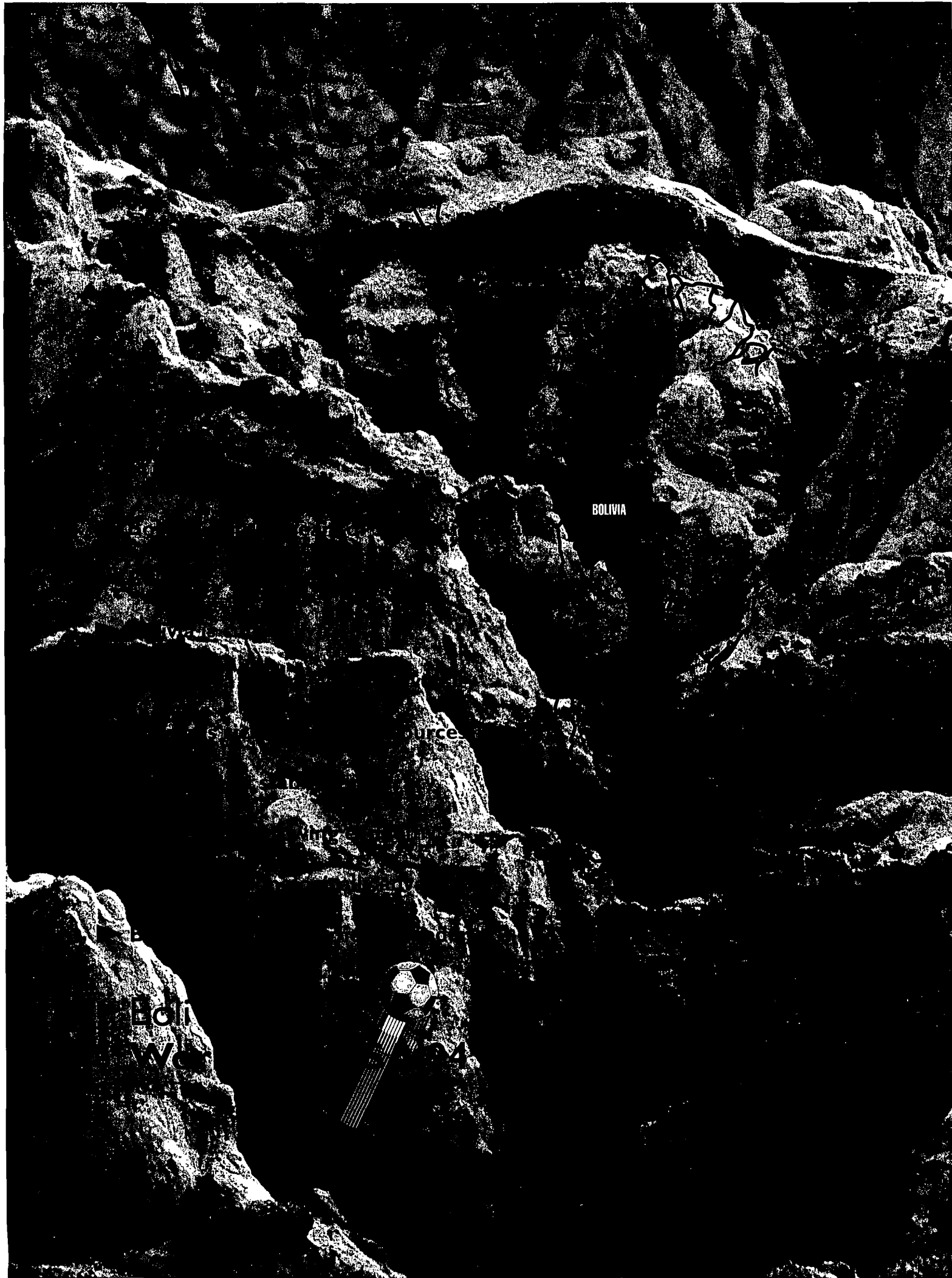
leading
the

way

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Secretariat of Industry and Commerce would like to acknowledge the support of:

- Corporación Andina de Fomento
 - Federación Boliviana de Fútbol
 - Xabier Azkargorta
 - Carlos D. Mesa Gisbert
 - Peter McFarren
 - Gabriel Mariaca
 - Willy Kenning
 - Roberto Valcárcel
 - Antonio Suárez
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- The Staff and Bolivian people and Institutions whose effort made this publication possible



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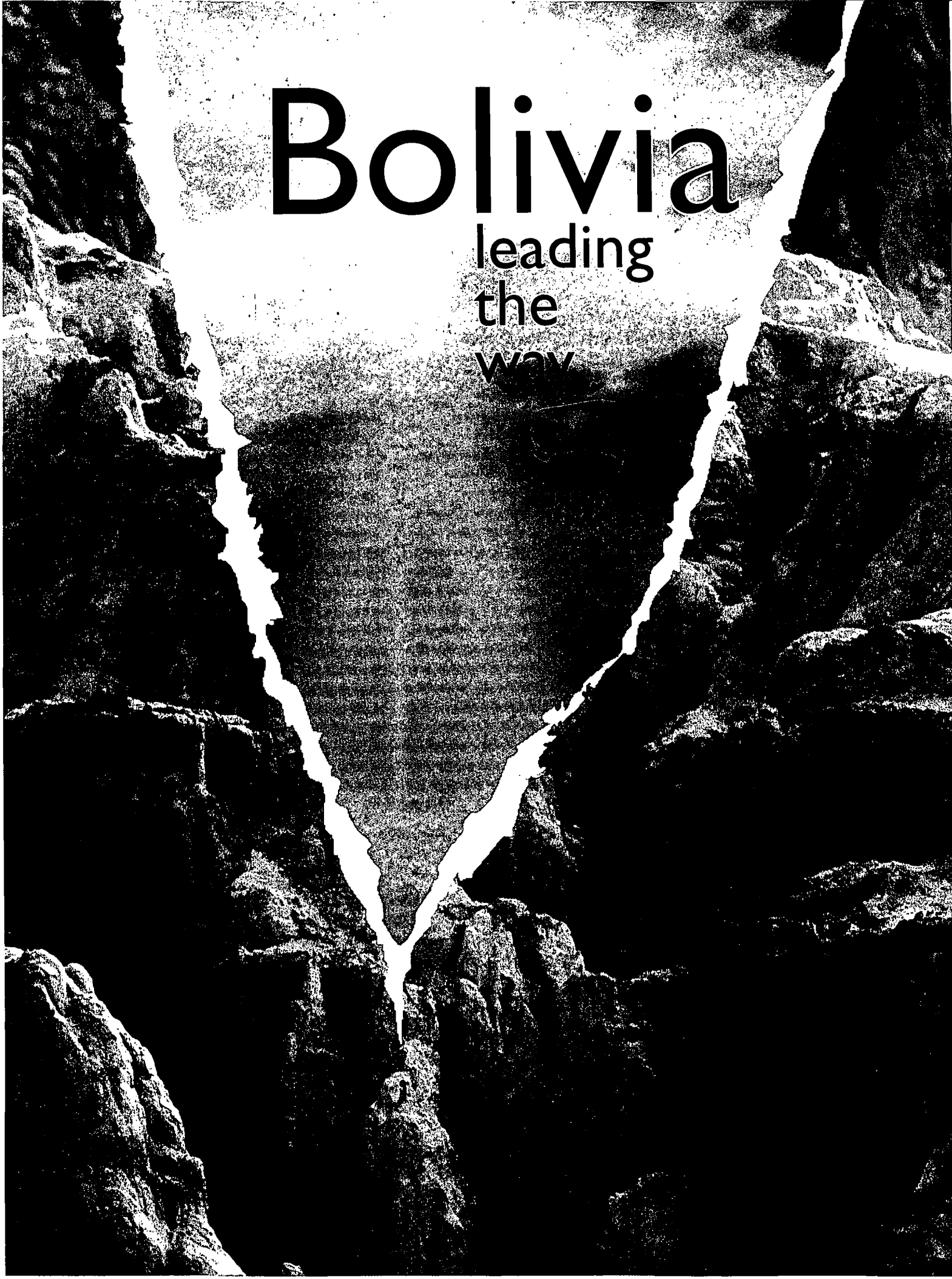
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Bolivia

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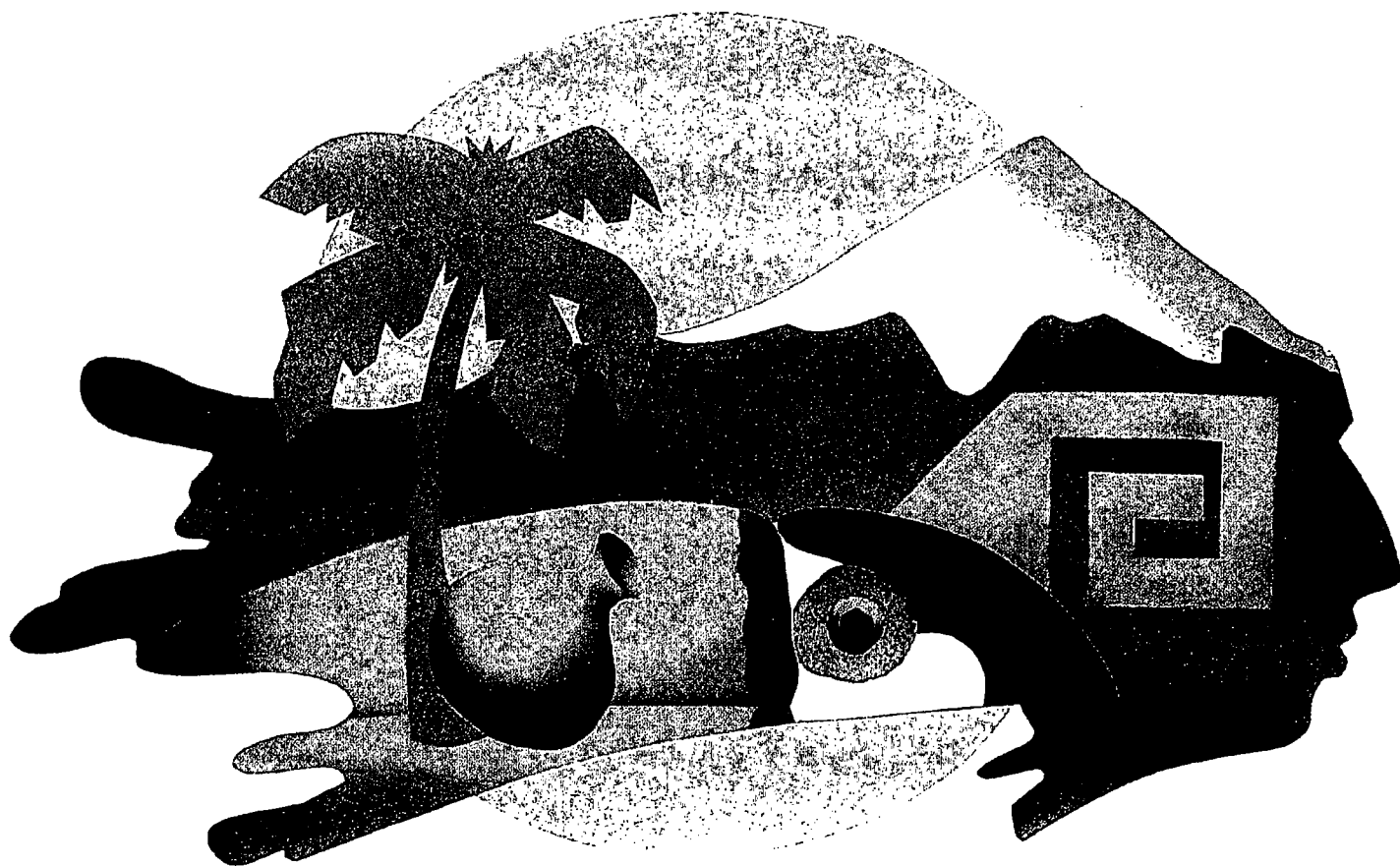
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BOLIVIA

EthnoEcoTurismo

De La Amazonia A Los Andes



EthnoEcoTourism

From the Amazon to the Andes

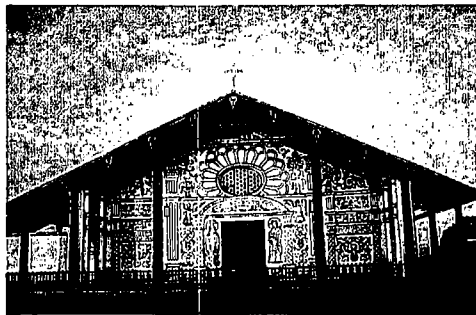
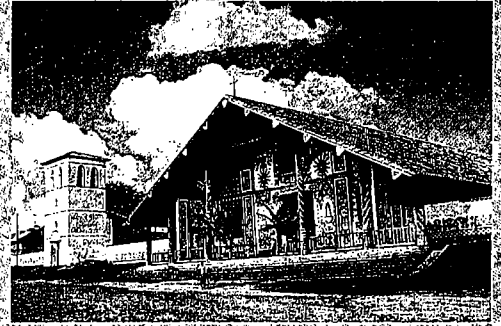
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GUIDE TO THE JESUIT MISSIONS OF CHIQUITANIA



Peter McFarren
José Bergua

SANTA CRUZ - BOLIVIA

EXPLORE BOLIVIA

Explore Bolivia offers opportunities for geographic exploration, as well as opportunities to explore your inner self. We travel by foot, mountain bike, 4-wheel drive and kayak to the few truly wild places left in the heart of the Neotropics—to remote wilderness areas long-forgotten by people who live and travel in South America.

If you want to go where few have gone, where you can wake to nature's rhythms, where your senses will peak, Explore Bolivia can take you there.

Our intimate knowledge of Bolivia makes us your best source for adventure: kayak, raft, mountain bike, trek and climb, wildlife watching, photography and overland trips.

We use top-of-the-line equipment, modern communication systems and well-maintained vehicles.

We provide quality accommodations in cities and the countryside. Our experienced, bilingual guides are Bolivian nationals who understand what it takes to get things done right in South America.

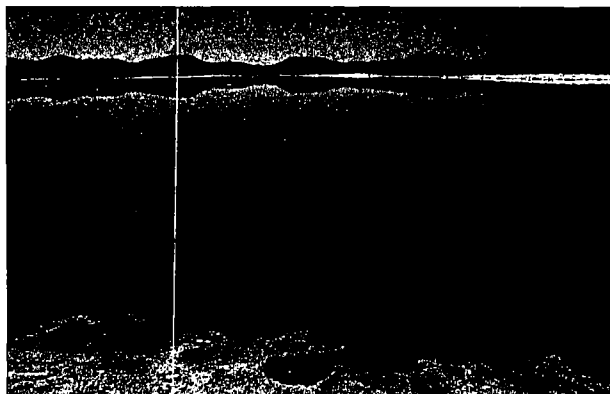
Explore Bolivia guides are passionate about outdoor pursuits. We know how to have fun. But we also respect our natural heritage and the potential perils of adventure travel—we are very safety-oriented.

All Explore Bolivia adventure tours are participatory, requiring some degree of physical fitness. A flexible state of mind and a sense of humor are also important when experiencing "Bolivian time." Remember to leave your clocks, deadlines and schedules behind so you can enjoy a state of mind where the local concept of time is measured by the seasons.

If physical challenge is not for you, try an Explore Bolivia "soft" adventure. Our guides will take you where you can learn about the complex culture and natural history of our little-known nation.

Bolivia offers something for everyone. Come with us...share the special moments and secrets of living in the heart of South America. If you want adventure, culture and geography, now's the time... Explore Bolivia!

OUR COUNTRY

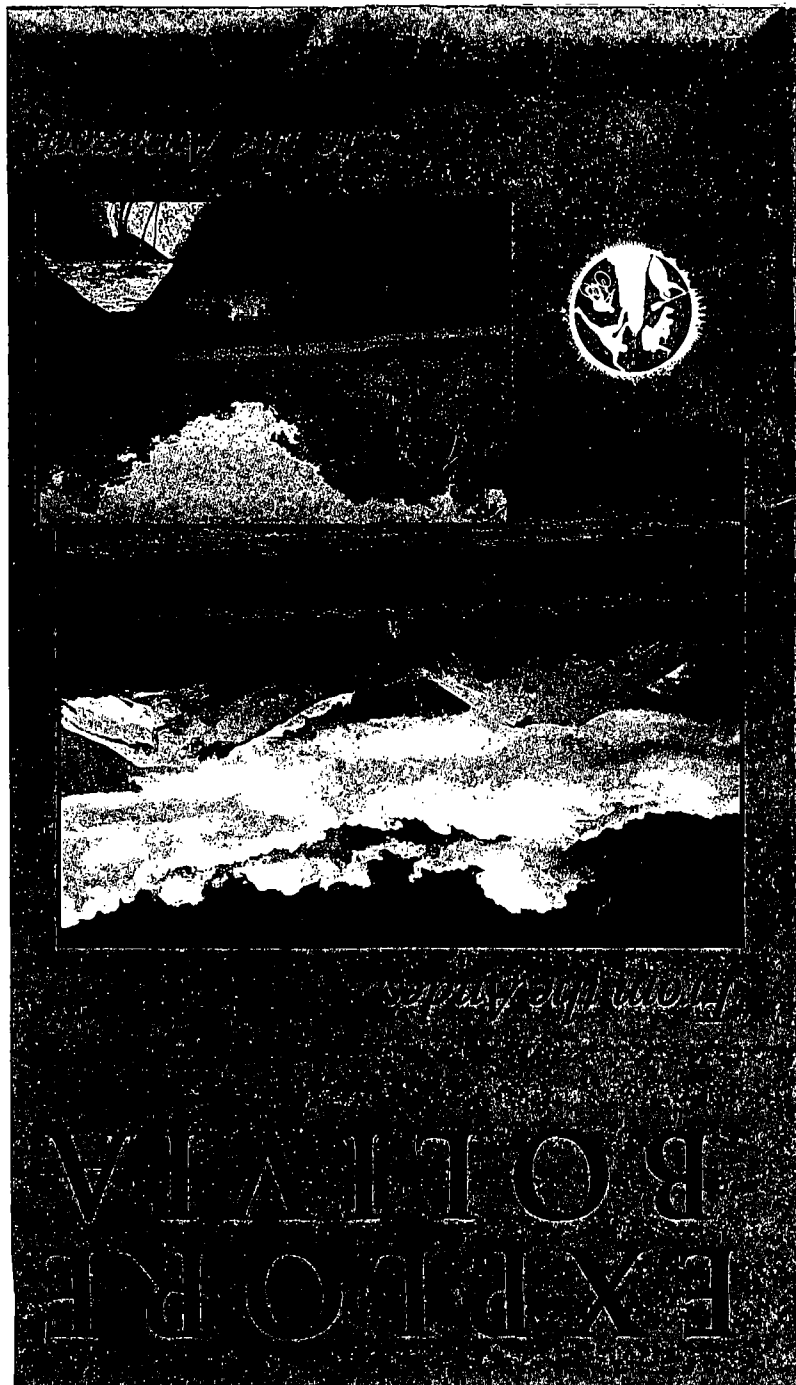


Bolivia sits in the heart, the geographic center, of South America. One of the hemisphere's two land-locked nations, Bolivia is roughly the size of Texas and California combined.

Diverse and rugged geography has slowed our country's economic development. Travel by ground is at best difficult, with more than 75% of Bolivia's roads unpaved. Most roads are located in the west, on the Altiplano, in the Andes and in the highland valleys known as the Yungas and Chapare.

Consequently, part of our adventure is simply getting to villages and towns that have been secluded for centuries. This inaccessibility is responsible for another reason to visit—to see Bolivia's impressive flora and fauna. Primitive roads have retained the pristine state of immense tracts of land. To protect Bolivia's incredible biodiversity, our government has designated millions of acres as national parks.

Bolivia is also rich in human diversity. More than 30 ethnic groups together account for more than 50% of Bolivia's population. The age-old customs, fiestas and culinary treats of the Aymara, Quechua, Tupi, and Guarani cultures are ever-present.



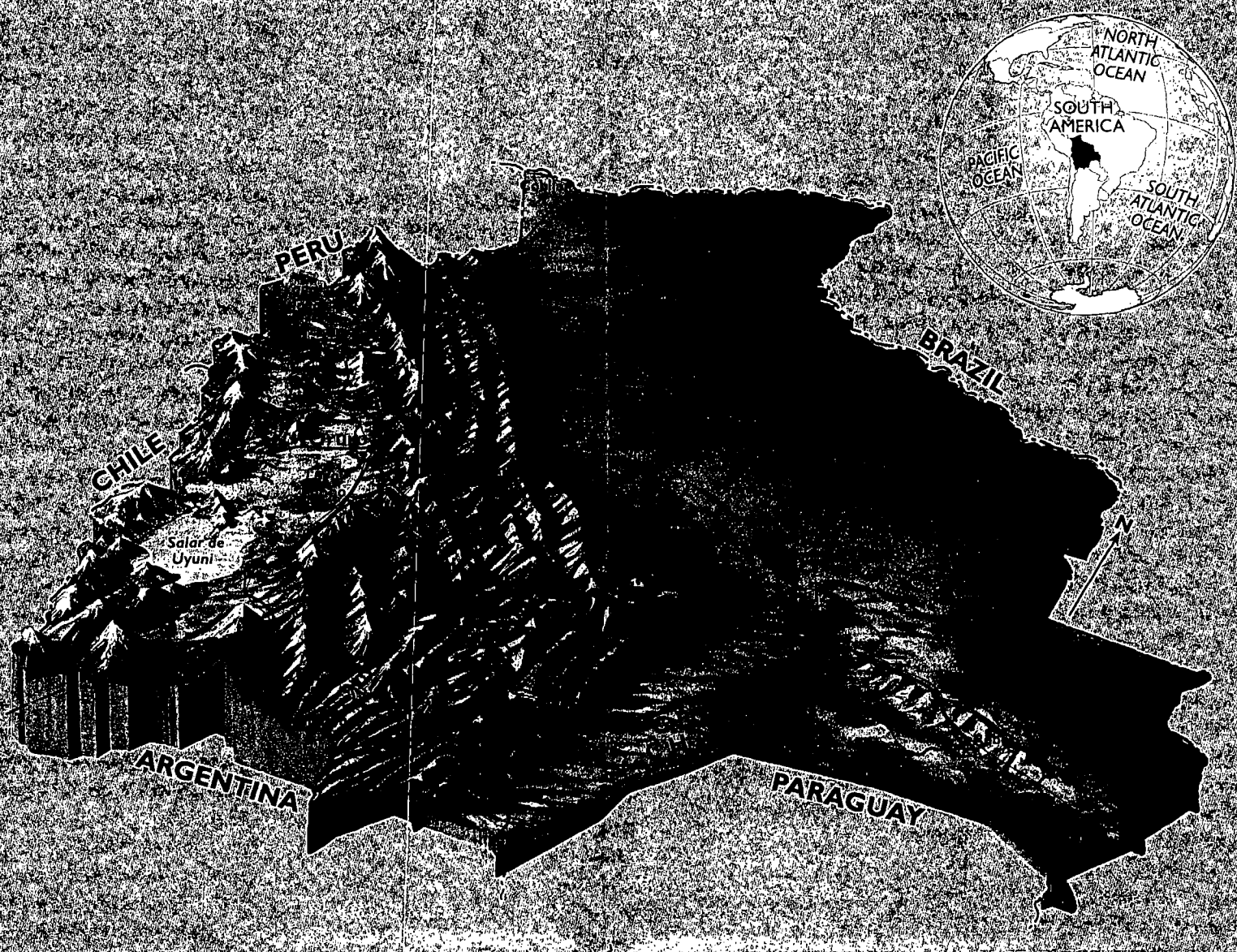
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ADVENTURE—CULTURE—GEOGRAPHY



GEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS AND CLIMATES

Bolivia is in the Neotropics. We have two seasons: wet and dry.

But altitude, not latitude, determines climate. In the Andes, we can experience all four seasons in a day: a night as cold as winter, a morning like spring, a midday summer, and an afternoon with the crisp air of autumn.

From the highlands in the west to the lowlands in the north, east and south...each has a varied geography and climate.

The Andes, the Yungas and the Chapare

The Andes Mountains divide into two branches surrounding the Altiplano, which extend to the middle of Bolivia. The western 'cordillera', bordering Peru and Chile, is volcanic. The eastern cordilleras (Apolobamba, Real and Quimsa Cruz) are some of the most spectacular glacier-covered peaks in South America.

At 17-21,000+ ft., the Andes are dotted with Inca roads and sacred sites where, for thousands of years, the Aymara and Quechua have made offerings to the gods for good crops, health and happiness. Winters are cold and windy with intense sunshine. Snow arrives in the summer.

Contrast that with the eastern slopes of the Andes, known as the Yungas and Chapare. These steep, jungle-covered mountains have a tropical climate with rain possible any time of the year. Many whitewater rivers cut their way east from the glaciated summits of the Cordilleras, emptying into the Upper Amazon Basin.

The Highland Valleys

The Highland Valleys are in the center of Bolivia, in the Cochabamba, Chuquisaca and Tarija departments. This agricultural region is known for its Mediterranean climate. The valleys and rolling hills are cut by tropical rivers draining to

the north and south.

The city of Cochabamba is known for its delicious climate, and *chicha*, its fermented corn drink, is a well-known treat folks like to sample. Birdwatchers will want to stop at Laguna Alalay.

The constitutional capital of Bolivia, Sucre, has maintained its colonial air and is home to many of the finest museums in Bolivia.

Two exceptional wildlife preserves have been established in Tarija. Sama Reserve is home to half the world's species of flamingos and a rare forest of Altiplano dwarf trees. The Tariquia Reserve is the best remaining example of the Yungas tropical cloud forest.

The Altiplano or High Plain

The Altiplano, remnant of an immense pre-historic inland sea, is flanked by the Andes Mountains. To the north sits Lake Titicaca, where, according to legend, the first Inca rulers were born on the Island of the Sun. To the ancients, Titicaca was sacred and they built temples along its shores and many islands. The second largest lake (3,500 sq. mi./1,351 sq. km) in South America, Titicaca is the world's highest navigable body of water at 12,500 ft. asl (3,810 m).

South of the lake lies the ancient port city of Tiahuanaco, partially buried by the sands of time. Once excavated, it will rival Machu Picchu as one of the most important archaeological sites in the Americas.

The Altiplano extends all the way to Bolivia's southern border with Chile and Argentina and averages 4,000 m (13,123 ft.) above sea level. Throughout this wind-swept expanse are volcanoes, canyons, salt flats, colored lagoons, and rivers. It is not uncommon to see flamingos, rheas, and cougars.

Our administrative capital city, La Paz, sits in a bowl (11,500 ft. asl/3,505 m) on the edge of the

Altiplano, next to the Cordillera Real. Between its altitude and Mt. Illimani as a backdrop, La Paz is breathtaking. No other city in the Americas has the same mix of colonial, indigenous and modern influences.

Three hours (by land) south of La Paz is the city of Oruro (12,200 ft./3,718 m). At the turn of the century, Oruro was an important mining center. Now it is known as the folkloric capital of Bolivia, where the famous Carnival and Dance of the Devil take place each February.

Further south and east is Potosi, the highest city in the world (over 13,000 ft. asl/3,962 m). In 1672, it was also the largest city in the New World, due to the Spanish who found silver in a hill at the edge of the city. How much? It has been said that the silver mined in this city could build a bridge across the Atlantic. Now Potosi is the site of over one hundred churches, the Spanish mint and an incredible array of mansions and haciendas.

The Upper Amazon Basin

The Upper Amazon Basin in Bolivia is the best of what's left of the real Amazon. Bordering Peru and Brazil, these tropical lowlands are the least-known regions of Bolivia. Encompassing the largest land-mass in the country, this region is thick with jungles, huge slow-moving rivers, vast grassy savannas, rocky escarpments, and floodplains. It is full of wildlife—caiman, giant river otter, monkeys, jaguar, anacondas and birds. It's not unusual to see over 200 species of birds here in one day.

The Gran Chaco

The Gran Chaco is the hottest and least visited area in Bolivia. A dry and dusty desert with few roads, the Chaco is full of cacti, thorny plants and wildlife. Because few humans can tolerate the climate, the Chaco has become a refuge for large mammals like the jaguar, peccary, and tapir.

TREKKING THROUGH BOLIVIA'S HIGHEST RANGES

At its peak, the Inca Empire extended from present-day Ecuador to Chile. The Inca road system, greater than the Roman Empire's, assimilated cultures, united regions, and spread the worship of the Sun.

These roads were built to last. To this day, Bolivia has many passable Inca roads, including two of the best preserved in the Andes, the Takesi and Choro. Join us, trek the same roads travelled by the great Inca armies through the Apolobamba, Real and Quimsa Cruz regions.

Assisted by porters and pack animals, our trek begins in the dry western foothills of these Cordilleras (mountain ranges). We head east across the Andes. Magnificent glaciated peaks are barriers to the tropical winds from the Amazon Basin, creating the lush high montane cloud forest. On the eastern slopes of the Andes, the steep jungle-covered mountains and canyons of the Yungas region are eroded by powerful whitewater rivers that head into the Upper Amazon Basin.

We head back to La Paz by 4wd vehicle. The road from the heart of the cloud forest to the vast expanse of the Altiplano will take your breath away.



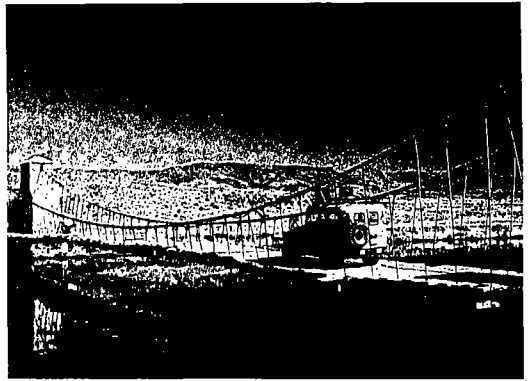
MOUNTAINEERING IN THE BOLIVIAN ANDES

Arriving in the pre-dawn light of an Andean sunrise, you will experience the view that only an Andean condor, soaring majestically over the Cordillera Real (Royal Mountain Range) usually sees. Leaving El Alto, the world's highest commercial airport, looking east, you see clearly the dimensions of that range: 150 miles long with six peaks over 20,000 ft.

As we descend into the basin in which La Paz, the world's highest capital city (11,500 ft./3,810 m) sits, acclimatization has begun. Before you set your spirit free in these incredible mountains, you need mate de coca (coca tea) and rest.

Acclimatization continues with a trek near Lake Titicaca, then another through the mountains to a basecamp with a variety of climbing options. After a week of trekking at altitudes between 12,500-16,000 ft., with some preparatory climbing up to 18,000 ft., you're ready!

It's your choice: Huayna Potosi (20,000 ft./6,096 m), only a 90-minute drive from downtown La Paz; Illimani (21,460 ft. asl/ 6,541 m), one full day to base camp; or Illampu (21,200 ft./ 6,462 m), two full days to basecamp. Whichever your choice, we will get you there. The climbing is straightforward but challenging. The views are unforgettable. Take this chance to soar in the Andes!



ALTIPLANO OVERLAND

The Altiplano encompasses almost one-sixth of Bolivia's territory. Our route takes us through the towns, villages and hamlets dotting this harsh, windswept high plain. We will cross creeks, rivers and valleys—gateways to old civilizations, ancient customs and near-forgotten traditions.

We head south and the Altiplano gradually reveals itself. Our curiosity is piqued. What is over the next hill, around the bend, across the salt flat?

This region is fickle, unfolding at its own pace. Wildlife is surprisingly abundant and we stop to watch vicuñas, Suri, eagles, falcons, viscacha and Andean geese. Flamingos at 15,000 ft? Absolutely! Look for them in the red, green and yellow lagoons.

We will camp where we want to, and revel in our freedom to do so. The views are spectacular. Villages in the middle of nowhere, ancient burial mounds (chulpas) from long-gone tribes and the world's largest salt flats are interspersed among dozens and dozens of volcanoes that make up the western border of Bolivia. Mud flats, ancient volcanic canyons and the perfect photographic light will never allow you to forget your journey through this ancient sea bed.



PHOTOGRAPHY: BOLIVIA'S HIDDEN CORNERS

Light at 12,000 ft. has the clarity and pureness that photographers crave. Add to that an incredible variety of photographic subject matter—people, landscapes, architecture and wildlife—you can't help but come home with great photos.

The marriage of many cultures with its rugged terrain makes Bolivia a "must" destination for the professional as well as the hobbyist.

You will see the faces of the most 'Indian' nation in South America. Roughly 60% are pure-blooded native Indians. You will see mestizos, descendants of African slaves, and a small population of European immigrants... people full of traditions and customs, pageantry, color and flair.

You will travel through landscapes ranging in altitude from 200 to over 20,000 ft. The rugged Andes ranges, the cold and windswept Altiplano, the tropical mountains of the Yungas region, the Upper Amazon Basin and the scrub lowlands all lie within Bolivia's borders.

Bring your camera equipment and immerse yourself in the visual smorgasbord that Bolivia provides.



MOUNTAIN BIKING IN THE CORDILLERA REAL

The dirt road that contours the multi-colored canyons in the valley of La Paz leads you to some of the best kept secrets of off-road biking in Bolivia.

Look up into the cobalt-blue sky and the winding dirt road rising up ahead and imagine you are an Inca messenger on two wheels. At first the altitude and grade make you breathe like never before. But once you have your rhythm and you crest the hill, you are face-to-face with one of the most incredible views in the Andes—the Cordillera Real in Bolivia.

The geography of Bolivia was made for knobby tires. Panoramic views will completely capture your attention. Your bike becomes your personal time machine and will take you to ancient civilizations where you'll meet the descendants of the Incas and the modern-day Aymara and Quechua Indians. Acclimatizing trips (starting at around 10,000 ft.) prepare you for the upcoming vehicle-supported overnight trips along the ridges and crests of the foothills of the Royal Range. Mountain biking in sky-high Bolivia is . . . intense!

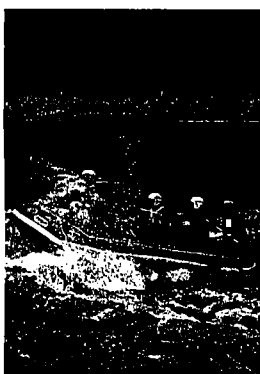


PADDLE THE WORLD'S HIGHEST NAVIGABLE LAKE: LAGO TITICACA

Nestled between the Royal Mountain Range and the Altiplano, Lago Titicaca's deep blue waters shimmer with life, providing a surreal contrast to the surrounding landscape. Island hopping, we'll visit the men who built Thor Heyerdahl's "RA" totora reed boats.

Heading north through the Straits of Tiquina, we'll camp on the Sun and Moon Islands. Here we will explore Inca ruins: ancient terraced fields and buildings. Come prepared for spectacular Andean sunrises and sunsets that will take your breath away.

Experience mythical Lago Titicaca like no one else has...via sea kayak!



TREK AN INCA TRAIL & RAFT THE COROICO RIVER

Driving up from the basin where the city of La Paz sits, you come face-to-face with the Bolivian Andes! The trail heads up to the crest of the range through rolling hills until we reach the Apacheta. On foot, we cross the pass and head down into the beginning of the Inca Trail—El Choro. The Inca road work is magnificent and one of the best preserved in the Andes. It's all downhill from here into the tropical Yungas valleys. The further we descend, the warmer it becomes—we'll shed our heavier clothes in favor of shorts and a t-shirt.

After four days of trekking, we'll be kayaking a white-water river that heads east to the Amazon. Camping along the river canyon, we'll see tropical wildlife by day and hear the jungle come alive at night.

If you want to trek an Inca trail, climb higher than you thought possible, kayak or raft steep jungle canyons through the Andes, this is the trip for you!

NATURE TOURS AND BIRDWATCHING IN THE UPPER AMAZON BASIN

One of the least developed countries in South America, Bolivia has some of the last tracts of wilderness remaining in the Americas. This is why scientists estimate that 15% (roughly 1,500) of the world's bird species can be found in Bolivia.

Our destinations are many. We travel all over the country to search out the best of Bolivia. The premiere nature and bird-watching regions we visit are Noel Kempf Mercado National Park in Santa Cruz, the Sama and Tariquia Reserves in Tarija, the flamingo paradise of Sud Lipez in Potosi, and the savannas and jungles of the Beni region.

Nature lovers and birdwatchers can enjoy pristine regions that encompass savannas, jungles, scrub forest, swamps, rivers and mountains. Quality accommodations in out-of-the-way places make your nature tour a wonderful experience.

Take advantage of what Bolivia has to offer and see what a true wildlife spectacle is waiting for you in the heart of South America.



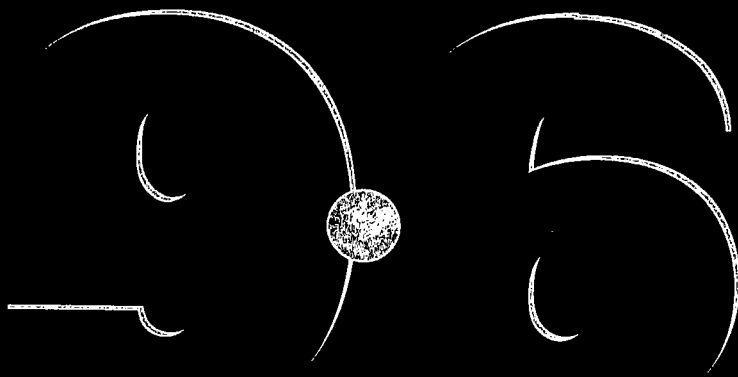
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