Travel has been my life for 20 years. St Augustine’s famous quote remains as true to me today as it was when I first set up 2by2 Holidays – “the world is a book and those who do not travel, read only one page”.

My first love was Africa, the place of my birth. Its remarkable wildlife and cultures continue to captivate me today. A recent visit to the gorillas of Uganda has starkly reminded me just how fragile the survival of so many endangered species remains. And reinforced my belief that travel must always have conservation at its heart.

In recent years I have discovered the joys of travel in the Indian subcontinent and Latin America. The iconic sites and cultures here are no less enthralling. And everywhere wildlife adapts and survives, from harsh barren deserts to cool mountain cloud forests and tropical wetlands.

My enthusiasm burns as brightly as ever and I continue to be as involved in every aspect of the business as I always have been, backed up by our superb travel team. I’m particularly thrilled that so many of our customers return time after time.

I do hope you find our latest brochure inspiring and we all look forward to hearing from you.

Hambe Kahle – Travel Safely

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Bolivia

A land of outstanding cultural richness and astonishing natural beauty, Bolivia is a microcosm of South America and a spectacular destination in its own right.

Compared to its illustrious neighbours, Bolivia can feel a little off the beaten track with fewer luxuries on offer and comfortable but unassuming hotels. However, visitors are warmly welcomed and can enjoy one of the most authentic and comfortable but unassuming hotels.

High in the Andes, Bolivia’s capital La Paz is ringed by volcanoes, some over 6,000 metres. Traditional markets are everywhere, including the famous Witches Doctor’s Market, characterised by indigenous women wearing their iconic bowler hats and bright clothing. Spanish and pre-colonial cultures meld easily, which is reflected in the varied choice of great food and drink. Plaza Murillo lies at the heart of the colonial centre and there is no better way to take in the magnificent setting than by the Mi Teleferico, the world’s longest urban cable-car network.

Named in 1825 after Simon Bolivar, the great Venezuelan independence leader, Bolivia is land-locked by Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina, Chile and Peru. The Spanish governed it as part of Peru and it was the silver from Bolivia’s mines that financed its Inca ruins and thought to be the birthplace of Inti, the Inca sun god. To the south of the lake, the pre-Inca archeological site of Tiwanaku dates back as far as 1580 BC. Sweeping north and east from Lake Titicaca, Bolivia’s chilly highlands give way to hot and steamy Amazonian jungle that stretches all the way to Brazil. Here the Madidi National Park encompasses both glacier-covered peaks and the wildlife-rich tropical rainforests of the Upper Amazon Basin. Most trips into Madidi and the Amazon begin at Rurrenabaque with many visitors choosing to stay in rainforest lodges run by the local indigenous people. The northwest lowlands town of Trinidad, set beside the Mamore River, is one of the best birding cities in the world and also famous for its river tours to spot bufelo, or pink dolphin.

In the southwest, Uyuni is the gateway town to a unique natural wonder, the remarkable Salar de Uyuni salt flats. Once part of a vast ‘super lake’, the variation in altitude of less than one metre means that even when it rains, there is only a shallow sheet of water and it is still possible to drive across. Extending over 4,000 square miles, the sky and land appear to merge into one incredible landscape. Stay in a hotel built from the local salt or overnight on the salt flats in a luxury Airstream campervan.

Travelling overland from Uyuni, the remote Eduardo Avaroa Reserve (REA) is home to a stunning collection of coloured lakes, including the green Laguna Verde and red Laguna Colorada. Often called Bolivia’s Yellowstone, here you can see active volcanoes, geysers, hot springs and fumaroles as well as vicuna, Andean fox and other small mammals. Over 80 bird species live in this high altitude rocky desert too, including three different types of flamingo.

When to go

May to October is the best time to visit Bolivia, as this is the dry winter season, although climate varies more as a result of altitude than it does between seasons. In the altiplano highlands it can drop below freezing. September and October are warmer, as this is the beginning of spring. The rainy season runs from November to March and should be avoided.

Across Bolivia

DAY 1
Arrive in Santiago in Chile, with city tour.

DAYS 2/4
Fly to Atacama salt flats, viewing El Tatio Geysiers & Moon Valley. Visit Tarapaca and San Pedro de Atacama.

DAY 5
Travel overland to Ojo de Perdiz, viewing the lagoons of REA, Polques hot springs, Sol de Mañana sulphur springs & Sitoli Desert.

DAY 6
Drive through dramatic scenery of lagoons, volcanoes & the Train Cemetery to Colchani.

DAY 7
Explore the spectacular Salar de Uyuni salt flats.

DAY 8
Fly to La Paz, with city tour.

DAYS 9/10
Drive to Puno in Peru, with boat ride to Sun Island on Lake Titicaca. Visit Uros & Taquile Islands.

DAYS 11/13
Train ride to Cusco, with tour of its Inca ruins.

DAYS 13/14
Explore the Sacred Valley of the Incas & visit Machu Picchu.

DAY 15/16
Fly to Lima, with city tour/Depart From $5,695 per person sharing including flights, mid-season.

This is an example itinerary – see page 5 for key. For more ideas, information and prices please call us on 01582 766 122 or visit www.zerbiholidays.co.uk.
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