



Bolivia Mini Mission

August 31, 2025 — September 3, 2025

Starting at: \$1,400



OVERVIEW

The Need

Join IMR on the inaugural mission to Santa Cruz, Bolivia. Physicians, mid-level providers, nurses, CNA's, EMTs, paramedics, and non medicals are welcome to participate in this amazing outreach.

The Santa Cruz region in Bolivia faces significant healthcare challenges that require immediate and sustained attention. Rural areas such as La Guardia, San Carlos, and Santa Rosa have limited access to essential medical services. There is only one General Practice Physician per every 3,200 inhabitants in San Carlos, highlighting the severe shortage of healthcare professionals.

The region is plagued by chronic diseases such as cancers, with cervical, prostate, and breast cancers being particularly prevalent. Cervical cancer alone accounts for 22% of all female cancer cases. Infectious diseases like malaria, Chagas disease, dengue fever, and yellow fever are common due to inadequate

sanitation and medical services in rural areas. For instance, Chagas disease is highly prevalent in Bolivia, with the Santa Cruz Department having one of the highest infection rates among women of reproductive age.

The healthcare infrastructure is insufficient to make the gains they desire and there is a shortage of medical personnel, medicines, and hospital beds, exacerbated by multiple factors.

Many households face catastrophic health expenditures, with many households across Bolivia experiencing financial hardship due to health costs each year. This is particularly true for indigenous communities and informal laborers who lack health insurance coverage.

Maternal and child healthcare is another critical area. Congenital Chagas disease is a significant concern, with high infection prevalence among women of reproductive age.

HIV/AIDS prevalence is higher among certain populations. Other infectious diseases like leptospirosis, hepatitis A, and typhoid fever are also prevalent due to poor sanitation and limited medical services.

Our Work

IMR has been approached to conduct day clinics in schools and community centers to focus on preventive work, ensuring early diagnosis and treatment of common health issues. As with all of our work around the globe, education is key to multiplying impact. Local caregivers, providers, nurses and educators, will join us and learn components on how to stay healthy and care for their loved ones, focusing on preventive care and healthy lifestyles. By engaging local clinicians, IMR can train local healthcare professionals to enhance the capacity of the existing healthcare system.

Engagement of the community is imperative. IMR will work closely with local communities, including indigenous populations, to raise awareness about health issues and promote culturally appropriate health services.

With diligent planning and preparation, IMR is dedicated to ensuring that specific goals are met on our missions, each in correlation to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 3, 6, and 17.

IMR works to elevate vulnerable populations through shoulder-to-shoulder care with our local partners, creating workforce density, and a cadre of future healthcare and public health leaders in association to UNSDG 3: Good Health & Wellbeing.

Our medical mission teams also work toward UNSDG 6: Clean Water & Sanitation by supporting and strengthening the participation of local communities in improving their water quality, and installing water filtration systems that supply communities with clean drinking water and providing education on hydration and

hygiene.

In correlation with UNSDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals, our organization works in collaboration and at the request of local hosts where we are under their direct influence and affluence. IMR never goes into a country without a formal invitation where there is a great community need for medical or dental care, and health education.

This Mission

Addressing Healthcare Needs in a Vibrant Region

Santa Cruz, Bolivia, is a city nestled in the heart of South America, known for its rich cultural heritage and diverse population. With a metropolitan area population of approximately 1.856 million people, Santa Cruz is the largest city in Bolivia, boasting a unique blend of mestizo, Spanish, and indigenous identities.

From the bustling city streets to the surrounding rural areas, Santa Cruz offers a mix of urban and rural landscapes. The city's multicultural population, comprising 57% mestizos, 30% indigenous groups, and 13% Europeans, adds to its vibrant cultural tapestry. However, despite its beauty and resilience, the region faces significant healthcare challenges.

The healthcare system in Santa Cruz is marred by several issues, including limited access to medical services, particularly in rural areas. The city and its surrounding communities suffer from a shortage of healthcare professionals, with only one General Practice Physician per every 3,200 inhabitants in some areas.

Chronic and infectious diseases are prevalent, with cancers such as cervical, prostate, and breast cancers being major health concerns. Infectious diseases like malaria, Chagas disease, and dengue fever also pose significant health risks due to inadequate sanitation and medical services.

The region lacks adequate healthcare infrastructure, with limited hospital beds, medical equipment, and specialized services. Many households face catastrophic health expenditures, exacerbating the financial burden on already vulnerable populations. The lack of clean drinking water, sanitation, and reliable transportation further compounds the poor living and health conditions.

Our medical mission aims to address these critical healthcare gaps by providing comprehensive medical, dental, and education services to the underserved communities in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. This team will conduct clinics in schools and community centers to focus on preventive work, ensuring early diagnosis and treatment of common health issues.

Like to teach? This team will enhance the capacity of the existing healthcare system by training local healthcare professionals. The education of locals on how to stay healthy and care for their loved ones, focusing on preventive care and healthy lifestyles.

Lodging/Transportation

You and your team will enjoy a clean, comfortable lodging location during your stay. Single Supplement options are available for those who prefer a private room, subject to price and availability at the time of booking. We strive to ensure a relaxing and convenient environment for all participants.

Highlights

The mission to Bolivia offers a unique and enriching experience, with countless highlights that will stay with you long after you return home. Bolivians are known for their warmth, resilience, and deep sense of community, making it a privilege to serve alongside them. You'll have the chance to witness their incredible spirit firsthand, as well as explore Bolivia's breathtaking landscapes—from the stunning salt flats of Uyuni to the high-altitude wonders of La Paz. Providing medical care to grateful patients in underserved areas is an incredibly rewarding part of the mission, as you see the direct impact of your work on their health and well-being. Through these connections and acts of service, you'll not only help improve lives today, but also contribute to building a healthier, more resilient tomorrow for the Bolivian people. This mission isn't just about providing care—it's about transforming communities and shaping a brighter future for all.



ITINERARY

This itinerary is subject to change without notice.

Please note: You will be notified about the group flight option prior to the Early Bird deadline. Domestic flight arrangements should not be made until after the group flight is booked.

If you choose to fly independently, transportation between your arrival airport and your IMR accommodation is not included. If you wish to arrange transportation, you can contact flights@worldwidenavigators.com.

*If you have any questions regarding flights, please contact flights@worldwidenavigators.com.
Thank you.*

Sunday, August 31, 2025

Arrivals and Orientation

You and the team will fly into Viru Viru International Airport (VVI) in Santa Cruz de la Sierra. Upon arrival, your team will transport to your accommodations in Ibarra where you can check in and freshen up. You will enjoy a hearty dinner and attend the team orientation to prepare you for the upcoming week of clinic. Your

team leader will assign roles for clinic, address IMR's clinic protocols, and discuss the communities you will be serving in and around Santa Cruz.

Monday, September 1, 2025

Clinic

After a hearty breakfast of local cuisine at your hotel, you will head to your first day of clinic! Patients of all ages will be lined up to greet you as the team arrives, excited to receive the medical care that is so difficult for many of them to attain.

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

Clinic

You will likely see many patients living with diabetes and heart disease. Not only can you offer treatment for acute symptoms, you will have the opportunity to provide patients with education on their conditions and the lifestyle changes that can help improve them.

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Departures

If you are heading home today, you may schedule your flight for any time you wish. Schedule a late afternoon or evening flight if you are interested in joining the team to provide training for local healthcare providers to continue IMR's long-term, sustainable education efforts. Education is as important as medical and dental care for our patients. Each clinic includes basic health education according to the specialties and skills of the IMR volunteers, as well as the needs of the local people. When communities become empowered to take health and wellness issues into their own hands, they become self-sufficient. IMR provides learning opportunities for the local communities through classes and hands-on learning to sustain their well-being beyond our visit.



EXTENSIONS

After your mission, there are incredible post-mission activities available to extend your experience and explore the beauty and culture of Bolivia. You can take a scenic trip to the Salar de Uyuni, the world's largest salt flat, where the stunning, otherworldly landscape offers a once-in-a-lifetime photo opportunity. For those interested in history and culture, a visit to the ancient Tiwanaku ruins or the historic city of Sucre provides insight into Bolivia's rich heritage. Adventure seekers can trek through the Madidi National Park or enjoy the unique wildlife and dramatic scenery of the Amazon Basin. Whether you're looking to relax in the high-altitude tranquility of Lake Titicaca or explore the vibrant streets of La Paz, Bolivia's diverse offerings provide the perfect way to reflect on your mission experience while continuing to immerse yourself in the country's incredible culture and landscapes.



FLIGHTS AND PRICES

Minimum Donation

Your generous donation helps to save and change lives every day

Your generous donation of **\$1400** will go toward the ongoing global relief to care for the underserved and vulnerable people of this community. As a member of this medical mission team, you will elevate the long-term impact of sustainable, capacity-building efforts that improve the health, wellness, and quality of life of those most in need. A small portion of your donation includes:

- Clinic supplies and medications for patients
- Clinic participation
- Transportation, accommodations, and meals as outlined in the itinerary

Donation Payment Deadlines

\$1300 due by June 2, 2025

\$1400 due by August 3, 2025

Early Bird Savings Opportunity

To be eligible, upload all your required documents and forms, and make a minimum of 50% of your donation payment by .

FLEXIBLE FLIGHT OPTIONS

Volunteer with Airfare

You may choose to book a flight with us for an additional fee. Details on the available flight routing and US departure city will be announced on . Airport transportation to and from the team's accommodations are also included with this option. Depending on your departure city, you may still need to purchase another flight in addition to this one. After this flight has been booked, you may contact our travel agent, Worldwide Navigators, for assistance booking any necessary additional flights.

Benefits of Flying at a Group Rate

- Travel with other members of your team on select routing
- Fly on a group ticket at a guaranteed rate
- Transport to and from the airport included

Volunteer without Airfare

Many team members choose to book their flight(s) to and from the mission location independent of IMR. This is a great option if you would like to extend your stay in the area to tour and explore, or if the routing from your home airport is more feasible for you. If you choose to fly independently, please note that your transportation in between the airport and the team's accommodations will not be provided. This will need to be arranged separately. Our partner for travel, Worldwide Navigators, would be happy to assist you in coordinating flights and/or transportation. You can contact them at travel@worldwidenavigators.com.

Benefits of Flying Independently

- Extend your stay and customize your dates of travel
- Choose your departure location
- Customize your class of service

Featured Enhancements

Airfare & Airport Transfer:

Starting at \$50+ each way plus airfare that is subject to availability at the time of booking.

Single Supplement:

\$100 per night

Airport Transfers (for independent flyers):

\$50 each way

Malpractice Insurance:

\$129.50 to \$279.50

Continuing Education (CE/CME) Credits:

\$350

Personalized Scrubs (2 sets):

\$50

IMR T-Shirt:

\$15

Partner Program:

Starting at \$25 per month

*** To purchase any of the above Featured Enhancements for your mission please contact our office at office@imrus.org or call at (970) 635-0110*

Your Donation to IMR for Your Mission Cost Includes:

All group costs from the time you arrive at the team meeting point in country until you separate from the team or when the team arrives at the departure airport, including:

- Transportation
- Lodging
- Costs associated with the clinic
- Food
- Tips for services provided to the IMR team
- All logistics, including translation services and security as needed

Additional Costs That You Are Responsible For:

All group costs from the time you arrive at the team meeting point in country until you separate from the team or when the team arrives at the departure airport, including:

- International and Domestic flights to the country. [You have the option to](#)

[fly independently, or on a group flight with IMR](#)

- Passport fees, visa fees, and transit fees, including baggage or overnight accommodations/meals while in transit
- Required or recommended insurance
- Vaccinations and medications common for travel
- Spending money for souvenirs and personal purchases
- Required or desired mission supplies, personal equipment, or small gifts for the special people you meet
- Any lodging, meals, and transportation outside of the scheduled team mission, payable at the time of service to the local vendor
- COVID-related fees such as testing, vaccinations, and quarantines as required by incountry arrival/departure or USA arrival/departure