

Sur Lípez and Reserva Avaroa

In the southwestern most point of Bolivia, in the corner where the borders of Chile and Argentina meet, SERNAP (Servicio Nacional de Areas Protegidas) has established an Andean wildlife refuge (Reserva Nacional de Fauna Andina) of Eduardo Avaroa. The reserve and surrounding area contain a variety of interesting natural and man-made sites that draw thousands of visitors. Many travelers combine their trip to the Salares of Uyuni with one to Sur Lípez.



- The Lagunas: The famous Green and Red Lakes are here as well as many other lagoons of varying colors and smells. The brinish waters of the lagoons contain many varieties of algae that during daylight hours gradually change the color of the lakes from azure to various shades of red and green. Many of the lakes provide a home for large flocks of flamingos.
- The Desierto de Dalí: Similar to the Atacama Desert in nature, this desert contains many surrealistic rock formations and other landscapes caused by wind and water erosion over the centuries.
- Fumarolas: Since most of the mountains in this area are volcanic in nature, geysers and hot springs dot the area. The greatest concentration is found in the Salar de Challviri.
- El Sillar: Near Tupiza, the mountains in this area resemble a lunar landscape.
- Villamar: Just north of the wildlife preserve is Villamar with its yet to be identified prehistoric cave paintings.
- Chulparcs: In Villamar and other locations in Sur Lípez, travelers may visit magnificent chulparcs, pre-colombian burial chambers, some of which have been restored.
- Volcano Licancabur: Spectacular volcanic peak surrounded by lakes.



[Restored Chulparc]

Most travelers use Uyuni as a gateway to Sur L pez. See Bolivia Today's feature article entitled **El Blanco Gigante: Salares de Uyuni** for details. Another possibility for a gateway is Tupiza, which has a number of tourist attractions of its own. For more information on this town, go to: www.tupiza.org.

A number of tour agencies offer tours of the Uyuni Salt Flats and Sur L pez. The agencies listed below are recommended. The information was taken from a larger list of tour operators compiled SERNAP and posted at: http://www.bolivia-rea.com/index.php?pg=main_oper.php.

Andean Summits	La Paz	Tel. 242-2106	info@andeansummits.com
Hidalgo Tours	Potos�	Tel. 622-5186	uyusalht@ceibo.entelnet.bo
Magri Turismo	La Paz	Tel. 244-2727	info@magri-amexpress.com.bo
Tawa Tours	La Paz	Tel. 233-4290	tawa@caoba.entelnet.bo
To�ito Tours	Uyuni	Tel. 693-2094	to�itotours@yahoo.com
Queen Travel	La Paz	Tel. 277-3609	info@boliviatravel-queen.com



Photographs Courtesy Hidalgo Tours:

<http://www.sandico.us/olker/salardeuyuni/bh.htm>