

Bolivia Pigeon Hunt

Pigeon Palace Lodge

Thank you for choosing Trek Safaris and Pigeon Palace Lodge as your next hunting adventure. Please find below information that will be helpful in planning.



Thank you for choosing Trek Safaris and Pigeon Palace Lodge as your hunting destination. The information included in this itinerary is designed to serve as a guide for planning and logistical purposes.

Note: This is a standard trip itinerary. If your trip has been customized and differs from what is shown below, you should have received a personalized letter from Trek outlining your specific trip. Please feel free to call the Trek office if you have any further questions.

All U.S. citizens must possess a valid U.S. passport with at least six months validity from the time of your return date on your scheduled trip.

U.S. Citizens will need a visa to travel to Bolivia, this visa will be obtained upon arrival into Santa Cruz. Trek will provide you with direction on the process and what documentation is required. Non U.S. Citizens should check with their respective consulates to determine what documentation they might require for entry into Bolivia.

VERY IMPORTANT – Please be sure to bring your passport when you travel to Bolivia. You cannot enter Bolivia without a valid passport.

International airfare is not included in your trip fee, however Trek will be happy to assist you with these flights should you require it.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

The preferred travel route to reach Bolivia is an American Airlines flight from Miami that departs at approximately midnight, arriving Santa Cruz, the following morning (subject to change). The flight will make a brief (45 minutes give or take) stop in La Paz to let off and load passengers. While you usually will not leave the plane, please be aware you might experience some altitude symptoms as La Paz is at about 13,000 feet in elevation. The return flight home is currently scheduled (subject to change) to depart Santa Cruz at 9:00am, arriving back into Miami around 4:00pm. Upon arriving in Santa Cruz, you will be met by a staff member from Pigeon Palace who will assist the group through customs and then provide the 3 hour ground transfer to “The Pigeon Palace Lodge”. You will have time to get settled in and have lunch before heading out for the afternoon hunt. The drives to the fields are normally 15 minutes to an hour depending on where the pigeons are feeding the time of year you are traveling.

BAGGAGE INFORMATION

VERY IMPORTANT - Please review your airlines website if you have any questions on baggage. Airline’s policies differ on the amount of checked baggage allowed. Current size restrictions on checked bags are that suitcases should be no more than 62 inches and weigh no more than 50 pounds per bag. Gun cases are counted as a piece of checked luggage. If you are connecting from one carrier to another please check with them on their policies regarding the transfer of luggage. **If you are traveling with guns, Trek highly recommends that you review the transfer of guns with your carrier, as some airlines will not transfer guns to another carrier.** Every airline requires that guns be checked as luggage, in a hard sided gun case that can be locked. With new requirements you may need to leave the case unlocked until it passes security. For any questions regarding what you can bring as carry-on luggage please visit <http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/index.shtm>. If you are in need of a gun case, AMERICASE (800-972-2737) has excellent cases and are up to date on the requirements of the different airlines. You can also check their website for more information at <http://americase.com/pages/airlines.html>.

ARRIVAL

Your trip starts with an overnight flight from Miami on American Airlines to Santa Cruz Bolivia arriving the following morning where outfitter Jose "Mozo" Vidal or someone from Pigeon Palace will be on hand to greet you and help clear your guns. After clearing immigrations and customs, you'll transfer about 3 hours to Pigeon Palace, get settled and start your hunting this afternoon. The next three days are morning and afternoon pigeon hunts. The final morning you have one last hunt then you'll transfer back to Santa Cruz, overnight and catch the day flight back on American Airlines to Miami arriving this afternoon. In total, this will be 7 days of travel and hunting. Bolivia is a very hunter friendly country allowing you to easily bring your own shotgun. As always, Trek Safaris will be happy to help with your airfare.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Located near the town of San Jose de Chiquitos in the Santa Cruz Province of Bolivia, Pigeon Palace is a spacious 5-bedroom lodge all having en suite bathrooms, A/C and maximum capacity for 10 hunters doubling in the rooms. There is a large great room with bar, fireplace, dining area and several comfortable seating corners allowing guys to stretch out and enjoy themselves. During the hot days of the season, hunters can enjoy the swimming pool at the center of the grounds. Mozo's wife Vicky is responsible for the kitchen preparing typical Bolivian meals of pork, beef, pasta and deserts. Opening its doors in 2011, the lodge has matured nicely and in the perfect location for this pigeon hunt.

TRIP ITINERARY

Day 1: Depart U.S. on an overnight flight.

Day 2: Arrive in Santa Cruz the following Morning, transfer to the Pigeon Palace Lodge, have lunch, afternoon hunt.

Day 3-4-5: Full day hunts.

Day 6: Hunt in the morning, return to lodge for lunch and transfer back to Santa Cruz for overnight at the world class Los Tajibos Hotel; **room and meals in Santa Cruz are not included in your trip** package.

Day 7: A staff member from Pigeon Palace will meet you and assist with your morning flight back to the U.S. Arrive home tonight.

Your arrival day at the lodge will be a half-day hunt. The following three days will be full hunting days. Every morning we will have an early breakfast at the lodge and then leave for the fields. Your shotgun shells and pick up boys will be waiting for you when you get to the fields. Normally, you will shoot all morning, break for lunch and a siesta at the lodge, and then head back out for the afternoon shoot. We will be shooting fields of sorghum, soybeans, sunflowers and peanuts. The hunting season takes place during the dry season so rain is not common but is still possible. Your last day at the lodge will be a half-day shoot only. After the shoot you will have plenty of time to shower, pack, and have lunch before returning to Santa Cruz and your overnight at the Los Tajibos Hotel. The Los Tajibos Hotel is a 5 star property with three restaurants, situated on a sprawling 13.5 acres. Although this night's accommodations and meals are not included in your trip fee, we will reserve your room and you'll pay the hotel directly. Mozo or someone from his staff will pick you up from the hotel the following morning and transfer you to the airport for your 9:00am departure (subject to change), arriving into Miami at 4:00pm.

THE HUNTING

We will be hunting both the Columbus Picazueros and the smaller blue-gray spotted pigeons. The pigeons in the region are considered a pest and the local Mennonite farmers welcome our hunters. The pigeons have been known to destroy an entire 70-100 acre field in one day. The countryside is very flat with normally small to medium sized-cultivated fields. Depending on the group and field sizes, we could spread the group into several fields so we can give hunters plenty of room to spread out.

Generally we will shoot over mostly grain type fields (sorghum, sunflower, milo, corn) that have recently been harvested. The pigeons normally come in groups of 5-30, making this area heaven for anyone who wants to shoot doubles. Typically, flock after flock of pigeons pour in heavily for two or three hours in the morning, slack off in the middle of the day, and resume flying two or three hours in the afternoon.



WEATHER

You can expect highs in the 50-70s and lows in the 50s from May through July and 80s-90's and lows in the 60s from August through November. Lightweight hunting boots or tennis shoes are fine. There is very little walking involved. Bring a good hat and sunscreen. Definitely bring camouflage or KAKI clothing for the hunts. Dress at the lodge is very casual. You should always bring a good pair of shooting glasses. The electricity of Bolivia is 220 volts so you might want to bring a converter if you need one. As rain is possible anytime, be sure to bring rain gear as Murphy's Law says if you have you won't need it and if you don't you will need it. As with all outdoor activities where you will be in the field, bug and mosquitoes are a possibility. With this in mind you should always bring bug and Mosquitoes repellent and if you are allergic to bee stings or something always bring whatever you need in case you are stung.

SUGGESTED CLOTHING

Dress in Bolivia is very casual. Lightweight hunting boots or tennis shoes are fine as there is very little walking involved. Bring a good hat and sunscreen for sun protection. Definitely bring camouflage or KAKI clothing for the hunts. Also bring a good pair of shooting glasses. As rain is possible anytime, be sure to bring rain gear.

SHELLS

A count of the number of boxes you shoot each day will be recorded by the outfitter and, at the end of the trip, you will be presented with a bill for the shells you have shot. As of the 2017 season, shells in Bolivia were \$15.00 per box, but shell costs are subject to change and we will make every attempt to keep you up to current on any price changes. You can pay for your shells with cash or prepay Trek Safaris with final billing. ***CREDIT CARDS ARE NOT ACCEPTED AT PIGEON PALACE***. You must purchase all your shells in Bolivia as it is against the law to bring shotgun shells with you into Bolivia. In addition to 12 and 20 gauge shells, we also have 28 gauge shells available at \$ 16.00 per box.

GUNS

You may bring your own 12, 20, or 28 gauge shotgun into Bolivia. For those who would rather not concern themselves with another piece of baggage, our outfitter does have an excellent variety of 12 and 20 gauge shotguns available on a rental basis. Mostly Benelli and Beretta automatics, call Trek for current gun list. **Lodge guns currently rent for \$ 60.00 per day.**

GRATUITIES

Suggested gratuities for the bird boys are \$ 40-\$ 50.00 per day per boy. Most groups take up a collection for the lodge staff. \$100.00 - \$120.00 per stay is suggested. It will be distributed among the cooks, maids, scouts and drivers.



MEDICAL INFO

Please check with your personal physician or the Center for Disease Control (1-800-311-3435 or www.cdc.gov) regarding inoculation information for the area you are visiting. Any prescription medication should be packed in your carry-on.

TRAVEL PROTECTION

You will find enclosed, information related to optional travel insurance. We at Trek strongly recommend that you consider taking out this coverage. With the cancellation penalties imposed by hotels, lodges, and airlines, this is your best protection in the event you are unable to travel. Plan details and contact numbers are on the brochure.

CURRENCY

The currency in Bolivia is the Bolivian Boliviano, however it is not necessary to change money, as dollars are widely accepted. To inquire about the exchange rate at time of travel, please check with your financial institution. The total amount due from your trip plus shells and incidentals can be fulfilled with a personal check or cash.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

For your convenience you can pick up your favorite type of drink at the Duty Free upon departure from your country or when you arrive in Bolivia or grab it in duty free in Miami before departure. Despite import restrictions we usually manage to carry basic Vodka, Scotch Whisky, Rum, Campari, and Gin at our open bar. Other imported liquor is not readily available in Bolivia so please bring it with you.

ELECTRIC CURRENT

One thing to keep in mind, all electricity in Bolivia is 220 volts. Most of the modern electronics like cellphones, iPad, iPod, camera chargers...etc can handle the 220v current but in Bolivia the plugs are two round holes as apposed to our two vertical rectangular ones. We recommend grabbing a couple plug adapters that can be purchased at Radio Shack or other retailers. The lodge does have a few if you are unable to find any.



IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Mozo Vidal – 011 591 7 218-9430

Giovana Jimenez Rodriguez – 011 591 7 800-0778

Esteban Andres Fernandez – 011 591 7 566-6263

Trek Safaris – 24 Hour Line – 904-273-7800

Trek Safaris – Reservations Line – 800-654-9915

trek@treksafaris.com

MOST IMPORTANT RELAX & HAVE A GOOD TIME!!



Trek International Safaris - 1503 The Greens Way - Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250
Reservations: 1-800-654-9915 - Other Business: (904) 273-7800 - FAX: (904) 273-0096
Web Page: www.treksafaris.com - email: trek@treksafaris.com

SUGGESTED PACKING LIST

- ___ Bags and suitcases
- ___ Daypack
- ___ Luggage IDs
- ___ Passport / Personal ID / Driver's License (including photocopies)
- ___ Airline Tickets
- ___ Emergency contact information
- ___ Wallet and cash
- ___ Credit/ATM Cards (set up for international use)
- ___ Check book
- ___ Correspondence related to the safari
- ___ Copies of anything prepaid to outfitter
- ___ Tooth brush, Tooth paste and floss
- ___ Razors and Shaving cream
- ___ Shampoo / Deodorant
- ___ Lip balm and sun screen
- ___ Any Medications you are taking
- ___ Prescription Eye glasses (and a spare)
- ___ Reading glasses
- ___ Sun glasses
- ___ Flashlight & batteries
- ___ Headlight & batteries
- ___ Camera & memory cards
- ___ Camera batteries and charger
- ___ Rain Jacket (camo)
- ___ Warm Jacket (dark color)
- ___ Vest (dark color)
- ___ Hunting Boots (hiking boots style is fine)
- ___ Hunting Pants/shorts (camo or green/khaki color)
- ___ Hunting shirts (green/khaki color)
- ___ Camp Clothes (pants, shorts, shirts - very casual)
- ___ Camp Shoes (flip-flops, Crocs, tennis shoes)
- ___ Swimming Trunks (for pool during warmer months)
- ___ Shooting Gloves
- ___ Ear Plugs (www.seetheshot.com)
- ___ Shooting Shoulder Pad (<http://www.midwayusa.com/product/680235/past-field-recoil-pad-shield-ambidextrous>)
- ___ Shooting Glasses (www.seetheshot.com)
- ___ Camouflage face mask for pigeon hunts

For all of your eye and ear protection needs on your hunt, we suggest contacting our friends of Ragsdale & Martin Optical at www.seetheshot.com or 903-593-8466.