



CARNAVAL DE
ORURO

BOLIVIA



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CARNAVAL DE ORURO

The Oruro Carnival in Bolivia is a folkloric and cultural festivity considered to be one of the largest and most important cultural expressions of Bolivia. Declared as a “Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity” by UNESCO since 2001. It is part of the expression, identity and heritage of the richness and cultural diversity of Bolivia as a valuable cultural heritage for humanity as a whole.

The origins of the Oruro Carnival date back to pre-Columbian America, before the arrival of the Spanish conquistadors. In this festivity you can appreciate the cultural mix of pre-Columbian heritage and Christian tradition in a great meeting of joy and color. Where the city of Oruro is currently located was a sacred place and an important ceremonial center for the pre-Columbian Uru people.

The Carnival of Oruro takes place every year, for six days between February and March. It is a dance and sacrificial pilgrimage in homage and devotion to the patron saint of miners, La Virgen de la Candelaria del Socavón, who is the Catholic incarnation of Pachamama (Mother Earth).

In a non-stop procession, more than 28,000 dancers, 10,000 musicians and more than 50 groups of different dances go through the streets of the city of Oruro as part of the Procession or “Entrada” which is the main event.



Photo given by Embassy of the Plurinational State of Bolivia in The Netherlands.

THE DIABLADA

The Carnival has around 18 dances representative of the diverse Bolivian cultures. The Diablada, as the main and most important of these expressions within the Carnival, represents the struggle of good and evil as complementary opposites. It is a narrative that, combining myth and reality, incorporates as a third element the mining experience into the mixture between the native and the Christian.

It is a dance that is able to relate the harshness of mining life, the strength and resilience of the miners, and the way in which this informs the expression of their culture and beliefs through a dance rich in characters and symbols.



Bolivia



Angel Gabriel



Dancing devil





Dancing Moreno

THE MORENADA

The Morenada recalls what slavery was like under the Spanish yoke when African slaves replaced the Mitayos in the mine work and were taken afterwards to the Yungas region (La Paz).

The Morenada represents the uprising of the blacks against the fearsome Caporal, the foreman of the Spanish exploitation and enslavement, whom they get drunk by deceit and then make step on grapes in the preparation of wine.

Women dancer



THE PUJ'LLAY

The Puj'llay, which in Quechua means "to play" or "to dance", is the commemoration of the battle of Jumbate, on March 12, 1816. Then, about two thousand Yamparaez Indians –originals from the Yamparaez region (Chuquisaca department –Bolivia)–, achieved a strategic victory against the royalist forces in the framework of the Spanish–American Independence Wars.

This dance is closely linked to the rainy season, abundance and harmony. It is a ritual that celebrates the renewal of life and the abundance brought by the rains.

In 2014, the Puj'llay dance together with the Ayarichi dance were declared Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO.



Puj'llay
man dancer

Puj'llay
women
dancer

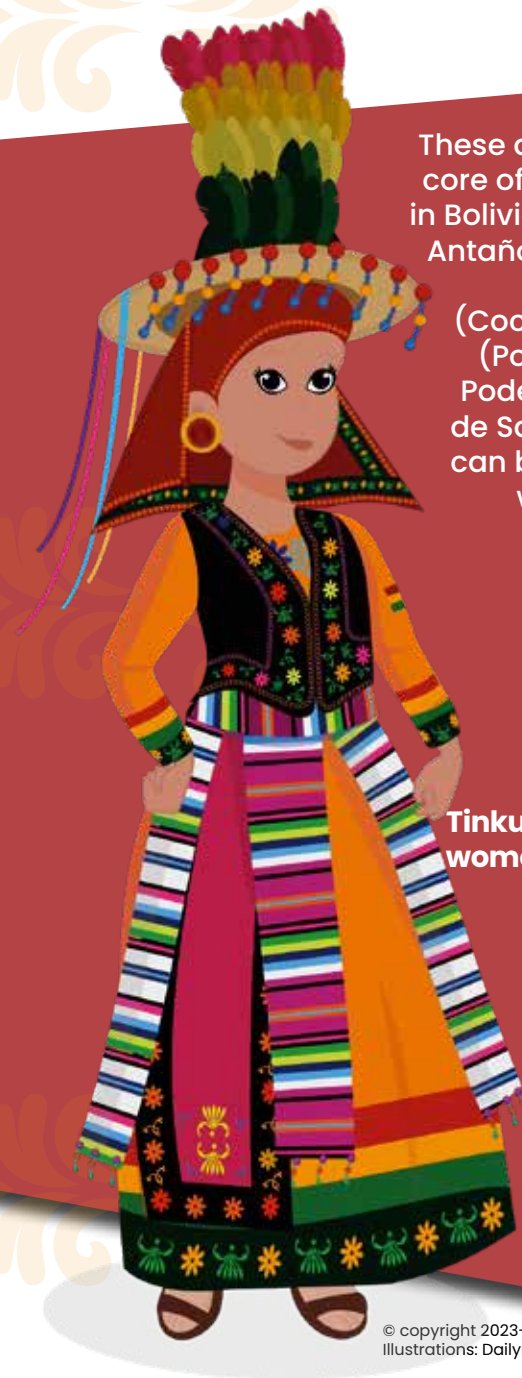
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MORENO DANCE

The Tinku dance is the folkloric expression of the pre-Inca ritual of the Tinku, practiced annually for several days in the communities of the northern region of Potosi. The Tinku served, among other intertwined meanings, as a ritual of transition from childhood to adulthood for men, but also confronted in ceremonial combat the communities in encounters where the spilled blood, or "wila", served above all to fertilize the Pachamama and thus guarantee a good harvest.

These dances also form the folkloric core of other carnivals and festivals in Bolivia, such as the Carnavales de Antaño (Sucre), Corso de Corsos or Carnaval de la Concordia (Cochabamba), Carnaval Minero (Potosí), in the Entrada del Gran Poder (La Paz), the Fiesta Grande de Santa Cruz, among others that can be witnessed, enjoyed, and in which there is much to share.



**Tinku
women dancer**

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