

**1. WHAT DO YOU UNDERSTAND BY “SALT FLATS”? ARE SALT FLATS COLD AT NIGHT AND HOT DURING THE DAY LIKE A DESERT?**

Salt flats are typical characteristic of a desert region. They are formed as a result of drying up of large water body like lake over thousands of years leaving salt and other minerals as remnants. A large source of salts, an enclosed drainage basin and an arid climate for rapid evaporation are essential geographical conditions for the formation of salt flats, also known as salt pans. There are salt flats found around the world but some of the largest examples include the Salar de Uyuni in Bolivia, the Bonneville Salt Flats in the state of Utah and those found in California’s Death Valley National Park and Rann of Kutch in India.

An arid climate is vital component of a salt flat formation as in such climate large rivers with their meandering courses and networks are rare because of lack of water sources. Enclosed drainage basin never let the water out of it thereby making suitable for the formation of salt flats. Usually, all water bodies hold a variety of liquefied minerals and as lakes dry up through thousands of years of evaporation the minerals become solids and are in rest where the lakes once were.

Like the weather condition in a desert, in a salt flat a lot of sunlight during daytime heats up the ground and intense heat wave blows across it. On other hand, during night due to escape of the heat, temperature drops very low. So, the nights in a salt flat are cooler and days are hotter like a desert.