

I'm not a bot



























Management Authority (FEMA) website. The countrywide emergency number for the police, including motor police, is 110. The corresponding number for the fire department is 119. The National Tourism Police has offices in La Paz and Cochabamba, providing free assistance to tourists. In the city of Santa Cruz, Interpol will provide the same services to tourists. These services include English-speaking officials who may assist tourists in filing police reports (lost/stolen documents or other valuables). The La Paz office is open 24 hours a day and is located at Plaza del Stadium, Edificio Olympia, Planta Baja, Miraflores, telephone number 900-14-0081. The Cochabamba office is located at Plaza 14 de Septiembre, Edificio Prefectura, tel. (591-4) 450-3880; it is open from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. seven days a week. Chapare and Yungas Regions: In the Chapare region between Santa Cruz and Cochabamba and the Yungas region northeast of La Paz, violence and civil unrest, primarily associated with anti-narcotics activities, periodically create a risk for travelers. This region is also prone to dangerous flooding due to heavy rains from December to February. Confrontations between area residents and government authorities over coca eradication have resulted in the use of tear gas and stronger force by government authorities to quell disturbances. Pro-coca groups have expressed anti-U.S. sentiments and may attempt to target U.S. government or private interests. If you plan to travel to the Chapare or Yungas regions, we encourage you to check with the Embassy's Consular Section prior to travel. Violence has also erupted between squatters unlawfully invading private land and security forces attempting to remove them. Traffic Safety and Road Conditions While in a foreign country, U.S. citizens may encounter road conditions that differ significantly from those in the United States. The information below concerning Bolivia is provided for general reference only and may not be totally accurate in a particular location or circumstance. If you plan on driving in Bolivia, despite the hazards described below, you should obtain an international driver's license through your local automobile club before coming to Bolivia. Road conditions in Bolivia are hazardous. Although La Paz, Santa Cruz, and Cochabamba are connected by improved highways, the vast majority of roads in Bolivia are unpaved. Few highways have shoulders, fencing, or barriers, and highway markings are minimal. Yielding for pedestrians in the cities is not the norm. For trips outside the major cities, especially in mountainous areas, we highly recommend using a four-wheel-drive vehicle. Travel during the rainy season (November through March) is difficult, as most routes have potholes, and roads and bridges may be washed out. Added dangers and the absence of formal training for most drivers, poor maintenance and overloaded vehicles, lack of lights on some vehicles at night, and intoxicated or overly tired drivers, including commercial bus and truck drivers. The majority of intercity travel in Bolivia is by bus, with varying levels of safety and service. Bus accidents, at times attributed to drunk drivers or mechanical failures, have caused scores of deaths and severe injuries. In recent years, there have been major bus crashes on the highway between La Paz and Oruro, Cochabamba and Santa Cruz, Oruro and Cochabamba, and on the Yungas road. The old Yungas road is considered one of the most dangerous routes in the world. Public Transportation: From a crime perspective, public transportation is relatively safe, and violent assaults are rare. However, petty theft of unattended backpacks and other personal items does occur. For safety purposes, the Embassy advises you to use radio taxis whenever possible. U.S. citizens taking unlicensed taxis have reported being robbed and assaulted. In Case of Accident: Drivers of vehicles involved in traffic accidents are expected to remain at the scene until the local police arrive. Any attempt to leave the scene violates Bolivian law. The Embassy believes any attempt to flee the scene of an accident would place the driver and passengers at greater risk of harm than remaining at the scene until the arrival of local police. Visit the Definitions and Notes page to view a description of each topic.comparison ranking: total 29comparison rankings: total 80; female 80; male 81comparison ranking: total 163comparison ranking: total 68comparison ranking: total population 161comparison ranking: total 115comparison ranking: total 122comparison ranking: Education expenditure (% GDP) 10comparison rankings: services 144; industry 103; agriculture 61comparison ranking: total 171comparison ranking: total subscriptions 89comparison ranking: total subscriptions 85comparison ranking: total 72comparison ranking: total 121 Home South America Bolivia Bolivia is a landlocked nation located in west-central South America. Covering an area of 1,098,581 sq.km (424,164 sq mi), Bolivia is the 5th largest country in South America and the largest landlocked nation in the Southern Hemisphere. As observed on the physical map of Bolivia above, the country's northern half is covered by the Andes – as three meandering high mountain chains dominate the landscape. The Cordillera Occidental (in the west) is a long line of mostly bleak, dormant volcanoes; the Cordillera Central stands in the middle, while the (eastern) Cordillera Oriental is a massive snow-capped series of stunning granite mountains. The Altiplano (a high plateau) is sandwiched between the Cordilleras. Once just deep valleys (or rifts) between the three mountain ranges, over eons of time it filled with sedimentary debris washed down from the surrounding peaks. The eastern slopes of the Cordillera Oriental descend gently into rolling hills; numerous rivers flow eastward here, forming long valleys. The highest point in Bolivia, as marked on the map as a yellow upright triangle is Nevado Sajama at 21,463ft (6,542m); while the lowest point is Paraguay River at 230ft (70m). Northeast of La Paz, the landscape descends into fertile semi tropical valleys, drained by narrow rivers. The southeast is covered by semi-arid plains that turn swampy during heavy rains. Bolivia's Altiplano contains several salt flats, the dried remnants of ancient lakes; Uyuni Saltpan (Salar de Uyuni) is the largest one, covering almost 3500 sq.miles. Also marked on the map above is Bolivia's most important lake, Lake Titicaca, located in the western part of the country along the border with Peru.Deep and cold, Lake Titicaca is at 3810 meters above sea level, being the highest lake in South America, is the highest commercially navigable body of water in the world. Salty Lake Poopo is the largest inland lake, varying greatly in size based on rainfall. Most of Bolivia's significant rivers (or rios) are located central and north. Countrywide, important ones included the Beni, Desaguadero, Guapore, Madre de Dios and Mamore. Bolivia (officially, the Plurinational State of Bolivia) is administratively divided into 9 departments (departamentos, singular - departamento). In alphabetical order, these departments are: Beni, Chuquisaca, Cochabamba, La Paz, Oruro, Pando, Potosí, Santa Cruz, and Tarija. The departments are divided into a total of 112 provinces; which are further subdivided into 339 municipalities and 1374 cantons. Covering an area of 1,098,581 sq.km, Bolivia is the world's 28th largest country and the 5th largest country in South America. It is also the 7th largest landlocked nation in the world and the largest landlocked nation in the Southern hemisphere. Located in the south-central part of the nation, at an elevation of 9,214 ft is, Sucre – the constitutional and judicial capital of Bolivia. Located in west-central part of the nation, in the southeast of Lake Titicaca, at an elevation of 11,975 ft is, La Paz - the executive and legislative (administrative) capital of Bolivia. It is the 3rd most populous city of the country and the highest national capital in the world. Situated in east-central part of the nation, in the tropical Lowlands is, Santa Cruz de la Sierra - the largest and the most populous city of Bolivia. It is the chief commercial, industrial and economic center of the country. The landlocked nation of Bolivia is located in west-central South America. It is positioned in the Western and Southern hemispheres of the Earth. Bolivia is bordered by 5 countries: by Brazil to the north and east; by Paraguay to the southeast; by Argentina to the south; by Chile to the southwest and by Peru to the northwest. Bolivia Bordering Countries: Argentina, Paraguay, Chile, Peru, Brazil. Regional Maps: Map of South America This page was last updated on February 24, 2021 Geography & Travel Countries of the World What is the capital of Bolivia? Where is Bolivia located on the world map? What are the primary languages spoken in Bolivia? What is Bolivia known for culturally and geographically? How does Bolivia's landscape vary from region to region? What is the history behind Bolivia's name and independence? Who are the indigenous peoples of Bolivia, and what is their influence? What is the economic significance of Bolivia's natural resources? Bolivia, landlocked country of west-central South America. Extending some 950 miles (1,500 km) north-south and 800 miles (1,300 km) east-west, Bolivia is bordered to the north and east by Brazil, to the southeast by Paraguay, to the south by Argentina, to the southwest and west by Chile, and to the northwest by Peru. Bolivia shares Lake Titicaca, the second largest lake in South America (after Lake Maracaibo), with Peru. The country has been landlocked since it lost its Pacific coast territory to Chile in the War of the Pacific (1879-84), but agreements with neighboring countries have granted it indirect access to the Pacific and Atlantic oceans. The constitutional capital is the historic city of Sucre, where the Supreme Court is established, but the administrative capital is La Paz, where the executive and legislative branches of government function.Bolivia is traditionally regarded as a highland country. Although only one-third of its territory lies in the Andes Mountains, most of the nation's largest cities are located there, and for centuries the highlands have attracted the nation's largest amount of mining, commercial, and business investment. In the late 20th century, however, the demographic and economic landscape began to change as the eastern lowlands—particularly the department of Santa Cruz—developed rapidly. Audio File: National anthem of Bolivia Head Of State And Government: President: Luis Arce Capitals: La Paz (administrative); Sucre (constitutional)2 Population: (2025 est.) 12,512,000 Form Of Government: unitary multiparty republic with two legislative houses (Chamber of Senators [36]; Chamber of Deputies [130]) Official Languages: Spanish and 36 indigenous languages Official Religion: none Official Name: Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia (Plurinational State of Bolivia) Total Area (Sq Km): 1,098,581 Total Area (Sq Mi): 424,162 Monetary Unit: boliviano (Bs) Population Rank: (2025) 82 Population Projection 2030: 13,321,000 Density: Persons Per Sq Mi: (2025) 29.5 Density: Persons Per Sq Km: (2025) 11.4 Urban-Rural Population: Urban: (2024) 71.5% Rural: (2024) 28.5% Life Expectancy At Birth : Male: (2022) 71.4 years Female: (2022) 77.4 years Literacy: Percentage Of Population Age 15 And Over Literate: Male: (2020) 97% Female: (2020) 91% Gni (U.S.\$ '000,000): (2023) 44,318 Gni Per Capita (U.S.\$): (2023) 3,620 The country has a rich history. It was once the center of the ancient Tiwanaku (Tiahuanaco) empire, and from the 15th to the early 16th century it was a part of the Inca empire. After the arrival of the conquistadores, Bolivia was subsumed within the Viceroyalty of Peru, and it provided Spain with immense wealth in silver. Bolivia's mountainous western region, which is one of the highest inhabited areas in the world, constitutes an important economic and political center. There the Andes reach their greatest breadth and complexity. The system in Bolivia is dominated by two great parallel ranges. To the west along the border with Chile is the Cordillera Occidental, which contains numerous active volcanoes and the spectacular Uyuni Salt Flat; the cordillera is crowned by the republic's highest peak, Mount Sajama, reaching an elevation of 21,463 feet (6,542 meters). To the east is the Cordillera Oriental, whose spectacular northern section near La Paz is called Cordillera Real ("Royal Range"). An impressive line of snowcapped peaks, some exceeding 20,000 feet (6,100 meters), characterize this northern section, which maintains an average elevation of more than 18,000 feet (5,500 meters) for more than 200 miles (320 km). Between these ranges lies the Altiplano ("High Plateau"), which extends from southern Peru through Bolivia to northern Argentina. The plateau is a relatively flat-floored depression about 500 miles (800 km) long and 80 miles (130 km) wide, lying at elevations between 12,000 and 12,500 feet (3,650 and 3,800 meters). To the north of the Cordillera Real is the Apolobamba range, bordered on the western slopes by lakes and protected areas where vicuñas, alpacas, and llamas thrive. Terraced fields built hundreds of years ago lie at the foothills of snow-covered peaks, which have been sacred to the Indians since ancient times. The surface of the Altiplano is composed mostly of water- and wind-borne deposits from the bordering mountains, and it slopes gently southward, its evenness broken by occasional hills and ridges. The margins of the Altiplano are characterized by numerous spurs and interlocking alluvial fans (accumulations of silt, gravel, and other debris that were brought down from the mountains and that have spread out in the shape of a fan). In the middle of the Altiplano are the Titicaca and Poopó lakes and basins, which traditionally have been important agricultural, economic, and cultural areas. Which Country Is Larger? Quiz From the high, snowcapped slopes of the Cordillera Real and the Apolobamba range, the descent to the eastern plains is extremely precipitous, plunging through a rainy and heavily forested belt of rugged terrain known as the Yungas—an Aymara word roughly translated as "Warm Lands" or "Warm Valleys." The Yungas form the southern end of a region that extends along the eastern Andes of Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru (where it is called the Alto Selva ["High Rainforest"]) and continues southeast through Bolivia as far as Santa Cruz. In Bolivia the name Yungas often refers to a smaller region northeast of La Paz, which, like the neighboring region of Alto Beni (the upper basin of the Beni River north of Caranavi), is part of the larger Yungas region. In southern Bolivia the Andes become much wider and are formed by a high, tilted block called the Puna, with west-facing escarpments and more gentle eastward slopes down to the plains. The Puna is broken up by the Valles, a system of fertile valleys and mountain basins that are generally larger and less confined than those in the Yungas. They lie at elevations mostly between 6,000 and 9,500 feet (1,800 and 2,900 meters) and are noted for their rich, varied agriculture and the so-called garden cities of Cochabamba, Sucre, and Tarija. North and east of the Andes and Yungas is the Oriente region, an extension of the Amazon River basin that covers more than two-thirds of Bolivia. The vast area of the Oriente is composed of low alluvial plains (llanos), great swamps, flooded bottomlands, open savannas, and tropical forests. It supports the greatest variety of wildlife in the nation, as well as the largest population center (Santa Cruz city) and the fastest-growing of Bolivia's regional economies. In the extreme south is the Bolivian Chaco, which forms part of the Gran Chaco; it is a level area that varies strikingly with the seasons. During the rainy season it becomes a veritable swamp, but it is a hot semidesert during the remaining seven or eight months of the year. Northward from the Chaco the relief of the Santa Cruz department is somewhat more varied, exhibiting a gentle downward slope to the north. The Oriente includes much of the northern departments of Beni and Pando, where the low plains are covered by savanna and, in the far north, by expanses of tropical rainforest.

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