

BOLIVIA



Country Dialling Code (Tel/Fax): ++591

Viceministerio de Turismo: Avenida Mariscal Santa Cruz, Edificio de Comunicacion, Piso 16 La Paz Tel (2)-367-441 Fax (2)-374-630 E-mail: turismo@mcei.bolivia.com Website: www.mcei-bolivia.com

Capital: La Paz **Time:** GMT - 4

Background: Bolivia, named after independence fighter Simon BOLIVAR, broke away from Spanish rule in 1825; much of its subsequent history has consisted of a series of nearly 200 coups and counter-coups. Comparatively democratic civilian rule was established in the 1980s, but leaders have faced difficult problems of deep-seated poverty, social unrest, and drug production. Current goals include attracting foreign investment, strengthening the educational system, continuing the privatization program, and waging an anti-corruption campaign.

Location: Central South America, southwest of Brazil

Map References: South America

Area: total: 1,098,580 sq km land: 1,084,390 sq km water: 14,190 sq km

Climate: varies with altitude; humid and tropical to cold and semiarid

Terrain: rugged Andes Mountains with a highland plateau (Altiplano), hills, lowland plains of the Amazon Basin

Natural Resources: tin, natural gas, petroleum, zinc, tungsten, antimony, silver, iron, lead, gold, timber, hydropower

Population: 8,152,620 (July 2000 est.)

Nationality: noun: Bolivian(s) adjective: Bolivian

Ethnic Groups: Quechua 30%, Aymara 25%, mestizo (mixed white and Amerindian ancestry) 30%, white 15%

Religions: Roman Catholic 95%, Protestant (Evangelical Methodist)

Languages: Spanish (official), Quechua (official), Aymara (official)

Economy: Bolivia, long one of the poorest and least developed Latin American countries, has made considerable progress toward the development of a market-oriented economy. Successes under President SANCHEZ DE LOZADA (1993-1997) included the signing of a free trade agreement with Mexico and the Southern Cone Common Market (Mercosur) as well as the privatization of the state airline, telephone company, railroad, electric power company, and oil company. His successor, Hugo BANZER Suarez has tried to further improve the country's investment climate with an anticorruption campaign. Growth slowed in 1999, in part due to tight government budget policies, which limited needed appropriations for anti-poverty programs, and the fallout from the Asian financial crisis. Growth should rebound to perhaps 4% in 2000 given reasonably favorable world commodity prices.

Industries: mining, smelting, petroleum, food and beverages, tobacco, handicrafts, clothing

Currency: 1 boliviano (\$B) = 100 centavos

Railways: total: 3,691 km (single track) narrow gauge: 3,652 km 1,000-m gauge: 39 km 0.760-m gauge (13 km electrified) (1995)

Highways: total: 52,216 km paved: 2,872 km (including 27 km of expressways) unpaved: 49,344 km (1995 est.)

Waterways: 10,000 km of commercially navigable waterways

Ports and Harbors: none; however, Bolivia has free port privileges in the maritime ports of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Paraguay

Airports: 1,109 (1999 est.) Airports - with paved runways: total: 13 over 3,047 m: 4 2,438 to 3,047 m: 3 1,524 to 2,437 m: 4 914 to 1,523 m: 2 (1999 est.) Airports - with unpaved runways: total: 1,096 2,438 to 3,047 m: 3 1,524 to 2,437 m: 67 914 to 1,523 m: 219 under 914 m: 807 (1999 est.)

Visa: required by all.

Duty Free: goods permitted: 200 cigarettes and 50 cigars and 400g of tobacco, 1 opened bottle of alcohol, a reasonable quantity of perfume.

Health: a yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from all travellers coming from infected areas. A vaccination is recommended to visitors also. Malaria risk runs throughout the year. Drinking or cooking water should be boiled first.

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LA PAZ

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LA POSADA DE LA ABUELA OBDULIA, Linares, La Paz, Bolivia, (010)2 2332285, www.redcotel.bo/hostal/posada

LP COLUMBUS - LA PAZ, Avenida Illimani No. 1990, La Paz, Bolivien, (010)224 24 44, www.hotel-columbus.com

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