

Bolivia



Climate: Although Bolivia lies wholly within the tropics, it possesses every gradation of temperature from that of the equatorial lowlands to arctic cold. In the Andes, contrasts in temperature and rainfall depend more on elevation and cloud cover than on distance from the Equator, and cold winds sweep the Altiplano year-round. Average temperatures range between 45 and 52 °F (7 and 11 °C) during the day, occasionally reaching as high as 60 °F (16 °C), but temperatures at night are much colder and fall below freezing during the winter. In the north, however, Lake Titicaca has an important moderating influence, and in bright sunshine winter temperatures may reach as high as 70 °F (21 °C). In stark contrast, clouds of moist air from the Oriente fill the valleys of the Yungas throughout the year. The mean annual temperatures vary between 60 and 68 °F (16 and 20 °C). On the low plains of the Oriente the climate is hot, averaging 73 to 77 °F (23 to 25 °C) or higher in the south and up to 80 °F (27 °C) in the north.

Currency: The local currency is the Boliviano Sol. Keep in mind that crisp, new US dollars are crucial when trying to change money. Dollars that are written on or have frayed, torn edges are usually not accepted. The best exchange rate will be at the ATM, where no exchange transaction fee should occur and you receive the current rate of the day. Before departure, call your bank to determine locations of ATMs in the cities and towns throughout your itinerary, and be sure and ask if the ATM will have instructions in English. Nearly all should. Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Diner's Club cards are widely accepted. Go to <http://finance.yahoo.com/currency?u> for current exchange rates.

Visas: You will need to obtain a visa before travel. You can use the ZVS visa service to obtain your visa, or you can send your application and passport directly to the Bolivian consulate. Visit Bolivia Embassy website, located in Washington DC, at <http://www.bolivia-usa.org/>. If you use ZVS visa service, be sure to include the Myths and Mountains account number (72314) for a discount, or go to this link: <http://www.zvs.com/home.aspx?Login=72314>

Departure Tax: \$16 airport toll plus \$25 traveler tax.

Immunizations: Recommendations change frequently, so you must check directly with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a traveler's clinic or other medical authority.

<http://www.cdc.gov/Travel/destinationList.aspx#P>

Tipping Guideline: Drivers - \$5-\$8 pp per day
Mainland guides - \$10-\$20pp per day
For trekking trips: Cooks - \$4pp per day
Porters and other trekking staff - \$3pp per day

Budget: You will need to analyze your spending habits and decide how much extra money to bring for alcoholic beverages, soft drinks, gratuities, souvenirs, and laundry. For a ten day trip, budget at least \$200 - \$300pp for additional expenses. A rule of thumb: take half the clothing and twice the money you thought you would need!

-OVER-



Dialing Code: 591

Time Zone: GMT/UTC -4

Electricity: 220V, 50Hz

Additional Country Information: More country specific information can be found on our website. Go to the Travel Center page (<http://www.mythsandmountains.com/2000/travel/center.cfm>) and then scroll down to the bottom of the page. There you will find links to various websites from the CIA Factbook to travel films.

"A mind that is stretched by a new
experience can never go back to its
old dimensions."

-Oliver Wendell Holmes

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See the Longitude Books website:

<http://www.longitudebooks.com/> for more book ideas.

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