

# e of Ancient Wisdom

Northern lowland areas have a tropical wet climate with year-round high temperatures, high humidity, and heavy rainfall. Daytime highs average more than 30 °C (86 °F) all year in most locations. The rain-bearing northeast trade winds, blowing across the Amazon Basin, bring significant rainfall amounts. Rain often falls in brief thunderstorms, sometimes accompanied by strong winds and hail.

Central lowland areas have a tropical wet and dry climate. From October through April, northeast trade winds predominate, and the weather is hot, humid, and rainy. From May through September, however, dry southeast trade winds take control, and precipitation is minimal. During this season, clear days and cloudless nights allow for higher daily maximums and lower nightly minimums than occur during the rainy season. Occasional incursions of strong winds from the south, called surazos, can reach this region during winter and bring cool temperatures for several days.

Satellite image of Bolivia in June 2002

The Chaco has a semitropical, semiarid climate. The northeast trade winds bring rain and hot humid conditions only from January through March; the other months are dry with hot days and cool nights. Bolivia's highest maximum temperature, 47°C, was recorded here. Surazos also affect the Chaco; their approach is usually signaled by a squall line.

Temperatures and rainfall amounts in mountain areas vary considerably. The Yungas, where the moist northeast trade winds are pushed up by the mountains, is the cloudiest, most humid, and rainiest area, receiving up to 152 cm (60 in) annually. Sheltered valleys and basins throughout the Cordillera Oriental have mild temperatures and moderate rainfall amounts, averaging from 64 cm (25 in) to 76 cm (30 in) annually. Temperatures drop with increasing elevation, however. Snowfall is possible at elevations above 2,000 m (6,562 ft), and the permanent snow line is at 4,600 m (15,092 ft). Areas over 5,500 m (18,045 ft) have a polar climate, with glaciated zones. The Cordillera Occidental is a high desert with cold, windswept peaks.

The Altiplano, which also is swept by strong, cold winds, has an arid, chilly climate, with sharp differences in daily temperature and decreasing amounts of rainfall from north to south. Average highs during the day range from 15 °C (59 °F) to 20 °C (68 °F), but in the summer tropical sun, temperatures may exceed 27 °C (81 °F). After nightfall, however, the thin air retains little heat, and temperatures rapidly drop to just above freezing. Lake Titicaca exerts a moderating influence, but even on its shores, frosts occur in almost every month, and snow is not uncommon.

## People

Bolivia's ethnic distribution is estimated to be 30% Quechua-speaking and 25% Aymara-speaking Amerindians. The largest of the approximately three dozen native groups are the Quechuas (2.5 million), Aymaras (2 million), then Chiquitano (180,000), and Guaraní (125,000). So the full Amerindian population is at 55%; the remaining 30% is mestizo (mixed Amerindian and European), and around 15% are whites.

"Given the pre-colonial existence of indigenous peasant first nations and peoples and their ancestral control over their lands, their free determination within the framework of the unity of the state is guaranteed, which consists of their right to autonomy, self-government, to their culture, to recognition of their institutions and consolidation of their territorial entities conforming to this Constitution and the law." (New Constitution).

## Language and Religion

The official languages of the State are Spanish and all the languages of indigenous and peasant First Nations and peoples, which are: Aymara, Araona, Baure, Bésiro, Canichana, Cavineño, Cayubaba, Chácobo, Chimán, Ese, Eja, Guaraní, Guarasu'we, Guarayu, Itonama, Leco, Machajuyai-Kallawaya, Machineri, Maropa, Mojeño-Trinitario, Mojeño-Ignaciono, Moré, Masetén, Movima, Pacawara, Puquina, Quechua, Sirionó, Tacana, Tapiete, Toromona, Uru-Chipaya, Weenhayek, Yaminawa, Yuki, Yuracaré and Zamuco.

The Plurinational State of Bolivia guarantees the freedom of cults and spiritual beliefs.

Those statements are established in the new Constitution.

## TOURISM

*May what your eyes see stay in your heart.*

*Aymara Oral Tradition – Took from Latin Spirit Danielle & Olivier Follmi.*

The diversity of the Territory imparts to Bolivia a considerable variety of natural resources. The principal cities are: La Paz (Government Site, that includes the Executive and the Legislative Powers) with a population of 1.549.759 inhabitants in the metropolitan area; Santa Cruz, with 1.543.429 inhabitants, and Cochabamba with 855.277 inhabitants. Sucre (217.019 inhabitants) is the capital of the Republic and the Judicial Power Site.

The departments of Santa Cruz, Beni and Pando in the northeast are rich in timber, iron, hydrocarbons, precious stones, cattle raising and agriculture. They have as well the most beautiful biodiversity placed in the Amazonas basin.

The departments of the central and north-western areas of La Paz, Oruro and Potosí, placed in the Cordillera have mineral resources as tin, lead, tungsten, zinc and lithium. Oruro's Carnival with the diverse dances and customs as the Diablada, Morenada or Tinku among others is an unmissable, which is among the first 19 "Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity," as proclaimed by the UNESCO in May 2001.

At the top of the perpetual snowed mountains and glaciers lives the Condor, the national emblem, at the foot you will find the valleys with its beauty and heavenly conditions of life.

Virgin forests crossed by huge rivers, the Titikaka lake with its magic landscape, the Uyuni Salar (The biggest salt desert in the world), an exuberant and unique flora and a vast variety of wild fauna. Each region is different, with its own costumes, uses, music and art.

If you visit South America, you should certainly visit Bolivia and take advantage of the immense variety of climate and landscapes offered by this hospitable country.

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

*Without love for the Earth, there is no place in Heaven.*

*Aymara Oral Tradition – Took from Latin Spirit Danielle & Olivier Follmi*

### Protected Areas in Bolivia

The National Protected Areas System of Bolivia includes all the Protected Areas of the Country, each with its own management category and level of administration, but with a common Special Regime characterized by a specific conceptual, political, institutional, and normative frame.

The aim is to preserve significant samples of biogeographical provinces through the implementation of policies, strategies, plans, programs, and rules which tend to generate

sustainable processes in the Protected Areas to preserve biodiversity, involving the local population and obtaining benefits for the present and future generations.

### Main Management Categories

**National Park:** place characterized by a great and unique natural richness which, for this reason, needs a strict and permanent protection of nature resources, ecosystems, and biogeographical provinces within it, so that they can offer benefits also for future generations. It is not allowed to extract or consume renewable and not renewable resources, as well as to create infrastructures, ecotourism, environmental education, and subsistence of local population, having a particular authorization.

**Natural Integrated Management Area:** Natural Area with an Integrated Management, whose aim is to combine the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable development of local population. This category is assigned to sites representing a mosaic of different and significant examples of ecoregions, biogeographical provinces, natural communities, or wildlife and floral species of particular importance, as well as areas characterized by traditional systems in the exploitation of the earth or by multiple uses of the natural resources, or by nucleus areas, that is areas subject to strict protection.

**Wild Life Reservation:** Wild Flora and Fauna Reserve, with the aim to protect, manage, and use in a sustainable way the wild forms of life, under official surveillance. In these reserves, natural resources can be used according to a zonation map.

*Source: National Protected Areas System of Bolivia – SNAP*

### Biodiversity and Protected Areas— Bolivia

Total Land Area (000 ha)	109,858
<b>Protected Areas</b>	
Extent of Protected Areas by IUCN Category (000 ha), 2003:	
Nature Reserves, Wilderness Areas, and National Parks (categories I and II)	10,865
Natural Monuments, Species Management Areas, and Protected Landscapes and Seascapes (categories III, IV, and V)	1,216
Areas Managed for Sustainable Use and Unclassified Areas (category VI and "other")	9,020
Total Area Protected (all categories)	21,102
Marine and Littoral Protected Areas {a}	X
<b>Protected Areas as a Percent of Total Land Area, 2003 {b}</b>	19.4%
Number of Protected Areas, 2003	32
Number of Areas > 100,000 ha, 2003	25
Number of Areas > 1 million ha, 2003	9 86 243
<b>Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites), 2002:</b>	
Number of Sites	7
Total Area (000 ha)	5,504
<b>Biosphere Reserves, 2002</b>	
Number of Sites	3
Total Area (000 ha)	735
<b>Number and Status of Species</b>	
<b>Higher Plants</b>	
Total known species (number), 1992-2002	17,367
Number of threatened species, 2002	70
<b>Mammals</b>	
Total known species (number), 1992-2002	316
Number of threatened species, 2002	24
<b>Breeding Birds</b>	
Total known species (number), 1992-2002	504
Number of threatened species, 2002	28