



Country Intelligence Brief

Bolivia

Overall Risk Rating

3.25 - Moderate

Table of Contents

| | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Ratings Overview | 3 |
| Factbox | 4 |
| Overview | 5 |
| Security | 5 |
| Infrastructure | 6 |
| Environment | 9 |
| Health and Medical | 10 |
| Political | 14 |
| Active Alerts | 21 |

Ratings Overview

Security

2.75 - Moderate

| | |
|-------------------|------|
| Civil Unrest | 3.75 |
| Crime | 3.00 |
| Kidnapping | 2.00 |
| Terrorism | 1.00 |
| Armed Conflict | 2.50 |
| Security Services | 4.00 |

Infrastructure

3.00 - Moderate

| | |
|------------------|------|
| Ground Transport | 3.50 |
| Cyber | 3.00 |
| Air Travel | 1.50 |
| Utilities | 3.50 |

Environment

2.50 - Moderate

| | |
|------------------|------|
| Man-Made Hazards | 2.25 |
| Seismic | 3.00 |
| Storm System | 2.50 |
| Natural Hazards | 2.50 |

Health and Medical

3.00 - Moderate

| | |
|---------------------------------|------|
| Disease and Health Threats | 2.25 |
| Medical Facilities and Services | 3.25 |
| Mental Health | 3.25 |
| Food and Water Safety | 4.00 |

Political

3.50 - High

| | |
|----------------------|------|
| Corruption | 4.00 |
| Government Stability | 3.50 |
| Rule of Law | 3.00 |
| Sanctions | 1.50 |

FactBox

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Location | Bolivia |
| Government Type | Presidential Republic |
| Population | 10,724,705 (2015) |
| Languages | <p>Official languages: Spanish, Quechua, Aymara, Guarani.</p> <p>Other languages that are considered official or widely spoken: Bolivia's constitution declares several languages that are much less widely spoken to be official. They are Araona, Baure, Besiro, Canichana, Cavineno, Cayubaba, Chacobo, Chiman, Ese Eja, Guarani, Guarasu'we, Guarayu, Itonama, Leco, Machajuyai-Kallawayaya, Machineri, Maropa, Mojeno-Trinitario, Mojeno-Ignaciano, More, Moseten, Movima, Pacawara, Puquina, Siriono, Tacana, Tapiete, Toromona, Uru-Chipaya, Weenhayek, Yaminawa, Yuki, Yuracare, and Zamuco.</p> <p>Languages that should be used discreetly: None.</p> |
| International Country Code | +591 |
| Time Zones | UTC-4 |
| Traffic | Drives on the right |
| Drinking Water | Not Safe to Drink |

Overview

3.25 - Moderate

Bolivia has long been one of South America's poorest nations but has logged successive years of economic growth under former President Evo Morales, who was in power for 13 years (2006 à 2019). His administration made efforts alleviated historical poverty in the nation, most notably among indigenous groups. The Bolivian economy largely relies on mineral and hydrocarbon exports, although diversification efforts are being encouraged. Morales, the country's first indigenous president, lost a large degree of popularity towards the end of his presidency, as he was increasingly viewed as adopting a more authoritarian governing style, thereby weakening Bolivian institutions. These dynamics came to a head in October 2019, when general elections were marred by fraud and a protest movement along with pressure from the armed forces, resulting in Morales' resignation. One year later, in October 2020, presidential elections were held, which saw Luis Arce from Morales' Movement for Socialism-Political Instrument for the Sovereignty of the Peoples (MAS-IPSP) party return to power. Arce's government succeeds Jeanine Áñez, who led the country as interim President during this period of political instability.

The greatest risks for those visiting the country will be opportunistic crime in cities and considerable deficits in infrastructure outside of the country's urban centers. Deficits will include not only tangible infrastructure such as road networks but also the availability of basic utilities. Unrest, when it occurs, can also prove a major impediment to travel, as it frequently cuts off the handful of major highways connecting cities and can be violent.

Security

2.75 - Moderate

Bolivia has significant tensions with Chile that originated over maritime access but now also focus on water usage along the border. Crime in Bolivia is generally moderate by Latin American standards, though elevated by North American and European baselines. The country faces no internal or external terrorism risks. Bolivia has a strong protest culture, particularly by various labor and indigenous groups; some incidents have turned violent.

Civil Unrest

● 3.75

Bolivia has a record of considerably disruptive unrest, often resulting in cities being blockaded for hours or days. Injuries and deaths are likely to be reported. Such concerted mass events often occurred in urban areas in response to highly unpopular government decisions, such as the privatization of public services, perceived corruption, and overall dissatisfaction with government policies. Protests typically involve large gatherings and at times active highway blockages that often cut cities off entirely from the country's limited road network. Recent demonstrations have seen clashes between security forces and protesters and fatalities on both sides. Such unrest can periodically be expected as segments of the public will likely become critical and vocal against Arce's presidency. It is especially the case in the Santa Cruz department, where there is significant opposition to the MAS party, led by Luis Fernando Camacho.

Crime

● 3.00

By far the greatest risk to those in Bolivia - especially in its urban centers such as Santa Cruz and La Paz - is opportunistic crime including pickpocketing and purse-snatching.

Such incidents are most likely to occur in popular tourist locales or otherwise crowded areas such as public transportation hubs. Crimes such as these are unlikely to be violent, as the goal is for the victim to either not notice the incident at all or to not have sufficient time to thwart the theft. Foreigners are not specifically targeted, but individuals overtly displaying wealth will be. Carjacking and theft from unattended vehicles are also somewhat widespread and another prime example of the kind of non-violent property crime for which the country is known.

Violent crime, by contrast, is far less of an issue in Bolivia than in many of its Latin American neighbors. Though historically quite poor, the country does not have a significant history of organized gangs informally controlling large swathes of cities or otherwise systemic violence occurring in its urban centers. This is not, however, to suggest that gangs and other criminal organizations do not exist within Bolivian cities and elsewhere, as narco-trafficking, in particular, is a major illicit revenue source in-country given the amount of coca that grows there annually. Of the cities in the country, El Alto - a satellite city of La Paz - was noted for having high levels of poverty and historically higher levels of violence. However, investment in infrastructure and resources during the Morales years saw an improvement in that city's reputation.

Kidnapping

 2.00

The threat of kidnapping in Bolivia is low; kidnapers are more likely to target locals. The most common type of kidnapping is express kidnapping, in which a victim is typically held for 24-48 hours in order to drain funds from their bank accounts. This crime poses the greatest threat in La Paz and Santa Cruz; in some instances, criminals have posed as taxi drivers hailed off the street in order to abduct victims. Kidnapping is generally linked to domestic organized crime. Victims are often released unharmed after criminals have obtained cash and other personal belongings.

Terrorism

 1.00

The country's footprint abroad is generally quite light, and the likelihood of transnational terror groups - Islamist or otherwise - attacking interests in the country is extremely low. Nor does Bolivia have any currently known domestic terror groups.

Armed Conflict

 2.50

Although Bolivia generally maintains good or at least cordial relations with most other nations, its relations with Chile are rife with tensions born more than a century ago upon Chile gaining territory that resulted in Bolivia becoming landlocked. The dispute over access to the sea remains alive today along with other dimensions, such as fights over water usage along the current border between the two countries. Tensions are not expected to result in military action but could very well involve sanctions as well as border closures as imposed by either side.

Since the disputed October 2019 elections and the resignation of former President Evo Morales, the country has seen high levels of unrest between pro- and anti-Morales demonstrators that has come to resemble aspects of an internal conflict, though it has not yet reached that scale.

Security Services

 4.00

The Bolivian Police are responsible for law enforcement throughout the country. The armed forces are also deployed sometimes in response to protests. There is a high level of public distrust of police forces. Burdensome bureaucratic procedures and limited resources often impede the prosecution of crimes. Police patrol most major avenues on foot and sometimes solicit bribes from drivers in private vehicles. Travelers should cooperate with police if questioned; however, they should contact their local embassy or consulate if they feel they were victims of police corruption, bribery, or harassment.

Police often deploy forces to patrol major demonstrations but are not always successful in controlling crowds and maintaining the flow of traffic. Many businesses hire private security officers to secure entrances and exits to their facilities.

Infrastructure

 3 - Moderate

International carriers are considered safe for travel to and from Bolivia.

Basic services such as water, electricity and fuel availability are generally only reliable in cities, and even then can be deficient.

Bolivia's road network is among the most austere in Latin America. Only a handful of major highways are paved, and urban centers are often linked by a single road.

The country is not considered a sponsor of cyber-attacks, nor is it considered a target. Its defenses against such an attack are likely quite weak.

Ground Transport

 3.50

Bolivia has among the most challenging topographies of all nations in Latin America, and its limited road network reflects that reality. Cities throughout the country are often connected only by singular highways, which are vulnerable to road blockages by protesters. The conditions of these highways vary, although they are generally the only roads that are paved, though not always in their entirety. As such, the vast majority of the country's roads are not paved but rather are gravel- or dirt-based. Roads in mountainous terrain also frequently do not have any side railing to mitigate the danger from steep drop-offs. These roads, whether paved or not, can be compromised by mudslides or falling debris after heavy rainfall or earthquakes; rainfall can also wash out unpaved roads even in flat terrain, and heavy snowfall in high-altitude areas can paralyze land-based transport in the vicinity. Finally, the country has a somewhat high rate of road fatalities annually, at around 23 per 100,000 inhabitants, due in part to the country's topography and often poor road conditions but also to frequently reckless driving.

Local Buses

 Unrated

Intercity buses are available between most major cities. Intercity buses in Bolivia have a poor safety record. Petty theft and other criminal activities post a moderate threat to travelers.

Informal bus systems are available in Bolivia but have a poor safety record due to poor maintenance and lax regulations.

Mass Transit

 Unrated

Bolivia does not have a metro system. A cable car system between La Paz and El Alto is available.

Taxis

 Unrated

Taxis are readily available in most major cities in Bolivia. Traffic accidents involving taxis are rare, and crime on taxis poses a high threat to travelers. Overcharging is commonly perpetrated against taxi passengers, especially foreign nationals. Taxis arranged in advance by upscale hotels or trusted business associates are generally safer than those hailed on the street.

Ride-sharing services or vehicles ordered through online apps are available in few major cities in Bolivia. Informal Taxi systems are available in cities in Bolivia and have an average safety record.

Train Travel

 Unrated

Train Safety

Trains in Bolivia have an average recent safety record. Derailments and accidents involving passenger trains occasionally occur.

Reliability and Availability

Bolivia has a medium-sized intercity passenger rail network. Rail travel is available between few major cities and few smaller cities and towns.

Vehicles and Roads

● Unrated

Road safety conditions in Bolivia are generally very poor. Traffic in Bolivia drives on the right. Roads in cities are generally paved but poorly maintained. Roads in rural areas are unpaved. Drivers generally ignore traffic laws. Police do not enforce traffic laws. Criminals often steal from moving vehicles. Foreigners planning to drive in Bolivia must have an International Driving Permit (IDP) or a valid driver's license. Car rentals are available in most major cities.

International Road Travel

Bolivia has international road connections with multiple countries. Connections between Bolivia and other countries are subject to border controls, and passengers may be required to pass through customs and purchase a circulation card at the border before crossing.

Cyber

● 3.00

Bolivia is not thought to be a significant sponsor of cyber-attacks in any way, and it is also not considered a major target for hackers or foreign governments. In general, computer and Internet usage in the country is low by regional standards due to the computer culture not yet having penetrated non-urban areas. However, cyber-attacks on a per-user basis are moderately high. Should a major attack happen, the country's defenses are viewed as relatively weak and unlikely to withstand a sophisticated or otherwise resource-intensive assault.

Maritime Security

● Unrated

Bolivia has a port on the Paraguay River and a port on Lake Titicaca. Travel via ferry is available between San Pedro and San Pablo between the Straits of Tiquina. Ports of call vary in provision; Bolivian ports are generally safe, but the threat of crime increases substantially at night. Ferries are generally safe but are prone to occasional accidents due to poor maintenance.

Air Travel

● 1.50

There are no major concerns regarding most air travel to or from Bolivia, and the country's aviation safety record is considered on par with international standards; it is in compliance with all relevant EU and ICAO guidelines, the latter as assessed by the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

Safety concerns do exist for smaller, chartered planes - often called "avionetas" - which are used to access the country's more remote regions, but these are rarely utilized by visitors.

Utilities

● 3.50

Utilities in major cities and towns are generally reliable. However, even cities such as La Paz have contended with crippling water shortages due to long drought spells which have affected the country in recent years. Rural areas are extremely variable in how well connected to utility grids they are, although most will have utility availability for at least some part of the day. Those closer to cities will have greater reliability.

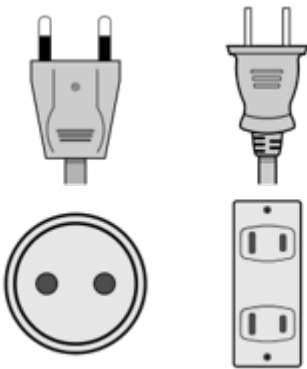
More remote and potentially unpopulated regions, however, should not be expected to have much in the way of infrastructure at all. Internet and telecommunications are of generally modern standards in urban areas, though mobile reception may be weak in the rural countryside and in the country's various mountainous areas. Rural towns and villages should not be expected to have significant non-mobile Internet access.

Electricity

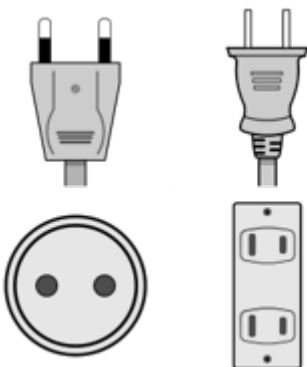
● Unrated

Electricity is supplied in Bolivia at 115/230 V, 50 Hz. Bolivia uses Type A and C plugs.

Plug Types



Types de prises



Internet and Telecommunications

● Unrated

Internet service in Bolivia is readily available in most public and private accommodations in major urban areas and towns, but may be sporadically available in rural areas. Internet activity is considered private and secure in most areas.

Environment

2.5 - Moderate

Bolivia's climate varies immensely due to its diversity of geography. Extractive industries, both legal and otherwise, bring some risk of environmental hazard, as does land-clearing for agricultural usage and timber. Earthquakes are fairly common in Bolivia; while most are moderate, some can be severe in intensity. The country has no particular vulnerability to storm systems, though storms can easily be rain-based or snow-based, depending upon altitude. Floods and landslides, especially in mountainous areas, are common during the rainy season from October to April.

Man-Made Hazards

● 2.25

The mainstays of the Bolivian economy are extractive in nature, with both the mining and natural gas industries vital to the country's success. Both bring some risk of industrial accidents, and water pollution has already been documented as a consequence of mining activities in the country. This is primarily due to poor environmental oversight by both businesses and government, although illegal mining also contributes to the problem. Additionally, concerns have been raised over the long-term effects of land clearing, which has been ongoing both to increase the country's agricultural output as well as for timber exports. Such deforestation could significantly increase the risk of flooding and landslides in the future should enough compensatory efforts such as reforestation not be made.

Seismic

● 3.00

Bolivia is generally quite susceptible to seismic activity and registers a notable number of quakes every year, most of them in the country's north and west. Most are mild-to-moderate, rarely above magnitude-6.0, though larger quakes have caused significant destruction to the country. A number of volcanoes also exist in Bolivia. While the majority have been dormant for centuries, a handful in the Cordillera Occidental have had more recent eruptions. Such events pose a threat to air travel, which can be disrupted by volcanic ash plumes. Authorities may also issue evacuation orders to nearby communities during large eruptions.

Storm System

● 2.50

As it is landlocked and located near the center of the continent, Bolivia does not see any risk of organized tropical systems as countries to its north do. Storms frequently occur during the rainy season from October through April; the lowlands tend to receive the heaviest rainfall. Floods and landslides are common during the rainy season, especially in mountainous areas and areas with poor drainage. Higher elevation areas can see snow instead of rainfall, though blizzards are rare.

Natural Hazards

● 2.50

There is no one Bolivian climate. Zones will range from subtropical rainforest to Andean highlands to vast stretches of lowlands, with many microclimates in between. As such, it is impossible to make generalizations about the climate within the country. However, none of Bolivia's climates are inhospitable save at extremely high altitudes, where the temperature can easily dip well below freezing. The wet season from October through April affects the entire country, with the dry season the rest of the year. Temperature variations according to the time of year are not a major issue, though they can occur. Instead, the two main factors determining Bolivian regional climates are altitude and proximity to the Amazon in the north.

Air Quality

● Unrated

Air Quality

Air pollution routinely exceeds recommended thresholds in urban areas. Individuals with asthma or chronic cardiorespiratory conditions should consult with a healthcare provider and carry necessary medications. On days when air quality is particularly poor, affected individuals should take personal precautions to reduce respiratory stress ([map](#)).

Health and Medical

3 - Moderate

Mosquito-borne diseases, such as dengue fever and malaria, are prevalent in Bolivia. Decent quality medical facilities can be found in all major cities, however, access to quality healthcare outside of major cities is generally very limited and services offered are usually basic. Pharmacies are generally available in most towns in Bolivia. Tap water is not considered safe for drinking unless otherwise directed.

Disease and Health Threats

 **2.25**

Major Health Threats

- **Altitude Sickness:** Some locations in Bolivia are above 2,440 meters (8,000 feet). Some people may experience adverse health effects at such altitudes. Ascend gradually to allow acclimatization and remain watchful for signs of altitude sickness or more severe manifestations.
- **Chagas Disease:** Transmitted through the reduviid beetle or contaminated blood products. Rarely through contaminated food products. Reduviid beetles are mostly found in buildings constructed of mud, adobe brick, or thatch. The acute stage generally occurs immediately after being infected. Most individuals do not have symptoms or experience only mild symptoms. Individuals who do develop symptoms generally show nonspecific symptoms such as fever, headaches, vomiting, and diarrhea. Most infected individuals will never progress to the chronic stage. However, in up to 30 percent of patients, chronic Chagas disease can cause extensive heart and central nervous system damage leading to death. Signs of chronic Chagas disease include an enlarged heart, dilated esophagus, and/or dilated colon. Most cases of Chagas disease have been reported in Sucre and the departments of Chuquisaca, Cochabamba, Santa Cruz, and Tarija ([map](#)).
- **Chikungunya:** Transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito, mostly during daytime hours. Bite prevention is essential. Symptoms commonly include fever, joint pain, muscle pain, headache, and rash. People usually develop symptoms three to seven days after being bitten. Most people recover within a week, but joint pain can sometimes persist for months. Risk of infection likely exists nationwide. Risk is highest November to March.
- **Dengue Fever:** Transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito, mostly during the day. Bite prevention is essential. Symptoms of dengue fever include a sudden onset of fever and at least one of the following: severe headache, severe pain behind the eyes, muscle and/or joint pain, rash, easy bruising, and/or nose or gum bleeding. Fever and other symptoms generally appear abruptly four to seven days after being bitten. Some people have reported experiencing no symptoms. Risk of infection exists nationwide. Risk is highest November to March.
- **Hepatitis A:** Transmitted by contaminated food and water. Hepatitis A does not always cause symptoms. If they occur, symptoms appear two to six weeks after exposure and include fever, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, fatigue, dark urine, loss of appetite, joint pain, and jaundice. Intermediate risk in Bolivia.
- **Hepatitis B:** Transmitted through infected blood and bodily fluids, and effectively prevented with vaccination. An unexpected medical or dental emergency may place the unvaccinated traveler at risk. Practice safe sex and ensure medical procedures, tattoos, or piercings are conducted using sterile equipment. Symptoms include fever, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, fatigue, dark urine, loss of appetite, joint pain, and jaundice. Low risk in Bolivia.
- **Hepatitis E:** Transmitted by contaminated food and water. Symptoms appear two to eight weeks after exposure and include fever, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, dark urine, joint pain, and jaundice.
- **HIV/AIDS:** Transmitted through infected blood and bodily fluids. Practice safe sex and ensure medical procedures, tattoos, or piercings are conducted using sterile equipment. Within two to four weeks of HIV infection, many people, but not all, experience

influenza-like illness including fever, swollen glands, sore throat, rash, fatigue, muscle and joint pains, and headache. These symptoms, also called acute retroviral syndrome (ARS), can last from days to weeks. The infection later progresses to a clinical latency stage, and in the late stage, to AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).

- **Leishmaniasis:** Transmitted through the bites of sandflies. Risk is greatest from dusk to dawn. Cutaneous leishmaniasis is the most common form of *Leishmania* infection, causing skin sores that are usually painless. Visceral leishmaniasis is the second most common; typical symptoms include high fever, substantial weight loss, swelling of the spleen and liver, and anemia. If left untreated, this form of leishmaniasis is nearly 100 percent fatal within two years.
- **Malaria:** Transmitted through mosquito bites. Symptoms of malaria most commonly include fever, chills, headaches and body aches, nausea and vomiting, and general malaise. These symptoms usually develop 10-28 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito. However, there are reports of symptoms beginning as early as seven days to as late as one year. Preventative medications (prophylaxis) are available. Risk of infection is low and exists nationwide, except in Oruro Department; in the cities of La Paz, Potosi, and Sucre; and in the area of lake Titicaca ([map](#)).
- **Rabies:** Transmitted through the saliva of infected wild or domesticated mammals, usually by a bite or scratch. Do not approach unfamiliar animals. Wild and domestic animals pose a threat.
- **Traveler's Diarrhea:** Transmitted by contaminated food and water. This is the most common illness in travelers. People who become ill by an infectious agent that causes traveler's diarrhea most often experience nausea, vomiting, fever, bloody stools, and/or the urge to constantly pass stools despite an empty gastrointestinal tract. High risk in Bolivia.
- **Tuberculosis:** Transmitted through respiratory droplets released by coughing or sneezing. Individuals planning an extended stay should consider obtaining a PPD skin test to reference against future suspected infections. Symptoms commonly include chest pain, bad cough lasting three weeks or longer, and coughing up blood and/or sputum. Some people also experience chills, weight loss, fever, weakness, night sweats, and loss of appetite. High risk in Bolivia.
- **Typhoid Fever:** Transmitted by contaminated milk, water, and food. Raw fish and shellfish from contaminated waters are likely to be infected. Symptoms of typhoid fever usually include fever, abdominal pain or discomfort, chills and body aches, weakness, and loss of appetite.
- **Yellow Fever:** Transmitted through mosquito bites. Symptoms of yellow fever include fever, muscle pain, backaches, and chills. Bolivia is classified as a yellow fever endemic country. Many countries require proof of yellow fever vaccination or a valid medical waiver for any traveler who has visited or transited through endemic countries. Be sure to check yellow fever vaccine requirements for the next country or countries on your itinerary. Risk of infection exists in areas less than 2,300 m (7,546 ft) in elevation and east of the Andes Mountains, including the entire departments of Beni, Pando, and Santa Cruz, and eastern and northeastern areas of Chuquisaca, Cochabamba, La Paz, and Tarija departments ([map](#)). Risk is highest November to March.
- **Zika Virus:** Transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito, mostly during the day, or sexually through an infected partner. Mosquito-bite prevention and practicing safe sex are essential. In many cases, Zika virus is asymptomatic; however, in some, it may cause symptoms similar to dengue and chikungunya, including fever, rash, joint pain and red eyes. Significant birth defects have been associated with Zika virus infection in pregnant women. Partners of women who have recently traveled to an area with Zika virus circulation are encouraged to use condoms for at least six months or for the duration of a partner's pregnancy. Risk of infection likely exists nationwide. Risk is highest November to March.

Health Requirements

● Unrated

Yellow Fever: Vaccination Required

Bolivia is classified as a **yellow fever** endemic country. Vaccination is **required** for all travelers aged one year and over arriving from a country with risk of yellow fever transmission. Many countries require proof of yellow fever vaccination or a valid medical waiver for any traveler who has visited or transited through endemic countries. Be sure to check yellow fever vaccine requirements for the next country or countries on your itinerary. Single dose, full-strength yellow fever vaccine is valid for life.

Vaccination is **recommended** upon arrival for individuals aged nine months and over traveling to areas in Bolivia at high risk of YF transmission. These areas include locations below 2,300m (7,546 ft) elevation in the entire departments of Beni, Pando, and Santa Cruz, and eastern and northeastern areas of Chuquisaca, Cochabamba, La Paz, and Tarija departments ([map](#)).

Vaccination is **not recommended** for individuals traveling in areas above 2,300m (7,546 ft) elevation, including La Paz and Sucre cities.

HIV Testing

No known restrictions.

Health Recommendations

● Unrated

Recommended Immunizations for Travel to Bolivia

Travelers should ensure that they have routine vaccination courses and boosters. You should visit a health care professional at least four to six weeks prior to the trip. Travelers should ensure that they have routine vaccination courses and boosters. Routine vaccines include measles-mumps-rubella (MMR), diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis, varicella (chickenpox), polio, and annual flu vaccine. Travelers should consider obtaining COVID vaccination where available, even if the destination country does not require it.

- **Hepatitis A:** Recommended for most individuals unless contraindicated. Two doses are recommended administered six months apart, are required for long-lasting protection. If full series is six to 12 months apart; there is no need for booster. One dose usually provides enough protection to a healthy adult for international travel. Vaccination will provide some protection within days but should ideally be administered at least two weeks before travel.
- **Hepatitis B:** Recommended for most individuals unless contraindicated. Widely used formulations require three doses administered over the course of six to 18 months, depending on the recipient's age and vaccination history. Booster doses after complete series are usually not required to maintain immunity. If exposed before finalizing full series, individuals may receive a special booster within 24 hours to receive short-term protection.
- **Rabies:** Unless contraindicated, recommended for individuals whose activities bring them into direct contact with dogs, bats, and other mammals; long-term travelers and expatriates; and children. Pre-exposure vaccination requires three doses administered over the course of 28 days. Post-exposure vaccination is still required in the event of potential rabies exposure, but a full course of pre-exposure vaccination reduces course of post-exposure treatment and eliminates the need for Rabies Immune Globulin, which can be in short supply in many areas. Aruba has not reported any rabies cases, thus most travelers are at low risk. Bats are likely to carry bat rabies.
- **Typhoid Fever:** Recommended for most individuals unless contraindicated, including those visiting friends and family in endemic areas, those in contact with an infected person, young children, extended-stay travelers, and individuals visiting areas of poor sanitation. Available in both injectable and oral formulations. Widely used formulations require between two and four doses, depending on the formulation and the recipient's vaccination history. Booster vaccination is required every two or five years, depending on the formulation. The last dose should be taken at least one week before travel.
- **Tuberculosis:** Not available in all countries. Vaccination with BCG (tuberculosis vaccine) will render a "false positive" result on TB skin testing. If receiving this vaccine, request an alternative TB test. The vaccine is typically recommended for individuals planning

extended stays in highly endemic areas, and specifically for individuals working in healthcare, prisons, or animal facilities. Short and long-term protection of the BCG vaccine is widely variable depending on the individual.

Medical Facilities and Services

● 3.25

Healthcare facilities in large cities are adequate for most basic medical needs, but are of varying quality. Medical facilities are generally not equipped to handle serious medical conditions. Access to quality healthcare outside of major cities is generally very limited and services offered are usually basic. Visitors outside of cities may need to travel to urban centers should a medical emergency occur and may even need to be medically evacuated to a nearby country with better facilities in the most severe cases. Private healthcare in major cities typically meets international standards. Private hospitals usually require advance payment or proof of adequate insurance before admitting a patient.

Mental Health

● 3.25

Mental health service availability is limited and conditions are moderately managed.

Food and Water Safety

● 4.00

Drinking water is generally unsafe in Bolivia. Use only bottled, boiled, or otherwise purified water for drinking and cooking. Do not use ice cubes made from unpurified water sources. Eat only thoroughly cooked food served hot, or fruits and vegetables that you have cleaned and peeled; avoid salads. Consume only pasteurized milk and dairy products, or use powdered or canned milk and cured cheeses. Avoid street vendors and unregulated food establishments.

Political

3.5 - High

Corruption is a significant concern in Bolivia, particularly under Evo Morales' years in office (2006 to 2019). The MAS party's win of the executive branch in the October 2020 election and the risk of Morales' return to the country and potentially acquiring a political position, would further discourage the possibility that this considerable concern will be addressed in an Arce government. Rule of law is moderate at best and seems to be on a negative trajectory. As the country experiences substantial political instability, Arce's election and the fact that all parties have recognized the result ushers in the possibility that the country will be geared towards a more stable future in the coming months. Sanctions are not a concern for Bolivia at this juncture.

Corruption

● 4.00

Former President Morales originally rose to power campaigning against government corruption that had left large swathes of the country impoverished, with little hope of economic mobility. Although he had some success in spreading the country's wealth to previously disenfranchised sectors, he did not have same impact in fighting corruption during his presidency. As his MAS party retains political control of the country, it remains to be seen whether allegations of corruption, a concern among Bolivians, will be addressed. Regardless, corruption in the public sector remains a serious issue, particularly as Morales implemented a moderate nationalization program that boosted state involvement in the economy. Links between corporate entities and the government are thought to be highly susceptible to graft and bribery. A particular problem, unlikely to go away, is the degree of corruption involved regarding high-ranking officials and the country's illicit drug trade.

Government Stability

● 3.50

Bolivia operates within a presidential representative democracy in which a directly elected president is both head of government and head of state. Following the resignation of Evo Morales from the leftist Movement for Socialism-Political Instrument for the Sovereignty of the Peoples (MAS-IPSP), Elections sometimes see localized episodes of violence but are generally peaceful as well as free and fair.

The country faced considerable political instability following the October 2019 election in which former President Morales ran for a fourth term despite a 2016 referendum in which voters rejected changes to the constitution that would permit Morales to run again in 2019. The country's Constitutional Court eventually abolished term limits, allowing Morales to run again in the October 2019 general elections. The country's electoral court indicated that Morales barely won the 2019 elections in the first round outright, but opposition challenger Carlos Mesa led a protest campaign to challenge voting irregularities. The Morales government, in response to domestic and international pressure, agreed to a new vote, but Morales subsequently resigned under pressure from military and police leadership who calculated that new elections alone were not enough to quell protesters' demands. The specific circumstances of Morales' resignation - namely, the pressure from the military - bode poorly for the country's democratic consolidation despite advances made under Morales' controversial time in office.

Following the October 2020 presidential election that was won by MAS-IPSP candidate Luis Arce in a first round with 48.6 percent of the vote over Carlos Mesa's 33.1 percent, political stability is expected to return to Bolivia, though depends on whether Arce is able to address concerns of all segments of the populace, not only MAS-IPSP supporters. Whether former President Morales returns to the country following the party's win and whether he will play a role in the government will also be a determining factor in the country's stability.

Rule of Law

 3.00

Rule of law has historically been a major issue in the country in terms of impunity and lack of accountability among government officials and other well-connected individuals. The sheer degree of political turnover and high regime instability also weakened institutions. Until recently, most fears revolved more around Morales' increasingly heavy-handed efforts aimed at retaining the presidency and silencing critics, sometimes by jailing them. Incidents raised serious questions about lack of due process and political targeting as well as more general concerns as to whether the country's basic democratic norms may be eroding. There are also worries that the judiciary was co-opted to a significant degree by the Morales government.

Since Morales' resignation in early November 2019, concern has again shifted to a lack of political stability and the effect political turnover and upheaval could have on rule of law, particularly given the military's informal role in Morales' ouster.

Sanctions

 1.50

Bolivia is viewed as a generally cooperative country throughout the international community, and multilateral sanctions are a non-issue. Despite the controversial nature of the former Morales government, the only probable sanctions would be unilateral and directed at specific individuals in the country's drug trade as opposed to blanket sanctions against the country as a whole.

Legal

Unrated

Visitors to Bolivia are subject to local laws, which may not mirror, either in whole or in part, those of their home country. Those deemed to be in violation, even unknowingly, may be fined, detained, imprisoned, or temporarily or permanently expelled depending on the nature of the offense. Home-country consular officers are typically systematically informed of a detention when requested by the detained citizen and are permitted to provide support services to their detained citizens. When there is no treaty in force, notification and access depend on whether the two countries have direct or indirect diplomatic relations. Consular officers cannot interfere with local judicial proceedings, nor provide legal advice or representation at trial, and are unable to pay legal fees or fines with government funds. The status of dual nationals will be determined by local officials, with all attendant ramifications for access and support.

Emergency Contacts

● Unrated

Emergency Contacts**Ambulance** 118**Fire** 119**Police** 110**Embassies and Consulates**

● Unrated

Australian Embassy**Address** Av. Victor Andres Belaunde 147, Via Principal 155, Torre Real Tres, Of. 1301 San Isidro, Lima**Fax** [\(51-1\) 630 0520](tel:(51-1)6300520)**Email** consular.lima@dfat.gov.au**Web Site** <http://peru.embassy.gov.au>**British Embassy****Address** Avenida Arce 2732, La Paz**Fax** [\(591-2\) 243 1073](tel:(591-2)2431073)**Email** BELaPaz@fco.gov.uk; consular.lapaz@fco.gov.uk**Web Site** <https://www.gov.uk/government/world/organisations/british-embassy-bolivia>**Australian Consulate****Address** Avenida Arce # 2081, Building Montevideo, Mezzanine, Office 2, La Paz**Email** ausconsbolivia@accelerate.com**Delegation of the European Commission****Address** Avenida Costanera No. 300 between Calle 10 and Nardos, Calacoto**Fax** [\(591-2\) 278 4550](tel:(591-2)2784550)**Email** Delegation-bolivia@eeas.europa.eu**Web Site** http://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/bolivia/index_es.htm**US Embassy****Address** 2780 Avenida Arce in La Paz, between Calles Cordero and Campos**Fax** [\(591-2\) 216 8111](tel:(591-2)2168111)**Email** ConsularLaPazACS@state.gov**Web Site** <https://bo.usembassy.gov/>**German Embassy**

Address Avenida Arce 2395, La Paz

Fax [+591 2 244 14 41](tel:+59122441441)

Email info@la-paz.diplo.de

Web Site <http://www.la-paz.diplo.de>

Canadian Embassy

Address 2678 Victor Sanjines Street Barcelona Building, Second Floor, Plaza Espana (Sopocachi), La Paz, Bolivia

Fax [\(591-2\) 241 4453](tel:(591-2)2414453)

Email lapaz@international.gc.ca

Web Site <http://www.canadainternational.gc.ca/peru-perou>

Austrian Embassy

Address Edificio "De las Naciones", Avenida Republica de Colombia/ex Avenida, Central 643, piso 5, San Isidro, Lima 27

Fax [\(51-1\) 442 8851](tel:(51-1)4428851)

Email lima-ob@bmeia.gv.at

Web Site www.aussenministerium.at/lima

French Embassy

Address Avenida Hernando Siles No. 5390, Calle 8 de Obrajés, La Paz

Fax [\(591-2\) 214 9901](tel:(591-2)2149901)

Email information@ambafrance-bo.org

Web Site <http://www.ambafrance-bo.org>

Entry/Exit

Unrated

Travelers can obtain specific information about visas and other entry-exit requirements at <https://entry-exit.crisis24horizon.com/>.

HIV Testing Requirement for more information.

Pre-Departure

Unrated

- Bolivia has significant tensions with Chile and a strong protest culture; travelers should undertake a pre-travel security brief on the associated threats and operating environment, and are recommended to have undertaken annual travel security training.
- Travelers should have adequate travel insurance in place to enable rapid medical treatment or emergency extraction from country, and should review contingency operations, business continuity and crisis management plans. Travelers should identify possible sources of medical support, such as the availability of a hotel provided doctor for minor ailments.
- Bolivia has historically been known for explosive unrest, and travelers should conduct research into the current stability. If the travel dates coincide with planned elections, anniversaries or significant dates, additional measures may need to be taken.
- Travelers should provide friends and family with a copy of their travel itinerary, make a copy of important travel and identification documents, and if applicable, obtain their visa prior to arrival. Travelers should also have information on their meeting host, accommodation, relevant embassies and trusted local contacts easily accessible.

On Arrival

● Unrated

- There are no significant measures to undertake on arrival. Travelers should carry a copy of their travel documents at all times.

In Transit

● Unrated

- Travelers should avoid using street taxis, but should utilize low-profile pre-booked taxis or locally vetted transport providers which have emergency equipment appropriate to the local geography and climatic conditions. Fuel levels in the vehicles should be at least half-full.

At Your Hotel

● Unrated

- Travelers should stay at a reputable hotel with good standards of international-level security.

In the Street

● Unrated

- Travelers should be aware of the national culture and behavioral expectations. Travelers should keep a low profile, and should not become involved in local political issues and avoid discussing politically sensitive topics in public.
- Travelers should avoid overt displays of wealth and dress discreetly and appropriately to the environment. Do not display money, jewelry or valuables and keep a low profile. Travelers should use only small denominations of the local currency, and keep large amounts of cash and cards in a separate place on your person. Contents of wallets or purses should be reduced, particularly cards which may denote affiliations, memberships and accounts. Travelers should not use credit or debit cards unless absolutely necessary and then only at respected, well-known retail and service establishments.
- Travelers should ensure that their mobile phone is carried with sufficient battery life and programmed with appropriate emergency numbers. Travelers should also carry an ID card or passport and emergency medical information.
- LGBT+ travelers should note that, though constitutional anti-discrimination protections exist over sexual orientation and gender identity, Bolivia remains rather conservative by Latin American standards. Same-sex displays of affection risk harassment and even violence, particularly in more rural and insular areas. Cities, though also still conservative, have a somewhat more tolerant attitude. LGBT+ events are held regularly in urban environments, and generally occur without violence, though harassment can still be a problem.

Culture

Unrated

Standard Hours of Operation

Business: Monday-Friday, 0900-1230 and 1430-1830

Government: Monday-Friday, 0900-1700, but may vary by city

Banking: Monday-Friday, 0900-1600

Business attire is generally formal.

Appointments are best scheduled Monday-Friday between 1000-1600. Arriving on time to meetings is expected even though Bolivian counterparts may not be punctual. Arriving late for social engagements is a common practice. Informal or personal discussions are common. Scheduled meetings will typically run longer than expected. If a meeting includes dining out, the host offers to pay the check. Alcohol taken during lunch meetings may be considered inappropriate; but taking alcohol during dinner is considered normal.

Spanish is commonly used for business purposes. Attempts by visitors to use phrases in the native language are well-received and expected. Business cards are widely used and presented using one hand. Always use Mr./Ms./Dr. or a local title until the host indicates that using first names is appropriate. Addressing the host according to his or her official title is seen as a sign of respect. When beginning and ending a meeting, shake hands. It is important to say goodbye to each individual instead of giving a collective goodbye.

Gestures

● Unrated

Business cards are widely used and are presented using one hand. These cards should be presented before the meeting starts.

Shake hands with everyone when beginning a meeting. The handshake should be a firm handshake. When speaking to someone at a business meeting, make direct eye contact. Address everyone at the business meeting by their title and last name.

Avoid using the following gestures or habits, as they are deemed offensive or insulting:

- Yawning in public.
- Using your index finger to point at someone.

Religions

● Unrated

Roman Catholic 77%, Evangelical and Pentecostal 8%, Protestant 8%, none 6%, other 2%

Ethnicities

● Unrated

Mestizo 68%, indigenous 20%, white 5%, other, including cholo/chola, black unspecified 7%

Significant Dates

● Unrated

- January 1 - New Year's Day
- January 22 - Plurinational State Foundation Day
- Febraury 20-21 - Carnival
- April 7 - Good Friday
- May 1 - Labor Day
- June 8 - Corpus Christi
- June 21 - Aymara New Year's Day
- August 6 - Independence Day
- September 14 - Cochabamba Day
- September 24 - Santa Cruz Day
- November 2 - All Saints' Day
- December 25 - Christmas Day

Currency

● Unrated

Currency Name/Code

The official currency of Bolivia is the Boliviano (BOB). One BOB is made up of 100 cents (centavos).

Currency Convertibility

Banks or legal money changers may offer the best exchange rates. The import and export of local and foreign currency exceeding USD 50,000 should be authorized by the Central Bank of Bolivia.

Credit Card

● Unrated

Major credit cards are widely accepted in shops, restaurants, and hotels. Small establishments do not usually accept credit cards.

Taxes and Tipping

● Unrated

It is customary to tip hotel personnel, wait staff in restaurants, and taxi drivers 10 percent; there may be a service charge on the bill.

Bank and ATM

● Unrated

ATM Availability

Automated teller machines are widely available in Bolivia. Always choose a machine located in a secure area, preferably within hotels or other populated, well-lit locations.

Bank Availability

Banking hours are generally Monday through Friday 0830-1700 and Saturday 0900-1300.

Active Alerts

No Alerts

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