



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Bolivia - Potosí

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** La Paz
- ✓ **Language:** Spanish / Indigenous
- ✓ **Population:** 133.000
- ✓ **Square km:** 118,2
- ✓ **Currency:** Boliviano BS
- ✓ **Country code:** +591
- ✓ **Visa:** Fore some countries, [check!](#)
- ✓ **Alarm codes:** 110 (police), 119 (fire), 118 (ambulance)
- ✓ **Vaccinations:** Hep-A / Hep-B / Typhoid / DTP / Yellow fever / Malaria prevention

History Recap Over 1 Drink

1st: Aymara's. 1438-1527: Inca's in west. Spanish arrived → 1532: Battle of Cajamarca against Inca's. Spanish colonial times: Bolivia 'upper Peru' / Charcas. Conversion to Christianity. 1545: Potosí founded, silver mining town. 1770s: Revolt Tupac Amaru II against harsh treatment Indians. Since 1608: 1500-2000 African slaves per year to Potosí. 1809: Liberals of rebel armies under the command of Bolivar & Sucre: Battle of Ayacucho. 1825: Independent. 19th century: Peru-Bolivian Confederation → War of Confederation. 1879-83: War of the Pacific: Bolivia lost coast & nitrate rich fields to Chile. 20th century: Discrimination of indigenous people. 1941: Revolutionary Nationalist Movement (Marxist) → 1952: Bolivian National Revolution: include Aymara/Quechua population. 1964: Military junta overthrew president Paz Estenssoro → many presidents. Current: Evo Morales (indigenous): nationalize gas fields.

Travel Seasons

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Wet | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dry | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Best | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Budget | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Altitude: 4090m (cold!)

Bucket List For Free

- ☺ Take a city bus to Ojo del Inca: Hot springs / lagoon.
- ☺ Free people watching at Plaza 10 de Noviembre.
- ☺ Experience the true Bolivian spirit at the Mercado Central.
- ☺ Visit the Catedral de la Ciudad de Potosí. If you're up for more churches: San Lorenzo.
- ☺ Take a *collectivo* to Tarapaya for a short hike.

Worth The Extra \$€¥

- 👍 A must: Silver mine tour, guided by a miners. I had a good experience at Koala Tours. Take some extra cash to buy some presents (soft drinks, coca leaves, dynamite) for the miners.
- 👍 Casa Nacional de Moneda, Calle Ayacucho.
- 👍 Visit Parque Nacional Torotoro by yourself or with a [guide](#).

Tourist Trap Alert

- ⊗ Some hostels offer a bed and food if you work for them. Honestly, food and lodging are ridiculously cheap in Bolivia. You don't want to work for a few euros per day.

Sleep Cheap

- ❖ Koala Den Hostel, +59126226467, Junín 56.
- ❖ Hostal Colonial, +59126224809, Calle Hoyos 8.
- ❖ Go [Couchsurfing!](#)

Mama Said

- ☠ Watch your bag, buy a lock. You'll need it.
- ☠ Don't wander around in the dark. Especially not alone, and especially not in deserted areas. Bolivia is a poor country and muggings and theft are common.
- ☠ Only use official taxi's. →
- ☠ Bring a scarf or a mouth cap to protect yourself during the mine tour.
- ☠ Bring altitude pills or buy coca leaves. Warm clothes are also recommended for night time.

Budget Bites

- ⌘ Koala Cafe, Calle Ayacucho 5.
- ⌘ Dinner and lunch for less than €1 at Mercado Central and at the main square (street food).
- ⌘ Tasty streetfood: Salteñas, tucumanas, choclo, llauchas, anticuchos, saice.

Free-Riding?

- The bus system is used for long-distance travel. In the city (dirt cheap) *collectivos* are used. On the front you can find the destination.
- Taxi's are cheap, but can be very dangerous in Bolivia. Armed muggings are common. Only use official companies, let your hostel call one. Never go in a cab with strangers. As a woman, go with men you know.

Tip: Download the free Triposo Bolivia app for an offline map, offline guide & more.

Next?

- In Bolivia: Sucre, Santa Cruz, Uyuni, Tarija, Tupiza, Oruro, La Paz.
- International destinations closeby: Paraguay, Chile, Peru, Brazil.

The Earth Becomes My Throne