

# Bolivia



Bolivia is a landlocked country in South America bordered by Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, and Peru. The Andes Mountains cross the western part of the country. The country also has a plateau, rain forests, grasslands, and swamps. The nation has many natural resources including natural gas, silver, zinc, tin, gold, soybeans, and quinoa. Despite its wealth of resources, most of the people are poor, and about half are farmers that raise crops such as corn, potatoes, quinoa, bananas, cacao, coffee, sugar cane, rice, and soybeans. They also raise alpacas, llamas, cattle, and chickens.

Spanish is the official language, but 35 indigenous languages are also recognized by the government. The country has two capital cities. Sucre is the official capital and is where the Supreme Court meets. However, La Paz is considered the actual capital and is home to many government offices.

People have lived in the region for thousands of years, including the Tiahuanaco, Aymara, and Inca. The Spanish invaded and began forming colonies in the area they called Upper Peru or Charcas. After silver was discovered, the Spanish moved in at an even faster rate. In the early 1800s, several parts of South America fought back against Spain. Simon Bolivar sent Antonio Jose de Sucre, a general, to lead the fight for Bolivia. Sucre's forces won, and Sucre became president in 1826.



Sucre, one of Bolivia's capitals, was founded in 1538, making it one of the oldest cities in South America. Parts of the city still look similar to what they did in colonial days, and a cathedral that was started in the 1500s still stands in the city's main square.

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I hope you've enjoyed visiting four of the many amazing places in Bolivia! Before you leave to go home, could I ask you to do something special for the people here? Many people in Bolivia believe in Jesus, but the country battles much poverty and political challenges, and there are some people in Bolivia who still haven't understood yet that Jesus loves them.

Will you remember to pray for the people of Bolivia? Here are a few things you can pray for. You can add more prayer requests to the list as you think of them!



Pray that people will have Bibles to read in whatever language they speak.



Pray for the people living in Sucre, La Paz, Cochabamba, and Uyuni, plus every city and town to believe in Jesus.

