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The Visit of President Paz Zamora of Bolivia

It has been a great pleasure to meet today with President Jaime Paz Zamora. This is the third time since he took office last August that we have met to discuss issues of importance to our two countries. We met first last fall in New York and then in February in Cartagena, Colombia where, together with our fellow presidents from Colombia and Peru, we launched what promises to be a new era of intense international cooperation against narcotics trafficking.

Our conversations today have been wide-ranging and productive. They have dealt with ~~the inter-related and mutually dependent topics of~~ economic development and the strengthening of democracy, as well as with the threat of international narcotics trafficking to our democratic institutions and our societies.

We are continuing to build on the progress begun in Cartagena.

-- Bolivia and the United States signed an extradition treaty just a few days ago*, which will help us prosecute and punish international narcotraffickers, ~~whose dirty business has created so much suffering and sorrow in our hemisphere.~~

* expected to be done by May 8

The Congresses of Bolivia and the United States were among the first to ratify the Vienna Drug Convention*. This, ~~in both a practical and symbolic sense,~~ puts both our countries in the forefront ~~among a growing group~~ of nations who have committed themselves to cooperate in the fight against drugs.

~~But as both President Paz and I know, simply signing international treaties and multilateral accords is the easy part of the job. Attacking our domestic problems requires the greatest courage. I want to salute President Paz Zamora.~~ In the first four months of this year Bolivia has eradicated more acres of illegal coca than it did all last year. In fact, if the current pace of eradication is maintained, Bolivia may, *by the middle of the decade* ~~within four years,~~ be able to eliminate all coca grown within its borders for illegal use. That would be a remarkable achievement.

Bolivia is making ^{THIS} good progress on ~~the narcotics~~ front because President Paz has ^{ADOPTED} ~~embraced~~ an integrated strategy of eradication, interdiction, and alternative development to fight the cocaine trade. We agreed to that approach at Cartagena and its effectiveness is now being demonstrated in Bolivia.

~~Interdiction reduces the~~

~~price of the coca leaf. Development programs offer the coca growers alternative crops that can enable them to maintain their livelihood.~~

THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN

I have been equally impressed by what Bolivia has done during the past decade to strengthen its democratic institutions and during the past five years to carry out far reaching economic reform. President Paz, both in New York and at Cartagena, impressed upon me the importance of development assistance to his country, something that the United States has long supported. This fiscal year, the United States will provide Bolivia about 90 million dollars in economic aid. For the next fiscal year, I have asked Congress for over 150 million dollars in economic assistance for Bolivia.

~~Given Bolivia's strong economic reform effort, and its effort to structure its economy away from any dependency on narcotics trafficking, I strongly support President Paz Zamora's effort to encourage the Multilateral Development Banks to continue, and where possible increase, their programs in Bolivia. I also encourage American companies to consider investment in Bolivia. I am delighted that a U.S. - Bolivian Trade and Investment Consultative Mechanism is being formed to spur those efforts.~~

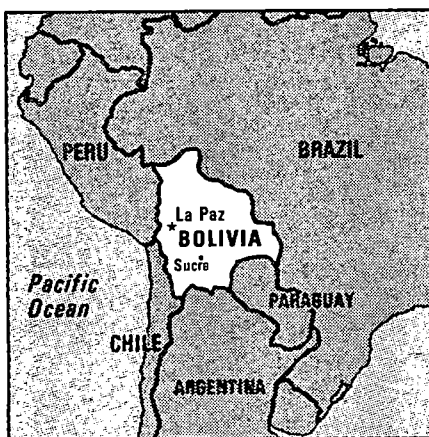
~~At Cartagena a new spirit of hemispheric cooperation and determination was born. And this "spirit of Cartagena" has been nowhere more in evidence than in Bolivia and in the person of my friend President Paz Zamora.~~

Mr. President, on behalf of the American people, I congratulate you and your countrymen for political and economic successes. I also thank you for your efforts in combatting the cocaine trade. The United States is also making a tremendous effort to defeat our domestic cocaine problem. It has been a pleasure to talk with you and share your insights. ~~Bolivia exemplifies the progress that the countries of our hemisphere are making in the political, economic and counternarcotics fronts. We thank you for your leadership and wish you a safe return home.~~

Bolivia

October 1986

OFFICIAL NAME: Republic of Bolivia



PROFILE

Geography

Area: 1.1 million sq. km. (424,162 sq. mi.); about the size of Texas and California combined. **Cities:** *Capital*—La Paz (administrative) 955,000; Sucre (judicial) 84,500. *Other cities*—Santa Cruz (419,642 est.), Cochabamba (304,960 est.). **Terrain:** Mountains, high plateau, valleys, and tropical lowlands. **Climate:** Varies with altitude—from humid and tropical to semi-arid and cold.

People

Nationality: *Noun and adjective*—Bolivian(s). **Population** (1986 est.): 6.25 million. **Annual growth rate:** 2.6%. **Ethnic groups:** Aymara 25%, Quechua 30%, European 5%–15%, mixed 25%–30%. **Religion:** Roman Catholic 95%. **Languages:** Spanish (official), Aymara, Quechua. **Education:** *Years compulsory*—ages 7–14. *Attendance* (1982)—82%. *Literacy*—75%. **Health:** *Infant mortality rate*—123/1,000. *Life expectancy*—49 yrs. **Work force** (1.7 million): *Agriculture*—47%. *Industry and commerce*—19%. *Services*—23%. *Government*—11%.

Government

Type: Republic. **Independence:** August 6, 1825. **Constitution:** February 2, 1967.

Branches: *Executive*—president and Cabinet. *Legislative*—bicameral Congress. *Judicial*—five levels of jurisdiction, headed by Supreme Court.

Subdivisions: Nine departments.

Political parties: Nationalist Revolutionary Movement (MNR), Nationalist Democratic Action (ADN), Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR), Nationalist Revolutionary Movement of the Left (MNRI). **Suffrage:** Universal adult.

Central government budget: *Expenditures*—26% of 1984 GDP.

National holidays: New Year's Day, Carnival, Good Friday, Labor Day (May 1), Corpus Christi Day, La Paz Day (La Paz only, July 16), Independence Day (August 6), All Saints Day (November 1), and Christmas Day.

Flag: red, yellow, and green horizontal bands from top to bottom; the coat of arms is centered on the yellow band.

Economy

GDP (1985): \$4 billion. **Annual growth rate** (1985): -1.7%. **Per capita income** (1985): \$536. **Inflation rate** (1986): 10%.

Natural resources: Tin, natural gas, petroleum, zinc, tungsten, antimony, silver, lead, gold, iron, (also lithium, potassium, and borax not yet exploited).

Agriculture (19.6% of GDP): *Products*—potatoes, corn, sugarcane, rice, wheat, coffee, beef, barley, and quinoa. *Arable land*—27%.

Industry: *Types*—manufacturing (9.8% of GDP); mining (12.6% of GDP); also textiles, food processing, chemicals, plastics, minerals smelting and petroleum refining.

Trade (1985): *Exports*—\$663 million: natural gas, tin, zinc, coffee, silver, tungsten. *Major markets*—Latin American Integration Association (ALADI), US, European Community. *Imports*—\$552 million: machinery and transportation equipment, consumer products, construction and mining equipment. *Major suppliers*—ALADI, US, Japan, Brazil.

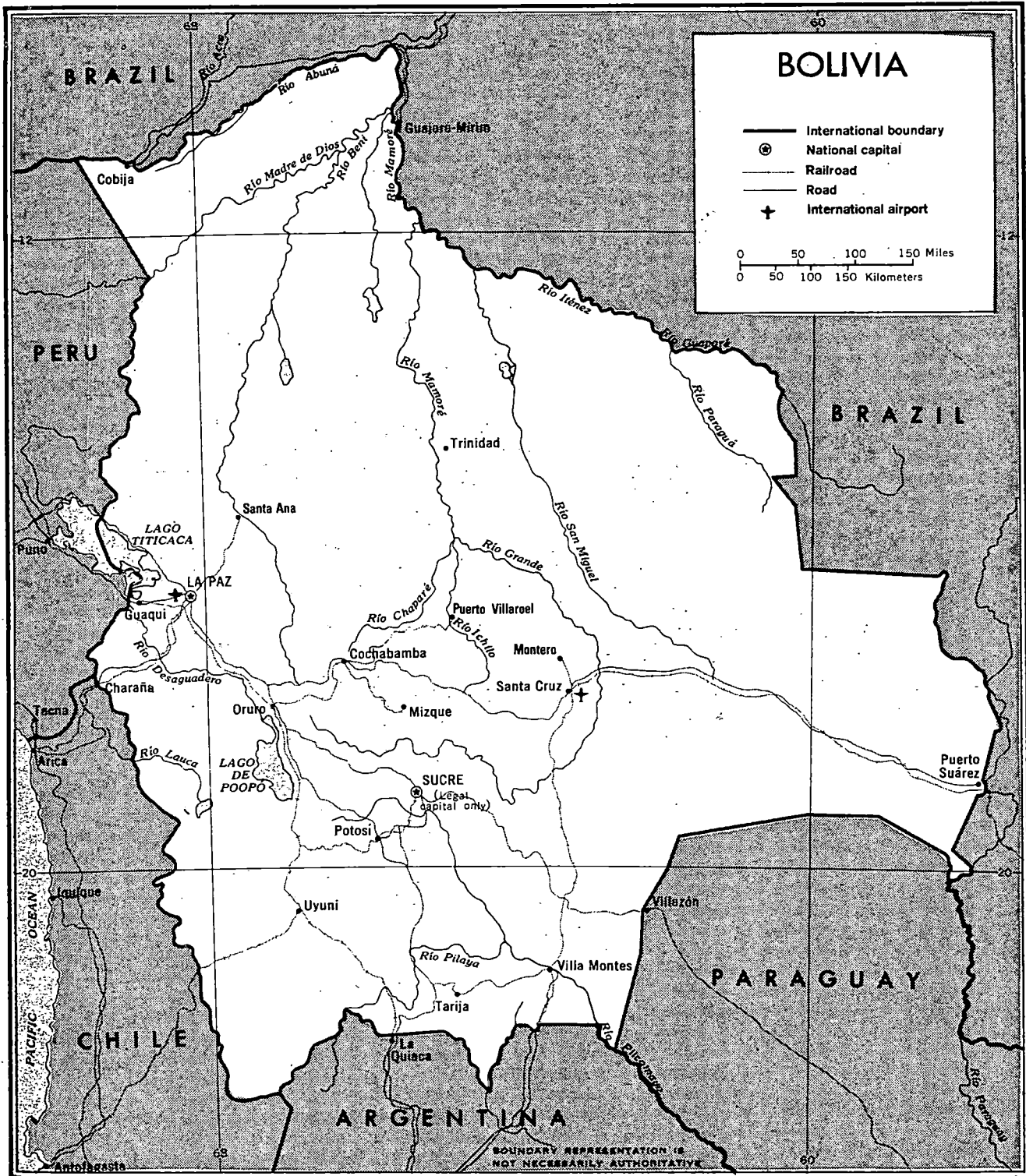
Official exchange rate (May 1986): 1,960,000 pesos = US\$1.

Fiscal year: Calendar year.

US economic aid (1985): \$51 million.

Membership in International Organizations

UN, Organization of American States (OAS), Andean Pact, INTELSAT, Nonaligned Movement, International Parliamentary Union, ALADI.



BOLIVIA

GEOGRAPHY

Landlocked Bolivia is bounded by Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina, Chile, and Peru. La Paz is the administrative capital; Sucre is the constitutional and judicial capital.

Crossing the country from the northwest to the southeast, a high plateau (*altiplano*) parallels and splits the *Andes* into two mountain chains (*cordilleras*) along its eastern and western sides. The western mountain chain forms a 5,000-meter (16,500-ft.) high frontier with Chile. The *altiplano*, about 800 kilometers (500 mi.) long and 130 kilometers (80 mi.) wide, has an average altitude of 3,650 meters (12,000 ft.) above sea level. This area cradles Lake Titicaca at 3,800 meters (12,500 ft.), the world's highest navigable lake, and the lithium-rich Uyuni and Copipasa salt flats.

The high altitude gives the plateau a clear atmosphere and cool climate. The average temperature is 10°C (50°F). Cereals are the *altiplano*'s major agricultural products. Principal livestock are sheep, alpacas, llamas, and vicuñas. Mineral deposits, the backbone of

Bolivia's economy, are found here, as well as most of the country's inhabitants, main cities, and industrial centers.

In the Departments of La Paz and Cochabamba, the *yungas* (hills and valleys varying in altitude from 490 to 3,130 meters—1,600–9,000 ft.) and valleys separate the high plateau from the lowland plains. The temperature averages about 21°C (70°F), and the atmosphere is humid. Further south, in the Departments of Chuquisaca, Tarija, and western Santa Cruz, the *yungas* flatten out into more open and cooler valleys that descend gradually toward the Chaco plains in the southeast.

The lowland plain (*llano*) region of Bolivia covers the Departments of Beni, Pando, and Santa Cruz. This is the most highly developed agricultural region in Bolivia. In the northeastern area, these plains are part of the Amazon River basin, containing tropical forests and dense vegetation interspersed with open savannas. Further south, the plains form part of the La Plata River basin and constitute a northward extension of the Argentine pampas. This sparsely populated part of Bolivia is rapidly developing. Large-scale cotton and sugarcane farming and cattle raising predominate, but interest in industrial development is increasing. Bolivia's major deposits of petroleum, natural gas, and iron ore are located in this region.

PEOPLE

Bolivia's ethnic distribution is estimated to be 55% Indian, 5%–15% European—primarily Spanish, and 25%–30% mixed Indian and Spanish (*mestizo*). Among the limited number of foreign residents are about 700 Japanese and Okinawan families, who emigrated to Bolivia after World War II and settled in the Santa Cruz area, plus a small but prosperous Mennonite community in the same region.

Bolivia is the least developed country in South America. About two-thirds of its people, many of whom are subsistence farmers, live in poverty. Population density ranges from less than one person per square kilometer in the southeastern plains to about 10 per square kilometer (25 per sq. mi.) in the central highlands. Bolivia's high mortality rate prevents the annual population growth rate from exceeding 2.7%.

Bolivia's capital, La Paz, has the highest elevation of any capital city in the world at 3,600 meters (11,800 ft.). The fastest growing major city is Santa Cruz, the commercial and industrial hub of the eastern lowlands.

Almost 95% of Bolivians are Roman Catholic, but most Indians interweave pre-Columbian and Christian symbols in their religious practices. Fewer than half of the people speak Spanish as their first language. The literacy rate is low in the rural areas.

Cultural Achievements

Three periods of cultural development have taken place in the territory of Bolivia—the pre-Columbian, colonial, and republican. From the pre-Columbian period, important archeological ruins, gold and silver ornaments, and ceramics and weavings remain of the great Aymara civilization at Tiahuanacu. The later Inca conquest of the highlands of what is now Bolivia left important ruins at Samaipata and Incallajta. The Quechua (or Inca) culture originated a beautiful style in ceramics and weavings that has been preserved and developed to the present time.

The Spaniards brought their tradition of religious art which, through the hands of local Indian or *mestizo* builders and artisans, has left a rich and distinctive heritage of architecture, painting, and sculpture. The colonial period produced not only the paintings of Perez de Holguin, Flores, Bitti, and others, but also the works of skilled, unknown stonecutters, goldsmiths, and silversmiths.

Recently, an important body of baroque music of the period has been found.

Bolivian artists of stature in the 20th century include Guzman de Rojas, Arturo Borda, and Maria Luisa Pacheco. Marina Nunez del Prado is an internationally known sculptor.

Bolivia has a rich folklore—its popular music is varied and distinctive of the various regions. The Devil Dances at the "Carnival of Oruro" are recognized as one of the great folkloric events in South America. The native carnival at Tarabuco is also acquiring increasing importance.

HISTORY AND POLITICAL CONDITIONS

Between 100 B.C. and 900 A.D. Aymara Indians, living at the southern end of Lake Titicaca, produced a highly advanced culture now known from the ruins at Tiahuanacu. In about 1450, the Quechua-speaking Incas added the area of modern highland Bolivia to their efficient and rapidly expanding empire. They controlled the area until the Spanish conquest in 1525.

During most of the Spanish colonial period, this territory (called "Upper Peru" or "Charcas") was ruled from the Viceroyalty of Peru, and the principal cities were Chuquisaco (now Sucre) and Potosi. Bolivian silver mines produced much of the Spanish Empire's wealth, and Potosi, site of the famed "mountain of silver," was for many years the largest city in the Western Hemisphere. As Spanish royal authority weakened during the Napoleonic wars, sentiment against colonial rule grew. Independence was proclaimed in 1809, but 16 years of struggle followed before the establishment of the Republic, named for Simon Bolivar, on August 6, 1825.

Independence did not bring stability. For nearly 60 years, coups and short-lived constitutions dominated Bolivian politics. Preoccupied with remaining in office, few presidents were able to rule effectively. Bolivia's weakness was demonstrated during the War of the Pacific (1879–84) when it lost its seacoast and the adjoining rich nitrate fields to Chile.

An increase in the world price of

silver brought Bolivia a measure of prosperity and political stability in the late 1800s. During the early part of the 20th century, tin replaced silver as the country's most important source of wealth. Political parties that reflected the interests of the mine owners ruled until the 1930s with few outbreaks of violence.

The lot of the Indians, who constituted most of the population, remained deplorable. Forced to work under primitive conditions in the mines and in nearly feudal status on large estates, they were denied access to education, economic opportunity, or political participation.

Bolivia's defeat by Paraguay in the Chaco War (1932-1935) is generally considered a watershed in the country's history. Great loss of life and territory discredited the traditional ruling classes, while service in the army produced stirrings of political awareness among the Indians. From the end of the Chaco War until the 1952 revolution, the emergence of contending ideologies and the demands of new groups convulsed Bolivian politics.

The National Revolutionary Movement (MNR) emerged from this ferment as Bolivia's most broadly based party. Denied its victory in the 1951 presidential elections, the MNR plotted a revolt.

On April 11, 1952, the army surrendered after 3 days' fighting in La Paz, and Bolivia's social revolution began. Under the leadership of President Victor Paz Estenssoro and Hernan Siles Zuazo, the MNR introduced universal adult suffrage, carried out a sweeping land reform, promoted rural education, and nationalized the three great tin companies that for many years had strongly influenced Bolivia's political and economic life.

Twelve years of tumultuous rule divided the MNR internally and reduced its public support. A military junta, led by Gen. Alfredo Ovando Candia and the Vice President, Rene Barrientos Ortuño, overthrew President Paz in November 1964 at the beginning of his third presidential term. The junta continued the MNR's basic policies, however. In 1966, Gen. Barrientos campaigned for the presidency and won the election. During the latter's administration, Che Guevara, the famous guerrilla leader, was killed in eastern Bolivia while attempting unsuccessfully to foment a rebellion.

Barrientos' death in a 1969 helicopter accident left a vacuum in Bolivian politics. Three varied governments lasted a total of 27 months. Alarmed by the failure of the last of these adminis-

trations to preserve social order, the armed forces, the MNR, and other political groups collaborated in its downfall and installed Col. (later Gen.) Hugo Banzer Suarez as president.

Banzer ruled with the active support of the MNR and another political party from August 1971 to November 1974. Then, impatient with internal schisms in the governing coalition, he replaced the civilian politicians with members of the armed forces and suspended political and labor union activities.

Although the economy grew impressively during Banzer's 7-year presidency, demands for greater political and labor freedoms undercut his support. His decision to call elections in 1978 plunged Bolivia into yet another period of turmoil.

General elections in 1978, 1979, and 1980 were marked by varying degrees of fraud and the failure of any candidate to win a clear-cut majority. Meanwhile, coups, countercoups, and caretaker governments characterized political life.

Former MNR President Hernan Siles Zuazo and his left-of-center political coalition received a plurality of the votes in the 1980 election, generally considered the most honest of the three pollings in 1978, 1979, and 1980. The military intervened, however, to prevent Siles from assuming the presidency. On July 17, 1980, Army Gen. Luis Garcia Meza Tejada carried out one of the most ruthless and violent of Bolivia's many coups. He declared the election results invalid, suspended Congress, prohibited political party activity, and curtailed the functioning of labor unions. His military government quickly became notorious for human rights abuses and involvement in narcotics trafficking, rampant administrative corruption, and poor economic management.

A military rebellion forced Garcia Meza from office in August 1981. During the ensuing 14 months, three other governments of the armed forces tried to cope with Bolivia's expanding political and economic problems, and all failed. Increasing social unrest forced the military to convoke the Congress elected in 1980 and allow it to choose a new chief executive. On October 10, 1982, 22 years after his first term of office expired and 26 months after his second term should have begun, Hernan Siles Zuazo was inaugurated president.

Siles' electoral coalition (the Democratic and Popular Unity-UDP) consisted of his own National Revolutionary Movement of the Left (MNRI) and two smaller parties—the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) and the Communist Party of Bolivia (PCB). The Christian

Democratic Party agreed to participate with these three in forming a government, but in January 1983 six MIR ministers resigned in a policy dispute. The MIR, led by Siles' coalition partner and Vice President Jaime Paz Zamora, rejoined the government in late 1983.

Increasing labor unrest and social tension, provoked by Siles' gross economic mismanagement and feckless leadership, forced Siles to agree to call national elections for mid-1985 and relinquish power on August 6, 1985, 1 year before the expiration of his constitutional term. A total of 1,680,370 votes was cast in the July 14, 1985 national and municipal elections, which were characterized by administrative irregularities and deficiencies but were not notoriously fraudulent. The Nationalist Democratic Action (ADN) party of Gen. Banzer won a narrow plurality of the popular vote (32.8%), followed by 30.4% for Victor Paz Estenssoro's MNR, and 10.2% for former MIR Vice President Jaime Paz Zamora. Despite the ADN plurality of some 37,000 votes—because of the preference given to rural votes over urban votes in the apportionment of seats in Congress—the MNR won more legislative seats than the ADN. In the congressional run-off, the MIR cast its lot with the MNR, resulting in the election of the 77-year-old Paz Estenssoro to a fourth term in office.

GOVERNMENT

The constitution promulgated in February 1967 provides for traditional executive, legislative, and judicial powers. The traditionally strong executive, however, tends to overshadow the Congress, whose role is generally limited to debating and approving legislation initiated by the executive. The judiciary consists of the Supreme Court and departmental and lower courts. Bolivia's nine departments have limited autonomy, although departmental officials have been appointed by the central government for many years.

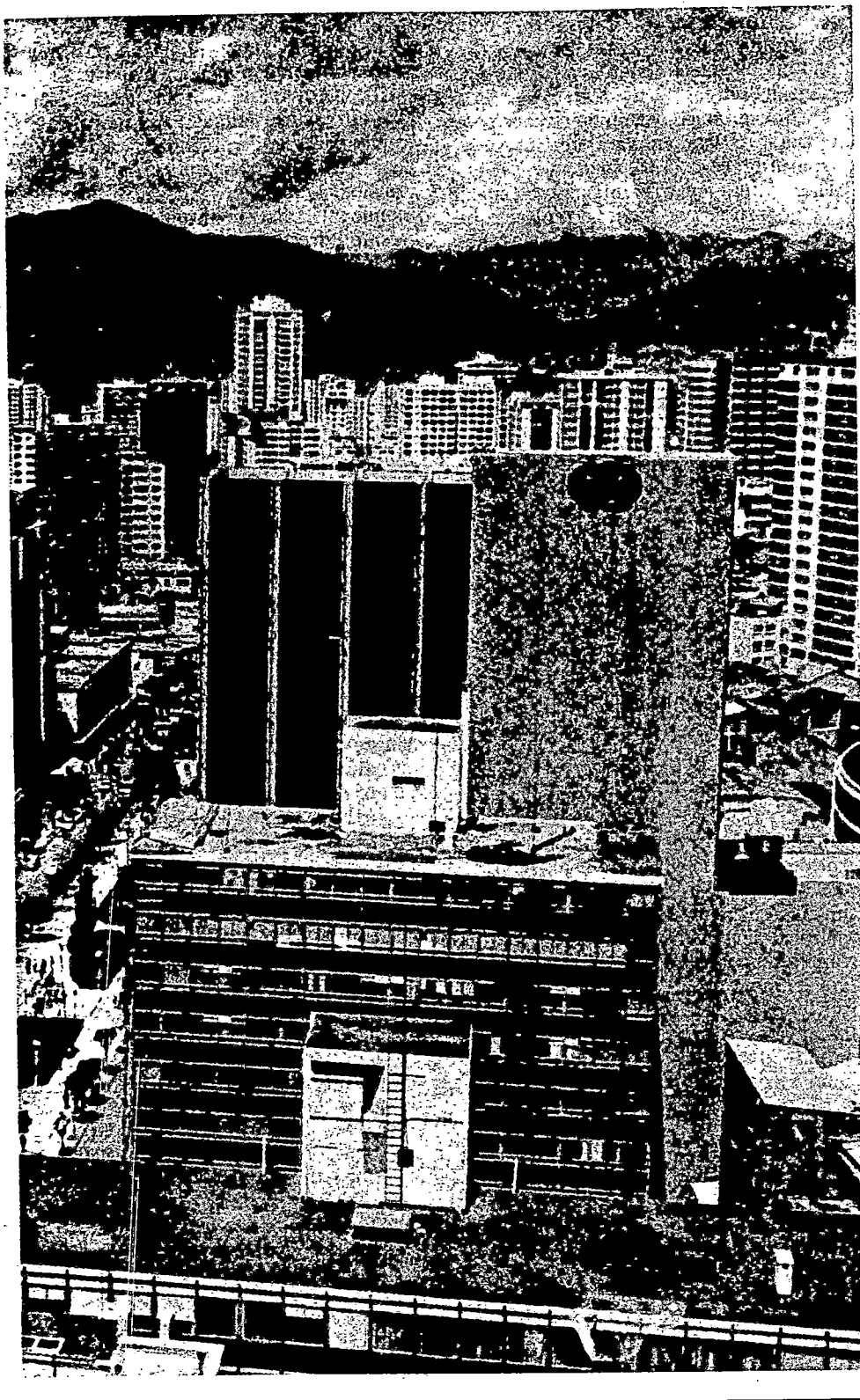
As a result of the July 14, 1985 elections, Bolivian cities and towns are now governed by elected mayors and councils for the first time since 1951.

Principal Government Officials*

President—Victor Paz Estenssoro
Vice President—Julio Garrett Aillon

The president and vice president were elected in the July 14, 1985 elections.

* UPDATE NOTE: Leadership changes may have occurred here since the date of this entry. Check the directory of officials beginning on page 1 for most recent information.



View of El Prado, one of the main avenues in La Paz.

The following were sworn into President Paz's second Cabinet on January 22, 1986.

*Ministers**

- Foreign Affairs and Worship—Guillermo Bedregal Gutierrez
- Interior, Migration and Justice—Fernando Barthelemy Martinez
- Defense—Fernando Valle Quevedo
- Finance—Juan L. Cariaga Osorio
- Planning and Coordination—Gonzalo Sanchez De Lozada Sanchez Bustamante
- Industry, Commerce and Tourism—Roberto Gisbert Bermudez
- Transportation and Communications—Andres Petricevic
- Social Services and Public Health—Carlos Perez Guzman
- Work and Labor Development—Walter Rios Gamboa
- Mines and Metallurgy—Jaime Villalobos Sanjines
- Peasant Affairs and Agriculture—Edil Sandoval Moron
- Energy and Hydrocarbons—Carlos Morales Landivar
- Urban Affairs and Housing—Juan Franklin Anaya Vasquez
- Aeronautics—Gen. Antonio Tovar Pierola
- Secretary General of the Presidency—Juan Carlos Duran Saucedo
- Integration—Fernando Caceres Dias
- Information—Herman Antelo Laughlin
- Ambassador to the Organization of American States (OAS)—Armando Antelo Badani
- Ambassador to the United Nations—Jorge Gumucio Granier
- Ambassador to the United States—Fernando Illanes De La Riva

Bolivia maintains an embassy in the United States at 3014 Massachusetts Avenue, NW., Washington D.C. 20008 (tel. 202-483-4410), and consulates in San Francisco, Houston, Los Angeles, Chicago, Miami, New York, and New Orleans.

ECONOMY

Bolivia is among the poorest countries in Latin America; its per capita gross national product is the lowest in South America. From 1972 until 1976, however, it achieved impressive growth in gross domestic product (GDP)—6%-7% per year—due largely to an influx of development credits from multilateral and bilateral donors, as well as from private foreign banks.

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Colorful Indian open-air markets sell fresh produce and authentic handicrafts.

Most of Bolivia's foreign exchange earnings come from mineral exports and natural gas sales to Argentina. Bolivia has experienced an economic crisis since 1981; the GDP dropped nearly 10% in 1982. In 1985, President Paz undertook an impressive economic stabilization program designed to encourage internal development and foreign investment.

Minerals and Hydrocarbons

Minerals and hydrocarbons lead Bolivia's exports, with natural gas accounting for 47.5% of the country's total exports. Tin exports represented 68% of the value of the nation's total mineral exports in 1984. In the last 4 years, tin production has dropped from annual levels of 30,000 metric tons (mt) of metallic content in 1982 to 20,276 mt in 1984, and 16,270 mt in 1985. Estimates of 1986 production are in the 10,000 mt range. COMIBOL, the state-owned mining corporation, is the largest mineral producer in the country. ENAF, the state smelting corporation, has a tin-smelting capacity of 30,000 mt per year, although its 10,000 mt low-grade smelter has been hardly used since its firing in 1982. The collapse of the international tin market in October 1985 was a major blow to Bolivia's economy. Estimates show that low world tin prices could result in a \$60 million loss in foreign exchange earnings for 1986.

The country's foreign exchange earnings from all mineral exports dropped from \$419.4 million in 1982 to \$347.3 million in 1983 and \$263.7 million in 1985. Natural gas sales to Argentina totaled \$375.7 million in 1984 and \$372.6 million in 1985, a slight drop from \$381.6 million, the highest ever, in 1982. In late April 1986, the Governments of Bolivia and Argentina reached agreement on the terms of gas sales to the latter country for the next 6 months. The volume will remain the same, but Bolivia agreed to a price reduction of some 15%, which will reduce annual revenue to \$347 million. About 33% of the value will be available to Bolivia in cash (down from 50%), and the balance in counter trade. Bolivia has not exported petroleum (crude oil) since 1979, and until 1983 only small quantities of gasoline were exported.

The steady decline of Bolivia's petroleum and minerals exports has been the major factor in the country's ever-growing current account and balance-of-payments deficit. Daily petroleum production declined to an average of 19,856 barrels per day (b/d) in 1985 compared to a peak production of 45,000 b/d in 1974. Bolivia's liquids production is composed of 60% condensates and 40% crude oil.

The longstanding gas pipeline proposal for future natural gas sales to Brazil could increase future export earnings, but lack of interest on both sides has stalled the development of the project. Future exploitation of Bolivia's large salt flats of the *altiplano* could also increase export earnings.

Agriculture

Bolivia's agricultural performance has improved after the serious setbacks originating from poor weather conditions in 1982 and 1983. Annual production of sugar, potatoes, corn, and rice has returned to historically normal levels. The country remains, however, a major importer of wheat.

Agriculture, including forestry and fishing, is the most important sector of the economy in terms of employment (47%) and has enormous potential for future growth. Domestic wheat production is low, leading to annual imports of about 300,000 mt. The year 1984 was one of recovery, recording a growth of 18.7% in agricultural output. This recovery featured sizable gains in production of rice, potatoes, and corn. Growth in 1985 amounted to 3.1%. Exports in Bolivian agricultural products totaled \$34.6 million in 1985.

External Financing

Bolivia's economy is constrained by a large foreign debt, estimated at \$3.7 billion at the end of 1985. In May 1984, the democratically elected government of Hernan Siles announced a moratorium on payments of its \$850 million debt to the international banks. Nonetheless, debt service payments represented about 56.9% of export earnings in 1985.

Trade with the United States

Bolivia recently renegotiated its official debt through Paris Club negotiations and is attempting to reschedule commercial debt. The Paz government has made impressive gains in stabilizing the exchange rate, and the government is also in compliance with the terms of an International Monetary Fund agreement.

DEFENSE

Bolivia's armed forces have played a major and often controversial role in the country's history. Defeated in the 1952 revolution, the army was at first drastically reduced in size and influence. Later, however, the MNR rebuilt the armed forces to counter the power of unruly militia units. This strategy backfired in 1964 when the military carried out a coup against the MNR. For most of the next 18 years, Bolivia's presidents were military leaders. One of the last, Gen. Luis Garcia Meza Tejada, held power for just over a year from 1980-1982. His alleged involvement in narcotics trafficking and serious human rights abuses committed during his regime did much to discredit military rule. The armed forces adhered strictly to their constitutional role during the terms of elected President Hernan Siles Zuazo (1982-1985), and supported fully the constitutional transition to another elected president, Dr. Paz Estenssoro. Despite the country's occasionally uncertain political climate, Bolivia's military in recent years has contributed responsibly to strengthening the country's still fragile democracy.

Estimates of Bolivian armed forces troop strength are army 20,000, air force 4,000, and navy, which patrols Lake Titicaca and various rivers, 2,500. In addition to its mission of external defense and internal security, the military also participates in civic action

BOLIVIA

ams and provides transportation
es. Bolivia is a signatory of the
American Treaty of Reciprocal
ance (Rio Treaty), an agreement
g the American states for mutual
ort against aggression.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

via traditionally has maintained nor-
diplomatic relations with all hemi-
eric states except Chile. Relations
Chile, strained since Bolivia's
eat in the War of the Pacific (1879-83)
its loss of the coastal province of
cama, were severed from 1962 to
5 in a dispute over the use of the
ers of the Lauca River. These were
umed in 1975 and broken again in
8 over the inability of both countries
reach an agreement that might have
anted Bolivia a sovereign access to the
a. In the 1960s, relations with Cuba
re broken following Castro's rise to
wer. The Siles government resumed
diplomatic relations in 1983.

During the Garcia Meza regime,
Bolivia's relations with many countries,
cluding the United States, were
strained. Principal concerns focused on
the narcotics problem, human rights

abuses, and interruption of the demo-
cratic process. The restoration of con-
stitutional democracy in 1982 alleviated
some of these concerns and greatly
improved Bolivia's diplomatic standing.

Since 1970, Bolivia has expanded its
links with the Soviet Union, various East
European nations, and the People's
Republic of China. These include diplo-
matic relations, trade, cultural
exchanges, and limited economic
assistance.

U.S.-BOLIVIAN RELATIONS

The normally friendly relations between
the United States and Bolivia were inter-
rupted during the Garcia Meza regime.
Following the unusually violent and
repressive coup of July 17, 1980, the
United States withdrew its ambassador,
cut off security assistance and arms
sales, and suspended a substantial por-
tion of economic assistance.

In November 1981, after Garcia
Meza's replacement by a more moderate
military leader, the U.S. Ambassador
returned to La Paz. Resumption of U.S.
economic and security assistance pro-
grams took place after Bolivia's return

to constitutional democracy. The United
States has a longstanding aid relation-
ship with Bolivia. Between 1946 and
1980, economic assistance totaled more
than \$800 million, and grants made up
almost half this sum.

A major issue in bilateral relations is
that nearly 50% of the raw materials
utilized in producing the cocaine con-
sumed in the United States originates in
Bolivia. For generations the traditional
practice of chewing coca leaves served to
alleviate the rigors of life on the
altiplano, but during the past decades an

Travel Notes

Customs: With regular passports, a 90-day
tourist visa can be obtained at the airport.
Restrictions on entry and exit by car are
numerous, and procedures for acquiring the
necessary documentation are time consuming.

Climate and clothing: Temperatures in
La Paz range from cool to cold; a coat or
sweater is useful year round. The rainy
season lasts from December to March. Santa
Cruz is often hot and humid.

Health: To adjust to the altitude, rest for the
first 3 days, eat lightly, and avoid alcohol and
cigarettes for the first week. Drink plenty of
liquids in La Paz, where humidity is low.
Sanitation is poor. Do not eat unwashed fruit
and vegetables or undercooked meats and
fish. Tapwater is not potable. Yellow fever
inoculation is recommended.

Telecommunications: Telephone service
within Bolivia is steadily improving, and
direct-dialing between most major cities and
between the US and some major cities is
possible. Telegraph service is also available.
Bolivia is 1 hour ahead of eastern standard
time.

Transportation: Flights from the US to
La Paz take 10-15 hrs. Overland travel from
neighboring countries is possible but com-
plicated. Taxis in La Paz are plentiful and
relatively inexpensive but must be hailed from
the street. Taxis usually must be shared.



San Francisco Church, used by many people as a reference point in the downtown area of La Paz.

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increasing percentage of coca cultivation has been diverted to the illegal market for the elaboration of cocaine. The corruption and disregard for law that accompanied the growth of the illegal trade have made narcotics trafficking not only a major domestic but international problem for Bolivia.

Principal U.S. Officials *

Ambassador—Edward M. Rowell
 Deputy Chief of Mission—Jeffrey R. Biggs
 Defense Attache—Col. John Stell
 Commander, U.S. Military Group—Col. Robert Brown
 Director, AID Mission—David Cohen
 Political Counselor—William Lofstrom
 Economic Counselor—Ralph Buck
 Consul General—Gerald Lueders
 Public Affairs Officer, USIS—Myron Hoffmann
 Consular Agent Santa Cruz—Marilyn McKenney
 Consular Agent Cochabamba—William Scarborough

The U.S. Embassy is located in the Banco Popular del Peru building, corner of Calles Mercado y Colon, La Paz (tel. 591-2-350251). U.S. consular agencies are located in Santa Cruz (Calle Bolivar 342; tel. 591-3-330725) and Cochabamba (25 de Mayo 365; tel. 591-4-225896). ■

* UPDATE NOTE: Some personnel listed above may have been shifted since the date of this entry. Check personnel listings under the heading, U.S. Embassies, Consulates, and Foreign Service Posts. See CONTENTS for page number.

Further Information

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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FROM: H. LANE
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TO: Stephanie Blessey
White House
456-6218

Number of Pages: 2
(Including cover sheet)

REMARKS: Bio

Jaime PAZ Zamora
(Phonetic: pahs)

BOLIVIA

President (since 6 August 1989)

Jaime Paz Zamora is a charismatic and pragmatic individual who has spent much of his career in opposition to the government. At 50, he has made the transition from radical student leader to elected politician and claims to speak for the "new majority" in Bolivia—he portrays himself as a socially minded, center-left alternative to the older generation of leaders who have dominated political life in the country for decades. Paz, who placed third with 20 percent of the popular vote in the May presidential election, was catapulted to the executive office by a last-minute coalition agreement with conservative leader and former President Hugo Banzer. In his recent public

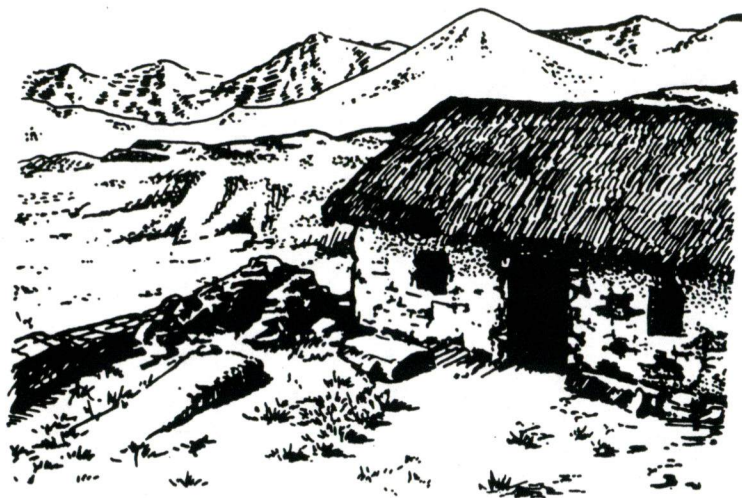


statements, he has vowed to support issues of interest to the United States, such as economic recovery and narcotics control. He has staffed his Cabinet with several business and finance experts, and he has said that he will not significantly depart from the free-market economic model instituted by his predecessor.

Paz was born on 5 April 1939. He has a philosophy degree from a Catholic seminary in Argentina and degrees in political science and international relations from the Catholic University of Louvain (Belgium). He has taught international relations at the University of San Andrés in La Paz. In 1970, when his younger brother joined a guerrilla group and was killed by the Army, Paz led an organization of independent Marxists into a newly formed student front that became the forerunner of the MIR. A militant opponent of the Hugo Banzer regime (1971-78), he remained in hiding or exile for the duration of the regime and assisted Hernán Siles in creating the center-left Democratic and Popular Unity (UDP) coalition. Paz was elected Vice President in June 1980, but a military coup prevented him from taking office. He was in exile in Panama from 1980 until 1982, when a political amnesty permitted him to return to Bolivia. He was reconfirmed as Vice President by Congress in October 1982. During his unsuccessful bid for the presidency in 1985, he obtained 10 percent of the vote.

Paz is scarred from severe burns suffered in an airplane crash in 1979 that killed several other MIR members (he received medical treatment in Washington). He enjoys outdoor activities; reading poetry, novels, and essays; and playing the guitar. He speaks French. Separated from his wife (who is chief of international relations for the MIR), he has two teenage sons.

17 August 1989



BOLIVIA

Highest Land of the Andes

By
PETER MCFARREN

Peter McFarren, a native of Bolivia and resident of La Paz, has also lived in Cochabamba, Sucre, and the United States. He is a correspondent for the Associated Press in La Paz and a photographer. His photos and articles have appeared in The New York Times, Newsweek, and the Wall Street Journal.

Bolivia is a country of superlatives. Landlocked in the western part of the continent, it sprawls over 424,165 square miles and borders Peru on the northwest, Brazil on the north and east, Paraguay on the southeast, Argentina on the south, and both Peru and Chile on the west. It has the highest navigable lake in the world, the highest airport, the highest golf course, the highest ski run, the highest capital, one of the newest and wildest frontiers, one of the oldest ruins, and what is said to be the highest concentration of cosmic rays on earth. Bolivia is also a nation of contrasts, which led a French explorer-scientist to call it the "microcosm of our planet." It has every type of geologically classified land, many types of people, flora, fauna, minerals, and tropical products.

The country's population, 6.7 million, is indigenous with a relatively small admixture of Spanish. It is probably the best example of the proud heritage of a noble race of long-suffering, self-sacrificing people who live among the remnants of ancient civilization.

Bolivia lies wholly in the tropical zone and experiences every temperature, from the heat of its equatorial low lands to the Andes' cold. To focus, therefore, on Bolivia's diverse land it is best to start with the inland sea of Lake Titicaca (12,600 feet) and work east. The nation is developing economically and socially in that direction, much as the United States pushed its frontier westward.

Lake Titicaca is a major western boundary between Bolivia and Peru. Stretching some 3,500 square miles, this deep (700 feet in places), clear body of water sprouts a *titora* reed that greatly influences life around the lake. The Aymaras fashion these reeds together into exceptionally strong gondola-like boats to sail on this highest navigable lake in the world. These thick reeds also become floating and inhabited islands. The pliable but durable material breaks loose from lake beds and joins with other matter gradually to form living space for autochthonous tribes. This reed is also used for building simple furniture, for feeding livestock, and for making other useful products.

Lake Titicaca rests on the "altiplano" (high plateau), shaped by the Andes mountain range that hunches along the west coast of South America and slices southeastward through Bolivia. This two-pronged mountain range has formed between its peaks a rambling plain about 85 miles wide and 520 miles long that cuts through southeast Peru and southwest Bolivia. About 40,000 square miles of this bleak, cold, treeless, and windswept plateau lies in Bolivia. However hostile this 30 percent of the nation's land is, it supports 52 percent of the population and houses the major cities. The otherwise impoverished altiplano and its mountain rims are streaked with vast deposits of tin, copper, silver, tungsten, lead, zinc, and other minerals.

For centuries, the Aymaras have clung to this hostile land and have generally resisted efforts to be resettled on the more fertile soil that abounds elsewhere in the country. Their diet consists mostly of a potato-like tuber called "oca" and the nutritious "quinoa" cereal. They also grow some nutritious cereals, and corn, which, when fermented, make an intoxicating brew called "chicha."

The animal life on the altiplano includes the wool-bearing sheep, llama, alpaca, and vicuna, along with the fur-bearing chinchilla and red fox. The fabled vicuna, a rare and very delicate animal, still roams the high regions of the altiplano, but articles made from its scarce fleece are hard to find because the government strictly prohibits its sale. You can, however, obtain rugs, ponchos, and a number of other articles made from llama and alpaca wool.

After two years' study, a big drilling campaign was started on the High Plateau searching for oil. Researchers have already found natural gas and it is now being supplied to Argentina.

At the edge of this altiplano, La Paz, the capital of Bolivia, is encased in a basin at an altitude of about 11,900 feet. The discomfort of the thin air is more than repaid by the majestic beauty of the snow-capped mountains that encircle the city. Four of these peaks reach above 20,000 feet.

Spotted along the high mountain shelf southeast of La Paz are several cities whose existence can only be justified by mineral wealth. Oruro is the first city along this high crest, standing at an altitude of 12,200 feet, with a population of 95,000, most of whom are employed in mining. Further south is Potosí, which retains its colonial air and art treasures from an age when the nearby Cerro Rico (Rich Hill) Mountain was one of the first great discoveries of the Spanish conquerors and which pumped the equivalent of some 2 billion dollars into the Spanish treasury. The city (population 113,000) is at 13,340 feet.

These and smaller cities are linked by a railroad from La Paz to Buenos Aires, routed along a fairly level plateau that stretches between the two capitals. Other rail lines at Oruro connect La Paz with Arica, Chile, and Cochabamba, Bolivia's third largest city with 317,000 people. Oruro is the hub of these rail lines. There are also rail connections with São Paulo via Villazón from Santa Cruz.

From this high plane, the land spills off into lush semitropical valleys to the north and east. These valleys, called "yungas," are drained by the Beni River system, which then empties into the Amazon River. This land of present beauty and future development begins about three hours out of La Paz. The mean annual temperature of this healthy area is between 60.8 and 64.6 degrees, while the rainfall is between 27 and 31 inches yearly.

The soil of the altiplano washes into the basins of this region, where citrus fruits, cattle, and other products are raised, many of them going to La Paz. Extensive road-building and river-clearing programs are linking this region with the rest of the nation. Altiplano Indians and others who formerly lived along the routes of these roads have to some extent already been resettled by colonization projects that are introducing many natives to the 20th century. A new route has been constructed to link the High Plateau consumer areas and the productive plain of Beni, which will ensure the incorporation of this jungle area into the economic life of the country.

Cochabamba, Sucre, Tarija, and Caranavi are the major population centers among these fertile valleys. As the center of a colonization area, Caranavi, about 150 miles north of La Paz, has grown from four huts to about 10,000 people. Cochabamba, with an average temperature of 64.6 degrees and situated at 8,570 feet, and eternal sunshine, is described as the best living area in Bolivia. Sucre (population 86,000), still the nation's legal capital, has retained much of its colonial color and charm. Its elevation is 9,184 feet. The 60,000 inhabitants of Tarija are isolated, individualistic, cultured, European, and deeply religious, and have not changed much since declaring themselves an independent republic in 1825.

These valleys spread out into the tropical lowlands that sweep from the Andes foothills in the north to the southeast near Argentina and Paraguay. With much of the land but few of the country's people situated here, this area is said to be Bolivia's future. Most of the area is dense tropical forests, with some rough pasture, swamp, and scrub in the center. Seasonal rainfall is high and the climate is usually hot, except when a cold, Antarctic-based wind from the southern steppes strikes in the tropical east around Santa Cruz. These annoyances are called "surazos," and they strike several times yearly for two or three days.

The northern part of these tropical lowlands was developed in the 16th and 17th centuries by Jesuit priests. The Beni area provided Europe with excellent tropical fruits, nuts, and dried beef. This area fell into decay after the Jesuit priests were expelled and the trails to the outside world disappeared. Today, primitive Indian tribes live in this area and resist contact with the outside world.

The Santa Cruz area has developed rapidly over the last 20 years. Sugar and cotton crops and cattle raising have progressed. Hunters, fishermen, birders, and botanists come to the area and are accommodated in hotels in Trinidad, capital of Beni and the only significant city in the tropical north. Riberalta is another beautiful town in Beni.

The People

Approximately 50 percent of the Bolivian people are descendants of the Aymara and Quechua pre-Columbian indigenous cultures. Twenty percent of the population is mestizo and 25 percent white. Socially, the population is in ferment. The once-stilted social structure of the nation was destroyed by the 1952 social revolution that took political control from a small white oligarchy and passed it to the indigenous majority, under white and mestizo middle-class leadership. Aymara and Quechua people are commonly referred to as "cholos," a somewhat demeaning term applied to these farmers or mine workers. They are also referred to as "campesinos"—peasants—or "mineros"—miners.

This population pattern, like many other things in Bolivia, is changing. Anthropologists have noted that the unique Bolivian ethnic and social composition of the Aymaras and Quechuas now discard some traditional ways, adopt western dress, extend their diet and consumption habits, and have become more like the sophisticated minority.

A Short History

Historians usually raise the curtain on Bolivia's history at Tiahuanaco about A.D. 600, although dissenting conclusions date back as far as 7,000 B.C. The Aymara Indians had developed a lesser civilization early at this location between La Paz and the southern end of Lake Titicaca, but the second one was influenced by the Nazca and Chimu civilizations of Peru, and from these mixtures a truly great civilization emerged. It was characterized by great buildings, massive monuments, ornate textiles, skillful pottery, and attractive metalwork.

This flowering civilization began to wither for some unknown reason. When the Quechua-speaking soldiers of the great Inca Empire of Cuzco conquered the area about A.D. 1200, they found the Aymaras about their decaying but still impressive ruins. The Incas held all Bolivia until the arrival of the Spanish conquerors.

In 1535, Diego de Almagro, Francisco Pizarro's partner in conquest, found a site near what is now Oruro. Then four years later Pedro Anzures found a place later named Charcas (Sucre), which became the Audiencia de Charcas under the Vice royalty of Peru in 1559.

But Bolivia's destiny was shaped in 1545, with the discovery of Potosí and the shadowing mountain of silver: "Cerro Rico." This find stirred great interest back in Spain and inspired a splendor at Potosí that rivaled the pretentious display of Lima. As the vast reserves of silver were shoveled out of the Cerro Rico Mountain, a Crown mint established locally converted the metal into coins for shipment to Spain. For decades, a favorite Spanish description for untold wealth was, "Vale un Potosí (worth a potosí)."

The autocratic but well-organized social system of the Inca conquest of other indigenous subcultures was destroyed by Spanish colonization. The native population was pushed off fertile plains onto infertile mountainsides or incorporated into a peonage system, despite the Spanish Crown's decree against enslavement. Spanish colonial officials took over the best lands and lived in relative luxury. *Criollos*, people of Spanish ancestry born in the Americas, also lived fairly well but resented their exclusion from high appointive offices dispensed back in Spain.

The *criollos* and the mestizos were the first people in Latin America to sound the cry for liberty from Spanish rule. The first revolutionary move-

ments developed in Chuquisaca, La Paz, and Cochabamba in the summer and fall of 1809. All were suppressed until 1825 when Bolívar in the north and San Martín pressed their simultaneous liberation campaigns along the Andean spine.

General Sucre, one of Bolívar's top leaders, liberated the country at the Battle of Tumulsa on April 2, 1825. Formerly known as Upper Peru, the country was named for Bolívar, the Liberator, in tribute to his leadership in the cause of South American independence. After Sucre set up Bolivia as an independent nation and departed, his top general took over and proclaimed a Peruvian-Bolivian confederation in 1836. General Santa Cruz was defeated by dissident Peruvians 3 years later and the confederation was dismembered.

Independence did little for the people of Bolivia—political control of the nation switched from one greedy group to another. The new Creole rulers lived lavishly from the profits of the vast but ill-used mineral wealth. Bolivia was a republic, but it was not a nation.

For about 161 years after independence, the government changed hands 78 times, often through military coups.

Weak governments made Bolivia vulnerable to the aggressive designs of neighbors. Several border disputes have dominated the nation's history, subtracted one-fourth its territory and left it a landlocked country. Several incidents seemed to work in a pattern—a neighbor would grab a piece of Bolivian territory, then build the loser a railroad. So, Bolivia ended up with several disjointed railroads and without its useful land. When Chile defeated Bolivia and Peru in the War of the Pacific (1879–83), she took Bolivia's Pacific Coast area and built a railroad from La Paz to Arica. When Argentina annexed some of the Chaco area, it too built a railroad connecting the two nations. When Brazil annexed the rich Acre area in 1903, it promised a railroad (not yet completed). But in the Chaco War with Paraguay (1933–35), Bolivia had to surrender a large area without the benefit of a railroad.

But this war was to influence Bolivia's future greatly. Stunned by an embarrassing defeat, young officers and indignant intellectuals began examining the nation's conscience and prescribing solutions. The result was the formation of the National Revolutionary Movement (MNR) that gained power in 1952 and launched the first fundamental reforms in the nation's history.

Social Revolution

Two events have symbolized this revolution and help explain the troubled nature of Bolivia's contemporary history. Returning from the Chaco War with an understanding of the world beyond their immediate misery, some Aymara and Quechua veterans began thinking about the lot of their people and ways to change it. Several veterans in the Cliza Valley, near Cochabamba, organized their fellow men into a union and began joint efforts to build a school. When union members tried to buy this land they had tilled for generations, the planters responded by flooding the valley and destroying the humble homes. Like-minded miners at Catavi on the altiplano fared even worse. Hundreds were shot down by government troops in 1942 while striking for better wages and improved working conditions.

Cliza Valley and Catavi became symbols. The peasants and the miners emerged from the social revolution the two strongest political forces, each armed and functioning as a militia because the traditional army had been destroyed in the 1952 revolution.

The peasants (151,434 family heads were given land titles under the revolution's agrarian reform program) have tended to support the moderate MNR majority. But the miners threw their support to the party's leftist sector. This sector has supported excessive labor demands that have occasionally brought the nation's economy to near disaster and incited political turmoil.

In 1979, after a failed coup, Congress elected the first woman president, Lydia Gueiler Tejada, scheduled to serve until elections slated for 1980. A military coup, however, interrupted the country's democratic evolution again in 1980. In 1982, however, Hernán Siles Zuazo, a former president and co-founder of MNR, came to power and, during his first year as President, took serious action toward placing Bolivia among the continent's few democracies.

In 1985 Siles Zuazo, a leader of the 1952 revolution, turned the government over to Victor Paz Estenssoro, 78. After the 1952 revolution Paz Estenssoro was sworn in as president with Siles Zuazo as his vice president. Paz Estenssoro implemented drastic economic reforms to end an inflation rate running at higher than 24,000 percent, the highest in the world. The peso was devalued by 95 percent, gasoline prices increased 10 fold, and wages were frozen. Surprisingly, there has been very little social unrest. The peso is now stable and inflation has ended. At the same time, the threat of military coup has evaporated and Bolivia's government is considered one of the most stable in South America.

Elections were held in May 1989, and in August a new president was sworn in. The economy has begun to pick up, especially the mining sector.

Bolivia's Rich Earth

From its earliest days, Bolivia's fortunes have risen or fallen with the riches extracted from its bountiful earth. Even before the arrival of the Spaniards, the Incas were already mining the land's precious silver. It was this rich lode that quickly brought conquerors, colonists, adventurers, and prospectors in search of fame and fortune in what became the greatest mining operation in the New World. Known then as Upper Peru, the area quickly prospered and then just as quickly declined as the mines were depleted of the valuable silver. But it wasn't long before those same rich hills in the Eastern Cordillera were found to contain tin, and the country's future course was shaped.

For a while, Bolivia's economy and the welfare of its people were largely dependent on the price of its principal product in the world markets. And to a greater or lesser degree, the same is true today. But now the country is also mining bismuth, zinc, lead, antimony, wolfram and tungsten, as well as tin, gold, and silver; and the prospect of rich natural gas and petroleum deposits are contributing substantially to the nation's economy and helping it to achieve its goal of diversification.

No longer a one-product country, Bolivia is presently expanding its exploration for petroleum. The collapse of the world tin market and the drop in petroleum prices have devastated Bolivia's export economy. Export earnings have dropped from 1 billion dollars a year to less than 400 million. Mines are closing and thousands of miners are migrating to the cities and tropical lowlands.

Although mining has been and continues to be, along with natural gas, a chief contributor to the nation's economy, it accounts for less than 10 percent of the gross domestic product and represents less than 2 percent of the labor force. Nevertheless, tin still accounts for close to half of the

country's total mineral exports, in spite of the fact that gas production has risen steadily in the past.

Industrially, Bolivia is still running behind economic goals it has set for itself. While manufacturing is changing slowly from handcrafts to industrial goods, the growth in this area has been set back by the lack of facilities and purchasing power. The country still depends in large measure on prices paid for a very limited number of mineral products overseas.

Lately, Bolivia has been cooperating much more effectively with its neighbors and integrating its economy with theirs through its membership in the Andean Common Market and ALADI (Asociación Latinoamericana de Integración) and development of rail and gas projects with Brazil.

How to See Bolivia

A visit to Bolivia usually begins in La Paz. After seeing the usual tourist sites around La Paz and the unusual tourist attractions farther north, the Bolivia of the past and future still lies ahead in all its charm and challenge.

Oruro is a mining center 130 miles southeast of La Paz. The only tourist attraction here is the dance and ceremony performed during the Devil's Festival on the Saturday before Ash Wednesday. This involves an elaborately costumed "bear" and "condor" clearing the way for a parade of similarly costumed dancers led by alternate twosomes of Satan and Lucifer and St. Michael the Archangel and China Supay, the Devil's wife and sexual stimulant. After a leaping and shouting parade through town, the participants crowd into the main plaza and perform dramatic rituals in which virtue, like hero over villain, prevails over sin. A mining theme is woven into the drama, in which the costumes represent a major portion of one's wealth.

Cochabamba is still a city of beauty, eternal spring and sunshine, but it has been caught in the cross fire of Bolivia's political turmoil and economic change. Once the prosperous center of a rich and vast area of plantation agriculture, the social revolution's land reform program has sent many of the old planters into exile or other livelihoods, divided up the big, absentee-owned plantations among peasants, and diverted other peasants to colonization projects in Eastern Bolivia. The most important tourist attraction is the townhouse of Tin Baron Simón Patiño, which has been converted into a museum. The usual market here has the additional attraction of local Indian women with their unusual stovepipe hats. Newly discovered ruins at Incallajta, about 65 miles from Cochabamba, will soon be open for tourists.

Potosí is nine and a half hours southward by train from Cochabamba over one of the world's highest railroads, reaching an altitude of 15,809 feet at the junction of Condor. One of the first great cities of the Americas with a population of about 150,000 early in the 17th century, Potosí has retained much of its colonial charm. Twisting, narrow streets pass aging mansions with colonial coats of arms, reminding one that this busy agricultural and mining center was once a majestic city. The city remains in the shadow of "Cerro Rico," which pumped silver into the Spanish treasury in the early colonial period. The "Real Casa de Moneda" (Royal Mint), built in 1542 and rebuilt in 1759, still stands but has been converted into a museum. Some of the old homes and churches have oil paintings of considerable merit. Some 30 churches reflect good examples of Renaissance or Romanesque architecture.

Sucre is still the big oddity of Bolivia. This city, 109 miles northeast from Potosí is the legal capital of the nation, but the Supreme Court Building is the only vestige of what now unofficially belongs to La Paz. La Paz

became the "de facto" capital in the wake of the mining boom. Sucre has an interesting display of buildings of both the colonial and republican eras. Many Latin American revolutionary leaders studied here at one of the oldest universities in Latin America.

La Paz, Oruro, Cochabamba, Potosí, and Sucre are joined by railroad. The only way to get to another important community, Tarija, in the southeast of these upland cities, is by a difficult road or by LAB. This settlement in the rich Guadalquivir River valley was founded in 1574 and has since remained an isolated island apart from the rest of Bolivia. Thus cut off, the people have grown a variety of fine crops for their own consumption, developed an individualism that has made them as much Argentine as Bolivian, produced a supply of skillful farm hands for Argentine agriculture, and formed a pocket of advanced culture apart from the rest of the nation.

Returning to Cochabamba, one can continue eastward into the interior of the nation or take a river trip north to Trinidad. This latter trip involves traveling 120 miles by road to Puerto Chipiriri, on a branch of the large Rio Grande. The boat trip up this river to Trinidad takes four days, and the tourist might later fly back to La Paz or any other part of Bolivia. The alternative of continuing eastward on the Cochabamba-Santa Cruz Highway opens several other interesting possibilities.

The old 315-mile Cochabamba-Santa Cruz Highway demonstrates what 20th-century communication can do for a nation still existing in the 19th century. This highway, completed in 1954 after nine years of construction and a \$50 million U.S. Export-Import Bank loan, actually united a nation that was falling apart and shaped an economy that was in serious trouble.

From Cochabamba to Santa Cruz there is a new road that crosses through the Chapare coca leaf producing region. A good part of it is paved, and if you wish, you can begin a river trip on Puerto Villarroel north to Trinidad.

The old Cochabamba-Santa Cruz Highway winds through the Cliza Valley, where the first important modern political movement among Indians began. Spurred by the 1952 social revolution, an indigenous peasant union in the valley community of Ucurena demanded that a planter return land to peasants who had been evicted in the 1930s for union activity. When the planter stalled, these groups began a march on nearby towns, and for a while civil war between rural and urban groups hovered over the nation. Politics are still tense in this valley that someday might symbolize the political awakening of the indigenous population in Central and South America.

Continuing east, the traveler can forget politics and take up geology. In the next 300 miles he will travel through all four of the classified geological areas. First, he will experience the tundra area of the valleys, with its many flowers but no trees. Then comes the rain forest, with its mosses, ferns, and damp, humid climate. Next, there's the desert with pipe-organ cactus, much sand, and little grass. Finally, near Santa Cruz, the tropical jungle breaks out in towering and verdant growth.

"This 311-mile trip is like traveling from Ecuador to Alaska," one geologist remarked after traveling over the road and examining its specimens. Here one finds every temperature zone and practically every kind of vegetation.

Arriving at the frontier community of Santa Cruz, one will quickly see its importance as a commercial and industrial center. Santa Cruz is now the fastest growing city in Bolivia, and its prosperity is apparent in oil fields, cotton plantations, sugar and lumber mills, and its busy airport, now an important arrival and departure point for international flights.

After Santa Cruz the visitor can decide whether to see more frontier or return to La Paz. There is no tourist attraction on the road northward, only an area undergoing rapid economic growth with cattle and tropical farming and intense social change with colonization projects. If a highway survey party cuts a small path through this jungle, colonists will line it immediately and begin tilling its fertile soil. This area is truly a laboratory for economic growth and social development. The center for this area's development is Santa Cruz.

There is still plenty of unexplored frontier in Bolivia. A tourist can travel from Santa Cruz to Corumba, Brazil, by railroad and see unfurled before him the beauty of the tropics, the smell of the jungle and birdlife that at times seems to etch a rainbow in the sky. Over this 406-mile railroad, one passes villages populated by former primitives, some of whom have become civilized only in the past decade. Until several years ago, uncivilized cousins of these residents occasionally attacked the communities with bow and arrow. Now these people have disappeared farther into the jungle brush to avert what they consider the annoyance of modern civilization.

Trees and Birds

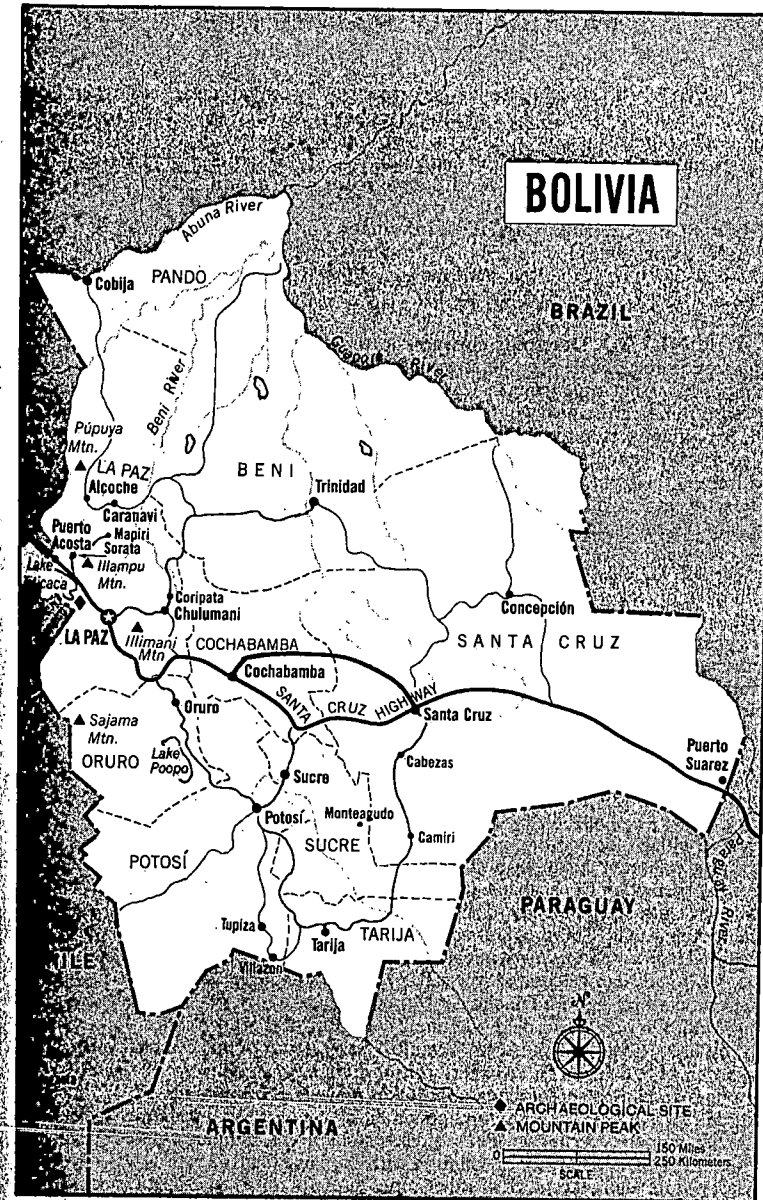
Mahogany trees here spread skyward in majestic dimensions, housing communities of many-hued birds. At times, several duplexes or two-room bird dwellings can be seen dangling from a single limb and sometimes a tree will enfold as many as 50 bird nests.

These birds often have several colors arrayed in attractive patterns. When they fly in formations against the late afternoon sky, it is truly something to remember. The many types of parrots (some very talkative) often fly in groups, whereas the many big-beaked toucans usually fly in pairs.

Another interesting tree in the area is a cotton tree, that reaches some 100 feet upward and sprouts a bulb of cottonlike material as large as a cantaloupe and which can be used for making cloth. There is an abundance of other flora that—with the fauna—makes this, the heartland of a continent, something beautiful to see.

In the mid part of the train ride from Santa Cruz to Corumba, an unusual type of topography stretches over about 10 miles. Beautiful mountains rise abruptly like polished stones from what is otherwise level jungleland. These small, stonelike mountains near San José have several colors, which, in the reflection of the noonday sun, provide another-world atmosphere.

Upon reaching Corumba, on the Paraguay River, you can take a steamer down the river to Asunción, Paraguay, or Buenos Aires. By entering Bolivia by rail from Arica, the traveler therefore could continue crossing the continent overland by following the route outlined above. It's rough but rewarding.



FACTS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

WHAT IT WILL COST. Bolivia has managed to control an inflation rate that reached 15,000% in 1985. As a result, prices have stabilized and the dollar has lost some of its purchasing power. Even so, there are many bargains to be found in Bolivia, especially in handicrafts, silver, and gold. A good meal costs around \$10. A moderately priced hotel costs \$25 for a double room with private bath.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION. Information on Bolivia is provided at the office of the Consulate General, 211 E. 43rd St., Rm. 802, New York, NY 10017 (tel. 212-687-0530) or at the Bolivian Embassy, 3014 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20008 (tel. 202-483-4410).

WHEN TO GO. Due to its closeness to the equator Bolivia has every climate and terrain imaginable. Temperature is largely determined by altitude. There is a rainy season that runs from Oct. to Mar. and a dry season that runs from Apr. to Sept. Rains can be heavy in the rainy season but only last an hour or two. During the dry winter season the skies in most of Bolivia are dark blue. In the mountainous regions of the country it is 50° to 70°F under the sun, with temperatures dropping to freezing at night. Carnival takes place in either Feb. or Mar. when the heavy rains are nearly over. If interested in road travel, it's not advisable to travel by land during the rainy season due to deteriorated road conditions.

WHAT TO TAKE. For the city of La Paz and the highlands, woolen sweaters and a windbreaker are recommended. During the day the temperature may reach 70°F. but it drops in the evening. During the rainy season an umbrella or raincoat is necessary. The sun in the mountains is very strong so be sure to bring a good sunscreen and wear a hat. In Santa Cruz, Trinidad, and other tropical regions, light clothing is worn year-round. Jackets are expected at fancy restaurants, but informal clothing should do for most places.

SPECIAL EVENTS. The *Oruro carnival* scheduled for the Sat. before Ash Wednesday, and the "Pujllay" carnival in Tarabuco, scheduled for Mar., are important cultural festivals very much worth visiting. Also recommended is the *Fiesta de la Cruz* (Feast of the Cross) that takes place the first weekend in May. In Achacalla, a village located one hour from La Paz, hundreds of area residents dance wearing elaborate costumes and the Aymara Kusillo mask. La Fiesta de la Cruz is also observed in Copacabana and other communities. It is one of the most important feast days. On *San Pedro*, which falls on June 28-29, many villages, among them Achacachi, Curva, Carabuco, and Tiquina, have festivals in honor of San Pedro. The *feast of Santiago*, celebrated July 25, features native dances and processions. *Gran Poder*, celebrated in La Paz late May or early June, has thousands of dancers performing "La Diablada," Morenada, and a host of dances typical of the highland. On *San Juan*, held on June 24, La Paz and other Andean cities are lit up by fires to fend off the cold of winter. Several communities hold celebrations in honor of San Juan. The Alacitas' *fair of miniatures* in honor of the Ekkeko, the Aymara Indian patron of abundance, takes place at the end of January in La Paz. Miniature handicrafts, household goods, houses, vehicles, and figures are sold at the fair. For the opening La Paz residents stock up on miniature pesos and dollar bills and have them blessed at a church with the hope that the year will be plentiful. Alasita fairs also take place in other cities.

Check with the Bolivian Tourist Agency at Edificio Ballivian, Calle Mercado, tel. 367 463 for other festivals planned during your visit.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS AND CUSTOMS. U.S., U.K., and Canadian visitors require passports. Tourist cards are issued at airports or train stations and are valid for 30 days. They can be extended at the immigration office located on the Plaza de Estudiantes in La Paz, tel. 370 475. in La Paz. If you stay longer than 30 days

you must stop by the nearest immigration office to get an exit visa. Cigarettes and no more than two bottles of alcohol are allowed. Cameras and typewriters can be brought in without much problem. Be especially careful about what you take out; many tourists who have tried to smuggle out a little bit of cocaine or marijuana have ended up spending years in jail. There is a \$10 airport tax on international flights.

GETTING TO BOLIVIA. By air. *Lloyd Aereo Boliviano (LAB)*, Miami to Santa Cruz and La Paz with connecting flights to other cities. *Eastern Airlines*, Miami to La Paz. *Lufthansa*, Frankfurt to Puerto Rico, Quito, and La Paz (a nice flight to enjoy the beaches of San Juan on your way). *LAB airlines*, Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo to Santa Cruz and La Paz; Buenos Aires to Santa Cruz; Santiago to Arica and La Paz; Panama to Santa Cruz and La Paz; Caracas to Santa Cruz; Asuncion to Santa Cruz and La Paz; Cuzco to La Paz; Lima to La Paz. La Paz is also served by *Varig* from São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, as well as *Aero Peru* and *Lineas Aereas Paraguayas*. Check with your local travel agent for new schedules and prices to and from La Paz. The new, ultra modern Viru-Viru airport in Santa Cruz opened in 1985.

CURRENCY. The *boliviano* has replaced the *peso* as the official monetary unit of Bolivia. Six zeros have been eliminated from the old peso bills, and new boliviano bills are in circulation.

The official and black market exchange rates are around 2.70 bolivianos to the dollar at press time. Since the government implemented an austerity program, the large disparity that existed between the official and black market rates has been eliminated. It is possible to legally change dollars on the sidewalks of Av. Bolívar and other areas of downtown and El Prado. Money can also be changed at "Casas de Cambio" located throughout La Paz and other cities. Traveler's checks may often be difficult to change unless you have some contact. Hotels base their prices on the official rate, which is revised daily. As of January 1, 1987, the government changed the currency to eliminate the use of six zeros. Dollars can also be used for many transactions. Most hotels and stores now accept VISA credit cards or American Express. Other cards are usually not accepted.

Prices, unless noted otherwise, are in U.S. dollars.

HOTELS. Most Bolivian cities have good to excellent hotel accommodations. Always try and make your reservations in advance for hotels, especially if you're planning on visiting Oruro, La Paz, or Santa Cruz during Carnival. Breakfast is usually not included in hotel rates.

Hotel rates are based on the official dollar exchange rate. Since a slightly higher rate can be found on the black market, you can save some money by buying bolivianos on the black market. Credit card payments are made based on the official rate.

Price ranges given in this chapter are for double occupancy: *Deluxe*, \$65 and up; *Expensive*, \$30-\$60; *Moderate*, \$20-\$30; *Inexpensive*, under \$20.

RESTAURANTS. Restaurants have been classified as follows for dinner for one person, excluding drinks, service charge, tax, or tip: *Deluxe*, \$20 and up; *Expensive*, \$10-\$20; *Moderate*, \$5-\$10; *Inexpensive*, under \$5.

Bolivian Food and Drink. One of Bolivia's little known secrets is its great culinary tradition. Some day the cooking of the Andes should receive the credit it deserves. Corn, potatoes, and *quinoa*, a high protein grain, are native to the Andes. Bolivians have developed thousands of dishes based on these and other products. Unfortunately, few hotels will provide a good idea of the richness of Bolivian cuisine. Often the best way to be introduced is through Bolivian friends.

For a mid-morning snack, nothing beats "salteña," a hearty stew of beef, peas, potatoes, hard-boiled eggs, olives, and a spicy sauce wrapped in a dough and baked. Served piping hot, it is popular at mid-morning celebrations.

Bolivian soups are second to none. Try a creamy peanut soup with pieces of chick-peas, cabbage, potatoes, and peas, or a pumpkin soup/stew served during Easter with chunks of corn, melted cheese, and fava beans. Also worth trying are "chairo," a hearty soup made with beef, chunks of dehydrated potatoes, fava beans, and potatoes; "sopa de papa lisa," made from small, yellowish potatoes native to

the highlands; and "sopa de quinoa," made from the quinoa grain that can also be used in thousands of dishes ranging from granola, bread, stews, casseroles, and puddings.

La Paz and other cities also make an excellent French-style bread. In La Paz the typical bread is known as "marraqueta." Baked early morning and afternoon, the "marraqueta" is tops.

If visiting Sucre, at the airport try the chorizos, a pork sausage flavored with green onions, fresh oregano, parsley, nutmeg, garlic, etc. For lunch or dinner be sure not to miss cckocho, a spicy chicken dish flavored with wine and a local corn brew. Also worth trying is fritanga, a pork dish flavored with fresh mint and ground hot red pepper sauce that is accompanied by hominy. For an appetizer or even main dish nothing beats the pastel de choclo or humintas made from ground corn.

In La Paz try the fricasse, a spicy pork and hominy stew served at the Hotel Plaza. If interested in something mild, try the Lake Titicaca salmon trout or excellent grass-fed filet mignon from the Beni or highlands accompanied by one of the 200-odd varieties of potatoes.

In Santa Cruz or Trinidad, try a fresh heart of palm salad or a good juicy steak accompanied by rice with melted cheese and black beans. A delicious accompaniment is fried plantain or yuca.

In terms of fruit it is hard to equal the variety found in Bolivia. Because of the country's proximity to the equator, in Andean cities you will find a wide selection of valley and tropical fruits. Try chirimoya, a green and black-pocketed fruit with a creamy white filling—it makes great ice cream or mousse. Also worth trying are the tumbo, a sweet-acid fruit, orange-colored bananas, and most fruits common to the U.S. and Europe.

Bolivia also has a thriving beer and wine industry. Beer made by Germans or their descendants is superb, as many Europeans and Americans have attested to. Good and flavorful beer is sold throughout the country.

Bolivia's wine industry is based in Tarija, Camargo, and other southern Bolivian regions. Best are Coinca, Kohlberg Fundador, and San Pedro Caveragnet.

Once you've adjusted to the altitude, be sure to try singani, a distilled spirit made from grapes. It is served as a pisco sour or "chufalay," a mixture of "seven-up," singani, and lemon juice.

TIPPING. Restaurants add 11% tax but *not* gratuities to the bill; waiters will expect a 10% cash tip-in addition. Taxi drivers do not expect a tip, but for long distances or when hired for long periods in the city, a tip may be given according to the service received. At airports plan on tipping baggage handlers \$5.00 for every piece of luggage.

BUSINESS HOURS AND HOLIDAYS. Shops open at 9 or 9:30 A.M., close at noon and reopen at 2:30 P.M., to close again at around 7 P.M. Many shops are also open on Sat. mornings.

Banks open at 9:00 A.M. and close at 11:30 A.M., reopen at 2 P.M. and close at 4:30 P.M. The post office is open from 9 A.M. to noon and 2:30 until 7 P.M.

National holidays: Jan. 1 (New Year's Day), Monday and Tuesday of Carnival, Good Friday, May 1 (Labor Day), Corpus Christi (movable), Aug. 6 (Independence Day), November 2 (Day of the Dead), Dec. 25 (Christmas).

TELEPHONES AND MAIL. Pay phones exist in many cities and can be used with the old 5-peso coins usually sold nearby. With the increased circulation of boliviano coins this situation may change. Hotels and ENTEL, the state long-distance telephone company, offer long-distance service. Direct-dial is available from La Paz to many Bolivian cities. Information is 104 in La Paz. The domestic long-distance operator is 101. A long-distance operator can be reached at 356-700.

Mail service is fairly reliable to the U.S. and Europe. Urgent packages can be sent through DHL, Calle Loayza 250, tel. 340-887; IML Courier Ed. Mcal Ballivián of 1209, tel. 350 472; Choice Sky courier Ed. Avenida, Av. 16 de Julio, tel. 328 841, La Paz.

NEWSPAPERS. Bolivia does not have an English-language newspaper but magazines such as *Newsweek* and *Time* are sold in many kiosks and at Amigos del Libro, with branches in La Paz, Cochabamba, and Santa Cruz, which offers a good selec-

tion of foreign-language books and magazines (in La Paz, on Calle Mercado). La Paz has five dailies—*Presencia*, *Hoy*, *El Diario*, and *Ultima Hora* are sold in the morning, *Jornada* in the afternoon. In Santa Cruz you can purchase *El Mundo o El Deber* and *El Día*; in Cochabamba; *La Opinion* and *Los Tiempos*. Bolivian dailies carry a good amount of foreign news.

ELECTRIC CURRENT. La Paz runs on 220 and 110 current. The rest of Bolivia is 220. Current is 50 cycle A.C.

USEFUL ADDRESSES. The U.S. Embassy is located on the Calle Colon, corner with Mercado. The U.S. consulate at 1285 Calle Potosi (350-120) is open mornings. The Canadian consulate is at Av. Arce 2342 (375-224). The British Embassy is on the Avenida Arce 2732 (329-401).

The tourist information center is in the Mariscal Ballivián Building, 18th Floor, Calle Mercado between Loayza and Colón (367-464, and 358-213).

Useful telephone numbers in La Paz: *Airport information*, 810-122; *Immigration*, 370-475; *Bus terminal*, 367-274; *Police*, 110; *Tourist police*, 367-441.

HEALTH AND SAFETY. Despite Bolivia's reputation as an unstable, coup-prone country, it is one of the safest countries to visit in South America. Bolivia has gone through five massive devaluations in as many years, numerous strikes, roadblocks, and marches but during that period not one person has been killed from politically related violence. Since Victor Paz Estenssoro took over Aug. 6, 1985, strikes have decreased and political unrest been reduced to a minimum. Foreign diplomats who have served in other Latin American posts say Bolivia is one of the safest and friendliest countries in the Third World. Bolivia is a friendly and hospitable country.) Muggings are very rare but be careful of pickpockets, especially on crowded buses or in airports and railroad or bus stations. Be sure to carry your wallet in an inside pocket or body-belt and women should carry their purse close to their bodies.

Water in most cities is treated, but to be on the safe side drink only bottled water and avoid eating salads or raw vegetables in restaurants. Avoid the purchase of cooked food from street stands or in markets.

In the altitude of La Paz, Potosi, and the Altiplano take it easy the first couple of days—avoid alcohol, heavy foods, and too much activity. Drinking coca tea is recommended to help adjust to the altitude. Some of those who've best adjusted to the altitude are the elderly—so don't stay away from La Paz and other highland areas for fear of the altitude.

GETTING AROUND BOLIVIA. By air, *Lloyd Aereo Boliviano*, the national airline, serves most Bolivian cities. To reach tropical cities and towns *Transporte Aereo Militar* (TAM) also provides regular passenger service. During the Dec. to Mar. rainy season flights may be cancelled or delayed due to bad weather.

Lloyd Aereo passengers embarking in Miami should look into a month-long pass for unlimited air travel in Bolivia.

By train. Trains link La Paz with Peru, Chile, Argentina, Potosi, Sucre, Oruro, and Cochabamba. Trains are often delayed, especially during the rainy season. There is also train service between Santa Cruz and Brazil or Argentina.

By bus. There is good bus service between major cities. Crowded buses often serve rural communities. During the rainy season avoid bus travel on unpaved roads, especially the road linking Santa Cruz to Cochabamba. Buses to Oruro and Cochabamba leave regularly. Tickets must be purchased ahead of time for inter-city bus travel. Bus departures are usually on time. Be sure to bring food along.

By boat. Boat service is available from Huatajata on the shores of Lake Titicaca to Copacabana and Puno, Peru. *Crillon tours* and *Transturin Trimaran Service*, *Turismo Balsa*, and *Atlas Tours* offer boat service on the lake. *Fremen Tours* offers boat service on the eastern Bolivian rivers.

By car. In La Paz *Kolla Motor* offers 4-wheel-drive vehicles. *Taxis* can be hired by the hour in front of hotels; they provide service to Lake Titicaca, Oruro, and other regions. *Bernardo Luna* (323-741) offers 4-wheel-drive vans and taxis for out-of-city trips; he is an excellent driver with a good knowledge of rural roads.

In Cochabamba, *Barrons* (22774) provides Toyota jeeps.

FLORA AND FAUNA. Bolivia has a remarkable variety of flora and fauna. In the Andes you will find llamas, alpacas, vicunas, armadillos, condors, etc. To the southeast of La Paz in Comanche there is also the 30-foot-high Puya Raimundi plant that takes one hundred years to flower. In Lake Titicaca there are salmon, trout, Pejerrey, large frogs (with export-quality legs), and a wide variety of birds.

In the tropical part of Bolivia, which covers nearly two-thirds of the country, there is a rich and varied wildlife and fauna. There are monkeys, wild turkeys, pigs, ocelots, piranhas, and alligators as well as several million head of cattle.

Exploring Bolivia

LA PAZ

At dawn mist and clouds can be seen rising from the lower valleys until the sun peers from above the Andes and bathes the surrounding hills with hues of red, ocher, and blue. At dusk, as the sun settles on the Altiplano flatlands surrounding the valley of La Paz, a reddish glow envelops the city's greatest landmark, the snowy peaks of the 21,000-foot Illimani Mountain.

With the Andes and deep blue skies as a backdrop, Aymara Indian women, children in tow, sell their wares at roadside market stalls facing tin- and straw-covered adobe homes. Whether landing on the 13,000-foot-high El Alto airstrip or crossing Lake Titicaca by boat, the barren plateau known as the Altiplano is a visitor's first introduction to the city of La Paz.

The Altiplano hides the presence of a thriving metropolis of one million inhabitants that opens up at its edge. Without warning, the plateau breaks and reveals below a deep jagged valley covered with adobe and brick homes clinging to the hillside. Skyscrapers, rising to meet the jagged hills of the valley, cast shadows over adobe, stone, and brick homes, cobblestoned streets and tree-lined plazas that hide rich and colorful traditions growing out of centuries of Spanish conquest, revolution, and Aymara folklore. And only three hours away by car, on the eastern slopes of the Andes, are banana and orange groves.

Before the sun is out, men, women, and children, wearing bowler hats and multilayered skirts known as *polleras*, begin their daily trek by foot or bus to the center of La Paz. By the time the sun has risen, Aymara-speaking vendors are in place in the markets, ready to offer a wide variety of vegetables, fruits, whole pigs, clothing, household goods, and steaming hot coffee.

Aymaras live in the surrounding hills and market areas. Below are the homes and workplaces of a Creole class that has identified itself more with its European forebears than with the Indians who make up 70 percent of the country's population. The city then descends several thousand feet to the neighborhoods of Obrajes, Calacoto, and Irpavi, where diplomats and wealthy Bolivians, including many in the military, live in sumptuous homes.

If you are arriving by plane, it is a good idea to take it easy the first day because of the rarefied air. Those who reach La Paz by crossing the lake from Puno, Peru, however, should be accustomed to the altitude. It is wise to drink and eat lightly at first, but drink plenty of *mate de coca*, a brew made from the coca leaves, to help fend off the effects of the altitude.

To get your bearings and capture some of the color, bustle, and contrasting life-styles found in La Paz, start your visit by taking a walking tour of downtown. With most good hotels located in the center, you'll only be a few blocks from the city's main avenue, Avenida 16 de Julio, better

known as El Prado, with its promenade of trees, flowers, and monuments. In the evening it will be jammed with traffic and people returning from work. On Sundays the Prado is filled with families out for a stroll. You will also see old homes, with elaborate iron latticework and balustrades, which managed to survive the 1970s building boom that transformed the skyline of La Paz.

El Prado becomes Avenida Mariscal Santa Cruz going upward. At the upper end of Avenida Mariscal Santa Cruz, before it becomes Avenida Montes, is the San Francisco church, built in 1549. Its stone carved portico shows a fine example of the baroque Spanish architecture, combined with native craftsmanship, that flourished in Bolivia during the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries. The facade is decorated with carved images of birds of prey, masks, pine cones, and parrots. The church offers one of the finest examples of religious colonial architecture to be seen in South America.

A visitor can spend several days exploring the roads and alleys that branch off from the San Francisco church. Bordering it is the Calle Sagarnaga, lined with dozens of small shops stocked with leather goods, weavings, alpaca sweaters, silver, and antiques. Vendors on the street sell old coins, irons heated with charcoal, silver or pewter ware, and small stone carvings made by the Aymara or Quechua people who inhabit the Altiplano. Sweaters range in price from twenty to fifty dollars, depending on the quality.

Adjacent to San Francisco is a handicraft gallery sponsored by the Catholic church. Open Monday to Friday from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. and 2:30 to 7 P.M., and Saturday and Sunday in the morning, you'll find weavings, sweaters, and handcrafted Bolivian instruments such as the *quena*, *zampoña tarka*, and *charango*, a stringed instrument with a backing made from the carapace of an armadillo. At Rumillajta you can purchase these instruments of professional quality for three to thirty dollars. Be sure to ask the vendors, who are young, accomplished musicians, to try them out for you.

A block above San Francisco on the Calle Linares to the right, and especially as you go along until you reach Calle Santa Cruz, you will find Aymara-speaking women wearing the traditional bowler hat offering medicinal cures still used by the *callawayas*, the ancient medicine men who attended the Inca courts and used quinine to cure malaria long before it was adopted by Western medicine. Roadside stands offer herbs for curing rheumatism, stomach pains, etc. Also available are llama fetuses, incense, small bottles with sweet syrups, nuts, wool, copal, and grease—items that are used for white magic ceremonies and to protect a dwelling from evil spirits. For about two dollars you can purchase a bag of offerings to the goddess of the earth, the *pachamama*, and be assured of a bountiful year. Whenever construction on a home begins, these ingredients are burned and the ashes buried in the corner during a ceremony known as the "challa." The Tuesday after Carnival most Bolivians *challan*, or bless their belongings by sprinkling alcohol and streams of colored paper.

The Sagarnaga continues up to market areas, where shoeshine boys, vendors, and peasants offer their wares. Tucked away in courtyards and alleys are *tambos*, where bananas, oranges, and coca leaves are available. Coca leaves, from which cocaine paste is made, are widely used in restaurants as a tea, or chewed by peasants to help fend off the effects of hunger and tiredness.

If walking the streets tires you, take a taxi for about a quarter or a bus for even less up to Buenos Aires avenue. It competes with the downtown business area as the most thriving commercial area of La Paz. On Wednes-

days and Saturdays, at least thirty blocks near Buenos Aires are filled with stalls offering contraband goods at low prices.

Above the Buenos Aires are hundreds of workshops that make the elaborate costumes, masks, and trinkets used for the Gran Poder festival, the city's most important folkloric expression. In June thousands of dancers pay homage to the Gran Poder—a god that is a mixture of pagan and Catholic beliefs—in a colorful orgy of dancing, music, and drinking that attracts hundreds of thousands of spectators.

On the Calle Gallardo No. 1080, one block above Buenos Aires, is a small workshop that used to belong to the late Antonio Viscarra, a master maskmaker who devoted sixty-five of his seventy-four years to making elaborate plaster and cloth masks representing the devil, his blue-eyed, blond mistress, and a parthenon of saints, African slaves, and Incas that perform for the Gran Poder, Diablada, and other festivals. Fortunately, his daughter and son-in-law Carlos Fuentes carry on this tradition. For around fifteen dollars you can purchase an elaborate horned devil's mask that took a month to make. Or you can purchase beautiful miniature reproductions of larger masks.

After several hours of visiting this area you should be ready for a break. Many *Paceños*, as residents of La Paz are called, take time off at mid-morning to eat the *salteña*, a hearty beef, olive, hard-boiled egg, potato, and pea stew wrapped in a dough that is Bolivia's contribution to haute cuisine. They are sold throughout the city, but be careful where you get them if you want to avoid getting sick. The most delicious ones are served for around 50 cents at the *Salteñería Super Salteña* on Av. Sanchez Lima and on Calle Socabaya. They are also available in the basement of the Hotel Plaza, the *Confitería Arabesque* on Calle Loayza corner of Mercado. *Salteñas Potosinas* and *Salteñas Miriam*, both on Av. 6 de Agosto, and Filippo Lipi on Plaza Abaroa, are also worth trying.

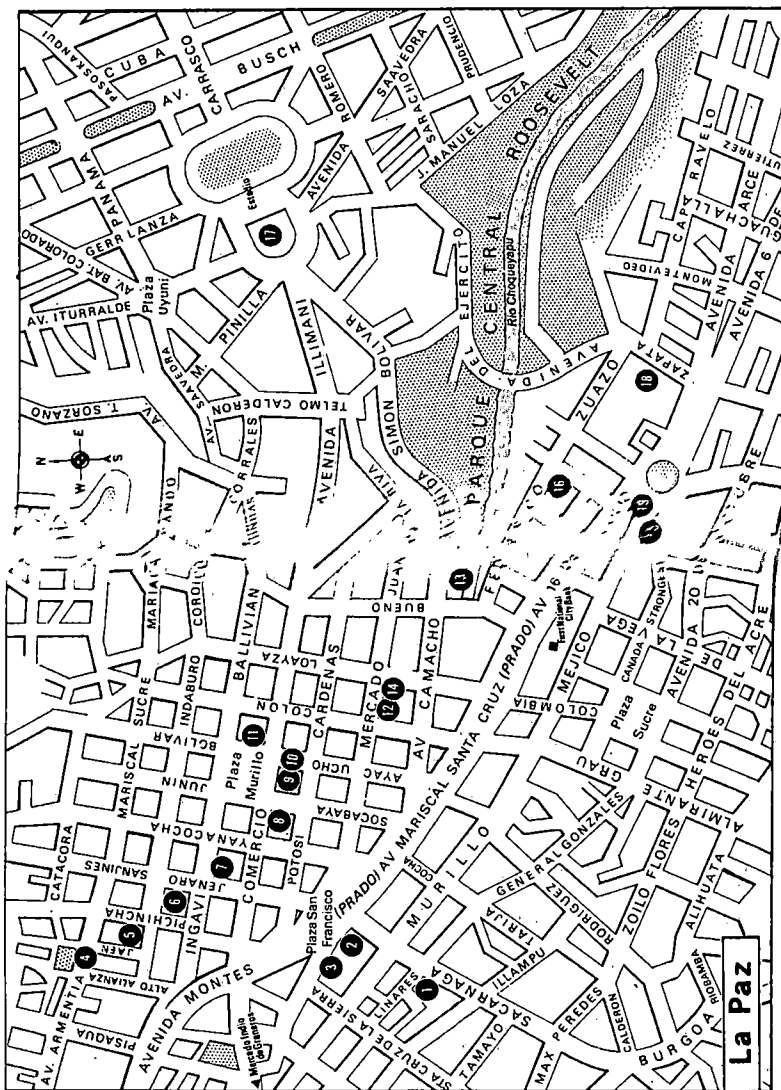
An alternative mid-morning break is a visit to the popular Cafe La Paz, located on the corner of Ayacucho and Camacho. This quaint old cafe is a hangout for politicians, businessmen, tourists, and labor leaders. It was also Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie's favorite spot until he was expelled from Bolivia in 1983. They serve the best espresso in town, iced coffee, and lima juice—made from a non-acidic citrus fruit grown in the tropics—and cheese pastries.

Because of the altitude, it is wise to eat the main meal at lunch and have a light supper. A siesta after lunch is enjoyed by many.

An afternoon tour could include a visit to the Galeria Emusa, located on the Prado. The city's most important gallery offers a wide and often beautiful assortment of Bolivian art and sculpture. Emusa is open weekdays 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. and 4 to 7 P.M. Another private gallery to visit is Galeria Arkani on Calle Belisario Salinas which also has an excellent framing shop. Centro Portales (upstairs from Galeria Emusa), Casa de la Cultura (across the street from San Francisco), and Salón Municipal Cecilio Guzmán de Rojas (Calle Colón, between Camacho and Mercado) also have varied art exhibits worth visiting.

Another alternative is to take an all-day tour offered by numerous travel agencies found in La Paz for about \$18 (including lunch). Half-day tours will cost around \$12. You can also hire a private taxi by the hour.

Heading downhill from the Prado you will pass the university and high-rise apartments before reaching the neighborhood of San Jorge and the presidential residence. The road bends and continues downward until it reaches the neighborhood of Obrajes and Calacoto, which are several degrees warmer because of the drop in altitude.



Points of Interest

- 1) Witchdoctor's Market
- 2) San Francisco Church
- 3) Mercado Artesanal (handicraft market)
- 4) Museo Costumbrista
- 5) Casa de Murillo
- 6) Municipal Theater
- 7) Folkloric and Ethnographic Museum
- 8) National Museum of Art
- 9) Cathedral
- 10) Palacio Presidencial
- 11) Congreso Nacional
- 12) U.S. Embassy
- 13) Mercado Camacho
- 14) National Tourist Office
- 15) Biblioteca Municipal
- 16) Museo Tiahuanaco
- 17) Prehistoric Tiahuanaco Park
- 18) San Andres University
- 19) City Tourist Information Center

From Calacoto head to La Florida, take the road bordering a river to Aranjuez, cross the La Paz River, and continue toward Mallasa and the Valley of the Moon, named because of the rock and dirt formations that exist there. If you continue eastward, the roads descends to La Palca and other fertile valleys where vegetables and fruits, including peaches, apricots, and plums, are cultivated.

On your way back be sure to visit the square facing the city stadium where a replica of a Tiwanacu courtyard can be found containing authentic stone monoliths and figures that date to the third to twelfth centuries. From there you'll be five minutes away by car from the Plaza Murillo, where the presidential palace and congress are located. Before constitutional rule returned to Bolivia in October 1982, the palace was often guarded by tanks and machine-gun-toting soldiers.

In front of the presidential palace is a statue of former President Gualberto Villarroel. In 1946 a mob attacked the presidential palace, dragged Villarroel to the square, and hung him from a lamp post; a nearby statue commemorates the event. Diagonally across from the presidential palace is congress, which has a visitor's gallery from which you can see democracy at work.

Next to the presidential palace is the cathedral, built in 1835. Facing it on the corner of Calle Sorcabaya and Comercio is the National Art Museum, which was built in 1775 for a Spanish aristocrat and is the finest neoclassic building in La Paz. The exterior and the courtyard are ornamented with carved floral designs. In the center of the patio is an alabaster fountain surrounded by plants. The three floors of the museum contain some of the painting and sculptural treasures of Bolivia. The first floor is devoted to exhibits of contemporary Bolivian and foreign artists; the second to the colonial works of the grand master of Andean colonial painting, Melchor Perez Holguin and his disciples; and the third to a permanent collection of Bolivian artists. One room is devoted to the sculptures of Marina Nunez Del Prado, whose abstract stone representations of Aymara and Quechua Indians have earned her a worldwide reputation. Art buffs can visit her former home, which now houses an exquisite collection of masks, colonial silverware, and several hundred of her sculptures. The museum is located on Calle Ecuador 2034.

The National Art Museum (tel. 371-177) is open Tuesday through Friday 9:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. and from 4 to 7 P.M.; Saturday it is open only in the morning. Admission is about fifty cents, twenty-five cents for students. None of the museums in La Paz offer English-speaking guides.

After leaving the museum take a stroll down the Comercio street and take a right on the Calle Yanacocha until you reach the corner of Ingavi. Around the corner is the Ethnographic and Folklore Museum, a beautiful eighteenth-century structure that is a repository of weavings, masks, feathers, and other objects of Bolivia's great cultural traditions. The museum offers a permanent exhibit on the Ayoreos, an Indian group from the Amazon area of the country, and on the Chipayas, who inhabit the most desolate area of the Altiplano and have maintained a distinct language and culture. Tickets are available for ten cents. It is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 to 11:45 A.M. and 2:30 to 5:45 P.M. On weekends it is open 10 A.M. to noon.

From the museum head up one block, take a left, and go two blocks until you reach Calle Jaen, a narrow, cobblestoned street that houses four museums. They are open Monday through Friday, 9:30 A.M. to noon and 2 to 6:30 P.M., Saturdays and Sundays 10 A.M. to noon. Admission tickets for the four museums can be purchased at the Museo Costumbrista for about a dollar. Saturdays admission is free. Calle Jaen is itself very interest-

ing; as one of the best-preserved colonial streets in La Paz it will give the visitor a glimpse into Bolivia's colorful but often turbulent past.

The Murillo Museum was once the home of the War of Independence hero Don Pedro Domingo Murrillo, after whom the city square is named. In 1810 he was hanged by the Spanish for his anti-crown activities. The colonial-style building houses a handsome collection of Bolivian handicrafts, art, and furniture. If you start to your left, you'll enter a room filled with over forty masks, several of which are the work of Antonio Viscarra or his grandfather. Also shown are miniature representations of some of the traditional dances of the Bolivian highlands and several display cases showing diminutive hats, shoes, furniture, canned foods, and street vendors. The objects are from Alacitas, a traditional fair that takes place for two weeks at the end of January. Bolivia's president and church officials make their yearly pilgrimage to bless over twenty blocks of stands offering candied fruits, sweets, handicrafts, plaster saints and animals, miniature pesos and dollar bills, and local dishes. The day the fair is inaugurated, city residents stock up on thousands of dollars worth of fake bills and miniatures and pray that during the year their wishes will come true.

From the courtyard in the Murillo Museum a stairway leads up to several exhibit halls. In the first room is a collection of silver masks, utensils, peacocks, and saddles that belonged to Bolivia's aristocracy. In other halls are examples of colonial furniture and the room used by Pedro Domingo Murillo.

Farther up the street is the gold museum that houses pre-Columbian gold and silver ornamentations, Inca and pre-Inca ceramics, and a description of Indian metallurgy.

Next to the museum is the Museo Litoral that houses documents, photographs, and paintings relating to the 1867 War of the Pacific when Bolivia lost its outlet to the sea. Bolivia is likely never to forget this loss and stages marches, commemorative events, and international appeals in an effort to recover access to the Pacific.

At the end of the Calle Jaen is the Museo Costumbrista, an elegant colonial-style structure exhibiting ceramic figures representing historical events and local customs. In one case is the Indian guerrilla leader Tupac Katari, who was quartered by the Spanish in 1781 near La Paz. Other displays show the lynching of Murillo in 1810 and the traditional festivities of San Juan, when tens of thousands of fires and fireworks displays light up La Paz on what is said to be the coldest night of the year, June 23. Several cases show popular drinking places, markets, dances, and outings dating to the time when La Paz was a provincial city of less than fifty thousand inhabitants. You'll learn that the first auto made it across the Andes in 1913 and that by 1919 trolleys crisscrossed the city.

A visit to La Paz would not be complete without a visit to a *peña*, where folkloric groups perform first-rate Andean music for tourists and local residents. Worth visiting are Pena Naira, Calle Sagárnaga No. 161, Pena Márko Tambo on the Calle Jaen, La Casa Del Corregidor, Calle Murillo No. 1040, El Guitarrón, Calle Chuquisaca corner Unión, and Cactus, Av. Manco Kapac half a block from Plaza Eguino. Admission costs about five dollars, and they all offer restaurant service. *Peñas* begin after 9 in the evening and last until past midnight. Be sure to bring a sweater along since after the sun sets the night air becomes brisk. Reservations are recommended.

On a clear night, as you walk back to your hotel or if you head to the Monticulo Park in Sopocachi, you'll see the moon hovering over the eternal snows of the Illimani. The entire canyon up to where it meets the Alti-

plano is ablaze with street lights, and from the Altiplano above with brilliant stars that sparkle in the clear La Paz sky.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR LA PAZ

GETTING AROUND LA PAZ. By bus. Buses—called micros—serve most city neighborhoods. Fares within the city center are about 10 cents. To outlying neighborhoods fares are higher. Fares are paid as you board the bus. Watch out for pickpockets who may slash purses.

By taxi. Taxis in La Paz will pick up 4 to 5 passengers and follow fixed routes, i.e., down Avenida 6 de Agosto, up Avenida Arce, etc. Fares within the city center are about 25 cents. If traveling to Obrajes or Calacoto, check the fare before boarding. Radio-dispatched taxi service is comfortable and efficient; fares are \$3–\$5 for trips within the city (call 371111, 369994, 322424–37, 355554, or 355555). Tourist taxis are also available in front of hotels. They charge an hourly rate of about \$5 or according to distance traveled. Be careful you are not overcharged at the airport—an express trip to the city should cost no more than \$8. If you share a taxi with four others, expect to pay about \$2.

HOTELS. For definitions of price categories, see "Facts at Your Fingertips."

Deluxe

Hotel Plaza, Av. 16 de Julio (378–300). Elegant, located on the Prado. 165 rooms. Offers sauna, swimming pool, rooms with a view of the Illimani and an elegant rooftop restaurant that serves excellent Lake Titicaca salmon trout, Bolivian dishes—try *fricasse* if interested in something spicy. In basement, Bolivar Travel offers friendly service, and Millma sells excellent handicrafts, sweaters, and weavings.

Hotel La Paz (formerly Sheraton), Av. Arce (356–950). 345 rooms, offering a panoramic view of the city and the surrounding Andes mountains. Good for large conventions, conferences. Has an indoor pool, sauna, exercise room. Ten-minute walking distance from Prado. La Lana located on the main floor offers export quality Alpaca sweaters that cost 3 to 4 times as much in New York.

Expensive

Hotel Gloria, Calle Potosí (370010). 79 rooms. Only a block from the San Francisco Church, this hotel offers good accommodations and a rooftop restaurant.

Hotel Libertador, Calle Obispo Cárdenas (343363). 53 rooms. Five-minute walk from the Prado, on a side street.

Moderate

Copacabana, Av. 16 de Julio (352–242). Located on the Prado, across from the Plaza. 64 rooms.

Crillon, Plaza Isabel La Católica (352–121). 70 rooms. Five minutes by taxi from the center. Once the city's old world hotel.

Eldorado, Av. Villazon (363–403). 64 rooms. Located across from the university.

Sucre, Av. 16 de Julio (355–080). Located on the Prado. Large rooms, snack shop, and restaurant.

Inexpensive

Alem, Calle Sagárnaga 334 (367400). Next to Hotel Sagárnaga, near *peñas* and handicraft shops. Very near San Francisco Church.

España, Av. 6 de Agosto 2074 (354643). 30 rooms. A block down the university and a couple of blocks from El Prado. Price includes breakfast.

Sagárnaga, Calle Sagárnaga 326 (358757). 35 rooms. A few steps from Bolivian handicraft shops and from several *peñas*. Very near San Francisco Church.

RESTAURANTS. For definitions of price categories, see "Facts at Your Fingertips."

La Carreta, *expensive*, Calle Batallon Colorado #32 (355891), offers good steaks. **Hotel Plaza** offers a cafeteria, the rooftop restaurant **Utama** (*expensive*), and the elegant **Arcon de Oro** (*deluxe*). Good Bolivian food, especially *fricasse*, *sajta de pollo* and *saice*, and lake trout served at the **Utama** (378311). **La Suisse**, *expensive*,

Avenida Arce (across the street from the Sheraton), has excellent beef and fondue as well as Swiss specialties. Serves lunch and dinner. Reservations are recommended (353150). For some of the best beef dishes in town, try the *Churrasqueria El Arriero*, Casa Argentina, Av. 6 de Agosto 2535. *Refugio Restaurant*, expensive, Calle 20 de Octubre and Plaza Abaroa (355-651). *El Yotala*, moderate, Calle Sanchez Lima between Guachalla and R. Gutierrez (341897), serves good spicy Sucre fare, including ckocho, fritanga, and saice. *The German club*, expensive, behind the Hotel Plaza, offers Continental food. *Giorgissimos*, expensive, Calle Loayza near corner with Camacho (324456) has good Bolivian and beef dishes. *El Internacional*, inexpensive, at Calle Ayacucho 206, offers daily fixed menus. *Restaurante Monaco*, Av. Villazon 1958 (365-014), has a fixed menu and a la carte meals. For take-out snacks such as *humintas*—corn and cheese wrapped in husks and *cuñape*—cheese pastries—we recommend *Don Julio's*, just below Plaza de Estudiante. *Cafe La Paz*, inexpensive, at Calle Camacho and Ayacucho, has excellent coffee as well as breakfast and tea pastries. For *saltenas*, try *Super Saltenas*, Sanchez Lima and Plaza Abaroa; *El Arabesque*, Loayza and Juan de La Riva; and the *Hotel Plaza snack shop*. *Cafeteria Verona*, moderate, Colon corner with Mariscal Ayacucho, for meals, snacks, and fixed menu lunches. *Quick*, inexpensive, on Plaza Isabel La Catolica, has the best hamburgers in town. *Stefanos*, moderate, Aspiazu corner 20 de Octubre, has good pizzas and homemade pastas. *Pizzeria Morelo*, moderate, Edificio Santa Teresa, across from the Sheraton (360671), has good pizzas. *California Donuts*, moderate, Av. Camacho 1248, good doughnuts, hamburgers, and snacks. *Charlie's*, expensive, Plaza Isabel La Catolica, excellent shrimp stew and other dishes. *Mocambo*, expensive, Av. Arce, excellent Spanish food. *La Dolce Vita*, expensive, Calle Strongest good Italian food. *Pronto*, expensive, Calle Jauregui 2248 (one block from Hotel La Paz) good homemade pastas. *Luigi's Pizza*, Av. 20 de Octubre, best pizzas. *Café Bonn-Bonn*, Av. Sanchez Lima 2191, great European pastries.

USEFUL ADDRESSES AND NUMBERS. Police, 110; Bus station, 353510, 352510; Airport information, 810 122; Central train station, 353510; Long distance calls, 356700; General Hospital, 376 192.

Tourist Information Center: Mariscal Ballivián Building, 18th floor, on Mercado between Loayza and Colón.

Medical and dental care: house calls are made in Bolivia. *Dr. Ciro Portugal*, Ed Mariscal Ayacucho (360 393). *Dr. Ovidio Suarez*, gynecologist (351501). *Dr. Esperanza Aid* U.S.-trained dentist speaks English (320081). *Clinica Alemana*, 6 de Agosto. *The Methodist Hospital* on Calle Obrajes 12 (783511).

Exchange houses: *Sudamer*, Calle Colón 256; *América Ltda.*, Av. Camacho 1233; *Cáceres Ltda.*, Calle Potosí, Hotel Gloria; *D'Argent*, Ed. Ballivian, Calle Mercado (across from Amigos del Libro); *Colle Tobias*, Calle Socabaya (across from Ministry of Labor).

Mail, telephone, and telex: Central mail office, Calle Potosí corner with Ayacucho. ENTEL, the national telecommunications company, is located on Calle Ayacucho between Mercado and Camacho. Offers long-distance telephone, telegram, and telex service. Hotel offers same services and mail service. For additional information, dial 104.

TOURS. *Crillon Tours*, Ave. Camacho 1223 (320222). Runs hydrofoil service on Lake Titicaca from Huatajata to Tiquina, Sun Island, Copacabana, and July (Peru), connecting with further transportation to Puno and Cuzco. *Crillon Tours* also offers a comfortable hotel and museum about the people who inhabit Lake Titicaca at Huatajata.

Balsa Tours, Ave. 16 de Julio on the Prado (356566).

Transturin, Calle Camacho (363654). Offers bus and boat service to Puno with connections to Cusco.

Bolivar Travel, basement of the Hotel Plaza (350 145). Tawa tours, Calle Sagarnaga, above Pena and restaurant Naira (329814), offers adventure and trekking tours in the Andes and tropics, where they have their own camps.

Club Andino Boliviano, Calle Mexico 1638 Casilla 5879 (365 065). Offers guided trips to Chacaltaya ski slopes as well as trekking and mountaineering information. For a guide to climb the Andes, contact Bernardo Guarachi, a veteran climber who speaks German.

Fremen Tours, across from Cine 6 de Agosto, Av. Arce, offers river excursions and tours in the Highlands and tropics. **Turismo Ensueno**, Ed. Ballivian, Calle Mercado, has good service.

Paititi Tours, Av. Arce 2630 (329625 and 353558). Offers excellent organized adventure tours in the Andes, the Altiplano, the jungle, and the valleys. Fully equipped trekking, mountain climbing, boat and jeep trips.

Gaviota Tours, Calle Loayza, Castilla building (351596). Trips to Tiwanacu, Lake Titikaka, Chacaltaya, Yungas, Oruro, and other Bolivian Departments.

Gacela Tours, Hotel Crillon (352121). Arranges tickets and organizes tours to Tarabuco, Tihuanacu, Lake Titikaka, Yungas, and Chacaltaya.

Diana Tours, Calle Sagárnaga 328 (358757). City tours, trips to Tiwanacu, Lake Titikaka, Moon Valley, Chacaltaya, Yungas, Zongo, Puno, Cusco.

MUSEUMS AND CULTURAL CENTERS. Most museums are open Mon.-Fri., 9 A.M.-noon, 2-6 P.M. Sat. and Sun. 9 A.M.-noon. Call ahead to confirm hours.

Museo Costumbrista, Plaza Riosinio at the end of Calle Jaen. Miniature scenes of old La Paz.

Museo Pedro Domingo Murillo, Calle Jaen. Exhibits masks, weavings, miniature handicrafts, silverware, etc.

Museo Nacional de Arte, Plaza Murillo across the street from the Cathedral. Fine collection of colonial paintings and contemporary art.

Museo Tiwanaku, Pasaje Tiwanaku behind the Hotel Plaza. This recently restored museum exhibits priceless pre-Columbian artifacts.

Museo de Etnografía y Folklore, Calle Ingavi 916. Permanent exhibit on Chiriqui and Ayoreo Cultures.

Museo del Oro, Calle Jaen. Exquisite collection of pre-Columbian gold, silver, and ceramic artifacts.

Goethe Institute, Av. 6 de Agosto (374 453). Cultural programs, lectures, concerts on Bolivian and West German subjects. German library.

Centro Boliviano Americano, Parque Zenon Iturralde (342 582). U.S. and Bolivian cultural programs, films, and concerts. Library with U.S. periodicals and books.

Alianza Francesa, Calle Guachalla, corner 20 de Octubre and coffee shop (325022). Bolivian and French cultural programs.

Galeria Emusa, El Prado, 1607 (328931). Best art gallery in town.

Teatro Municipal, Calle Sanjines, corner with Indaburo. Concerts and theater. **Casa de la Cultura**, Plaza Perez Velasco. Art exhibits, cultural programs, and concerts.

Galeria Arkani, Calle Belisario Salinas. First-rate art exhibits and framing center.

SHOPPING. For visitors interested in handicrafts, silver and gold jewelry, and fine alpaca ware, La Paz is the place to shop. **Galeria Millma** in the Hotel Plaza offers beautiful Indian weavings, wall hangings, natural dyed alpaca and cotton sweaters, scarves, and ponchos. It is run by two Americans who are authors of two books on Bolivian weavings. They make most of their alpaca and cotton goods at a workshop located two blocks away on the Calle 20 de Octubre 1824 and a store on Calle Sagarnaga 225. The woollens can also be purchased through the Peruvian Connection catalog. **Adam**, on Av. 6 de Agosto 2135, sells alpaca and cotton sweaters for all kinds of tastes. Another fine store: **El Huso**, at two locations, El Prado 1615, and Av. 6 de Agosto corner of Pedro Salazar. **El Antiquario**, 1615 el Prado. **Algo Mas**, 1615 El Prado, sells the best Bolivian handicrafts. **Artesanias Bolivianas**, Av. Arce (across from Hotel La Paz) sells good, quality handicrafts and alpaca dresses. On the Calle Sagarnaga, **Galeria San Francisco** next to the church of the same name offers a wide selection of antiques, alpaca goods, weavings, and old coins. **Punchay Artesanias**, Calle Santa Cruz 156, belongs to a group of musicians. They sell music, weavings, and alpaca sweaters. **Schohaus**, at Calle Colon 260 (just below the U.S. embassy), offers elegant pewter. Good silver and pewter ware at the **Edificio Mariscal Ayacucho**, Calle Loayza, and **Kings** in the Hotel Sucre. Chocoholics should be sure to try the Breick bitter, milk, or milk chocolate sold throughout the city—real chocolate flavor that beats Hershey's. Good chocolate can also be found at **Clavel's** on the Prado.

Film and processing. Slide and black and white film costs 3 to 4 times more than in New York. Fuji and Kodak print film can be bought at bargain prices at the

Miamicito—the city's black market. **Foto Linares**, Calle Loayza corner with Juan de la Riva, offers color processing and a good selection of photo supplies and equipment. Best service in town. **Casa Kavlin**, Potosi 1130, sells film and does color processing. **Casa Capri**, corner of Colon and Mariscal Santa Cruz, processes print film. Kodachrome film cannot be processed in South America. **Rolando Calle**, at casa Fuji, Calle Potosi, repairs most camera equipment; open mornings.

NIGHTLIFE. Nightclubs: **Onix**, Av. 6 de Agosto 299 (342787). Lively and crowded disco. **Pacha**, Av. 6 de Agosto, Santa Teresa building (350745). **Baccara**, Av. 20 de Octubre 1822 (324039). **Chelzy**, Av. 20 de Octubre 2072. **Forum**, Calle Victor Sanjines, corner Ricardo Mujia. **La Mansion**, Av. Ballivian (Calacoto).

Bars and Pubs: **Matheus**, on Calle Guachalla corner of Av. 6 de Agosto. Jazz and nice pub setting. **Horno Bar**, Av. 20 de Octubre 2072. Jazz, cozy atmosphere. **Juan Sebastian Bar**, Calle Ecuador 2620. **Rancho Suizo**, Calle Aspiazu (above Calle Ecuador). **Grammofon Bar Lírico**, Calle Belisario Salinas 536.

Peñas: Bolivian folklore for visitors and locals. All offer restaurant service. **Naira**, Calle Sagárnaga 161 (350530). **Marka Tambo**, Calle Jaén 710 (340416). **La Casa del Corregidor**, Calle Murillo 1040 (363633). **El Guitarrón**, Calle Chuquisaca corner Unión (368050). **Kutimuy**, Calle Murillo 947 (352351). **Los Escudos**, Av. Mariscal Santa Cruz corner with Calle Ayacucho (322028). **Cactus**, Av. Manco Kapac, half a block from Plaza Eguino.

EXCURSIONS FROM LA PAZ

Tiwanacu

Bolivia's most important archaeological sight, Tiwanacu, is located fifty miles to the west of La Paz. It was once the center of one of the most ancient cultures in the Americas. Its monumental stone figures, stone courtyard, and sun gate give a glimpse of a civilization that mysteriously surfaced around 600 B.C. and disappeared around A.D. 1200. Now located twenty miles from Lake Titicaca, it is believed to have once been near the shores of the lake.

There are no guides available at the site, so it is best to take one of the many tours provided by travel agencies in La Paz.

The most imposing monument is the Gate of the Sun, which is thought to be a solar calendar. It is part of an elaborate observatory and courtyard that contain monoliths, the door of the Puma, and a subterranean temple. It lacks the sheer splendor of Machu Picchu, but provides a glimpse into the ancestry of the Aymara people, many of whom still inhabit the area.

Sorata

Legend has it that this charming valley town was the site of the biblical Garden of Eden. The perpetually snow-covered, 22,000-foot-high Illampu Mountain looms over Sorata and the surrounding corn, potato, and wheat fields. The town, once a flourishing commercial center and the gateway to the gold mining region of Tipuani and Mapiri, is laid out in the classic Spanish design, with two well-kept parks and a grid pattern of narrow, cobblestoned streets. Two streams carrying the melt-off from Illampu meet below the village. Sorata, located at 2,450 meters above sea level, is in the temperate zone and is an ideal place to visit for a weekend. During the December to March rainy season it may rain for an hour or two, but normally it is sunny. The remains of elegant estates that once housed rich landowners or gold miners still exist near Sorata.

Located four hours by bus from La Paz or three by private vehicle, Sorata has two comfortable places to stay. The Hotel Prefectural offers private rooms with bathrooms and hot showers, a swimming pool, and a view of the Illampu. To capture a bit of the historic flavor of Sorata, you can stay at the Hostal Casa Gunther, the former residence of a German merchant who became wealthy trading in gold and selling imported crystals, fabrics, and household goods to wealthy gold miners who passed through Sorata en route to La Paz. The hostal offers large bedrooms, clean communal hot showers and bathrooms, and a lovely garden of palm trees and flowers. They also serve upon request a breakfast which includes homemade jams, and a hearty lunch and dinner. For more information on Casa Gunther and Hotel Prefectural, check with travel agencies.

Residents of Sorata make some charming stuffed dolls, wall hangings, and dresses from handwoven wool. These can be found on the main square by asking for *Senorita Diana* or *Artesanias Sorata*.

Sorata is the starting point for climbing the Illampu. For the daring, there is an Inca trail that begins near Sorata, crosses the Andes, and drops to the tropical gold mining region of Tipuani. Over a four-day trek you will travel from snow to jungle on a stone-paved Inca highway that crosses crystal-clear mountain streams and lagoons. This trail has been used since the time of the Incas to carry gold, coca leaves, and other products to the highlands. On the trail you are likely to encounter herds of llamas or mules taking potatoes, corn, and other goods to the tropics. For the trip it is necessary to take a sleeping bag, tent, and food supplies, including coca leaves to chew along the way.

Lake Titicaca

If you did not arrive via Lake Titicaca, a trip there is a must. A paved road will take you to the lake, past farming villages and farms where rows of potatoes, barley, fava beans, and quinoa are grown. During the October through December planting season a visitor will see Indians using teams of oxen to plow the fields, much as their ancestors did.

An hour-and-a-half after leaving La Paz, you will reach the 13,000-foot-high waters of Lake Titicaca. Totora reed and wooden boats used for fishing or travel are visible from the shore. In Huatajata you can rent a boat and visit Suriki or other islands. Four residents of Suriki built the "Ra Two" for the Norwegian explorer Thor Heyerdahl. Two of the builders have a small souvenir shop in Suriki, an island famous for its totora reed boats and furniture.

If you enjoy seafood you can eat some delicious salmon trout at the *Inti Raimi* restaurant in Huatajata or at the *Hotel Titicaca*, which also offers comfortable accommodations and is located between the village of Huarina and Huatajata. Reservations for *Hotel Titicaca* can be made at the *Hotel Libertador* in La Paz (355080). In Huatajata, *Crillon Tours* also offers a first-class hotel, *Inca Utama*, and has a sunset to sunrise excursion on the Sacred Lake. Reservations can be made at Av. Camacho 1223, tel. 372970.

Lake Titicaca sprawls for some 3,500 square miles and forms part of the boundary between Bolivia and Peru. The Islands of the Sun and Moon also hold an important place in the history of the Inca civilization. The Island of the Sun has the remains of Inca palaces, gardens, and temples. The Island of the Moon offers a look at the remains of the Temple of the Moon and a great view of the Andes.

If you continue past Huatajata, you will reach the Tiquina crossing. Cars, buses, and trucks are loaded on wooden barges and ferried across

Check with the tourist office on hours when visits to Portales and Pairumani can be made.

Fifteen minutes after leaving Cochabamba you will encounter dairy farms and villages with centuries-old homes.

If you have a day to spare, hire a car and head out to the Valle Alto. Twenty minutes out of Cochabamba on the road to Santa Cruz, veer to the right by the Angustura dam. In another thirty minutes you'll reach Tarata, an old village with adobe homes and overhanging balconies that has changed very little in recent decades. In December there is a colorful feast with dancers using masks from La Diablada. Check with the Cochabamba tourist office for feast dates. Instead of veering right at the dam, you can also head out to Cliza, Punata, and Arani. These villages are also served by buses that leave from Av. San Martín, near the railway station. The market in Cliza is on Sunday, in Punata on Tuesdays. The Valle Alto is famous for its pottery and dairy products. Small white flags that hang in front of adobe homes indicate the sale of chicha, a fermented corn brew.

For camping, hiking, and fishing, a visit to Mount Tunari is recommended. It is thirty-eight miles from Cochabamba on the road to Morachata-Independencia. The climate is cold but the scenery is spectacular.

Another farming village worth visiting is Quillacollo, located only eight miles from Cochabamba. The Sunday market is very colorful.

If interested in Inca ruins, a weekend trip to Incallajta is a must. A four-wheel-drive vehicle is needed to reach these ruins, which are located seventy-five miles from Cochabamba on the road to Santa Cruz. It is recommended that you take along a guide who knows the road. Two temples and several dwellings remain at Incallajta. Be sure to bring food and warm clothing.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR COCHABAMBA

HOTELS. Hotel Portales, Cochabamba, and Ambassador are the best.

Gran Hotel Cochabamba. *Expensive.* On the Plaza Ubaldo Anza, better known as the Recoleta (43300). Offers a swimming pool, tennis courts, lovely gardens, and one of the finest restaurants in Bolivia.

Hotel Portales. *Expensive.* Av. Pando 1271 (43159, 45269) 120 beds. A brand new hotel with swimming pool, suites with Jacuzzis, and two restaurants (tel. 43159, 45269).

Hotel Ambassador. *Moderate to Expensive.* Calle España (48777). 105 rooms. Considered one of the best in the city. Located three blocks from Plaza 14 de Septiembre.

Moderately priced hotels include: Hotel Boston, Calle 25 de Mayo (28530); Hotel Colón, Plaza Colón (48101); Hotel Emperador, Calle Colombia (27638); Hotel Las Vegas, Calle Esteban Arce (29217).

Inexpensive hotels include: Hostal Claudia, Calle Hamiraya (47844); Hotel Gemas, Calle Nataniel Aguirre (27683); Hotel Venecia, Av. Aroma (26165); Residencial Brasilia, Calle Brasil (22107); Residencial Buenos Aires, Calle 25 de Mayo (29518); and Residencial Internacional, Calle Junín (48304).

RESTAURANTS. Hotel Cochabamba restaurant, *expensive.* Best in town. Good menu selection.

Restaurant Victor, on the Prado, *expensive.* Good food but overpriced.

Casa de Campo. Half a block from Plaza de la Recoleta on Calle Aniceto Padilla. *Moderate.* Good Bolivian cuisine and barbeque.

La Estancia. Half a block from Plaza de la Recoleta on Calle Aniceto Padilla. *Moderate.* Excellent beef dishes.

La Huella. Plaza Quintanilla. *Moderate.* Excellent barbeque.

Parrillada La Senda. Calle Adela Zamudio 1783 (in the Cala Cala area). *Moderate.* Barbeque and different kinds of beef dishes.

Restaurante Taquina. *Moderate.* At the brewery of the same name. An hour trip toward the mountains, this restaurant with a view of the Cochabamba Valley is open weekends. It serves good beef, lamb, and duck dishes. Their beer is first rate.

TOURIST INFORMATION. Tourist information center on Plaza 14 de Septiembre, in the Prefectura building (23364). Maps of the city and a guidebook sold at Amigos del Libro, Av. Heroínas 3712.

Travel agencies in town include: **Exprinter,** Plaza 14 de Septiembre; **Gitano Tours,** Calle Ayacucho (29570); **Delicias Tours,** Av. Heroínas; **Carve Tours,** Av. Heroínas; **Taus,** Calle General Achá; **Viajes Fremen,** Calle 25 de Mayo.

MUSEUMS. Not to be missed is the **Archaeological Museum** located at the end of Calle Calama. There are over 25,000 pieces on exhibit.

SHOPPING. Adam is an association sheltering the four main artisan organizations in Cochabamba that deal in alpaca products. More than 3,000 artisans, most of them farmers, belong to this association. In its sales room, on Calle Jordán 0148, you can buy sweaters, scarves, tapestries, rugs, ponchos, and ornaments. **Amerindia,** Av. San Martín 6064, offers hand knitted alpaca goods, coats made of alpaca material, alpaca wool, wool rugs and tapestries, wood carvings, handbags, and leather goods. **Fotrama,** Av. Heroínas near the post office, sells some of the finest alpaca items in Bolivia. **Andea,** Calle Calama, offers alpaca goods and makes the thickest and finest alpaca rugs in Bolivia. Near the railway station is a sprawling black market that sells electronic gadgets, film, cameras, and clothing. Best to go on Wed. or Sat. You can find Kodak and Fuji film for two dollars a roll, video cameras, tape recorders, etc. Facing the railway station is a market that offers fruits, vegetables, handicrafts, handwoven wool blankets, alpaca sweaters, and other goods. Be sure to bargain the prices down.

ORURO

HOTELS. Hotel Terminal, at the bus terminal (53209), *moderate.* The best hotel in town. Hotel Prefectural, Calle Aldana (60588), *moderate.* Run by the government. For *inexpensive* lodging, Hotel Lipton, Av. 6 de Agosto corner Rodríguez (41583); Hotel Repostero, Calle Sucre; and Hostal Osber, Calle Murguía.

SUCRE

On the cathedral towers of the city of Sucre, sixteen life-size statues keep watch. Twelve of them are the Apostles, and the four figures closest to heaven are, of course, the Saints of Sucre. So runs the story of the Cathedral statues, as told by the residents of this colonial city of 86,000 inhabitants located 420 miles from La Paz. *Sucrenses* have always held a special view of themselves, and the city's colorful history has tended to reinforce it.

Sucre's colonial architecture and museums are a reminder of the history, culture, and tradition that have thrived in this 9,000-foot-high city and influenced a wide region of southern America. Visitors can explore centuries-old churches and museums that exhibit priceless colonial paintings, furniture, and religious figures adorned with gold and jeweled garments. And in March of every year, the traditional folklore of the surrounding Quechua inhabitants comes alive in Tarabuco with one of the most important indigenous festivals in Latin America.

A twenty-minute drive from the airport serviced by modern jets will take you to the city's heart, the Plaza 25 de Mayo. There, veterans of the 1932 war with Paraguay spend their days seated on well-kept benches, watching a parade of students in white uniforms, Quechua peasants offer-

ing their wares to tourists, shoeshine urchins, ice-cream vendors blowing their horns, and children playing on the bronze lions surrounding the monument to the great Latin American "Libertador" Antonio Jose de Sucre.

Stately palm and ceibo trees which in August and September bloom with red "gallitos," or little roosters, shield the Plaza from the blazing midday sun that beats down except for brief periods during the November to February rainy season. The sidewalks, bordered by well-groomed trees, are swept before dawn every day with palm branches by Quechua-speaking men and women.

Sucre, founded by the Spaniard Pedro de Anzures in 1538, is often called "La Ciudad Blanca" (the White City) for its cleanliness and for the houses and churches that are whitewashed every year by government edict, and is referred to as the "City of Four Names"—Charcas, Chuquisaca, La Plata, and Sucre. The intellectual ferment that has characterized Sucre over the centuries comes alive every fall when students return to study at a university founded twenty-four years before Harvard, in 1624. The University of San Xavier was the font of liberal ideas which gave birth to the first cry of independence on the continent.

After you check in at one of Sucre's four comfortable colonial-style hotels or the Hotel Municipal, head for the Plaza, where 1940 Buicks and Studebakers and modern Toyota taxis are available for a quick tour of the city at around four dollars an hour. Because of Sucre's small size, most points of interest are within walking distance from the center.

Wherever you go, you will find that tradition is still an important part of life here. Only three doors from the Plaza on the Calle España, Jaime Soliz still cuts hair with hand clippers and shaves with blades sharpened on leather straps, much as his father, grandfather, and great-grandfather did.

Before making the rounds of museums and Roman Catholic churches and monasteries, spend a few hours walking around to savor a bit of Sucre's past and its remains. Imagine a time when gilded horse-drawn carriages trod through the city's cobblestoned streets carrying women dressed in the latest Parisian fashions, or a time when men in black velvet outfits tailored in Granada or Toledo, Spain, walked the streets followed by their indentured Quechua peasants. Or picture the Plaza before the 1952 revolution that abolished peonage and ended the rule of the Tin Barons, when life in the square reflected the social and professional divisions of the city. Progressives and students gathered on the far side of the Cathedral while doctors, lawyers, and businessmen sat shielded by palm trees opposite the House of Liberty (Casa de la Libertad), where Bolivia was founded and the constitution drawn up. The local blue bloods, descendants of the Spanish and Creole aristocracy once enriched by the silver mines of Potosi or by government posts, sat and conversed on benches lined up adjacent to the Cathedral. Quechua-speaking peasants were relegated to the Plaza's inner circles, unless they were servants attending the children of the well-to-do.

Two blocks from the square on the Calle Nicolas Ortiz is the San Felipe Neri Church built in the seventeenth century. Its size testifies to the power the Roman Catholic church once held in Latin American society. The views from domed roofs and towers, made with bricks bonded with silver from the mining city of Potosi, afford a marvelous panorama of countless churches, said to have numbered one to a block during the colonial period. The extension of the graceful curves of ceramic roofs shield the tiny windows and balconies from the summer rains and piercing winter sun. Porticos, balconies, and archways, visible in the corners of older buildings, are

rich in symbolism, depicting mythical gods and Christian effigies. Only the sound of passing vehicles and a television tower on the Sica Sica mountain that overlooks the city remind one of the present. The tourist bureau, located four blocks from the Plaza on Calle Alberto No. 401, can arrange a tour between two and five P.M. if you wish to visit the roof and courtyards of San Felipe Neri Church. English-speaking guides are only available through tourist agencies.

If you return to the Plaza by the same street you will face the portals of the baroque-style Cathedral, famous for a Virgin covered by a multimillion-dollar garment endowed with gold, diamonds, emeralds, and pearls donated by wealthy residents during the colonial period, which dates from 1538 to 1825, when the Republic of Bolivia was born.

Adjacent to the Cathedral is a museum displaying colonial paintings, volumes of parchment, and desks inlaid with mother-of-pearl. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries musicians performed classical works composed by Creole artists trained by Spanish clergy. These musical manuscripts, preserved at the National Archives on the Calle Espana, have been commercially recorded and bring to life once again the great cultural activity that once took place in Sucre.

A walking tour of Sucre would not be complete without the traditional afternoon tea consisting of ice cream, fruit milk shakes, and pastries. On the Plaza and side streets are several confiterias open for this occasion. Be sure not to miss the delicious *cuñapes*, and cheese pastries served hot at the Confiteria Las Vegas on the Plaza.

If you are in the mood for something religiously sweet head up the Calle San Alberto until you reach Calle Camargo and the Santa Teresa Convent whose nuns until recently spent their adult lives cloistered behind three-foot-thick adobe walls. Between ten and twelve in the morning nuns and novices sell candied figs, oranges, apples, and limes, reciting "Ave Maria Purisima."

Two blocks from the Plaza on the Calle Calvo you'll reach a small but precious museum adjacent to the Convent of Santa Clara that was founded in 1639. Enconced within its thick adobe walls is a valuable collection of the works of Melchor Perez Holguin, one of the three most important Latin American colonial painters, and his teacher the Italian painter Bernardo Vitti. They also have on exhibit clerical silver and gold embroidered garments, statuary, furniture, and other items. The museum is open from 10:00 to 11:30 A.M. and 3:00 to 5:30 P.M. If you're an early riser, you might enjoy attending the 7:00 A.M. mass (8:00 A.M. on Sundays) that includes choral works sung by the Santa Clara nuns.

As dusk approaches, walk up from the Convent or Plaza toward the eucalyptus-covered Churuquilla mountain until you reach the Recoleta Monastery founded in 1601 by the Franciscans. Paintings of religious figures line the hallways around patios and lovely gardens with roses and geraniums in bloom. An adjoining restored chapel still contains intricately carved choir seats that once were occupied by Franciscan monks. The only two monks who remain offer tours between 10 A.M. and noon and from 2 to 5 P.M.

A square with a stone fountain and sun clock borders the monastery and offers a view of the city, with its fifteen colonial churches, whitewashed homes, tiled roofs and parks surrounded by rolling farmlands and ragged mountain peaks that disappear into the horizon. At dusk, the horizon takes on hues of red, orange, and gray that disappear with the advent of darkness, leaving the city lighted by a canopy of stars.

In the early morning you will enjoy a pleasant and lively trip to the colonial-style market located two-and-a-half blocks from the Plaza. There,

Quechua women are up before dawn arranging stalls of fresh vegetables, fruits, and canned goods. They are protected from the morning chill by delicately woven capes with abstract animal designs. A dollar will buy you fifty oranges—a great value if you can figure out what to do with them. Vendors at a row of stalls serve fresh vegetables and fruit juices and steaming hot “api,” a pungent brew of ground red corn, sugar, cinnamon, and lemon which goes well with freshly fried cheese pastries called “empanadas.” Be careful with eating unwashed fruits and vegetables, but hot drinks like api should give you no problem. A command of Spanish words would help in bargaining with the vendors, but with prices so low all you will miss out on is some of the fun of shopping in a Latin American country.

Sucre is best known for its colonial past. There are so many monuments that remind one of its heritage that a selective list will have to suffice. A visit to the “Casa de la Libertad” on the Plaza is a must. This historical museum houses documents and artifacts related to Bolivia’s struggle for independence. As you pass through heavy wooden doors and proceed along the hall to the left you will reach a room where the August 6, 1825 Declaration of Independence is on exhibit. In another hall lined with carved pews the Declaration of Independence was signed. Depending on your time and interest you could spend hours examining the many documents and relics of Bolivia’s turbulent past.

The Caserón de la Capellania, on Calle San Alberto near the corner of Potosí, is Sucre’s center for tourist development. In this seventeenth-century building you’ll find art exhibitions, handicraft shops, workshops. Tourist information is also available here.

The University Museum on Calle Bolívar 698 exhibits fine weavings, archaeological artifacts, and colonial paintings and furniture. You might find especially interesting three mummified bodies that were once buried in a chamber attached to the Santo Domingo chapel. Within hours after they were discovered in the late 1940s the city was rife with rumors of bodies buried alive during the Inquisition and for days thousands stood in line to view the well-preserved bodies of a couple and child. Local residents still talk of torture chambers and of adulterous women forced to ride in the streets bare-chested on mules. According to Don Gunnar Méndez, the director of the National Archives, wealthy families often built special altars inside churches and then sealed them off after burial.

EXCURSIONS FROM SUCRE

La Glorieta

A ten-minute ride toward the valley of La Florida will take you to “La Glorieta,” a grandiose monument to Sucre’s past. At the end of the nineteenth century, the wealthy industrialist Don Francisco Argandoña built a miniature estate with Venetian-style canals, lovely gardens, and fountains over which towered an exotic residential palace built in a conglomeration of Moorish, Spanish, and French architectural styles. Doña María Clotilde Argandoña became known as “La Princesa de la Glorieta,” a title bestowed by the Pope—for a price—in recognition of her work with abandoned and orphaned children. Today, the canals are gone, the gardens are in ruins, and the grounds are occupied by army cadets. Even so, what remains is a reminder of the vanished splendor of “La Glorieta” and its epoch.

Tarabuco

The most colorful side trip from Sucre is to the town of Tarabuco at a distance of sixty kilometers in the Yamparaez province. Its Sunday markets attract peasants from the region who are famous for their conquistador-style leather helmets and multicolored handwoven ponchos, “chuspas” (bags for carrying coca leaves and money), “chumpis” (skirts), and musical instruments. The most popular is the “charango,” a string instrument whose back is formed by the carapace of the armadillo with hair that is said to grow even after the animal’s death.

In March of every year, thousands of peasants from the area of Tarabuco join tourists and Sucre residents in the celebration of the “Pujllay,” or carnival, one of the best traditional festivals in Latin America. The event celebrates the Battle of Jumbate which took place on March 12, 1816, when the Indians of the area defeated the Spaniards. Area residents dancing to music played on the “charango,” “zampoña,” “tokoro,” “pinkillos,” and bel-spurs; a lively mass sung in Quechua; and the lingering taste of spicy native dishes washed down with the corn brew known as chicha make a visit to the Pujllay a must.

Monteagudo

The road from Tarabuco winds southeast, toward valleys and mountains that gradually take on shades of green and a tropical air. Monteagudo, an eight-hour bus ride in good weather, is a region populated by the Chiriguano, a sub-group of the Guaranis who inhabit southern Bolivia and Paraguay. Landslides and swollen rivers isolate the region from Sucre during the winter rainy season but in the dry season the frontier town of Monteagudo is readily accessible. The area encompasses vast zones of semitropical virgin land that offer good fishing and adventure. After a few days in this tropical region one can appreciate the fact that years ago Che Guevara fought a losing guerrilla war not far from Monteagudo.

New hotels with private bathrooms and hot showers have opened up.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR SUCRE

HOTELS. Hotel Municipal. On Av. Venezuela 1050 (21074). *Moderate to Expensive.* Elegant hotel, offers comfortable rooms and swimming pool. Remodeled in 1985.

Several new hostels opened recently that cater to tourists and national visitors, all at *moderate* prices: Hostal Colonial, on Plaza 25 de Mayo (24709); Hostal Libertad, Calle Arce 99 (23101); Hostal Sucre, Calle Bustillos 113 (21411); Hostal Los Pinos, Calle Colón 502 (24403); and Hostal Cruz de Popayán, Calle Loa 881 (31706). Hostels serve breakfast but usually not lunch or dinner.

For *inexpensive* lodging, Residencial Bolivia, Calle San Alberto 42 (24346); Residencial Oriental, Calle San Alberto 43 (21644); and Residencial Bustillo, Calle Ravelo 158 (21560).

RESTAURANTS. The best in town is El Solar, *Moderate.* Calle Bolívar 800 (24341). At this colonial-style restaurant you can dine on delicious, spicy Sucre dishes or on more traditional fare. Be sure to try the singani, a fine grape-distilled liqueur produced south of Sucre in Camargo or Tarija. The Plaza, *moderate*, overlooking the main square, offers continental and some local dishes. La Posta, at the Hotel Municipal, *moderate*, offers continental and local dishes.

TOURIST INFORMATION. Tourist information center at Caserón de la Capellania, Calle San Alberto 413 (25994 and 25983). A visit to the San Felipe Neri

Church can be arranged through them. University tourist office at Calle Nicolás Ortiz 182 (23763).

Tour agencies include: Candelaria Tours, Calle Bolívar 634; Fremén, Plaza 25 de Mayo; Hidalgo Tours, Calle Bustillo 124; Solarsa Tours, Calle Arenales 212; Teresita's Tours, Calle San Alberto 13; Turismo Balsa, Plaza 25 de Mayo.

USEFUL NUMBERS. Police, 110; Bus Station, 22029; Train Station, 31115; Airport information, 24445; Long distance calls, dial 105; Radio taxi, 32144 and 21509. ENTEL, the telecommunications office (long distance telephone, telex, and telegram service), at Calle España corner of Urcullo. Post Office at Calle Argentina 50. Car Rental, *Rent a Car Sucre* on Av. Hernando Siles 945.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES. The Sucre and Tarabuco regions have a thriving indigenous cultural life. On religious feast days processions pass through the streets of Sucre. In Tarabuco, the Pujllay is one of the most colorful festivals in South America. The U.S.- and West German-financed Centro Cultural Masis has been researching and fomenting native cultural expressions in the Sucre and Tarabuco regions. At their center at the Calle Colon 138 (23403) you can purchase records of their latest European tour and see a nice collection of native instruments.

SHOPPING. If you want to purchase weavings and handicrafts, you'll find a fine selection at the Sala Expo-Venta Artesanal in the Caserón de la Capellanía, Calle San Alberto 413, at Artesanías Bolivia, Calle Argentina 31, and at Artesanías Candelaria, Calle Bolívar 634. The best weavings originate in Potolo, Macha, Calcha, and Candelaria. Antiques at Anticuuario de Fernando Linale, on Calle España 109, and at El Arcón, on Calle San Alberto 121. Traditional string instruments at Gerardo y José Patzi, on Calle Destacamento 130, 59 and Trifón Pimentel, on Calle Junín, 1190. Sucre is also famous for its miniature dolls and fruit baskets made from dough.

POTOSÍ

In 1650, Potosí was the largest city in the Americas, with a population of 160,000, and one of the most important urban centers in the world, renowned for its silver mines, its magnificent colonial architecture, churches glistening with gold, theaters that presented the best of European productions, as well as for its extravagance and vice. In 1553, sixty-seven years before the pilgrims' landing at Plymouth Rock, Potosí was decreed an Imperial City by Charles V, King of Spain.

Today, the echoes of its fabulous colonial past can still be seen in its churches, bearing elaborate baroque facades, private homes with wooden balconies looking over the narrow, winding streets, and a host of fine museums, among them the "Casa de la Moneda" that has served the Spanish Empire, as a mint, fortress, and prison since it was first built in 1572.

It is a city of contrasts. Some of the residents, dressed in fine, handwoven wool garments, carry on the cultural traditions of their Quechua Indian ancestors. Others, wearing modern clothing, are the Creole descendants of the Spanish and Indians who were drawn to the city by the silver mines. They can be seen mingling in the markets, attending mass in the baroque churches, sitting in the city square, or walking the narrow streets of Potosí, bound by an understanding of the Quechua language but separated by class and cultural barriers.

Nestled at the foot of the Cerro Rico (rich mountain) on a 14,000-foot-high plateau surrounded by mountains and valleys that are part of the Andes' eastern edge, Potosí is a must on your visit to Bolivia.

Because of the altitude, it is advisable to take it easy the first day, before making a round of museums, churches, mines, and outlying sights. A drive around Potosí by taxi (about two dollars an hour) is a good initial introduction, especially until one's system is better suited to the rarefied air. You will frequent cobblestoned roads that once carried Spanish royalty and that now barely allow passage of four-wheeled vehicles. Starting at the Plaza facing the Cathedral you can head toward the mountain of Potosí, passing what is left of ninety-odd churches built three or four centuries ago and, farther up, the scattered remains of colonial mining operations. The symmetrical lines of the Cerro Rico, crisscrossed by over 5,000 tunnels, disappear as one approaches, distorted by mounds of rocks and debris accumulated over centuries of mining.

To the left of the Cerro Rico the road heads toward a chain of mountains containing seven lagoons that date to the sixteenth or seventeenth centuries. Water channeled down the mountain once powered rustic silver processing plants built by the Spaniards and their Indian and black slaves. Remains of these stone plants still dot the landscape.

A city of Potosí, with some 90,000 inhabitants, opens up below, bordered by a chain of ocher-colored mountains that contain a few thermal hot springs and legends of wealth, hardship, and intrigue linked to the rise and fall of the city.

Despite the harsh climate, the residents are easygoing and very hospitable. Women wearing multilayered skirts and pilgrim-type hats can be seen walking the streets or selling "tawa tawas chambergos" or "sopaipillas"—delicious sweet pastries typical of Potosí—for around twenty cents. During Corpus Christi the residents of the city, dressed in their best attire, take part in a religious procession. The city streets are lined with women vendors who sell these pastries. The treats are taken home and eaten in the evening with hot chocolate.

It is advisable to drink plenty of "mate de coca" (coca tea) throughout your stay to help fend off the effects of the altitude. It is from this leaf that cocaine is made, but the leaf itself is harmless and a staple at any hotel. After a relaxing first day and early retirement, the visitor should be in good shape to visit the Casa de la Moneda early in the morning. Just off the Plaza 10 de Noviembre, a carved doorway that allowed a horse, mule, or llama to enter opens onto a courtyard where a stone water fountain and a colorful laughing mask built by a Frenchman can be seen. For around fifteen cents a Spanish- or English-speaking guide—if you request one—will give a three-hour tour of the Casa de la Moneda.

This museum, which takes up an entire city block, has walls that in some places are four feet thick. First built in 1572 and then rebuilt between 1753 and 1773, it was established to control the minting of the colonial wealth. The sturdy yet graceful structure is of stone, wooden beams, brick, and domed tiled roofs. One room contains eight-foot-high wooden gears and wheels once operated by Indian and black slaves and used for laminating silver ingots in the process of minting coins. Adjacent to this room are displayed the thousands of coins produced there for the Spanish crown or for several Latin American nations.

The Casa de la Moneda also contains more than 100 colonial paintings and the works of the celebrated twentieth-century Bolivian painter Cecilio Guzman de Rojas. Also worth seeing is an archaeological and ethnographic collection, sculptures, exquisite furniture, and historical artifacts.

A morning at the Casa de la Moneda should test anybody's stamina. A coca followed by lunch is advisable. The best place to eat in Potosí is El Mesón, across from the Cathedral on the corner of Calle Tarija and Linares, which offers steaks, soups, and tasty local dishes such as fritanga

and asado borracho. If you plan on spending two or three days in Potosí, ask them to specially prepare a traditional and delicious peasant dish called "kala purka," a hearty corn soup served in a ceramic bowl with a steaming-hot volcanic stone in the middle that cooks the soup. Also try the cckocho, a spicy chicken dish served with olives and native corn. For a little over two dollars for most dishes, you should be able to enjoy a delicious lunch in a quiet colonial-style ambience.

A siesta is a custom still enjoyed by many. Since most stores and businesses remain closed until 2:30 or 3 P.M., you won't miss much if you take a brief nap.

An afternoon visit could include a trip to the market on the Calle Bolívar, where you'll be surprised to see a wide variety of tropical fruits that appear out of place at 15,000 feet above sea level.

There are regions in the department of Potosí that produce grapes, peaches, and apples. Oranges and bananas are brought by truck from La Paz or from the south of Sucre. Much of the produce sold at the market comes from surrounding valleys inhabited by Quechua Indians.

Near the entrance to the market on Calle Oruro are several stands that sell elegant local handcrafted silverware. For about ten dollars you can purchase a lovely sugar bowl or a set of serving utensils. You might also find of interest some silver pins made from spoons called "topos." They are still used to fasten the traditional handwoven shawls used by the Quechua-speaking women of the region. Silverware and pewter are also a real bargain.

Silver was the *raison d'être* for Potosí, and the residents did not hesitate to make use of it. The sinks and pitchers in the bathrooms of some homes were made from sterling silver. One old-timer recalls attending elegant banquets where the food was served on silver platters and on imported ceramic trays. Some homes were furnished with Persian rugs and English and French pieces that were transported across the Andes from the coastal city of Arica by mule or llama. When the silk or flannel clothing of the well-to-do was soiled, it was simply (or so it seemed) transported by mule or llama back across the Andes and the ocean to France where it was expertly dry-cleaned.

It is said that all the silver mined here could have paved a road from Potosí to Spain. It is not known exactly how much silver was extracted from the Cerro Rico, but it was enough to fill the coffers of the Spanish crown and provide the flowering of painting, music, architecture, and literature in Potosí, Sucre, and the surrounding regions of South America. By the nineteenth century, however, Potosí was in decline as the silver veins became exhausted, leaving only museums and buildings as reminders of the past.

Behind the market is the Church of San Lorenzo, which offers some of the finest examples of baroque carvings in Potosí, if not in all of South America. Elaborate arrangements of flowers, garlands, and mythical and indigenous figures are represented on high relief stone carvings made by Indian artisans. Even though it is closed to the public except for special occasions, it is worth seeing the church's exterior. To get into the courtyard that faces the church you might have to pay the attendant a few pesos.

Four blocks from the imposing San Lorenzo church, on the corner of Calle Sucre and Modesto Omiste, a collection of handmade weavings, belts, ponchos, silverware, and antiques is for sale. The quality ranges from not very good to first-rate, so you have to shop around to make sure you get what you want. For anywhere from twenty to fifty dollars you can purchase lovely weavings that may each take as long as six months to make. The department of Potosí produces some of the finest weavings in

Bolivia and, according to weaving experts, in the world. Unfortunately, the finest examples have been exported abroad, and what is now available is not equal.

The narrow Quijarro street a block from the market that leads to the Plaza was designed with bends to break the impact of wind gusts. There are several hatmakers on this quaint old street, among them Antonio Villa Chauarría, house number 1141, who carries on a tradition that is slowly disappearing. During the day, though, with the sun shining, it's a pleasant walk back to the Plaza and to the Santa Teresa Convent located three blocks down from the Plaza on the Calle Chichas. It is only open from 4 to 6 P.M. so you must plan your visit well since it is one of the important museums in Potosí. A donation of around ten cents is requested for a tour that takes about an hour.

After entering the thick wooden doorway of the Santa Teresa Convent, the present will seem centuries away. The small museum within the convent belongs to an order of cloistered nuns and contains a fine collection of colonial paintings, altars, and furniture.

An old wooden turnstile near the entrance is still intact, used since the seventeenth century by nuns to keep their faces safely protected from male visitors. If a male had to enter for any reason, the nuns vanished to a second courtyard, out of sight and sound of the intruders. Even today, if you go there for a tour or to purchase the delicious milk, coconut, and peanut candies on sale for about two dollars a pound, you'll only get to hear their prayers and voices.

This museum offers an interesting, if somewhat morbid, view of a religious life-style that to some extent has adapted itself to the contemporary world. In one room are displayed sharp, star-shaped iron instruments used to inflict pain on the penitent nuns. One blouse is embroidered with wire mesh that has sharp prongs sticking out against the flesh. The fact that they are now museum items indicates, no doubt, that they are no longer of use, although one nun recalled using the artifacts a number of years ago. The same room has leather containers used for transporting sugar from the Santa Cruz region of Bolivia and for storing grains and dry goods.

Adjacent to this room is the dining room, with a main table that contains a skeleton resting on a bowl of ashes, a reminder that "ashes to ashes, we will become." It does not make for the most appetizing place to drop in for lunch.

In the choir room you'll find gold and silver embroidered garments used by the priests, and beneath the wooden floorboards dozens of nuns have been buried. Even in death they were kept isolated from men.

Other rooms contain a valuable collection of colonial paintings, particularly those by Melchor Pérez Holguín, one of three major Latin American colonial painters, and gold-leafed altars that were donated by wealthy residents.

Once you're used to the climate you may want to visit the mines. You can either hire a private taxi or catch the number 5, 7, A, or K buses at the Plaza early in the morning (check with the tourist office for exact time). After paying about five cents, you will join hundreds of miners as they head up the Cerro Rico to begin the 8 A.M. work shift.

After leaving the center of town, the buses start climbing the Cerro Rico, passing caves and remnants of excavations that began in the sixteenth century and that are still sifted through by independent miners or women. The mountain, resembling a giant anthill, has also served as a tomb for hundreds of thousands of miners.

In the late sixteenth century, the great Inca chieftain, Huainca Capac, ruler of an empire that spread 2,000 miles from Quito, Ecuador, to Chile,

visited the mountain of Potosí and ordered that silver found within be made into jewels for his court. But just as his workers were beginning to mine the valuable veins of silver, they heard a thunderous voice that said in Quechua: "Do not dig, it is not meant for you; God has saved it for others." And so it was that shortly thereafter the first contingent of Spanish explorers arrived in this desolate and cold region of Bolivia and established the first Spanish settlement at the foot of Cerro Rico in Potosi. They set in motion a stampede of Spanish adventurers that forever altered the landscape of the region. The Quechua-speaking descendants of Huainca Capac were uprooted from their lands, enslaved, and put to work mining the silver.

In less than twenty minutes, the buses will reach Pailabiri, the principal mining encampment on the mountain. After paying a one dollar entrance fee at the office of the "superintendencia" to the right of the main entrance to the camp, you will be given protective headgear, boots, and lamps. At 8:30 in the morning you will enter the mine on an electric-powered wagon. You'll have a chance to walk through dark and humid tunnels and descend via elevators into mine shafts where the miners work almost naked because of the intense heat. With the silver reserves almost exhausted, tin has become the principal mineral extracted from the mine.

The miners you encounter will be chewing the coca leaf to fend off hunger and exhaustion. A few leaves are also deposited on altars in the name of the goddess of the earth, the "Pacha Mama," the "Tio" or "Supay," the devil responsible for keeping the miners safe—or in peril. The famous carnival festival of Oruro that takes places in February or March of every year centers around the figure of the Tio or Supay, who is the basis for a rich and colorful folkloric tradition that is a mixture of Quechua and Christian religious beliefs.

A week before carnival, a centuries-old ritual is repeated in the mines, when a llama is sacrificed and its blood sprinkled throughout the entrance. This is supposed to evict evil spirits and assure that a rich silver vein will be found.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR POTOSI

HOW TO GET THERE. Rail and bus lines offer regular connections from La Paz and Sucre, and thus a chance to see some of Bolivia's varied mountain scenery. The slow journey by land (5 hours from Sucre and 12 from La Paz) also gives the visitor a chance to get accustomed to the high altitude.

HOTELS. Several good hostels with private baths have opened in the last few years. Best is **Hostal Colonial**, *inexpensive*, located a five-minute walk from the Casa de la Moneda and main square (24265).

SANTA CRUZ

Twenty years ago oxen pulled carts through the mud streets of Santa Cruz de la Sierra. In the rainy season, city streets were covered with mud. Only the Plaza was paved. Today, Santa Cruz, at an altitude of 1,460 feet above sea level, has boomed to become a thriving metropolis of at least 320,000 people and the vanguard of Bolivia's economic expansion. Modern office buildings exist side by side with adobe homes with curved tiled roofs. The city has undergone a dramatic transformation in recent years perhaps unlike any other Latin American city.

Santa Cruz, the capital of the rich department of the same name, was founded in 1561 by the Spanish Captain Nuflo de Chavez. Since the department of Santa Cruz borders Brazil on the east, there is a strong Brazilian presence in the area, especially during Carnival. Beautiful women wearing elaborate costumes that are often similar to those seen in the Rio de Janeiro Carnival parade through the streets in a orgy of music, dancing, and drinking. The weekend after Carnival, women with their identities concealed behind masks frequent the city's nightclubs, picking who to dance and have a good time with. It is the day women get back at their unfaithful husbands.

Cruceños, as residents of Santa Cruz are called, are easygoing and friendly. Short sleeves, miniskirts, and sandals are the norm due to the tropical climate. In the evenings or when cold fronts hit the area, a sweater might be necessary. Outdoor restaurants and nightclubs are popular, the nightlife is exciting, and the hotel accommodations are among the best in Bolivia.

A modern airport inaugurated in 1985 now links Santa Cruz with neighboring countries and other Bolivian cities. There are several flights a day connecting Santa Cruz with Cochabamba and La Paz as well as regular service to Trinidad and Sucre. The road between Cochabamba and Santa Cruz is often in terrible condition, so it is best to fly.

Worth visiting is the Santa Cruz zoo, which has a fine selection of native animals and birds in a nicely-designed setting. One should also stop in at the *Basílica Menor de San Lorenzo* on the main square. The present-day structure was built between 1845 and 1915 on the ruins of a seventeenth-century cathedral. The Cathedral Museum housed in the *Basílica* has an interesting collection of religious objects, sculptures, paintings, and silver work; many of the items are as much as four centuries old.

On the main square next to City Hall is the *Casa de la Cultura Raul Otero Reich*. It has cultural exhibits and a permanent show of area handicrafts. If interested in art, be sure to ask for the works of the painter *Kuramoto* (one of the country's best) and sculptor *Marcelo Callau*.

The area around Santa Cruz is a real paradise for hunting and fishing, as well as photographic safaris. Check with the tourist information center for arrangements.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR SANTA CRUZ

HOTELS. *La Quinta, deluxe* (42244). Located in a residential neighborhood on Calle Aruma, Barrio Urbari. Offers apartments with private baths, kitchens, restaurant, and swimming pool. Great for families. *Los Tajibos, deluxe* (30022). Located a ten-minute ride from downtown on Av. San Martín. Offers beautiful swimming pool, gardens, tennis courts, and large, comfortable rooms. *Gran Cortez, moderate to expensive* (31234). Good, friendly service and comfortable rooms. Swimming pool. *Hotel Las Palmas, moderate to expensive* (30366). Modern, with swimming pool. *Hostal Cañoto, moderate* (31052). On Calle Florida. *Hotel Tropical Inn, moderate* (46666). On Calle España. *Hotel Bolivia, inexpensive* (36292). On Calle Libertad. *Hotel Colonial, inexpensive* (33156). On Calle Buenos Aires.

RESTAURANTS. *Domenicos, expensive*, Av. San Martín, Centro Comercial el Chuubi (49616). Offers international cuisine in an elegant setting. *El Arriero, moderate*, Av. Cristóbal de Mendoza (49315) and a branch at Av. San Martín Equipe. Offers excellent Argentine beef. *Brazzery la Bohème, moderate*, Calle Rene Moreno 56 (33245) offers French and German food. *Floresca, Av. Velard, moderate*, corner of Irala (24453) international cuisine. *La Empalizada, moderate*, Barrio Cooper 3, specializes in grills. Excellent food. *Los Patos, moderate*, located at Km 2 on highway to Cochabamba (22373). Good duck and beef dishes. *Don Miguel, moderate*, on Av. Uruguay, has some of the best beef in town. *Restaurant Nagasaki*,

moderate, Calle Ingavi 290 (40238), serves Japanese and continental cuisine. La Pascana, open-air snack-shop on the main square. La Buena Mesa, *moderate*, Cristobal de Mendoza 583 (31284), has good beef dishes. El Carruaje, *moderate*, Av. Mutualista next to Grigota movie theater, good service. El Boliche Creperia, *moderate*, one block from the plaza, has excellent crêpes. La Cascada, *moderate*, across from the bus terminal, offers good beef dishes.

TOURIST INFORMATION. Tourist information center at Calle René Moreno 215, corner with Suárez de Figueroa (48644). Travel agencies include: Condor S.R.L., Plaza 24 de Septiembre; Sudamer Tours, Plaza 24 de Septiembre; Tajibos Tours, Hotel Los Tajibos. Hunting, fishing and safari trips organized at El Aventurero, on Calle Libertad 360 (26763).

SHOPPING. Santa Cruz artisans produce fine handicrafts in wood, ceramics, leather, cotton and straw. Try shopping at Artesanía Boliviana, Calle Ballivián 17; Artesanía Inka Products, Av. Cañoto corner of Landivar; Artesanía Mon-Atelier, Calle René Moreno 18; and Artesanías Nacionales, Calle Sucre 40.

NIGHTLIFE. Mau Mau, open only during Carnival. Twelve thousand spectators gather for the queen's coronation and shows. Calle 21 de Mayo corner with Andres Ibanes (21867 or 31687). For a drink, Doña Icha, bar, on Calle René Moreno 230. La Cueva del Ratón, Calle Velasco y La Riva, a hangout for youths. Tiberio, Calle Independencia y La Riva, luxury bar. Paladium, piano bar and dancing, on Av. Monseñor Santistevan 180. Mauna Loa, 3r anillo, entre Av. Paraguazy y Av. Mutu-alista, for an elegant variety show.

RADIO TAXIS. Cañoto (51320) or Taxi amarillo (33333) have a fleet of taxis.

TRINIDAD AND THE BENI DEPARTMENT

Trinidad, a tropical city of 40,000 established by the Jesuits in the late seventeenth century, is what Santa Cruz was like twenty years ago. Most of the streets are still unpaved, and horses and carts are still a favorite way to travel.

Traditionally, Trinidad has been the center of Bolivia's cattle industry. Cattle were introduced by the Jesuits in 1675. Horses followed, and *beni-anos*, as residents of the Beni are known, became expert horsemen. The Beni is largely made up of fertile grasslands that provide a natural breeding ground for cattle. In recent years farmers using the latest in agricultural technology have diversified into rice farming. Beef is flown from the Beni to La Paz and mining centers on World War II vintage planes. Pilots who fly across the Andes—often without radar—are considered among the best—if not the craziest—in the world.

In many regions of the Beni, indigenous native groups survive as farmers, ranch hands, and artisans. Yucca, rice, bananas, cotton, and sweet potatoes are the most popular crops in the Beni.

Trinidad and the Beni are worth visiting if you are interested in adventure and a change of pace. While Trinidad has excellent hotel accommodations, the rest of the Beni department lacks modern-day comforts—save for some exceptions. Rurrenabaque, for example, is a small village at the western end of the Beni department. Recently the five-star Tacuara Hostel has been opened: ideal for its excellent accommodations and beautiful surroundings.

The Beni elite used to send their children to study in Brazil and Europe. Area residents identified more with Brazil and Europe due to the Andes,

which separates the region from La Paz and the Bolivian highlands. Today, regular flights and a road usable only during the dry season are opening up the area to tens of thousands of highland settlers.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR TRINIDAD

HOTELS. Hotel Ganadero, *moderate-expensive* (21099). This is a modern hotel with a rooftop pool and a view of the tropical city of Trinidad and outlying lowlands. Also recommended in La Poza del Bato, a motel-type lodging near the city square. For *inexpensive* lodging, Hotel Avenida, Av. 6 de Agosto (20044); Hotel Bajío, Calle Nicolás Suárez (20203); and Hotel Monte Verde, Av. 6 de Agosto 725 (22750).

RESTAURANTS. Hotel Ganadero offers restaurant (Continental menu) and bar service. Restaurant Carlitos, Plaza Ballivián; the Club Social restaurant, Plaza Ballivián; and Fonda Colonial, on Av. 6 de Agosto, all offer varied menus. Excellent Beni beef at El Canchón de Mamita, Av. Sucre; El Compadre, Calle Calama; Pacumuto, Calle Nicolás Suárez; and La Estancia, Av. Pedro Muiba. Excellent fresh fish and rustic outdoor restaurants can be found on the Mamoré river banks, a few miles from the city. Check with the tourist information center.

TOURIST INFORMATION. Prefectural building on Plaza José Ballivián.