



Santa Cruz & Gran Chiquitania

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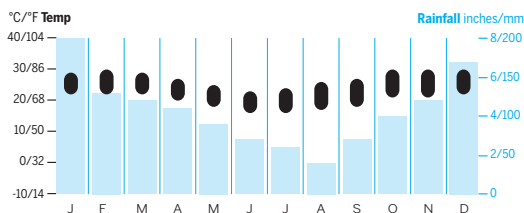
Why Go?

The Bolivian Oriente is not what you generally see in Bolivian tourist brochures. This tropical region, the country's most prosperous, has a palpable desire to differentiate itself from Bolivia's traditional highland image. The region's agriculture boom in recent years brought about a rise in income and a standard of living unequalled by any other Bolivian province.

Though Santa Cruz is Bolivia's most populous city, it retains a small-town atmosphere despite its cosmopolitan population. From here visit the charming Jesuit mission towns with the country's loveliest examples of Jesuit architecture. Pre-Inca ruins hide near the small town of Samaipata; revolutionaries make a pilgrimage to where Che Guevara met his maker on the Che Trail around Vallegrande; and there are miles of trekking and tons of wildlife at the little-disturbed Parque Nacional Amboró. If you want a look into a part of Bolivia that defies the stereotype, this is the place to be.

When to Go

Santa Cruz



Jan Give in to desire at the Buena Vista Chocolate Festival on the last Sunday in January.

May-Aug The best time to visit lowland Chiquitania to avoid the worst of the heat.

Oct Join the faithful at Vallegrande's Che Festival, in memory of the legendary revolutionary.

