



# Santa Cruz & Gran Chiquitania

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## Best Places to Eat

- ➡ Taj Mahal (p250)
- ➡ Pasionaria (p250)
- ➡ Jardín de Asia (p250)
- ➡ Latina Café (p263)
- ➡ Luna Verde (p262)

## Best Places to Stay

- ➡ El Pueblito (p262)
- ➡ CasaPatio Hotel Boutique (p249)
- ➡ La Paraba Frente Roja Lodge (p266)
- ➡ Hotel Chiquitos (p269)
- ➡ Los Aventureros (p248)

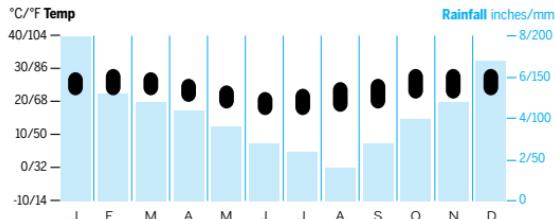
## Why Go?

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 unequaled by any other Bolivian province. This is the part of Bolivia that defies the stereotype.

Santa Cruz is Bolivia's most populous city with a cosmopolitan population, yet it still retains a small-town atmosphere. From here visit the charming Jesuit mission towns with the country's loveliest examples of Jesuit architecture, the pre-Inca ruins that hide near the village of Samaipata, or embark on a revolutionary pilgrimage to where Che Guevara met his maker around Vallegrande. Prefer nature? There are miles of trekking and tons of wildlife at the little-disturbed Parque Nacional Amboró.

## When to Go

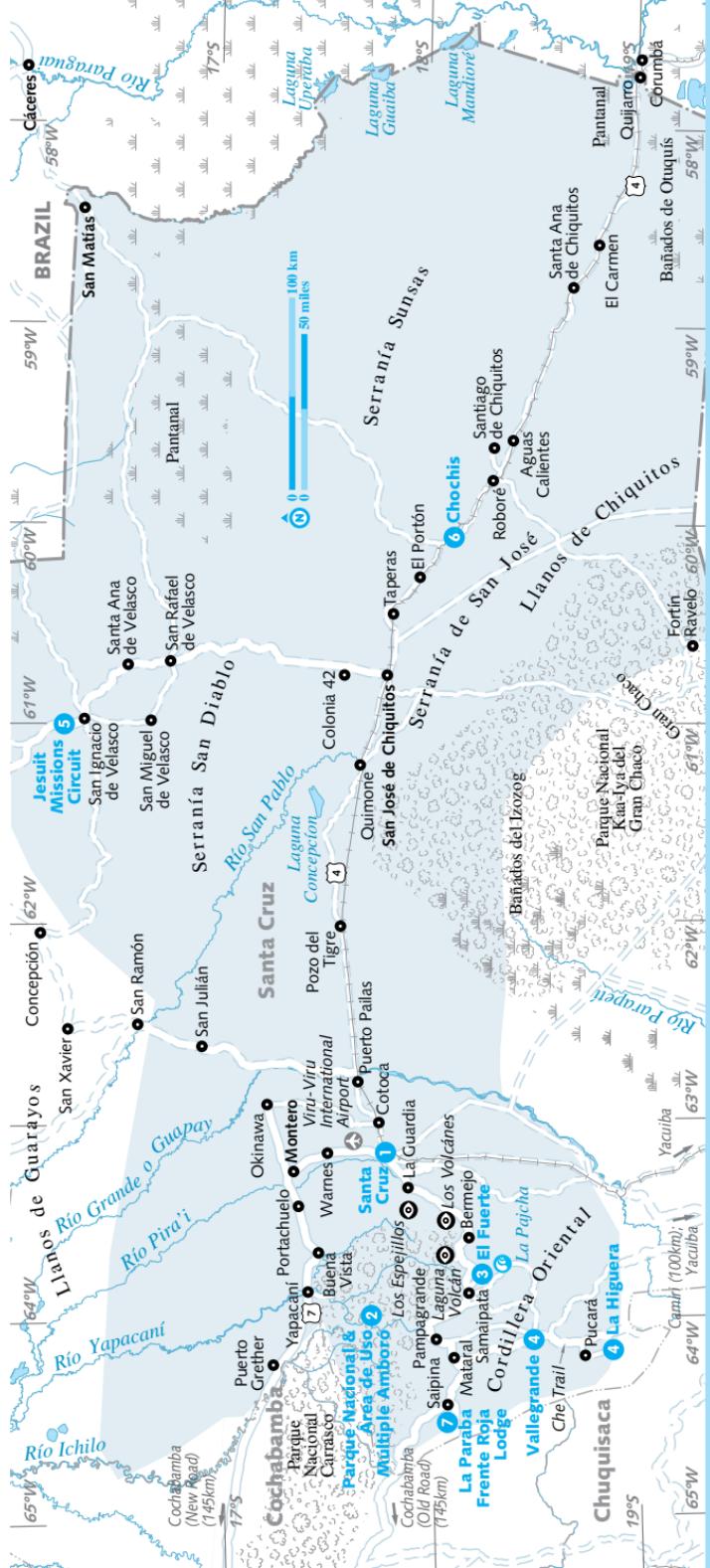
### Santa Cruz



**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.



## Santa Cruz & Gran Chiquitanía Highlights

- ➊ Savor the international cuisine in cosmopolitan **Santa Cruz** (p244).
- ➋ Spot rare wildlife on a jungle trek at **Parque Nacional Samaijapa**.
- ➌ Explore the pre-Inca ruins of **El Fuerte** (p259) in Cochabamba (New Road) (145km).
- ➍ Get revolutionary on the Che Trail in **Vallegrande** (p265) and **La Higuera** (p267).
- ➎ Admire the restored architecture around the **Cordillera Oriental**.
- ➏ Visit the breathtaking and remote sanctuary at **Chochis** (p270).
- ➐ Ogle an endangered macaw at the **La Paraba Frente Roja Lodge** (p266) near Saipina.
- ➑ wonderful **Jesuit Missions Circuit** (p268).