

# On the Road





# La Paz & Around

2 / POP 1.6 MILLION / ELEV 3660M (12,007FT)

## Includes →

Sights . . . . .	36
Activities . . . . .	46
Courses . . . . .	48
Tours . . . . .	48
Festivals & Events . . . . .	48
Sleeping . . . . .	49
Eating . . . . .	53
Drinking & Nightlife . . . . .	57
Entertainment . . . . .	57
Around La Paz . . . . .	66

## Best Places to Eat

- ▶ Pronto (p55)
- ▶ Mercado Uruguay (p56)
- ▶ La Espinita (p53)

## Best Places to Stay

- ▶ Hotel Rosario (p50)
- ▶ Casa Fusion (p50)
- ▶ Hostal República (p52)
- ▶ Casa Prado (p52)

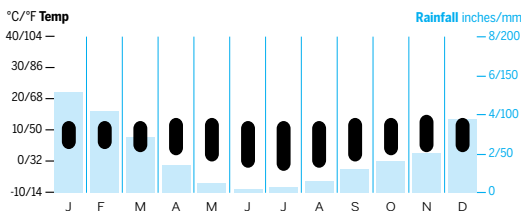
## Why Go?

A mad carnival of jostling pedestrians, honking, diesel-spewing minivans, street marches and dances, and cavalcades of street vendors, La Paz surrounds you: you'll love it, you'll hate it, but you can't ignore it. The city seems to reinvent itself at every turn – a jaw-dropping subway in the sky brings you from the heights of El Alto to the depths of Zona Sur in the blink of an eye. Standing hotels are remodeled at a manic pace, and new boutique hotels spring up like rows of altiplano corn.

Coming from the Bolivian countryside, you'll be struck by the gritty city reality. It's the urban jungle, baby: diesel, dust and detritus; blinding altiplano sun, cold cavernous corners of Dickensian darkness. Sharp-suited businessmen flank machine-gun-toting bank guards and balaclava-camouflaged shoeshine boys. Lung-busting inclines terminate in peaceful plazas. A maze of contradictions, where cobblestones hit concrete, and Gothic spires battle with glass hotels, La Paz amazes and appalls all who enter.

## When to Go

### La Paz



**Nov–Apr** Rain most afternoons turns the steep streets into torrents.

**May–Oct** Winter days are cool but sunny, making this La Paz' high season.

**Jan–Jun** Festival season includes Alasitas, Gran Poder, Carnaval and Aymará New Year.