

BOLIVIA

COCHABAMBA DEPARTMENT

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GENERAL DATA OF COCHABAMBA DEPARTMENT

Capital: city of Cochabamba (Cercado province), founded in 1574 by Sebastián Barba de Padilla under the name Villa Oropeza. Height: 2,553 meters above sea level.

Area: 55,631 km² (5.06% the total territory of Bolivia).

Population: 1,758,143 inhabitants (Census 2012).

Population density (inhabitants / km²): 31.60 (Census 2012).

Average annual growth rate of population (2001-2012): 1.68% (Census 2012).

Geographical coordinates: 17° 27' S - 66° 09' O.

Language: Spanish, Quechua.



DEPARTMENT OF COCHABAMBA IS DIVIDED INTO 16 PROVINCES

Nº	Province	Capital	Area	Population
1	Arani	Arani	506 km ² (0.91%)	1.49%
2	Esteban Arce	Tarata	1,245 km ² (2.24%)	2.01%
3	Arque	Arque	1,077 km ² (1.94%)	1.60%
4	Ayopaya	Villa Independencia	9,620 km ² (17.29%)	3.90%
5	Campero	Aiquile	5,550 km ² (9.98%)	2.47%
6	Capinota	Villa Capinota	1,495 km ² (2.69%)	1.59%
7	Cercado	Cochabamba	391 km ² (0.70%)	34.43%
8	Carrasco	Totora	15,045 km ² (27.04%)	8.56%
9	Chapare	Sacaba	12,445 km ² (22.37%)	13.86%
10	Germán Jordán	Cliza	305 km ² (0.55%)	2.06%
11	Mizque	Mizque	2,730 km ² (4.91%)	2.48%
12	Punata	Punata	850 km ² (1.53%)	2.90%
13	Quillacollo	Quillacollo	720 km ² (1.29%)	18.52%
14	Tapacarí	Tapacarí	1,500 km ² (2.70%)	1.81%
15	Bolívar	Bolívar	413 km ² (0.74%)	0.06%
16	Tiraque	Tiraque	1,739 km ² (3.13%)	2.24%

HISTORY OF COCHABAMBA DEPARTMENT

Archaeological evidence suggests that the initial valley inhabitants were of various ethnic indigenous groups. Inca, Tupuraya, Mojocoya, Omereque, and Tiwanaku inhabited the valley at various times before the Spanish arrived.

The first Spanish inhabitant of the Valley was Garci Ruiz de Orellana in 1542. He purchased the majority of the land from local tribal chiefs Achata and Consavana through a title registered in 1552 at the Imperial City of Potosí. The price paid was 130 pesos. His residence, known as the House of Mayorazgo, still stands in the Cala Cala neighborhood of the city.

The city, called Villa de Oropeza was founded on 2 August 1571 by order of Viceroy Francisco de Toledo, Count of Oropeza. It was to be an agricultural production center to provide food for the mining towns of the relatively nearby Altiplano region, particularly the city of Potosí which became one of the largest and richest cities in the world during the 17th century -

funding the vast wealth that ultimately made Spain a world power at the time. With the silver mining industry in Potosi at its height, Cochabamba thrived during its first centuries of existence. The city entered a period of decline during the 18th century as mining began to wane.

In 1786, King Charles III of Spain renamed the city to the loyal and valiant Villa of Cochabamba. This was done to commend the city's pivotal role in suppressing the indigenous rebellions of 1781 in Oruro by sending armed forces to Oruro to quell the uprisings. Since the late 19th century, it has again been generally successful as an agricultural center for Bolivia.

The 1793 census shows that the city had a population of 22,305 persons. There were 12,980 mestizos, 6,368 Spaniards, 1,182 indigenous natives, 1,600 mulattos and 175 African slaves.

MAP OF COCHABAMBA DEPARTMENT



CITY OF COCHABAMBA

Cochabamba is a city in central Bolivia, located in a valley bearing the same name in the Andes mountain range. It is the capital of the Cochabamba Department.

Cochabamba is among Bolivia's most economically and socially progressive cities. Commensurate with other large cities in the Andean highlands of South America, Cochabamba is a city of varied contrasts. Its central commercial districts, bounded by Plaza Colón and Plaza 14 de Septiembre, is generally equipped with modern urban amenities, and is where the majority of the city's business and commercial industries are based. An active nightlife is centered around Calle España and also along the broad, tree-lined boulevard, El Prado. In contrast, the remote area adjacent to the Wilstermann International Airport is visibly impoverished, with adobe homes and unpaved roads, which is often the first impression visitors acquire while commuting into the city.

The most widely spoken language in Cochabamba is Spanish. Although the Spanish that is spoken in the Cochabamba region is generally regarded as rather conservative in its phonetics and vocabulary, few Quechua and Aymara terminology (guagua, papa) have been incorporated into its standardized form.

As with most cities around the globe, English language is increasingly spoken and understood, particularly among business-minded Indigenous and repatriated Cochabambinos. English-language instruction has become incorporated into various levels of Bolivian education from elementary to college levels.

The city's racial demographics consist of the following visible groups in order of prevalence: Western Hemispheric Indigenous (mostly of Quechua ethnicity), Mestizo or mixed Indigenous, and a minority of white Caucasoid and mixed white (Criollos).

CITIES AND VILLAGES OF COCHABAMBA DEPARTMENT

ARANI. The Quechua word Arini means "to spread". This population is very popular thanks to the production of the famous "Pan de Arani"(delicious bread baked in Arani). It also keeps a great potential in the production of arts and crafts mainly expressed through the making of chulos, sweaters, shawls and aguayos. It is interesting to visit the Cathedral of the Virgin Bella and the location of Collpa Ciacu where a convent of incredible historical value is situated. The principal religious festivity is celebrated on August 23rd and 25th.

AIQUILE. It is a town in the Cochabamba Department, Bolivia. It is the capital of the Narciso Campero Province and Aiquile Municipality. Most of its population is Quechua, and its residents are reputed to be the best charango makers in the country.

AYOPAYA OR INDEPENDENCIA. It is a town in the Cochabamba Department. It is the capital of the Ayopaya Province and Ayopaya Municipality.

MIZQUE. It is a town in the Cochabamba Department, Bolivia. It is the capital of the Mizque Province. Mizque is located in the valley of the Mizque River, one of the main tributaries of the Río Grande. Historically, it was located in the region of Upper Peru, and was a dependent on Santa Cruz de la Sierra until 1783, when it became an independent town of the Intendencia de Cochabamba, in the Viceroyalty of the Río de la Plata. During the Spanish American wars of independence, Mizque sent deputies to the Congress of Tucumán, which declared Argentina's independence in 1816, and to the congress that declared the independence of Bolivia in 1825. This population has a privileged geographic location because it is connected to the cities of Santa Cruz and Chuquisaca. The principal religious festivity is held on July 18th. It is interesting to visit there: the Pucara ruins, the Aguada and Taboada Rupestrian paintings, the Tiu Moko paleontological center, and the indigenous populations of Rakay Pampa. Mizque is well known thanks to its delicious cheeses and wines.

PUERTO VILLARROEL. This population is located on the banks of the Ichilo River. It presents exuberant vegetation and beautiful landscapes formed by mountains and plains. The population is constituted by Quechua and Yuqui communities. Fishing and sailing on the Ichilo River represents a great experience. Other recommendable rivers are Chimoré, Sajta and Chapare.

PUNATA. It is the capital of Punata Province and Punata Municipality in Cochabamba Department, Bolivia. People from Punata and surrounding areas used to be called "Vallunos" meaning coming from the valleys of Punata and other surrounding small towns. Punata is renowned for its wonderful agricultural market held every Tuesday where people from surrounding towns and rural villages come to sell and buy.

QUILLACOLLO. It is considered the second most important region of Cochabamba. Its territory is part of the lower valleys. It contains wide areas for cultivation. One of its main potentialities is its hydro resources, which have been used through the multiple project of Misicuni, an ambitious engineering project. This city is very popular thanks to The Virgin of

Urkupiña Festivity, which has become an important religious celebration that attracts national and international believers.

TARATA. The topography of the region is varied; it is composed by mountains and valleys. It has a standard temperature of 16° C. This population is well known thanks to the traditional arts and crafts expressed through knitting and pottery. It is interesting to visit the Cathedral of Tarata where the remains of a mystifying Bolivian president, General Mariano Melgarejo, are kept. Immense lordship mansions can be observed too. The Monastery possesses an interesting museum. The most important religious celebration takes place the last Sunday of November, it is carried out in honor to San Severino, a miraculous saint.

VILLA TUNARI. Villa Tunari or Tunari is a location in the Cochabamba Department. It is the seat of the Villa Tunari Municipality, the third municipal section of the Chapare Province. This region possesses abundant and diverse flora and fauna. Chapare is, actually, incredible tropical woodland. Different ethnic groups live in the zone: Yucarés, Yukis, Mosevenes and Chimanes, apart from Quechua communities. It is recommendable to visit here the Macha and Machía Parks (natural reserves) and the Chapare, Espíritu Santo, Securé, Isinuta, Eterazama, Chipiriri and Colorado River.

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