

BOLIVIA

ORURO DEPARTMENT

GENERAL DATA - ECONOMY - CITY OF ORURO - PRINCIPAL CITIES AND VILLAGES.

GENERAL DATA OF ORURO DEPARTMENT

Capital: city of Oruro (Cercado province) founded in 1606 by Manuel Padilla Casto with the name of San Felipe de Austria. Height: 3,708 meters above sea level.

Area: 53,558 km² (4.9% the total territory of Bolivia).

Population: 494,178 inhabitants (Census 2012).

Population density (inhabitants / km²): 9.22 (Census 2012).

Average annual growth rate of population (2001-2012): 2.07% (Census 2012).

Geographical coordinates: 17° 57' S - 67° 07' O.

Languages: Spanish, Aymara.



DEPARTMENT OF ORURO IS DIVIDED INTO 16 PROVINCES

Nº	Province	Capital	Area
1	Atahualpa	Sabaya	5,885 km ² (10.98%)
2	Carangas	Corque	5,472 km ² (10.21%)
3	Cercado	Oruro	5,766 km ² (10.76%)
4	Eduardo Avaroa	Challapata	4,015 km ² (7.49%)
5	Ladislao Cabrera	Salinas de García Mendoza	8,818 km ² (16.46%)
6	Litoral	Huachacalla	2,894 km ² (5.40%)
7	Puerto de Mejillones	La Rivera	785 km ² (1.46%)
8	Nor Carangas	Huayllamarca	870 km ² (1.62%)
9	Pantaleón Dalence	Huanuni	1,210 km ² (2.26%)
10	Poopó	Poopó	3,061 km ² (5.71%)
11	Sajama	Curahuara de Carangas	5,790 km ² (10.80%)
12	San Pedro de Totora	Totora	1,487 km ² (2.77%)
13	Saucarí	Toledo	1,671 km ² (3.12%)
14	Sebastián Pagador	Santiago de Huari	1,972 km ² (3.68%)
15	Sud Carangas	Santiago de Andamarca	3,536 km ² (6.60%)
16	Tomas Barrón	Eucaliptus	356 km ² (0.66%)



ECONOMY OF ORURO DEPARTMENT

The mining sector (mining and smelting of tin and antimony) of Oruro department is more developed and is very important for departmental and national economy. The department has established your development in the mining industry. Of all the mines present on your territory can be emphasize Colquiri and Huanuni as the most productive mines.

MINING. The territory of Oruro department is rich in deposits of tin, copper, tungsten, antimony, zinc, sulfur, borax, lithium, silver, lead who underwent an intense mining activity.

AGRICULTURE. In the highland plains of Oruro department, agriculture is limited by the lack of irrigation, the high salinity of the soil and the frequent presence of frost in the coldest months of the year. In such conditions, it is only possible the realization of a few crops (potatoes, quinoa, cañahua, barley, wheat, oxalis tuberosa and some vegetables).

LIVESTOCK. The territory of Oruro department is suitable for raising llamas, alpacas, sheep, cattle, horses and pigs.

CITY OF ORURO

Oruro is a city in Bolivia located about equidistant between La Paz and Sucre at approximately 3,710 meters above sea level. It is the capital of the department of Oruro. Don Manuel Castro de Padilla first founded the city on November 1, 1606. As a silver mining center in the Urus region. At the time, it was named Real Villa de Don Felipe de Austria after the Spanish monarch, Philip III. It was eventually abandoned as the silver mines became exhausted. Oruro was reestablished in the late nineteenth century, as a tin mining center. For a time, the La Salvadora tin mine was the most important source of tin in the world. Gradually, this resource was also exhausted, and Oruro again went into a decline. The city does manage, however, to attract tourists to its carnival, the Carnaval de Oruro, considered one of the great folkloric events in South America for its masked "devil dances".

Climate. The city of Oruro lays north of the salty lakes Uru-Uru and Poopó and it is just three hours (by bus) south from La Paz. Located at an altitude of 3709 above sea level, Oruro it is well known for its cold weather. Warmer temperatures generally take place during August, September and October, after the worst of the winter chills and before the summer rains. From May to early July, night time temperatures combined with cool wind can bring the temperature down to about -10° C. Summers are warmer, but despite the fact of being an arid area, there's quite a lot of rainfall between November and March.

Carnival of Oruro. The Carnaval de Oruro (or Carnival of Oruro) is the biggest annual cultural event in Bolivia. It was declared one of Mankind's Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity by the UNESCO in 2001.

Celebrated in Oruro, the folklore capital of Bolivia, the carnival marks the Ito festival for the Uru people. Its ceremonies stem from Andean customs, the ancient invocations centring around Pachamama (Mother Earth, transformed into the Virgin Mary due to Christian syncretism) and Tio Supay (Uncle God of the Mountains, transformed into the Devil). The native Ito ceremonies were stopped in the 17th century by the Spanish, who were ruling the territory of Upper Peru at the time. However, the Uru continued to observe the festival in the form of a Catholic ritual on Candlemas, in the first week of each February. Christian icons were used to conceal portrayals of Andean gods, and the Christian saints represented other Andean minor divinities. The ceremony begins forty days before Easter.

Legend also has it that in 1789 a mural of the Virgin Mary miraculously appeared in a mineshaft of the richest silver mine in Oruro. Ever since, the Carnival has been observed in honor of the Virgen de la Candelaria (Virgin of the Candle Mass) or Virgen del Socavon (Virgin of the Mineshaft). The most important elements of the Carnival now occur in and around the Santuario del Socavon (The Church of the Mineshaft). The carnival starts with a ceremony dedicated to the Virgen del Socavon. Marching bands compete simultaneously in the grotto of Pie de Gallo on Sunday, which is the greeting to the Virgin. The highlight of the Carnival is conducted over three days and nights, with fifty groups parading through the city over a route of four kilometers. The groups represent various indigenous dance forms, and are accompanied by several bands. Over 28,000 dancers and 10,000 musicians participate in the procession that lasts 20 hours. The dances include Caporales, Diablada, Kantus, Kullawada, Llamerada, Morenada, Potolo, Pujllay, Suri Sikuris, Tinku, Tobas and Waca. The procession culminates in the enactment of two plays, reminiscent of medieval mystery plays. One is

about the Spanish conquest. The other revolves around the classical battle between good and evil, with the Archangel Michael ultimately triumphing over the Devil and the Seven Deadly Sins. The enactment of the latter was introduced by Catholic clergy in 1818.

CITIES AND VILLAGES OF ORURO DEPARTMENT

CURAHUARA DE CARANGAS. The name “Curahuara de Carangas” comes from the Aymara expression "kori bara karaa ancas" that means "the golden rod of the bare back". According to some stories, the first inhabitants of Karaa ancas were men who did not have any possessions and arrive to the zone in order to find a way of living. The ethnical origin of the town is related to the Urus native group. The marvelous Sajama snow - capped peak, the tallest peak on the western part of Bolivia, is placed here. It is recommendable to visit the colonial church, the Sajama National Park which is situated 6,875 meters above the sea level, and the Monterani Peak that is situated 4,068 meters above the sea level; a peak of volcanic formation.

HUANUNI. This is a Quechua population. The predominant language is Quechua. It possesses important natural resources in flora and mining. It is recommendable to visit the hot springs and the interesting mineralogical museums.

HUARI. Because of its geographical location, it is considered a strategic commercial center placed among the cities of Oruro, La Paz and Potosí. Important companies carry out activities here; one example is the National Brewery Industry (CNB). The artisan shops are very famous. It is interesting to visit the Poopó Lake, a fishing center where you will find the delicious pejerrey. Colonial towns that date back from the XVII century can be appreciated. A tour route through the immense and incredible natural wonder The Uyuni Salt Pit and through the marvelous and impressive Colorado Lagoon departs from here.

TOTORA. San Pedro de Totora is an Aymara town. The climate is cold and the standard temperature is 8° C. Its principal attractions are the chullupares location, the ancient temples and some wonderful Inca ruins. It is interesting to visit too the Parcocota Lake and its impressive caverns. This is a main tourist point of the region.

Villa Poopó. Poopó village is located near the Frailes Mountain. It is a town devoted to the artisan production. The inhabitants are descendants of the Urus native community. In this territory, there are important tourist attractions like the colonial temples, the hot springs, the cave paintings and the impressive Poopó Lake.

[MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ORURO DEPARTMENT.](#)

WWW.BOLIVIANLAND.NET