

# BOLIVIA

## SANTA CRUZ DEPARTAMENT

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- CITY OF SANTA CRUZ DE LA SIERRA - CITIES AND VILLAGES.

### **GENERAL DATA OF SANTA CRUZ DEPARTAMENT**

**Capital:** Santa Cruz de la Sierra city (Andrés Ibáñez province), founded in 1561 by Captain Ñuflo Chavez. Altitude: 437 m.

**Area:** 370,621 km<sup>2</sup> (33.74% the total territory of Bolivia).

**Population:** 2,655,084 inhabitants (Census 2012).

**Population density (inhabitants / km<sup>2</sup>):** 7.16 (Census 2012).

**Average annual growth rate of population (2001-2012):** 2.40% (Census 2012).

**Geographic coordinates:** 17° 47' S - 63° 10' O.

**Languages:** Spanish, Guaraní.



## DEPARTMENT OF SANTA CRUZ IS DIVIDED INTO 15 PROVINCES

<i>Nº</i>	<i>Province</i>	<i>Capital</i>	<i>Area</i>		<i>Population</i>
1	Andrés Ibáñez	Santa Cruz de la Sierra	4,821 km <sup>2</sup>	1.30%	62.13%
2	Ángel Sandoval	San Matías	37,442 km <sup>2</sup>	10.10%	0.62%
3	Caballero	Comarapa	2,310 km <sup>2</sup>	0.62%	0.95%
4	Chiquitos	San José	31,429 km <sup>2</sup>	8.48%	3.01%
5	Cordillera	Lagunillas	86,245 km <sup>2</sup>	23.27%	4.66%
6	Florida	Samaipata	4,132 km <sup>2</sup>	1.11%	1.28%
7	Germán Busch	Puerto Suárez	24,903 km <sup>2</sup>	6.72%	1.61%
8	Guarayos	Ascensión	27,343 km <sup>2</sup>	7.38%	1.65%
9	Ichilo	Buena Vista	14,232 km <sup>2</sup>	3.84%	3.55%
10	Ignacio Warnes	Warnes	1,216 km <sup>2</sup>	0.33%	2.67%
11	José Miguel de Velasco	San Ignacio	65,425 km <sup>2</sup>	17.65%	2.76%
12	Ñuflo de Chávez	Concepción	54,150 km <sup>2</sup>	14.61%	4.98%
13	Santistevan	Montero	3,673 km <sup>2</sup>	0.99%	7.12%
14	Sara	Portachuelo	6,886 km <sup>2</sup>	1.86%	1.81%
15	Vallegrande	Vallegrande	6,414 km <sup>2</sup>	1.73%	1.19%

## **LOCATION AND LIMITS OF SANTA CRUZ DEPARTMENT**

Department of Santa Cruz - Bolivia's tropical paradise. It is a lush department with vast tracts of forest and grassland, located in the eastern part of Bolivia.

**Limits:**

North with Beni department;

South with Chuquisaca department and Republic of Paraguay;

East with Republic of Brazil;

West with Cochabamba department and Chuquisaca department.



## CLIMATE IN SANTA CRUZ DEPARTMENT

At 416 meters above sea level, it is warm and tropical most of the year. Winters are short and last only 2-3 months but can get very cold very suddenly. "Surazos" (southerly winds that blow in from Argentina) can drop the temperature by as much as 30 degrees overnight. This extreme cold lasts only a few days at a time and the beautiful, sub-tropical Santa Cruz is pleasant throughout most of the year. Here the climate varies by geographical zone: temperate to cold in the western sierras and warm to hot and humid as one descends into the extensive plains.

# ***GOVERNMENT AND ADMINISTRATION IN SANTA CRUZ DEPARTMENT***

According to current Constitution, the highest authority in the department lies with the prefect (prefecto, similar to a governor but with restricted powers). The prefect was appointed by the President of the Republic till 2005, since then it has been elected by popular vote to serve for a five-year term.

Santa Cruz also has a Departmental Council (Consejo Departamental, similar to a state legislature but with restricted powers) of 23 members called councilors (consejeros). Each of the department's provinces returns at least one councilor, while remaining councilors are assigned to provinces on population basis. By law, the election of councilors is an attribution of municipalities. However, some municipalities such as Camiri (Province of Cordillera) or Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Province of Andrés Ibáñez) have issued internal norms (ordenanzas) in order to have their councilors elected by popular vote.

## ***ECONOMY OF SANTA CRUZ DEPARTMENT***

The department covers a vast expanse of territory in eastern Bolivia, much of it rainforests, extending from the Andes to the border with Brazil. The department's economy depends largely on agriculture, with sugar, cotton, soybeans and rice being grown. The amount of land cultivated by modern farming techniques is increasing rapidly in the Santa Cruz area, where weather allows for two crops a year.

The discovery of natural gas in the department has led to plans for the development of a regional natural gas industry that is likely to boost the local economy. The processing plants

would be built in Santa Cruz and each would produce about 200 tons of liquefied petroleum gas a day. The plants would help turn a deficit of gas into a “surplus”.

The department also hosts El Mutún, the world’s second largest iron ore reserve (after Carajás in Brazil) and largest magnesium deposits are also located there. Located in the Germán Busch Province in the Santa Cruz Department of Bolivia, near Puerto Suárez, El Mutún extends across the border into Brazil, where it is called the Serrania de Jacadigo. Also known as the "Serrania Mutún", it has an area of about 75 square kilometers. Its estimated reserves are about 40.205 billion tons of iron ore of 50% iron, mainly in hematite and magnetite form, and in lesser quantities in siderite and manganese minerals. This can be compared with an estimate of the total world reserves of iron ore: 800 billion tons of crude ore containing more than 230 billion tons of iron

## *CITY OF SANTA CRUZ DE LA SIERRA*

Santa Cruz is the capital of the department Bolivia by Department of Santa Cruz Santa Cruz. It is located in the east, along the river Pirai.

The current geographic area of the city of Santa Cruz was known by the name of The Grigotá Plains by the people of those who emigrated from the Caribbean Sea for 2500 years, occupied the plains of Eastern Bolivia. They were called Chanés "Grigotá" to their kings. It was in this period around the fourteenth century of our era that the meeting with the Inca Empire and the progress of the Guarani people to put aside Grigotá the Inca Empire, seeing the superiority of the organization of the Inca Empire, the Chané Grigotá offered their lands to the Inca ruler of Cuzco. To protect themselves, the Incas (right in the land law) established forts along the foothills of Santa Cruz, being the Temple Samaipata a strong point of the Inca presence in the region, naming (as usual in the provinces of the Empire) to a representative named Inca Inca Guacane, and his brother Condori.

**FOUNDATION.** Santa Cruz de la Sierra been founded by the Ñuflo of Chaves in February of 1561, 26 after an expedition integrated by 158 Spaniards. The new population was baptized

with the name of Santa Cruz of Sierra in honor to the native city of Ñuflo of Chaves in Extremadura, Spain. This foundation was carried out beside the stream Sutó, in the serranía of Tiny, like an outpost to the east of the territories occupied by Spain, next to where today San José settles of Tiny. And today, in that town remembered as "Santa Cruz la vieja" one the layouts they can be observed that were made for their population.

The city had two transfers; when Ñuflo of Chaves prepared an expedition to arrive to territories of Moxos, it was died in the month of September of 1568 by a cacique of the partiality of the "avá" or Guarani called itatín.

For historical changes, after many penuries, the residents of the primigenia city, in 1590 moved to another town in what is now the Sanctuary of Cotoca in hands of Cap. Lorenzo Suárez of Figueroa. In 1591, most of the crosses us arrived of Chiquitania it follows their trip until San Real Lorenzo of the Frontier, where they settle definitively, imposing the name of their native city: Sacred Cruz of Sierra. That people s cruceña small part stayed in Cotoca. San Real Lorenzo of the Frontier was founded by the Spanish Captain Gonzalo Solíz of Holguín in territories of the Plains of Grigotá May 21 of 1595. Sacred Cruz of Sierra, in the place of his first foundation (in Chiquitania), had a 44 year-old existence. When these cross us they were transferred by disposition from the Real Audience of Ponds to San Real Lorenzo of the Frontier, before being arrived they resisted and they settled down in that that now is Cotoca. After 17 years of living in Cotoca, it leaves of their people it accepted the parents Jesuits, and to the proposal of the then Governor Don Nuño of the Cave of moving to the place where today is the city of Santa Cruz of Sierra. Sacred Cruz was mainly the region where bigger establishments Jesuits, Missions or indigenous reductions were created. Since in the surroundings a great quantity of indigenous (belligerent many of them) towns, the missionary work of the Jesuits still existed it arrives to the peak of its work with the catequización of the total of these towns and the construction of Combined misionales that last until today, being named by UNESCO like Cultural Patrimony of the Humanity.

The Missions Jesuits of Boys arrive to their decadence after the expulsion of the Jesuits in 1767.

**IT FIGHTS FOR THE INDEPENDENCE.** Already for the XIX Century, in an America that is completely convulsed because of the loss of the doctrinal unit, Antonio Vicente Seoane, together with José Manuel Lemoine, convinces the Colonel Antonio Suárez (September 24 of 1810) that to unite to the revolutionary cause and to riot to the militias to their control.

The crosses us they met in an open town council to decide the deprivation of the Spanish authorities and the constitution of government s meeting. Santa Cruz of Sierra decides this way to stop to be part of the Spanish domain to be another thing that he will leave configuring in the following 15 years. In these events they highlight in a special way Ignacio s figures Warnes and José Manuel Luggage rack (also known as Cañoto).

February 9 1825 are promulgated an ordinance that orders to summon to all the counties of Ponds to a constituent assembly. According to the ordinance, Santa Cruz of Sierra chose Antonio Vicente Seoane and to Vicente Gentleman like representatives to attend the constituent one with the responsibility of voting for the creation of an autonomous state based on the jurisdiction of the old Audience of Ponds. For diverse circumstances, the representatives cross us they didn't t receive on time to the deliberations, but yes for the signature of the records of the independence August 6 of 1825.

The coming of the Republic only changed the political-administrative status of the region: Sacred Cruz continued as isolated and so far from any part as during the colonial period. Even so, he/she incorporated to the republican life as a department, becoming Santa Cruz of Sierra like capital of Santa Cruz s department.

In 1923 the government dictated the place state: it was the first time that was applied in Santa Cruz. In these circumstances, he/she was formed a group integrated by the parties opponents (that it was made call Independent Opposition), which considered as negative elements for the regional life the imposition of candidates from The Peace that you/they wanted an on municipality to the central government s orders.

**ECONOMIC GROWTH.** In the decade of 1950, the construction of the highway to Cochabamba began the era of the take-off economic cruceño, as well as the civic fights that were able to rescue the economic revenues for the department, fruit of the exploitation of the hydrocarbons. They were created cooperative of drinkable water, electric power and telephones, system that after their great success in Santa Cruz would be implanted also in the rest of the departments of the country.

The same as other department capitals, the city of Santa Cruz of Sierra went until half-filled of the XX Century the center of the other towns and villages of its surrounding region, "the axis of the identity and the limit of the loyalty (Malloy)." The isolation gave origin to a regional strong personality in a mark of sociability where the relationships "haciendales" characteristic of the calls traditional" "societies prevailed.

In 1983 it happens a lamentable flood caused by the current attractiveness tourist river Pirai that overflowed causing a flood of 45% of the city of Santa Cruz of Sierra, besides human big losses and materials. But this would not stop the growth of the city.

The demographic, economic growth and physique presents a rhythm that, in the lapse of a generation, the town passed of being a small town of forty thousand inhabitants to a great city of more than a million inhabitants.

Sacred Cruz of Sierra is still "a dynamic and emergent city that is in a process of establishment of his own development, in search of his potential competitive advantages of production and with an incipient learning regarding the administration and management of his project of productive" city.

It is the city that experiences bigger transformations in Bolivia like consequence of their discharges rates of growth and migration, what demands a permanent search of solutions in infrastructure, services of health and education. The economic structure of the city is third and informal. The tertiary sector represents 94% of the economic establishments and the busy personnel s 85%. The market of informal work involves to the populations 60%.

The characteristic of the demographic expansion is the migration. As for the foreigners, "many of them settle for certain periods of time, and their transformation power is very high, since they come specifically to this task."

Although the telecommunications have not been taken advantage of in all their potentialities, the city has resources like cellular telephony, public booths and 8 service providers of Internet.

From the years 70, Bolivia was structured around the three big cities of the call "axis troncal": The Peace, Cochabamba, and Sacred Cruz of Sierra. These cities are the heads of the three metropolitan areas of the country. Sacred Cruz that was the line of the axis became his head due to the communication roads that leave of this national node. From 2006, Santa Cruz of Sierra became the biggest city in Bolivia

#### **PRINCIPAL HOTELS IN THE CITY OF SANTA CRUZ DE LA SIERRA**

- ✓ Buanvillas Hotel Suites & Spa \*\*\*\*\*
- ✓ Hotel Los Tajibos \*\*\*\*\*
- ✓ Toborochoi Suites Apart hotel \*\*\*\*\*
- ✓ Hotel Camino Real \*\*\*\*\*
- ✓ Yotaú All Suites Hotel \*\*\*\*\*



- ✓ Garden Plaza Suites Hotel \*\*\*\*\*
- ✓ Gran Hotel Santa Cruz \*\*\*\*\*
- ✓ Hotel Caparuch \*\*\*\*
- ✓ Hotel Royal Lodge \*\*\*\*
- ✓ Las Palmas Hotel \*\*\*\*
- ✓ Hotel Cortez \*\*\*\*

### PRINCIPAL FESTIVALS AND FAIRS OF SANTA CRUZ DEPARTMENT:

Latin American Film Festival (city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra);

Baroque Music Festival and American Renaissance of Chiquitos Missions;

International Orchid Festival;

International Theatre Festival (city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra);

International Fair of Wine and Cheese (city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra);

International Tourism exhibition (city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra);

International Fair EXPOCRUZ (city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra).

## ***CITIES AND VILLAGES IN SANTA CRUZ DEPARTMENT***

**BUENA VISTA.** The topography of the region is composed by hills, mountains and prairies. It has a sub tropical climate with a standard temperature of 23° C. This population was founded as a Jesuit Mission. Its territory is part of the Amboró National Park. The zone keeps a great biodiversity. It is interesting to visit here the archaeological and historical centers.

**COTOCA.** The Guaraní population creates excellent handicrafts, specially, in ceramics and knitting. The most important cultural patrimony is the Virgin of Cotoca whose festivity takes place on December 8th and 15th. The devotes of this Virgin attribute her extraordinary miraculous virtues; for such reason, thousands of pilgrims set out from Santa Cruz in a procession towards the Sanctuary of “Mamita of Cotoca” a special and sweet local denomination.

**CAMIRI.** It is a town in Bolivia, Santa Cruz Department, Cordillera Province, the seat of the Camiri Municipality. Camiri is located on the shores of the Parapetí River in a small valley surrounded by rolling hills on the East, North, and South, and by the Aguarague mountain range on the West. It presents a strategic location because it links the frontier lines of the Republics of Argentina and Paraguay. Guaraní, Quechua and Aymara population is well known thanks to the pottery of clay barrels and straw hats. This town is considered the petroleum capital of Bolivia due to it is the major services center of the Yacimientos Petrolíferos Bolivianos - YPFB, the national oil company. It contains different historical attractions mainly related to The Chaco War (1932 - 1935). The "Chaco" Ecosystem of Camiri - encompasses subtropical dry forests with low canopy, and intense xerophilic overgrowth with a large diversity of wildlife. Tourist attractions of Camiri: Itakua, Guapoy, Imbochi, Alto Camiri and Taminga.

**COMARAPA.** It is located halfway between the cities of Cochabamba and Santa Cruz. It is situated at an altitude of 1,800 meters above the sea level. The territory is really vast, it comprises three differentiated regions: the higher zone, known as Siberia; the zone of the valleys, where the central community lives; and the lower zone that spreads towards the Amazon plain. Comarapa was founded on June 11th, 1615. Its first name was Ciudad de Santa María de la Guardia y Mendoza. It was created by following the orders of the Viceroy of Perú. This location was an ancestral Inca fortress. Impressive archaeological traces still survive.

**CONCEPCIÓN.** The topography of the region is formed by mountains and plains. The zone possesses a great natural richness, mainly, in terms of forest resources. This Chiquitano population preserves an exquisite folklore expressed in beautiful rhythms and special musical instruments; the musicians play taquirari, rueda grande, chobena and carnavalito typical songs. The cultural patrimony of this town is the Cathedral of La Inmaculada Concepción de María that was built in 1722 and it was declared Cultural Human Patrimony by the UNESCO. The festivity of San Antonio de Lomerio is celebrated on June 13th. It is recommendable to visit the beautiful Jesuit temples, the precious landscapes and the natural waterfalls.

**MONTERO.** This town has become into one of the most important cities of the region. It is situated at an altitude of 300 meters above the sea level. The standard temperature is 23° C. The zone is predominantly agricultural, producing soybeans, cotton, corn and rice.

**PUERTO SUAREZ.** Puerto Suarez is an important inland river port and municipality in Santa Cruz Department. It is located 10 km west of the border with Brazil, and near the export runway of Puerto Aguirre. The town was founded on November 10, 1875 by Miguel Suarez Arana. The town keeps an intense commercial relationship with the city of Corumbá - Brazil. The municipality is connected to the city of Santa Cruz in the west and Brazil in the east by major roads and rail-links as well as by an airport. The topography of the region is composed by Amazon marshy areas. The town is inhabited by Andean, Chiriguano and Brazilian immigrants. In this zone, the Laguna Cáceres (Lake) is a special tourist point where it is possible to fish. There are several spas too.

**PUERTO QUIJARRO.** It is an important inland river port and municipality situated on the Tamengo Canal in Bolivia by the border with Brazil. It is part of the province of German Busch in the Santa Cruz Department. The Tamengo Canal connects it to the important Paraguay/Paraná waterway. It is Bolivia's only waterway which leads to the ocean. Antonio Quijarro was the founder. June 18, 1940 is celebrated as the founding date of the municipality since no one is sure of the real date. Good roads and a rail-line connect Puerto Quijarro with the rest of Bolivia and with Brazil. The important port of Puerto Aguirre, part of the municipality of Puerto Quijarro, is located on the Tamengo Canal between Puerto Quijarro and Puerto Suarez. The neighboring town in Brazil is Corumbá.

**PORTACHUELO.** This community is considered one of the most traditional towns in the eastern part of Bolivia. Few decades ago, it was the main production center of Santa Cruz. Its typical and delicious gastronomy is expressed in the production of the manjar blanco (sweet spread), the rice and corn rings bread, the cuñapés and the famous "Portachuelo bread". The location presents picturesque landscapes.

**SAN IGNACIO DE VELAZCO.** The topography of the region is composed by straight valleys, hills and mountains. The population was originally part of the Chiquitano ethnic group. This zone has a great variety of flora and fauna that can be appreciated in the Noel Kempff Mercado National Park where ecotourism activities are permanently carried out. It is recommendable to visit the Jesuit Mission, a temple richly carved in wood that has been declared Cultural Human Patrimony by the UNESCO.

**SAN JAVIER.** The topography of the region is constituted basically by low hills. The standard temperature is 23° C. This is a Chiquitano population. The first Jesuit mission was built in this zone in 1691. Its main festivals are the Carnival, the Holy Week and the Habeas Christi. The temple is richly carved in wood. It has been declared Cultural Human Patrimony by the UNESCO. It is interesting to visit here the house of the Bolivian president German Busch (1937 - 1939), as well as the locations of the Tumbos of Suruquiso (thermal waters and San Francisco rocks).

**SAN JOSÉ DE CHIQUITOS.** It is the capital of Chiquitos, province in the Santa Cruz Department. It is part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site Jesuit Missions of the Chiquitos in 1990.

**SAN MATÍAS.** It is located in the frontier of the Republic very close to the city of Saint Luis of Cáceres - Brazil. The topography of the region is constituted by Amazon plains; in consequence, the weather is hot and rainy. San Matías is a popular tourist point because it is an entrance to the incredible natural zone of Pantanal (tropical wetland). The region is an excellent place for the development of ecotourism and adventure tourism.

**SAMAIPATA.** The topography of this zone is composed by mountains, hills and valleys. It has a mild humid weather in the north and a cold dry weather in the south. The standard temperature is 20° C. This zone was inhabited by the Chane indigenous group; then, the Chiriguanos established their culture popularly called "Samaipateña" (from Samaipata). It has valuable tourist attractions such as the archaeological sites. The Fort was declared Cultural Human Patrimony by the UNESCO. Ceramic remains called "tiestos" and ancient sculpted rocks can be appreciated. There is an interesting archaeological museum. This zone is part of the Amboró National Park. It is interesting to visit here: the Paredones, Barrio Arriba, Quebradas, the Fort, the Military Man, Cedral and the Floripondio rivers.

**VALLE GRANDE.** This is a location of great archaeological and historical interest because of the presence of significant Rupestrian paintings. Besides, this was the famous place where the actions, combats, capture and assassination of the Socialist Argentinean-Cuban Commandant Ernesto Ché Guevara took place. It is recommendable to visit the laundry where the corpse of Ernesto Ché Guevara was exposed to national and international public and press and, of course, the grave where his remains and his companions remains were

found. The folkloric traditions of the community are very popular too. Among them, it is possible to mention the festivity of El Carnaval Vallegrandino.

[MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SANTA CRUZ DEPARTMENT.](#)

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