

BOLIVIA

TARIJA DEPARTMENT

GENERAL DATA - ECONOMY - CITY OF TARIJA.

GENERAL DATA OF TARIJA DEPARTMENT

Capital: city of Tarija (Cercado province), founded in 1574 by Luis de Fuentes with the name of Villa de San Bernardo de la Frontera de Tarija. Height: 1,866 meters over sea level.

Area: 37,623 km² (3.4% the total territory of Bolivia).

Population: 482,196 inhabitants (Census 2012).

Population density (inhabitants / km²): 12.82 (Census 2012).

Average annual growth rate of population (2001-2012): 1.86% (Census 2012).

Geographical coordinates: 21° 33' S - 64° 42' O.

Languages: Spanish, Guaraní.



DEPARTMENT OF TARIJA IS DIVIDED INTO 6 PROVINCES.

Nº	Province	Capital	Area	Population
1	Aniceto Arce	Padcaya	5,205 km2 (13.83%)	12.53%
2	Burdet O Connor	Entre Ríos	5,309 km2 (14.11%)	4.47%
3	Cercado	Tarija	2,078 km2 (5.52%)	39.74%
4	Eustaquio Méndez	San Lorenzo	4,861 km2 (12.92%)	7.35%
5	Gran Chaco	Yacuiba	17,428 km2 (46.32%)	31.88%
6	José María Avilés	Uriondo	2,742 km2 (7.29%)	4.03%



Tarija is a department in Bolivia. It is located in southeastern Bolivia bordering Argentina to the south and Paraguay to the east.

The Department of Tarija is renowned by its mild, pleasant climate, and as such comprises one of the country's foremost agricultural regions. Its citizens have traditionally felt close to, and conducted a lively international trade with, neighboring towns of Northern Argentina.

Crucially, Tarija boasts South America's second largest natural gas reserves. Increased gas revenues and foreign direct investment in gas exploration and distribution are fueling growth and legitimizing Tarija as the next Bolivian industrial hub. The development of Tarija's gas

reserves have been hindered by political instability at the national level, with Tarija choosing to align itself with pro-autonomy forces aiming at the devolution of considerable powers away from the central government in favor of the departments.

Tarija is also the home of over 20 different Indigenous tribes (the Guarani tribe being the largest) ranging from 20 persons up to 1,500.

The department's eastern dry lands were witness to important battles and events related to the 1932 - 1935 Chaco War with Paraguay. Tarija was also the home of Victor Paz Estensoro, leader of the 1952 Bolivian Revolution and four-time Constitutional President. She was part of Argentina between 1816 and 1898 and was ceded to Bolivia exchange for Puna de Atacama.

ECONOMY OF TARIJA DEPARTMENT

Hydrocarbon and agro-industrial sectors of Tarija department are more important for departmental and national economy. Tarija department has highland areas, valleys and mountains in the west, which are very suitable for growing grapes for production of fine wines, singani (strong alcoholic beverage) and dry grapes.

AGRICULTURE. In the department of Tarija grow grapes, potatoes, corn, cassava, sugar cane, wheat, barley, garlic, pickles, flowers and fruits (peach, plum, apricot and others). In the region of Villamontes, in the finished part of sub-Andean mountain ranges, has been implemented successfully, the cultivation of oilseeds (soybeans, peanuts, sunflower and cotton).

LIVESTOCK. Most part of Tarija department is suitable for cattle, swine, sheep, horses and goats.

HYDROCARBONS. The territory of Tarija department has very large deposits of oil and natural gas.

FISHING. In the rivers of Tarija inhabits a variety of fish (sábalo, bagre, dorado, surubí...)

CITY OF TARIJA

HISTORY. Although in the local imagery, the name of Tarija is said to come from a certain Francisco de Tarija or Tarifa, researched information disproves that probability. The valley,

of where present-day Tarija is situated, was identified as "Tarija" and shared an articulation similar to its current pronunciation, prior to Spanish expeditions and occupation. In testimonials by members of the first group of Spaniards entering the Valley, the name of Tarija was already mentioned. This group did not include anyone by the name of Francisco de Tarija. One should also note that similar sounding toponyms exist for surrounding places. Such are the cases of Tariquia and Taxara. Tarija was claimed by Argentina until 1899 and Argentina renounced to its claims in exchange for the Puna de Atacama.

The city and valley of present-day Tarija was first occupied by Western Hemispheric indigenous groups, such as, the Churumatas and the Tomatas, among others. Subsequently, the Inca Empire - administered by the Quechua civilization - conquered these territories and dispersed the Churumatas and other local groups over wide territories of the Andes. Mitimaes is the Quechuan name that the Incas used for the resisting ethnic groups they uprooted and then dispersed geographically. When the Spanish conquerors and colonials first arrived to the valley of Tarija, they encountered several stone roads, most likely the remnants of pre-Incaic cultures, such as that of the Churumatas. However, during that period, the presence of indigenous peoples remained sparse within the valley. Several of the pre-Incaic roads and trails have been preserved, and currently function as a walking trail for Tarijenos.

[MORE INFORMATION ABOUT TARIJA DEPARTMENT.](#)