

ARACARI  
TRAVEL

**BOLIVIA FESTIVAL  
&  
EVENTS CALENDAR**



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## FESTIVITY OR EVENT

**RAINY SEASON** is from December – March, and the area most affected in terms of trip planning is Salar de Uyuni or the salt flats. Though accessibility is more limited and routes change, with enough rain the salt flats take on a reflective quality that is other-worldly.

**Location:** Throughout Bolivia (Salar de Uyuni is the most affected)

**Date:** December - March

**DRY SEASON** is from April - November, and the area most affected in terms of trip planning is Salar de Uyuni or the salt flats. You can expect to see remarkably vast expanses of pentagons of crystalline salt.

**Location:** T Throughout Bolivia (Salar de Uyuni is the most affected)

**Date:** April - November

**AÑO NUEVO** (New Year) is, like in other countries, a midnight party with friends or family. Most businesses are closed.

**Location:** Throughout Peru

**Date:** Wednesday, January 1

**DÍA DE LA FUNDACION DEL ESTADO PLURINACIONAL** (Foundation of the Plurinational State) is celebrated in Bolivia as a second independence day after it was declared a national holiday in the early 2000's. Expect shops to be closed.

**Location:** Throughout Bolivia

**Date:** Wednesday, January 22

**ALASITAS** is a month long event to honor Ekeko, the Aymara God of abundance, and has been declared a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Celebrated mostly in La Paz, people have shamans bless miniature versions of goods they would like to give someone else, and then it is said the recipient will get the real object in the following year.

**Location:** Throughout Bolivia – Especially in La Paz

**Date:** Friday, January 24

**ANIVERSARIO DE ORURO** (Anniversary of Oruro) is a regional holiday. Expect shops to be closed if you are in this area.

**Location:** Oruro

**Date:** Monday, February 10

**CARNAVAL** (Carnival) is a countrywide celebration of parades, dances, and music the week before lent. Oruro holds an especially fantastic carnival, which has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Expect shops to be closed.

**Location:** Throughout Bolivia – Especially in Oruro

**Date:** March 04-05

**FIESTA DE LA VIRGEN DE CANDELARIA** (Festival of the Virgin of Candelaria) is a colorful dance festival that celebrates the patron saint, the Virgin of Candelaria, on the shores of Lake Titicaca.

**Location:** Throughout Bolivia – Especially in Copacabana

**Date:** Sunday, February 2

**THE PUJLLAY FESTIVAL OF TARABUCO** (Festival of Tarabuco) is a two day fiesta or party to commemorate and celebrate the battle that freed the area from the Spanish forces. The president of Bolivia attends the festival and it plays an integral part in preserving indigenous tradition.

**Location:** Chuquisaca, Bolivia (Tarabuco)

**Date:** March 17-18

**SEMANA SANTA** (Holy Week) is a week of holy festivities in March. The whole country partakes, but it is especially celebrated in Copacabana where pilgrims from across the country head to the city on foot. Good Friday (March 30) of Semana Santa is a national holiday - expect shops to be closed.

**Location:** Throughout Bolivia

**Date:** Week of April 5

**BAROQUE MUSIC FESTIVAL** is bi-annual (due to be celebrated in 2020) and features over 800 musicians from Europe and Latin America in 100 concerts. Jesuits brought their European instruments like violins, viols, flutes and harpsichords to Bolivian indigenous jungle communities, who adapted to them and became talented baroque and renaissance musicians, a tradition preserved to the present day.

**Location:** Santa Cruz, Bolivia (Jesuit Missions of Chiquitos)

**Date:** April 24 – May 3

**ANIVERSARIO DE TARIJA** (Anniversary of Tarija) is a regional holiday. Expect shops to be closed if you are in this area.

**Location:** Tarija

**Date:** Thursday, April 16

**DÍA DEL TRABAJO** (Labor Day) is a national holiday honoring the workers in Bolivia. Expect shops to be closed.

**Location:** Throughout Bolivia

**Date:** Friday, May 1

**ANIVERSARIO DE CHUQUISACA** (Anniversary of Chuquisaca) is a regional holiday. Expect shops to be closed if you are in this area.

**Location:** Chuquisaca

**Date:** Sunday, May 24

**FIESTA DEL GRAN PODER** (Festival of the Great Power) commemorates an ancient religious painting of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit with Mestizo features - a true example of Bolivia's mix of Catholic and Indigenous beliefs. The festival features thousands of dancers parading down the streets of La Paz, flaunting their colorful costumes.

**Location:** La Paz

**Date:** Saturday, June 6

**CORPUS CHRISTI** is an important religious festivity and is recognized with a national holiday across the country. Expect shops to be closed, many religious services, and potentially some colorful dances.

**Location:** Throughout Bolivia

**Date:** Thursday, June 11

**AÑO NUEVO AYMARA** (Aymara New Year) celebrates the start of a new agricultural cycle, the winter solstice, and the Aymara new year. Each year colorful ceremonies take place across the Altiplano and offerings are given in thanks to Pachamama, or Mother Earth, and the sun so that there will be a good harvest in the coming year. It is a day filled with ceremonial clothing, drinking singani, chewing coca,

**Location:** Throughout Bolivia – Commonly celebrated in Tiwanaku

**Date:** Sunday, June 21

**ANIVERSARIO DE LA PAZ** (Anniversary of La Paz) begins the evening before the holiday (on July 15) in the San Francisco Plaza. From here, the city becomes a large street party with great food, dancing, and music. This is a regional holiday, so expect shops to be closed.

**Location:** La Paz

**Date:** Thursday, July 16

**FIESTA DEL SANTO PATRONO DE MOXOS** (Festival of the Patron Saint of Moxos) is celebrated for a week in the Amazon Basin region of Beni, in the small town of San Ignacio de Moxos. Processions, dances, and stunning costumes mark the festivities, and everything cumulates to the highpoint at 2pm on July 30 each year.

**Location:** Amazon Basin Region of Beni – San Ignacio de Moxos

**Date:** Week of July 22

**DÍA DE LA INDEPENDENCIA** (Independence Day) in Bolivia includes parades and festivities across the country. Expect shops to be closed, and traffic in bigger cities.

**Location:** Throughout Bolivia

**Date:** Thursday, August 6

**ANIVERSARIO DE COCHABAMBA** (Anniversary of Cochabamba) is a regional holiday. Expect shops to be closed if you are in this area.

**Location:** Cochabamba

**Date:** Monday, September 14

**ANIVERSARIO DE SANTA CRUZ** (Anniversary of Santa Cruz) is a regional holiday. Expect shops to be closed if you are in this area.

**Location:** Santa Cruz

**Date:** Thursday, September 24

**ANIVERSARIO DE PANDO** (Anniversary of Pando) is a regional holiday. Expect shops to be closed if you are in this area.

**Location:** Pando

**Date:** Sunday, October 11

**ANIVERSARIO DE POTOSÍ** (Anniversary of Potosí) is a regional holiday. Expect shops to be closed if you are in this area.

**Location:** Potosí

**Date:** Tuesday, November 10

**DÍA DE TODOS LOS DIFUNTOS** (All Souls Day) is a when Bolivian locals visit their deceased loved ones at cemeteries and decorate their graves with flowers and the favorite foods of the departed. Expect shops to be closed.

**Location:** Throughout Bolivia

**Date:** Monday, November 2

**ANIVERSARIO DE BENI** (Anniversary of Beni) is a regional holiday. Expect shops to be closed if you are in this area.

**Location:** Beni

**Date:** Thursday, November 19

**NOCHEBUENA** (Christmas Eve) in Bolivia is celebrated with a midnight mass called 'Misa del Gallo' or 'Mass of the Rooster.' Locals often light fireworks in the night, and spend the holiday with family. Expect shops to be closed.

**Location:** Throughout Bolivia

**Date:** Thursday, December 24

**NAVIDAD** (Christmas Day) is celebrated similarly to Nochebuena, Christmas Eve, with fireworks and family. Expect shops to be closed.

**Location:** Throughout Bolivia

**Date:** Friday, December 25