

# Fairtrade: a World of Difference

## Country factfile: Bolivia

Bolivia, Anapqui, Quinoa

# Bolivia



**Geography:** Bolivia is a landlocked country in South America. It shares borders with Brazil to the north and the east, with Paraguay and Argentina in the south and Chile and Peru to the west. In the west, is a mountain range called the Andes, which includes Mt. Nevado Sajama, the highest mountain in the country. To the east of Bolivia are flat lands and the Amazon Basin. The lowest point is the Paraguay River. In the north east is Lake Titicaca which is shared with Peru and is the highest navigable body of water in the world at 3, 810 metres above sea level. La Paz is the administrative capital of Bolivia and Sucre is the constitutional capital.

**Quick Quechua lesson:**  
how to say "hello."  
Say "winchis"  
(wind-cheers)

### Language

Bolivia has three official languages, Quechua, Aymara and Spanish.

### Meaning of Flag



The Bolivian flag has three colours. Traditionally, yellow is a symbol of generosity, red indicates hardiness, bravery, strength and valour and green represents hope, joy and love. The Bolivian coat of arms shows a mountain and plains which represents the geography of the country. A llama is also shown representing the national animal. The crossed muskets symbolize the struggle for independence, the eagle symbolizes liberty and the olive branches mean peace.

### Did You Know?

In 2000, an ancient temple submerged in the depths of Lake Titicaca was discovered. It is believed the ruins are Pre-Inca and date back 1,000 to 1,500 years ago.



### Glossary

**Navigable** – safe to be sailed on.  
**Altiplano** – Spanish for 'high plain', this is one of the largest areas of its kind on earth.  
**Tiwanaku** – Tiwanaku is an important archaeological site. The Tiwanaku people were ancestors of the Incas.

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Population:  
**9.8 million**

Population Density:  
**8.06 people per sq km**

Literacy: **90.7%**

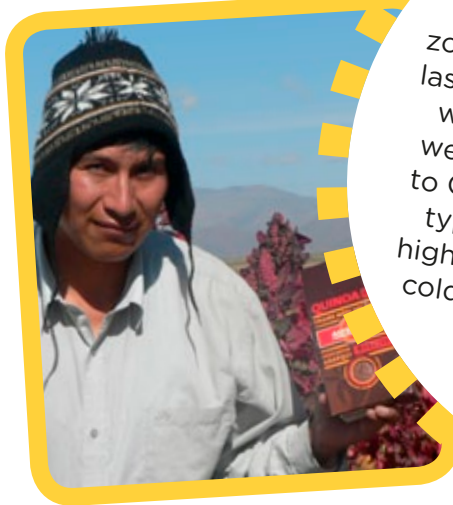
Children enrolled in  
Primary Education:  
**70%**

HIV/AIDS  
prevalence  
in population  
(15-49 years  
old): **0.2%**



### Religion

Catholic 95%,  
Protestant 5%



### Climate

The weather in Bolivia can vary dramatically from one climatic zone to another. Summer in Bolivia lasts from November to March. The weather is typically warmer and wetter during these months. April to October, the winter months, are typically colder and drier. In the highlands, the weather can be very cold and temperatures frequently drop below zero at night, especially on the Altiplano.

### Focus Area: The Altiplano

Anapqui Quinoa (pronounced 'kin-wa') farmers live on the Altiplano, the southern highland area of Bolivia in the Andes Mountains. The climate is harsh and migration has become a common occurrence for families who can't earn an adequate income. Quinoa is one of the few crops which will grow in this region. The Uyuni Salt Flats are vital to the region, both for tourism and the soil to which it provides important nutrients. The salt flats are an arid, windswept salt flat, lying on the Altiplano at 3,656 metres above sea level.



### History

200 BC	1450	1525	1809
Tiwanakan culture developed at the southern end of Lake Titicaca	Quechua-speaking Incas conquer the Aymara civilisations	Spanish defeat Incas, ruling Bolivia for 300 years	Independence declared but is followed by 16 years of struggle.
1825	1879 - 1883	1935	1985
Led by Simon Bolivar, Bolivia becomes independent	During War of the Pacific Bolivia loses land and resources to Chile	Bolivia loses regional war with Paraguay resulting in military rule	Bolivia becomes a democratic republic after almost 50 years of political turmoil

Statistics from [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)