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## [10 Weird Things About Bolivia](#)



By [Roger Keays](#), 19 September 2011

Most travelers going through Bolivia hit the tourist attractions on the west side of the country before heading to Chile. Somehow I managed to spend nearly three months in Bolivia. My friends are intrigued by how long I spent there, so I thought I'd make a little list of the best and weirdest things about Bolivia. Clearly they are missing out.

### **1. Kangaroos Are From Africa**

When people ask me where I'm from my stock routine is to make them guess. I have a few clues to help them out and the last is "Where they have kangaroos". In Bolivia I just made this my first clue and the most common response was "Africa?"

### **2. Fat and Round is Sexy**



Why else would all the indigenous women be like that? I can only presume that the original Bolivian men had a preference for women who could travel by rolling.

### **3. The Bus Stops in No-Mans-Land**

It was freezing outside, we hadn't seen a building for at least an hour and the horizon was barren. Then someone stopped the bus to get off. Where on earth were they going? I have no idea, but it happened often enough.

### **4. Sloths**

When I saw this sloth in the park I thought it was a gremlin, or perhaps an alien from another planet coming to steal all our water. I tried to warn the locals, but they seemed pretty used to it.

### **5. Driving on Roundabouts**

Although traffic rules are generally non-existent, vehicles on a roundabout do give way to those which are *entering* the roundabout. I don't know whose fantastic idea this was, but judging by the chaos it results in I wouldn't recommend proposing it to your local government.

### **6. Change Sweet Change**

Like most countries in South America, Bolivia has a perpetual shortage of change. In Bolivia, instead of change you may get lollies of equivalent value (at least I hope they were equivalent value).

### **7. Los Menonitas**



*That sounded a lot more like German than Spanish*, I thought as I passed another strange looking man in britches and a cowboy hat. Actually, it was German. Sort of. Somehow a community of people originally from Germany with this unique fashion sense has established itself around Santa Cruz.

### **8. Virgins Are Everywhere**

Virgin de Cotoca, Virgin de Fatima, Virgin Maria. It seems like most of the streets and landmarks are named after virgins. I wondered vaguely how the population was maintained with so many virgins around, until I noticed the...

### **9. Teen mothers**

Despite the reverence of virginity it looks like business as usual for most young Bolivians. In this case, "usual" means getting pregnant at sixteen, married at twenty-one and divorced at twenty-five. This may be happening because...

## **10. Weddings Are Cheap**

I got married in Bolivia in for less than \$2 including wedding cake. Sadly our photographer flaked on emailing the photos and my girlfriend confiscated my wedding ring.

But that is another story for another time.

## **About Roger Keays**



Roger Keays is an artist, an engineer, and a student of life. Since he left Australia in 2009, he has been living as a digital nomad in over 40 different countries around the world. Roger is addicted to surfing. His other interests are music, psychology, languages, and finding good food.