

Edificio Mechita, 1er piso  
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# Homestay in La Paz

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## A home away from home?

In La Paz, this is really possible.

The **instituto exclusivo** maintains connections with local families as homestay options for our students. There are choices to fit every taste.

This document is only meant as a source of information for our clients. We do not earn a commission when clients decide to stay with a family, nor do we take any responsibility for the homestay experience itself.

We ask that you negotiate the conditions of your stay directly with the family. These include the price of your room, and the type and availability of meals. We will not act as a go-between, because only you can represent your own tastes successfully.

If you would like to book a homestay before your arrival in La Paz in order to guarantee a spot, we can accept a money transfer in the amount of the deposit and pass it on to the family.

We hope your homestay is enjoyable, and that it will encourage you to take many classes with our institute.



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### **Will I have my own room?**

Practically all of the rooms that we have seen are rented to individuals or couples. So, in principle, you will not have to share. Double-check with your landlord/lady.

### **How large are the rooms?**

It depends. We do not list the exact size of the room, but do mention whether it is large or small, and whether it has a single or double bed.

### **Will I have a private bathroom?**

In some cases, the rooms have private bathrooms, but most houses offer only shared bathroom facilities. These are often shared with other lodgers, to a maximum of three lodgers per bathroom. If there are no other lodgers when you are there, then you will have the bathroom to yourself. In some cases, you will have to share with the land-lord/lady's family. Do your research before making a payment.



## **Are the homestays with real Bolivian families? Will I be part of family life?**

This varies greatly from option to option. For each homestay, we cite the family composition. If there are children living at home, you will typically easily make friends and get included in their social life. However, you are not under any obligation to do this if you do not want to. In general, the homestays that provide lunch and dinner tend to be more inclusive of their lodgers in family life.

## **Can I eat meals in my homestay or do I always have to go out for dinner?**

There are many host families who cook meals for you and include them in the price. However, there are also many who do not cook for their visitors. In La Paz, there are numerous cheap and acceptable places to have breakfast, lunch and dinner. The cheapest lunches and dinners (often a three-course meal with soup, main and dessert) cost around 8 Bs. Set lunches can go up to about 22/25 Bs. in a classy restaurant (note: the a la carte menu is quite a bit more expensive in nice restaurants).

Some homestays just offer "bed and breakfast". This may be a good option for some of you. Other homestays offer a kitchen for the lodger's use.

Keep in mind that homestay prices often reflect the quality of the food that is offered. In general, the more you pay for your homestay, the better you will be eating.



### **Is there a curfew?**

Most host families give you a key so that you can come and go as you please. However, it is a good idea to inform them when you will be staying the night elsewhere.

### **Can friends visit me at my homestay?**

Most homestays agree to this within reason, particularly if you are staying for several months. However, friends are not allowed to stay overnight unless the host family knows you are a couple. To avoid potential conflict, it is best to discuss these types of things with your potential hosts well before you decide to rent a room.

### **Can I smoke?**

The listing for each homestay mentions whether you can smoke there. It is still best to discuss this with your potential hosts in advance.

### **Can I drink alcohol in the homestay?**

Almost all homestays will not accept intoxication, but most will be tolerant if you have just one or two beers at the homestay. Discuss this with your hosts and please try to be considerate.



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## **Do I have to pay everything beforehand or can I pay week by week?**

Most host families will accept weekly payment. However, some popular homestays may require you to pay monthly.

## **How far are the homestays from the institute or the city centre?**

This depends on the location. For each homestay, we have listed approximate travel times by public transport or by foot. In general, the places near our institute are townhouses or apartments. In the wealthier suburb of Zona Sur, you will generally have access to a garden. However, travel to and from there will be longer and a little more expensive, especially late at night.

## **What does a homestay cost?**

Prices vary quite a bit. At one extreme, the smallest rooms in the most basic homestays can cost as little as \$50 a month. Conversely, rents of over \$300 a month can include a luxury breakfast and lunch. In making your choice, it is useful to consider your desired comfort level and how often you expect to eat out.

## **How do I book a homestay?**

Email [info@instituto-exclusivo.com](mailto:info@instituto-exclusivo.com) with preferences.



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## Homestay Options

### Option 1:

<b>Capacity (no. of guests)</b>	2
<b>Single or double room</b>	Single, but spacious. Women only
<b>Shower/bathroom separate</b>	Private bathroom with shower and bath.
<b>Breakfast</b>	Not included
<b>Other meals</b>	Not included
<b>Self-catering facilities</b>	Yes, for breakfast only.
<b>Family size</b>	1 lady, the owner.
<b>Number of children</b>	-
<b>Common room</b>	Yes, but please use it carefully.
<b>Television</b>	-
<b>Garden</b>	-
<b>Distance to i.e.</b>	0 minutes (straight in front of the i.e. building)
<b>One-way travel costs</b>	0
<b>Distance to Univ. Católica</b>	10 mins by minibús
<b>One-way travel costs</b>	Bs.1.50
<b>Allows smokers</b>	Yes
<b>Allows drinking</b>	Yes, but intoxication is not allowed.
<b>Allows visitors</b>	During the day, but not boyfriends.
<b>Curfew</b>	No. Guests get a key and can come and go as they please.
<b>Has had guest before</b>	Yes, for years.
<b>Has pets</b>	No.
<b>Description</b>	An apartment in a luxurious highrise building (11th floor, with city views). A comfortable furnished room and well-equipped bathroom (sole use). Can use the kitchen to make breakfast. There is a chic sitting room which can be used with care.



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## Option 2:

<b>Capacity (no. of guests)</b>	5 rooms, 2 double
<b>Single or double room</b>	3 single, 2 double
<b>Shower/bathroom separate</b>	1 en suite, 4 shared
<b>Breakfast</b>	Optional. Normally not included
<b>Other meals</b>	Not included
<b>Self-catering facilities</b>	Yes, for 1 room, possibly also for other rooms.
<b>Family size</b>	3
<b>Number of children</b>	two sons, 24 years old.
<b>Common room</b>	Large, light room with several sofas and comfy chairs.
<b>Television</b>	?
<b>Garden</b>	Small town garden with sun.
<b>Distance to i.e.</b>	7 mins walk
<b>One-way travel costs</b>	Bs. 1 but easier to walk.
<b>Distance to Univ. Católica</b>	15 mins minibus.
<b>One-way travel costs</b>	Bs.1.50
<b>Allows smokers</b>	Yes
<b>Allows drinking</b>	A bit. Intoxication is not allowed.
<b>Allows visitors</b>	Yes, but not overnight.
<b>Curfew</b>	No. Guests get a key and can come and go as they please.
<b>Has had guest before</b>	Yes, for years. People generally stay several months. Couples have enjoyed living here.
<b>Has pets</b>	3 cats
<b>If they have children what are they allowed to do?</b>	The owner could not think of any rules, but only wants "decent people".
<b>Description</b>	This is a quaint, old atmospheric townhouse which is also a bit chaotic. It is very central, but still quiet at night. If you don't mind quite basic bathroom facilities, this will be a very practical and low-cost option. The owner speaks English fluently.



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### Option 3:

<b>Capacity (no. of guests)</b>	4 rooms, 2 double
<b>Single or double room</b>	2 double, 2 single. All large.
<b>Shower/bathroom separate</b>	3 bathrooms in total in the house. 3 showers, 1 bath.
<b>Breakfast</b>	Included
<b>Other meals</b>	Lunch included (can be cancelled for a small discount)
<b>Self-catering facilities</b>	No
<b>Family size</b>	2
<b>Number of children</b>	One daughter, 16 years old.
<b>Common room</b>	At least five different common areas, with tables or sofas.
<b>Television</b>	Yes
<b>Garden</b>	Large terrace with city view.
<b>Distance to i.e.</b>	8 mins. Walk
<b>One-way travel costs</b>	No public transport
<b>Distance to Uni.v Católica</b>	20 mins (short walk and bus)
<b>One-way travel costs</b>	Bs. 1.50
<b>Allows smokers</b>	Yes
<b>Allows drinking</b>	No, better not. Very very modestly, maybe.
<b>Allows visitors</b>	Yes, but not overnight.
<b>Curfew</b>	No. Guests get a key and can come and go as they please.
<b>Has had guest before</b>	Yes, for years and is often fully booked.
<b>Has pets</b>	1 (hairy) nice dog.
<b>If they have children what are they allowed to do?</b>	She wants decent people, but she is not overly strict.
<b>Description</b>	This is a well-maintained large apartment with Western-style pine furniture and lots of light. It is warm for La Paz. Very comfortable. Food is said to be of high quality. Huge roof terrace with stunning views, including Illimani.



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## Option 4:

<b>Capacity (no. of guests)</b>	2
<b>Single or double room</b>	Double
<b>Shower/bathroom separate</b>	No
<b>Breakfast</b>	Included
<b>Other meals</b>	Included
<b>Self-catering facilities</b>	Yes
<b>Family size</b>	7 members
<b>Number of children</b>	No children. Five siblings between 18 and 25 years old.
<b>Common room</b>	No
<b>Television</b>	Yes
<b>Garden</b>	Yes
<b>Distance to i.e.</b>	30 minutes by bus, 20 minutes by taxi
<b>One-way travel costs</b>	By bus: Bs. 1.40, by taxi: Bs. 3.50
<b>Distance to Univ. Católica</b>	25 minutes by bus, 15 minutes by taxi
<b>One-way travel costs</b>	By bus: Bs. 1.40, by taxi: Bs. 3.50
<b>Allows smokers</b>	Yes, only in your room
<b>Allows drinking</b>	Yes, only in your room. Intoxication is not allowed.
<b>Allows visitors</b>	Yes, between 8AM and 8PM
<b>Curfew</b>	11PM
<b>Has had guest before</b>	Yes.
<b>data of the guest</b>	Patricio from California, USA, stayed one month, email:?. Sjoerd Van der Putten from Holland stayed 3 months, email:sjoerd@vdputten.net. Mikko Makimarti from Finland stayed 6 months, email:meddlex@hotmail.com
<b>Has pets</b>	No
<b>Description</b>	House located in El Alto, the highest city in the world. Great views of La Paz, mountains and volcanos on the way to La Paz. Family members are open to knowing about other cultures, are helpful, and speak Spanish, English and Aymara.



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