

# No road rage in La Paz Bolivia

The topic of 'road rage' comes up a lot in discussions about the ills of urban societies nowadays, but myself and my friend Ron Lameman from Canada were pleasantly surprised on our recent 10 day stay in La Paz Bolivia - to discover that 'road rage' is non-existent there.

Do not fool yourself into thinking that La Paz Bolivia is a small 'backwater' of a city in the Andes, for it is a very modern bustling urban metropolis of over 1 million people with severe traffic congestion – and this is precisely what made the observation so shocking, the fact that despite the heavy traffic morning, noon and night - no driver in La Paz exhibits the kind of pent-up aggression evident in vehicle drivers in most of the 'traffic-choked' urban centers all over the globe. Instead of hurling insults and swearing at each other, exiting their vehicles and literally trading blows with each other - or exchanging gunfire as happens in extreme cases in the rest of the so-called 'civilized world', the drivers in La Paz - who drive just as crazily as New Yorkers I might add - shrug, shake their head, wave or nod at each other in the daily traffic infractions they perpetrate on each other.

I have no idea for the totally cool, calm and collected mentality of the people of La Paz, maybe the fact that it is probably the only place on earth where Amerindians comprise 95% of the automobile drivers in a city...but then that would require the old cherished fallacy of 'savage' natives versus 'civilized' non-natives to be completely turned on its head and be acknowledged as nothing more than ignorant myth.

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