

My Residency Trip to Paraguay April 2012- by Mateo de Yankee (appropriately dubbed nickname)

Day 1-Tuesday



My handler picked me up at my hostel about 8:25am met collaborators Juan and Pedro.

The front of my hostel, a quaint affordable place to stay



Our first stop was to a notary and legalization service around the block from the hostel to pick up some paperwork that I had previously sent in. this was notarized copies of my FBI records and such that were needed to leave at government offices along our Residency journey. Total time about 15 minutes



Our second stop was to verify the Visa at the immigration department. No usually this should only take about 5 minutes unless there are other Visas waiting to get stamped, which was the case with me and will be increasing the case as more and more foreigners apply for Residency. The secretary asked that we leave the passport for about 3 hours and that it would then be ready for pickup, so we left it and off to our next stop. Total time for this stop about 20 minutes



Our third stop was at the Interpol Office to sign paperwork, do fingerprinting and background check. The office this day was abnormally slow and the total time here was about 45 minutes to complete but my handler stated that this stop can take 2-3 hours at times to complete.



Since our day was moving a bit quicker than expected we decided to go in and open a Certificate of Deposit account with the bank for the financial contribution part of the Residency process. Since the goal was to keep the money within Paraguay for future real estate opportunities I also opened a savings account a few days later to provide for maximum flexibility in the future. We ended up going to Interfisa Bank to do this which happened to be rather convenient since I sent the deposit money down to myself via Western Union to avoid carrying the cash. This particular branch had a Western Union counter inside it so I just went over to the counter with my handler and withdrew the money in local currency and deposited it to my Certificate of Deposit account right then and there, very easy. My advice is that if you do Western Union the money to yourself elect to have it picked up in local currency to avoid

exchanging it at the Western Union counter, it will make the process even more smooth and carefree, and you most likely will get a slightly better exchange rate.

I ended up going with a one year CD in local currency at 10% interest. I had to convert the USD\$ 5,000 to Guaraní currency at the counter and lost a bit on the transfer rate. Total time at the bank was about an hour.



Our next stop was back at the notario to sign and notarize my identification documents and letters to immigration with direction that my handler supports my application for Residency and that I am in good standing etc. Total time here was about 20 minutes.

Finally we were nearing our three hour time frame for Immigration so we went back to the Immigration Office to pick up stamped passport. We went upstairs to the office where my handler's assistant chatted with the secretary for a few and the secretary looked over at me and said hi and asked how I was in Spanish and made some small talk. Small talk and friendliness is a big deal in Paraguay so get used to



chatting with people and getting to know them a little up front as this is the cultural norm here. People want to genuinely get to know you and what you do and how you like your visit so far so be prepared with a few Spanish phrases mentioning these answers so you don't raise any red flags and move things along smoothly. Paraguayans are a very social and tight knit group of people in general. Total time here about 15 minutes, which was about right according to my assistant.

My handler then stopped off to make copies of the Stamped Visa Verification in my passport and get notarized the wire transfer and bank deposits for substantiation for the final submittal of the entire application to Immigration.

We went back to my hostel to meet with a local police officer my handler had setup a meeting with to take my fingerprints and picture for my police identification card.

We finished about 1PM local time. My handler indicated that since we got more done than we had expected that the next day would be a day off instead of a typical half day of Residency work. He indicated that we would look to start working again Thursday around 11AM.

Day 2- Thursday

Due to some delays with other clients and the fact that I was in Asuncion for an extended period of time my handler called in the morning to postpone until tomorrow. So I had the rest of the day to myself to explore the city and meet with more locals and tours.

Day 3- Friday

My handler picked me up at my hostel about 10:40AM I forgot to give him all of my medical paperwork so there was some minor delay to get those signed and in order. My handler showed me my laminated police identification card from the other day which would be included with my final application. As usual a bad picture that my mom would kill me for taking so don't mention it to her.



Our first stop was the notario for some signatures on supporting paperwork. It looked like there was some additional paperwork that my handler had to have drawn up and completed AFTER the first day of Residency work to make sure all was in order, complete and okay. Total time to pick up certified health certificates and get paperwork notarized was about an hour.

We were then off to the bank to physically pick up my Certificate of Deposit. In Paraguay the CDs are physical certificates issued that state the amount of the initial deposit and the amount of the interest due to the client at the end of the term which is an all or nothing proposition. If you cash in your certificate early you get no interest. However once the CD matures you have a variety of options where you can roll over the initial deposit again, rollover the deposit plus the interest, or deposit any combination of the two into your savings account if you chose to set one up. At this time I elected to open my savings account and setup my internet banking as well for maximum flexibility. Total time here with chatting and



hanging out was about 45 minutes.



At this point we were way ahead of schedule and went to the Immigration office to wait in line and submit all our documentation and take pictures at the Immigration Office for my Cedula. We waited to be called and my handler had hired a local "talker" to smooth the process over and get me to the front of the line so to speak. After about 15-20 minutes of waiting I went up and signed some paperwork and went over and took my picture for my Cedula, submitted some digital thumb prints and after about 5 minutes to ensure everything was in order and as it should be we were done and now it's waiting time. Total time at the Immigration Office was about an hour to complete everything, which my handler stated was very unusual since the office was incredibly slow. He stated this day can sometime take 4-6 hours to wait and go through, so I

lucked out.

Now keep in mind that this was my personal experience and that while the general steps will be the same for you the order and time frames can and will vary by how busy the offices and business professionals are handling the Immigration issues.