



Welcome to Paraguay

Explore –Culture, Tourism, Business,
investment , expat infos

Paraguay At Your Service



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1. Paraguay – Know this country

1.1 Republic of Paraguay : Paraguay , officially the Republic of Paraguay , is a landlocked country in South America. Due to its central location in South America, it is sometimes referred to as Corazón de América, or the Heart of America.

- a. Though it remains one of region's poorest and least-developed countries, in 2010, Paraguay's economy grew by 14.5%, the largest economic expansion in Latin America
- b. It boasts exotic natural reserves and massive man-made dams. It is a place where horses and carts pull up by Mercedes Benz cars .

1.2 History of Paraguay : Paraguay consisted of semi-nomadic tribes, who were recognized for their fierce warrior traditions.

1. Europeans first arrived in the area in the early sixteenth century, and the settlement of Asunción was founded on 15 August 1537
2. Paraguay overthrew the local Spanish administration on 15 May 1811.
3. Paraguay's first ruler was the dictator Jose Gaspar Rodriguez de Francia. He ruled Paraguay from 1814, until his death in 1840.
4. Paraguayan independence from Argentina was declared in 1842.
5. After Francia death, Paraguay went through the very brief ownership of various military officers under a new junta, until the secretary Carlos Antonio Lopez .
6. After Lopez's death, power was transferred to his eldest son, Francisco Solano López in 1862. Lopez's expansionist aims lead to the Paraguayan War in 1864.

1. Paraguay – Know this country-continue

1.2 History of Paraguay : continue ...

- g. 1870 after five years of the bloodiest war in South America.
- h. The Chaco War was fought with Bolivia in the 1930s, and Bolivia was defeated. Paraguay re-established sovereignty over the region called the Chaco.
- i. Between 1904 and 1954, Paraguay had thirty-one presidents, most of whom were removed from office by force.
- j. From 1954 to 1989, the country was ruled by Alfredo Stroessner and the Colorado party. The dictator oversaw an era of economic expansion, but also had a poor human rights and environmental record
- k. Leftist former bishop Fernando Lugo achieved a historic victory in Paraguay's presidential election of April 2008.

1.3 Paraguay NOW :

- a. In 2010, Paraguay experienced the greatest economic expansion in South America. Its economy was the 2nd fastest expanding economy in the world, after Qatar.
- b. Paraguay had a GDP growth rate of 14.5% by the end of 2010 due to long-term growth in the country's industrial sector, after years of declining production

2. Paraguay Climate

2.1 Paraguay Climate : Paraguay is entirely landlocked and is situated between 18° and 28°S. It is bordered on the north by Bolivia and Brazil and on the south by Argentina.

- a. Most of the country lies below 450 m/1,500 ft.
- b. The northwestern part of the country lies entirely within the tropics ,
- c. The southeastern half of the country has temperatures a little lower in all months,
- d. The northwest of Paraguay is part of the Chaco region. Here annual rainfall ranges between 750 mm/30 in and 1,250 mm/50 in, increasing northwards.
- e. Climate of Asuncion

ASUNCION 25 26 S, 57 63 W, 331 feet (101 meters) above sea level.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
 Avg. Temperature	82	80	78	73	66	64	64	68	71	75	77	80
 Avg. Max Temperature	94	91	89	85	77	75	76	81	84	87	89	92
 Avg. Min Temperature	73	72	69	65	58	56	55	59	61	66	68	70
 Avg. Rain Days	6	7	6	6	5	5	4	4	5	6	6	5
 Avg. Snow Days	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

2. Paraguay Climate-continue...

2.2 Seasonal characteristics : Located on the Tropic of Capricorn, Paraguay enjoys a climate that varies from temperate to hot during the majority of the year, with an average temperature of 75 degrees Fahrenheit.

- a. The Eastern Region enjoys a more humid and rainy climate; the Western Region is arid and dry.
- b. Summers are long, with temperatures that reach 105 degrees on peak days ,
- c. winters are mild and short, albeit in the months of July and August, some days the temperature can dip down to 0 degrees centigrade.

2.3 Paraguay Climate pleasantness :

- a. Two-thirds of Paraguay is within the temperate zone, one-third in the tropical zone. The climate varies from mild to subtropical.
- b. During the winter months (roughly May through August), temperatures generally range from 16° to 21° C (60° to 70° F); nights are occasionally colder.
- c. **Winters are mild and short – This time weather is pleasant.**

2. Paraguay Climate-continue...

2.4 History of natural disasters in Paraguay: Paraguay - Disaster Statistics

Data related to human and economic losses from disasters that have occurred between 1980 and 2010.

Natural Disasters from 1980 - 2010

Overview

No of events: 30

No of people killed: 241

Average killed per year: 8

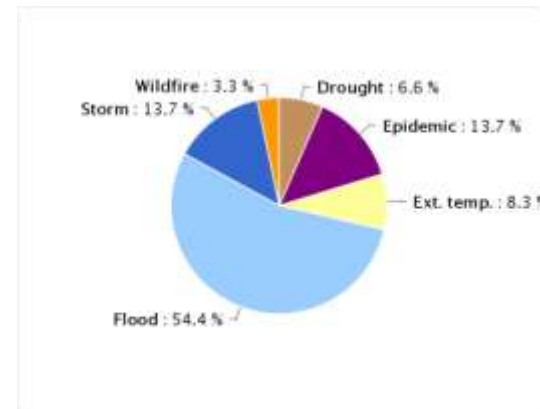
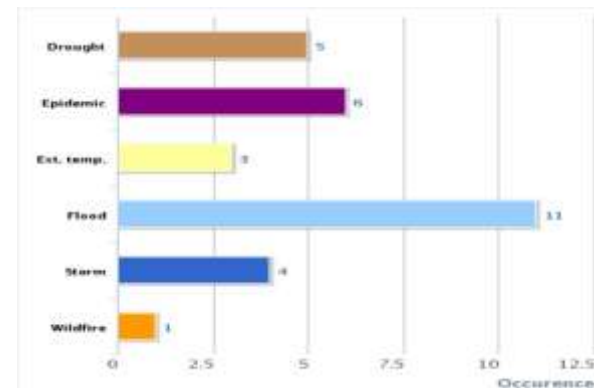
No of people affected: 1,280,551

Average affected per year: 41,308

Economic Damage (US\$ X 1,000): 119,507

Economic Damage per year (US\$ X 1,000): 3,855

Percentage of reported people killed by disaster type



3. Cost of Living in Paraguay

Cost of Living in Asuncion, Paraguay:

3.1 Restaurants

	Avg.
Meal, Inexpensive Restaurant	3.76 \$
Meal for 2, Mid-range Restaurant, Three-course	22.68 \$
Combo Meal at McDonalds or Similar	5.75 \$
Domestic Beer (0.5 liter draught)	1.50 \$
Imported Beer (0.33 liter bottle)	2.25 \$
Cappuccino (regular)	1.60 \$
Coke/Pepsi (0.33 liter bottle)	1.03 \$
Water (0.33 liter bottle)	0.67 \$

3.2 Markets

	Avg.
Milk (regular), 1 liter	1.22 \$
Eggs (12)	1.77 \$
Chicken Breasts (Boneless, Skinless), (1kg)	3.88 \$
Apples (1kg)	3.50 \$
Water (1.5 liter bottle)	0.91 \$
Bottle of Wine (Mid-Range)	3.45 \$
Domestic Beer (0.5 liter bottle)	0.70 \$
Imported Beer (0.33 liter bottle)	2.50 \$
Pack of Cigarettes (Marlboro)	1.50 \$

3. Cost of Living in Paraguay...continue

3.3 Transportation

	Avg.
One-way Ticket (local transport)	0.45 \$
Monthly Pass	22.00 \$
Taxi Start (Normal Tariff)	1.25 \$
Taxi 1km (Normal Tariff)	1.30 \$
Gasoline (1 liter)	1.51 \$
Volkswagen Golf 1.4 90 KW Trendline (Or Equivalent New Car)	16,666.67 \$

3.4 Utilities (Monthly)

	Avg.
Basic (Electricity, Gas, Water, Garbage) for 85m2 Apartment	85.00 \$
1 min. of Prepaid Mobile Tariff Local (No Discounts or Plans)	0.30 \$
Internet (6 Mbps, Unlimited Data, Cable/ADSL)	102.50 \$

3.5 Rent Per Month

	Avg.
Apartment (1 bedroom) in City Centre	216.25 \$
Apartment (1 bedroom) Outside of Centre	125.00 \$
Apartment (3 bedrooms) in City Centre	612.50 \$
Apartment (3 bedrooms) Outside of Centre	297.50 \$

3. Cost of Living in Paraguay...continue

3.6 Buy Apartment Price

	Avg.
Price per Square Meter to Buy Apartment in City Centre	1,030.00 \$
Price per Square Meter to Buy Apartment Outside of Centre	775.00 \$

3.7 Salaries And Financing

	Avg.
Median Monthly Disposable Salary (After Tax)	477.27 \$
Mortgage Interest Rate in Percentages (%), Yearly	12.33

3.8 Others cost :

Cost of a big Mac= \$ 1.44

Cost of large pizza : It's around USD 7

Petrol prices in Paraguay : Unleaded (in Euro) : 1.18 ; Diesel (in Euro) : 0.93

Health insurance: Depending on your age and coverage needs prices can range between USD \$60 to \$120 per month.

Cost of main entree at fine dining restaurant in Paraguay : USD \$7 to \$15

4. Paraguay -Cultural Aspect

4.1 Languages spoken in Paraguay:

The Republic of Paraguay is a mostly bilingual country, where both Spanish, an Indo-European language, and Guaraní, an indigenous language of the Tupian family, have official status.

- a. Spanish is spoken by about 87 percent of the population, while Guaraní is spoken by more than 90 percent, with about 4,650,000 speakers.
- b. 52% of rural Paraguayans are monolingual in Guaraní.
- c. Other languages : Aché language , Ayoreo language , Chamacoco language ,Iyo'wujwa Chorote language , Guana language , Lengua language .

4.2 Religious backgrounds of general population in Paraguay :

According to the 2002 census,

- a. The population of Roman Catholic : 89.9%
- b. The population of evangelical Christian : 6.2%
- c. The population of other Christian : 1.1%
- d. The population that practice indigenous religions. : 0.6%

4. Paraguay -Cultural Aspect...continue

4.3 Ethnic divisions in Paraguay

Ethnic groups: Paraguayan people of Ukrainian descent

Mestizo (mixed Spanish and Amerindian) : 95%

Other : 5%

4.4 Notable differences from Western culture :

- a. In Paraguay, drinks are a free-for-all to be shared with your mother, your best friend, your neighbor, and that random guy walking down the street.
- b. At restaurants it is common to have one glass for all of your friends to share a coke or beer, each taking sips from the pot. In the United States, Americans have a- shall we say, *germ problem*. It would be unthinkable- even downright rude- to walk into a restaurant and be given one glass to share with the table.
- c. Paraguayans believe that if you drink tereré and then afterwards eat watermelon, you will die. While this concept is silly by American standards.

5. Legal and Political Stability

5.1 Style of government (democratic, communist, etc.)

Government - Unitary presidential Constitutional republic

President - Fernando Lugo

Vice President - Federico Franco

5.2 Current leader and leadership ideology

President - Fernando Lugo

Assumed office – Since 15 August 2008

Political party - Patriotic Alliance for Change

5.3 Past and historical events, notable instances of instability

Historical Events

1537-08-15 - Asunción, Paraguay, is founded.

1617-12-16 - Spanish viceroy Hernando Arias de Saavedra founds provinces Rio de la Plata (Argentina)/Guaira (Paraguay)

1811-05-14 - Paraguay gains independence from Spain (Natl Day)

1866-03-01 - Paraguayan canoes sink 2 Brazilian ironclads on Rio Parana

1866-10-22 - Paraguay: Battle of Curupaytí against Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay.

1869-08-16 - Battle of Acosta Ñu: A Paraguay battalion made up of children is massacred by the Brazilian Army during the War of the Triple Alliance.

1917-09-20 - Paraguay becomes a signatory to the Buenos Aires copyright treaty.

5. Legal and Political Stability-continue...

5.3 Past and historical events, notable instances of instability .continue ..

1930-09-29 - Boquerón battle ends Paraguay border dispute

1933-05-10 - Paraguay declares war on Bolivia

1933-12-20 - Bolivia & Paraguay sign weapon cease fire

1935-06-12 - Weapons pact ends 3 year war of Gran Chaco (Bolivia vs Paraguay)

1935-06-14 - Chaco War between Bolivia & Paraguay ends

1945-02-14 - Peru, Paraguay, Chile & Ecuador joins UN

1947-05-07 - Paraguayan government unleashes contra revolt

1954-05-05 - Military coup by general Alfredo Stroessner in Paraguay

1954-08-15 - Alfredo Stroessner names himself president of Paraguay

1959-05-30 - Pres Stroessner disbands Paraguay's parliament

1988-02-14 - Alfredo Stroessner re-elected president of Paraguay

1989-02-03 - Military coup overthrows Alfredo Stroessner, dictator of Paraguay

1991-12-01 - Colorado party wins Paraguay parliamentary election

1993-05-09 - Paraguay holds its 1st pres & parliamentary elections in 50 years

1999-03-23 - Gunmen assassinate Paraguay's Vice President Luis María Argaña.

2004-08-01 - A supermarket fire kills 396 people and injures 500 in Asunción, Paraguay.

5. Legal and Political Stability-continue...

5.4 Current allies, enemies

Paraguay's allies

The United States (how improbable but true)

Taiwan (even more improbable but true)

Trade alliance:

Exports partners: Brazil 34.2%, Uruguay 19.6%, Switzerland 7.8%, Argentina 5.3% (2003)

Imports partners: Brazil 32.5%, Argentina 21.6%, China 12.7% (2003)

Historical enemies: (engaged in war or conflicts in past) : Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia

5.5 Transparency international and other ranking of Paraguay

- a. Global Peace Index: 73 out of 144
- b. Human Development Index : 101 out of 182
- c. Corruption Perceptions Index : 154 out of 180
- d. Global Competitiveness Report: 124 out of 133

6. Art, Music, Social Scene in Paraguay

6.1 : The music of Paraguay : The Paraguayan polka combines ternary and binary rhythms, whereas the European only uses binary. The most famous style of music is the Guaranía .

- a. Instruments : The Spanish guitar and European harp are among the most popular instruments.
- b. Rock : Several world-popular genres of music, such as rock are fairly new in the Paraguayan music scene.
- c. Classical music : The main exponents are Agustín Barrios Mangoré, José Asunción Flores and Juan Carlos Moreno

6.2 The Most Popular Festivals and Events in Paraguay :

- a. Verbena de San Juan- This traditional festival is part religious, part cultural, and part bizarre, with events such as walking on hot embers taking centre stage.
- b. Día de San Juan- Another annual festival which continues to be happening for decades takes a more light-hearted look at Saint John with music .
- c. Nanduti Festival- This traditional folk festival in Itaugua showcases the regional art, crafts, food and music
- d. Encuentro Internacional de Coros- One of Paraguay's several performance arts festivals is the annual choir festival held in Encarnación .

6. Art, Music, Social Scene in Paraguay-continue...

6.3 Top musical events, performance locations in Paraguay :

- a. Asunción International Jazz Festival : *Sep 2012 (annual)* Ignacio A Pane
Municipal Theatre, Asunción
- b. International Festival of Film, Art & Culture : *Sep - Oct 2012 (annual)*
Villamorra Cinecenter, Asunción
- c. Asunción International Baroque Music Festival : *Apr 2013 (various dates)*
Ignacio A Pane Municipal Theatre, Asunción

6.4 List of musicians for: Paraguay

Normita - Piano Player

Raquel Lebron (REAL NAME) - Harp Player

Aldo & Margarita (REAL NAME) - Instrumental & Vocal Duo

Eduard Klassen - Harpist and Speaker

6.5 Notable music dealers in Paraguay : MUSIC HALL , Tentaciones , Music world ,
ParaguayanHarps.com

6. Art, Music, Social Scene in Paraguay-continue...

6.6 Art gallery locations in Paraguay

- a. Cultural Museum El Cabildo – Centro Cultural de la Republica
- b. Museo Guido Boggiani – an Anthropological, Archaeological and Ethnographical Museum
- c. Museo Etnográfico Dr. Andrés Barbero
- d. Asunción's Outdoor Museum of Murals

6.7 Known local artists:

Edith Jiménez - was a distinguished Paraguayan plastic artist.

Paraguayan painters- Livio Abramo , Olga Blinder , Edith Jiménez

Paraguayan sculptors- Olga Blinder , Hermann Guggiari , Jenaro Pindú

6.8 Expat community associations in Paraguay

Asunción Expat Community for Asunción Expats -

<http://www.internations.org/asuncion-expats>

Expatechange.com:

<http://www.expatechange.com/liveabroad.cfm?networkid=157>

Gosouthexpat.com :

<http://www.gosouthexpat.com/facts-about-paraguay.html>

7. Natural Environment and Outdoor Activities in Paraguay

7.1 Parks and outdoor facilities in Paraguay:

- a. **Children's Activities:** For children, this translates into very little to do. There is a small zoo in the capital, Asuncion, as well as a couple of decent national parks around the country
- b. **Botanical and Zoological Gardens :**The government has done a lot of work on these gardens in recent years, and the park is now a pleasant place to spend an afternoon in the capital. There are plenty of plants, and a small zoo.
- c. **San Bernadino :**This holiday resort town situated on the shores of Lake Ypacarai is Just 47kms from the capital, Asuncion.
- d. **Ybycui National Park :**This is one of Paraguay's most popular national parks .
- e. **Sports :**Paraguay is still at the beginning stages of developing itself into a tourist Destination and as such has little to offer in the way of organized outdoor activities.
- f. **Dining :** The cuisine in Paraguay is similar to that found in other South American countries. The small cafés and bars mainly sell fast food like fried or grilled snacks that can be made and eaten quickly.
- g. **Shopping :** Shopping is not a major attraction in Paraguay. In Asuncion, shopping falls under two distinct categories: electronics and handicrafts. The prices for both of these contrasting products are among the lowest in all of South America.

7. Natural Environment and Outdoor Activities in Paraguay- continue...

7.2 Outdoor sights in Paraguay:

- a. Parque Nacional Cerro Corá : This national park is now etched onto the map as one of Paraguay's treasures.
- b. Parque Nacional Cerro Corá : Now etched onto the map as one of Paraguay's treasures, this national park was established in 1990 to combat deforestation
- c. Parque Nacional Médeanos del Chaco : Like every national park in Paraguay, this one is breathtaking and well worth the visit.
- d. Parque Nacional Defensores del Chaco :Defensores del Chaco is a wooded alluvial plain; Cerro León is its greatest landmark. The dense thorn forest harbors large cats such as jaguars, pumas and ocelots and explore the park as part of a guided tour, which is best arranged from Asunción.

7.3 Geological characteristics in Paraguay

- a. Paraguay lies geologically at the borderzone between several cratons being most of the country covered by Tertiary sediments and thick regolith.
- b. Due to thick Tertiary sediment and regolith development few outcrops are available in Paraguay

7. Natural Environment and Outdoor Activities in Paraguay- continue...

7.3 Geological characteristics in Paraguay :continue ...

c. The geological processes that have shaped Paraguay's bedrock and sedimentary basins are diverse including rifting, marine sedimentation ,meta morphism, eruption of flood basalts and alkaline potassic volcanism.

7.4 Environmental characteristics in Paraguay :

- a. Nearly all forests are privately owned and little was done to develop a national forest policy until the establishment in 1973 of the National Forest Service.
- b. Paraguay's forests are currently threatened by the expansion of agriculture.
- c. The absence of trees contributes to the loss of soil through erosion.
- d. The nation has 94 cu km of renewable water resources with 78% used to support farming and 7% is used for industrial purposes.
- e. In 2001 there were 10 endangered mammal species, 26 endangered bird species, and 38 endangered plant species.

7.5 Environmental issues, pollution, dangers in Paraguay :

Deforestation; water pollution; Inadequate means for waste disposal pose health risks for many urban residents Loss of wetlands.

7. Natural Environment and Outdoor Activities in Paraguay- continue...

7.6. Popular outdoor activities and locations in Paraguay

- a. Adventure tourism in Eco Reserva Mbatoví :** Near to Asunción, this well organized wildlife reserve specializes in activities to get the adrenalin flowing.
- b. Catch a football game :**With several Paraguayans playing in the Premiership, A live game is a spectacular experience, although a little hairy, so go with a local.
- c. Chololo holiday centre :** Rent a bungalow in the holiday centre of Chololo, 87km (54 miles) from the capital.
- d. Ciudad del Este waterfalls :** Prepare to see the breathtaking waterfalls in Ciudad del Este, 326km (204 miles) east of the capital.
- e. Cruise the Paraguay River :**Spend a few days travelling the Rio Paraguay, through the Pantanal wetlands, spotting wildlife and learning about the country's bizarre history.
- f. Go fishing in Villa Florida :** Villa Florida, the country's southernmost city (160 km from Asunción) and a popular destination.
- g. Ride with the ranchers :**There are dozens of estancias around the country where visitors can get a taste of rural life, ride with the cowboys,

8. Comforts, Conveniences and Amenities

8.1 Entertainment facilities in Paraguay

Entertainment in Paraguay – night life

- a. Britannia Pub - Cerro Corá 851 City Center
- b. Cinecenter del Sol – Cinema
- c. Mouse Cantina – Club

Entertainment activities in Paraguay

- a. Multilingual Tours, Fransisco Camacho -An excellent multilingual guide. It's worth considering if you're short of time. Can help with accommodation if required.
- b. Bird-watching Trips, Guyra Paraguay : Organizes monthly bird-watching trips with English-speaking guides.

8.2 Shopping in Paraguay:

- 1. Folklore :. It's the place to go for ñandutí (lace), leather goods and tereré cups.
- 2. Mercado : Soak up the spectacle of this open-air market, a great place for souvenirs.

8. Comforts, Conveniences and Amenities – continue ...

8.2 Shopping in Paraguay: continue ...

3. Mariscal Lopez : On Sundays it's best to head to one of the large shopping centers such as Mariscal Lopez or Shopping del Sol ,
4. Open-air Market : Stocked with ao po'i or lienzo (loose-weave cotton) garments and other indigenous crafts.
5. Rochester Camera Shop :Has an impressive selection of cameras and accessories and offers a one-hour film-processing service.

9. Proximity and Access to Paraguay

9.1 Getting there & away

a. Get in

Entry Requirements :Most European citizens (EU) don't need visas to visit Paraguay. However US, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand citizens do need visas.

b. **By plane** :Flights go out from other South American airports to Asuncion on a fairly regular basis. There are also two daily flights from São Paulo to Ciudad del Este.

Currently there are no direct flights from the United States to any city in Paraguay.

c. **By train** :Currently, there is no train service available to and from Paraguay.

d. **By bus** : Bus service is available to and from a wide range of South American cities. You can take a bus from Santiago, Chile; Sao Paulo, Brazil; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Cordoba, Argentina; Santa Cruz .

e. **By boat** : A boat travels up the Paraguay River from Asuncion stopping at many ports to the north of the border with Brazil.

9.2 Entering the country: From the USA

American Airlines is the only US carrier serving Paraguay, flying from Miami via Sao Paulo.

Fare and duration depend on date of flying, number of stops etc. So prices are tentative.

9. Proximity and Access to Paraguay- continue ...

9.2 Entering the country: From the USA – continue...

From Miami To Asuncion

Round trip air fare: USD 931 (min) (Duration 2 stops : 18hr 1min) to USD 1195

Indirect route :

Miami, FL, Miami International Apt (MIA) — Sao Paulo, Brazil, Sao Paulo Guarulhos (GRU)

Average round trip fare :

One top : USD 1053 to USD 1730 (Max)

10. Economic Data and Growth Trends- Paraguay

10.1 : Economy of Paraguay :

- a. Paraguay has a market economy characterized by a large informal sector. Agriculture dominates the economy,
- b. Economic growth in the post-World War II period occurred in the context of political stability characterized by authoritarian rule and patronage politics.
- c. The Paraguayan economic miracle of the 1970s came to a halt in 1982 because of the completion of construction at Itaipú
- d. The economy recovered in 1984 and 1985, stagnated in 1986, and continued to Expand in 1987 and 1988. Despite its rapid growth.
- e. Paraguay faced significant obstacles to future economic development, it displayed extraordinary potential.
- f. The process of opening up the eastern border region to economic activity and continued agricultural expansion was expected to effect rapid changes in once-isolated Paraguay.
- g. Future of Paraguay : Future of Paraguay depends a lot on how the country improves its infrastructure and judicial system. Oil and gas exploration has attracted finance from UK and will prove beneficial for Paraguay's economy.

10. Economic Data and Growth Trends- Paraguay-continue...

10.2 Paraguay GDP - real growth rate – Latest data and trends

GDP - real growth rate: 15.3% (2010 est.)

-3.8% (2009 est.)

5.8% (2008 est.)

Other data :

GDP (purchasing power parity): \$30.9 billion (2005 est.)

GDP (official exchange rate): \$7.586 billion (2005 est.)

GDP - real growth rate: 3.3% (2005 est.)

GDP - per capita: purchasing power parity - \$4,900 (2005 est.)

Labor force: 2.68 million (2005 est.)

Labor force - by occupation: agriculture 45%

Unemployment rate: 16% (2005 est.)

Agriculture - products: cotton, sugarcane, soybeans, corn, wheat, tobacco, cassava (tapioca), fruits, vegetables; beef, pork, eggs, milk; timber

Industries: sugar, cement, textiles, beverages, wood products, steel, metallurgic, electric power

10. Economic Data and Growth Trends- Paraguay-continue...

Current account balance: \$-170 million (2005 est.)

Exports: \$3.13 billion f.o.b. (2005 est.)

Exports - partners: Uruguay 27.8%, Brazil 19.2%, Argentina 6.3%, Switzerland 4.1% (2004)

Imports: \$3.832 billion f.o.b. (2005 est.)

Imports - partners: Brazil 30.9%, Argentina 23.3%, China 16.6%, US 4% (2004)

Reserves of foreign exchange and gold: \$1.293 billion (2005 est.)

Debt - external: \$3.535 billion (2005 est.)

11. Investment and Business Opportunities in Paraguay

11.1 Real Estate Opportunities

Some investors are also choosing to invest in farmland in Paraguay.

“Fifty percent of all farmland buyers are from neighboring [countries],” said Peer Voss, owner of www.ventacamposparaguay.com. “These are professional farmers who know best how to evaluate [such real estate] and they see the best price and value in Paraguay.”

a. Residential Real Estate in Paraguay

Residential prices are holding steady despite the global financial crisis, according to Voss. Compared to other countries in the region, the property prices in Paraguay are a bargain. “Prices have risen a little [over the years] but are still very good,” said Forrest.

b. Farmland Real Estate in Paraguay

Farmland property prices have fallen by about 20 percent since peaking in mid 2008, according to Voss. The market is has yet to recover to 2008 levels but prices are now steady.

c. Buying Property in Paraguay : Paraguay has no restrictions when it comes to foreigners Buying property in the country. “Foreigners are treated like locals,” said Voss.

11. Investment and Business Opportunities in Paraguay- continue..

11.1 Real Estate Opportunities – continue..

d. Looking Ahead

The residential market should remain steady unless something dramatic happens in the world economy. Good farmland is a limited resource. “Developed farmland should - inflation adjusted - rise annually by 5 percent,” said Voss.

11.2 Opportunities to open businesses in certain industries

a. The most important component of the Paraguayan economy is the farming sector, which contributed 27% to GDP in 2006.

b. Paraguay’s economy (GDP) grew 5,8% in 2008, fastest growing sector being agriculture with 10,5% growth

c. Services :The services sector made up nearly 50 percent of Paraguay’s gross domestic product in 2004 and employed about 19 percent of Paraguay’s working population.

d. The pharmaceutical industry :It is quickly supplanting foreign suppliers in meeting the country’s drug needs. Paraguayan companies now meet 70 percent of domestic consumption and also have begun exporting drugs.

11.3 BUSINESS IN PARAGUAY LEGAL ASPECTS

a. Tax Reform : Paraguay has recently experienced thorough tax reform. The reform has simplified the taxation system, lowering taxes and replacing a great number of outdated and complicated taxes

b. Liberal policies : Paraguay is also very attractive as a personal tax haven, due to the fact that it has no income taxes on foreign source income. It is a relatively simple process to acquire formal residency as a foreigner

c. Regional integration : Since 1995, a free trade zone and common market has been established between Paraguay, Uruguay, Argentina and Brazil named MERCOSUR.

12. Security and Health Care in Paraguay

12.1 Primary hospitals and medical clinics in Paraguay

List of hospitals in Paraguay - Asuncion

Centro Materno Infantil

Centro Médico Bautista

Centro Medico La Costa

Centro Médico Pro-Med

Cruz Roja Paraguaya

Hospital Adjunto de la UNA

Hospital Barrio Obrero

Hospital Central de las FF.AA.

Hospital de Clínicas

Hospital de Tuberculosis

Hospital Francés

Hospitals in Ciudad del Este :

Hospital Itaipú

Hospital Luz y Vida

Hospital Regional de Ciudad del Este

12. Security and Health Care in Paraguay- continue...

12.2 Asuncion Medical Assistance

Asuncion, Paraguay Doctors

1. Raul Breuer :Allergist ; Frutos Pane #397 c/Jose Berges ; Phone: (595-21) 211-536
2. Juan Carlos Sisul ; Allergist ;Juan de Salazar # 1708 c/ Rca.Dominicana
Phone: (595-21) 213-856 205-586
3. Gustavo Diaz-Gill :Biochemist ;DIAZ GILL LAB ;Eligio Ayala 1384
Phone: (595-21) 201-136 ;221-560/5 Fax: 214-707

12.3 Medical transportation:

1. Sasa : Phone: (595-21) 610-629 ; Avda. Rca. Argentina # 201 c/ Boggiani.
They have two units of ICU, two for intermediate care.
Two units for low risk and two units for outpatient consult.
2. Eme : Phone: (595-21) 206-660 205-900 210-632 210-635
Avda. Espana # 1569 c/ Ayala Velasquez ; They have 4 units for ICU and intermediate care, with a physician and the driver who is a medic.
3. Gema : Phone: (595-21) 600-274 :Mcal. Lopez #4138 c/ San Martin
They have 3 units for ICU, two paramedics and one physician. Two for intermediate care

12. Security and Health Care in Paraguay- continue...

12.4 Pharmacy or Lab:

1. Diaz Gill Lab : Dr. Gustavo DIAZ-GILL ;Eligio Ayala 1384

Phone: (595-21) 201-136 ;221-560/5 Fax: 214-707

2. Meyer Lab: Dra. Maria Teresa MEYER ;Coronel Irrazabal 291 c/ 25 de Mayo

Phone: (595-21) 208-080 222-878

12.5 Emergency phone numbers in Paraguay :

U.S. Embassy Asuncion contact information:

Tel: 011-595 21-213-715

After-hours 011-595 21-213-715 extension 2210

Fax: 595-21-228-603

E-mail: ParaguayConsular@state.gov

Emergencies (Asunción): 911 Gema Ambulances: 00 595 21 600 274 / 664 777 / 664 778

Police (Asuncion): 00 595 21 445 858 / 420 035 / 420 042 / 498 777

12. Security and Health Care in Paraguay- continue...

12.6 Health food stores in Paraguay

Health Food, Vegetarian & Vegan Restaurants in Asuncion

1. Elefante Blanco : Avenida Peron casi Avenida Felix Bogado 334-771
Vegan-friendly, Ovo, Lacto, Paraguayan, Western, Raw
2. La Vida Verde : 15 de Agosto (at Palma 634) 446-611
Vegan-friendly, Ovo, Chinese, Buffet
3. Camino Verde : Mcal Lopez Shopping (at Charles de Gaulle) 0981-736097
Carries combinations of frozen products at affordable prices. Open only Tuesday.
4. Panaderia China Mayor Felitas y Jose Asuncion Flores +595-21-221625

12.7 Information Massage, homeopathic, reiki : In Paraguay, mostly hotels have spa and message centers

Asuncion Hotels with Spa and Massage

Aparthotel Porta Westfalica

Cecilia Hotel

Crowne Plaza Asuncion Hotel

Excelsior Hotel

Others : Keller Masaje Express

13. Indulgence Factor – Available elegance and luxury

13.1 Finest retailers in Paraguay

1. JOYERIA Y RELOJERIA LUXOR S.A. : Shopping del Sol, Local 210
Avda. Aviadores del Chaco esq. Prof. Delia González y Juan XXIII
ASUNCIÓN Phone : +595 21 611 716

2. Shopping Vendome : Watches ;Estrella 702
Asunción, Paraguay (595-21) ;440-482

3. Vendome Sol : Watches ;Aviadores Del Chaco Y Profesores Gonzalez
Asunción, Paraguay (595-21) 611-776

Other categories: JEWELRY

4. Clementina : Teniente Héctor Vera 1354, Asuncion, Paraguay 021621780

5. Joyería "Chichita" : Comandante Peralta, Luque, Paraguay

6. Joyeria G&A : Gral Aquino Nº 308, Luque, Paraguay 0654168

7. Norma Marachi : Velazquez 777, Asuncion,
Paraguay <http://www.normamarachi.com.py/>

13. Indulgence Factor – Available elegance and luxury- continue...

13.2 Spa in Paraguay

Asuncion Hotels with Spa and Massage

- Aparthotel Porta Westfalica
- Cecilia Hotel
- Crowne Plaza Asuncion Hotel

2. Keller Masaje Express

Express Massage Service in ergonomic chairs in shoppingmalls or on your company for a minimal cost, free consultation without any obligation.

Facundo Machaín 6237 /c R.I.2 Ytororo - Villa Aurelia - Asunción –Paraguay

Tell - 021 537 277

Cell - 0961 65 67 96

0961 65 67 99

14. Paraguay -Travel Tips

14.1 Travel Tips

a. Getting Around By Road

Traffic drives on the right. Roads serving the main centers are in good condition and there is an ongoing program to upgrade the major routes. Potholes are a hazard, especially in Asunción.

b. Bus: Buses are the most popular way to get around Paraguay. They run frequently to most destinations in the country and are very inexpensive, relatively fast and mostly reliable.

c. Car : Cars can be rented at the airport or through tourist agencies in the city. You will need a national driving license or International Driving Permit to hire a car.

d. Taxi : The yellow Mercedes taxis operated by APTA are the best way to get around Asuncion. They are easy to find at one of the taxi stands, in front of hotels or simply cruising around the streets.

e. Lake : *Passenger boats regularly ply the waters of the Paraguay River from Asuncion to a number of river towns within the country. This can be a great way to see Paraguay from a unique perspective.*

14. Paraguay -Travel Tips- continue...

f. Getting Around Towns and Cities

Bus and minibus services are provided by private companies in Asunción, with two-zone fares collected by conductors. The government-operated tramway runs on two routes.

14.2 Bus stops, transportation service numbers

- a. Buses are ubiquitous, cheap and an experience in themselves
- b. They go more or less everywhere in the city - destinations are displayed on boards on the front window
- c. Some useful bus routes: Centre (Oliva) to Shopping del Sol: 28, 30 Centre to Shopping Mariscal Lopez/Villa Morra: 18, 26, 28, 30.2 (from Oliva), 56 (from Haedo) Centre (Oliva) to the Botanical Gardens: 1, 13 Centre (Oliva) to the Bus Terminal: 8, 36 Centre (Haedo) to Mercado 4: 2, 21, 25, 27, 29, 133 Centre (Oliva) to the airport: 30A

14.3 Taxi services :

- a. Taxis are also available and reasonably inexpensive
- b. A 30% surcharge is added on late at night (after around 10PM) and on Sundays.
- c. Tipping isn't expected. Make sure that drivers use the meter, or arrange a fare beforehand.
- d. **From the Airport** taxis in front of the terminal charge a flat, non-negotiable rate of 100,000 Gs to the centre.

15. Paraguay – Some important resources

Paraguay Housing

<http://housing.justlanded.com/en/Paraguay/1>

http://www.homesonsale.co.uk/paraguay-b316_0-en.html

<http://www.paraguayatyourservice.com>

Paraguay Expatriate Resources

<http://expatparaguay.blogspot.in/>

<http://www.internations.org/paraguay-expats>

<http://www.paraguayatyourservice.com>

http://www.alloexpat.com/paraguay_expats_forum/

Paraguay Relocation Companies

<http://www.paraguayatyourservice.com>

Paraguay Translation Services

<http://www.daytranslations.com/>

<http://www.diazasociados.com/eng/index.html>

<http://www.bbt-translations.com/spanish-translation/spanish-birth-certificate-translation-paraguay.htm>

<http://www.paraguayatyourservice.com>

15. Paraguay – Some important resources- continue...

Paraguay Language Schools

<http://www.spanishcourses.info/countries3/paraguay-aprender-espanol-175-en.htm>

http://www.espanol.com/Paraguay/paraguay_school_list.htm

<http://tesol1.net/ESL-schools-in-Paraguay>

Paraguay Immigration Specialists

<http://www.hg.org/law-firms/Immigration/Paraguay.html>

<http://www.martindale.com/immigration/c-paraguay/all-lawyers.htm>

Paraguay Law Firms

<http://www.paraguayatyourservice.com>

Paraguay Moving Companies

<http://moverworldwide.com/movers/paraguay.htm>

<http://www.intlmovers.com/Paraguay.html>

<http://www.msccparaguay.com/>

15. Paraguay – Some important resources- continue...

Paraguay Real Estate

<http://www.paraguayatyourservice.com>

Paraguay Serviced Apartments

<http://www.paraguayatyourservice.com>

Paraguay Apartments

http://www.kugli.com/Real_Estate/subcat/Apartments_for_Sale-44/country/Paraguay-PY/

http://rew1.com/en/estate/Paraguay/Sale_Purchase_Rent_Exchange/Real%20Estate/

Paraguay Executive Apartments :

<http://www.corporate-furnished-apartments.com/Paraguay/>

Paraguay Hotels

<http://www.tripadvisor.in/Hotels-g294079-Paraguay-Hotels.html>

<http://www.hotelcordoba.com.py/?gclid=CLXn-c25k7ACFU966wodMUQEnA>

http://travel.yahoo.com/p-hotel-191502074-paraguay_hotels-i

15. Paraguay – Some important resources- continue...

Paraguay Activities

<http://www.paraguayatyourservice.com>

Paraguay Flights and Airlines

http://www.tripadvisor.com/Flights-g294079-Paraguay-Cheap_Discount_Airfares.html

<http://www.2camels.com/cheap-flights/paraguay.php>

http://flights.expedia.com/Flights_Destinations_StateCountrySCPRY.htm

Paraguay Car Rental

<http://www.easyterra.com/car-rental-paraguay.html>

<http://www.national.com.py/>

<http://www.hotelinternacional.com.py/>

<http://paraguay.airport-car-hire.net/>

Paraguay Tours

<http://www.paraguayatyourservice.com>