



General	151
Buoyage System	151
Currency	151
Government	151
Holidays	152
Industries	152
Languages	152
Time Zone	152
U.S. Embassy	152

Currency

The official unit of currency is the guarani, consisting of 100 centimos.

Government

General

Paraguay, located in the central part of South America, is bounded on the E and NE by Brazil; on the SE, S, and SW by Argentina; and on the NW by Bolivia.

The Chaco Boreal region, located W of the Rio Paraguay, is a uniformly flat area with swampy lowlands near the river. In other parts, it is covered with either dense jungle growth, isolated forests, or thorny scrub. Grassy plains and wooded hills are located in an area to the E of the river.

The climate is mostly tropical with an abundant rainfall. There is only a short dry season, from July to September, when temperatures are lowest. The far W part of the country is semi-arid.

Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region B) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.



Flag of Paraguay

The commander-in-chief of the army assumed the presidency of the country after a military coup in 1954, but was deposed by another coup in 1989.

In 1992, a new constitution provided for an elected President, serving a non-renewable 5-year term as head of state, and a Parliament. The latter consists of an 80-member elected Chamber of Deputies, and an elected 45-member Senate; members of both chambers of Parliament serve 5-year terms.

The country is divided into 17 departments and the capital. The legal system is based on Argentine codes, Roman law, and French codes.

The capital is Asuncion.

Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

New Year's Day	January 1
Good Friday	Varies
Labor Day	May 1
Independence Days	May 14-15
Corpus Christi	June 12
Founding of Asuncion	August 15
Day of the Race	October 12
All Saints Day	November 1
Our Lady of Caacupe	December 8
Christmas Day	December 25

Industries

The major industries are livestock raising and forestry. Other industries are meat packing, oilseed crushing, textiles, saw-mills, cement, tanneries, cigarettes, tourism, the production of vegetable oils and light consumer goods.

The principal crops include cotton, maize, tobacco, soy-beans, rice, coffee, sugarcane, illicit cannabis, cassava, and tea.

Languages

The official language is Spanish. However, Guarani, a native Indian language, is widely spoken.

Time Zone

The Time Zone description is QUEBEC (+4). Daylight Savings Time (PAPA (+3)) is maintained from the first Sunday in September until the first Sunday in April of the following year.

World Time Zone Chart
<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/ref/pdf/802801.pdf>

U.S. Embassy

The U.S. Embassy is situated at 1776 Avenida Mariscal Lopez, Asuncion.

The mailing addresses are, as follows:

1. International mail—
Casilla Postal 402
Asuncion
2. Diplomatic pouch—
Unit 4711
APO AA 34036-0001

U. S. Embassy Paraguay Home Page
<http://www.usembparaguay.gov.py>