



# LINK TO LATAM



## THE CURRENT SITUATION AND CHALLENGES OF THE MIGRATION SYSTEM 2023



**ANDREA BACIGALUPI**  
Country Director



**JORGE FLORES - GMS T**  
Business Development Manager

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Paraguay is a unique country located in the heart of South America, rich in multiple natural resources.

It has been progressively working to increase its development through the promotion of economic activity, encouraging various agreements and facilities for the reception of international investment.

The country is attentive to the challenges posed by foreign attention, and, among many changes, we can observe the structuring and/or modernization of its migratory structure. This took a step starting in October 2022, when its new legislation (Migration Law No. 6984) came into effect, addressing the needs present in the country.

Today, we can find a country that not only opens its doors to immigration but also admits multiple categories, supporting individuals and businesses wishing to establish themselves in Paraguay.

### What are the most common residency categories in Paraguay?

#### Occasional or Spontaneous Residency:

This is a migratory and labor authorization for individuals intending to carry out work activities for a specified short period (maximum 90 days), extendable for the same period. This process is ideal for companies that need to bring qualified personnel for certain activities, such as technical visits.

One advantage of this process is that although it does not grant a Paraguayan ID card, it is issued on the same day of application to the National Directorate of Migrations (DNM), which under ordinary conditions can be requested and granted on the same day.



## PARAGUAY

Official Name: Paraguay

Area: 406,752 Km2

Major Industries: Agriculture, manufacturing, and energy industry

Capital: Asunción

Population: 7.133.000 inhabitants

Climate: Tropical to subtropical

Currency: Paraguayan Guarani



### Permanent Residency:

This category is granted by the migration agency to those who express their intention to settle in the country indefinitely, provided they meet the requirements set by national legislation.

- **Category Change by Time:**  
All foreigners holding Temporary Residency can access Permanent Residency by expressing their intention to the National Directorate of Migrations 90 days before their status expires in the country.
- **Bilateral Agreement with Uruguay:**  
Exclusive benefit granted to citizens from the Oriental Republic of Uruguay who express their intention to settle in the country indefinitely without the need to obtain Temporary Residency in Paraguay beforehand.
- **Investor Residency (SUACE):**  
Benefit granted to foreigners intending to invest in the country, facilitated by both the National Directorate of Migrations and the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. This facilitates their settlement and company establishment in the country through a special unified process, processed under the Unified System for Opening and Closing of Companies (SAUCE).

### Where can you apply for the different residency categories in Paraguay?

Migration processes in Paraguay can only be obtained within the country, before the National Directorate of Migrations (DNM) in Asunción (except for single-entry consular visas, which require entry authorization to the country). This means that to start the process, one must be physically present in the country and personally go to the migration agency, as well as obtain certain requirements in Paraguay, such as Criminal Records for Foreigners from the National Police in Identifications, Certificate of Records issued by Interpol, among others.

### How long does the process of obtaining a Temporary Residency take?

The process of applying for and obtaining a Temporary Residency has an approximate substantiation time of 90 days. Nonetheless, on the same day of application, the migration agency issues a "Mesa de Entrada Certificate" valid for 90 days, serving as proof that the foreigner has a pending residency process until their request is resolved.

Once the Temporary Residency is approved, the National Directorate of Migrations (DNM) issues the 'Carnet de Admisión Temporal' (Temporary Admission Card), which is the official document proving the acquisition and validity of the granted benefit.

As a result, the individual must go to the Identification Department of the National Police to apply for the Paraguayan ID Card, the official identity document ideal for any procedure, transaction, or registration within the country.

Now, there is an exception for foreigners applying for Permanent Residency for Investors. Due to the expedited analysis process, once applying for this category, the resolution is issued within 30 to 60 days, making its substantiation much faster than other categories.



## Where can you apply for the different residency categories in Paraguay?

In principle, work activities can only be performed once Temporary Residency is obtained at a minimum. However, if there is a need to start work functions in advance, one can apply for Occasional or Spontaneous Residency on the same day as applying for Temporary Residency. This allows the foreigner to be authorized to work while waiting for the positive resolution of their Temporary Residency in the country.

Moreover, having clarified the overall picture of the migration system in Paraguay, we can affirm that, unlike previous years, the National Directorate of Migrations (DNM) and other involved organizations in the country have invested efforts to standardize and execute certain public policies to organize and enhance the migratory situation and quality in Paraguay.

They face certain challenges, and work is already underway to address them, including:

- Implementation of Online Migration Procedures.
- Digitalization of migration processes.
- Implementation of technology in Identity Documents.
- Agreements between agencies to share information internally.
- International agreements to facilitate information and benefits for foreigners in the country.
- Diplomatic activities to encourage and facilitate foreign investment in Paraguay.



## In Summary...

Paraguay is a country that has quietly been working hard to update its institutions to address any migratory needs. Undoubtedly, in the coming years, it will continue to improve its responsiveness, modernization, and increase attention to foreign individuals and investments.

That is why our LARM team in Paraguay is fully prepared, trained, and available to respond to any needs or concerns for those individuals and companies destined for Paraguay. We can not only handle the immigration process but also provide the right solution to their needs, thus providing tranquility, security, and efficient use of resources.

