

# Living Legally in Paraguay: Information for Foreigners

Paraguay is increasingly positioning itself as an attractive destination for foreigners seeking residency, investment opportunities, or new personal and professional perspectives in South America. Below is a clear and updated overview of the legal process required to settle in Paraguay.

## Requirements for Legal Residence in Paraguay

To reside legally in Paraguay, it is first necessary to apply for a residence permit with the National Migration Authority. Subsequently, the Paraguayan ID card for foreigners, issued by the National Police, may be requested.

## Required Documentation

### Category – Document / Requirement

#### **Identity document**

Valid ID card, national ID (DNI), or passport from the country of origin.

#### **Birth certificate**

Apostilled or legalized by the competent authority.

#### **Marital status**

Marriage certificate, divorce decree, or death certificate, if applicable.

#### **Criminal record certificate**

Issued by the country of origin, valid and legalized.

#### **INTERPOL certificate**

Required for applicants aged 14 and older.

#### **Police clearance certificate for foreigners**

Issued by the IT Department of the National Police.

#### **Proof of entry**

Immigration receipt or passport entry stamp.

#### **Sworn statements**

Declaration of legal compliance and intended activity in Paraguay.

## Important Notes

- All foreign documents must be apostilled or legalized.
- Documents in foreign languages require an official translation into Spanish (Portuguese exempt).

- Originals and notarized copies must be submitted.
- Minors under 18 years of age require additional documentation from parents or legal guardians.

## **Paraguayan ID Card for Foreigners**

The Paraguayan ID card for foreigners is an official document issued by the Identification Department of the National Police in accordance with Article 6, Number 11 of Law No. 222/93.

This ID card is required for banking procedures, healthcare services, education, contractual agreements, investments, and other legal and administrative processes in Paraguay.

## **Competent Authorities**

### **National Migration Directorate**

Address: Caballero No. 201, corner of Eligio Ayala, Asunción

Office hours: Monday to Friday, 07:00–14:30

Procedures: Temporary residence permit, permanent residence permit, MERCOSUR residence

### **Identification Department of the National Police**

Main Office: Mcal. Estigarribia & Boggiani, Asunción

San Lorenzo Office: Av. Defensores del Chaco

Office hours: Monday to Friday, 07:00–15:00

Procedure: ID card for foreigners

## **Estimated Processing Time**

The entire process generally takes between 30 and 90 days, depending on the completeness and accuracy of the submitted documentation.

## **Strategic Recommendations**

- Apostille or legalize all documents in the country of origin before traveling.
- Ensure official translations are carried out by certified translators authorized in Paraguay.
- Verify the passport entry stamp.
- Schedule an appointment with the migration authority immediately after completing the documentation file.
- Keep digital copies of all documents for future procedures.

## **Renewal of Residence Permit**

The temporary residence permit may be extended for an additional two-year period or converted into a permanent residence permit, provided the legal requirements are met.

## **Common Mistakes to Avoid**

- Missing apostilles or legalizations.
- Expired or incomplete documents.
- Missing official translations.
- Delayed renewal applications.