

Riskline / Destination Report

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PARAGUAY

Overall risk level

Low Take normal safety precautions	Moderate Take normal safety precautions	Medium Exercise caution	High Reconsider travel	Extreme Defer non-essential travel
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The Overall Risk Level will be determined by the higher of the Security Risk Level and Covid-19 Risk Level.

Security risk level

Low Take normal safety precautions	Moderate Take normal safety precautions	Medium Exercise caution	High Reconsider travel	Extreme Defer non-essential travel
Safe, with few security risks	Generally safe, with some predictable security risks	Not completely safe, but typically presents predictable security risks	Can be dangerous and may present unexpected security risks	Extremely dangerous and presents unpredictable security risks
Travel is possible with an expectation of routine disruptions and delays	Travel is possible with an expectation of routine disruptions and delays	Travel is possible, but there is a potential for disruptions	Travel is possible, but there is a potential for disruptions	Chaotic; travel impossible

Covid-19 risk level

Low Take normal safety precautions	Moderate Take normal safety precautions	Medium Exercise caution	High Reconsider travel	Extreme Defer non-essential travel
Travellers should take normal precautions when travelling to Low Risk locations, which have limited or no restrictions on international travel and domestic activities.	Travellers should take normal precautions when travelling to Moderate Risk locations, which have few restrictions on international travel and limited or no restrictions on domestic activities.	Unvaccinated travellers should exercise caution when travelling to Medium Risk locations, and vaccinated travellers should take normal precautions. These locations may have some restrictions on international travel, but few restrictions on domestic activities.	Unvaccinated travellers should reconsider their need to travel to High Risk locations, and vaccinated travellers should exercise caution. These locations may have severely restricted international travel and partially restricted domestic activities.	Unvaccinated travellers should defer non-essential travel to Extreme Risk locations, and vaccinated travellers should reconsider their travel. These locations may have severely restricted international travel and domestic activities.

Overview

Upcoming Events

There are no upcoming events scheduled

Travel Advisories

● Medium risk: Drug-trafficking and criminal activity in eastern border areas

Exercise caution for travel to the eastern border area in **Amambay, Canindeyú** and **Alto Paraná departments** and the **Triple Frontier** of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay until further notice because of the presence of organised crime gangs and transnational criminal activity.

The border towns of **Pedro Juan Caballero (PJC)** in **Amambay department**, **Ciudad del Este** in **Alto Paraná department** and **Salto del Guairá** in **Canindeyú department**, are major drug-trafficking hubs. Up to 40,000 tonnes of drugs are estimated to move annually through **PJC**, particularly due to its convenient connection with its Brazilian sister-city of Ponta Porã. Two of Brazil's largest criminal outfits, the First Capital Command (Primeiro Comando da Capital, PCC) and Red Command (Comando Vermelho, CV), have a strong presence in the area. Violent clashes between rival crime groups or with security forces are frequent, especially in **PJC**, where officials record between five and 25 drug-related homicides per month – ten times greater than the national average. In 2021, at least a quarter of the country's 525 homicides took place in **Amambay department**. In October 2021, the daughter of the department's governor and niece of the mayor of **PJC** was one of the four people killed in a suspected PCC shooting outside a nightclub the night before municipal elections; the mayor himself was fatally shot by gunmen with alleged links to the PCC in May 2022. In September 2021, the governments of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay announced plans to create a joint financial intelligence unit in the area.

Authorities are on alert for an increase in violence between PCC and Rotela Clan members over territorial control of drug trafficking in **PJC** following several arrests of PCC leaders in 2019. Clashes between PCC and Alderete Clan members have also been reported, including around **Ypejhú, Canindeyú department**, where the latter is based. Deadly clashes between smugglers and security forces are not uncommon, especially since Brazilian authorities launched a security operation along the **Paraguay-Bolivia border** in May 2021. The **Triple Frontier** between Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay's **Alto Paraná department** is a regional hotspot for transnational and international criminal activity including black market smuggling.

For years, the Lebanon-based militant group Hezbollah has used the region, home to a significant Arab community of predominantly Lebanese origin, to launder money, and also plan attacks both internationally and within South America. Instability in Venezuela and stepped-up money-laundering enforcement in Panama and the Caribbean have increased the attractiveness of the region for transnational criminal organizations looking to launder illicit funds. Criminal organisations continue to cross the **Paraná** and **Iguazú rivers** with small boats or use drones or remote-controlled speedboats to smuggle contraband while they have also organised multiple prison escapes and prey on people desperate due to the economic crisis triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

While foreign nationals are unlikely to be the direct target of any criminal activity or violence associated with it, the risk of incidental or bystander injury is possible; in July 2019, a Brazilian national was shot dead in **Capitán Bado, Amambay**. Remain vigilant at all times and avoid poorly lit areas in border towns. Register travel details with local embassies or consulates and consider utilising local reputable guides for travel outside of urban centres.

● **Medium risk:** Departments of San Pedro and Concepción

Exercise caution for travel to **San Pedro** and **Concepción departments** until further notice due to insurgent activity.

The Paraguayan People's Army (EPP) operates in the rural areas of **San Pedro** and **Concepción departments**, and also to a lesser extent in **Amambay, Caaguazú** and **Canindeyú departments**. The approximately 100-strong armed guerrilla group presents a credible regional security threat whose members have staged a series of high-profile kidnappings for ransom as well as attacks on security forces. The Marxist-Leninist and environmentalist group's estimated annual revenue of USD3 million comes mainly from ransom payments and protection services for drug-trafficking groups involved in Paraguay's marijuana production, the largest in South America. Smaller groups of approximately 20 members each known as the Armed Peasant Association (ACA) and Paraguay Army of Marshal López (EML) also operate in these departments. Authorities hold the EPP responsible for the murder of at least 21 soldiers, 13 police officers and 28 civilians since 2008.

The Joint Task Force (FTC), composed of military and police units with the specific mandate to target the EPP, has been unsuccessful in dismantling the guerrilla group due to limited access to resources and the EPP's decentralised and

fragmented structure. Furthermore, the FTC has faced repeated accusations of torture and arbitrary detention. To this end, a joint United States (US) military anti-narcotics exercise was authorised in **San Pedro department's Cerrito** and **Puerto Rosario areas** in 2019. Further joint military training events were scheduled from 2021, and joint anti-narcotics operations were held. At least three Internal Defense Operations Command (CODI) members were killed in an EPP bomb attack on a CODI-FTC convoy in **Santa Rosa de Aguaray, San Pedro**, in July 2021. Clashes between FTC forces and members of the EPP and ACA left at least one EPP and one ACA member dead in **Loreto, Concepción**, in June 2020. In November 2020, security forces killed three EPP militants near **Cerro Guazú Mountain** in **Amambay department**, including one of its alleged founders Lucio Silva; three other EPP fighters, including leader Osvaldo Villalba, were also killed in renewed clashes with the FTC after the militants killed two indigenous people and injured another in the same area in October 2022. In April 2022, at least three soldiers were injured when their vehicle struck an improvised explosive device (IED) planted by suspected EPP members near **Yby Yaú, Concepción**. Earlier, in August 2016, the EPP killed eight FTC soldiers in an ambush in the **Arroyito area**, the deadliest attack in recent years and underscoring the persistent threat of the guerrilla group across rural areas, including the **Pacola area** on the border of **Concepción** and **San Pedro departments**, where multiple attacks and kidnappings have been reported. A 23-year-old youth was kidnapped for ransom from his ranch in **Puentesíño district** of **Concepción** in June 2021, and found dead across the border in Brazil a few days later. In September 2020, former vice president Óscar Denis was kidnapped by EPP militants near the border of **Amambay** and **Concepción departments** in an apparent retaliation for the killing of two Argentine girls by security forces at an EPP camp earlier in the month. The EPP demanded the release of two of its leaders and local food distribution in exchange for Denis's release. In November 2023, Denis's family indicated that they believe he was killed by the EPP approximately 10 days after being kidnapped.

Foreign nationals are not immune to attacks; **Concepción department** has seen several incidents of homicide and kidnappings targeting expatriates and tourists. In July 2019, around 20 unidentified gunmen killed a Brazilian national and set ablaze multiple houses and vehicles during a farm attack in **Iñadui, Amambay**, located 75km (47 miles) from **Pedro Juan Caballero** along the **Paraguay-Brazil border**. Authorities attributed the attack to the EPP, although the attackers reportedly left a pamphlet identifying themselves as the indigenous rights' **Brigada Indígena contra Matones de Estancia**. In November 2018, six EPP members

executed a Brazilian national in a logging camp in **El Ciervo, San Pedro**, and in November 2020 attacked a soybean plantation in **Santa Rosa del Aguaray**, leaving pamphlets containing threats and warnings about deforestation.

Maintain a low profile, vary routines regularly and ensure privacy of travel itineraries. Register travel details with local embassies or consulates and consider contracting a reputable local guide for business-critical purposes.

● **Moderate risk: Outbreak of mosquito-borne viruses in the Americas**

Mosquito-borne virus cases have seen a steep upward trend in the Americas in 2023, and are expected to rise further amid increasing temperatures. Take measures to prevent mosquito bites and ensure vaccine coverage and medication before departure.

Several mosquito-borne viruses (Chikungunya, dengue, malaria, yellow fever, Zika) are endemic to tropical and subtropical regions of **Central** and **South America**, the **Caribbean, Mexico** and the **United States**, and appear in both rural and urban areas, most often during the rainy season, which varies from country to country.

Climate change, deforestation and urbanisation are some of the factors behind the increasing number of outbreaks of mosquito-borne viruses. Mosquitoes thrive under increased precipitation and higher temperatures; outbreaks have increased even in areas of dry weather. Following a two to seven year cycle, El Niño weather phenomenon is developing since June, further increasing the risk of higher temperatures across the region and above-normal rainfall with an increased risk of flooding on the **West Coast** of the **United States, Peru** and **Ecuador**.

Dengue accounts for the largest number of cases in the Americas region, with epidemics occurring every three to five years. In **South America**, dengue is moving further south to countries such as **Bolivia, Peru** and **Paraguay**, with over 2.8 million cases reported in 2022 compared to 1.2 million a year earlier. Since January 2023, over 4.1 million cases have been reported of which over 1.8 million have been confirmed in the Americas, with higher-than-usual numbers of dengue cases reported including in **Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba**, the **Dominican Republic, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Martinique, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay** and **Peru**. Authorities in **Costa Rica, Bolivia** and **Jamaica** have issued emergency alerts due to the situation as of September.

Confirmed cases of chikungunya in the region have also increased from 50,000 in 2022 to over 230,000 in 2023, with an expansion observed beyond historical areas of transmission. **Paraguay** and **Brazil** reported the highest infection rates. Reported cases of Zika virus have remained in a lower level than in 2022, with **Brazil, Bolivia** and **Belize** reporting the highest share of the over 3,200 confirmed cases. While malaria has been nearly or completely eradicated in many countries in the Americas, the region remains vulnerable to outbreaks. **Costa Rica** has reported an ongoing outbreaks of malaria in **Limón, Alajuela** and **Puntarenas provinces**, with over 515 cases reported since April. The impact of the increased transmission will depend on several factors, including country capacities for a coordinated public health response, high mosquito densities due to interrupted vector control activities during the COVID-19 pandemic and the susceptibility to infections, particularly in areas where these viruses are newly circulating.

In 2022, cases of both dengue and chikungunya peaked in May in the southern hemisphere. Transmission rates are expected continue high in the coming months, due to weather conditions favourable for the proliferation of mosquitoes. Such an increase may be followed by a high transmission season in the northern hemisphere, given the susceptible populations and increasing temperatures.

Symptoms and Treatment

Each of these viruses when contracted present their own list of symptoms and require varied treatment plans, whether preventative or reactive.

Viral infections transmitted by the bite of the **Aedes** mosquito include chikungunya, dengue fever, yellow fever and Zika virus. The most common virus transmitted by the bite of the *Anopheles* mosquito is malaria. Both insects are most active during early morning and late afternoon hours, though some species are nocturnal making preventative measures like repellents and mosquitos nets an important strategy.

Cases of Zika virus are usually mild and include symptoms of fever, headaches, conjunctivitis, rash and joint and muscle pain; most cases are asymptomatic. Zika virus may also be transmitted through sexual contact with an infected person and has been linked to microcephaly in unborn children. There is no treatment for Zika virus, beyond rehydration and bed rest.

Initial symptoms of yellow fever include a high fever, chills, vomiting, nausea and backaches/muscle pain, with a risk of potentially fatal complications, including

jaundice, severe haemorrhaging and kidney failure. There is no post-infection treatment for yellow fever, making vaccination against the disease imperative prior to travel.

Symptoms of dengue fever include a high fever, joint pain and headaches, although severe cases may cause significant falls in blood pressure and/or haemorrhaging, which can be fatal. There are no treatments for dengue fever though vaccine research is ongoing.

Symptoms of chikungunya fever include a high fever, joint pain and headaches; the disease is typically non-fatal. In most cases those infected recover after seven to ten days. There are no vaccines or treatments for chikungunya.

Symptoms of malaria include a high fever, joint pain, anaemia, chills and headaches; if left untreated, symptoms can become life-threatening. While pre-departure courses of anti-malarial prophylactics are available, these do not guarantee immunity to malaria. If contracted and caught early, malaria can be treated easily with a range of anti-malarial medications.

Travellers are advised to take measures to prevent mosquito bites such as wearing long sleeves and pants, applying insect repellent to exposed skin and clothing, using a bed net when sleeping in a room that is not screened or air-conditioned. Travellers should ensure they are up-to-date on vaccines before departure, consult medical professionals about use of prophylactics, take precaution with selection of sexual partners and ensure use of protection.

● **Medium risk: Heat wave disruptions across South America**

Exercise caution for travel in multiple South American countries and territories, namely the **Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, Argentina, Brazil** and **Ecuador**, in the medium-term due to health risks and possible travel disruptions from ongoing as well as forecast heat waves and drought.

Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, Argentina and **Brazil** have all experienced record September temperatures, as a result of a heat dome, as a ridge of high pressure builds over an area and stays for days or even weeks, trapping hot air. While heat warnings were issued in multiple **Brazilian states** in September, weather officials indicated that higher than usual temperatures also continued in all five regions of the country in October. Officials in **Brazil, Bolivia** and **Paraguay** issued new

warnings for high temperatures also in November, with over 100 million people under a red heat warning across central **Brazil** as of mid-November. Earlier in August, **Argentina, Bolivia, Chile** and **Paraguay** registered an unseasonal heat wave linked to a stagnant anticyclone, resulting in a suspension of air circulation and temperatures of over 20 degrees Celsius (68 degrees Fahrenheit) higher than typical for the winter season. Prolonged exposure to high temperatures or high humidity levels have been attributed to dozens of heat-related deaths, which was seen across **Mexico** and the **US** in June-July. During this time, temporary heat wave warnings covered over 100 million people in the **US** alone, and forecasters expect such warnings to continue in many areas of the affected countries/territories in the near-term.

Apart from affecting health conditions directly, heat waves can trigger disruptions to essential services and overland travel, while warmer temperatures increase the transmission of diseases. Heightened demand for air conditioning can lead to planned or unplanned power outages and the firing of coal plants to meet such demands can produce unhealthy levels of air pollution. Prolonged heat waves can damage road surfaces and deform railway tracks. Extreme temperatures can trigger drought, bushfires and even flooding and mudslides, when snow melt accelerates in mountain ranges, causing considerable damage to crops and infrastructure. High temperatures can also prolong wildfires, resulting in haze and evacuations, as witnessed across **Canada**, and subsequent air quality issues in parts of the **US** since May. Similar situations are possible in wildfire-prone areas of other countries as well.

Meteorological experts have attributed global warming and the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phase warming the Pacific Ocean temperatures, among other factors, as causes of these heat waves. August, September and October are typical hurricane season months when temperatures still remain high in parts of North America and the Caribbean, while South America is heading towards warmer summer months. **Chile** already faces a severe drought from a heat wave in February which resulted in several deaths from wildfires, while authorities imposed emergency decrees in much of **Bolivia** and implemented daily power cuts in **Ecuador** in October, and imposed a 60-day state of emergency in parts of **Peru** through December, due to drought conditions. The biggest impacts of El Niño are expected in February, March and April 2024.

Travellers are advised to check weather forecasts of destinations. There is no universally agreed-upon minimum temperature that qualifies as a heat wave.

Temperatures reaching 38 degrees Celsius (100.4 degrees Fahrenheit) often trigger warnings in many countries, but it is generally advisable to avoid enduring any degree of uncomfortable temperature for an extended period of time.

Temperatures detrimental to health can vary from person to person and depend on the humidity level, among other factors. When travelling to heat-wave-affected locations, ensure a steady supply of safe drinking water and access to air-conditioned accommodations with sufficient power supply before departure.

During hot temperatures, increase non-alcoholic fluid intake, limit outdoor movements during daylight hours and stay in air-conditioned rooms when possible. Anticipate possible travel disruptions from high temperatures damaging transportation infrastructure and heightening the demand for electricity. In case of a wildfire resulting from high temperatures, follow all emergency directives. When pollution levels are high due to wildfires, avoid unnecessary outdoor activities, wear a respiratory mask and expect possible disruptions to overland and air travel from low visibility.

Summary

Overall ● Medium Risk

Paraguay is a **Medium Risk** destination: exercise caution.

Security ● Medium Risk

Medium Risk locations are not completely safe, but typically present predictable security risks. Travel is possible, but there is a potential for disruptions.

Covid ● Low Risk

An overnight curfew was lifted in October 2021 after the number of new infections drastically decreased. Infections peaked again in late January 2022; social distancing measures remain recommended. International travel has resumed.

Political Instability ● Medium Risk

A presidential representative republic led by President Santiago Peña of the Colorado Party (CP), Paraguay's political landscape has been marred by a legacy of corruption and human rights abuses since transitioning from a military dictatorship in 1989. Inequality and corruption remain major issues today, fueling crime, insecurity and rampant smuggling and drug-trafficking. All of these are expected to pose challenges for Peña during his five-year term that started on 15 August.

Conflict ● Moderate Risk

While Paraguay has no existing disputes over territorial sovereignty, the **Triple Frontier border region** that it shares with Argentina and Brazil is a hotspot for smuggling activity. This area alongside **Amambay** and **Canindeyú departments** present a risk to the internal stability of the country as organised crime groups are becoming increasingly violent and sophisticated in their cross-border operations. A communist militant presence exists in **San Pedro** and **Concepción departments** where occasional attacks and kidnappings against military and civilian targets occur.

Terrorism ● Moderate Risk

In addition to active criminal groups engaged in smuggling activities, the **Triple Frontier border region** has historically been a financial hub for Lebanese groups with ties to Hezbollah. However, the current terror threat posed by groups in the area is small due to multilateral intelligence efforts in conjunction with regional partners and the United States. Several types of non-terror related criminal activities, including arms and drug trafficking and money laundering, continue despite these efforts.

Unrest ● Medium Risk

Students and unionised nurses, teachers and farmers frequently protest in **central Asunción**, setting up roadblocks and disrupting traffic. Violence commonly erupts at demonstrations and the response by security forces tends to be heavy-handed, often using rubber bullets and tear gas to disperse crowds. Protests over continued inequality since democratisation can occur with little to no notice.

Crime ● Medium Risk

Crimes of all types take place in Paraguay. Pickpocketing and bag-snatching are known to occur on public transport and in downtown **Asunción** while violent crime, though comparatively infrequent, does occur and may target expatriates and travellers due to their perceived wealth. Extra precautions should be taken in **Ciudad del Este, Capitán Bado** and **Pedro Juan Caballero (PJC)** and in rural areas of **San Pedro, Concepción, Amambay, Caaguazú** and **Canindeyú** departments due to violence related to organised crime and militant operations. Police response is hindered by a lack of resources and training, as well as reports of collusion and corruption.

Natural and Environmental ● Moderate Risk

The territory is usually affected by floods during the rainy season from November to early April. The country's infrastructure, especially outside of urban areas such as **Asunción**, is not capable of withstanding widespread natural calamities. Response times of emergency services personnel are slower in rural and underdeveloped areas across the territory.

Local Travel ● Medium Risk

Travelling in Paraguay is considered hazardous because of a high incidence of traffic accidents and poor road demarcation. Highways between major urban hubs, though well maintained, are the most common site for accidents. Other than first-class ones, buses should always be avoided as they tend to be overcrowded and are hotspots for petty crime and robberies, which are sometimes fatal. Radio taxis are the most reliable form of transport in urban hubs.

Health and Medical ● Medium Risk

Though there are several very capable private hospitals in **Asunción**. Outside of the capital the quality of medical care generally falls below international standards. Most public hospitals are ill-equipped and understaffed while medical facilities in rural areas are very basic and oftentimes non-existent. There are periodic outbreaks of mosquito-borne viruses, particularly in rural areas nationwide, though the risk of contracting dengue fever peaks in urban areas from November to April.

Political Overview : ● Medium Risk

A former finance minister, Peña guaranteed the continuation of CP rule over Paraguay since 1947 that was only briefly interrupted from 2008-2012. In the 30 April 2023 general elections, which were marked by allegations of fraud from opposition candidates, Peña secured an easy win with 42.7 percent of the vote amid a fractured opposition, ahead of Efraín Alegre of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party (PLRA) and Paraguayo Cubas of the National Crusade Party (PCN). In Congress, the CP secured control of both the Chamber of Deputies with 48 seats and the Senate with 23 seats. The latter legislative body was seen as a last anti-CP resource since it had never fallen into the hands of the conservative party. Moreover, the CP snatched control of 15 of the 17 departments of the country, consolidating its nearly all-encompassing power nationwide. This solid concentration of power certainly exacerbates the possibility for corruption, whose perception rate in Paraguay is one of the worst in the region and affects the government, security forces, the judiciary and all aspects of life. It is even more worrying that Peña is a political protégé of former Paraguayan president and current CP president Horacio Cartes, who is sanctioned by the United States (US) government over alleged links with organised crime. Whether Peña will govern autonomously from his mentor remains to be seen. Tackling inequality also ranks as one of the new leader's top concerns. Although Paraguay's economy is not traditionally affected by high inflation rates and the World Bank estimates its gross domestic product (GDP) will grow by 4.8 percent in 2023, the country has a high poverty rate of around 25 percent and approximately half of its population still lives in rural areas. The social grievances only exacerbate crime levels, especially organised crime such as drug-trafficking and money laundering which flow heavily in northeastern borders. In foreign policy, it will be important for Paraguay to have good relations with the US despite Washington's targeting of Cartes. The president has restored diplomatic ties with Venezuela and is a supporter of the Mercosur. Additionally, he will maintain the country's policy towards recognising Taiwan without neglecting trade with China.

An economist with experience working in the International Monetary Fund and the Paraguayan Central Bank, Peña lacks political experience as he had never held an elected position before. He will need to keep his distance from Cartes in order not to get caught up in allegations of involvement with organised crime while also not alienating his mentor. Paraguay has weathered external shocks and stabilised its economy, including inflation and investments. Yet, inequality and corruption remain

major issues, fueling crime, insecurity and rampant smuggling and drug-trafficking in the country, which may trigger protests amid the lack of political change and the strengthening of the CP following the 2023 general elections.

Recent incidents

30 April 2023 - 01 May 2023

● **Moderate risk: General elections to be held on 30 April**

General elections to elect the president, vice-president, senators, deputies and governors will be held on 30 April. The front-runners for the presidency, Santiago Peña from the ruling conservative Colorado (ANR-PC) party and Efraín Alegre from the central-right Authentic Radical Liberal Party (PLRA), will face several other candidates.

30 April 2023 - 01 May 2023

● **Moderate risk: ANR-PC candidate wins presidential election - Update**

Media reports indicated that Santiago Peña Palacios from the ruling conservative National Republican Association-Colorado Party (ANR-PC) won the presidential election, taking 42.8 percent of the vote against Pedro Efraín Alegre Sasiain from the central-right Authentic Radical Liberal Party (PLRA), with 27.5 percent, and independent candidate Paraguayo Cubas Colomes.

Conflict : ● Moderate Risk

Border Conflicts: While Paraguay has no existing disputes over territorial sovereignty, the border region at convergence of Argentina/Brazil/Paraguay borders is a locus of criminal activity. This lawless area is a frequent site of money laundering, smuggling, arms and illegal narcotics trafficking. This may potentially threaten Paraguay's internal stability as organised criminal networks become more sophisticated.

Domestic Conflict: The Paraguayan People's Army (EPP), a Marxist-Leninist and environmentalist militant group, has been engaged in a low-level insurgency since 2005 and primarily operates in **San Pedro** and **Concepción departments** and to a lesser extent in **Amambay, Caaguazú** and **Canindeyú departments**. The 100-strong armed guerrilla group has claimed responsibility for a series of attacks on security forces and high-profile kidnappings, including that of former Vice President Óscar Denis in September 2020. Though the frequency of attacks has lowered in recent years, security operations against the group remain ongoing. In November 2020 and October 2022, alleged founder Lucio Silva and leader Osvaldo Villalba, respectively, were killed in clashes with security forces in **Cerro Guazú Mountain in Amambay department**. The EPP continues to threaten internal stability not only through its usual means but by also providing protection services to the increasingly sophisticated drug trafficking groups that operate in the eastern departments along the border with Brazil.

International Military Forces on Territory: The US regularly provides training in counter-terrorism and anti-narcotics operations and conducts multilateral security exercises in the country.

International Alliances: Although Mercosur (Common Market of the South) is an economic agreement between countries in the southern cone, the alliance has strengthened relations among member nations by promoting peace in the region. In past years, however, Paraguay's role as a conduit of black-market trade has caused tension with some partner countries. Aside from Paraguay, members include Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Venezuela (currently suspended), while associate member status has been granted to Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Suriname and Peru.

Strength of Military Forces: The small and sparsely funded military of Paraguay - composed of an army, navy, air force and paramilitary police force - boasts more than

10,500 active-duty personnel, and over 165,000 reserves. The military played a key role in suppressing dissent during the 35-year military dictatorship of Alfredo Stroessner. Given the absence of external military threats, the armed forces have traditionally focused on quelling domestic unrest.

Terrorism

Domestic Terrorism: The Paraguayan People's Army (EPP) has surfaced as a credible threat in the north of the country where the armed guerilla group has staged a series of high profile kidnappings for ransom. The organisation is believed to be the continuation of the Marxist Partido Patria Libre (roughly translated "Free Homeland Party" or "Free Fatherland Party") political party and is said to have been advised by Colombia's FARC. The EPP sporadically conducts attacks and kidnappings targeting security forces and civilians. In September 2020, former Vice President Óscar Denis was kidnapped near **Yby Yaú** and remains in captivity as of November 2023. In November 2022, EPP carried out a reprisal attack on a police checkpoint near **Lorito Picada, Amambay department**, following the death of the leader, Osvaldo Villalba; three officers were wounded in the attack. Authorities believe the EPP has links to Brazilian drug trafficking organisations First Capital Command (Primeiro Comando da Capital, PCC) and Red Command (Comando Vermelho) who are known to operate in the north of the country.

International Terrorism: Organised crime persists alongside allegations of religious extremism among expatriate Muslim Arab communities centred on the **Three Frontiers region (TF)** of Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay. Groups with reported influence in the **TF region** include al-Qaeda, Hamas, Hizbollah, and Islamic Jihad (a Hizbollah front). Activities believed to contribute to terrorist fundraising include arms dealing and smuggling. Nevertheless, the risk of attack within the country remains low due to a lack of terrorist operational capability. Such an event could precipitate a crackdown in the **TF region**, which remains a valuable fundraising and regrouping point for terrorists.

There are no recent incidents

Unrest : ● Medium Risk

Protests and Demonstrations: Students and unionised nurses, teachers as well as farmers frequently protest in central **Asunción**, setting up roadblocks and disrupting traffic. Marches, hunger strikes, sit-ins and rallies are all common forms of protest in Paraguay, usually taking place in downtown areas of large urban centres. Like most of its neighbours in South America, Paraguay also faces tensions between its indigenous population and those seeking liberalisation of the economy and society.

Violent Unrest: Violence commonly erupts during localised protests and demonstrations. The response by security forces tends to be heavy-handed, often making use of rubber bullets and tear gas to disperse crowds. Personal safety cannot be guaranteed, and as a general precaution, visitors are advised to avoid any protests, demonstrations and public gatherings. In the case of violence, visitors should remain indoors in a secure location.

In March 2021, violent protests in **Greater Asunción** as well as other major urban hubs such as **Encarnación, Ciudad del Este, Horqueta** and **Caaguazú** calling for the resignation of former president Mario Abdo Benítez resulted in dozens of injuries and arrests following a heavy-handed response by security forces. Triggered by the collapse of the nation's health system amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the protests are the latest culmination of years of perceived corruption and mismanagement of public funds by government officials. On 17 March, President Benítez, however, survived an opposition attempt in the Congress to impeach him over his handling of the pandemic.

In early May, violent unrest broke out in **Asunción** as well as **Central, Guairá, Amambay** and **Alto Paraná departments** following the 30 April general elections, from which the CP presidential candidate Santiago Peña emerged victorious. Moved by allegations of fraud claimed by presidential candidate Paraguayo Cubas of the National Crusade Party (PCN), demonstrators occupied the avenue in front of the **Superior Court of Electoral Justice (TSJE)** in **Asunción** for over two weeks before being forcefully removed by police. Multiple people, including police officers, were injured and dozens others arrested in the clashes. Cubas was placed in pretrial detention for the disturbance of public peace and attempted coercion of constitutional bodies, among other charges.

Corruption and links to organised crime between several major political parties are

likely to further trigger politically-motivated protests.

Strikes: Strikes or walkouts are a common tactic used by disgruntled workers in Paraguay. Work stoppages can cause severe disruption to public services, including transport on city buses and domestic and international airports. General strikes occur sporadically and have the potential to boil into violent clashes between unionized workers and anti-riot police in large urban centres, particularly in downtown Asunción.

Annual Protests: May Day protests on 1 May and the annual 'Marcha Nacional del Campesino Pobre' on 26 and 27 March may erupt into violence between participants and Paraguayan National Police forces. May Day demonstrations are led by workers and students, while the latter march is spearheaded by farmers' organisations from around the country to protest living conditions in the interior. These groups usually walk to the Congress building in downtown **Asunción**, disrupting traffic in and around the march route.

Recent incidents

15 December 2023 - 16 December 2023

● **Moderate risk:** Healthcare workers to protest in Asunción on 15 December

Healthcare workers represented by the National Union of Physicians plan to rally outside the Ministry of Public Health building located at the intersection of Pettirossi and Brasil streets in Asunción from 08:00 local time (11:00 GMT) on 15 December, to denounce the non-payment of salaries.

13 December 2023 - 14 December 2023

● **Medium risk:** Demonstration underway in central Asunción

Local sources reported that a demonstration was underway outside the National Congress (Congreso) in central Asunción as of early afternoon hours local time, amid the latest protest to condemn a bill on the superintendence of pensions and retirements. A heavy police presence was reported in the area, however, there were no immediate reports of clashes.

12 December 2023 - 13 December 2023

● **Medium risk: Police clash with demonstrators in central Asunción**

Local media reported that several people were injured after police erected barricades on Paraguayo Independiente and fired water cannons to prevent demonstrators from reaching Plaza del Congreso in central Asunción during early afternoon hours local time, amid a protest to condemn a bill on the superintendence of pensions and retirements. Protesters also blocked Avenida Eusebio Ayal during the demonstration.

06 December 2023 - 07 December 2023

● **Moderate risk: Pensioners, trade union members rally outside Congress building in Asunción**

Local media reported that pensioners and trade union members rallied outside the National Congress building in Asunción during late morning hours local time, in protest of a bill set to reform the pension and retirement system. There were no immediate reports of clashes.

Crime : ● Medium Risk

Petty Crime: Pickpocketing, including snatching of purses and necklaces, is common on public buses and in the downtown area of **Asunción** and other major cities like **Ciudad del Este**. At airports and bus terminals, there have been incidents of pilferage from checked baggage. Travellers have found it prudent to hide valuables on their person or in carry-on luggage. Unauthorised ticket vendors are known to operate at busy bus terminals, badgering travellers into purchasing tickets for substandard or non-existent services.

Beware of your surroundings, do not leave your belongings unattended and exercise general personal safety for travel. Only carry what is needed, do not flash expensive valuables or large sums of money, and keep cash, identification and mobile phones in front pockets, or in a zipped or concealed pocket or pouch rather than in a bag. Secure belongings when using public transport or when frequenting markets and other crowded public areas; secure bags diagonally across the body against the chest, keep bags within sight and away from the street. Refrain from using mobile phones or laptops in congested public places; avoid putting bags containing valuables on the ground. Avoid walking in poorly lit and isolated areas. Stay in groups. Reject rides or drinks from strangers and never leave drinks unattended. Exercise extreme caution when purchasing and consuming alcohol in public venues. Do not accept pamphlets in the street or shopping centres; these could be impregnated with potent and disorienting drugs, which permeate the skin. If you start to feel unwell, tell staff or close friends and do not leave the venue alone or with strangers. Shout to attract attention, if needed.

Violent Crime: Armed robbery is a problem in both urban and rural areas, and weapons are sometimes carried by both bystanders and criminals. While violent crime is not a significant threat in **Asunción**, visitors should be cautious, particularly in the southern suburbs. Resistance to armed assailants may escalate the situation. Homicide rates are the highest in **Ciudad del Este**, **Capitán Bado** and **PJC** and the surrounding **Amambay** department, located along the country's eastern border, due to the presence of transnational criminal organisations. The Paraguayan People's Army (EPP) operates in rural areas of **San Pedro** and **Concepción** departments, and to a lesser extent **Amambay**, **Caaguazú** and **Canindeyú departments**, where a series of high-profile kidnappings for ransom as well as attacks on security forces have been reported. The country recorded 6.2 homicides per 100,000 people in 2022, a slight

decrease from 2021.

Commonsense measures are best kept to ensure against becoming the victim of a violent crime. Travellers are advised to remain vigilant at all times and exercise general personal safety for travel: avoid walking alone at night, do not venture down roads with poor lighting and few access points. Be careful when using taxis and public transport and plot route bypasses around rowdy crowds. Seek local advice for areas to avoid. If you are held-up by an armed robber do not become confrontational as any resistive behaviour may cause more violence by the attackers.

Property Crime: Burglaries happen with a certain frequency in **Asunción** and the surrounding **Central department**. Homes stand as the place where the majority of thefts occur in these two locations. Assailants are known to pretend to be service people such as mailmen and delivery persons to gain access to homes.

Travellers are advised against leaving valuables in hotel rooms. Deposit important items in the safe. Be sure to lock hotel/house doors, even when you are present. Home invaders often conduct thorough investigations of their victims' routines and whereabouts prior to an attack. Avoid visible displays of wealth and check for signs of being followed when returning to one's place of residence. If you do happen to be burgled, remain cooperative as perpetrators are likely to be armed and any resistive behaviour may cause more violence by the attackers.

Organised Crime and Gangs: Criminal organisations operate heavily along the Paraguay-Brazil border, mainly in **Capitán Bado, PJC, Salto del Guairá** and **Ciudad del Este**. The latter is part of the **Triple Frontier** with Argentina's Puerto Iguazú and Brazil's Foz do Iguaçu, an infamous hub for organised crime gangs and transnational criminal activity, including arms and narcotics trafficking as well as money laundering. The two largest Brazilian criminal outfits, the First Capital Command (Primeiro Comando da Capital, PCC) and Red Command (Comando Vermelho, CV), have a strong presence in the area.

Violence is often contained within inter-gang rivalries, though bystanders may be caught up in drive-by shootings, street shootings and armed or arson attacks. Avoid the epicentres of criminal activities, which are often located on the outskirts of urban areas. Seek local advice on specific areas to avoid. Restrict travel in unfamiliar areas to daylight hours. Visitors should avoid association with members of any groups or individuals they suspect of being involved in such activities.

Piracy and Banditry: Although police have in the past alerted to the presence of

pirates targeting vessels carrying merchandise and people along the **Paraná River**, the issue is currently not a major concern. The waterway is constantly patrolled by the armed forces.

Piracy: In areas without an effective naval force or coast guard, shipping vessels may be vulnerable to an increased risk of pirate attacks. While attacks typically occur on vessels that are berthed or anchored, attacks on moving ships cannot be ruled out. Consult a local port agent or the Maritime Police for the current security situation, designated safe anchorage areas and which vessels to use when crossing higher risk ports. Keep all doors locked if sleeping on board a vessel. Follow best practice safety procedures while travelling in the high seas: extinguish navigation lights, roll up ship ladders, sail as fast as possible and only at recommended times, use barbed wire and avoid engagement with any fishing boats or vessels requesting assistance. Ensure access to updated HF emergency frequencies to broadcast mayday calls in the event of pirate sightings. Report all suspicious activity to the nearest coastal state and flag state.

Vehicle Crime: Car thefts are common in both urban and rural areas. Carjackings by armed assailants have occurred in numerous departments, including **San Pedro, Canindeyu, Amambay** and **Caaguazú**. The **Luque-Nueva Colombia** and **Villarica-Asunción** highways should be avoided due to the frequency of carjacking and other forms of armed robbery occurring there. Foreign nationals should avoid night travel on major routes outside of Asunción. Leaving a tip to children and adults who offer their services of watching your vehicle while it is parked is recommended to avoid vandalism.

Break-ins: Expensive-looking vehicles, especially 4x4s, or vehicles with visible valuables are commonly targeted. Visitors should park cars in well-lit areas, preferably in private parking lots with security and ensure that all valuables, including vehicle's papers/insurance, are removed from the vehicle. Lock car doors at all times and make sure windows are rolled up. If renting a vehicle, ensure that it is fitted with a secure car alarm.

Theft: A common tactic for confrontational theft is for thieves to smash a car window or pull open passenger doors when cars are stopped at traffic lights, before stealing items such as bags, GPS, radios, phones or wallets. Motorists may also be signalled to stop by the occupants of another car pointing at their tyre and indicating a problem. Alternatively thieves may force victims out of their vehicle at knife or gunpoint in order to steal the vehicle. Avoid driving at night and exercise caution when stopped at traffic

lights or in tunnels. Never stop at the indication of another driver. If you are being followed, drive to the nearest police station or public area. Stop at the nearest town or service station if you think you may have a genuine problem with your vehicle.

Carjacking: Avoid leaving or returning to your place of work or residence at the same time every day. Vehicles equipped with a coded key or a key fob tend to be increasingly targeted as they make it easier to hijack with jamming devices. Hijackers also tend to stage breakdowns, flagging victims for assistance. Two cars are often used to box the victim in and force them to stop. Leave a safe distance between yourself and the car in front of you at traffic stops, limiting speed as much as possible to avoid stopping in order to keep the vehicle moving and gain time before the light turns green. Hijackers are often armed and extremely willing to use deadly force so resistance is discouraged. Stay calm and move slowly and exit your vehicle avoiding eye contact with the assailants. Keep your hands in clear sight at all times.

Fraud and Scams: Credit Card fraud: Visitors should only use credit cards when an electronic transaction is possible and when the transaction can be completed directly in front of them. Never let a clerk, sales assistant or waiter take a card to another location for the transaction to be processed. If this cannot be avoided, visitors should insist upon going with the individual to the point of sale to witness the transaction. Keep an eye on the card at all times. Always ensure that you receive a receipt and check the amount to be correct.

Hate Crime: Hate crime is not a major concern in Paraguay, though it may happen on occasion. At least 61 LGBT+ community members were killed nationwide between 1989 and 2019, when a court issued the first ever conviction in the country over hate crime targeting the LGBT+ population.

Travellers are advised to exercise general caution, particularly in the vicinity of places of worship and sexual and other minority, refugee and community centres and during large public gatherings; keep a low profile. If possible, avoid any demonstrations over minority rights, police violence, foreign military intervention and religious controversies – such as abortion and same-sex marriage, dietary laws and religious dress codes – as these issues may trigger confrontations among protesters and may involve confrontation with security forces.

Kidnapping: There have been numerous reports of kidnapping incidents in recent years, mainly in **Alto Paraná department**, with most kidnappings believed to go unreported. However, targets are usually members of the Paraguayan business elite, police and landowners, as opposed to foreigners. A number of high-profile

kidnappings have been perpetrated by the Paraguayan People's Army (EPP) in the **Northern Paraneña** regions. Kidnapping is allegedly facilitated through collaboration with corrupt police officials, who even when responding to abductions are thought to likely be inefficient as the country's security forces are underfunded and undertrained.

Travellers should remain aware of their surroundings and follow the latest advisories for their destination. Maintain communications and your itinerary with local contacts, authorities or embassy staff, especially in locations with a higher risk of kidnapping. Consider a local guide or security escort for the highest risk locations.

Recent incidents

18 December 2023 - 19 December 2023

● **Medium risk:** Major security operation reported at Asunción's Tacumbú Penitentiary

Security forces moved around 700 inmates and regained control of the partially gang-run Tacumbú National Penitentiary in Asunción after storming the facility in a major operation involving approximately 1,200 police and 1,100 military personnel since 05:00 local time (08:00 GMT); a security cordon was set up around the prison. Rotela Clan leaders were among those moved while at least six people, including one officer, were killed and 22 others injured and multiple weapons were seized.

22 December 2022 - 23 December 2022

● **Medium risk:** Casualties reported following shootout between police and assailants in Pedro Juan Caballero, Amambay department

Police announced that at least one officer was killed and one other injured in a shootout with assailants who took refuge at a house near the bus terminal of Pedro Juan Caballero, Amambay department, during early afternoon hours local time. Further details were not immediately available.

22 December 2022 - 23 December 2022

● **Medium risk:** Shootout between police and assailants prompts further casualties in Pedro Juan Caballero, Amambay - Update

Local reports indicated that at least three suspects were killed and one other injured following a police chase in the Santa Teresa neighbourhood of Pedro Juan Caballero, Amambay department, during evening hours local time. The incident follows an earlier shootout which left at least one police officer killed and one other injured following a hostage situation near the bus terminal.

Law

Law: The judicial system is inefficient and sometimes corrupt. Political influence in judicial appointments is considered common, contributing to a lack of transparency and fair practice by the system. There is severe prison overcrowding and lack of basic human rights for prisoners, including health care and the provision of clothing, food and mattresses. Detainees in police stations can be subjected to torture during the first few days in custody.

Property Rights: Paraguay's corrupt legal system hinders the effective protection of property rights. Furthermore, the country lacks a coherent national property survey or land register. No restrictions apply on the ownership of property by foreign nationals, who may also engage in commerce or industry without limitation.

Corruption

Corruption: Corruption is pronounced in political life and amongst the police, judiciary, and army. Minor acts of corruption, including bribes, are prevalent in lower levels of law-enforcement services, and travellers may be exposed when approached by local police, who will try to extort a bribe alleging real or bogus traffic offenses. Travellers are advised to politely decline. Bribes should not be directly offered to an official, as it is illegal and could result in more trouble. Foreign businesses looking to invest in Paraguayan ventures are advised to first consult with experienced law professionals before committing any funds.

Security Services

Security Services: Paraguayan police are known to be deeply corrupt and inefficient, as crimes often go unresolved and unpunished. Specialists argue that the country's security forces are underfunded and undertrained.

Among law enforcement services, there are problems of arbitrary arrests and detention, and lengthy pre-trial detention. There have been accusations of police heavy-handedness and complicity in extra-judicial killings.

Natural Risks : ● Moderate Risk

The territory is usually affected by floods during the rainy season from November to early April. The country's infrastructure, especially outside of urban areas such as **Asunción**, is not capable of withstanding widespread natural calamities. Response times of emergency services personnel are slower in rural and underdeveloped areas across the territory.

Flooding

A flood is an overflow of water that submerges land that is usually dry. It is normally triggered by an extended period of heavy rainfall and can be exacerbated by poor drainage systems in the affected area.

In the rainy season, floods are common across the country, including the capital **Asunción**, due to poor drainage systems. Particularly the roads in the northern part of the **Chaco region** are impassable during this period. Floods also tend to cause mass evacuations. In November 2023, extensive flooding was reported in **Ayolas, Misiones province**, subsequently impacting over 35,000 people and displacing at least 3,700 others.

If instructed of the possibility that flash-flooding may affect the area you are in, monitor local updates and move immediately to higher ground away from rivers, streams, creeks and storm drains. Though flash-flooding is commonly attributable to excess upstream precipitation, be aware that flooding can occur without typical warning signs of rain clouds or heavy rain. This is especially true near streams, drainage channels, canyons and other areas known to flood suddenly. If you happen across a flooded road in your car, turn around and drive in the opposite direction. When trapped on a flooded road, vacate your vehicle immediately and climb to higher ground.

Dangerous wildlife

Dozens of species of poisonous snakes, such as Rattlesnakes, Pit Vipers and Elapids, are found in sparsely populated and dense forest areas of the country, including

Asunción. Although only a handful of fatal snake bites are reported each year, hospitals and clinics in rural areas do not contain proper anti-venoms. The forest areas of **Chaco region** also contain wildlife like jaguars, puma, wildcats and foxes.

Exercise caution when travelling to regions with dangerous wildlife and familiarise yourself with local hazardous animals before departure. Avoid close proximity with wild animals. Ensure that you are vaccinated against rabies in the event of being bitten by a rabid animal. Seek immediate medical help if you are bitten.

Recent incidents

10 November 2023 - 13 November 2023

● **Medium risk: Authorities issue heat warnings nationwide through 12 November**

Meteorological authorities issued heat warnings nationwide through 12 November, with the highest level in Boquerón, Alto Paraguay, Presidente Hayes and Concepción with temperatures ranging from 43-45 degrees Celsius (109-113 degrees Fahrenheit) on 11-12 November.

02 November 2023 - 04 November 2023

● **Moderate risk: Warnings issued for adverse weather in southern, central provinces through 3 November**

Meteorological officials issued an orange warning for thunderstorms in southeastern Presidente Hayes, Ñeembucú, Misiones, Itapúa, Paraguari, Central, Asunción, Cordillera, Guairá, Caazapá, San Pedro, Caaguazú, Alto Paraná, Canindeyú and south-central Amambay through morning hours local time on 3 November, due to a low pressure system.

Health and Medical: ● Medium Risk

Overview

Though there are several very capable private hospitals in **Asunción**. Outside of the capital the quality of medical care generally falls below international standards. Most public hospitals are ill-equipped and understaffed while medical facilities in rural areas are very basic and oftentimes non-existent. There are periodic outbreaks of mosquito-borne viruses, particularly in rural areas nationwide, though the risk of contracting dengue fever peaks in urban areas from November to April.

Before you travel

Consult your doctor or a healthcare provider who specialises in travel medicine at least six weeks before your departure. If you have a medical condition, you should also share your travel plans with your doctor.

Outbreaks and Other Diseases

Malaria

There is no risk of malaria transmission.

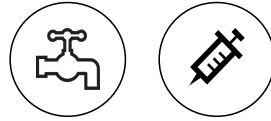
Yellow Fever

There is a risk of Yellow Fever infection in all areas.

Vaccinations, Medicines and Documentation

Note: Requirements and recommendations for vaccines and other medicines as well as Yellow Fever vaccine are based on guidelines from the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Yellow Book 2024. All other entry requirements are based on Riskline research.

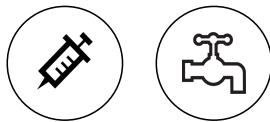
Routine vaccines



Make sure you are up-to-date on all routine vaccines before every trip. Some of these vaccines include

- Chickenpox (Varicella)
- Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis
- Flu (influenza)
- Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR)
- Polio
- Shingles

COVID-19



All eligible travellers should be up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines.

Hepatitis A



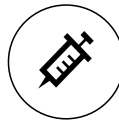
Recommended for unvaccinated travellers one year old or older going to Paraguay.

Infants 6 to 11 months old should also be vaccinated against Hepatitis A. The dose does not count toward the routine 2-dose series.

Travellers allergic to a vaccine component or who are younger than 6 months should receive a single dose of immune globulin, which provides effective protection for up to 2 months depending on dosage given.

Unvaccinated travellers who are over 40 years old, immunocompromised, or have chronic medical conditions planning to depart to a risk area in less than 2 weeks should get the initial dose of vaccine and at the same appointment receive immune globulin.

Hepatitis B



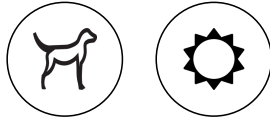
Recommended for unvaccinated travellers younger than 60 years old traveling to Paraguay. Unvaccinated travellers 60 years and older may get vaccinated before traveling to Paraguay.

Measles



Infants 6 to 11 months old traveling internationally should get 1 dose of measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine before travel. This dose does not count as part of the routine childhood vaccination series.

Rabies



Rabid dogs are commonly found in Paraguay. However, if you are bitten or scratched by a dog or other mammal while in Paraguay, rabies treatment is often available.

Consider rabies vaccination before your trip if your activities mean you will be around dogs or wildlife.

Travellers more likely to encounter rabid animals include

- Campers, adventure travellers, or cave explorers (spelunkers)
- Veterinarians, animal handlers, field biologists, or laboratory workers handling animal specimens
- Visitors to rural areas

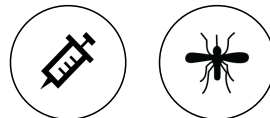
Since children are more likely to be bitten or scratched by a dog or other animals, consider rabies vaccination for children traveling to Paraguay.

Typhoid



Recommended for most travellers, especially those staying with friends or relatives or visiting smaller cities or rural areas.

Yellow Fever



Recommended for all travellers ≥ 9 months old except as follows. **Generally not recommended** for travel limited to the city of Asunción (the capital).

Required documentation

Yellow Fever entry requirement (Source: USA CDC):

Required for travellers one year and older arriving from Bolivia, Brazil, Peru, or Venezuela; this includes this includes >24-hour transits or layovers in those countries

Other entry requirements:

None

Note: Documentation requirements are subject to change. Consult your destination embassy or consulate prior to departure for confirmation.

While you are there

Emergency services

Public ambulances are poorly equipped with erratic response times. There are several private fee-paying ambulance services in **Asunción** that are generally reliable. Emergency services outside urban areas are very limited.

Evacuation

For serious ailments and injuries, medical evacuation to another country may be required.

Routine care

Medical care is generally of acceptable international standard in the capital **Asunción**, with several private hospitals offering a good standard of care. However, public hospitals are generally substandard, crowded and should be avoided. Medical care outside of **Asunción** is of a lower quality and deteriorates the further away you get from the capital. Most doctors do need speak English.

Medicine

Visitors are advised to take their own prescription medication since prescription

medication can be difficult to obtain. In addition, travellers are advised to carry their prescription scripts and a letter from a medical doctor explaining the need for the medication and justifying the quantities needed.

Payment

Up-front or cash payments may be required prior to treatment, even for individuals with medical insurance. Whenever possible, check with medical providers for payment requirements prior to treatment.

Ailments

Chagas Disease



In August 2018, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) found that Paraguay managed to interrupt intra-household vector transmission of Chagas throughout the country. Currently, the maternal-infant transmission is the main route of transmission.

Chagas disease is a parasitic infection transmitted by insects, usually the triatomine bug, and is most prevalent in rural areas. Symptoms include fever and swelling at the site of the insect bite. If left untreated, the disease can cause serious chronic conditions, including damage to the heart and gastrointestinal system. Chagas disease can be treated with a course of antiparasitics.

Dengue Fever



The risk of dengue fever occurs primarily during the warmer months (November-April), especially in urban areas. In October 2019-March 2020, nearly 28,000 cases and 53 deaths were confirmed, marking the worst Dengue epidemic in the last 20 years. From January-March 2023, over 3,928 confirmed cases were registered. The

majority of infections were recorded in **Central, Boquerón** and **Asunción departments**.

Dengue fever is a viral infection, transmitted by the bite of the Aedes mosquito, which is most active during early morning and late afternoon hours and is commonly found in urban areas. Symptoms include a high fever, joint pain and headaches, although severe cases may cause significant falls in blood pressure and/or haemorrhaging, which can be fatal. There are no vaccines or treatments for dengue fever.

Chikungunya Fever



The disease is an ongoing risk across the country. At least 82,981 confirmed cases and 217 related fatalities have been recorded nationwide amid an outbreak since October 2022, with **Central** and **Asunción departments** the worst affected.

Chikungunya fever is a viral infection, transmitted via mosquito bite. Generally non-fatal, the symptoms of Chikungunya fever include a high fever, joint pain and headaches. In most cases those infected recover after seven to ten days. There are no vaccines or treatments for chikungunya.

Hantavirus



Hantavirus is a viral infection carried by rodents, which can cause Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS) in persons exposed to the urine or faeces of infected rodents, usually through the inhalation of droplets of the virus in the air. Early symptoms include fever, muscle aches and fatigue and may include diarrhoea, vomiting and nausea; later symptoms include fluid in the lungs and shortness of breath. HPS has a 38 percent fatality rate, and there is no known treatment beyond supportive hospital care.

Hepatitis (A, B, C, D and E)



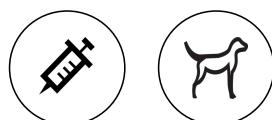
Hepatitis is inflammation of the liver. The three main variations (A, B and C) are caused by infections from parasites, bacteria or viruses, but are transmitted by different means.

Leishmaniasis



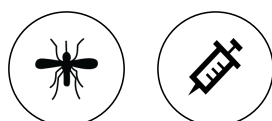
Leishmaniasis is a parasitic infection transmitted by the bite of sand flies, which are most active during early morning and late evening hours. Symptoms of cutaneous leishmaniasis include swollen glands and sores; symptoms of visceral leishmaniasis include fever, swelling of the liver or spleen and weight loss. Leishmaniasis can be treated with a course of Amphotericin B, an antifungal.

Rabies



Rabies is a serious viral infection, transmitted through close contact with saliva from infected animals (i.e. bites, scratches or licks on broken skin and mucous membranes). Travellers who suspect they may have come into contact with a rabies-infected animal should seek immediate emergency attention: post-exposure treatment has a high success rate if administered early. Late-stage rabies (when symptoms begin to occur) is untreatable and fatal.

Yellow Fever



There is a risk of contracting yellow fever across the country, except in the city of

Asunción, where there is a very limited potential for exposure. Nevertheless, no new cases of the disease have been recorded since 2008.

Yellow fever is a serious viral infection, transmitted by the bite of the Aedes mosquito, which is most active during early morning and late afternoon hours and commonly found in urban areas. Initial symptoms include a high fever, chills, vomiting nausea and backaches/muscle pain; in some cases those infected may develop potentially fatal complications, including jaundice, severe haemorrhaging and kidney failure. There is no post-infection treatment for yellow fever.

Zika Virus



The Zika virus is considered to be an ongoing risk for travellers to the country.

Zika virus is a viral infection transmitted by the bite of the Aedes mosquito, which is most active during early morning and late afternoon hours and commonly found in urban areas, as well as through sexual contact with an infected person. Most cases of Zika virus are asymptomatic; where symptoms occur they are usually mild and include fever, headaches, conjunctivitis, rash and joint and muscle pain. Zika has been linked to microcephaly in unborn children. There is no treatment for Zika virus, beyond rehydration and bed rest.

Recent incidents

19 May 2023 - 20 May 2023

- **Moderate risk:** Further cases of chikungunya, dengue reported nationwide - Update

Officials recorded at least 2,970 cases of chikungunya fever and 800 cases of dengue fever countrywide in the past three weeks, as of 19 May. A total of 82,981 confirmed and probable chikungunya cases and 217 related fatalities were recorded since October 2022, while dengue cases stood at 3,928, with Central, Boquerón and Asunción the worst-affected.

07 May 2023 - 08 May 2023

- **Moderate risk:** Further cases of chikungunya reported nationwide - Update

Health officials announced that at least 3,845 cases of chikungunya fever were reported countrywide during the past three weeks, as of 7 May, with Central and Asunción departments the worst affected. A total of 82,981 confirmed and probable cases and 217 related deaths have been recorded nationwide amid an outbreak since October 2022.

28 April 2023 - 29 April 2023

- **Moderate risk:** Further cases of chikungunya reported nationwide - Update

Health officials announced that at least 5,836 cases of chikungunya fever were reported countrywide during the past three weeks, with Central, Asunción and Alto Paraná departments the worst affected. A total of 77,790 confirmed and probable cases and 131 related deaths have been recorded nationwide amid an outbreak since October 2022.

12 April 2023 - 13 April 2023

● **Moderate risk:** Further cases of chikungunya reported nationwide - Update

Health officials announced on 12 April that at least 13,847 cases of chikungunya fever were reported countrywide during the past three weeks, with Central, Asunción and Alto Paraná departments the worst affected. A total of 67,880 confirmed cases and 77 related deaths have been recorded nationwide amid an outbreak since October 2022.

Covid-19: ● Low Risk

Summary

An overnight curfew was lifted in October 2021 after the number of new infections drastically decreased. Infections peaked again in late January 2022; social distancing measures remain recommended. International travel has resumed.

What is the current nationwide Policy?: Open

Policy starts: 23 February 2022

Policy ends: indef

Policy explanation:

Policy source: -

Last update: 10 November 2023

Infection

Infection Level: Low

Infection rate: 0.0 cases per 100k in the last 14 days

As of date: 09 November 2023

Hotspots: -

International Travel

International Flights

Is there a ban on international commercial flights? No
Through what date? indef

Flight Ban Explanation:

Regular passenger flights have resumed at Asunción Silvio Pettirossi Airport (ASU/SGAS). Flights also resumed through Guaraní International Airport (AGT/SGES) in Ciudad del Este.

Last Update: 06 December 2023

Entry and Borders

Is there a ban on entry for any travellers? No
Through what date? indef

Travellers from where are banned?

Land border: Open

Maritime border:

Entry Rules Explanation:

Effective 24 October 2022, travellers are no longer required to present a COVID-19 vaccination, recovery or test certificate to be allowed entry into Paraguay.

Entry Rules: <https://www.ip.gov.py/ip/carnet-de-vacunacion-y-test-ya-no-son-necesarios-para-ingreso-al-pais/>

Last Update:

Testing

Do travellers need to take a COVID-19 test No

When?

Is it mandatory or optional?

Test Type:

Minimum age requirement:

Pre-travel test validity, in hours:

After arrival test days:

Testing Explanation:

Testing Rules: -

Last Update: 06 December 2023

Health and Travel Documentations

Do arriving travellers need any health and/or travel documentation? No

Documentation Explanation:

Last Update: 10 November 2023

Tracing App

Do travellers need to use a contact tracing app after arriving? No

Tracing App Explanation:

There is no mandatory national contact tracing app at this time.

Last Update: 10 November 2023

Quarantine on Arrival

Who needs to quarantine on arrival None

Travellers from where need to quarantine?

How many days is quarantine?

Is it self-quarantine or operated by the government?

Quarantine Explanation:

Travellers are generally not required to quarantine upon arrival.

Quarantine Rules: <https://www.migraciones.gov.py/index.php/tramites/ingreso-y-salida-del-pais/exigencias-sanitarias-vigentes-por-covid-19-para-el-ingreso-al-paraguay#:~:text=Viajeros%20desde%20los%2012%20a%203%20de%20enero,Nombre%20del%20pasajero>

Last Update: 2023-12-06

Exit

Is there a ban on exit for any travellers? No

Are there special requirements to exit? No

Exit Requirements Explanation:

There are no special requirements to exit the country.

Exit Requirements

(URL):

-

Last Update:

06 December 2023

Vaccination

Percent vaccinated with at least one dose: 56.024 as of 02 Jun 2023

Percent fully vaccinated: 52.31 as of 12 May 2023

Is vaccination mandatory for entry? No

Fully vaccinated are exempt from: -

Minimum age for vaccine requirements for travel:

Exemptions for vaccine requirements for travel:

"Fully vaccinated" is defined by the destination as:

Accepted vaccines, validity and special age restrictions:

Is mixing of vaccine doses authorised? N/A

Are specific combinations of mixed doses required?

"Boosted" is defined by the destination as:

Accepted boosters:

"Recently recovered" is defined by the destination as:

Recovery status is valid from days until after .

Vaccination certificates accepted:

Vaccination certificates accepted in the following languages:

Recent recovery document required:

Recent recovery document accepted in the following languages:

Explanation:

Effective 24 October 2022, proof of vaccination is no longer required to be exempt from pre-arrival testing.

Sources: <https://www.ip.gov.py/ip/carnet-de-vacunacion-y-test-ya-no-son-necesarios-para-ingreso-al-pais/>

Last change to vaccination policy: 24 October 2022

Last Update: 10 November 2023

Other International Travel Restrictions

Exit Requirements Explanation:

Last Update:



Domestic Situation



Areas on Lockdown

Last Update:



Areas under Curfew

Last Update:



Domestic Travel

Domestic Travel Explanation:

Public transport services in the country have resumed, and remaining inter-municipal and departmental travel restrictions were lifted on 19 April 2022.

Last Update: 10 November 2023



Other Domestic Restrictions

Last Update: 10 November 2023

Resources

Government COVID Site: <https://www.mspbs.gov.py/cuarentena-inteligente.html>

Health Dept COVID Site: <https://www.mspbs.gov.py/covid-19.php>

There are no recent incidents

Local Travel : ● Medium Risk

Travel Safety

Air Travel: The main international airport of the country is called **Silvio Pettirossi (ASU/SGAS)** and it is located 16 km (9.9 miles) from the city of **Asunción** in the city of **Luque**. Additionally, four other smaller airports are located in the cities of **Ciudad del Este (AGT/SGES)**, **Pedro Juan Caballero (PJC/SGPJ)**, **Salto del Guaira (SGGR)** and **Mariscal Estigarribia (ESG/SGME)**. Some of the major airlines that fly to Paraguay include Latam, Avianca, Aerolineas Argentinas and Copa Airlines.

A computerised system is installed in the major airports of Paraguay to facilitate customs and combat flight corruption. This system requires travellers' fingerprints, scanned and recorded in the computer system. People are chosen randomly to open suitcases as they pass by custom officials as a way to fight illegal transport of goods. Demand for bribes have been reported, with respect to the import of commercial goods and vehicles, but for regular tourists that enter the country no major hassles are expected.

It is safe to take taxi cabs already waiting at airports, which are the main form of travel from this spot to the cities.

Airspace: Regular passenger flights have resumed at Asunción Silvio Pettirossi Airport (ASU/SGAS). Flights also resumed through Guaraní International Airport (AGT/SGES) in Ciudad del Este.

Borders and Entry: Effective 24 October 2022, travellers are no longer required to present a COVID-19 vaccination, recovery or test certificate to be allowed entry into Paraguay.

Exit: There are no special requirements to exit the country.

Road Travel: Traffic moves on the right. Roads in and around **Asunción** are in decent condition. A country-wide effort to improve road conditions has been underway for some years, but roads remain in poor shape, generally speaking, as one travels farther to the north and west of Paraguay. The main highway that connects **Asunción** with **Ciudad del Este** is in good condition. The trip should take no more than six hours by car or eight by bus. Non-surfaced roads may be impassable between November and April.

More traffic accidents occur on highways, and less in the capital city of **Asunción**. The highways with the largest amount of traffic accidents are **highway 2 (Asunción-Ciudad del Este)**, followed by **highway 7 (Coronel Oviedo-Ciudad del Este)**, and last **highway 1 (Asunción-Encarnación)**. As main causes for traffic accidents, national police have stated drivers' carelessness, tail-gaiting, illegal passing of cars, and random animals that wander on highways. Other causes of traffic accidents, but that are less likely to occur are: pedestrian carelessness, poorly maintained vehicles, and drunk driving. The use of the seat belt for the driver and passengers is obligatory, but it is rarely enforced in the capital city, like many other road rules. There is a large perception among the population that police force is corrupt and will accept bribes in exchange for not issuing an infraction ticket.

If involved in a traffic accident, one must request the presence of the Traffic Police, but if this service is not available because of the location, one must call 911 to solicit a police report, always verifying the information once it is completed. If one of the drivers was under the influence of alcohol, it is important that the interested party request the alcohol test to be performed on the spot, since police officials do not perform this on a routine basis. Overall, the 911 services are considered reliable.

Traffic violations may result in fines, suspension or even loss of license. If accidents have occurred as a result of unfavorable road conditions, the state or the private company is liable for injuries or deaths. If the accident resulted in serious injuries, the District Attorney's intervention is also required, but the victim has the right to press criminal charges in the Criminal Tribunal even if the injuries were minimal.

The drivers are obliged by law to respect the pedestrian and their right of way, yet these rights are rarely respected nor enforced in busy urban areas. Traffic enforcement is geared more towards vehicles and not pedestrians. This has resulted in an increase in cases of unintentional wounds caused by drivers. As a precautionary measure, the city of **Asunción** has assigned several traffic police in the downtown area guiding traffic at rush hours. The Specialised Urban Police unit has recently been established to assist the disabled and elderly persons with crossing busy intersections.

Public Transport

Buses: The least safe mode of transportation is the common bus, which is known to be overflowed with passengers. On public buses, travelers are easy targets for 'rapiñeros' that specialise in stealing. An average of 10 robberies per day happen in public buses, which have been fatal in some occasions. Also, this mode of transportation does not offer preferential areas or services for disabled or other

individuals with special needs.

Bus travel from **Asunción** to the **Tri-border region** is an option, but there are limited seats on first class buses, so order tickets a day or two before departure.

Taxis: The most recommendable and trustworthy modes of transport within the urban areas are taxis and shuttles, which are more expensive than regular buses. If taxis are the chosen option, it is preferable to call the 'radio taxi' or go directly to a taxi stop, instead of choosing at random one circulating through the city, to avoid overcharging of fares and illegal taxi cabs. Shuttles are also a valid option and are available at the main commercial centres, with their own telephone call-center.

Vehicle Hire: Renting a car is not recommended, but if driving a rental, avoid driving at night as roads are not well marked. If tourists decide to rent a local vehicle, they may be asked for the vehicle registration and their national or international driver's licence at any point in the city during sobriety checkpoints or general road safety stops. Under no circumstance are highway patrol officials allowed to withhold documentation for revision. Also, rental cars should be equipped with air-conditioning because of high temperatures during the months of December through May, so that windows may be rolled up at all times for safety.

Recent incidents

17 November 2023 - 18 November 2023

● **Moderate risk:** Emergency drill planned at Asunción Silvio Pettirossi International Airport on 17 November

Authorities indicated that an emergency drill including shooting of firearms will take place at Asunción Silvio Pettirossi International Airport (ASU/SGAS) from 07:30 to 09:00 local time (10:30-12:00 GMT) on 17 November. Flights and road access to the facility are not expected to be affected.

Destination Hotspots

Cities, Towns, Villages: Tourists should avoid using public transport in the following neighbourhoods of **Asunción: Republicano, Herrera, Sajonia** and **Villa Aurelia**.

Ciudad del Este is an important tourist destination for shopping, but also considered to be a hot-spot because it is strategically located in the triple border area (TBA) joining Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay. The TBA is known for illegal trafficking, arms dealing and piracy or imitation goods. Travellers are encouraged to avoid crossing the border to this city during 'rush hour' days, Wednesday and Saturday, when an average of 30,000 Brazilians cross. During the other days of the week, the flow of people is reduced to about 6,000. Travellers are also encouraged to avoid crossing the 'Friendship Bridge' by foot and should avoid accepting any services from 'tourist facilitators', which are unofficial individuals that offer to expedite the customs process for a certain fee. They often neglect proper migration procedures, creating potential problems for the traveller. Since commerce ends at around 17:00 local time, it is not recommended to walk alone after this hour, because the city practically shuts down.

Safety

Emergency Numbers

Police	911	
Ambulance	141	

Corruption: Corruption is pronounced in political life and amongst the police, judiciary, and army. Minor acts of corruption, including bribes, are prevalent in lower levels of law-enforcement services, and travellers may be exposed when approached by local police, who will try to extort a bribe alleging real or bogus traffic offenses. Travellers are advised to politely decline. Bribes should not be directly offered to an official, as it is illegal and could result in more trouble. Foreign businesses looking to invest in Paraguayan ventures are advised to first consult with experienced law professionals before committing any funds.

Customs: Paraguay's economy is known to have a large black market that hampers the development of the formal services sector. **Ciudad del Este** has been called an 'oasis' for contraband. Many items are stolen or pirated, but legitimate foreign-made goods can also be unusually cheap because bribed customs officials do not enforce duties. A large number of Paraguayans make their living through the black market, smuggling counterfeit goods such as brand-name clothes, cigarettes and video recorders to other South American countries.

Documents and Identification: All residents and visitors are required by law to carry an acceptable form of identification at all times, and foreign residents are issued identity cards. Visitors to Paraguay should carry a photocopy of their passport at all times while in the country.

Drugs and Alcohol: Persons violating Paraguay's laws, even unknowingly, may be expelled, arrested or imprisoned. Penalties for possession, use, or trafficking of illegal drugs are severe, and convicted offenders can expect long jail sentences and heavy fines.

Import and Export: Paraguay's customs authority may enforce strict regulations concerning temporary importation or exportation of items such as firearms, medications, toys resembling weapons, or protected species. It is advisable to contact

the Paraguayan Embassy or one of Paraguay's consulates for specific information regarding customs requirements.

Law: The judicial system is inefficient and sometimes corrupt. Political influence in judicial appointments is considered common, contributing to a lack of transparency and fair practice by the system. There is severe prison overcrowding and lack of basic human rights for prisoners, including health care and the provision of clothing, food and mattresses. Detainees in police stations can be subjected to torture during the first few days in custody.

Property Rights: Paraguay's corrupt legal system hinders the effective protection of property rights. Furthermore, the country lacks a coherent national property survey or land register. No restrictions apply on the ownership of property by foreign nationals, who may also engage in commerce or industry without limitation.

Security Services: Paraguayan police are known to be deeply corrupt and inefficient, as crimes often go unresolved and unpunished. Specialists argue that the country's security forces are underfunded and undertrained.

Among law enforcement services, there are problems of arbitrary arrests and detention, and lengthy pre-trial detention. There have been accusations of police heavy-handedness and complicity in extra-judicial killings.

Weapons: Foreigners are not allowed to purchase weapons in the state. Civilians are prohibited from possessing or carrying small arms and light weapons (SALW) where the information on the manufacturer or the serial number has been altered; SALW from craft production; and SALW without a permit and proper registration.

Culture

Cultural Sensitivities: Paraguay has two official languages, Spanish and the indigenous language Guarani. In urban areas, visitors can manage well with Spanish, but are recommended to travel with interpreters if visiting rural areas. Rural areas of the country are far more conservative than urban areas. In this sense, double standards for women and men are common with respect to sexuality, freedom of movement, workforce participation and educational levels. When traveling to rural areas, politeness and a conservative dress code should help for daily interaction.

Family ties are still very important to Paraguayans. Business transactions, political favours, and day-to-day activities revolve around this institution. It is important to show respect regarding family ties and traditions.

Religious Sensitivities: The country is traditionally Catholic, yet Protestant churches are gaining ground in certain regions, where foreign nationals have settled. Foreign nationals should not be openly critical of religion.

Specific Traveller Advice

Female Travellers

Local Customs and Laws: There are no local customs that a female traveller should take into consideration in Paraguay. Familiarise yourself with your destination prior to travel, and be respectful and mindful of any possible cultural sensitivities, which may include dress, behaviour and topics of discussions.

Safety: There are some safety concerns that a female traveller should take into consideration in Paraguay. Harassment, sexual assaults and violence targeting women do occur in Paraguay, including in the capital **Asunción, Ciudad del Este** and **Pedro Juan Caballero**; however, visitors to Paraguay are not likely to face an additional risk as most perpetrators of assault are known to their victim. Female travellers may, however, receive unwanted attention from men, ranging from open displays of catcalling and staring to physical groping, including at day time. It is best to ignore these advances or confrontations and walk away. In the event that harassment escalates, draw attention to what is happening and locals will likely come to your aid. Do not walk alone at night in **downtown Asunción** and **Ciudad del Este** and exercise personal safety awareness if walking alone at night in other areas due to the persisting risk of violent crimes, including sexual assault targeting foreign female nationals. Stick to main, well-lit streets and avoid walking through desolate areas or unfamiliar neighbourhoods. Taxis and public transport are among the most common places for harassment in Paraguay. Only use official and registered taxis, reputed radio cabs, chauffeur-driven taxis arranged by a reputed hotel or ride-hailing services and avoid public transport, especially at night, to limit exposure to possible cases of harassment. Some cities may have women-only taxis, operated by a female driver; consider using these companies, especially if travelling at night. Female travellers should exercise caution when reporting crimes to local police as there have been reports of law enforcement undermining incidents of harassment and assault. Consider consulting your home consulate/embassy for legal advice and ensure you receive a copy of the police report. If you need to report a crime in **Asunción, Ciudad del Este, Encarnación** and **Salto del Guaira** do so at the nearest Tourist Police Unit who maintain a high degree of professionalism.

Health and Wellness: Women have access to some specialised gynaecological and reproductive health services, medicines and products in Paraguay, especially in urban areas. Abortion is legal in Paraguay only in cases where the life of the woman is in

danger. Specialised clinics, prescription emergency contraceptives and prescription contraceptives and a variety of feminine hygiene products are available in **Asunción**, **Ciudad del Este** and **Encarnación** and to some extent in other areas. Consider bringing an adequate supply of female-specific OTC drugs, feminine hygiene products and oral contraceptive pills, which may not be available locally. Consult a health professional prior to travel, especially if pregnant or planning to become pregnant, due to a potential risk of Zika virus.

LGBT+

Homosexuality is legal in Paraguay. There are no legal protections for LGBT+ persons in the country. Same-sex marriage is illegal. LGBT+ activity and persons are not socially accepted. LGBT+ travellers are advised to keep their sexual orientation and gender identities private. Prior to travel, review your privacy settings on social media platforms and reconsider the use of dating applications due to the risk of harassment and possible entrapment by local authorities. Refrain from engaging in any conversations about sexuality or LGBT+ issues. Avoid all public displays of affection, including hand-holding. Book separate hotel rooms. Transgender travellers are advised to have a passport and identification changed to reflect their new gender before travelling.

Technology & Communication Risk

Travellers are unlikely to face risks related to information and communication technology (ICT) in Paraguay.

Internet access and social media have no restrictions. There are no concerns related to device searches or sensitive technology. Device searches and inspections at the border are unlikely. There are no restrictions in relation to bringing or operating sensitive equipment, which may include photo cameras, satellite phones, drones, and other GPS systems, in the country. State or criminal penetration of private data is unlikely. Authorities implement minimal state surveillance of ICT networks in the country.

Travellers should exercise basic ICT safety precautions. However, travellers should note that ICT laws and practices are subject to change on short notice, and travellers are recommended to confirm the legality/appropriateness of their specific ICT needs prior to departure.

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