



PARAGUAY RESIDENCY GUIDE

Free Paraguay residency starter guide

A practical five-chapter introduction to choosing a residency route, planning documents, budgeting and deciding your next steps.

Edition 2026-10-08
paraguayresidencyguide.com

Contents

1. Chapter 1: Is Paraguay the right move for you?
2. Chapter 2: Choose a residency route
3. Chapter 3: Plan your residency documents
4. Chapter 4: Budget and sequence the residency process
5. Chapter 5: Your first steps and residency checklist

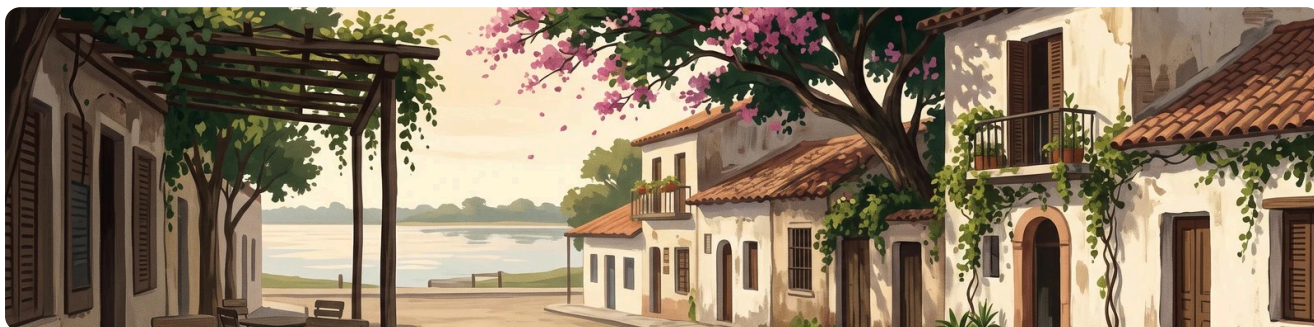
General information, not individual legal or tax advice. Official published requirements are cited beside the relevant chapter. Your personal documents, tax position, bank decision and service quote remain individual matters.

Sources checked: 2026-10-08.

AI-generated editorial illustrations. Decorative artwork, not photographs or official documents.

Chapter 1: Is Paraguay the right move for you?

A practical decision guide to what Paraguayan residency can and cannot do, and what to settle before spending money on documents or travel.



AI-generated editorial illustrations. Decorative artwork, not photographs or official documents.

Residency is useful when it supports a real plan: living in Paraguay, building a base here, or keeping a lawful option open while you learn the country. It is a poor fit when the goal is only to collect a card, end tax obligations elsewhere automatically, or secure a passport without living in Paraguay. Decide what you need the status to do before you start collecting papers.

This starter guide is for adults considering their own application. A spouse, child, investor, person with a complex criminal or immigration history, or anyone relying on a particular tax result may need route-specific advice before acting. Rules and checklists can change; confirm current requirements with Paraguay's Dirección Nacional de Migraciones (DNM) before ordering time-sensitive documents.

Separate the decisions

People often use “residency” to mean several different things. Keep these questions apart:

Goal	What it concerns	What it does not settle by itself
Immigration residence	Permission and status to reside under a route	Tax residence, citizenship, or automatic bank approval
Paraguayan identity card (cédula)	A separate identity document to pursue after the relevant immigration step	Your tax treatment or your home country's rules
Tax position	Where you are resident for tax and how particular income is treated	Immigration status alone may not resolve obligations elsewhere
Citizenship	A distinct legal process with its own conditions	An automatic conversion from a residence card

Write down the practical outcome you want. “I want to spend most of the year in Asunción” is clearer than “I want a second residency.” If your goal depends on tax, ask a qualified adviser in your current country what changes after a genuine move, and what evidence they require.

A grounded fit check

Paraguay may suit you if you are prepared to make it part of your life: choose a place to live, plan your income and healthcare, learn how local administration works, and keep track of presence and status dates. Spanish is useful for daily life and official processes. Conditions differ between Asunción, other cities, and rural areas, so test your own needs before committing to a long lease or moving household goods.

Pause and gather more information if your plan depends on any of these assumptions:

- You can obtain residency without meeting the conditions of a particular route.
- A residence card automatically ends tax, reporting, or social-security duties elsewhere.
- Temporary status, permanent status, a cédula, and citizenship are interchangeable.
- A particular approval date, document acceptance, or bank account can be guaranteed.
- You can remain absent indefinitely without checking the rules for your status.

check both columns of DNM's visa table: a tourist-entry exemption does not necessarily waive the visa for residency or paid activity; the rules depend on the passport and purpose. Check the current DNM visa table for both purposes before buying travel. The DNM checklist describes a criminal-record certificate as current; accepted issuing country, recency, and supporting papers depend on route and case. Treat both as planning questions, not assumptions.

Your one-page decision note

Before moving to the route chapter, answer these questions in writing:

1. What will I do in Paraguay during an ordinary month?
2. Who is moving with me, and what does each person need for work, school, care, or accessibility?
3. What income will support the move, and what could interrupt it?
4. How much time can I spend in Paraguay, and what presence conditions apply to a possible route?
5. Which decisions depend on advice from my current country, such as tax or pension treatment?
6. What is my fallback if document collection, travel, or administrative review takes longer than planned?

If you cannot answer one of these yet, that is a useful next task. Keep a short “known / need to confirm” list, and avoid irreversible commitments until questions affecting your route and travel are answered. Chapter 2 helps compare the broad route choices without treating nationality or investment as a one-size-fits-all shortcut.

Official sources used in this chapter

- DNM — tourist-entry and residency visas are distinct · Sources checked 2026-10-08
<https://migraciones.gov.py/informacion-sobre-visas/>

Chapter 2: Choose a residency route

Compare the general temporary, Mercosur and Investor Pass pathways by eligibility, preparation and the next decision each one creates.

Start with the route rules for your nationality and circumstances. In broad terms, applicants may need to compare the general temporary-residency process, a Mercosur temporary-residency route where eligible, and the Investor Pass for a qualifying investment. These options have different entry conditions and follow-up steps. A route name alone does not establish that you qualify.

Route to investigate	First question	Planning point
General temporary residence	Does the current DNM checklist and your personal history fit this route?	Review the documents and later change-of-category window before travel.
Mercosur temporary residence	Is your citizenship included in the current route, and which identity document is accepted?	Record its conversion deadline as soon as you know it.
Investor Pass	Does your intended investment fit a current qualifying category and evidence rule?	Compare the full investment commitment and documentation with other routes.

The Mercosur route is tied to an eligible nationality, not simply residence in a Mercosur country. DNM lists nationalities that can enter with a national identity document instead of a passport; airline rules and the residency application's own checklist still need checking. If you hold more than one nationality, compare the official eligibility and document requirements for each before deciding which identity to use consistently.

The general route may be relevant when Mercosur does not apply. The old fixed bank deposit is not a requirement of the current general temporary-residency checklist; permanent conversion has its own documented means requirements. Check the route checklist for the activity declarations and any requirements arising from your own history.

The Investor Pass is a separate investment-based option. Consider it only if an investment is independently sensible for you and the current official requirements match the proposed activity. Keep immigration fees, investment capital, professional fees, and operating costs in separate budget lines. Check eligibility and amounts against current official sources; a marketing summary is not enough.

The current route rules

General temporary route. The current term is up to two years, renewable for an equal period; the general-route permanent-residency application window starts three months before the card expires. Before permanent conversion, prepare documented, verifiable income or assets matched to one of 12 applicant categories - no fixed minimum amount. The actual filing window and late options are within the 3 months before the temporary card expires; up to 1 month after expiry it is still possible, paying the overstay fine; after that month only an extension (prórroga) of the temporary residency can be requested, up to 6 months after expiry and also with the fine.

Mercosur. a 2-year Mercosur temporary residency, convertible to permanent in the 90 days before it expires, for nationals of Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Bolivia, Chile, Peru, Colombia and Ecuador. This agreement route depends on citizenship, not living in a member country. Its temporary card is not renewable under the agreement. Keep its stricter conversion rule separate: the Mercosur temporary card lasts 2 years and cannot be extended: if you do not apply for permanent residency in the 90 days before it expires, you lose the Mercosur route and must apply under the general regime of Ley 6984/2022.

Investor Pass. from USD 70,000 for a productive business with at least 5 formal jobs; USD 150,000-200,000 for the other qualifying categories. These amounts belong to different qualifying categories. The real-estate option is from USD 200,000 in real estate used for an economic activity (not your own home); an ordinary home purchase for your own family does not qualify on that basis. MIC's investor certificate is followed by a separate DNM permanent-residency application.

Immigration residence and naturalisation are separate. The judicial residence minimum is at least 3 years of permanent residency, counted from the date of the permanent residency resolution, alongside actual residence, lawful activity, good conduct and the court's other conditions. An investment or a maintained residence card does not guarantee citizenship.

Compare the route's full life cycle

For each route, answer the same questions before selecting it:

1. **Eligibility:** Which official source confirms my nationality, status, investment type, or other qualifying condition?
2. **Documents:** Which originals, records, translations, legalisations, and supporting evidence apply to my route and country history?
3. **Entry:** check both columns of DNM's visa table: a tourist-entry exemption does not necessarily waive the visa for residency or paid activity; the rules depend on the passport and purpose
4. **Presence:** What time in Paraguay will I need for filing, appointments, follow-up, and later status steps?
5. **Next status:** What must happen before the current card expires? Mercosur conversion and the general temporary route have different rules.
6. **Cost and uncertainty:** Which expenses are government charges, third-party costs, travel, or investment? Which open point needs a written answer before I pay or travel?

Do not choose only by the shortest summary or advertised minimum. A route that looks simpler at the beginning may have a strict later deadline or a more demanding evidence package. Changing routes after ordering documents can create avoidable costs.

Make a route record

Use a simple note: “Route under consideration / source checked / open eligibility question / documents to confirm / next deadline / decision owner.” Save the official checklist and date you reviewed it. If an answer depends on a criminal record, prior overstay, family relationship, or investment structure, resolve it before paying for documents that may not be reusable.

The next chapter turns the route into a document plan. If two routes remain plausible, prepare a side-by-side list of differences and ask a qualified professional one focused question at a time.

Official sources used in this chapter

- DNM — Residencia Temporal and change of category · Sources checked 2026-10-08
<https://migraciones.gov.py/residencia-temporal/>
- Res. DNM 407/2026 (applies to filings from 6 July 2026) · Sources checked 2026-09-26
<https://migraciones.gov.py/migraciones-actualiza-el-regimen-de-acreditacion-de-solvencia-economica-para-extranjeros/>
- DNM — Residencia permanente para el cambio de categoría de residente temporal · Sources checked 2026-10-08
<https://migraciones.gov.py/residencia-permanente-para-el-cambio-de-categoria-de-residente-temporal/>
- DNM — Residencia Temporaria Mercosur y Residencia Permanente Mercosur · Sources checked 2026-09-28
<https://migraciones.gov.py/residencia-permanente-mercosur/>
- MIC — four Investor Pass modalities under Res. 0283/2026 · Sources checked 2026-10-08
<https://www.mic.gov.py/paraguay-fortalece-la-atraccion-de-inversiones-extranjeras-con-el-nuevo-investor-pass/>
- Poder Judicial — Carta de Naturalización; Acordada 464/2007 art. 42 · Sources checked 2026-10-08
<https://www.pj.gov.py/contenido/463-carta-de-naturalizacion/463>
- DNM — tourist-entry and residency visas are distinct · Sources checked 2026-10-08
<https://migraciones.gov.py/informacion-sobre-visas/>

Chapter 3: Plan your residency documents

Build a route-specific document map, coordinate apostilles and translations, and reduce the risk of ordering records too early.



AI-generated editorial illustrations. Decorative artwork, not photographs or official documents.

There is no safe universal document list for every applicant. The current Dirección Nacional de Migraciones (DNM) checklist for your route, nationality, family situation, and residence history is the starting point. Use it to create a plan before you order or legalise anything. A document that works for one route or applicant may not meet another person’s requirements.

Start with a document map

Create one row for each item on the official checklist. Record the issuer, who it concerns, original or copy format, authentication needed, translation rule, expected collection time, and the source where you confirmed it.

Item to verify	Questions for the issuing authority or DNM
Identity document	Which document is accepted for my route? Must it remain valid through a particular step?
Birth or civil-status record	Which version is required, and does my family application need additional records?
Criminal-record certificate	Which country or authority must issue it? Does country or residence history trigger another record?
Apostille or legalisation	Which authority authenticates this document, and can it authenticate this version?
Translation	Is this item exempt, or what translator and authentication standard applies?
Supporting evidence	Does my route require proof related to work, income, investment, relationship, or another category?

Do not infer that a national-level check is enough in every country. Some jurisdictions issue federal, state, provincial, or local records, and the required combination can differ. For example, DNM specifies federal and state criminal records for applicants from Mexico. Confirm the exact combination for your country and route with the current checklist.

Coordinate authentication and translation

An apostille or legalisation authenticates a public document for use abroad; it does not prove that the contents satisfy a residency requirement. Check the competent authority in the issuing country and the Paraguayan requirement for that document. Countries do not all use the same process, and some documents may require consular legalisation rather than an apostille.

Translation rules vary by document and route. foreign-language documents require a registered Paraguayan public translator or an authorised foreign public translator whose translation is apostilled or legalised; Portuguese-language documents issued by Brazil are exempt from translation under the DNM checklist. Check the relevant checklist for any item outside this rule and confirm whether an authorised foreign public translation, including its authentication, is accepted.

An adult general-route starting list

The [current DNM general temporary checklist](#) starts with a valid identity document, any required consular visa and its verification, proof of entry, a birth certificate, relevant civil-status records and the applicable criminal-record certificate. It also lists local INTERPOL and foreigner-background checks and the declarations made at filing. This is a starting map for that route, not a substitute for its full checklist or the separate rules for children.

For the overseas criminal record, a current national or federal criminal record certificate, apostilled or legalised, from the country required by the DNM checklist; where applicable, include the certificate and proof for a country you lived in for more than a year during the last 3 years. DNM expressly calls for both federal and state certificates for Mexico where that rule applies; a single national-only shorthand can miss this exception. Residence history determines which issuing-country branch applies, so do not automatically order a certificate from every country you have visited.

Leave time-sensitive records until the plan is clear

The DNM checklist describes the relevant criminal-record certificate as current, without stating a universal maximum age for every case. Accepted recency and supporting evidence should be confirmed for the issuing country, route, and filing stage. Because authentication and appointments can take time, do not order a short-lived record before you know when it will be used. Work backwards from a realistic filing plan and verify the timing with the official checklist or a qualified adviser.

Check names before you pay

Compare every identity and civil-status record side by side. Look for spelling, order of surnames, accents, transliterations, prior names, and mismatched dates or places. If a name or family relationship needs a bridge document, confirm which record proves it and how it must be authenticated before submitting the pack.

Your document tracker

- ☐ I saved the current official checklist for my specific route.
- ☐ I listed every issuing country and authority that may be relevant.
- ☐ I confirmed the required level of criminal-record check for my country.
- ☐ I checked apostille or legalisation steps with the issuing country's official authority.
- ☐ I confirmed translation exemptions and accepted translator standards.
- ☐ I compared names and civil-status details across the originals.
- ☐ I recorded issue dates, collection estimates, and when each item can safely be ordered.
- ☐ I have a clear question for every requirement that remains uncertain.

Keep scans of originals and authentications for your records while protecting personal data. Carry originals only when the relevant authority requires them. Chapter 4 helps budget and sequence the process without relying on an unverified promise about timing.

Official sources used in this chapter

- DNM requisitos Residencia Temporal (Ley 6984/2022), 2025–26 checklist · Sources checked 2026-10-08
<https://migraciones.gov.py/residencia-temporal/>

Chapter 4: Budget and sequence the residency process

Separate government charges, document costs, travel, professional fees and investment so you can compare routes and plan for uncertainty.

A useful residency budget separates costs by who receives the money and what it covers. A single package price can hide government charges, document preparation, travel, optional assistance, or investment. Ask for each item in writing, with currency, scope, exclusions, and the date the quote is valid through.

Build five budget lines

Cost group	Examples to list	What to confirm
Government charges	Application, certificates, identity document, or penalties	Current amount, payment method, and official receipt
Home-country documents	Civil records, criminal-record checks, apostilles or legalisations, courier	Issuing authority, authentication, and whether costs vary by document
Third-party services	Translation, notarisation, copies, document retrieval	Per-document price, accepted provider, and delivery or revision fees
Travel and living	Flights, accommodation, local transport, meals, time away from work	Flexible dates, length of stay, and possible return visit
Help or investment	Optional legal or administrative support; qualifying investment where relevant	Written scope, exclusions, refund terms, and investment commitments separate from service fees

Do not treat a government filing fee as a service fee, or a service fee as proof of eligibility. If a provider quotes a total, ask them to separate mandatory charges from optional work and explain what happens if the route or document list changes.

Official application fees to put in the worksheet

The current DNM general temporary application fee is G 2,926,925 in cash for the DNM application; electronic payments add the published provider commission. The temporary Mercosur fee is G 2,341,540 in cash for temporary Mercosur residency; electronic payments carry the published card commission. General permanent conversion is a later, separate application: G 2,926,925 in cash for the DNM application; electronic payments add the published provider commission. First foreign-resident cédula issue is another item: G 8,500 as the posted first-issue fee for a foreign resident, excluding supporting certificates and document preparation.

These are authority charges, not an all-inclusive relocation budget. Add home-country records, authentication, any necessary translation, local certificates, travel and optional professional help. Keep the qualifying investment separate. Amounts and checked dates come from the cited Fact register; recheck the tariff before payment.

Compare scenarios, not just totals

Prepare low, expected, and high planning scenarios. Tie each difference to a specific uncertainty: extra records from a previous country of residence, a translation requirement, a second trip, additional nights, or a change in official fees. Avoid inventing a contingency percentage when you can list the actual items that might change.

For an investment route, list the investment capital and associated business or asset costs separately from immigration charges and professional fees. Ask what evidence establishes that the investment qualifies and whether the commitment remains useful if the immigration application does not proceed as expected. A general temporary route and an investment route are not interchangeable budget packages.

Put the work in order

1. Save and date the current official route checklist.
2. Confirm eligibility questions that could change the route, including whether an entry visa is required for residence.
3. Request civil records and begin longer-lead authentication steps.
4. Review scans for matching names and complete pages before ordering time-sensitive records.
5. Confirm when each original must be issued and how current it must be at filing.
6. Book travel only after the document plan and appointment needs are clear enough for your situation.
7. Keep receipts, copies, quotes, and official correspondence together.

DNM controls its review schedule. A professional can explain a process and help organise a file, but should not promise a government decision date or guaranteed approval. If you need to work, end a lease, or enrol children by a certain date, make a fallback plan that still works if administration takes longer than hoped.

Questions for any provider

- Which work is included, and which parts are optional?
- Which government charges and third-party expenses are outside the quoted fee?
- Who reviews documents, and how are missing or inconsistent records handled?
- What happens if requirements change or the selected route is unsuitable?
- Which outcomes are within the provider's control, and which depend on government decisions?
- Can I receive the scope, currency, exclusions, and payment schedule in writing?

Your budget is ready when another person can see the assumptions behind every line. Use the final chapter to turn the route, document plan, and budget into a short checklist and questions to resolve before travel.

Official sources used in this chapter

- DNM — current application tariff · Sources checked 2026-10-08
<https://migraciones.gov.py/residencia-temporal/>
- DNM tariff effective 1 July 2026 — temporary Mercosur residency · Sources checked 2026-10-08
<https://migraciones.gov.py/aranceles-migratorios/>
- DNM — current application tariff · Sources checked 2026-10-08
<https://migraciones.gov.py/residencia-permanente-para-el-cambio-de-categoria-de-residente-temporal/>
- Policía Nacional — primera cédula a extranjeros, Res. 717/26 · Sources checked 2026-10-08
<https://www.policianacional.gov.py/identificaciones/cedula-de-identidad-por-primera-vez-a-extranjeros-con-radicacion-permanente/>

Chapter 5: Your first steps and residency checklist

Turn your route decision into an action plan, record open questions, and prepare for the next immigration and identity steps.



AI-generated editorial illustrations. Decorative artwork, not photographs or official documents.

You do not need to solve every detail before taking a first step. You do need to know which questions could change your route, document list, or travel plan. Work in this order, recording the source and date for each answer so you can recheck details if rules change.

Before ordering documents

- ☐ I can state the practical reason I want to reside in Paraguay.
- ☐ I separated immigration status, the cédula, tax treatment, and citizenship in my plan.
- ☐ I compared the general temporary route, Mercosur eligibility if relevant, and any investment route I am genuinely considering.
- ☐ I saved the current DNM checklist for the exact route.
- ☐ I listed my nationality, previous residences, family members included, and any fact that may require a different document or professional review.
- ☐ I checked whether a visa is required for my nationality to enter for residence, separately from tourist entry.
- ☐ I confirmed which criminal-record checks, civil records, authentication, and translation rules apply.
- ☐ I compared names, dates, and family relationships across my records.
- ☐ I understand when a time-sensitive certificate should be ordered.

Before making travel commitments

- ☐ My budget separates government charges, home-country documents, third-party services, travel, and professional support.
- ☐ Any investment capital is listed separately from fees and expenses.

- ☐ I have written quotes with scope, exclusions, currency, and validity date.
- ☐ My travel plan allows for document questions and administrative changes.
- ☐ My household has a practical plan for housing, income, healthcare, school or care needs, and communication.
- ☐ If plans depend on tax treatment elsewhere, I have asked a qualified adviser in that country.

After filing: keep a status calendar

Keep copies of submission receipts and official messages. Make a calendar entry for the current card's expiry, the next status application window, any presence condition, and the date to recheck the rules. A general temporary route and a Mercosur route can have different conversion deadlines, so label the route on every reminder. Do not use a generic example as your personal legal deadline; confirm the date against your own document and current DNM procedure.

If the application is approved, treat subsequent tasks separately. Confirm how to obtain or renew the immigration document, whether a Paraguayan identity card requires its own application, and what evidence may be required for a later change of category. Residency does not by itself guarantee tax treatment, a bank account, or citizenship. Keep records organised from the beginning rather than reconstructing them near a future deadline.

For immigration-card maintenance, the temporary rule is return before an unauthorised absence exceeds one year; a longer absence can lead to administrative cancellation, and planned extended absences require DNM authorisation. Once permanent, plan to return before three years abroad without authorisation; prolonged unauthorised absence can lead to administrative cancellation, and planned extended absences require DNM authorisation. Keep any absence authorisation and entry records with your file. These rules concern immigration status; judicial naturalisation requires actual continuous residence and stricter conditions.

Questions to resolve before proceeding

Open question	Best next source
Does this route fit my facts?	Current DNM checklist; qualified Paraguayan professional for interpretation
Which records does my country issue, and how are they authenticated?	Issuing country's official authority
Do I need a visa to enter for residence?	DNM visa information and Paraguayan consulate
Will moving change obligations at home?	Tax or pension adviser in the relevant country
What is included in a paid service?	Provider's written scope and exclusions
What date applies to my next step?	Your own document plus current DNM instructions

The aim of this starter guide is a sound next decision, not a promised outcome. Once your route and open questions are clear, use the detailed official checklist and route-specific guidance to prepare the full application.

Official sources used in this chapter

- DNM Resolution 376/2026, annex arts. 2 and 6–10 · Sources checked 2026-10-08
<https://migraciones.gov.py/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/RES.-DNM-N%C2%B0-376-REGLAMENTA-PROCEDIMIENTO-APLICABLE-PARA-LA-CANCELACION-DE-TEMPORALES-O-PERMANENTES-POR-AUSENCIAS-INJUSTIFICADAS.pdf>

Your next step

Use the checklists to organise your route, documents and questions. Keep official receipts and a copy of your application. For help with your situation, contact the team in writing.

[Contact the team](#)



AI-generated editorial illustrations. Decorative artwork, not photographs or official documents.