

# Paraguay

**Continent:** South America

**Languages Spoken:** Spanish, Guarani

**Population:** 7,200,000

**Currency:** Paraguayan Guarani (PYG)

**Area:** 406,752

## Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Itaipu Dam', 'writeup': "One of the world's largest hydroelectric dams, located on the Paraná River between Paraguay and Brazil."}

- {'name': 'Jesuit Missions of La Santísima Trinidad de Paraná', 'writeup': 'A UNESCO World Heritage site featuring well-preserved ruins of a 17th-century Jesuit mission.'}

- {'name': 'Palacio de los López', 'writeup': 'The presidential palace in Asunción, known for its neoclassical architecture and historical significance.'}

## Head of State / Government:

President Santiago Peña

## Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Festival del Lago Ypacaraí', 'writeup': 'An annual music and cultural festival celebrating Paraguayan folklore and traditions near Lake Ypacaraí.'}

- {'name': 'Ñandutí Festival', 'writeup': 'A festival honoring the traditional Paraguayan lace-making craft called Ñandutí.'}

## Food & Cuisine:

Paraguayan cuisine features staples like mandioca (cassava), corn, and beef, with popular dishes including sopa paraguaya (cornbread), chipa (cheese bread), and mbejú (starch pancake).

## Brief History:

Paraguay gained independence from Spain in 1811. It experienced significant conflict during the War of the Triple Alliance (1864-1870) and the Chaco War (1932-1935). The country has a history of political instability but has been democratic since 1989.

## Important People:

- José Gaspar Rodríguez de Francia - First dictator and founding father

- Alfredo Stroessner - Longest-serving dictator (1954-1989)

- Augusto Roa Bastos - Renowned writer

- Leryn Franco - Athlete and model

## Current Conflicts:

Paraguay is generally stable with no major ongoing conflicts, though it faces challenges related to border security and organized crime.

**Youtube Links:**

- Paraguay Travel Guide - Top Things to Do in Paraguay
- Discover Paraguay: Culture, Food, and History
- Itaipu Dam - Engineering Marvel of Paraguay
- Paraguayan Traditions and Festivals Explained
- A Day in Asunción, Paraguay's Capital City