

# **THE PRACTICAL** **APPROACH TO PARAGUAY**

From Temporary Residency to  
Living and Working

*A guide to navigating life in Paraguay  
and how to build a life and business  
aligned with your goals*

**MY**  
**PARAWAY**



# Foreword

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Dear reader,

Thank you for picking up this guide. We put it together because the questions we receive about Paraguay residency are always the same — and because most of what is out there online is either incomplete, one-sided, or hard to act on.

We are MyParaWay. A team based in the Asunción area, in day-to-day contact with Paraguayan immigration, banks, notaries, and local partners. We live here, we work here, and we deal with this process every week. That gives us a different perspective than someone managing it from abroad.

What you will find in this guide is straightforward, practical information. No fear tactics, no hype — just what you need to make a clear-headed decision. Paraguay genuinely stands on its own merits, and we would rather let the facts speak.

We walk you through why Paraguay is worth considering, how the residency process actually works, what documents you need, what tends to go wrong, and how we support you from start to finish.

Take your time with it. And when you are ready to talk — we are here.

## **Team MyParaWay**

Asunción, Paraguay

*Residency in Paraguay — honest, complete, and explained step by step.*

# Behind MyParaWay

**MyParaWay was founded by Ralph and Kevin - two people who made the move themselves. Between them, they bring firsthand experience of international relocation, entrepreneurship, and life on the ground in Paraguay.**



*Ralph* built his career in project-management, marketing and publishing, working for an international media company in the Netherlands. At the same time, entrepreneurship was always close. Growing up as the son of a business owner, he was naturally drawn to creating something of his own. He went on to open coffee businesses and a hospitality consultancy in the Netherlands, working closely with concepts, operations, and helping people. Through coffee — a product that connects cultures worldwide — his perspective began to shift. It introduced the idea that opportunities weren't limited to one country. That led him to spend a year traveling through Europe in a camper, followed by a period living in Bali and Lombok. In 2024, he made the first move to Paraguay. What started as a new chapter, became a long-term decision. Today, Ralph lives there full-time, continuing to build, explore, and create — in a place where you can dream again.

*Kevin* started his career as a tennis coach in the Netherlands, but had the drive to build his own path from early on. In 2008 he emigrated to California, where he spent seven years living and generating income through digital markets. That combination of independence, calculated risk-taking, and an international mindset never left him.

After California he lived in Malta, Curaçao, and the Netherlands before making his first move to Paraguay in 2024. By 2025 he had made it permanent. Kevin lives full-time in Asunción and guides people through the same transition he made himself - building a new life in a new country, on their own terms.



# Contents

## 1. Why Paraguay?

A clear **territorial tax system**, **low cost of living**, **political stability**, and a **straightforward residency process** make Paraguay a practical and accessible choice. Combined with a **favourable business environment** and the **Maquila Regime**, it offers strong opportunities for entrepreneurs and investors.

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## 2. Why MyParaWay?

**We live and work in Paraguay**, with a **multilingual team** that guides you clearly through every step. Our **transparent approach** goes **beyond paperwork**, supporting you before, during, and after the process.

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## 3. The residency process explained

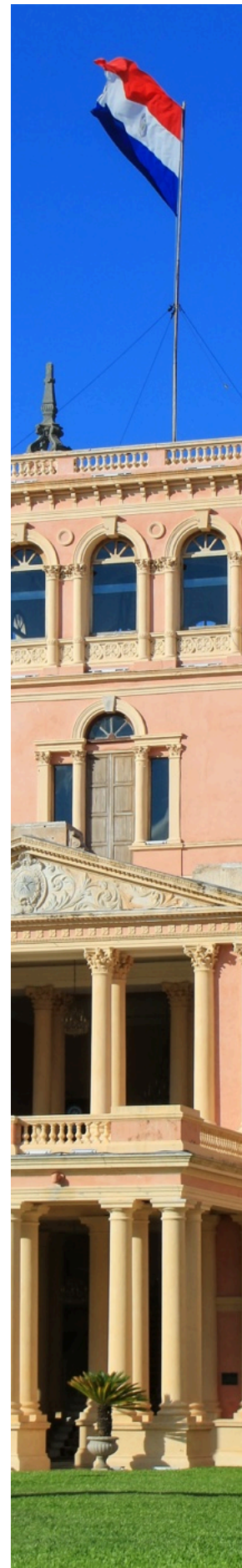
We explain the full residency path, from **temporary to permanent**, including both the **1-trip and 2-trip methods**. From **document checks** before your flight to guidance during and after your visit, every step is clearly structured.

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## 4. Residency packages

We offer **three residency packages** — Essential, Express, and Premium — depending on how structured and efficient you want the process to be. You can also **upgrade to permanent residency** through a guided transition once your temporary residency is in place.

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## 5. Additional services

We offer additional services to help you build and structure your life and business, from **real estate** and **company formation** to **international setups** like a Wyoming LLC. This also includes practical and long-term solutions such as **Nevis trust**, **Paraguayan citizenship** or practical things like **driver's licences** or **Firearm licence** in Paraguay.

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## 6. Frequently asked questions

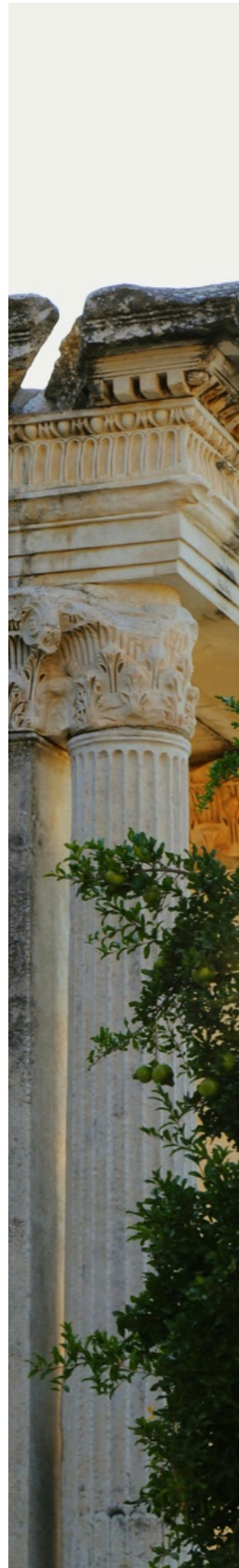
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## 7. Common mistakes

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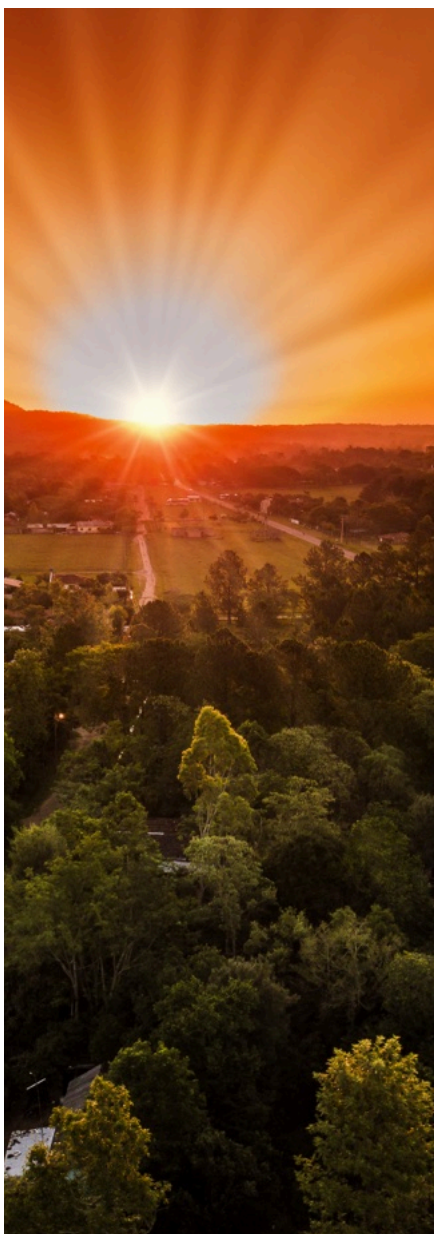
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# 01

## Why

# Paraguay?



*Paraguay is not the most famous country in the world. That is precisely what makes it interesting. While other popular expat destinations become more crowded, expensive, and bureaucratic, Paraguay has remained calm and manageable — with a residency procedure that is clear, affordable, and genuinely achievable.*

Our clients come in two varieties. Plan A people are ready to make a definitive move and are looking for a country where they can live, build, and invest for the long term. Plan B people want a residency as a safety net — a legal exit option if ever needed, or as a stepping stone towards a future relocation they are not ready for yet. For both groups, Paraguay offers one of the strongest options in the world.

Paraguay is growing in popularity among international entrepreneurs, digital professionals, and families seeking stability and freedom. But it remains far removed from overcrowded visa programmes, which means the procedure stays clear and accessible.

## Low cost of living

Paraguay is one of the most affordable countries in South America for those earning in a strong foreign currency. A comfortable life in Asunción — with a good apartment, quality restaurants, private healthcare, and leisure time — is achievable at a fraction of what it would cost elsewhere.

A family of four can live comfortably for \$2,000–2,500 per month including rent. Those who prefer a premium lifestyle with international schools and a spacious villa will pay more, but even that remains significantly cheaper than comparable comfort in Western Europe.

***Electricity: extremely low — Paraguay has the cheapest power on the continent thanks to the Itaipú dam.***

***Healthy food: approximately 40–60% cheaper than in Western Europe.***



### Some reference figures:

- 1 Apartment rental (2 bedrooms, modern, Asunción): \$500–900/month
- 2 Private healthcare: available and affordable, hospital insurance from approximately \$50–80/month
- 3 Dining out: a good restaurant dinner for \$15–20 per person

# Territorial tax system

Paraguay operates a territorial tax system. This means the Paraguayan tax authority only levies tax on income generated within Paraguay. Income from abroad — whether you have clients elsewhere in the world, hold foreign investments, or generate online revenue through foreign platforms — falls outside its scope.

For entrepreneurs, freelancers, and investors who earn the majority of their income outside Paraguay, this is an exceptionally favourable situation. There is no wealth tax, no inheritance tax, and the overall tax burden is one of the lowest on the continent.

**Important: the territorial system has rules. Your income sources need to be correctly classified and your tax registration must remain active. We can assist you through the experts in our network.**

Paraguay does not make headlines with political crises. The government actively pursues policy to attract foreign capital. The currency (Guaraní) is stable and inflation is manageable. Paraguay sits far from active conflict zones and is not involved in the geopolitical tensions that destabilise other regions.

## Political stability

- ✓ The country has a stable democracy
- ✓ Free-market economy
- ✓ Constructive relationship with foreign investors





# Favourable business environment

Paraguay has a low-tax and lightly regulated economy. Company formation is relatively fast and affordable. The local population is entrepreneurially minded and the government interferes little with day-to-day business operations. Sectors such as real estate, agriculture, energy, and logistics are growing strongly. Paraguay also borders Brazil — a market of over 200 million people directly accessible from Asunción. For those looking to build a platform in the region, Paraguay's location is strategically strong.

## The Maquila Regime

Paraguay has a particularly attractive industrial regime for foreign companies: the Maquila system. This allows products to be processed or assembled in Paraguay using foreign raw materials or semi-finished goods, and then exported — at **a flat tax rate of just 1%** on added value.

- Ideal for production, assembly, software development, services, and logistics
- Access to the Mercosur market through Paraguay's trade agreements
- Government actively supports Maquila applications

**NOTE:** The Maquila regime is particularly interesting for companies that have Europe or Asia as their end market but want to structure their operations more cost-effectively and tax-efficiently. We can connect you with specialist advisors in our network for an exploratory conversation.

## Key advantages of the Maquila regime:

1 

1% tax on added value — one of the lowest production regimes in the world

2 

Free import of raw materials, machinery, and components — temporarily duty-free

3 

No tax on profit distributions abroad



## Straightforward residency procedure

Paraguay does not require a large investment, property purchase, bank deposit, or proof of passive income to obtain a temporary residence permit. You need your passport, a criminal record check, a birth certificate, and a few other standard documents — all things you already have or can easily arrange.

As a temporary resident you are required to be present in Paraguay for at least 1 to 2 days within 365 days of your application. With permanent residency this reduces to a minimum of 1 to 2 days every 3 years.

The entire process can be completed in one trip to Paraguay. With Express and Premium we actively bypass the queues at Migraciones. The average processing time for both the residency card and cédula is approximately 4 months. A rushed process is available for clients who need to move faster. Essential follows the standard procedure with an average timeline of approximately 6 months.

# 02

## Why

# MyParaWay?



*There are multiple providers offering residency in Paraguay. That means you have a choice, and that is a good thing. But it also means you need to be critical about who you let handle this. A residence permit is a legal document — if something goes wrong, you pay twice.*

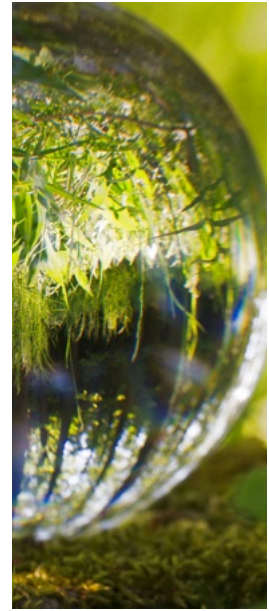
Our team is based in the Asunción area. We know the city, the procedures, the offices, and the people who matter. That is not a marketing line — it makes a practical difference. If something changes in the procedure at Migraciones, we tend to find out quickly. If there is a problem with a file, we solve it. We are on the ground, every day.

We start with services in Dutch, English, and Spanish. Further expansion to Portuguese and Italian is planned. You can count on all communication, document explanations, and process guidance taking place in a language you understand — without relying on translations or intermediaries.

## Transparent approach

We work with fixed packages and transparent pricing. No hidden costs, no vague hourly rates, no surprises afterwards. Before you start you know what you pay, what you get, and what you need to arrange yourself.

We also always check your documents remotely before you book your flights — our remote document review system. We assess whether everything is in order so you do not arrive with the wrong paperwork. Documentation errors are the most common cause of delays, and our pre-check prevents exactly that.



## More than just paperwork

We guide you through the residency application, but we are there afterwards too. The moment you land, we make sure you are immediately online with a temporary SIM card. From there we can assist you further with your RUC registration, tax filings, tax planning, advice on local real estate investment, or setting up a company.



*“Paraguay is a country where personal connections matter. We have the right people in our network.”*

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# The residency

## process explained



*The residency process in Paraguay is more straightforward than in most countries. There are no points systems, no embassy queues at home, and no annual income requirement. At Migraciones there are queues, but with Express and C we bypass these through the right channels. That said, it is crucial that you follow the steps correctly — an error in documentation or incorrect apostilling can cause delays.*

## The 1-trip and 2-trip method

With the 1-trip method (Express and Premium Package) you wrap everything up in one visit to Paraguay. You complete the full residency application and arrange the cédula application during that same trip. Documents are shipped worldwide via DHL once they are ready.

This method is popular with our clients because it is time-efficient. It requires careful document preparation in advance — which is exactly what our remote document review is for.

With the 2-trip method (Essential Package) you submit your application during your first visit. You then return within 365 days — this is a mandatory visit for all residents — which is also the right moment to submit your cédula application. Essential is specifically designed for clients who choose this method.

MyParaWay guides you through both phases. Permanent residency provides the strongest legal foundation for the long term and is the natural next step after your temporary residency expires.



**Please note that processing times with Essential are longer than with Express and Premium, as this package follows the standard procedure at Migraciones.**

## Temporary vs. permanent residency

- ✓ **Temporary residency (2 years):** This is the first step. You apply during your visit to Paraguay. Upon approval you receive a temporary residence permit valid for two years.
- ✓ **Permanent residency:** After your temporary residency you can apply for a permanent residence permit. This requires a new visit and an updated file. Permanent residency offers greater security and opens the door to Paraguayan citizenship after three years.

# Document checklist before your flight

These are the documents you need for your application. We check all of them before you book.



## Passport

Valid passport (minimum 6 months validity after arrival date).

## Birth certificate

Birth certificate — with apostille from your country of origin.

## Criminal record check

Criminal record check (VOG or equivalent) — recent, with apostille.

## Marriage certificate

Marriage certificate (if applicable) — with apostille.

*All foreign documents must be apostilled in the country of origin and are then translated in Paraguay by an authorised Paraguayan translator. We arrange this for you on the ground.*



## What happens during your visit

The moment you arrive in Asunción, we are ready for you. We ask all clients to keep their first week flexible. Paraguay operates at its own pace and several steps in the process depend on third parties and government offices outside our direct control. We cannot tell you in advance exactly when each appointment will be scheduled — but we handle the planning and guide you through every step.

*All transfers are by private transport. You do not need to worry about navigation, queues, or communication — we handle it.*

A typical residency visit includes:

- Pick-up from the airport and transfer to your accommodation
- Temporary SIM card so you are immediately online
- Private transport to all relevant government offices
- Submission of your residency application at Migraciones
- Biometric registration for the cédula (fingerprints, photo)



## After your visit

After submission, Migraciones processes your file. Once your cédula is ready, Premium includes DHL shipping worldwide as standard. Essential and Express clients can also opt for DHL shipping. We will keep you informed as your file progresses.

All residents are required to return to Paraguay within 365 days of their application for a minimum stay of 1 to 2 days. For Essential clients, this is also the right moment to submit the cédula application.



Once your temporary residency is established, you can apply for **permanent residency** in due course. We guide you through that step too, including updating your file and planning your visit.

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# Residency packages



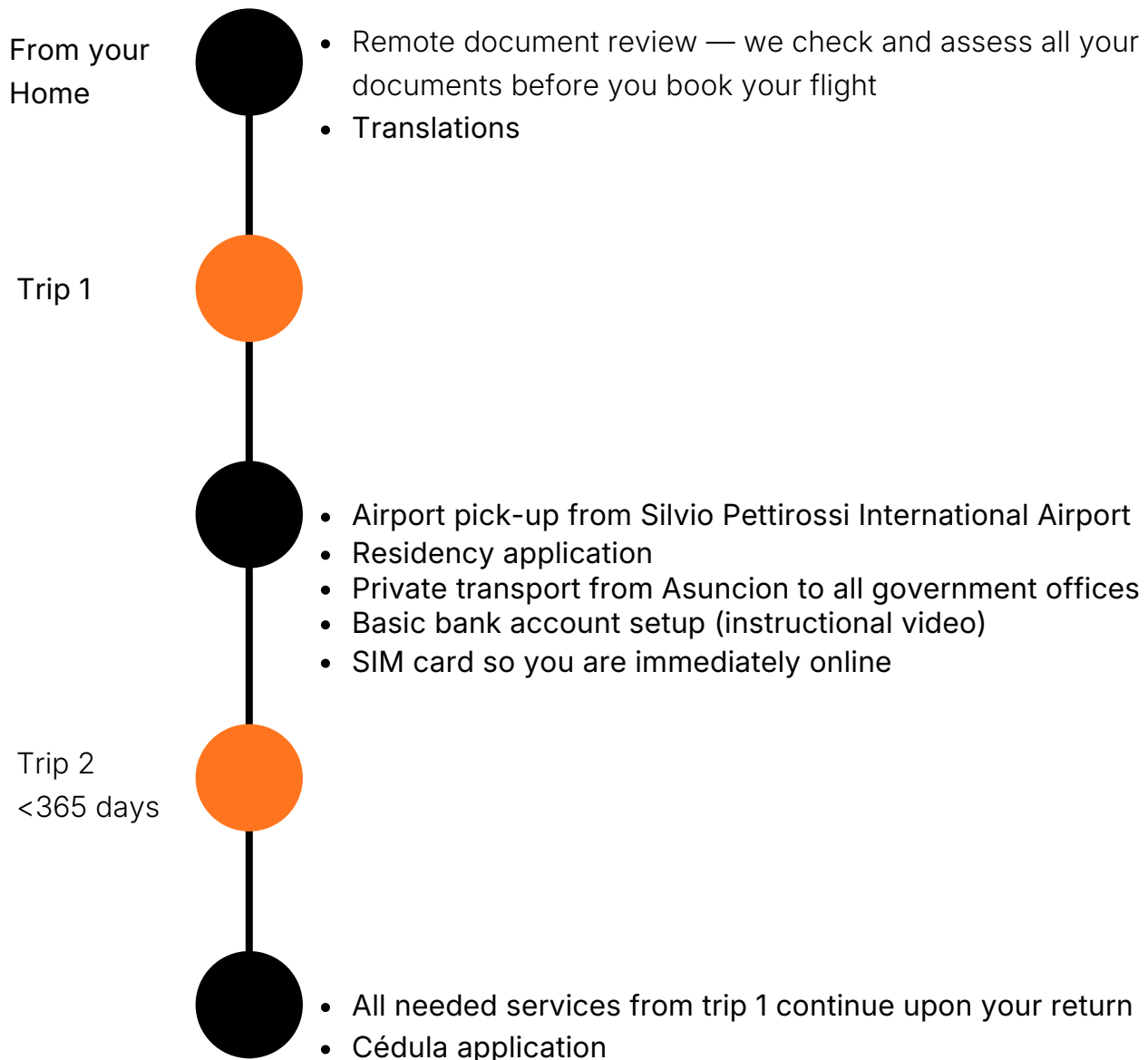
*We offer three main packages for temporary residency, plus two upgrade packages for permanent residency. All packages begin with a remote document review before you book your flights.*

1. **Essential**
2. **Express**
3. **Premium**

You can also upgrade to **permanent residency** through a guided transition once your temporary residency is in place.

## Essential (2 trips)

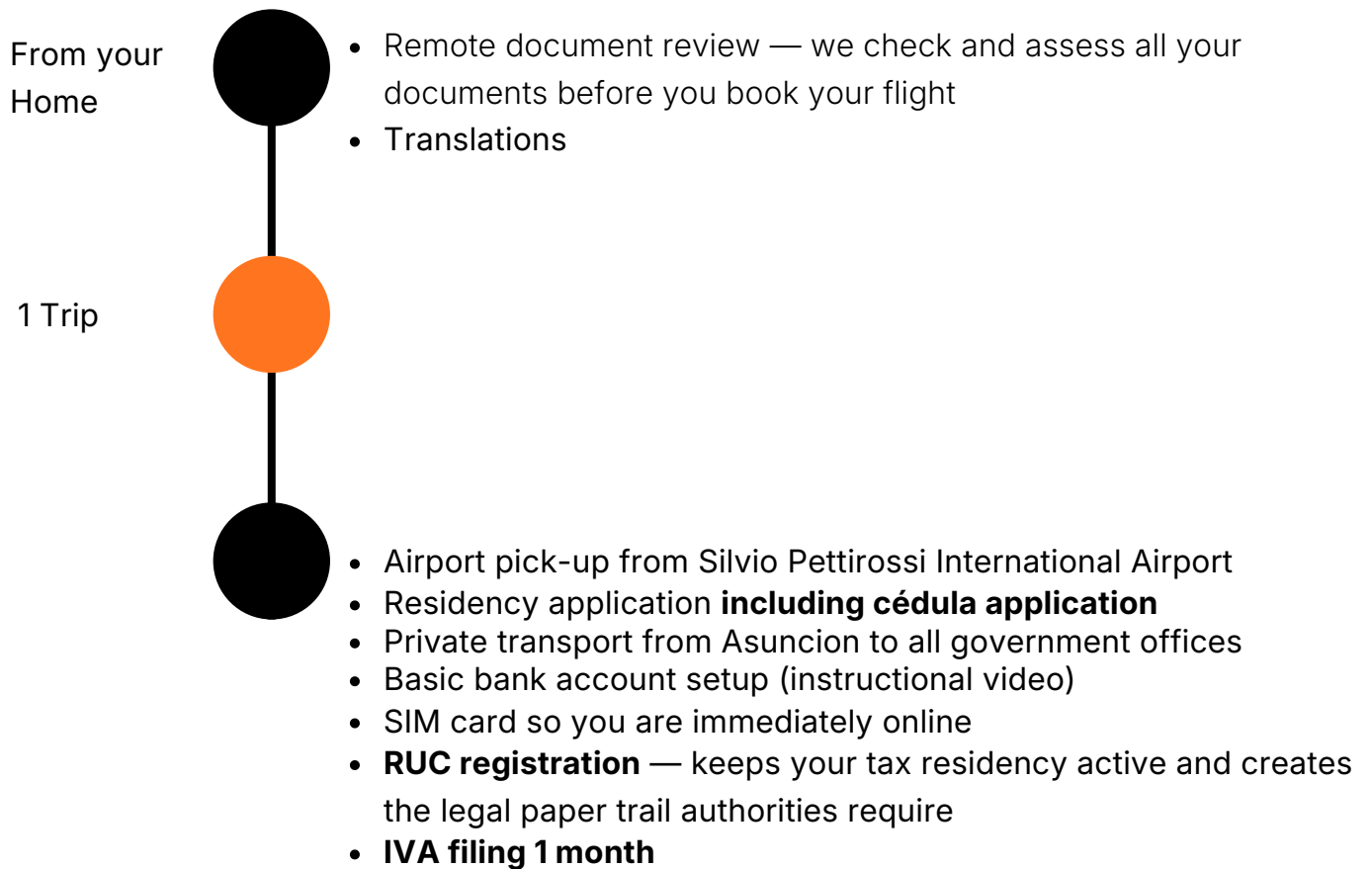
For those who submit their application on trip 1 and arrange their cédula application during the mandatory visit within 365 days. The most affordable option, with an average processing time for the residency of approximately 3 months.



**Note:** The cédula application is submitted during the mandatory visit within 365 days — not collected. Make sure your criminal record check is still valid at that point; for most clients it will have expired and will need to be renewed.

## Express (1 trip)

Everything completed in one visit, including the cédula application. Average processing time for both the residency card and cédula approximately 4 months.



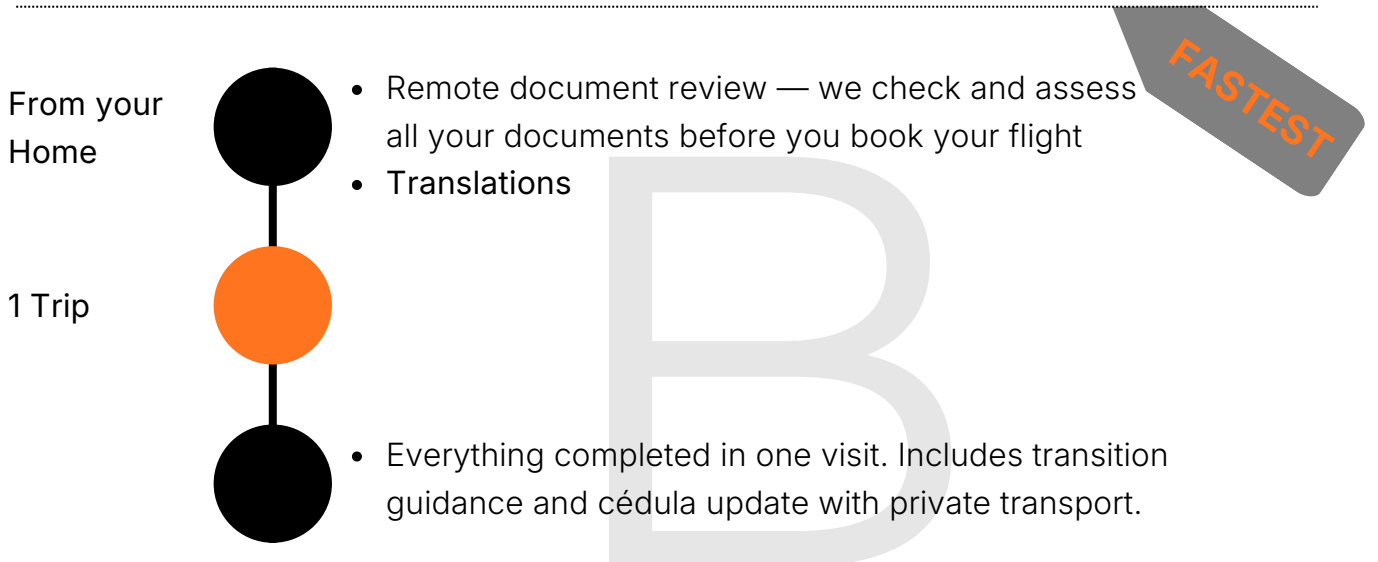
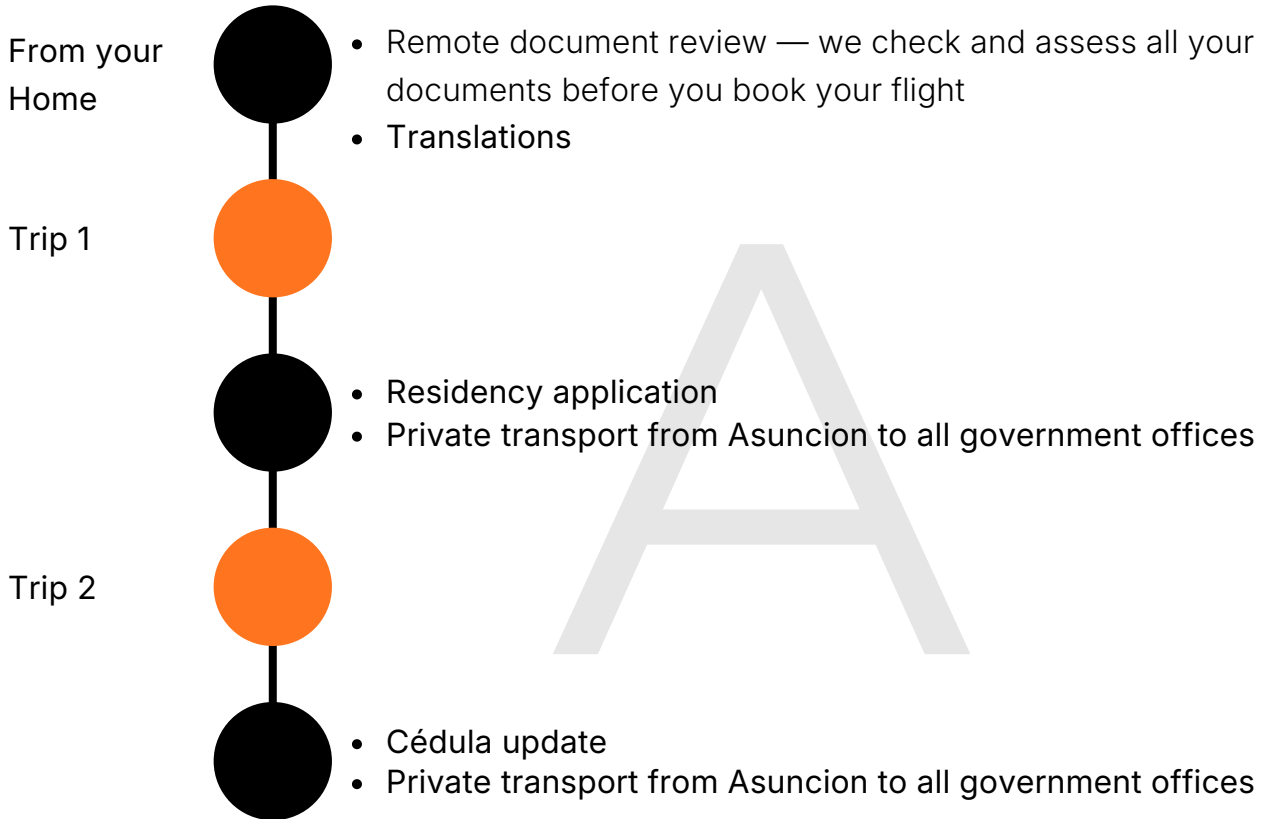
## Premium (1 trip)

Fully taken care of, including personal banking assistance, a meal with the MyParaWay team at an authentic Brazilian Churrascaria, and driver's licence. Average processing time for both the residency card and cédula approximately 4 months.



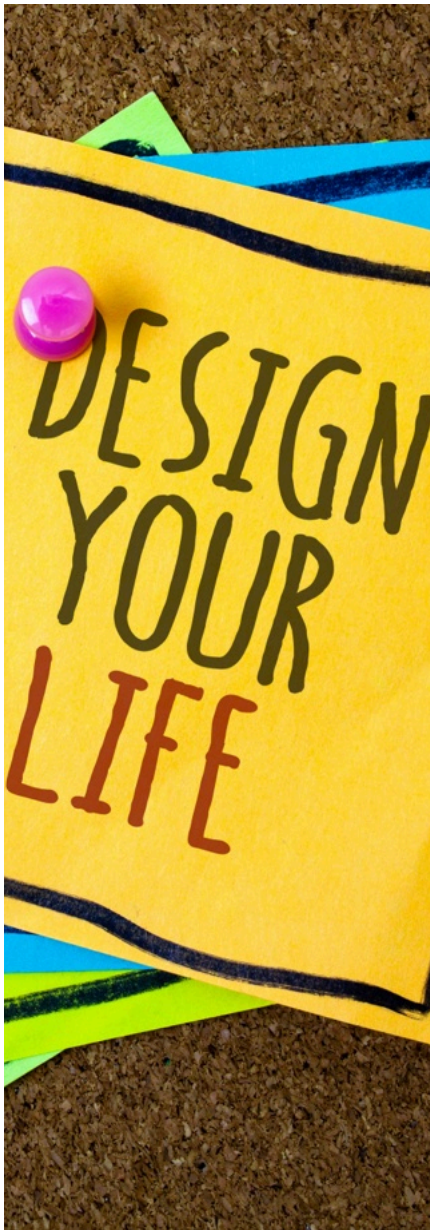
# Permanent Residency Upgrade

After your temporary residency, you can transition to permanent residency. This requires a new visit and an updated file, but the process is significantly simpler than the first application. For this, we offer two options: **Permanent A** (2 trips) and **Permanent B** (1 trip).



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# Additional services



*Beyond residency, we offer services for those who want to intentionally shape their life in Paraguay and beyond. Whether you're building a business, optimizing your structure, or creating more freedom, these services are designed to fit your vision — and can be combined with any residency package or used on their own.*

# Real estate investment in Paraguay

Paraguay is growing. The real estate market in Asunción and surrounding areas offers interesting opportunities for foreign investors, both for rental yield and personal use. We work with a specialist real estate team that operates directly alongside a lawyer — meaning legal due diligence, contract review, and notarial oversight are handled in one place. This gives you the assurance that every step is handled correctly and with full legal protection.

## What we offer during the process

1. Tailored property search based on your wishes and budget
2. ROI and rental yield projections
3. Developer screening and background checks
4. Contract review and negotiation
5. Notarial oversight during purchase
6. Full communication with the developer on your behalf
7. Follow-up on payments and construction progress

**Optional:** furnishing assistance, property management, and tenant sourcing







## Company formation in Paraguay

Want to set up a Paraguayan company? We handle the complete process through our local accountant. A large part of the procedure can be managed remotely, provided you grant a Power of Attorney. Signing that Power of Attorney does require a visit to Paraguay, but once that is done, everything else proceeds fully remotely.

### The complete process, checks all the boxes

- ✓ Drafting of articles of incorporation
- ✓ Notarial deed
- ✓ Public Registry filing
- ✓ RUC tax ID activation at DNIT
- ✓ Mandatory legal publications
- ✓ Preparation of banking dossier
- ✓ Power of Attorney for remote signing
- ✓ Bank account submission and follow-up until activation
- ✓ Online banking activation
- ✓ Apostille guidance for foreign documents
- ✓ WhatsApp/email support throughout the process
- ✓ Final check — company legally ready to operate

*After formation we offer monthly accounting packages through our local accountant. This keeps your company compliant at all times.*

## U.S. Business Setup (Wyoming LLC)

Want to complement your Paraguayan base with a U.S. business structure? We work with a specialist partner who handles this process entirely remotely. Wyoming is the strongest choice for non-residents thanks to complete privacy, zero state income tax, and low annual costs.



*Expand your Paraguayan base with a Wyoming LLC.*

Work with our **specialist partner - 100% remote setup** for non-residents.

- Wyoming LLC formation
- Articles of Organization
- Operating Agreement
- EIN application (federal tax ID)
- U.S. Registered Agent — 1 year included
- Virtual U.S. business address — 1 year included

# Cook Islands Trust

The Cook Islands Trust is widely regarded as the most powerful asset protection structure available anywhere in the world. It is the gold standard of offshore protection, chosen by high-net-worth individuals, crypto holders, and entrepreneurs who are serious about defending what they have built.

Foreign court judgments are not recognised or enforced in the Cook Islands. Even U.S. courts have failed to break Cook Islands Trusts. The jurisdiction operates a no-public-registry policy — full confidentiality, no disclosure.

## What is included

- Full trust formation — legally registered with licensed offshore legal partners
- Remote setup — 100% digital, no travel required
- Custom structure strategy — tailored for cash, companies, real estate, and crypto holdings
- Bank account support — setup available if required
- Premium trustee relationship — discreet, long-term, internationally compliant

## Requirements

- Valid passport
- Proof of address
- Overview of assets to protect
- KYC and compliance review

## Key notes

1 

Formation time: 10–20 business days

2 

Case-law backed protection — foreign judgments not recognised or enforced

3 

Confidential jurisdiction — no public registry, no disclosure

*Ideal for global entrepreneurs, crypto investors, high-risk professions, and long-term wealth holders who want the strongest legal firewall available anywhere.*

# Nevis Trust

The Nevis Trust is a highly effective asset protection structure formed under the legislation of the Caribbean island of Nevis. It provides strong privacy, protection against forced heirship, and a resilient structure for international wealth planning. Foreign judgments are not enforceable in Nevis, and the jurisdiction does not publicly disclose trust details.

## What is included

- Full Nevis trust setup — legally formed with a licensed, regulated trustee
- Custom trust design — tailored to your personal, business, and global assets
- Bank account integration — for cash, investments, and global holdings
- Step-by-step onboarding — managed by our experienced offshore legal team
- Confidential international structure — protected by Nevis law

## Requirements

- Valid passport
- Proof of address
- Brief asset overview
- KYC and compliance review

## Key notes

1 

Formation  
time: 1–2  
months

2 

Licensed Nevis-  
regulated  
trustees only

3 

Confidentiality —  
Nevis does not  
disclose trust  
details publicly

4 

Foreign  
judgments are  
not enforceable  
in Nevis

*The Nevis Trust is a strong option for clients who prioritise privacy and estate planning, or as a complement to other asset protection structures. We arrange this together with our international partner.*



## Paraguayan citizenship

After three years of permanent residency you may be eligible for Paraguayan citizenship — a second passport that is one of the most valuable legal documents you can hold. Processing is handled fully by our specialist partner.

### Eligibility requirements:

- Minimum 3 years of permanent residency
- Demonstrable ties to Paraguay — residency, social, or economic activity
- Basic command of Spanish
- Clean criminal record
- Renouncing your current citizenship is not required by Paraguay — but depends on your home country

### Long-term benefits:

- Visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to numerous countries
- Full Paraguayan citizenship rights — including the right to vote and live permanently
- Maintain your existing citizenship (subject to your home country's rules)
- Strong legal status independent of your country of birth

*We guide you through the naturalisation procedure via our specialist partner. Get in touch for a personal consultation about your specific situation.*

## Driver's licence

As a Paraguayan resident you can apply for a local driver's licence. This cannot be arranged during your residency visit, but once your cédula has been received, we take care of it for you. You keep your foreign licence — the Paraguayan licence is an addition. Available for car, or the combination car and motorbike.



## Firearm licence in Paraguay

**Paraguay permits firearm ownership for legal residents. The licencing and registration process runs through DIGEMABEL, the national firearms authority, and follows a structured four-phase procedure.**

To apply, you must hold permanent residency, have a clean police and judicial record, complete an authorised firearms safety course, and obtain a psychological certificate from a qualified professional. DIGEMABEL then validates your dossier, collects biometric data, and issues both the firearms licence and ownership card.

We coordinate the complete process on your behalf. Note that a firearms licence requires permanent residency and can therefore only be applied for once your permanent cédula has been received.




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# Frequently asked questions

*Below, we answer the most common questions we receive — from timelines and travel requirements to language, family applications, and practical setup. Clear, straightforward, and based on real experience, so you know exactly what to expect.*






- Do I need to live in Paraguay to keep my residency?

- How long does the residency process take?

- What if I do not speak the language?

- Can my partner or family apply together?

- Is Paraguay safe?



- Can I start the process remotely?

- What is a RUC and do I need one?

- No. As a temporary resident you are required to be present in Paraguay for at least 1 to 2 days within 365 days of your application. With permanent residency this reduces to a minimum of 1 to 2 days every 3 years. You can live anywhere else in the world in between.

- The average processing time for the residency is approximately 3 months. In some cases we can expedite this to 45 days. We do not publish hard time guarantees — final processing sits with Migraciones.

- No problem. We start with services in Dutch, English, and Spanish, and are expanding to Portuguese and Italian. At all government offices we handle all communication on your behalf.

- Yes. Each family member requires their own application with their own documents. We handle multiple applications simultaneously. Contact us for family situations.

- Asunción has an average safety level. In the expat neighbourhoods (Las Mercedes, Recoleta, and others) it is quiet and pleasant. As anywhere: use common sense.

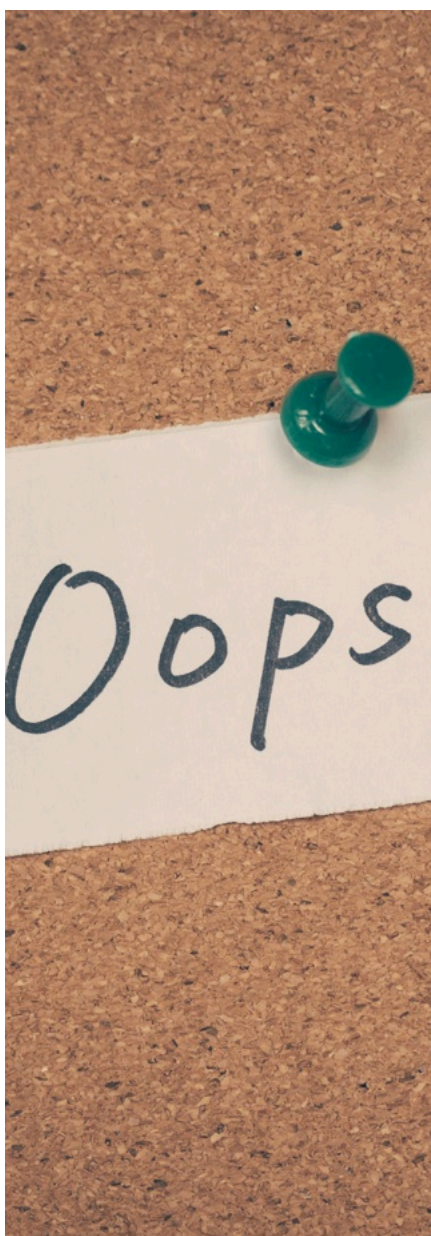
- Yes. We always begin with a remote document review and thorough preparation from a distance. You only travel to Paraguay once everything is ready and your visit can be optimally planned.

- A RUC is your Paraguayan tax ID. It is not a requirement for all residents, but is necessary for those with business activities in Paraguay or who want to set up tax planning. We advise you on whether and when a RUC is relevant for your situation.



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# Common mistakes



*The residency process in Paraguay is accessible, but it requires accuracy. These are the most common mistakes — and how to avoid them.*



## Common mistakes

- Documents not apostilled

- Bringing documents that are out of date

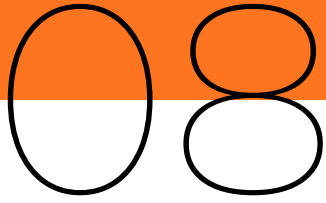
- Bringing copies instead of originals

- Trusting foreign translations

- Missing or rescheduling appointments

- Trying to do it alone without local knowledge

- All foreign documents must carry an apostille from the country of origin. Without an apostille they are invalid in Paraguay. Our pre-check prevents this.
- A criminal record check must not be older than 6 months at the time of arrival. Check the validity of all your documents well in advance — and keep in mind that with Essential you will need a fresh criminal record check for your second visit.
- Paraguay requires original documents. Copies are not accepted at Migraciones.
- Documents must be translated by an authorised Paraguayan translator in Paraguay itself. A translation made at home will not be accepted.
- Migraciones works on an appointment basis. A missed appointment means delay. We plan everything for you and accompany you to every visit.
- Paraguay has a clear bureaucracy, but knowing the right offices, the local procedures, and the people who matter makes a significant difference.



# Next steps



*Ready to arrange your residency in Paraguay? Or do you still have questions after reading this guide? Here is how it works.*





### Step 1 — Introductory call

Schedule a free introductory call. We discuss your situation, answer your questions, and together determine which package suits you best.



### Step 2 — Remote document check

Once you choose a package, we start the remote document review. We check all your documents before you book a single flight.



### Step 3 — Planning your visit

We work together to set a travel window. We ask all clients to keep their first week in Asunción flexible. Paraguay operates at its own pace and several steps in the process depend on government offices and third parties outside our direct control. We cannot commit to exact appointment times in advance, but we handle all planning and guide you through every step from the moment you land.



### Step 4 — Your visit to Paraguay

We are ready when you arrive and guide you through the complete process — from airport to Migraciones and back.



### Step 5 — Receiving your documents

After your visit, Migraciones processes your file. Once ready, both the residency card and cédula will be shipped to you worldwide via DHL (Premium as standard; optional with Essential and B). You are officially a resident of Paraguay.

## Get in touch

[www.myparaway.com](http://www.myparaway.com)

[hello@myparaway.com](mailto:hello@myparaway.com)