

# Paraguay

## Medical Summary

The health risk information presented here is summarized from Shoreland Travax<sup>®</sup>, a decision-support tool used by health care providers to perform a detailed health risk analysis based on specific locations, individual travel styles, and traveler risk behaviors. Travax provides practitioners current, independently researched malaria risk and prevention recommendations in a map-based format that goes beyond the annual WHO and CDC statements included here. Not included here are current reports from Travax of disease outbreaks or environmental events that may pose elevated risks to travelers' health and safety. The Providers section of this site offers a directory of health care providers who utilize Shoreland Travax for travel health counseling. Learn more about the detailed reports and maps available from these practitioners (*includes links to samples*).

## General Information

Paraguay is a developing nation classified as upper middle income. Located in South America (north of Argentina and south of Brazil), the climate is classified as humid equatorial (long dry season) in central areas and subtropical dry winter in the rest of the country.

## Immunizations

### Yellow Fever

An official yellow fever vaccination certificate may be required depending on your itinerary. Vaccination is usually recommended if you'll be traveling in areas where there is risk of yellow fever transmission.

- ▮ *Requirement:* A vaccination certificate is required for travelers aged  $\geq 1$  year coming from countries with risk of YF transmission. Note: This does not apply to airport transit stops (no exit through immigration checkpoint) in risk countries.
- ▮ *Official Status:* listed by WHO as a country where YF transmission risk is present.

### Other Vaccines

Depending on your itinerary, your personal risk factors, and the length of your visit, your health care provider may offer you vaccination against hepatitis A, hepatitis B, influenza, measles, mumps, rubella, rabies, or typhoid fever. Routine immunizations, such as those that prevent tetanus/diphtheria or "childhood" diseases, should be reviewed and updated as needed.

## Malaria

The following is current information as reported by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC):

### WHO—*International Travel and Health* (current online update, Country List)

(2019) Very low risk of malaria; last indigenous case was in 2011. Some receptivity and vulnerability persist in historically endemic departments such as Alto Paraná, Canindeyú and Caaguazú, exclusively for *P. vivax*.

- ▮ Recommended prevention in risk areas: **A** – Very limited risk of malaria transmission. Mosquito bite prevention only.

WHO Country List footnote: When available, the date of the most recent update or confirmation is indicated in parentheses in the country list. If no date is indicated, the most recent update or confirmation was provided before 2013.

### CDC—*Health Information for International Travel* (current online edition)

Areas with malaria: None.

Drug resistance: Not applicable.

## Other Concerns

### Travelers' Diarrhea

High risk exists throughout the country, including in deluxe accommodations. Food and beverage precautions may reduce the likelihood of illness.

Travelers should carry loperamide for self-treatment of diarrhea and, if risk is moderate to high, an antibiotic to add if diarrhea is severe. Consult a knowledgeable health care provider regarding which antibiotic is appropriate for you and most effective for your destination.

### **Insect- and Arthropod-Borne Diseases**

Chagas' disease (American trypanosomiasis), chikungunya, dengue, leishmaniasis, Zika may pose a risk. Personal protective measures are important.

### **Other Disease and Health Risks**

Additional concerns include hantavirus, helminths, snakebites, tuberculosis.

## **Consular Advice**

*The material below includes information from the U.S. Department of State (DOS), U.K. Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO), Global Affairs Canada (GAC), and Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), as well as from additional open-source material. Standard safety precautions that apply to all international travel can be found in the Library article Safety and Security.*

### **Terrorism Risk**

Low risk of attack by domestic terrorist groups exists in northern areas of San Pedro Department and southern areas of Concepción Department. Targets may include domestic and international organizations and businesses; public places and events, including those frequented by tourists; and transportation systems.

High risk of kidnapping by terrorist groups exists in San Pedro Department and southern areas of Concepción Department. Targets may include foreigners (especially Westerners).

### **Crime**

Moderate risk of violent crime (armed robbery) exists throughout the country, including popular tourist destinations such as San Pedro and Concepción, especially in downtown Asunción (particularly Chacarita and Costanera areas and market or plaza areas) and in areas bordering Brazil and Argentina.

Moderate risk of petty crime exists throughout the country, especially in major cities, in crowded areas frequented by foreigners, and on or near public transportation.

Theft of valuables by criminals in passing vehicles is common.

Scams involving false identity (such as criminals posing as service workers) have been reported.

### **Civil Unrest**

Protests and demonstrations (in the form of road blocks) occur throughout the country (especially in Asunción) and are generally peaceful, but have the potential to turn violent without warning. Bystanders are at risk of harm from violence or from the response by authorities. Disruption to transportation, free movement, or the ability to carry out daily activities may occur.

### **Unsafe Areas**

A dangerous security environment (primarily drug or gang violence) exists and armed groups are present in the Amambay, Canindeyú, Concepción, and San Pedro departments.

### **Transportation Safety**

High risk of traffic-related injury or death exists. The road-traffic death rate is 12 to 24 per 100,000 population. The rate is less than 10 in most high-income countries. Speed laws are poorly enforced. Driving at night is not advised. Seek local advice before traveling on roads outside urban areas after dark.

Traffic flows on the right-hand side of the road. Travelers (including drivers and pedestrians) accustomed to traffic moving on the opposite side should be vigilant when navigating traffic.

Exercise caution on public buses due to the risk of pick-pocketing.

Many taxis are unsafe. Use taxis from official ranks or dispatched via smart phone app or radio from a reputable company and ascertain the license or identification number of the dispatched vehicle.

### Natural Disasters

The rainy season is from December through March. Floods, mudslides, and landslides may occur, including in Asunción and other cities.

### Consular Information

Selected Embassies or Consulates in Paraguay

- | United States: [+595] 21-213-715; [py.usembassy.gov](http://py.usembassy.gov)
- | Canada: [+595] 21-227-207; [travel.gc.ca/assistance/embassies-consulates/paraguay](http://travel.gc.ca/assistance/embassies-consulates/paraguay)
- | United Kingdom: [+595] 21-614-588; [www.gov.uk/world/organisations/british-embassy-asuncion](http://www.gov.uk/world/organisations/british-embassy-asuncion)
- | Australia: [+595] 21-608-740

Paraguay's Embassies or Consulates in Selected Countries

- | In the U.S.: [www.mre.gov.py/Sitios/Home/Index/embaparusa](http://www.mre.gov.py/Sitios/Home/Index/embaparusa)
- | In Canada: [www.mre.gov.py/Sitios/Home/Index/embapar-canada/EN](http://www.mre.gov.py/Sitios/Home/Index/embapar-canada/EN)
- | In the U.K.: [www.paraguayembassy.co.uk](http://www.paraguayembassy.co.uk)
- | In Australia: [www.mre.gov.py/australia](http://www.mre.gov.py/australia)

### Visa/HIV Testing

HIV and hepatitis testing are required to obtain a work or residence visa.

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