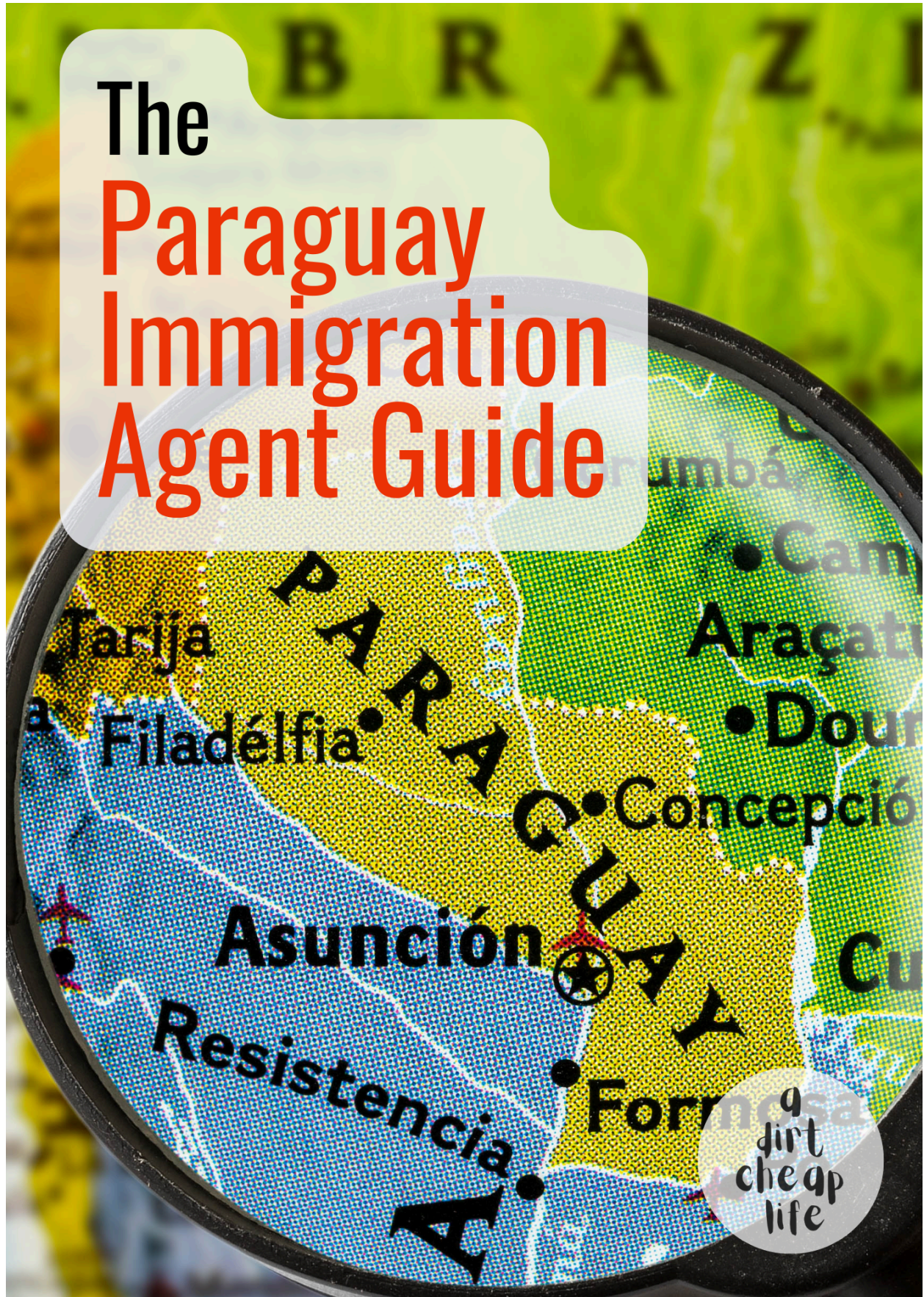


The Paraguay Immigration Agent Guide



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Choosing an Immigration Agent for Your Residency Application

Red Flags

1. Lack of Transparency

If you hear the words:

“just come to Paraguay, we’ll sort out the fine details/issues with your identification documents when you get here”

Stop! This is a big Red Flag. You do not want to arrive without being confident about your ability to apply without problems. Very few things in life are certain, and even with all your ducks in a row there can always be variables.

It’s not about eliminating all potential issues but rather it’s about minimising the risks.

There is nothing that we can think of that can only be sorted upon your arrival. In fact, we have heard of people who have received this advice and it’s led to a lot of headaches at this end.

The first step in engaging an Agent is to have an online meeting. You should talk for as long as you need to in order to be comfortable that you understand the process and what’s required from you.

Some questions to ask;

- transport arrangements (most Agents will arrange transport from the Airport and throughout the process)
- how many other clients (if any) will be applying on the day’s you are applying?

If it’s a lot, brace yourself for long days. Also, if it’s an excessive amount, consider if this Agent is providing the level of care that you expect. It’s not unusual for an Agent to have multiple clients; it’s just a matter of how many is too many?

2. You MUST Use a Lawyer!

Not true. We didn't use a Lawyer when we applied, and if we did it again we would engage an Agent.

Note: there is no such thing as an 'Immigration Lawyer' in Paraguay; there are just Lawyers who provide an immigration application service.

3. Look Out for The Drama Farmer Agent

Presumably you have enough on your plate already. You're thinking about locating to another country.

The last thing you need is an Agent who plays on your fear or hyper-focuses on the trouble of the world.

If they are professional they will be focused on the job at hand. To talk excessively about the problems of the world is an indicator that they are playing on your possible fears. Don't let that energy take hold in the application process. That breeds stress, and that's not the best head space to be in when making big moves and decisions.

And on the topic of drama, assess your own state of mind. Don't make a hasty Agent selection out of fear that you have to move forward. Take your time, make good decisions.

4. Money Matters

There's a few things to consider regarding the issue of money.

Price – Beware of those Agents who's fees are too cheap or too expensive. As of September 2024 you should expect to pay approx. \$1600 USD for an Immigration Agent and \$2300 for a Lawyer.

Each to their own as to which category of Agent you select. Our experience is that the application process can be carried out perfectly by a good Immigration Agent.

Children – The application process is cheaper for children, and so this should be reflected in what you pay. Agent fees for children under 13 years old should be in the range of \$850 USD.

Payment Arrangements – The manner and timing of the payment should also be clearly agreed upon. Pay when you are comfortable in paying. These arrangements will differ depending on your circumstances and how you feel about the process. There is no set way of doing things. Of course, if anyone asks for money without delivering any tangible services, beware.

5. Don't Use an Agent Who Does Not Back Themselves

Only engage an Agent who guarantees the price you pay is the complete price...no more to pay, no matter what. If unexpected 'extra fee's' are required, the Agent pays, not you.

There is a worrying phenomena where some agents are encouraging clients to attend Paraguay, and post arrival ask for 'additional payments'. This is often presented as a situation where something has arisen in the application process that now requires extra money in order to lubricate the process.

A cynical eye may wonder if such payments are even being received by the parties that they're supposedly being asked for.

6. The Agent Has Been Operating for Only a Few Months

The application process is in a current state of flux. Things constantly change, and this common in Paraguay. In our view, it is essential the Agent has a solid, well established understanding of the process; and this includes factors that have led to the process being as it currently is. Context is everything. You would not engage a professional in any sphere without being confident of their experience.

Likewise, if the 'Agent' bases their credentials on the claim that they managed their own residency application process, you need to think twice. Every application is different and innumerable variances can arise. Just because a person has managed to navigate the application process themselves does not mean that they will be able to replicate the result for you.

7. You Need a Sponsor, Deposit \$5k USD into a Bank Account, Buy a Property

Run! All Red Lights and have made a recent resurgence by scammers. The 5K USD was once a thing, but it's long gone. And the Sponsor/Property claims are nonsense.

8. Beware of Social Media Fly Traps

Social media is a great place to get some ideas about leads for good Agents, but be aware, there are many people who will offer advice who either have an agenda or don't know what they're talking about'

9. Beware of Language/Culture/Nationality Trap

Of course we feel an attachment to people from our former country, or those that speak our language. Just be alert this is a well established method of those who seek to ring fence newcomers into accepting overpriced and/or unscrupulous.

It's so tempting to give your trust to someone who speaks your language and promises to take all of your troubles away.

Note - This does not only apply to Immigration Agents. There are unscrupulous people in the areas of real estate for example who use this tactic.

10. Beware of the Agent Who Obsesses on 'Past Glories'

Any Agent worth their salt will have at least some positive fans. At this point in time they are encountering an increase in clients, so even a poor fisherman will occasionally catch a fish.

But this is a very dynamic situation. We know of Agents who were operating brilliantly when we arrived, who we would not recommend now. Regardless, they can present a list of happy clients. They just omit the several unhappy ones, and censor their social media feeds accordingly.

The fact they are proud of happy clients is brilliant. That's not the issue. The problem is that this can be an intoxicating lure for those seeking good Agent.

Some Things to Keep in Mind

The Only Certainty is that Nothing is Certain

Paraguay is not renowned for consistency. Go to Barber one day, come out looking like a rockstar. Next time around you look like a turnip. This applies to most services. Consistency is such a well worn principle and way of doing things in most developed countries, but in Paraguay many things can change without notice. And they do.

Thankfully, there are Agents who defy this tendency, and deliver great results time after time.

However, we have personally recommended services that we knew were brilliant at a certain, recent date of time, but had suddenly gone off the boil. This is exacerbated by the fact that the Government Agencies are also prone to changing their processes with little notice. Further, throw into the mix a world that's changing at a speed that is impossible to track.

All that to say, expect the unexpected. Often, it will go without a hitch. But if you're prone to freaking out at the unexpected, you need to work on that; because Paraguay is not changing for anyone.

Relax and Enjoy the Ride

Not only does it make for a more pleasant experience, but you are more likely to make good decisions if you keep your cool. Most things can be sorted, try to avoid a catastrophe mindset.

Be Nice to Your Agent. Paraguay is the Country of Friends

It's not unheard of for Agents to encounter very difficult clients. This isn't just a Client who wants to know the fine details, or wants more information. This is a Client who constantly doubts their Agent's advice, or seeks information online and then tries to 'catch the Agent out'.

If you find yourself in this situation, the first thing we'd advise is to reconsider your choice of Agents. If you have such little faith in them at this stage of the process then you've made the wrong choice.

Good Agents are very committed, honest, busy people. They don't have time to squabble. Agents are also the first and most important contact you make in Paraguay. They often have insights, advice and guidance that go far beyond residency advice. Sure, keep them on their toes, check the info they provide, ask them to clarify anything you are uncertain about; but please, be nice.

We hope these pointers are helpful. Yes, it's definitely a journey, but all good things in life take work. We have not regretted all the costs and effort we invested in getting our residency. If this is the place you are meant to be it will all work out.

If it's meant to be, we will see you here! ❤️

We're Here to Help

If you have specific questions about Paraguay, you can book a Paraguay Relocation Consult with us. This one hour session is based on your questions and concerns about living in Paraguay.

We aim to arm you with all the information & contacts for a smooth landing and an easy pathway to getting settled!

For more INFO and to BOOK click [HERE](#)

Contact Us

Don't hesitate to get in touch with us:

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