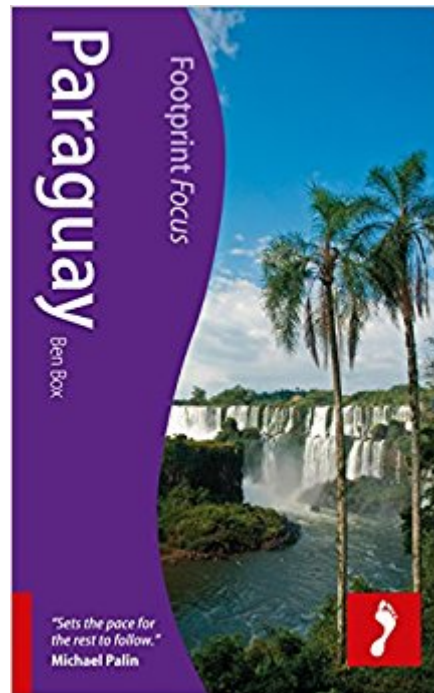




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Paraguay (Footprint Focus)



Synopsis

Walk around Asunción's historic centre and admire the grandeur of colonial-era buildings like the Palacio de Gobierno, styled on the Palace of Versailles, before hitting market stalls selling traditional arts and crafts. Paraguay is an under-explored pocket of South America, boasting rich wildlife, lush forests, and mighty rivers. This land-locked country is home to a proud Guaraní culture, as well as the 16th-century Jesuit Missions, which are now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Footprintfocus Paraguay is a concise and portable guide to this friendly country, containing detailed information on attractions that are both popular and off the beaten track. Essentials section with practical advice on getting there and around. Highlights map so you know what not to miss. Comprehensive listings on where to eat & sleep, plus details on festivals and activities. Detailed street maps for Asunción and other important towns. Slim enough to fit in your pocket. Loaded with advice and information, this concise Footprintfocus guide will help you get the most out of Paraguay without weighing you down. The content of the Footprintfocus Paraguay guide has been extracted from Footprint's South America Handbook.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ben Box has been working on the South American Handbook for over 30 years and is a Latin America expert. Ben has contributed to newspapers, magazines and learned tomes, usually on the

subject of travel, and has also been involved in Footprint's Central America & Mexico, Caribbean Islands, Brazil and Peru since their inception. Having a doctorate in Spanish and Portuguese studies from London University, Ben maintains a strong interest in Latin American literature and culture.

The book seemed pretty good and came in handy as I crossed Paraguay in my rental car over to Ciudad del Este to bridge and over to the Brazilian Side.

Although Paraguay is almost certainly both the most fascinating and the least known country in South America, until recently it attracted, at most, a page or two in guide books dedicated to the region as a whole. Then, in 2010, along came Bradt Guides with the first English language guide book dedicated exclusively to Paraguay and certainly the best and most comprehensive guide to anywhere which this reviewer has encountered. Then to prove the "feast or famine" rule, two years later, appeared the "Other Places Travel Guide to Paraguay". This book runs a close second to the Bradt Guide in its comprehensiveness although it is primarily and unashamedly aimed at the younger traveller on a limited budget. The latest edition to the growing stable of guides to this hitherto neglected country is the Footprint Focus handbook, edited by Ben Box and endorsed by world traveller Michael Palin. *Paraguay (Footprint Focus)* As it is a reprint of the Paraguayan section of the respected South American Handbook, perhaps it should not be compared with the Bradt and Other Places Travel books, which are stand-alone guides. However, whilst both of these are relatively weighty tomes, offering an encyclopaedic introduction to the country rather than readily portable handbooks, which fit easily into a hip pocket or hand bag, the Footprint Focus satisfies the latter criteria admirably. As a function of its size it is however somewhat more limited in scope than the other two books although it manages to fit an extraordinary amount of information into its 72 pages and in some respects, such as the scope of its hotel and restaurant reference sections, is more informative than the Other Places guide. One quibble arising from a first perusal is the statement on page 9 to the effect that "there are scheduled (air) services to most of the main parts of the country from (Asuncion's) Silvio Pettrossi airport". Although the Paraguayan Air Force used to provide such a service, at minimal cost, that was many years ago and the only centre now enjoying a scheduled air service, apart from the capital, is Ciudad del Este, although moves are afoot to re-establish air services to other centres. As a self-confessed Paraguayophile and a frequent visitor to that country, I would strongly advise intending visitors to read both the Bradt and Other Places books before setting out and if at all possible to include one or the other in their luggage.

However, if it comes down to the choice of only one guidebook, due to its portability, the Footprint Focus book is a definite must.

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