

Country Profile: Paraguay



Ambassador Justo Apodaca Paredes, Consul General of the Republic of Paraguay in Miami hosted the 211th Independence Day festivities at the Miami-Dade College North Campus Auditorium on May 13, 2022. In 1994, Asunción and Miami Dade County became Sister Cities. This relationship has fostered a close and fraternal bond between the people, and permanent, cooperation between the cities.

In the heart of South America, lies the Republic of Paraguay. Although the country is landlocked, its rivers provide access to the Atlantic, play an important role in the economic life of Paraguay, and have made it one of the world's major exporters of hydropower.

According to [Encyclopedia Britannica](#), it is said that the name "Paraguay" was derived from the Guaraní word meaning "river that gives birth to the sea."

Paraguay's population is more homogenous than that of most other South American countries, and most Paraguayans are of European and Guaraní descent. The Guaraní culture is strongly represented, and together with Spanish, was designated Paraguay's official language in the 1992 Constitution.

Paraguay's [national flag](#) was adopted in 1842. It consists of three horizontal stripes: red, symbolizing bravery and patriotism; white, integrity and peace; and blue, liberty and generosity. Paraguay's flag is unique because the central emblem on the front of the flag is the national coat of arms with the words: "República del Paraguay", while on the reverse side, the central emblem is the treasury seal, featuring a lion, sitting underneath a liberty cap mounted on a staff, framed by the national motto: "Paz y justicia" ("Peace and justice").

The bloodless revolution of May 14th and 15th 1811 was the first step in creating an independent Republic of Paraguay and the corner stone for the building of a free nation. In the evening of May 14, 1811, a military insurrection began in Asunción when Captain Pedro Juan Caballero led his troops to the Governor's quarters. There, they presented their demands to Spanish Governor Bernardo de Velasco. To avoid unnecessary bloodshed, Governor Velasco accepted their conditions in the early morning hours of May 15. This bloodless civic - military action led to the creation of a ruling faction composed of Governor Velasco, Dr. José Gaspar Rodríguez de Francia and Juan Valeriano de Zeballos.

Recognizing the large number of green spaces, the variety of bird species, and its rich fauna and flora in particular, Asunción was declared "Green Capital of Iberoamerica" in 2014. In June 2021, Asunción Silvio Pettirossi International Airport and Miami International Airport officially became Sister Airports, establishing a long-term commitment by both airports to assist each other in improving their passenger and cargo operations.

Today, the Asunción metropolitan area has more than 2 million inhabitants and is an autonomous capital district, not part of any department. It is the home of the national government, its main port, and the chief industrial and cultural center of the country.

Visiting Paraguay

Tourism plays an important role in the economy. History buffs will enjoy exploring Paraguay's historic churches and towns. Several missions established by the Jesuits in the 17th and 18th centuries remain, and two of those, La Santísima Trinidad de Paraná and Jesús de Tavarangué, were designated UNESCO World Heritage sites in 1993. For nature lovers, the Chaco region is home to many national parks and biological reserves. Tourists can also enjoy delicious food and drink, including [Terere](#), a Guaraní ancestral drink, which was inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2020.

MAY 2022

Division Director's Message



U. Desmond Alufohai
Director

Protocol & International Affairs Division
Miami-Dade Aviation Department

According to Factsite website, the name *May* is the modern-day English adaption of the Latin word *Maius*, which has origins going back to the time of the ancient Greeks. They named the month of May (or *Maius*) after the Greek goddess of growth.

May is known as the month of transition. In the Northern Hemisphere, the fresh cold winds are gone, and the rains arrive in early Spring. In the Southern Hemisphere, summer is gone, the Fall winds are sweeping by, and the nights are getting colder and darker.

We welcome the new FSD Jenel L. Chang to South Florida. We celebrate Haitian Heritage Month with the Haitian community and salute the nations celebrating their independence and/or national day in May.

We join MDAD's Director & CEO Ralph Cutié and the MDAD family in acknowledging the many accolades for MIA as a world-class airport, global gateway, and logistic hub. Tulips are the most colorful of all spring flowers. They are also one of the easiest flowers you'll ever grow. Learn more about Tulips on page 4.

MIA recently became the #1 airport in the U.S. for international passengers, the fastest growing airport in the world, etc. As always, please be safe.

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BRIEFS & NOTES

Meet the new Federal Security Director at MIA



Jenel L. Chang assumed the duties of Federal Security Director at Miami International Airport in May of 2022. As Federal Security Director, she oversees more than 1600 Transportation Security Administration (TSA) professionals responsible for screening passenger and checked baggage and inspecting aviation, cargo, and surface transportation security procedures.

Prior to joining Miami International Airport, Ms. Chang served as the Federal Security Director (FSD) for the Pacific and was based at the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport also known as Honolulu International Airport (HNL). As the Pacific FSD, Ms. Chang oversaw operations in the State of Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Prior to her role as an FSD in both the Pacific and MIA, she was the Deputy Federal Security Director at Washington Dulles International Airport and the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport. FSD Chang joined the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) in 2008 as the Deputy Program Manager for Checked Baggage. Since that time she advanced to Program Manager and was promoted to

Director for the Electronic Baggage Screening Program in the Office of Security Capabilities (OSC) with an annual budget of over \$700M.

Prior to joining TSA, FSD Chang worked at Wright Patterson AFB, OH, for approximately 15 years supporting multiple major Defense Acquisition Programs for the Department of Defense (DoD). From 1993 through 2003, she supported the Enhanced Technical Information Management System Program, which developed a system to manage the development, sustainment, distribution and viewing of all digital formats of electronic Technical Manuals across the Air Force.

During this time, Jenel lead the development of the Air Force Common Viewer Program that provided new abilities to view multiple data formats via a single software package. From 2003 through 2006, FSD Chang supported the Weapons System Management Information System (WSMIS) program, which controlled supply chain management for weapons systems across the Air Force. From 2006 through 2007, Jenel lead a team, which supported development of the Expeditionary Combat Support System program, a major initiative that transformed the Air Force logistics business.

Ms. Chang has an Associate of Science degree in Computer Information Systems from Sinclair Community College, a Bachelor's degree in Management/Computer Information Systems from Park University, and a Master's degree in Business Administration from Webster University.

Origins of May Day! May Day!! Distress Call

According to Flighcpilot.com, [the origins of the word MAYDAY](http://theoriginsofthewordMAYDAY.com) started as an international distress call in 1923. It was made official in 1948. It was the idea of Frederick Mockford, who was a senior radio officer at Croydon Airport in London. He came up with the idea for "mayday" because it sounded like the French word *m'aider*, which means "help me." Mayday is a very serious situation, and one should not fake or jeopardize its priority in any way. In the United States, making a fake distress call as such could cause you imprisonment and a fine of up to \$250,000.

Mayday is a Distress call used by Aviators and Marine vessels to transmit a radio message communicating one is in serious trouble and needs immediate help! In the aviation world, a Mayday call is accompanied with an emergency transponder code of 7700. This way Air traffic and other aircraft know the transmitter is in a serious emergency, e.g Decompression. A distress call as such is triggered by saying the word 'MAYDAY' three times followed by who you are (Call-sign) and what your problem and intention may be. A typical example is as follows, "Mayday Mayday Mayday, Super-Jet 123 engine fire, requesting immediate descent and diversion into London Heathrow." In aviation pilots, can call Mayday to gain immediate help and attention. ATC will then assist the pilots by clearing the airspace for them and giving the highest priority for arrival into an emergency airport for a safe landing. Once a Mayday has been logged, then that airport and assigned landing runway is closed to everyone else until the distressed aircraft comes to a safe landing.

International Labor Day

May Day or the May 1st celebration has a long and varied history, dating back millennia. Throughout the years, there have been many different events and festivities worldwide, most with the express purpose of welcoming in a change of season (spring in the Northern Hemisphere). In the 19th century, May Day took on a new meaning, as an International Workers' Day grew out of the 19th-century labor movement for workers' rights and an eight-hour workday in the United States.

Origins of May Day: Beltane

The [Celts](http://Celts.com) of the British Isles believed May 1st to be the most important day of the year when the festival of Beltane was held. This May Day festival was thought to divide the year in half, between the light and the dark. Symbolic fire was one of the main rituals of the festival, helping to celebrate the return of life and fertility to the world. When the [Romans](http://Romans.com) occupied the British Isles, they brought with them their five-day celebration known as Floralia, devoted to the worship of the goddess of flowers, Flora. Taking place between April 20 and May 2, the rituals of this celebration were eventually combined with Beltane.

BRIEFS & NOTES

Celebrating Haitian Aviation Pioneers during Haitian Heritage Month

On May 18, Haitian Flag Day, is celebrated by Haitians worldwide and commemorates the 1803 creation of the Haitian flag. Since it was first celebrated in the 1930s, the celebration has continued to expand and now includes the entire month of May, giving Haitians and lovers of the Haitian culture the opportunity to celebrate the rich traditions of Haiti and its people. [Miami Dade County Mayor Levine Cava](#) said it best: “Miami-Dade County is a place known for the liveliness, vibrancy, and spirit of our culture – and so much of that shared identity comes directly from our Haitian-American community.” In celebration of Haitian Heritage, we would like to shine the spotlight on the following Haitian aviation pioneers:



[Charles Terres Weyman](#) (1889 – 1976)

Charles Weyman was not only a pioneering aviator; he was also an automotive inventor. In 1909, he earned his American Aero Club license, and by 1911 he had set records for the quickest 150 kilometers flown and for the greatest distances travelled in 15 and 30 minutes. That same year, he also won the [Gordon Bennett Trophy](#), an international airplane racing trophy. During World War I, Weyman worked as a test pilot, testing [Nieuport](#) fighter aircraft. His efforts greatly benefitted the war effort, and he was named a “Chevalier de Legion d’Honneur” and awarded the “Croix de Guerre”. After the War, he successfully applied his knowledge of aircraft fabrication to the manufacture of automobile coachwork.

[Haitian Tuskegee Airmen](#)

In 1942, Haitian President Élie Lescot implemented an aviation corps program, and in February 1943, the first 3 men, Raymond Cassagnol, Alix Paquet, and Philippe Célestin left Port-au-Prince for training in Tuskegee, Alabama. They were followed by three more: Ludovic Audant, Nicolas Pelissier, and Eberle Guilbaud.



Cassagnol



Guilbaud



Paquet



Audant



Raymond Cassagnol (1920 –present), born September 20, 1920, is a former Haitian Air Force officer/flight instructor, one of the first [Haitian Tuskegee Airmen](#), and Haiti's first-ever World War II-trained combat fighter pilot. Now a centenarian, Cassagnol is the last surviving Haitian Tuskegee Airmen. He is also the author of the 2004 autobiography "Mémoires d'un Révolutionnaire" (Revolutionary Memoirs), and in 2009, he was a special guest at President Obama's First Inauguration.

In 1942, the United States military bequeathed to Haiti six-armed Douglas O-38E observation planes to patrol the Caribbean Sea for Nazi German submarines regularly surfacing around Haiti. Soon after, Haiti built the Bowen Field airstrip in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Though Haiti commissioned officers to fly these observation planes, all lacked formal flight training, leading to unnecessary aircraft accidents and wreckage. The recruiters selected 42 candidates, including Cassagnol. One reason for his selection was that he spoke four languages: French, Spanish, Creole, and English.

Celebrating Asian American/Pacific Islander and Jewish American Heritage Months

Asian American, Hawaiian American, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, and Jewish American Heritage Month are both celebrated annually in May. In 1978, the first 10 days of May were designated as Asian/Pacific Heritage Week, and in 1990, President George H.W. Bush expanded the celebration to include the entire month of May as Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month. May was chosen because of two important historical events: the arrival of America's first Japanese immigrant, 14-year-old [Manjiro](#) on 7 May 1843, and the completion of the [transcontinental railroad](#) on May 10 1869.

On April 20, 2006, President George W. Bush proclaimed that May would be Jewish American Heritage Month. Efforts by the Jewish Museum of Florida and South Florida Jewish community leaders culminated in a resolution introduced by Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz (Florida) and Senator Arlen Specter (Pennsylvania), urging the president to proclaim a month to recognize and honor the more than 350-year history of Jewish contributions to American culture. To read the full text of the 2022 Presidential Proclamations, please follow these links: [“A Proclamation on Jewish American Heritage Month, 2022”](#) and [“A Proclamation on Asian American, Native Hawaiian, And Pacific Islander Heritage Month, 2022”](#).

DIPLOMATIC & CONSULAR RELATIONS

International Day of Living Together in Peace: May 16



“If we are to have peace on earth, Our loyalties must transcend our race, our tribe, our class, and our nation; and this means we must develop a world perspective.” Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., [A Christmas Sermon on Peace](#), December 24, 1967

Since it was established in 1945, one of the [purposes](#) of the United Nations has been to maintain international peace and security. In December 2017, the U.N. General Assembly adopted resolution 72/130, declaring May 16 the “[International Day of Living Together in Peace](#)”. It was observed for the first time on May 16,

2018. This day aims to mobilize “the efforts of the international community to promote peace, tolerance, inclusion, understanding and solidarity” and “to uphold the desire to live and act together, united in differences and diversity, in order to build a sustainable world of peace, solidary and harmony.”

Tulip Season has Arrived



Spring is in the air and there is no better place that I would like to be than The Netherlands. The tulip season has arrived, and Holland is dressed in the most beautiful colors of spring.

It was mesmerizing to see to our right and left the beautiful and magical fields of tulips as we come in for landing at Schiphol International Airport.

After landing and going through immigration and customs, we rush to our transportation which takes us to ‘[The most beautiful spring garden in the world, The Keukenhof!](#)’ Along the way, we see the amazing colourful tapestry

created by fields of daffodils, lilies, narcissus and of course Tulips. The colours are just incredible! The villages, houses, parks, everything seems to be blooming! But how did the Netherlands become the home of the tulips?

[Dutch tulip history](#) began in 1593 when botanist Carolus Clausius began cultivating tulips in the Netherlands. At first, the tulip was a rarity. Only the very wealthy could afford this precious flower. By 1624, the price of one Rembrandt-type tulip reached the equivalent of \$1,500. The time between 1634 and 1637, commonly known as “Tulipmania,” is often compared to the Stock Market surge of the 1920s. Unfortunately, in 1637 the tulip trading crashed, leaving many of the rich instantly impoverished. However, over the following decades, the Dutch developed and maintained a commercial devotion to the tulip. Today, The Netherlands is the world’s largest commercial producer of tulips, with around three billion of them exported each year. In Aalsmeer, close to Schiphol airport, you will be able to visit the largest covered warehouse in the world, the Aalsmeer flower auction. Millions of flowers are traded here each day and exported all over the world.

As we reach the Keukenhof also known the Garden of Europe, I remember reading about the history of the world’s largest flower garden. It was conceived by the town’s mayor in 1949 and designed on the Keukenhof Estate, literally meaning “kitchen garden”. It was located on the site of the herb and vegetable garden that belonged to Jacoba van Beieren, the 15th-century Countess of Holland.

The park covers 32 hectare (79 acres) and approximately 7 million flower bulbs are planted annually in November. This is done by a team of architects, creating a unique theme each year. The Keukenhof opens by mid-March and closes mid-May. Just for this 8–10-week period, the gardens will be filled with the most beautiful abundance of colours in a great variety of flowers and settings. Some of those other flowers displayed include hyacinths, daffodils, lilies, roses, carnations, narcissus, and irises. In 2019 1.5 million people visited Keukenhof, an equivalent to 26,000 visitors per day. As we step into the park and immerse ourselves, the world seems to come to a standstill when nature and colours become one. [Click here](#) to learn more about the History of the Tulip.

By Airport Protocol Officer, Moraima Mercade-Meijaard who recently visited the Netherlands.

NORTH AMERICAN CONTINENT



List of the seven continents - Ranked by Current Position

#	Continent	Population (2020)	Area (Km ²)	Density (P/Km ²)	Percentage of World Population
1	Asia	4,641 billion	31,033,131	150	59.54%
2	Africa	1,341 billion	29,648,481	45	17.20%
3	Europe	748 million	22,134,900	34	9.59%
4	North America	592 million	21,330,000	28	7.60%
5	South America	431 million	17,461,112	25	5.53%
6	Australia/Oceania	43 million	8,486,460	5	0.55%
7	Antarctica	0	13,720,000	0	0.00%

North America is the third largest continent in size and the fourth largest in population. The North American continent has 23 countries. The continent is located in the Northern Hemisphere and the Western Hemisphere.

- There are 23 countries in North America and 9 dependencies with a total of more than 590 million people living on the continent.
- **Largest Country:** Canada. The country is covering almost half the North American continent's land area. Canada is slightly bigger than the USA and about as big as China.
- **Largest City:** Mexico City, which is the capital city of Mexico with a population of about 9 million. With more than 20 million inhabitants in the metropolitan area, this is one of the largest cities in the world.
- **Smallest Country:** St Kitts and Nevis with only about 54,000 inhabitants. This island country is located in the Caribbean Sea. The least populated dependency is Montserrat, a British Overseas Territory, with less than 6,000 inhabitants.
- **Biggest Island:** Greenland. This is also the world's largest island that is not a continent! Greenland is located in the North Atlantic Ocean. - Australia is also an island, but considered a continent.
- **Longest River of North America:** Missouri River/USA (3,767 km/ 2,341 miles). The Missouri River flows through seven states of the USA: Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri. Together with the Mississippi River, it forms one of the largest river systems in the world.
- **North America Facts:** Highest Mountain: Denali in Alaska/USA. The mountain (6,190 metres/ 20,310 ft) is located in the Alaska mountain range. Until 2015, this mountain was referred to as Mount McKinley.
- **Biggest Lake: Lake Superior.** This is the largest of the Great Lakes in the USA. This lake is as big as South Carolina/USA or Austria! Lake Superior is shared by Canada (to the north) and the United States (to the east, south and west). Lake Superior is also considered the largest freshwater lake by area in the world.
- **Lowest Point:** Death Valley. In the Death Valley National Park you will not only find the lowest point in North America with 86 m/ 282 ft. below sea level, but this is also the hottest and the driest national park in the USA.
- **North America Facts:** There are no landlocked countries in North America.

INDEPENDENCE AND NATIONAL DAYS (MAY)

Countries celebrating Independence / National Day in May

5 May (2022) – Israel: Yom Ha'atzma'ut, Israeli Independence Day: On 14 May 1948, David Ben-Gurion, publicly read Israel's Declaration of Independence, establishing the State of Israel, and ending the British Mandate. According to the Jewish calendar, this was the fifth day of Iyar, the eighth month of the civil year, in the year 5708. Since the Jewish calendar is lunar, the holiday may occur in April or May.

9 May 1877 – Romania: Although Romania's National holiday, Unification Day, is celebrated on December 1, the country gained independence from the Ottoman Empire on 9 May 1877.

15 May 1811 – Paraguay: During the night of the 14th to the 15th of May 1811, an uprising led to Paraguay achieving independence from Spain. Both days continue to be celebrated as Independence Day.

17 May 1814 – Norway: Constitution Day, Norway's National holiday, celebrates the day the Norwegian constitution was adopted in 1814.

20 May 2002 – Timor-Leste: Restoration of Independence Day celebrates the day Timor-Leste was internationally recognized as a sovereign state, gaining independence from Indonesia.

24 May 1993 – Eritrea: Although Eritrea was fully liberated from Ethiopia in May 1991, the provisional government did not declare formal independence until 24 May 1993.

25 May 1810 – Argentina: Initially intended as a show of loyalty to the Spanish Crown, the May Revolution (18 - 25 May 1810) was the beginning of Argentina's quest for independence. May 25 is celebrated annually as the Day of the May Revolution.

25 May 1946 – Jordan: On this date, Jordan gained independence from the League of Nations mandate which had placed it under British administration.

26 May 1918 – Georgia: Georgia celebrates two Independence Days. On 26 May 1918, Georgia gained independence from Soviet Russia, while on 9 April 1991, it regained its independence from the Soviet Union.

26 May 1966 – Guyana: The country gained its independence from the United Kingdom on 26 May 1966.

28 May 1918 – Armenia: On this date, Armenia declared independence from the Russian Empire. Since 1992, 28 May is celebrated as the Day of the Armenian First Republic, while independence from the Soviet Union is celebrated on 21 September (1991).

28 May 1918 – Azerbaijan: Republic Day, Azerbaijan's National Day commemorates the founding of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan in 1918.

30 May 1967 – Anguilla: Although Anguilla remains a British Overseas Territory, Anguilla Day is celebrated on 30 May to commemorate Anguilla's independence from a brief union with Saint Kitts and Nevis.



More Accolades for Miami International Airport

The #1 airport in the U.S. for international passengers and 11th in the world, with more than 13 million international passengers in 2021.

The #1 airport in the U.S. and #9 airport in the world for international freight.

The fastest-growing airport in the world in March 2022 compared to March 2019 in the category of seat capacity (17% increase).

The #9 airport in the world in total aircraft operations, up from #30 in 2019.

Additionally, between March 13 to March 20, we broke our daily record for passenger volume three times, including our highest passenger volume-day ever on March 20, when nearly 168,000 passengers came through MIA.

ABOUT US

The core mission of MDAD's Protocol and International Affairs Division is -

To facilitate the movement of official guests, delegations, dignitaries and VIPs through MIA and support the airport's international programs and initiatives.

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For comments, suggestions, event announcements or to opt-out, please send us an email.

