

Key Facts about Paraguay River

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About Paraguay River:

- It is the **fifth largest** river in **South America**.
- It runs over a course of approximately 1,584 miles (**2,549 kilometers**) from its **headwaters in the Brazilian** state of Mato Grosso (within the **Brazilian Highlands**) to its **confluence with the Paraná River**, of **which it is the main tributary**, just north of Corrientes, **Argentina**.
- It runs through **Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay, and Argentina**.
- The river serves as a **natural boundary**, particularly **between Paraguay and Brazil** and **between Paraguay and Argentina**.
- The **Pantanal**, one of the most pristine and biologically rich environments on the planet, **is contained within the Upper Paraguay River Basin**.
 - Pantanal is the **world's largest tropical wetland**.
- The **Paraguay, along with the Paraná and Uruguay Rivers, form the second most important drainage system in the world**, which covers approximately 1.6 million square miles.
- These **empty into the Rio de la Plata estuary** at a rate of 2.8 million cubic feet of water per second, an **outflow second only to that of the Amazon River**. Thereafter, the **rivers empty into the Atlantic Ocean**.

Q1: What is an estuary?

An estuary is an area where a freshwater river or stream meets the ocean. In estuaries, the salty ocean mixes with a freshwater river, resulting in brackish water. Brackish water is somewhat salty, but not as salty as the ocean. An estuary may also be called a bay, lagoon, sound, or slough.

Source: Paraguay river registers its lowest water level in more than a century at Asunción

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/paraguay-river/>

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