

September 2022



CONSULAR NEWS

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Greetings, everyone.

My name is Stuart Wilson, and I am the new Consul General here at U.S. Embassy Port-au-Prince.

This is not my first time working in Haiti. I was posted here 20 years ago and served as the Consular section's Immigrant Visa Chief. Being able to help individuals here in Haiti reunite with their loved ones in the United States back then was incredibly rewarding to me, and I look forward to continuing this important work in my new role during this tour.

This issue provides a reminder of how eligible U.S. voters can submit their absentee ballots while abroad. October 1-8 is Absentee Voter week, so please read on the next page how you can complete your FPCA and drop off your ballots in person at the Embassy by October 8.

Additionally, Haiti is in the middle of hurricane season. Though we have been fortunate in avoiding any significant storm systems and severe weather events so far, it is still imperative that you remain prepared and informed on what to do if you are unable to evacuate. Please read the next page to review what should go into your safety "go bag" and how to sign up for STEP alerts directly sent from the Embassy.

U.S. Embassy Port-au-Prince commemorated the 21st anniversary of the 9/11 attacks with a ceremony led by Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. Eric W. Stromayer and the Embassy community dedicating the rest of the day to performing acts of service. This issue also includes an excerpt of the White House's official statement marking the occasion. Finally, you will read a feature on Hispanic Heritage Month, celebrated from September 15 through October 15th.

As a reminder, the U.S. Department of State's travel advisory for Haiti remains at its highest level, which is "Level 4: Do Not Travel" due to ongoing kidnapping, crime, and civil unrest. We kindly ask you to review the State Department's [Haiti travel advisory page](#) and sign up for our [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#) (STEP).

Stuart Wilson
Consul General

Ask the Consul

This month, we're providing information on absentee ballots, a reminder of the most recent travel advisory for Haiti and hurricane preparedness.

Q: How may I receive and submit an absentee ballot while abroad?

A: For eligible voters who will be overseas during your state's elections, you may apply for an absentee ballot via [FVAP.gov](https://fvap.gov). Please visit the website, print off a physical copy of the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) if you have not already filled one out, and drop it off at the Embassy's Consular entrance between 8:00am and 12:00pm, Monday through Friday. You may also drop off your completed absentee ballot during these same operating hours. No appointment is required to turn in your FPCA or ballot.

Q: What should I do in case I am unable to evacuate ahead of a storm or hurricane?

A: If you are unable to evacuate an area that anticipates severe inclement weather, FEMA provides resources on how to create a disaster supplies and emergency kit. Included in the list is enough non-perishable food and water to last 1-3 days, a week's supply of any medications and prescription you may need, a battery or crank-operated flashlight and radio, local maps, and a first aid kit. It is also important to have important documents like your passport, other photo identification, and money in water resistant packaging like zip lock bags. This list is not exhaustive of all the materials you may need in a disaster so please reference [FEMA's hurricane preparedness checklist](#) for more details.

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Useful Links

- [FVAP.gov](https://fvap.gov)
- [FEMA Emergency Kit](#)
- [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(S.T.E.P.\) Website](#)
- [State Department Haiti Travel Advisory Page](#)
- ACSPAP@state.gov

Q: What can I do to make sure that I receive the most up to date information?

A: As always, be sure to complete all or as much information as possible in your Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) profile. This service is available for free to all American citizens traveling outside the United States to receive alerts and information from the US Embassy in their country of temporary transit or visit. Please also be sure to share your information with family and friends back home so that they know where you are. Finally, please consider reviewing the State Department's travel advisory page and checklist resources linked to the left for more guidance.



National Hispanic Heritage Month

September 15th marked the beginning of National Hispanic Heritage Month. This period, September 15 through October 15, is designated to recognize the contributions and importance of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. Below is an excerpt from this year's White House proclamation with the full text [found here](#):

“Hispanic heritage holds an indelible place in the heart and soul of our Nation, and National Hispanic Heritage Month reminds us that the American identity is a fabric of diverse traditions and stories woven together. Since the beginning, our country has drawn strength and insights from Hispanic writers, scientists, soldiers, doctors, entrepreneurs, academics, and leaders in labor and government. Our culture has been enriched by the rhythms, art, literature, and creativity of Hispanic peoples. And our deepest values have been informed by the love of family and faith that is at the core of so many Hispanic communities. ...

“During National Hispanic Heritage Month, we reaffirm that diversity is one of our country's greatest strengths. We also acknowledge the Hispanic leaders who have stayed in the struggle for equal justice to ensure that everyone in this Nation can contribute their talents and have the opportunity to thrive.”



Remembering 9/11: White House Proclamation

This year marks 21 years since our country lost 2,977 lives during attacks at Ground Zero in New York, Shanksville, Pennsylvania, and the Pentagon. The Embassy commemorated the day with Chargé d’Affaires, a.i. Eric W. Stromayer providing remarks and the community dedicating the day by providing acts of service from the Giving Tree. Below is also an excerpt of the White House’s official remembrance with the full text [found here](#):

“Terror struck us on that brilliant blue morning. The air filled with smoke, and then came the sirens and the stories — stories of those we lost, stories of incredible heroism from that terrible day. The American story — the American story itself changed that day. But what we did not change — what we will not change, what we cannot change, never will, is the character of this nation that the terrorists thought they could wound. And what is that character? The character of sacrifice and love, of generosity and grace, of strength and resilience. In the crucible of 9/11, in the days and months that followed, we saw what stuff America is made — Americans are made of. ...

“It’s that, for all our flaws and disagreements, in the push and pull of all that makes us human...there’s nothing this nation cannot accomplish when we stand together and defend with all our hearts that which makes us unique in the world: our democracy. “

COVID-19

For updated information about COVID-19 in Haiti, please visit the [Embassy website](#). You'll find information about:

- **Where to get vaccinated**
- **Where to get tested**
- **Entry/exit requirements**
- **Quarantine guidelines**

Haiti—Level 1: Low Level of COVID-19

Make sure you are vaccinated and up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines before traveling to Haiti. Anyone 2 years or older should properly wear a well-fitting mask in indoor public spaces. [Learn more from the CDC](#).

General Health Guidance

- Make sure you are current on your vaccines, including tetanus and rabies.
- Know where doctors and the closest emergency room are in your area. Please visit the Embassy website for a list of hospitals and medical professionals in Haiti.
- Always keep basic medications and supplies on hand. Invest in a quality first aid kit and keep one in your car and at home.
- Always have travel insurance, including medevac insurance. If you need to be medically evacuated out of Haiti, you should contact a medevac company or an air ambulance service. Visit the Embassy website for a list of Air Ambulance Services.



Protect
From
COVID-19.



Useful Links

- [Embassy COVID-19 Page](#)
- [Travel Requirements](#)
- [Air Ambulance Services](#)
- [Hospitals in Haiti](#)

Haiti—Level 4: Do Not Travel

The U.S. Department of State has renewed the highest level “[Level 4: Do Not Travel](#)” travel advisory for Haiti due to kidnapping, crime, and civil unrest.

If you are in Haiti:

- Sign-up for the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) to receive important information from the Embassy about safety conditions in Haiti, and help the Embassy contact you in case of emergency. Enroll here: step.state.gov
- Remember that demonstrations, tire burning, and roadblocks are frequent, unpredictable, and can turn violent at any time. Emergency response, including ambulance service, is limited or non-existent.
- Always carry your cellphone and ensure it is charged before you travel. Ensure you have important numbers programmed into your phone. Consider using code names for family or friends.
- Avoid demonstrations and crowds. If you encounter a roadblock, turn around and get to a safe area.
- Arrange airport transfers and hotels in advance, or have your host meet you upon arrival.
- There is currently a fuel shortage in the country and gas may not be available at gas stations. Please consider alternate forms of transportation.
- Please do not purchase black market gasoline or petrol if you are traveling in country. Only purchase gas from official, reputable gas stations.
- Always keep vehicle doors and windows locked with valuables out of sight.
- Do not travel in areas unfamiliar to you and be aware that navigation apps are highly unreliable in Haiti.
- Do not physically resist any robbery or kidnapping attempt.
- Always make sure your vehicle is in good driving condition.
- Travel at times when traffic is expected to be lighter; avoid travel after dark in Port-au-Prince.
- Ensure adequate spacing between vehicles to provide options for evading a potentially dangerous situation.
- Always inform someone, such as a family member or friend, of where you are going and what time you expect to return.
- Minimize broadly publishing your travel plans on social media.



STEP

Smart Traveler
Enrollment Program

<https://step.state.gov/step/>

Contact Info

CONSULAR

NEWS

Email

- American Citizen Services: acspap@state.gov
- Visas: support-haiti@ustraveldocs.com

Phone

- +509-2229-8000

Websites

- [American Citizen Services Website](#)
- [U.S. Embassy Port-au-Prince's Website](#)

Address

U.S. Embassy Port-au-Prince
Boulevard 15 Octobre
Tabarre 41, Route de Tabarre, Port-au-Prince, Haiti



Useful Links

- [U.S. Embassy Facebook](#)
- [U.S. Embassy Twitter](#)
- [Haiti Travel Advisory](#)
- [American Citizen Services Facebook](#)
- [American Citizen Services Twitter](#)
- [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#)
- [Make an ACS Appointment](#)
- [COVID-19 Information in Haiti](#)

This newsletter is published by the Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince. Please pass this newsletter along to other interested people. If you would like to receive your own copy directly, sign up through the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program ([STEP](#)). Comments and suggestions regarding this newsletter are welcomed at acspap@state.gov.