

U.S. Embassy Port-au-Prince

12/15/2020

ACS NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE CONSUL GENERAL

As this very difficult year draws to an end, I cannot help but reflect upon the tremendous contributions our consular teams around the world made in 2020 to ensure the safety of hundreds of thousands of U.S. citizens worldwide. When the COVID-19 pandemic broke out, it brought with it a new reality: a global crisis that affected each and every one of us, and for which there was no clear safety zone to retreat to.

This new reality required a fundamentally different approach, as well as an agile response. Foreign Service personnel rose to the challenge and – with their characteristic commitment to public service – wasted no time in acting. Thus, as airports and borders closed, and airlines cancelled their regular flights, the Department of State coordinated the repatriation of 101,386 U.S. citizens on 1,140 flights, from 136 countries and territories.

Here in Haiti, which had plenty on its plate already before the pandemic, our consular officers and Haitian colleagues put aside



their own health concerns and worked day and night to make sure no one was left behind. Between March and the end of June, the Embassy in Port-au-Prince facilitated the repatriation of almost 3,000 U.S. citizens on commercial or charter flights.

Though we are not out of the woods yet, and COVID constrains our ability to fully open for Consular services, we have restored all routine U.S. citizen services (by appointment, of course, to ensure the health of our applicants and staff). We continue to plan ahead for phased reopening of visa

services as health and safety concerns allow it.

I am extremely proud of our entire team – U.S. and Haitian colleagues - and of everything they have accomplished. Their unwavering spirit of service, their boundless energy, and their perseverance and resilience! I am honored to serve next to them.

I also want to thank our private citizens, Citizen Liaison Volunteers (CLVs), and other members of the U.S. citizen community for their generosity and volunteerism, as you continue to lighten our load by reaching out to those in need.

We all look forward to a 2021 that will bring prosperity, peace, and health. May the holiday season find you safely reunited with your families and friends – best wishes to you now and in 2021, from the entire U.S. Embassy Port-au-Prince Consular Team!

Pictured above: Colombia Barrosse, Consul General

WHAT'S NEW IN 2021?

U.S. Embassy Port-au-Prince has resumed some of their routine services for U.S. Citizens in Haiti. U.S. citizens seeking appointments for U.S. passports, notarial services, and Consular Reports of Birth Abroad can now schedule an appointment on our [Online Appointment System](#). Please have your forms completely filled out prior to your appointment. If you or members of your family have been recently diagnosed with COVID-19 and/or are exhibiting symptoms, please reschedule your appointment.

If you are scheduling an appointment for a Consular Report of Birth Abroad, please refer to our webpage at <https://ht.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/child-family-matters/birth/> and carefully review the required documents needed for a Consular Report of Birth Abroad and bring your completed application and all required documents to the appointment.

Masks must be worn during all appointments at the U.S. Embassy.

The U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince thanks consular customers for their patience as we continually work to serve the public while mitigating the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although we are only able to offer emergency immigrant and nonimmigrant visa services at this time, we are hopeful that 2021 will bring positive news regarding the pandemic so we can implement a phased re-opening of routine visa services. We will continue to update applicants accordingly via our website and social media. The MRV fee is valid and may be used to schedule an interview appointment in the country where it was purchased within two years of the date of payment. If you have an urgent matter and need to travel immediately, please follow the guidance provided at <https://www.ustraveldocs.com/ht/> to request an emergency appointment.

ARE YOU A SMART TRAVELER?

Haiti- Level 4: Do Not Travel

The Department of State recommends that you do not travel to Haiti due to COVID-19, crime, civil unrest and kidnapping. Read the full Level Four travel advisory for Haiti at : <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/haiti-travel-advisory.html>

The Smart Traveler Enrollment System (STEP) re-places the Internet Based Registration System and provides the same great service. Enrolling in STEP is voluntary and costs nothing, but it should be a big part of your travel planning and security. By entering your information into STEP the Embassy will be better able to assist you in case of an emergency. By informing us about your trip or residence abroad, you help us locate you when you might need us the most. All the personal information you provide to us is protected under the Privacy Act of 1974. This law prohibits us from sharing the information with anyone without your written authorization. Certain exceptions exist, such as when we need to share information on a limited basis in order to protect your safety and welfare in extreme circumstances. Enrolling with Embassy Port-au-Prince through STEP also puts you on our email list. We notify American citizens of threats to their safety and security, as well as provide information on upcoming Embassy outreach events through Warden messages.



STEP
Smart Traveler
Enrollment Program

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

To enroll in STEP, visit <https://step.state.gov/step/>

When you first enroll, you will need to create your own user account. Once you have created an account, you can access your travel data at any time. Please remember to keep all of your information in STEP up to date. It is important during enrollment or updating of information to include your current phone number and current email address where you can be reached in case of an emergency.



ATTENTION ALL POTENTIAL CLVS

As we begin 2021, the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince is revitalizing its American Liaison Network (ALN) and is actively looking for U.S. citizens living in Haiti to serve as Citizen Liaison Volunteers (CLVs). CLVs increase our capacity to help U.S. citizens in emergency situations, promote crisis preparedness, and strengthen the American community.

If you are currently serving as a CLV and would like to continue your service throughout 2021, or if you are interested in becoming a CLV for the first time, please send an email to wardenpap@state.gov by January 5, 2021 to express your interest. Please make sure to specify the city or region of Haiti you are interested in covering. Thank you!

REPORTING U.S. PASSPORT OR VISA FRAUD

The Department of State takes U.S. passport and visa fraud very seriously. We also want to ensure applicants do not fall victim to scams perpetrated by individuals falsely claiming to offer passport or visa services, or otherwise represent the U.S. government. If you are aware of fraud associated with a U.S. passport or visa application or were yourself a victim of U.S. passport or visa fraud, there are a number of ways you can report that information, outlined below. When reporting fraud, be sure to include as much information as you have about the application in question (if there is one); that will help us ensure that the report is thoroughly assessed.

U.S. Passport and Visa Fraud

If you are aware of, or have been a victim of, fraud associated with a U.S. passport or U.S. visa application, please contact PassportVisaFraud@state.gov.

U.S. Visa Fraud Overseas

Information regarding fraud committed overseas in connection with a U.S. visa application should be sent to the U.S. embassy or consulate that adjudicated or will adjudicate that visa application. You can find contact information for all U.S. embassies and consulates.



ADOPTIONS



November was National Adoption Month. As the Central Authority under the Hague Adoption Convention, the State Department takes great pride and care in the exercise of our responsibilities for intercountry adoption. While COVID-19 has created unprecedented challenges for intercountry adoption, we remain committed to supporting intercountry adoption as an option for children in need of permanency and the families who are ready and eager to provide them with loving homes. The U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince continues to cooperate with the Haitian government, adoption service providers, and other stakeholders to strengthen intercountry adoption practice to benefit children and families. You can learn more about intercountry adoptions and the Hague

Adoption Convention at <https://adoption.state.gov>.

REMINDER OF GOOD SECURITY PRACTICES

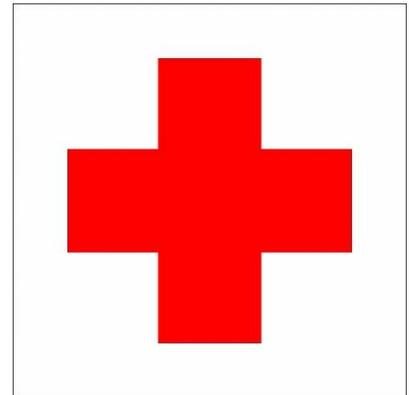
- Always ensure your communications equipment is functioning and charged before you travel.
- Always carry your cell phone.
- Always ensure that you have important phone numbers programmed into your phone.
- Travel in groups of at least two people.
- Be aware of your surroundings. If you notice something suspicious, try to retreat to a safe area.
- Do not travel in areas unfamiliar to you and be aware that navigation apps are highly unreliable in Haiti.
- Travel at times when traffic is expected to be lighter, such as early in the morning.
- Ensure adequate spacing between vehicles to provide options for evading a potentially dangerous situation.
- Patronize shops or restaurants that provide secure, enclosed, and well-lit parking.
- Install window tint/mylar film on personal vehicles.
- If being confronted by armed perpetrators, do not resist. Comply with their instructions and avoid any movement or action that would give them reason to believe you are resisting.
- Always make sure your vehicle is in good driving condition. Check the vehicle fluids and spare tires.
- Avoid travel after dark in Port au Prince.
- Do not attempt to drive through roadblocks.
- If you encounter a roadblock, turn around and get to a safe area.



- Try to keep a low profile, especially in high crime areas.
- Always inform someone, such as a family member, coworker, or friend of where you are going and what time you expect to return.
- If possible, do not drive alone, or on rural and unpopulated roads after sunset, or in high crime areas.
- Avoid being predictable while abroad and stay in locations with adequate security measures.
- Visit [OSAC](#) to learn about region-specific kidnapping threats.

TIPS FROM THE EMBASSY MEDICAL UNIT

- Make sure you are current on your vaccines, including tetanus and rabies. It is important to update your rabies vaccine when traveling to the U.S. since the rabies immunoglobulin is virtually non-existent in Haiti.
- Always keep basic medications (pain relievers, anti-itch creams, etc.) and supplies on hand. Invest in a quality first aid kit and keep one in your car and at home.
- Have a doctor for well-patient visits.
- Know where doctors and the closest emergency room are located in your area. See the Embassy website for some options. Remember many hospitals don't provide sheets, towels, and pillows, so make sure you have these items on hand if you need to go to the hospital.
- Keep a Go-Bag packed and ready in the event you need to shelter in place, or evacuate, on short notice. For suggestions, visit <https://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit>.
- Always have medical insurance, including medevac insurance. Some options include Allianz, Clements, AIG, CHA, and REVA.
- Be cognizant of your mental health and your well-being. Find healthy outlets to relieve stress and remember that self-care is important to your overall health.



COVID-19 TIPS

- If you would like to be tested for COVID, the Haitian Ministry of Health does COVID tests. Please call 4343-3333 to schedule a time.
- Gheskio is an independent lab Americans in Haiti can go to get tested as well, for more information call 4912-5287 or 3406-7109

Stop the Spread of Germs

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

3/10/20 April 9, 2020 10:18 AM

LET'S STAY IN TOUCH

U.S. Embassy Port-au-Prince
Boulevard du 15 Octobre
Tabarre 41, Route de Tabarre, Port Au Prince, Haiti
+509-2229-8000

U.S. Embassy Port-au-Prince's website: <https://ht.usembassy.gov/>

American Citizen Services (ACS) website: <https://ht.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/>

U.S. Embassy Port-au-Prince on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/USEmbassyHaiti/>

ACS on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ACSPortauPrince/>

Haiti Travel Advisory: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/haiti-travel-advisory.html>



THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES SECTION OF THE U.S. EMBASSY PORT-AU-PRINCE AS A SERVICE FOR AMERICANS LIVING OR TRAVELING IN HAITI. IT PROVIDES SECURITY AND OTHER GENERAL INFORMATION TO PEOPLE WHO HAVE SUBSCRIBED BY ENROLLING WITH THE EMBASSY. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO PASS IT ALONG TO OTHER INTERESTED PEOPLE. IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR OWN COPY, SEE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS NEWSLETTER ON ENROLLING WITH THE EMBASSY USING STEP. COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS REGARDING THIS NEWSLETTER ARE WELCOMED AT ACSPAP@STATE.GOV