

June 2022



# CONSULAR NEWS

## Inside:

- Cover Message
- Ask the Consul
- This Month
- Health Resources
- Travel & Security
- Contact Info



Greetings, everyone.

My name is Elizabeth (Liz) Ball, and I am the new Adoptions Officer here at U.S. Embassy Port-au-Prince.

As a member of The Hague Convention, Haiti participates in international adoptions according to the Convention's multi-lateral agreement and protocol. Each year, thousands of U.S. families adopt children and youth from all over the world, Haiti being no exception. Between fiscal years 2021 and 2022, U.S. families adopted over 100 children from Haiti. My primary role as Adoptions Officer is to help facilitate lawful adoption of Haitian children with their prospective families in the United States. As you can imagine, adoptions are a long and emotional process, but the end result is incredibly rewarding as we help families unite. If you or someone you know is considering adoption of a child from Haiti, I encourage you to visit [travel.state.gov](https://travel.state.gov) to read about [Haiti Intercountry Adoption](#).

This month's issue highlights several topics for your awareness. First, June is the beginning of hurricane season. Please read the following pages as they provide tips and guidelines to help protect you and your family should you decide you must travel in the area. June also hosts several noteworthy celebrations including LGBTQIA+ Pride Month and Juneteenth. U.S. Embassy Port-au-Prince joins other Embassies and Consulates across the world in uplifting the diversity of these communities that further enrich the United States and its people.

As always, 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. However, if you find that you must travel to Haiti, there are resources and information readily available for you to access as you finalize your plans. Please review the State Department's [Haiti travel advisory page](#) and sign up for our [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#) (STEP).

Liz Ball,  
*Adoptions Officer*

## Ask the Consul

# CONSULAR NEWS



This month, we're providing more information on how you and your loved ones can best prepare for Hurricane Season.

### Q: When is Hurricane Season in Haiti?

**A:** Hurricane season began June 1 and runs until November 30. Haiti is a storm-prone region according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), experiencing tropical storms and hurricanes yearly. As such, it is imperative that you stay alert and up to date on weather forecasts for Haiti and the region as storm patterns can change. When possible, please reconsider travel plans during this period and prepare for evacuation if weather conditions worsen.

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

**A:** If you are unable to evacuate an area that anticipates severe inclement weather, FEMA provides resources on how to create a disaster supplies 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, 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.

## Useful Links

- [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(S.T.E.P.\) Website](#)
- [State Department Haiti Travel Advisory Page](#)
- [Before You Go — Traveler's Checklist](#)
- [ACSPAP@state.gov](mailto:ACSPAP@state.gov)

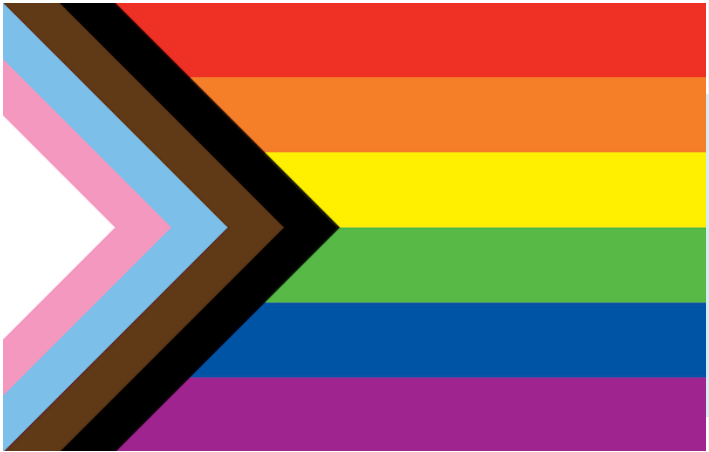
### Q: What can I do to make sure that I receive the most up to date information?

**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.

## June is LGBTQIA+ Pride Month

June is designated as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex (LGBTQIA+) Pride Month. Pride Month is celebrated in June to commemorate the Stonewall Uprising of 1969, a turning point for the community to seek equality and respect started by transgender women of color, Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera. During the 1970s in the United States, the last Sunday of June was initially celebrated as “Gay Pride Day”, and has since expanded to encompass the entire month as communities and major cities across the country have hosted Pride celebrations.

Since 1969, LGBTQIA+ visibility and acceptance has grown. The inclusion and recognition of the intersection of communities has grown within the equality movement as well. Pictured to the right is the Progress Pride flag, created in 2018 by artist Daniel Quasar. Along with the commonly known rainbow colors that have represented the LGBT community, the artist included the chevron of white, light pink and blue, brown and black to represent the transgender community, marginalized peoples of color, and those who live with HIV/AIDS.



## June 19th: Juneteenth Celebration

June also commemorates an important moment in American history, Juneteenth. After the Civil War and Abraham Lincoln’s signing of the Emancipation Proclamation that freed all enslaved people, it was not until June 19th, 1867 that the news of gaining free status reached enslaved communities in Galveston, Texas. As a result, the African American community and U.S. community at large celebrates Juneteenth in honor of recognizing the last community to learn and earn their liberation.

This year marks the second year the United States has celebrated this day as a federal holiday. Please read the following excerpt from the White House’s [Commemoration of Juneteenth](#) below:

*Juneteenth is a day to reflect on both bondage and freedom — a day of both pain and purpose. It is, in equal measure, a remembrance of both the long, hard night of slavery and subjugation, as well as a celebration of the promise of a brighter morning to come. On Juneteenth, we remember our extraordinary capacity to heal, to hope, and to emerge from our worst moments as a stronger, freer, and more just Nation. It is also a day to celebrate the power and resilience of Black Americans, who have endured generations of oppression in the ongoing journey toward equal justice, equal dignity, equal rights, and equal opportunity in America.*

## 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](https://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.
- Travel by vehicle to minimize walking in public, and travel in groups of at least two people whenever possible.
- Always keep vehicle doors and windows locked with valuables out of sight.
- Exercise caution and alertness, especially when driving through markets and other traffic-congested areas.
- 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.
- Patronize shops or restaurants that provide secure, enclosed, and well-lit parking.
- 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

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### Email

- American Citizen Services: [acspap@state.gov](mailto:acspap@state.gov)
- Visas: [support-haiti@ustraveldocs.com](mailto: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](mailto:acspap@state.gov).