



South Asia

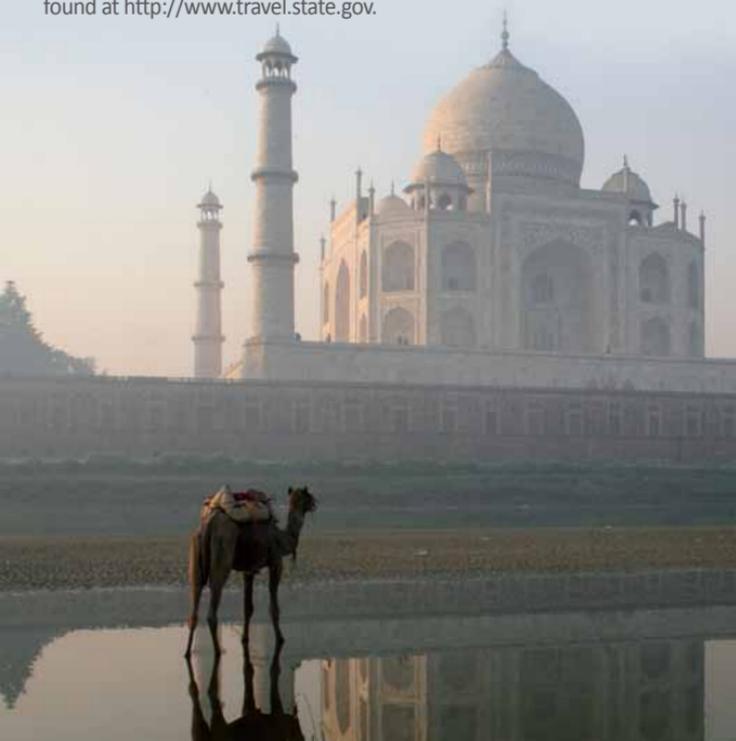
TRAVEL INFORMATION FOR CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES

India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Maldives are exciting countries with many interesting adventures to experience.

We hope that by following the tips in this guide, your trip will also be a safe one.

U.S. State Department Country Specific Information (CSI)

The CSI provides general information of interest to visitors in the region, including entry and exit requirements, medical tips, and U.S. Embassy and Consulate locations. It also provides details of the current security situation in the country, including recent Travel Alerts. Americans traveling outside of the United States are subject to the laws and judicial system of the country in which they are traveling, many of which differ significantly from U.S. law. The CSI for each country can be found at <http://www.travel.state.gov>.



Sign up to receive free Travel Alerts.

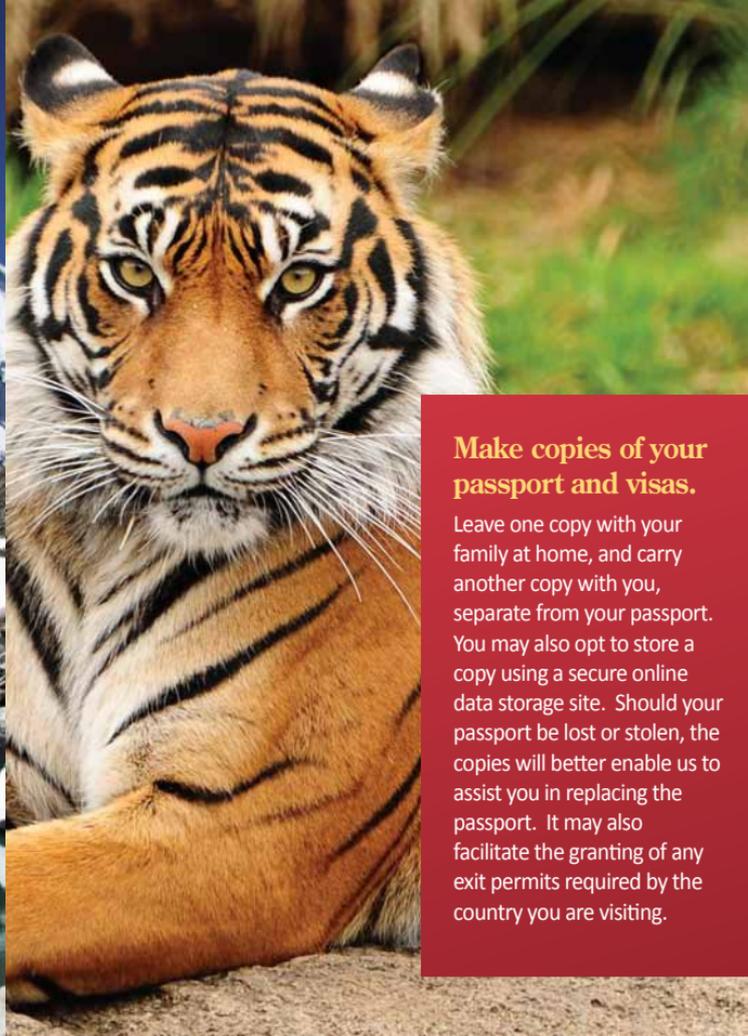
Stay Informed. Stay Connected. Stay Safe. In a crisis situation, we want to provide updated information to our citizens as soon as possible. No matter how short your stay, please sign up for our Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) at our website so you can receive updates and alerts during a crisis. You can enroll online at www.travel.state.gov/step, or if you lack internet access, in person at the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate.



Visa Regulations

Visa regulations are very complex and vary widely from country to country. Some countries in the region allow visas on arrival, while others do not. Particularly when planning regional travel, you must check the visa regulations for each country you plan to visit. Things to consider include the need for multiple versus single entry, visa validity, and visa type. Be aware that regulations may change without warning, and implementation at ports of entry may be inconsistent. As of December 2009, the Government of India instituted changes in its visa regulations, which now require a gap of two months between visits for those entering the country on a Tourist (T) visa. This requirement may cause difficulty for those planning regional travel. Indian Embassies and Consulates abroad may grant exceptions, but these exceptions are not guaranteed.

Please note that some countries may require certain visitors to register with immigration officials. For updates to Entry and Exit Requirements, please view the Country Specific Information for those countries you intend to visit, located at <http://www.travel.state.gov>. You may also consult each country's official website.

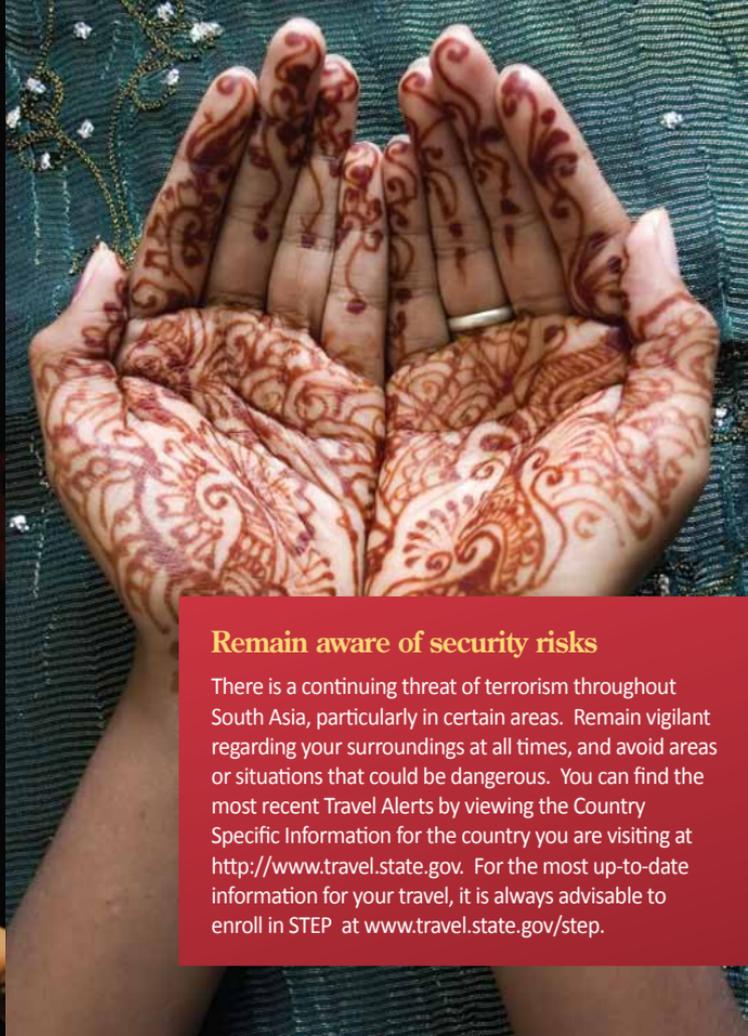


Make copies of your passport and visas.

Leave one copy with your family at home, and carry another copy with you, separate from your passport. You may also opt to store a copy using a secure online data storage site. Should your passport be lost or stolen, the copies will better enable us to assist you in replacing the passport. It may also facilitate the granting of any exit permits required by the country you are visiting.

Travel and Road Conditions

Please consult the Country Specific Information regarding transportation in the countries you will be visiting. Travel by road in many areas of South Asia can be dangerous. Traffic rules are commonly ignored, and roads may be shared by vehicles, pedestrians, animals, bicyclists, and auto rickshaws. Fatal accidents occur regularly, and roads are often poorly maintained. Particularly in rural areas, there may be security concerns, especially at night. Requirements for legal driving vary from country to country. Often a valid local or international driver's license is required, but due to the extreme conditions, many tourists opt to hire a car and driver. Buses, while convenient, are generally driven recklessly. Trains, while safer, are involved in accidents more frequently than in developed countries. Americans should NOT TREK ALONE.



Remain aware of security risks

There is a continuing threat of terrorism throughout South Asia, particularly in certain areas. Remain vigilant regarding your surroundings at all times, and avoid areas or situations that could be dangerous. You can find the most recent Travel Alerts by viewing the Country Specific Information for the country you are visiting at <http://www.travel.state.gov>. For the most up-to-date information for your travel, it is always advisable to enroll in STEP at www.travel.state.gov/step.



Take care of your health

While traveling in South Asia, it is important to be aware of current health risks. Endemic diseases are present in many areas, and it is important to exercise caution in your choice of where and what you eat or drink. You should carry special medications and supplies with you. For the most current information on health risks and recommended vaccinations, consult the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/default.aspx>.

If you do fall ill or experience an injury while visiting the region, it can be extremely expensive to get appropriate medical care or medical evacuation. Check with your insurance company to see if your policy applies overseas and what services are covered. You may need to obtain travel or medevac insurance for your trip.

Medical tourism is a rapidly growing industry, with many companies offering full service packages claiming high standards of medical care. Some facilities provide care that approaches Western standards, but the quality of medical care overseas continues to be highly variable. Medical systems in the area are not subject to the same regulations as in the U.S. If you are seeking medical care overseas, you should first consult with your physician in the U.S.

For general information on health issues in the areas you will be visiting, view the Country Specific Information for that country at <http://www.travel.state.gov>.



Around the World. Around the Clock. American Citizen Services.

If you are an American citizen and need assistance while traveling in the region, please contact us:

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| New Delhi: (Including Bhutan) | +91-11-2419-8000 http://newdelhi.usembassy.gov acsnd@state.gov |
| Chennai: | +91-44-2857-4000 http://chennai.usconsulate.gov chennaiacs@state.gov |
| Hyderabad: | +91-40-4033-8300 http://hyderabad.usconsulate.gov hydacs@state.gov |
| Kolkata: | +91-33-3984-2400 http://kolkata.usconsulate.gov consularkolkata@state.gov |
| Mumbai: | +91-22-2363-3611 http://mumbai.usconsulate.gov mumbaiacs@state.gov |
| Dhaka: | +880-2-882-3805 http://dhaka.usembassy.gov dhakaacs@state.gov |
| Kathmandu: | +977-1-400-7200 http://nepal.usembassy.gov consktm@state.gov |
| Colombo (Including Maldives) | +94-11-249-8500 http://sri Lanka.usembassy.gov colomboacs@state.gov |

For non-emergency services, please contact the appropriate location to obtain an appointment, if required.

What we can do:

- Renew passports and issue replacement passports in emergency situations
- Register the birth of an American citizen born abroad
- Notarize documents for use in the U.S.
- Provide assistance and information if you have been the victim of a crime or have become ill
- Provide contact information for local attorneys, doctors, and other resources
- Visit you as soon as possible if you are arrested
- Offer support in various cases involving American citizens, including international child abduction, death, or missing persons
- Contact friends or family for you, if requested
- Arrange loans for your return to the U.S., in serious emergencies
- Assist citizens during incidents of terrorism, civil unrest, or natural disasters
- Act as liaison for Federal Benefits, such as Social Security or Veterans benefits
- Supply information and forms regarding taxes and voting

What we cannot do:

- Get you out of jail or prevent your deportation
- Provide personal security
- Give legal advice
- Recommend a specific service provider
- Intervene in personal or commercial disputes
- Obtain better medical treatment for you than that available to locals
- Make travel arrangements for you
- Pay personal debts

Regional Map



The map above indicates the locations of our Embassies and Consulates in the region. Information provided is correct at the time of publication and attempts to give some idea of preparations and issues that are important for travel in the area. It is not an exhaustive list of potential concerns. More information is available – and regularly updated – on the Embassy and Consulate websites, as well as <http://www.travel.state.gov>.

