

American Outlook

**American Citizen Services
United States Mission, Turkey
January 2014 Newsletter**

Featured in this issue:

- *Do you want to be a Consulate warden?*
- *Passport Requirements at Turkish Entry Points*
- *New Turkish E-Visa*
- *SSA Announces 1.5 Percent Benefit Increase for 2014*
- *SSA Online Services*
- *The Child Citizenship Act and the Residency Requirement*
- *IRS Offering Free E-Filing to U.S. Taxpayers Abroad*
- *Affordable Care Act*
- *Security-Worldwide Caution*
- *Upcoming Holidays*
- *Our Contact Info*

Important Notice: Izmir Consular Agency will be closed for all services between **January 14th and February 6th**. Izmir Consular Agent will continue to schedule appointments during this temporary closure. Please send an email to izmir@state.gov to schedule your appointments for any time after February 6th. ACS Unit in Ankara will continue to provide passport, report of birth and notarial services by online appointment.

DO YOU WANT TO BE AN CONSULATE WARDEN?

The U.S. Consulate in Adana would like to invite American citizens who are residing as permanent residents in the below districts and who speak both Turkish and English to volunteer as a Consulate Warden. You would assist us by reaching out to Americans living in your district, to provide regular information updates and to help safeguard their security in Turkey. Wardens are American citizens who volunteer to assist consular sections in host countries around the world in disaster preparedness and emergency services to

Americans. Wardens are unpaid, but you are valued contacts of the Consulate because we rely on you to help disseminate news, disaster preparedness information, and emergency travel advisories. This is not a time consuming duty because the vast majority of messages for registered U.S. citizens are sent by e-mail directly from the Embassy to citizens living here. If you are interested in performing this valuable service for the Consulate in Adana, please send an email to CA-adana@state.gov , and in your email please indicate in which district you reside:

1. Adana
2. Tarsus, Mersin
3. South East – Diyarbakir, Gaziantep, Malatya, Van, Sanliurfa and other cities
4. Incirlik

PASSPORT REQUIREMENTS AT TURKISH ENTRY POINTS

According to recent changes in the Turkish immigration regulations, foreigners who present themselves at the border with a travel document that does not have any blank pages left for Turkish entry and exit stamps will not be allowed to enter the country. If you do not have any blank pages left in your U.S. passport, you may have additional visa pages added to your U.S. passport. This can be done within one day, and costs \$82. Please schedule an online appointment through our website.

NEW TURKISH E-VISA

As of April 17, 2013, the Turkish electronic visa (e-visa) became available. **Beginning April 10, 2014, the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs will no longer provide visas on arrival to foreign travelers. As of April 10, travelers to Turkey must obtain Turkish visas from Turkish missions abroad or from the e-visa application system, depending on eligibility.** Foreigners are required to present a six month validity passport in order to apply for a Turkish e-visa. Although the e-visa duration is for 180 days, foreigners cannot stay more than 90 days in Turkey within these 180 days. Foreigners who are planning to stay more than 90 days in Turkey should apply for a Turkish residence permit.

E-Visa application is possible from any place with an internet connection. Applicants just need to log on to www.evisa.gov.tr , provide the requested information, wait for approval, then make the online payment and download the e-Visa. The whole process takes no more than 10 minutes.

Please note that the e-visa is only valid when the purpose of travel is tourism or commerce. Other purposes, such as work and study, require regular visas given by Turkish embassies or consulates abroad.

Citizens of these countries are eligible to apply for e-Visas: Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Australia, Austria Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Greek Cypriot Administration, Grenada Haiti, Hong Kong, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Jamaica, Kuwait, Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, U.S.A, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom.

Citizens of these countries are also eligible to apply for e-Visas under certain conditions: Algeria, Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, India, Iraq, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Republic of Congo, Republic of Moldova, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Please visit www.evisa.gov.tr to submit an e-visa application or for further information.

SSA ANNOUNCES 1.5 PERCENT BENEFIT INCREASE FOR 2014

Monthly Social Security will increase 1.5 percent in 2014. The 1.5 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will begin with benefits that more than 57 million Social Security beneficiaries receive in January 2014. Some other changes that take effect in January of each year are based on the increase in average wages. Based on that increase, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax (taxable maximum) will increase to \$117,000 from \$113,700. Of the estimated 165 million workers who will pay Social Security taxes in 2014, about 10 million will pay higher taxes as a result of the increase in the taxable maximum.

The Social Security Act provides for how the COLA is calculated. To read more, please visit www.socialsecurity.gov/cola.

Medicare Part B premium and deductible will remain the same in 2014. Most people pay \$104.90 each month for Medicare Part B. The Medicare Part B deductible will remain at \$147.00 in 2014. Information about Medicare changes for 2014 is available at www.Medicare.gov.

SSA ONLINE SERVICES

You may now do many services online through the Social Security Administration's website. You may apply for retirement even without creating an online account. Please visit <https://secure.ssa.gov/iCLM/rib> for online retirement services. You may also watch [the video](#) to see how easy to retire online.

If you get an online account, you may also view your personal information through the Social Security Administration's website. You need a valid U.S. address and telephone number in order to create an online account. Please be informed that some of the services can only be obtained online during the SSA's works hours.

Depending on your situation, you may be able to access your earnings and estimated future benefits information online. You may also be able to print and save a copy of your *Social Security Statement* or Benefit Verification Letter.

If you already receive benefits for Social Security retirement, survivors or disability; or if you get Supplemental Security Income or Medicare, you can access the following information:

- Benefit payment amount
- Breakdown of current payment calculation
- Payment history
- Medicare information
- Overpayment information
- Payment type
- Contact
- Representative payee information

Additionally, if you receive Social Security retirement, survivors or disability benefits, you can do the following:

- Update contact information
- Sign up for direct deposit
- Update direct deposit information

If you receive Medicare only, you can update your contact information.

To access your personal information, go to *my Social Security* to create an account.

THE CHILD CITIZENSHIP ACT AND THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT

The Child Citizenship Act of 2000, which became effective on February 27, 2001, facilitates the acquisition of U.S. citizenship of foreign-born children of U.S. citizens – both biological and adopted – who did not acquire citizenship at birth. This act amended the provisions of Sections 320 and 322 of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

Section 320: Automatic Acquisition of U.S. Citizenship for Children Born Outside of the United States and Residing Permanently in the United States

The child must meet the following requirements:

- Have at least one U.S. citizen parent by birth or naturalization;
- Be under 18 years of age;
- Live in the legal and physical custody of the U.S. citizen parent;
- Be admitted as an immigrant for lawful permanent residence; and

If the child is an orphan, the adoption must be final. If the adoption must be finalized in the United States, citizenship is acquired when the adoption is finalized.

IRS OFFERING FREE E-FILING TO US TAXPAYERS ABROAD

Taxpayers with an AGI (Adjusted Gross Income) of \$57,000 or less can electronically file their tax return for free using [freefile](#). Taxpayers with an AGI greater than \$57,000 can either use the [Free File Fillable Forms](#) or [efile by purchasing commercial software](#). A limited number of companies provide software that can accommodate foreign addresses. To determine which will work best for you, get help [choosing a software provider](#).

More information for international taxpayers can be found at <http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/international/article/0,,id=97324,00.html>

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

For a discussion of the Affordable Care Act, please see [U.S. Department of State's website](#).

SECURITY- WORLDWIDE CAUTION

The Department of State has issued a Worldwide Caution to update information on the continuing threat of terrorist actions and violence against U.S. citizens and interests throughout the world, which can be found [here](#).

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

The Consulate will be closed on the following American and Turkish holidays:

January 20-Monday-Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.
February 17-Monday-Washington's Birthday
April 23-Wednesday-National Sovereignty and Children's Day
May 1-Thursday-Labor and Solidarity Day
May 19-Monday-Ataturk Memorial, Youth and Sports Day
May 26-Monday-Memorial Day

OUR CONTACT INFO

Ankara: 110 Ataturk Boulevard
Tel: (90)(312) 455-5555
Fax (90)(312) 468-6131
<http://ankara.usembassy.gov>

Istanbul: Uc Sehitler Sokak No. 2, 34460, Istinye, Sariyer,
Tel: (90) (212) 335-9000
Fax (90) (212) 335-9102
<http://istanbul.usconsulate.gov>

Adana: Girne Bulvari No. 212, Guzelevler Mahallesi, Yuregir
Tel: (90)(322) 346-6262
Fax (90)(322) 346-7916
<http://adana.usconsulate.gov>

Izmir Consular Agent: Tel: (90)(232) 464-8755