

U.S. Embassy Bahrain
Demonstration Notice 26 – April 18, 2013

The U.S. Embassy reminds all of the likelihood of increased demonstrations from April 18, 2013 to April 21, 2013 that may not occur strictly in the off limits areas (Red Zones). These activities may include increased attempts to disrupt traffic using construction material debris, burning vehicles, homemade tire spikes, tire fires, demonstrations near economic centers, the throwing of Molotov cocktails, the use of improvised explosive devices, and the use of improvised shotgun-like weapons and/or projectile launchers. Certain radical groups have recently stolen cars and detonated explosive devices inside them. Thus far, the detonations have been indiscriminate, caused no injuries, and have not targeted populated areas. For more information please see [Demonstration Notice 25](#). The possibility for clashes to take place between government forces and violent demonstrators is higher during this time period.

We advise U.S. citizens to plan travel in advance between April 18th and April 21st. The Formula One Race will likely create heavier than usual amounts of traffic and general activity. When planning travel, you should include additional travel time to your destination to account not only for heavier traffic, but unforeseen circumstances like demonstrations and additional check points. In addition, you should know your safe haven options along routes of travel, and carry extra supplies in the event you are caught in traffic for long periods of time.

Spontaneous demonstrations take place in Bahrain from time to time in response to world events or local developments. United States citizens should keep current with media coverage of local events and be aware of their surroundings at all times. If you encounter a large public gathering or demonstration, depart the vicinity immediately.

It is important to note that there have been no direct attacks on U.S. citizens in Bahrain to date. That said, spontaneous and at times violent anti-government demonstrations occur in some neighborhoods, particularly at night and on weekends. These demonstrations have included blockades of major highways with burning debris and establishment of unofficial checkpoints. Participants have thrown rocks and Molotov cocktails and used various other homemade weapons, including isolated use of improvised explosive devices. The Ministry of Interior maintains official checkpoints in some areas and routinely uses tear gas and stun grenades along with birdshot and other crowd control measures against demonstrators. Violent clashes between security forces and demonstrators can make travel in and around Bahrain dangerous without advance warning.

Please see below for a map. Areas shaded in red are off-limits to U.S. Citizen Embassy employees and their family members at all times. U.S. Citizen Embassy employees and their family members are permitted to travel in the areas shaded in yellow during daylight hours only.

We remind U.S. citizens that even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence. U.S. citizens are therefore urged to avoid the areas of demonstrations if possible, and to exercise caution if within the vicinity of any demonstrations.

For the latest security information, U.S. citizens living and traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs Internet website at <http://travel.state.gov>, where the current Worldwide Caution, Country Specific Information for Bahrain, Travel Warnings and Travel Alerts can be found. Up-to-date information on security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or, for callers outside the United States and Canada, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

The U.S. Embassy in Manama can be reached at (973) 1724-2700; the afterhours emergency number is (973) 1724-2957; the fax number is (973) 1725-6242. The [Embassy's web site](http://bahrain.usembassy.gov), <http://bahrain.usembassy.gov>, includes travel information and the Worldwide Caution and Demonstration Notices. All U.S. citizens are encouraged to enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program. The Consular Section can be reached at ManamaConsular@state.gov.

BAHRAIN: OFF-LIMITS AREAS

