

U.S. Embassy Bahrain
Demonstration Notice 63 – December 5, 2013

December 6 to 8, 2013, the Manama dialogue (IISS) will be taking place in the Seef area. Expect road closures, increased police activity and heavy traffic due to delays at check points in the surrounding areas. Plan for additional time if visiting the Seef area during this time period. We recommend that you avoid travel in these areas due to the possibility of traffic congestion. (Orange oval)

December 6 to 8, 2013, likely during the afternoon and evening hours, a violent opposition group is calling for unauthorized marches in Manama. The size of the marches is expected to be smaller in nature. However, these marches will likely take place throughout multiple times of the day during the time period. Anticipate additional police checkpoints and a possibility of clashes. We recommend that you avoid travel in this area due to the possibility of clashes (Yellow oval).

December 6, 2013, 3:00PM, opposition groups have called for a peaceful gathering at Sar square. Larger than normal crowd sizes are expected in the area. Anticipate heavier than normal traffic on Av 35 and Sar Av. There is a low possibility that violent elements may attempt to disrupt the area after the peaceful demonstration (Yellow circle).

There has been an escalation in street level civil disobedience activities such as Molotov attacks on police, oil poured across roadways, tire fires outside of traditional areas, and IEDs both real and fake, to disrupt and delay traffic across the country. 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. The Embassy advises all Americans to avoid travel within red zones as a general rule whenever possible.

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 traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department of State's Internet website at travel.state.gov where the [Worldwide Caution](#), [Country Specific Information](#), [Travel Warnings](#), and [Travel Alerts](#) can be found. Follow us on [Twitter](#) and the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on [Facebook](#) as well. Download our free Smart Traveler app, available through [iTunes](#) or [Google Play](#), to have travel information at your fingertips.

In addition to information on the internet, travelers may obtain up-to-date information on security conditions by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or, from other countries, on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm Monday through Friday, Eastern Time (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 [website](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.

