

United States Consulate General Barcelona, Spain

Security Message for U.S. Citizens: National Day of Catalonia on September 11 and Calls for a Referendum in November

September 2, 2014

The U.S. Consulate General in Barcelona alerts U.S. citizens that September 11 is the National Day of Catalonia. Many residents throughout the region will celebrate this day by making calls for independence from Spain and insisting that an independence referendum be allowed to take place on November 9, 2014. Local authorities expect marches and demonstrations throughout Catalonia. You should avoid areas of demonstrations, and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations. Please note that some events are scheduled for the evening of September 10, 2014.

The U.S. Consulate General in Barcelona advises U.S. citizens to avoid areas where crowds gather. Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. While no violence is expected, possible conflicts could arise. Additionally, numerous road closures may make travel difficult within Barcelona. Police will be present to monitor the marches and demonstrations. It is strongly advised that U.S. citizens avoid the locations listed below, where large numbers of people may gather.

In Barcelona, the main event will have thousands of residents taking part in a human formation of the letter "V" spanning several miles along two of the city's main thoroughfares – Diagonal Avenue and Gran Via. Several tourist areas lie along the proposed route from Plaza Pius XII to Plaza Glories along Diagonal Avenue and from Plaza Glories to Plaza Ildefonso Cerda along Gran Via. Many roads will be closed causing vehicular traffic to be rerouted. Public transportation will operate on a holiday schedule. Travelers should check their transportation company's website or call to verify that other travel (flight or train) reservations are still in effect.

Wednesday, September 10, 2014				
Time	Location	Event	Organizer(s)	Comment
20:00	Bailen / Mallorca	Torch March for Independence	Asamblea Nacional Catalana (ANC)	

20:00 a 20:15	Fossar de les Moreres.	Institutional Act (Wreath Laying)	Generalitat de Catalunya	Born District
20:15	Av. Isabel II, núm.1 (Llotja de Mar)	Commemorative Act of September 11, 1714	Generalitat de Catalunya	Born District
20:30	Fossar de les Moreres.	Political Event "Som Països Catalans"	Esquerra Independentista	Born District
20:30	Plaza de Goya	Torch March for Independence	Asamblea Nacional Catalana (ANC)	Close to the University
21:00	Plaza Valentin Almirall	Torch March for Independence	Asamblea Nacional Catalana (ANC)	Plaza Glories
21:30	Fossar de les Moreres.	Torch March for Independence	Esquerra Independentista	Born District
21:45	Plaza del Setge 1714	Torch March	Coordinadora de Entidades de Poble Sec	Poble Sec area
22:00	Arc de Triomf	Torch March	Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya.	

**Thursday, September 11, 2014**

08:00 a 12:00	Rafael Casanovas Monument	Wreath Laying	Official Act	Arc de Triomf area
10:30	Ferrán 44	Homage to Gustau Muñoz	Arran	Gothic Qtr
11:30	Ferrán 44/Passeig del Born	Political Event	Arran	Gothic Qtr
12:00	Passeig del Born	Political Event	Comisión Independentista del Fossar de les Moreres	
12:00 a 15:00	Plaza de Aureli Capmany.	Demonstration and political event	Alianza Nacional	Raval
13:00	Passeig del Born	Demonstration (support for prisoners of ETA - Catalanes)	RESCAT	
14:00	Passeig del Born	Popular meal (Butifarrada)	Esquerra Independentista	

14:15	Espartería (next to Fossar)	Meal and political event	Moviment Defensa Terra (MDT)	Born District
14:30 a 19:00	Diagonal / Jardins Salvador Espriu	Celebration of September 11	ANC	Paseo de Gracia area
13:30	Arc de Triomf	Motorbike rally for Independence	ANC	
17:14	Av. Diagonal (from Pl. Glorias to Pl. Pius XII) and Gran Via Corts Catalanes (from Pl. Glorias to Pl. de Ildefonso Cerdà)	Gathering for the human "V" formation	ANC	
18:30	Plaza Tetuan	Demonstration "Desobeim pel Referèndum, per la Independència, pels països catalans"	Esquerra Independentista	In the past, this gathering has turned violent with property destruction
19:00	Passeig Lluís Companys	Liberty Fest	ANC	Arc de Triomf area

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Spain enroll in the Department of State's [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#) (STEP). STEP enrollment ensures that you receive the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you do not have Internet access, you can enroll directly at the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Regularly monitor the State Department's website, where you can find current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the Country Specific Information for Spain. For additional information, refer to *the "Traveler's Checklist"* on the State Department's website.

Contact the U.S. embassy or consulate for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

The U.S. Consulate General in Barcelona is located at Paseo de Reina Elisenda, 23 and is open to the public from Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 1:00 PM, +34-93-280-2227. Our offices will be closed on September 11, 2014, in observance of the local holiday. If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance that day, or at any time *outside of business hours*, the emergency *after-hours* number for the duty officer at the U.S. Embassy in Madrid is (34) 91-587-2240.

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The following contact information is for the Consulate General in Barcelona as well as the Embassy in Madrid.

U.S. Consulate General Barcelona  
Paseo Reina Elisenda de Montcada, 23  
08034 Barcelona  
Telephone: (34) 93 280 2227  
After-hours emergencies: (34) 91 587 2200  
E-mail: [barcelonaacs@state.gov](mailto:barcelonaacs@state.gov)

U.S. Embassy Madrid  
Calle Serrano 75  
28006 Madrid  
Telephone: (34) 91 587 2240  
After-hours emergencies: (34) 91 587 2200  
E-mail: [askacs@state.gov](mailto:askacs@state.gov)