

U.S. Embassy La Paz, Bolivia

Security Message for U.S. Citizens: Planned Demonstration March 12, 2014
Targeting U.S. Embassy
March 11, 2014

The U.S. Embassy in La Paz will be closed for non-emergency consular services on Wednesday, March 12, 2014, due to a demonstration targeting the U.S. Embassy in La Paz. According to statements by protest organizers, the demonstration will begin at the Plaza del Maestro and continue to the U.S. Embassy on Avenida Arce sometime Wednesday morning. The streets in front of and surrounding the U.S. Embassy may be either restricted or filled with protesters; U.S. citizens are advised to avoid the area during the demonstration.

Additional demonstrations may occur in other cities in Bolivia. As a precautionary measure, the U.S. Consular Agencies in Cochabamba and Santa Cruz will also be closed for non-emergency consular services on March 12, 2014.

The U.S. Embassy in La Paz and the U.S. Consular Agencies in Cochabamba and Santa Cruz will reopen for regular services on Thursday, March 13, 2014.

The U.S. Embassy reminds you that demonstrations and road blockades are not unusual in Bolivia, and even though they might be intended to be peaceful, they can turn confrontational between security forces, demonstrators, and bystanders, and escalate into violence. You should avoid them if at all possible. If you find yourself in the vicinity of a large gathering, you should leave the area immediately for your own safety. Be alert and aware of your surroundings and pay attention to what the local media have to say. Please note that the police have limited capabilities outside major cities and communication is poor.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Bolivia enroll in the [Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) at www.Travel.State.Gov. STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the U.S. embassy.

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 Bolivia](#). For additional information, refer to "A Safe Trip Abroad" 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](#), and download our free [Smart Traveler iPhone App](#) to have travel information at your fingertips.

You can contact the American Citizen Services Unit at the U.S. Embassy in La Paz, Bolivia, via e-mail at ConsularLaPazACS@state.gov or by telephone at 591-2-216-8246 during regular business hours (Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) or 591-2-216-8500 after hours and on weekends. The U.S. Embassy is located at 2780 Arce Avenue in La Paz, Bolivia, and is open to the public by appointment on Monday through Thursday from 08:00 to 12:30, and Thursdays from 14:00 to 16:00. You can schedule a non-emergency appointment by visiting our [website](#).

The Embassy operates two Consular Agencies in the cities of Santa Cruz and Cochabamba, Bolivia. These agencies can also provide assistance to U.S. citizens. The Santa Cruz Consular Agency is located on Roque Aguilera Avenue #146 (3rd ring). You can contact the Santa Cruz Consular Agency by telephone at 591-3-351-3477, during regular business hours (Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.). The Cochabamba Consular Agency is located in Edificio Saal, Avenida Pando 1122, 1st Floor. You can contact the Cochabamba Consular Agency by telephone at 591-4-411-6313, during regular business hours (Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.). If you wish to visit the Consular Agencies for a non-emergency matter, please schedule an appointment through our [website](#).