

Consular News for U.S. Citizens

U.S. Consulate in Casablanca, Morocco

Spring/Summer2016

American Citizen Services Section

Please note all non-emergency ACS services are by [appointment only](#).

Monday-Friday 8:00-16:00

8 Blvd Moulay Youssef

Casablanca, Morocco

0522-64-20-99

Ramadan Hours: 8am-12pm

Upcoming Holiday Schedule

July 4- Independence Day

July 6-7 - Eid El Fitr

Sep 5- Labor Day

Sep 11- Eid Al Adha

**Denotes a lunar holiday which may vary from the date listed*

Travel Updates & Advisories

The State Department updated its [worldwide caution](#) on March 3, 2016.

The most recent travel updates and advisories for Morocco are always available on our [website](#).

Town Hall for U.S. Citizens

Tangier in November 2016 – date TBD

Stay tuned for upcoming announcement.

U.S. Consulate Passport Application Policy



Applicants must use the [Passport Wizard](#) to complete passport forms. Please bring your printed application to your interview. Handwritten applications will not be accepted. Making use of the Passport Wizard allows us to process passports more quickly, meaning they are returned to you earlier.

Be advised that forms must be completed and printed prior to your appointment. If you do not bring the necessary completed form using the Passport Wizard, you will be asked to reschedule your appointment. The only exception to this requirement will be if you are applying to replace a lost/stolen passport and are traveling within a week.

At this time, all applicants must apply for a passport in person. Mail-in options are only available in the United States.

The Consular Section receives passport applications and sends them electronically to the U.S. for processing. Most passports are returned from the U.S. within two weeks. To avoid delays, we ask that American citizens renew their passports in a timely manner, at least two or three months before the passport is due to expire. At the time of your application, the Consular Section will cancel your current passport and return it to you. Please plan travel accordingly. **Please note: Once we receive your new passport it must be picked up within 90 days.**

Fees

- First time application for a 10 year passport: \$135
- Passport application for a minor aged under 16: \$105
- Renewal of a 10-year passport: \$110
- Additional Visa Pages: **Service Discontinued as of January 2016**

Ramadan 2016

Muslims around the world celebrate the revelation of the holy Quran during the lunar month of Ramadan. This special time marks the mandatory sunup to sundown fast, which is one of five pillars of faith in Islam. The Islamic holy text emphasizes that the shared Abrahamic tradition of fasting among Jews, Christians, and Muslims.

Muslims furthermore attend lengthy nightly congregational prayers in which one thirtieth of the Quran is recited. By the thirtieth and last night of the month, devoted attendees thereby will have listened to the entirety of the Quran. Children and adults alike focus on reciting, memorizing, and reading exegesis works centered on the Quran.

For many, this month is an opportunity to focus on reflection and spiritual growth, forgiveness, patience and resilience, compassion for those less fortunate, and unity across communities. It is also a time of year that brings some of the best dishes to the table across the world as families and neighbors gather for iftar, the breaking of the fast at sunset.

The U.S. Mission in Morocco would like to remind all U.S. citizens in Morocco to take extra precautions while driving and shopping during the month of Ramadan. In recent years, the Mission has observed a general increase in petty crime, specifically pickpocketing, purse snatchings, and cell phones stolen in the souks and markets.

There is also a marked increase in reported traffic accidents. During the hour before sunset many people hurry home in order to break their fast with their families. The roads will become especially dangerous and you should expect to see an increase in aggressive driving.

We recommend that you take this opportunity to verify that you have your emergency contact cards and insurance information updated and easy accessible.



American Citizen



Services

All services for U.S. Citizens are by appointment only.

For security and planning purposes, U.S. citizens will not be permitted into the U.S. Consulate General without an appointment.

For detailed instructions on each service, please visit our website at:
<http://morocco.usembassy.gov/service.html>

To schedule an appointment, please visit:
<https://evisaforms.state.gov/Instructions/ACSSchedulingSystem.asp>

For a Consular Report of Birth Abroad, please visit:
<http://morocco.usembassy.gov/service/report-of-birth-abroad.html>

Preventing International Parental Child Abduction

Morocco and the United States have been treaty partners under the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (Hague Abduction Convention) since December 1, 2012.

The U.S. Department of State serves as the U.S. Central Authority (USCA) for the Hague Abduction Convention. In this capacity, the Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs, Directorate for Overseas Citizens Services, Office of Children's Issues, facilitates the submission of applications under the Hague Abduction Convention for the return of, or access to, children located in countries that are U.S. treaty partners, including Morocco. Parents are strongly encouraged to contact the Department of State for assistance prior to initiating the Hague process directly with the foreign Central Authority.

Contact information:

United States Department of State
Bureau of Consular Affairs
Office of Children's Issues
CA/OCS/CI
SA-17, 9th Floor
Washington, DC 20522-1709
Telephone: 1-888-407-4747
Outside the United States or Canada: 1-202-501-4444
Email: AskCI@state.gov

The Office of
Children's Issues
Protecting children,
assisting parents
at home & abroad



Ask the Consul

Have a question you've always wanted to ask a consular officer? E-mail your questions to ACSCasablanca@state.gov with the subject line "Ask the Consul." We'll include the answers to your questions in our next newsletter.

Send your Vote Home



The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) aims to make the absentee voting experience as easy as possible with straight-forward online assistance and answers to frequently asked questions. Regardless of where you are, it is important to note there are people and resources available to assist you when applying to register to vote and voting absentee.

Most States require you to complete an absentee ballot application to start the absentee voting process. FVAP encourages the use of the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) to start the absentee voting process, as it is standardized for use across all States and will extend your eligibility to receive a ballot for all Federal elections for at least one calendar year. The FPCA acts as both a registration and absentee ballot request form.

FVAP encourages overseas citizen voters to submit a new FPCA every year and when they move.

It only takes a few quick steps to make sure your vote is counted no matter where you are in the world. The FPCA can be easily completed by using the [FPCA online assistant](#), filling out the [PDF](#), or picking up a [hardcopy version](#) from U.S. Consulate General Casablanca. Find more information at www.fvap.gov.

You may drop off your ballot request or voted ballot at the U.S. Consulate General Casablanca for return to the United States, or you can have someone drop it off for you. It must be addressed to your local election officials and have sufficient postage or be in a postage-paid envelope. A postage-paid envelope is available on the [FVAP web site](#).

Tips from the Consular Section

Internet Romance and Marriage Fraud: Meet a significant other on-line? You are not alone. Many U.S. citizens befriend foreign citizens through Internet dating and social networking sites and these relationships sometimes lead to marriage or engagement. Please be careful that you partner is engaging you for the same reason as you. We have seen many cases in which a foreign national enters into marriages with a U.S. citizen solely for immigration purposes, leaving the U.S. citizen heartbroken. We urge your cautious evaluation of the relationship before making such a big step! You can read more about this information published on our website here:

<http://morocco.usembassy.gov/service/professional-services/marriage-information.html>

Professional Basketball in Morocco: If you know any semi-pro basketball players in Morocco, please share this information. The U.S. Consulate General in Casablanca is aware that there are local professional basketball teams who have made contracts with U.S. citizens to play on Moroccan teams. Some of these players have subsequently claimed they were not paid as stipulated per the terms of the contract. Individuals considering playing basketball professionally in Morocco may wish to consult with a lawyer regarding the terms of their contract prior to signing. Please find a list of available local attorneys linked here:

<http://morocco.usembassy.gov/service/professional-services/list-of-lawyers.html>

How to Apply for a Report of Birth Abroad

A Consular Report of Birth Abroad (commonly referred to as CRBA) is a document issued by the U.S. Consulate reflecting the birth abroad of a child who acquired U.S. citizenship at birth. It is acceptable as proof of U.S. citizenship for all legal purposes.

If your child has a potential claim to U.S. citizenship, it will be necessary for the U.S. citizen parent(s) to submit an application for a "Consular Report of Birth of an American Citizen Abroad" before a consular officer. If your child is eligible for a Report of Birth, a passport may be obtained at the same time for an additional fee. U.S. citizens may often transmit citizenship to their children born abroad, but the transmission requirements vary depending on when the child was born and the marital status of the U.S. citizen parent. Please view a summary of transmission requirements under U.S. immigration law.

The application (Form DS-2029) must be submitted by a U.S. citizen parent before the child's 18th birthday. We encourage parents to document their child's citizenship as soon as possible after the birth. A passport application for the child may be submitted at the same time.

The process for scheduling an appointment for a Consular Report of Birth Abroad includes completion of a checklist followed by completion of Form DS-2029. Once completed, we ask that you send us an email attaching the checklist and DS-2029 to us in order to schedule an appointment. Please pay careful attention to the instructions below!

The child must be physically present at the appointment.

If you have any questions about documents or the process, please send an email to accasablanca@state.gov or you can call us at +212 (0)522 642099.



How to schedule a CRBA appointment:

Prior to requesting an appointment at CRBACasablanca@state.gov, you must:

- Download, print, and complete the CRBA Checklist. Please review the individual items carefully and check them off as you complete them.
- Complete a Consular Report of Birth Abroad, Form DS-2029. Do not sign.
- Application for a Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA), Form DS-2029 (PDF file) Please click here for an example of a correctly completed DS-2029
- Gather supporting evidence (marriage certificate, birth certificate, physical presence documents, etc.), which may be found at the CRBA Checklist. As you complete the items on the checklist, please check the corresponding box.
- Complete a passport application, Form DS-11. Do not sign. Application for a U.S. Passport, Form DS-11
- Complete the SS-5 application for Social Security registration.

Once the above steps have been completed, please send an email to CRBACasablanca@state.gov with the subject line: "Request for CRBA appointment – [NAME OF YOUR CHILD]." Please include a scanned copy of the DS-2029 and completed CRBA Checklist with your appointment request. Appointments will not be granted without these scanned and completed documents.

Note: Each child requiring a CRBA will need a separate appointment, though you may send all the information and documentation in one email.

Additional Required Documents

- One (1) original Moroccan birth certificate in French from the city hall (Commune Urbaine) of the child's place of birth. This document must be requested within one month of the child's date of birth;
 - Hospital records documenting the birth, prenatal records documenting doctor's visits during the pregnancy, sonograms;
 - Moroccan family book, if applicable.
 - Photocopies of the U.S. Consular Report of Birth Abroad issued by a U.S. Consulate/Embassy to your previous child(ren), if applicable.

If the U.S. parent will not be in Morocco and present at the appointment, the following are required from him/her:

1. Statement of Consent, form DS-3053 (PDF File), notarized by a notary public in the U.S., or by a U.S. Consular Officer at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate.
2. Copies of all the pages of the U.S. passport and clear copies of all pages of any and all passports in his/her possession.

Approved Consular Reports of Birth Abroad and U.S. passports are usually ready for pick up two weeks following the final adjudication.

Tax Information



The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will host a webinar “Foreign Earned Income for U.S. Overseas Taxpayers” on **June 29, 2016, 2:00-3:00 p.m. EDT.**

To register and attend this on-line webinar, use the [Foreign Earned Income for U.S. Overseas Taxpayers](https://www.webcaster4.com/Webcast/Page/445/15416) or <https://www.webcaster4.com/Webcast/Page/445/15416> webinar link. Attendees should log in 10 minutes prior to the start time. The session will be recorded and made available at a later time on <http://www.irsvideos.gov/>.

Upcoming Events at Dar America

Tuesday June 14 @ 13:00

Make It @ Dar: U.S. Famous Monuments – Do you want to make something with your hands? Do you like 3D puzzles? It’s time to get back to building with “Make It @ Dar”, where we will continue to learn about American architecture and monuments while making new things.

Wednesday June 15@ 13:00

Film Legally blonde – When a blonde-haired sorority queen is dumped by her boyfriend, she decides to follow him to a prestigious law school to win him back. Once at the school, she learns that she is smarter, stronger and savvier than she ever imagined. This comedy film demonstrates once again that you should “never judge a book by its cover.”

Thursday June 23 @ 13:00

Let’s Talk: English Conversation Club -

Come chat about this month’s theme and practice your English skills. American Diplomats Abena and Keri will lead this one-hour meeting, where participants will have a chance to chat with each other and with a native speaker of English.

Wednesday June 29 @ 13:00

Film: The Internship – Two salesmen, whose former jobs have been overshadowed by the new digital age, find their way into a highly competitive internship at Google. At this internship, they must compete against a group of young geniuses for a chance at a permanent job.

Every Thursday in June, 13:00 - 15:00

EducationUSA Advising – Speak with Dar America’s EducationUSA Advisor, Shahrazad Hadi, to discuss your aspirations for study Abroad. She will be present every Thursday afternoon to answer questions on a walk-in basis or by appointment, by emailing shadi@amideast.org

Like Dar America on Facebook to keep up to date on exciting upcoming events!

<https://www.facebook.com/DarAmericaCasablanca>

Dar America will be closed during the month of August



See you in September!!!!

Cherry Festival in Sefrou

The ancient walled town of **Sefrou** lies on the slopes of the Middle **Atlas** Mountains, in close proximity to the city of **Fez** in **Morocco**. The mountainous terrain and temperate climate make the region around Sefrou an ideal environment for cultivating cherries. The thousands of cherry trees make an exquisite display when they are covered in blossoms, and harvest time (around mid-June) is more than enough reason for the friendly inhabitants of this lovely **Moroccan** town to celebrate.



A variety of competitive games are played during the Cherry Festival and everyone is welcome to join in. A fairground entertains the crowds with a variety of exciting rides and games, while a busy souk (market) gives villagers the opportunity to trade an assortment

Sefrou is a small ancient walled city, less

than an hour's drive from Fes in the Fes-Bouelmane region of the Middle Atlas Mountains. One of the oldest in Morocco, the city even pre-dates the 8th Century architecture of Fes, even though its white houses are incredibly simple in design by comparison. Its seasonal river, the Oued Aggai cuts the city in half, with small bridges a good 10 meters above the river to allow only people to pass. In the spring the waters rage through in torrents; the

of wares, including hand-made arts and crafts. The foremost event of the Cherry Festival is the crowning of Miss Cherry, who is then taken on a parade through the village surrounded by her many admirers.



reason for the city being erected so high above its wild flow.

Located about 35 km (22 mi) southeast of Fez. The town, much smaller than its tourist-filled counterparts,



is much cooler, smaller, and perhaps more charming than

towns visited by a majority of travelers. Sefrou, which stands at an altitude of nearly 1000 meters (3000 ft), has streets lined with trees and a cool breeze that tends to blow even in the summer. The town is historical because it was a major stopping point for traders making their way from the Mediterranean to the Sahara Desert. And, the town was a melting pot of culture as Jewish Berber Moroccans and Algerians had been settling there since the 13th century. And, because so many people passed through this town that sits at the base of the Middle Atlas Mountains, business flourished.

Before most Jewish Moroccans left the country when the French departed in 1956, Sefrou had one of the most elegant medinas in the world. The medina still has a charm much like that of Fez, although it is much smaller. And, it can be argued that Sefrou's medina was just as significant in history. The Jewish quarter, called the Mellah, is worth investigation. The area is separated from the River Aggai and is now mostly inhabited by Muslims; however, some Jewish families remain as well.

The annual Cherry Festival takes place from the 17th to 20th of June in Sefrou which lies near Fes city. The thousands of cherry trees sweeten the air of Sefrou city during these three days. The Feast celebrates the cherry harvest season. Many other countries participate in the celebration as; Spain, France, Turkey, and Libanne to name a few. Approximately 400,000 to 500,000 visitors from all regions of Morocco and all over the world come to the celebration. The three-day festival consists of music and dance performances, a vivid market in the surrounding area, a variety of sporting competitions, and a torch-light show. The celebration ends with the crowning of the Cherry queen.

Morocco has always been a place of acceptance. And, even though the majority of inhabitants are Muslim, Morocco's rich religious history and modern heritage have close ties with the Christian and Jewish faiths. If you want to truly experience the vast history and culture of

Morocco, then plan some routes on your voyage that will take you off of the beaten path. Venture to see different, multi-cultural Morocco often overshadowed by the main tourist venues.



Useful Websites

Register your presence in Morocco via our Enrollment Program (STEP):

<https://step.state.gov/step/>

Social Security Administration: www.ssa.gov

Voting: www.fvap.gov

Taxes: www.irs.gov

FBI Records: www.fbi.gov

Travel information: www.travel.state.gov

Federal Benefits Unit Paris :

Mailing Address:

U.S Embassy Paris
Consular Section / Federal Benefits Unit
4 Avenue Gabriel
75382 Paris Cedex 08

Phone: 00331.43.12.27.05

Fax: 00331.43.12.26.23

Email: FBU.Paris@ssa.gov

Phone inquiries should be made between 8am and 12pm Paris time

Please keep in mind the time difference between Morocco (GMT) and France (GMT+1 or GMT+2) when making a phone inquiry

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY THIS NEWSLETTER. PLEASE SEND ANY FEEDBACK TO accasablanca@state.gov.

YOUR CITIZEN SERVICES TEAM

