



The Sphinx

An American Citizen Services Quarterly Newsletter

U.S. Embassy Cairo

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متوفر أيضا باللغة العربية

American Citizen Services (ACS)

8 Kamal El Din Salah Street
Garden City, Cairo

(20-2) 2797-3300 (24 hour number
for emergencies* only)

*ACS emergencies include: arrests,
hospitalizations, welfare and
whereabouts requests, child custody
cases, repatriations, lost and stolen
passports, and deaths.

For all other services, including
passport renewals, consular reports
of birth abroad, and notarial
requests, please make an
appointment using our website.

For questions, send an email to:
ConsularCairoACS@State.gov

U.S. Embassy Cairo is not a Federal
benefits post. For all Federal benefits
questions please contact U.S. Consulate
Jerusalem directly at:
FBU.Jerusalem@SSA.gov



Egyptian Emergency Services Numbers

122 Police and Fire Department

123 Ambulance

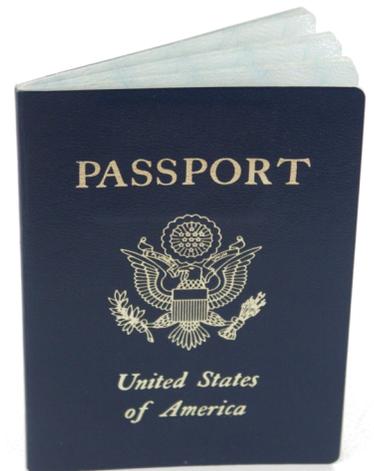
140 National Phone Directory

16000 Child Emergency Line

Passport Awareness

Check your expiration date and apply early for renewal

The U.S. Department of State
celebrated Passport Awareness Month
during September by launching an
“Apply Early” campaign for U.S.
citizens thinking about renewing their
current passports or applying for the first
time. We expect a worldwide increase in
passport applications through 2018 and
encourage travelers to submit passport
applications well ahead of their planned
travel dates in order to avoid delays
receiving their travel documents.



Many countries require at least six months of passport validity from
the date you leave that country. So if you're planning to travel outside
the country on a two month vacation, you want to make sure your
passport is valid for at least eight months. (Find out each country's
requirements at this [State Department web page](#).)

Renewing a U.S. passport is typically much faster in the United States,
where passport acceptance facilities offer routine service (4 - 6 weeks)
and expedited service (3 weeks with \$60 additional fee).

After applying for a passport at the Embassy in Cairo, processing
currently takes about four weeks. As demand increases for passport
services in Egypt and around the world, wait times for renewal
appointments are also increasing. When adding together appointment
and processing times, you could face up to two months before obtain-
ing a new, full validity passport.

What should I do?

Check your and your family members' passports now. If you have less
than one year validity remaining and need to renew from Egypt, it's
time to start monitoring the Embassy's website to schedule a passport
renewal appointment.



ACS Services

Hours of operation are 9:00 to 15:00, Sunday-Wednesday.

All customers for an ACS service must have a confirmed appointment of the proper type for the service being requested.

Elimination of extra passport pages

- As of December 31, 2015, the Department of State will no longer issue additional passport pages.
- Now, all passports issued overseas include 52 visa pages compared to the 28 pages in some older passports.

Requesting an expedited appointment

All ACS services require an appointment.

1. Visit our website <http://egypt.usembassy.gov/consular/appntmnt.html> and follow the instructions to select the appropriate type of appointment for the service you require.
2. If no appointments are available and you feel your situation is an emergency, please explain by sending an email to ConsularCairoACS@state.gov with subject heading "Expedite Request."
3. We will grant expedited appointments on a limited, space-available basis for situations judged to be emergencies outside your control.

Be sure to:

- Show up early for your appointment!
- Double-check our [entry requirements](#), and leave your electronics at home, please.

Changes to marriage affidavit notary service

The Egyptian government requests that foreign persons wanting to marry in Egypt provide written proof, issued by a government authority from their country of citizenship, that there is no legal impediment to the marriage. As the United States does not maintain centralized records of the marriage and/or divorce of its citizens, the Embassy has no means by which to verify the eligibility of U.S. citizens to marry and therefore can't provide its citizens with such documentation.

The Embassy will continue to provide a notary service where U.S. citizens can swear an affidavit attesting to their own eligibility to marry. We will also provide a notice that the citizen can present to the Egyptian authorities explaining our regulatory position.

U.S. citizens seeking to marry a non-U.S. citizen might also consider petitioning their fiancé for a K-1 visa with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). With an approved K-1 visa, the couple travel to the United States for marriage.

*For more information about the K-1 visa process, please visit: <http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/immigrate/family/fiance-k-1.html>



Advice for Living in Egypt

Cooler weather means lower air quality

While we all enjoy the cooler temperatures, winter months also bring stagnant and lower quality air.

Suggestions for dealing with the changes include:

- Avoid outside activity near busy streets.
- Spend time in the countryside when possible.
- Consider purchasing air purifiers for bedrooms.
- Do your part by conserving energy.



Flu Shots in Egypt

Flu season is upon us, and it's time to think about getting a flu shot.

Influenza is a serious disease that can lead to hospitalization or worse for even healthy people. Every flu season is different, and flu vaccines help your body develop antibodies to fight that year's forecasted influenza strands.

In Egypt, many large pharmacies offer flu shots. Consult your doctor and pharmacy to determine what shots are right for you and your family.

In the fourth of a continuing series, ACS provides you with tips for living in Egypt:

Documenting newborns in Egypt

To apply for a Consular Report of Abroad (CRBA), you first need a local birth certificate. According to Egyptian law, newborn children must be registered within the first 14 days to get a local birth certificate. Follow the steps below to register your child in Egypt within the first two weeks after birth:

1. Obtain written birth notification from hospital, doctor, midwife, etc.
2. Apply for birth certificate at district health office:

If parents are married...

- Father can apply with marriage contract;
- Paternal relative can apply with marriage contract;
- Mother can apply with marriage contract and written permission from father.

If parents are not married...

- Father must appear at district health office to sign affidavit claiming paternity of child.

The Egyptian birth certificate should be ready after one day. Remember to apply before the child is 15 days old and that this local birth certificate is required when applying for a Consular Report of Birth Abroad.



Want to see something in particular in the next issue of *The Sphinx*? Email us:

ConsularCairoACS@State.Gov

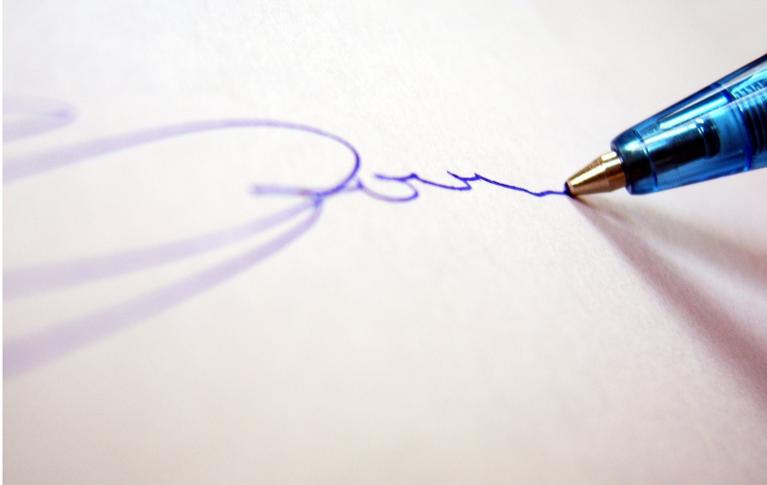
Travel

Security Advisory

The Department of State recently updated its Country Specific Information (CSI) page for Egypt, which includes revised information about the security situation in the country. You may access the CSI for Egypt at: <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/country/egypt.html>

The Embassy reminds U.S. citizens to review their personal security plans. Below are some suggested personal security measures for your consideration:

- Vary routes and schedules to work, from work, and in your social life.
- Keep information about your social schedule limited to those with a need to know.
- Inform trusted colleagues and family of your daily plans and how to reach you, especially when travelling outside the greater Cairo area.



Did you sign your passport?

After receiving your new passport, don't forget two important steps to protect yourself:

1. Sign the passport above your photograph. This helps prevent identity fraud.
2. Complete the personal data and emergency contact page (page 4). This will help protect you in the event of an emergency. Remember to use a pencil to allow for easy updates.

Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)

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

Sign up with the Department of State when you travel, both here in Egypt and elsewhere outside the United States.

Signing up for STEP allows you to receive important information from the U.S. Embassy, allows ACS to contact you and/or your relatives in the event of an emergency, and allows you to receive timely warden and security messages via email.

Be a smart traveler, enroll in STEP!





Kids' Corner

GOODBYE SUMMER, HELLO FALL...

and American football!

Known simply as “football” in the United States, American football is the country’s most popular sport. High school, college, and professional football seasons start in the fall at the beginning of the school year.

American football was adopted from the sport of rugby. In 1869, Rutgers University and Princeton University played the first ever football game. Rutgers won 6 - 4.

Today, more than 1 million high school students play football in the United States, and tens of thousands of fans attend the National Football League’s (NFL) professional games.

The NFL broadcasts its annual championship game, known as the Super Bowl, to millions of television viewers across the world. This season’s Super Bowl will be the annual game’s 50th installment.



Remembering Our Veterans



What is Veterans Day?

- ◇ A U.S. federal holiday celebrated annually on November 11.
- ◇ Commemorates when hostilities temporarily halted between the Allied nations and Germany on November 11, 1918. This led to the end of World War I, known at the time as “The Great War” or “the war to end all wars.”
- ◇ The day honors people who served in the U.S. Armed Services — veterans — for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

Community Resources

Looking Ahead: U.S. Elections

If you're paying attention to news from the United States, you no doubt are aware that the presidential election season is swinging into high gear. Presidential primary elections, which will nominate candidates from each party, start as soon as February 1, 2016 and vary by state. It's not too early to begin paying attention to positions and party platforms of candidates for local, state, and federal office.

In the coming months, the Embassy in Cairo will be reminding citizens residing abroad about how to vote absentee. For more information, visit the following two links:

1. <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/abroad/legal-matters/benefits/voting.html>
2. <http://www.fvap.gov>



TOEFL/SAT/GRE/GMAT Testing In Egypt

Many colleges and universities in the United States require standardized test scores as part of a student's application for admission. If you or your child would like to take one of these tests, please visit the following links for information on where and how to take the tests here in Egypt.

[SAT](#)

[TOEFL](#)

[GRE](#)

[GMAT](#)



ACS will be closed on the following dates for local and U.S. federal holidays:

October 14	November 26
November 11	December 24

Holidays in Egypt: Islamic New Year

Living in Egypt, you undoubtedly experienced the recent holiday festivities of Ramadan and Eid Al Adha.

On October 14, many people in the region will celebrate Al-Hijra, also known as Islamic New Year.

Key facts:

- Celebrated around the world, Islamic New Year commemorates when the Prophet Muhammad moved from Mecca to Medina.
- It is the first day of Muharram, the first month of the Islamic calendar.
- This year's holiday marks the beginning of the year 1437 AH (after hijra).
- The Islamic calendar is based on a 12 month, 354 day lunar calendar. Islamic holidays therefore change each year compared to the 365 day Gregorian calendar.

Enjoy autumn!

