

PAPYRUS

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY

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A Note from the Consul General

Dear Fellow Americans,

Greetings from a cold but sunny Cairo! The Embassy's American Citizens Services section continues to be excited about the response to our quarterly newsletter, Papyrus. We are here for you and as such we want to get you the best, up-to-date information that we can. In this edition our focus turns to taxes and IRS issues, as well as importing pets. As always, we welcome feedback on how we can serve you better. Alison Dilworth, Chief of American Citizen Services, and I would very much like to hear from you. The best way to reach us is at the following E-mail address: consularcairoacs@state.gov. Finally, I would like again to urge all Americans in Egypt to register your presence with us. It's easy and can be done on-line. Just go to <https://travelregistration.state.gov>.

Regards,
Dick Hermann
Consul General

ACS WALK-IN HOURS

The American Citizen Services Unit of the Consular Section is located at 5 Tawfik Diab Street, Garden City, Cairo, Egypt.

The ACS Unit is open Sunday through Thursday, from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.

Please note that the Unit is closed the last Tuesday of every month and on American and Egyptian holidays. See the calendar on page — for upcoming closures.



Did You Know.....

- Latest Consular Specific Information for Egypt -- 12/15/08: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1108.html
- Latest State Department Travel Warning for Israel, The West Bank and Gaza: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_922.html
- How to contact ACS:
E-mail: consularcairoacs@state.gov
Phone inquiries: 2797-2200 (from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.)

The WARDEN SYSTEM

AS A MEMBER OF THE WARDEN NETWORK, YOU'LL LEAD THE OUTREACH
TO AMERICAN CITIZENS IN EGYPT; JOIN TODAY!

Cairo, February 5, 2009

Joining is easy:

*Just read, sign, and return
the Memorandum of
Agreement and
Privacy Act Waiver
to
ACS and provide us
with a means of
contacting you.*

*ACS will be in touch
in the coming weeks
With details regarding
Warden benefits
and
responsibilities*

Dear Prospective Warden:

The American Embassy in Cairo is delighted to welcome you into our warden program in Egypt. If you have not yet decided to become a warden, we would like to thank you for your interest, and we sincerely hope you will decide to join the American Embassy community to assist Americans in Egypt.

We are seeking individuals (outside of Cairo and Alexandria) to aid the U.S. Embassy in providing information of interest to Americans within your region/governorate in Egypt. Since this information includes matters concerning safety and security, your service is of critical importance. Not only does a warden assist in delivering support to Americans in need of consular services, but they also attend quarterly meetings at the Embassy. During these meetings, wardens receive briefings on current issues including local security, regional travel and Embassy services available to Americans.

Once you join our network, we will get you a packet containing useful documents and information about the warden program, the US embassy, and getting around Egypt. In this packet you will also find useful information regarding consular services to Americans and the duties and expectations of a warden. If you have any questions or are aware of other Americans who are interested in joining the Warden Community, please e-mail us at cairowarden@state.gov.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Hermann
Consul General

Note: you do not need to be a permanent resident to be a warden, but we do prefer that you be able to commit for at least a year.

Tips for Traveling Abroad

For detailed information about steps you can take to ensure a safe trip, see [How to Have a Safe Trip](#). Meanwhile, here are some quick tips to make your travel easier and safer:

*“Register,
sign passport,
leave copies of
itinerary with
family,
check your
overseas medical
coverage,
and”*

- **Register so the State Department can better assist you in an emergency:** Register your travel plans with the State Department through a free online service at <https://travelregistration.state.gov>. This will help us contact you if there is a family emergency in the U.S., or if there is a crisis where you are traveling. In accordance with the Privacy Act, information on your welfare and whereabouts will not be released to others without your express authorization. *(See page 5 for more information)*
- **Sign passport, and fill in the emergency information:** Make sure you have a signed, valid passport, and a visa, if required, and fill in the emergency information page of your passport.
- **Leave copies of itinerary and passport data page:** Leave copies of your itinerary, passport data page and visas with family or friends, so you can be contacted in case of an emergency.
- **Check your overseas medical insurance coverage:** Ask your medical insurance company if your policy applies overseas, and if it covers emergency expenses such as medical evacuation. If it does not, consider supplemental insurance.
- **Familiarize yourself with local conditions and laws:** While in a foreign country, you are subject to its laws. The State Department web site at http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1765.html has useful safety and other information about the countries you will visit.
- **Take precautions to avoid being a target of crime:** To avoid being a target of crime, do not wear conspicuous clothing or jewelry and do not carry excessive amounts of money. Also, do not leave unattended luggage in public areas and do not accept packages from strangers.
- **Contact us in an emergency:** Consular personnel at U.S. Embassies and Consulates abroad and in the U.S. are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to provide emergency assistance to U.S. citizens. Contact information for U.S. Embassies and Consulates appears on the Bureau of Consular Affairs website at <http://travel.state.gov>. If your passport is lost or stolen, you should wait until the next business day to call us. Also note that the Office of Overseas Citizen Services in the State Department’s Bureau of Consular Affairs may be reached for assistance with emergencies at 1-888-407-4747, if calling from the U.S. or Canada, or 202-501-4444, if calling from overseas.



Consular Information Program

Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

Hot Topics

Here you'll find items of current interest — new programs, recent guidance, or timely reminders. Or jump to the latest news about IRS [forms and publications](#).

E-File Opens for 2009

This year, the IRS and its partners in the Free File Alliance are offering a new option, Free File Fillable Tax Forms, which allows free electronic filing of tax returns for virtually everyone.

Taxpayers who use e-file and who choose direct deposit can receive their refund in as few as 10 days. That's because with e-file, there's no paper return going to the IRS. IRS e-file allows taxpayers to file their returns now and pay later if they owe taxes. It allows taxpayers to file both federal and most state returns at the same time. And with direct deposit, there's no paper refund going to the taxpayer. So it's all electronic and much faster than paper. *For more information, see news release [IR 2009-5](#), [E-File Opens for 2009 With New Features to Expand Taxpayer Access, Help Speed Refunds](#).*

IMPORTING PETS INTO EGYPT

Egypt has no quarantine restrictions for pets. Dogs and cats entering the country must have proof of a valid rabies shot and a current health certificate. The rabies vaccination must be more than 30 days, but not more than 1 year old. A licensed veterinarian must authorize the certificate of good health issued not more than 10 to 14 days prior to date of departure. These documents should accompany the pet, which ideally accompanies you. If you ship your pet as unaccompanied air baggage, attach a copy of these documents in a sturdy plastic envelope to the pet's kennel with the notation "health documents enclosed". Keep the originals with you. This will facilitate clearing your pets at the airport. For more information on flying with your pet, check with the individual airline carrier.

Because of the bird flu virus the GOE prohibits importing birds regardless of their origin or means of transportation. Other pets such as ferrets, hamsters, and reptiles are not as easy to import. There are more rules and paperwork required for these pets. There may also be additional fees depending on the type of pet you bring

RETURNING TO THE U.S. WITH PETS

For returning to the United States with pets, check the specific requirements that must be fulfilled by referencing the websites of the [Center for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) and the [United States Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)](#).

The [United States Customs](#) service also publishes a booklet in PDF format.

Note: For those in particular returning with birds, [check the following USDA site](#)



CONSULAR TIPS

VOTING SLOGAN CONTEST

Voting is your constitutional right! What inspires you to vote? What calls you to take action and vote? Now is your chance to express your thoughts on the importance of voting by entering the 2009 Voting Slogan Contest.

The winning slogan will inspire U.S. citizens around the world to exercise one of the fundamental rights of a democracy! The March 25, 2009 deadline for submissions is fast approaching.

It is easy to participate. Just create a simple slogan (or slogans) that expresses the importance of voting that will inspire others to vote.

The contest winner and runners-up will not only feel the satisfaction of knowing that their slogan is helping improve voter awareness, but they will also be given a certificate of recognition from the American Citizens Services (ACS) unit for their contribution to this important endeavor.

There is no limit to the number of entries you may submit, but we request that all slogans be submitted separately. All submissions must be received by **March 25, 2009**.

All submissions must include your full name, position, mailing address, daytime telephone number, fax number (phone and fax numbers should include all necessary country/city codes) and e-mail address.

To submit your entry: **E-mail:** ConsularCairoACS@state.gov. In the SUBJECT line, please write: VOTING SLOGAN CONTEST. Text only (e-mail messages with attachments are deleted for information security purposes). One slogan per e-mail including contact information.

On-line Registration with the Embassy

The Department of State encourages all American travelers to register with their local Embassy or Consulate when planning their travel or after arriving in a foreign country. Registration helps the Embassy provide important services for American citizens residing or traveling abroad.

Both short-term visitors and long-term residents who have already established their U.S. citizenship (i.e. born in the United States, or been previously issued a passport, Consular Report of Birth, naturalization certificate or certificate of citizenship) can register on-line. On-line registration cannot serve to establish a person's claim to U.S. citizenship. The principal purpose of such a registration is to provide information which could be useful in providing emergency consular services should the need arise. Full U.S. passport data is required, including your passport number, date of issuance and the passport's place of issuance.

CAUTION: The information you provide will be subject to the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, and may not be disclosed by the Department of State to a third party unless: 1) You have consented in writing; or 2) The disclosure is otherwise authorized by the Privacy Act, such as pursuant to routine use. Authorized disclosures may include disclosure to personnel of the Department of State on a need-to-know basis, or to other government agencies having statutory or lawful authority to gain access to such information in the performance of their duties.

You should be aware that electronic transmissions of information over the internet or similar systems may not be secure and may therefore be accessed by unauthorized third parties.

Register on-line Please click on the link to the left to register on-line.

<https://travelregistration.state.gov>

Year 2009 Holiday Schedule

In 2009, the Embassy will close in observance of American and Egyptian holidays as follows:

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|---------------|-------------|
| New Year's Day | American | Thursday | January 1 |
| Coptic Christmas | Egyptian | Wednesday | January 7 |
| Martin Luther King's Birthday | American | Sunday | January 18 |
| President's Day | American | Sunday | February 15 |
| Moulid El Nabi* | Egyptian | Monday | March 9 |
| Sham El Nessim | Egyptian | Monday | April 20 |
| Sinai Liberation Day | Egyptian | Saturday | April 25 |
| Labor Day | Egyptian | Friday | May 1 |
| Memorial Day | American | Sunday | May 24 |
| Independence Day | American | Sunday | July 5 |
| National Day | Egyptian | Thursday | July 23 |
| Labor Day | American | Sunday | Sept 6 |
| Eid al-Fitr * | Egyptian | Sun/Mon | Sept 20/ 21 |
| Armed Forces Day | Egyptian | Tuesday | October 6 |
| Columbus Day | American | Sunday | October 11 |
| Veterans' Day | American | Wednesday | Nov 11 |
| Thanksgiving Day | American | Thursday | Nov 26 |
| Eid al-Adha * | Egyptian | Thurs/Fri/Sat | Nov26-28 |
| Islamic New Year * | Egyptian | Friday | Dec 18 |
| Christmas Day | American | Thursday | Dec 24 |

*** Dates of Islamic holidays are subject to the sighting of the moon and may vary from the above projected dates*

The Embassy will consider moving the observation date of local holidays (religious and secular) falling on weekends in the event that the Egyptian Government issues guidance mandating that the private and public sectors change the observance

FEBRUARY 2009

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 HOLIDAY George Washington's Birthday | 16 | 17 | 17 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 Alexandria outreach visit | 23 Alexandria outreach visit | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| | | | | | | |



MARCH 2009

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1 CAC outreach visit | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 HOLIDAY Moulid El Nabi* | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 17 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | | | | | |

* Islamic holidays are subject to the sighting of the moon and may vary from the above projected dates.