

ACS NEWSLETTER

U.S. EMBASSY BUDAPEST, APRIL-JUNE 2015

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AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES OFFICE

CONTACT:

During work hours:

0800-1700
Monday-Friday
From the U.S.:
011 36 1 475-4164
In Hungary:
(061) 475-4164

After work hours:

1700-0800
Weekends &
Holidays
From the U.S.:
011 36 1 475-4400
In Hungary:
(061) 475-4400

WELCOME TO OUR NEW OFFICE

We've reconfigured our office space, but much remains to be done, so don't mind our mess! Routine services are offered by appointment only. We appreciate your continued patience as we settle into our new office and we look forward to seeing you here!



TAX DEADLINE APPROACHING

Taxes are due Wednesday April 15, 2015! **The U.S. Embassy is unable to provide tax advice or assistance.** The following information is from <http://www.irs.gov> and is intended for U.S. Citizens residing abroad. If you are a U.S. citizen or resident alien, the rules for filing income, estate, and gift tax returns and paying estimated tax are generally the same whether you are in the United States or abroad. Your worldwide income is subject to U.S. income tax, regardless of where you reside. If you are a U.S. citizen or resident alien residing overseas, or are in the military on duty outside the U.S., on the regular due date of your return, you are allowed an automatic 2-month extension to file your return and pay any amount due without requesting an extension. For a calendar year return, the automatic 2-month extension is to June 15. If you qualify for this 2-month extension, penalties for paying any tax late are assessed from the 2-month extended due date of the payment (June 15 for calendar year taxpayers). However, even if you are allowed an extension, you will have to pay interest on any tax not paid by the regular due date of your return (April 15 for calendar year taxpayers).

The following is a list of resources you may find helpful:

Federal Benefits and Obligations (including a FAQ for tax season) <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/abroad/legal-matters/benefits.html>

The IRS' information page for U.S. Citizens and resident aliens abroad o Information on state tax forms <http://www.irs.gov/Forms-&-Pubs>

The IRS' International Taxpayer Service Call Center is open M-F 6:00-23:00 (Eastern Time) Telephone (267)-941-1000 (not a toll-free call) Fax (267) 941-1055

THE END IS NEAR...

(For Adding Visa Pages to a Passport!)

Beginning in January, 2016 the U.S. Department of State will no longer add extra pages (Visa Page Inserts) to existing passports. Instead of seeking additional pages, individuals who are out of space in their passports will need to apply for a renewal. In preparation for the elimination of the 24- page

'Visa Page Inserts', all passport applications currently made overseas (i.e. at a consular section) now result in the issuance of the larger 52 page passport books. If you wish to apply for additional pages, you must do so prior to January 1, 2016. Please complete a DS-4085 application and schedule an appointment online with the American Citizen Services section at the U.S. Embassy in Budapest.



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TIPS

Emergencies can happen when you least expect them and you may need to survive on your own after an emergency. A disaster supplies kit is simply a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency. Try to assemble your kit well in advance of an emergency. You may have to evacuate at a moment's notice and take essentials with you. You will probably not have time to search for the supplies you need or shop for them. <http://www.READY.gov> recommends the following

supplies to include in a Basic Kit: Water: one gallon per person per day, for drinking and sanitation • Food: at least a three-day supply of nonperishable food • Battery-powered radio and extra

batteries • Flashlight and extra batteries • First Aid Kit • Whistle to signal for help • Filter mask or cotton t-shirt, to help filter the air • Moist Towelettes for sanitation • Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities • Manual can opener for

food (if kit contains canned food) • Plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter in place • Garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation • Unique family needs: daily medications, infant formula, diapers, documents.

Be savvy, be prepared, and be ready!



OUT AND ABOUT IN BUDAPEST

Budapest is a magical city that offers world renowned entertainment for various age groups and tastes. Whether you enjoy architecture and museum visits, or film and culinary arts, Budapest has something to suit your preferences. Please see below for a list of events:

- [Titanic International Film Festival](#)-April 10-18
- [Budapest 100, Celebration of 100 Year Old Buildings](#)-April 18-19
- [International Book Festival](#)-April 23-26
- [May Day](#)-May 1
- [Museum Festival](#)-mid May
- [Gourmet Festival](#)-May 21-24
- [Street Food Show](#)-June 6-7

AMERICAN TRIVIA

1. What document was the legal framework of the United States?
2. Who wrote the words to the Star Spangled Banner?
3. Who was the first person to sign the Declaration of Independence?
4. Where did immigrants first set foot in the New World to gain entry?
5. In which year did the tax filing date change from March 15 to April 15?

1. CONSTITUTION 2. FRANCIS SCOTT KEY 3. JOHN HANCOCK 4. ELLIS ISLAND 5. 1954

SPORTS AND MUSICAL EVENTS

Basketball enthusiasts have a reason to celebrate that the EuroBasket Women's tournament is being held in Hungary and Romania in June 11-28, 2015. The final game will be held in Budapest Sports and Events Arena. For more information visit <http://www.eurobasketwomen2015.com/en/default.asp>

"Winners never quit and quitters never win."

Vince Lombardi
(*American football player and coach*)

For those who prefer music over sports, Budapest can meet your needs with the Spring Festival coming on April 10-26, 2015. Opera, ballet, classical music, and other exhibitions highlight one of Hungary's most prestigious cultural festivals. For a list of performance dates, ticket information, and more, please visit http://www.btf.hu/events?day=&archive=&ob=time_stamp&od=a&rpp=19&q=&rt=list

ASK THE CONSUL

I would like to take my maid with me when I travel, what should I do? If you are planning on bringing your maid with you when traveling to the U.S., he/she may apply for a B1 visa. In order for the visa to be processed, you must be able to establish an employer -employee relationship. This can be established in one of three ways as described on our website. You

also must provide (along with other necessary documents for a B1 visa) a copy of your visa or U.S. passport and the

employee contract. To ensure that the applicant receives a fair wage, applications for visas for domestic employees

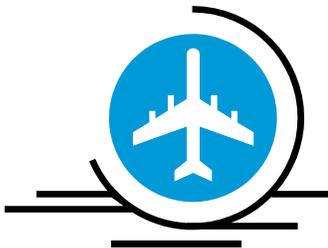
must include an employment contract signed by the employer and the employee. The contract should be presented in English and in languages clearly understood by the employer and employee. There are six requirements outlined on our website that must be in the employee contract in order for the visa to be approved. For more information related to travelling with domestic employees, please visit www.travel.state.gov



AVOID THE RUSH-RENEW YOUR U.S. PASSPORT TODAY!

Demand for passports goes up during the spring and summer. Now that spring is here and the summer travel season fast approaching, it is never too soon to apply for or renew tourist passports for yourself or your family members. Many countries require that passports have at least six months of validity before allowing entry. Additionally, passports for minors are only valid for five years, so please check the expiration date of your children's passports before making travel plans, as well as your own. Be aware that tourist passport applications usually require two to three weeks from the date of execution of application to receipt of the passport. The Embassy is unable to extend passport validity, and emergency passports are available only in extreme circumstances.

For additional information or to schedule an appointment, please visit <http://hungary.usembassy.gov/passports2.html>



UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

May 1 - Labor Day (Hungarian)

May 25 - Memorial Day/Whit Monday (USA/Hungarian)

Contact Us!

Telephone:

During office hours:

(36-1) 475-4400 (Local time: GMT +1)

After-hours emergency calls for American citizens only:

(36-1) 475-4400

Facsimile:

(36-1) 475-4764

E-mail Addresses:

If you have specific questions or comments, you may wish to contact the appropriate section listed below:

American Citizen Services: acs.budapest@state.gov

Embassy Address:

Embassy of the United States of America
Szabadság tér 12
H-1054 Budapest, Hungary

