

ACS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN CITIZENS SERVICES

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CONTACT US!

American Citizen Services
U.S. Embassy Seoul
188 Sejong-daero, Jongno-gu
Seoul 110-710, Korea
- or -
American Citizen Services
U.S. Embassy, Seoul
Unit #15550
APO AP 96205-5550

Tel: 02-397-4040 (Passport)
Tel: 02-397-4114 (Other Services)
Fax: 02-397-4080
DSN: 721-4114

English: www.asktheconsul.org/
Korean: <http://korean.seoul.usembassy.gov>
E-mail: seoulinfo@state.gov
Facebook: www.facebook.com/americansinkorea

GREETINGS FROM THE ACS CHIEF

I trust everyone had an enjoyable Lunar New Year holiday. I know that there are many things competing for your time, but I'd like to call your attention to our relatively new American Citizen Services blog. You can check it out using the following link:

<http://usembassyseoulconsular.wordpress.com/>.

We post at least one new item on it each week, and these items tend to be more personal and informal than other things we post on our website and Facebook page. We welcome your comments on any and all of our postings. Please also let us know if you would like us to write on any specific issue or subject in the months ahead.



As mentioned above, please also check out our Facebook site called "Americans in Korea" (www.facebook.com/americansinkorea). We post items on there as well, and quickly respond to your posted queries. We realize that many of you communicate largely through social media, and we want to make sure that you can easily connect with us.

Finally, I'm excited to announce our first outreach trip to the City of Daegu this March (see item 3 below). For a long time we've wanted to provide services to both the American civilian and military communities who live and work in the Daegu area. The first day of services on March 12 will be at the Novotel Daegu City Center Hotel, and the next day we'll be providing services at Camp Henry to take care of the U.S. Forces Korea soldiers and family members down there.

Please stay warm, and enjoy watching the Super Bowl!

Robert (Buck) Waldrop
ACS Chief

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

The Embassy will be closed on the following day: February 20: (Monday) Presidents' Day

The ACS Unit will be closed for routine services, including passport processing, on February 20. Please plan ahead, and enjoy the holiday!

Please be advised that the work days just before and after a holiday are usually busier in the American Citizen Services Unit of the Embassy with all appointments taken. Do not be surprised at a longer wait for consular services on those days. A complete list of all of our holiday closings for 2012 is available on-line at http://seoul.usembassy.gov/p_holidays.html

CONSULAR SERVICES IN BUSAN FEBRUARY 21-22, AND IN DAEGU MARCH 12-13

The Embassy offers consular services for American citizens in Busan for two days each month. During these visits, U.S. citizens can apply for U.S. passports, additional visa pages in their current passports, Consular Reports of Birth Abroad, and Social Security cards. A consular officer will also offer notarial services and provide information regarding voting, federal benefits, and enrollment with the Embassy. The consular staff is also available to assist with emergencies involving U.S. citizens. Any questions about requirements should be directed by email to seoul_acs@state.gov.

Officials from the Embassy's ACS Unit will next be in Busan on Tuesday and Wednesday, February 21-22, 2012. A Consular Officer will be available on February 21, from 1:00–4:00 p.m. and on February 22, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the American Presence Post (APP), Lotte Gold Rose Building (also known as the Job Center Building), #150-3, Yangjung-dong, Busanjin-gu, Room No. 612. Directions to the APP can be found here: <http://busan.usconsulate.gov/contactus.html>.

As noted above, instead of going to Busan in March, the Embassy's ACS Unit will provide services in the City of Daegu March 12-13, 2012. On Monday, March 12, a Consular Officer will be available in the 8th floor Business Center Conference Room at the Novotel Daegu City Center Hotel from 12:30 to 4:30 pm, and on Tuesday, March 13, at the Camp Henry Army Community Services building from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm. Please note that only those with access to U.S. Forces Korea bases will be able to make appointments for the services at Camp Henry on March 13.

An appointment is required for services in both Busan and Daegu. Call the U.S. Embassy to schedule an appointment at 02-397-4114. Please specify that you would like to make an appointment for consular services at Busan or Daegu and which date you would prefer (it can be any of those listed above). Be sure to call by noon on the Friday prior to the visit. For the February outreach, please make your appointment by Friday, February 17th at noon. For the March outreach in Daegu, please make your appointment by Friday, March 9th at noon.

ALL APPOINTMENT SYSTEM

The ACS Unit began requiring appointments for all non-emergency, routine services on June 15, 2011. This is also a worldwide policy for all U.S. embassies and consulates. Routine services include passport and additional pages applications, requests for Consular Reports of Birth Abroad, Social Security card and benefit applications, and notarial services.

Requiring appointments for all our non-emergency, routine services means that we'll be able to serve everyone more quickly and efficiently -- it will lessen considerably the long lines and busy waiting room that we often had during non-appointment sessions. Of course, we'll always take care of U.S. citizens with emergencies whether they have an appointment or not. Please note that notarial services are not considered emergency appointments.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH: Q: "HOW CAN I GET A VISA TO VISIT CHINA? I'M IN THE U.S. MILITARY - CAN THE EMBASSY HELP WITH MY TRAVEL TO CHINA?"

A: The U.S. Embassy is unable to give advice on obtaining a Chinese visa. We suggest that you contact the Chinese Embassy in Korea using the information below. Advice about traveling to China as an American citizen can also be found on the Department of State's website: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1089.html.

Website: <http://www.chinaemb.or.kr>

Email: chinaemb_kr@mfa.gov.cn

Address: 54, Hyoja-Dong, Jongno-Gu, Seoul, 110033, Korea Office Hours: 09:00-12:00, 13:30-17:30, Monday-Friday

Tel: +82-2-738-1038

Fax: +82-2-738-1077

Consular Office

Address: 50-7, No.2 Street, Namsan-dong, Chung-gu, Seoul Office Hour:

Applications: 9:00-11:30 Monday-Friday; 13:30-15:30 Monday-Thursday

Pick-up: 9:00-11:30 Monday-Friday

Tel: +82-2-756-7300, 755-0453, 755-0456, 704-5004

CAUTION IN ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICTS

Itaewon and Shinchon are well known entertainment districts in Seoul that are also considered a higher-risk area for crime. Please use caution in all entertainment and nightlife districts throughout Korea.

Recently a small number of incidents involving U.S. citizens in these areas have included physical and sexual assaults, theft of purses, wallets, and drugs allegedly slipped into drinks.

VOTING: AS AMERICAN AS PIE

The U.S. presidential election will be held on Tuesday Nov. 6, 2012.

Also during this election, 33 U.S. Senate seats will be voted on, as well as all 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives which will make up the 113th Congress. The election will also encompass 11 state gubernatorial races as well as many state legislature races, ballot questions and referendums.

U.S. citizens residing overseas have the right to vote in both primaries and elections. In order to receive a ballot for any of the elections, including the presidential election, you MUST be registered to vote. Due to recent changes in the law States are no longer required to send overseas voters ballots if they did not register to vote during this calendar year. For that reason the Federal Voting Assistance Program recommends that all U.S. citizens register to vote in January of every year or at least 90 days before the specific election you want to vote in.

In addition, all states are now required to electronically transmit ballots to voters who request this option. For overseas voters who have sometimes faced difficulty voting because of ballots lost in the mail system this electronic option is a significant benefit. In order to take advantage of this option, however, voters MUST select the electronic delivery option when they register to vote.

In order to assist U.S. citizens residing in Korea with the voter registration process, the ACS Unit of the Embassy in Seoul is hosting a voter outreach event on February 25, 2012. The event will be held from 12 to 4 pm at Tartine Bakery & Café, 119-15 Itaewon, Yongsangu, Seoul 122-460 (www.tartine.co.kr) which has generously donated their space. Voters who come to the event will be able to receive Embassy assistance with the voter registration process and will be treated to prizes and discounts on Tartine's pies. Please come out and register. Remember, voting is as American as pie!

Also stay tuned to this and future ACS Newsletters for the most up to date information about upcoming primaries and elections. The following states will hold Presidential Primaries in February and March 2012:

February 7, 2012 - Missouri Presidential Primary February 28, 2012 - Arizona and Michigan Presidential Primary March 6, 2012 - Georgia, Massachusetts, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia Presidential Primaries; Ohio and Texas Primaries March 13, 2012 - Alabama and Mississippi Primary March 20, 2012 - Illinois Primary March 24, 2012 - Louisiana Primary

AMERICAN CENTER KOREA'S EXPANDED HOURS AND U.S. EMBASSY SPONSORED PROGRAM: WITHOUT YOU, BY ANTHONY RAPP

As of Thursday, December 1, 2011, the American Center Korea (formerly known as the Information Resource Center) at the U.S. Embassy, located at 10 Namyoung-dong, Youngsan-gu, is now open to the public from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on non-holiday weekdays.

The American Center Korea circulates books, DVDs, and magazine back issues to its members. The American Center Korea also offers other services such as high speed Internet access, DVD film viewing on the premises, photo-copying, vending machines with American snacks and drinks, and online database searches.

U.S. Embassy Sponsored Program: Without You, by Anthony Rapp

Anthony Rapp, who is best known for originating the role of Mark Cohen in Jonathan Larson's Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize-winning musical, "Rent" presents his turbulent journey through the convergence of two life-changing events: the early days of Rent – including the untimely passing of Jonathan Larson – and the illness and death of his own mother. In "Without You" — which is based on his 2006 memoir — Rapp reveals that the late 1990s was also a time of great personal loss. He uses a mix of original music and songs by R.E.M. and Larson in a stunning one-man show about grief, hope, and triumph.

Title: "Without You" by Anthony Rapp

Date: Feb. 10 (Fri) to Mar. 4 (Sun).

Preview Day: 50% off on Feb. 10th (Fri) ~ Feb. 12th (Sun). Weekdays 8pm / Sat 3pm & 7pm / Sun 3pm *7pm only on Mar. 1st due to Korean Independence Day.

Venue: KT&G SangSang Art Hall

Tickets: VIP 66,000 R 55,000 S 44,000

For Info & Tickets: 1544-1681

Online reservations are not available in English. However, there are English speakers available to take phone reservations.

LIFE IN KOREA BOOT CAMP, MARCH 11

Come and join us for a "Life in Korea Boot Camp"! Do you have questions about navigating the Korean workplace? How to deal with culture shock? Finding legal help and resources for dealing with daily life in Korea? Join us for a Q & A and a chance to have your voice heard and provide feedback to the U.S. Embassy about your experiences in the ROK. You'll hear answers from an Embassy perspective and a psychological perspective. Sunday, March 11th at 3:00 pm in a location to be determined! Stay tuned for details...

TRAVEL WARNINGS

The U.S. Department of State has recently issued travel warnings or travel alerts for the following countries and regions. If you are traveling to any of these regions in the near future, please consult travel.state.gov for more information.

Travel Warnings:

[Syria](#) 02/06/2012
[Pakistan](#) 02/02/2012
[Iraq](#) 01/19/2012
[Congo, Democratic Republic of the](#) 01/12/2012
[Nigeria](#) 01/12/2012
[Sudan](#) 01/11/2012
[Philippines](#) 01/05/2012
[Central African Republic](#) 01/04/2012
[Republic of South Sudan](#) 12/22/2011
[Cote d'Ivoire](#) 12/16/2011
[Afghanistan](#) 12/01/2011
[Burundi](#) 11/25/2011
[Eritrea](#) 11/04/2011
[Kenya](#) 11/04/2011
[Guinea](#) 11/04/2011
[Korea, Democratic People's Republic of](#) 11/03/2011
[Iran](#) 10/21/2011
[Lebanon](#) 10/12/2011
[Mauritania](#) 10/12/2011
[Mali](#) 10/04/2011
[Libya](#) 09/22/2011
[Algeria](#) 09/19/2011
[Yemen](#) 09/02/2011
[Somalia](#) 08/19/2011
[Chad](#) 08/16/2011
[Haiti](#) 08/08/2011
[Niger](#) 08/05/2011
[Saudi Arabia](#)

[Bia](#) 08/05/2011
[Colombia](#) 07/22/2011
[Israel, the West Bank and Gaza](#) 06/22/2011
[Mexico](#) 04/22/2011

Travel Alerts:

[Panama](#) 02/05/2012
[Bahrain](#) 01/23/2012
[Tunisia](#) 01/13/2012
[Senegal](#) 12/12/2011
[South Pacific Cyclone Season](#) 12/12/2011
[Egypt](#) 11/07/2011
[Japan](#) 10/07/2011

Worldwide Caution January 31, 2011

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_4787.html

For additional information about these travel warnings and alerts, please go to this site:

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html

EMBASSY CONTACT INFORMATION

American Citizen Services
U.S. Embassy Seoul
188 Sejong-daero, Jongno-gu
Seoul, Korea 110-710

- or -

American Citizen Services
U.S. Embassy, Seoul
Unit #15550
APO AP 96205-5550

Tel: 02-397-4040 (Passport Inquiry line)

Tel: 02-397-4114 (All other services)

Fax: 02-397-4080

DSN: 721-4114

English: <http://www.asktheconsul.org/>

Korean: <http://korean.seoul.usembassy.gov>

E-mail: seoulinfo@state.gov

Facebook: www.facebook.com/americansinkorea

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