



United States Consulate General, Merida, Mexico
Consular Section
MESSAGE FOR U.S. CITIZENS

Dated May 31, 2013

Hurricane Season

The U.S. Consulate General in Merida reminds U.S. citizens that hurricane season is from June 1 to November 30.

Be Prepared

U.S. citizens planning to visit places that are vulnerable to hurricanes should be aware of the chance of storms and make a plan in case of emergency. Even inland areas far from the coast can experience destructive winds, tornadoes, and floods from tropical storms and hurricanes. In the event of a tropical storm or hurricane, the Consulate will monitor the storm and send email messages to U.S. citizens who have enrolled with us. The Department of State may also issue a Travel Alert or Travel Warning to apprise the public of the situation.

Please check your passport and those of your family members to assure that they are still valid. As you may need to travel to the United States (or elsewhere) on short notice, it is important to have valid travel documents so that your trip is not unnecessarily delayed. If you plan to travel to the United States, please also ensure that any non-U.S. citizen family members also have valid Lawful Permanent Resident cards or U.S. visas or visit our website at <http://www.travel.state.gov/> for more information on applying for a visa.

Your Checklist:

- Prior to leaving the United States, register your travel plans on the State Department's travel enrollment website at <https://step.state.gov/step/>.
- Check with your tour operator, airline, or charter flight company (as appropriate) regarding travel services back to the United States in the event of a hurricane, and the possibility of early return if a storm is forecasted for your region.

- Obtain a cell phone that works internationally so that you can stay in regular contact with family and friends and advise them of your whereabouts.
- Research the region you are visiting and become familiar with local emergency procedures (http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_970.html).
- Pack an emergency supply kit (<http://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit>). Keep extra bottled water and non-perishable food items on hand.
- Keep an up-to-date list of local emergency phone numbers, as well as contact numbers for the nearest U.S. Embassy, Consulate, or Consular Agency.
- Protect your vital travel documents from potential water damage by placing them in a waterproof container.
- Obtain travel insurance prior to your trip to cover unexpected expenses in the event of an emergency (http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1470.html).
- Ensure your medical insurance covers costs associated with emergency situations (http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1470.html).
- Consider what arrangements you will make for your pets. Please note that the Mexican authorities and the U.S. government do not make accommodations for the care or transportation of pets during storm-related emergencies or evacuations.
- Leave a detailed itinerary and your local contact information with a friend or family member in the United States.
- Make two photocopies of the biographic identification page of your passport, airline tickets, driver's license, and any credit cards you plan to take. Leave one copy of each with family or friends at home, and pack the other copies separately from the originals. You may also wish to scan these documents and store them electronically, such as on a flash drive or in an email account. If using traveler's checks, leave a copy of the serial numbers of your traveler's checks with a friend or relative at home.
- Monitor local websites for storm-related information. For Yucatan state, <http://www.yucatan.gob.mx/procivvy/>. Quintana Roo (which includes the popular tourist areas of Cancun, Playa del Carmen, Cozumel, and Tulum), <http://proteccioncivil.qroo.gob.mx/>. Campeche, <http://cenecam.gob.mx/pronosticopr.php>.

Please also visit the following U.S. government websites for more information:

Mexico Country Specific Information:

http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_970.html

Hurricane Season "Know Before You Go":

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis_pa_tw_2915.html

National Hurricane Center: <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

How to Contact Consulate Merida and the Consular Agencies in Cancun, Playa del Carmen and Cozumel: U.S. Consulate in Merida contact information is available here: <http://merida.usconsulate.gov/contact-us8.html>.

You have received this message because you are enrolled with us.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Mexico enroll in the [Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](http://www.travel.state.gov) at www.travel.state.gov. STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. Embassy or nearest U.S. Consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you do not have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

Regularly monitor the State Department's [website](#), where you can find current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the [Country Specific Information for Mexico](#). For additional information, refer to "A Safe Trip Abroad" on the State Department's website.

Contact the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#), and download our free [Smart Traveler iPhone App](#) to have travel information at your fingertips.

The U.S. Consulate General in Merida is located at Calle 60 No. 338-K x 29 y 31, Col. Alcala Martin, and is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., local time. The phone number is (999) 942-5700. If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance, please call the number above to be connected with the duty officer.