

AMERICAN CITIZENS SERVICES NEWSLETTER

The U.S. Embassy is transmitting the following monthly newsletter via its warden system as a public service to U.S. citizens in Mongolia. Please feel free to disseminate this message to U.S. citizens in your organizations or to other Americans you know.

General Security Reminder

Did you know that during the months of June, July, and August, an estimated 10,850 American Citizens visit or reside in Mongolia? That's a lot of Americans! While summer means warmer weather, longer days, Naadam celebrations, school vacations, and an increase in visitors, this time of year also sees an increase in pick-pockets, petty theft, assaults, and sexual assaults. We encourage all Americans to remain vigilant regarding their security and to exercise caution and good judgment. The most common crimes against foreigners are pick-pocketing and bag snatching, and these crimes often occur near Sukhbaatar Square, the State Department store, and well-known expat restaurants. The consular section has received reports of organized groups operating in open areas, usually after dark, surrounding, grabbing, and choking individuals in order to search his or her pockets. Thieves have also cut victims' bag straps and clothing in attempts to reach wallets, cell phones, and other valuables. If you detect pick-pocket attempts, you should not confront the thieves, since they may become violent. It is best not to walk alone through Ulaanbaatar after dark or to carry large sums of money on your person.

If you are a victim of a crime, please immediately contact local law enforcement, and you may also report the incident to the Consular Section at UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov. If your passport or other valuables are stolen, please remember that routine American Citizens Services, including the provision of emergency, limited-validity passports, are available on Mondays and Thursdays at the U.S. Embassy in Ulaanbaatar by appointment only. Have a great and safe summer!

Don't Forget to Visit our Website!

Have you visited the Embassy's website recently and checked out the "U.S. Citizen Services" tab? Don't forget that in addition to information on routine ACS services such as passport renewals, the issuance of Certified Reports of Birth Abroad, or notary services, we have information on medical facilities in Mongolia, tax information, translation services, and English-speaking lawyers. For this information and much more, please visit <http://mongolia.usembassy.gov/service.html>



Become a fan of **U.S. Embassy Ulaanbaatar, Consular Section** on Facebook.

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Embassy Ulaanbaatar American Citizens Day – Sneak Peak!

We are moving! If you have visited the U.S. Embassy in Ulaanbaatar recently, you will see that the Embassy is currently undergoing a major renovation project, and, as such, the consular section is presently housed in a temporary trailer. But, this Fall, the consular section will be moving back into our newly renovated and spacious accommodations! Once settled, Embassy Ulaanbaatar's consular section will be hosting an "American Citizens Day" this Fall. For American Citizen guests, the day's activities will include a tour of the newly renovated section, a kids' corner, an overview of the ACS services the section provides, as well as a short briefing on non-immigrant and immigrant visas. We look forward to welcoming all American Citizens to the Embassy.



Please stay tuned for full details, including the date and time, in the next issue of the ACS newsletter, and do not forget to mark your calendars!

Ask the Consul

An American citizen invites a Mongolian citizen to visit him or her in the U.S. What should the American citizen submit to the consular section? What is required?

Good question! There are no documents the American citizen is required to submit. All that is "required" for a nonimmigrant visa application for business or tourism are the DS-160 application form, a passport that is valid for at least another 6 months, a current 2"x 2" photo, and the MRV fee receipt. Other documentation is sometimes useful, of course, but not required.

The best way for an American citizen to support the visa application of a Mongolian citizen (or in fact any foreign friend or associate) is to give him or her a personal letter to bring to the visa interview. In this letter, the American citizen can briefly describe the relationship, the purpose of travel, and any other information that is relevant to the visa application. The consular officer may or may not look at supporting documentation, but if he or she does, such a letter can help the consular officer in his or her assessment of the visa applicant's

overall situation. It is important to remember, however, that the letter alone is not enough to ensure visa issuance. It is simply **one** piece in the giant puzzle of facts that consular officers use to determine an applicant's eligibility for the visa. Sending a letter of support by email or snail mail usually does not work well, as most consular sections have no effective way of pairing incoming mail with individual visa applications. Remember, we see hundreds of applicants each week, and we do not have the application packets available to us until the applicant appears at the consular section for the interview.

The bottom line is that no matter who applicants know or who invites them, it still falls on applicants to demonstrate to the consular officer at the time of the interview that they are qualified for the visa they are applying for. Mongolian visa applicants should not rely solely on documentation, but should be prepared to answer the consular officer's questions about their intended activities in the United States and their professional, familial, and social linkages to Mongolia.

American Citizen Visa Hour!

In case you missed the announcement in our June newsletter: the U.S. Embassy in Ulaanbaatar is pleased to announce a new service for Americans residing in Mongolia!

The consular section is now hosting American Citizen Visa Hour on **Tuesday afternoons from 4:00-5:00 p.m.** During this hour, American citizens may ask questions regarding the application procedures for a U.S. immigrant and non-immigrant visas. American Citizen Visa Hour is designed for information purposes only and not as an opportunity to submit a U.S. visa application or to re-adjudicate a prior visa decision. Please arrive no later than 4:30 p.m. Appointments are not necessary. Upon entering Embassy grounds, please pass through the required security screening and then enter the Consular section waiting room. This is a service we provide only for American citizens, and a U.S. passport will be required for entry into the Consular Section. Citizens of other countries, including Legal Permanent Residents of the United States, are requested to explore other avenues for receiving immigration-related information.



Inquiries about specific cases should be submitted via email at UlaanbaatarNIV@state.gov. Replies are generally sent within three business days. Please note: American Citizen Visa Hour is not held when the Embassy is closed.

STEP Registration Reminder!

U.S. citizens residing or traveling in Mongolia are reminded to enroll with the U.S. Embassy by entering your travel itinerary and contact information into the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program at <https://step.state.gov/step/>.

Don't forget to enter your email address, local address, if known, as well as your expected departure date from Mongolia. Entering your expected departure date will guarantee that you do not continue to receive ACS-related emails once no longer in Mongolia.



Travel Warnings and Alerts

Yemen	07/16/13
Niger	07/15/13
Mexico	07/12/13
Philippines	07/05/13
Kenya	07/05/13
Egypt	07/03/13

For additional information about these travel warnings and alerts, please visit this website: <http://www.travel.state.gov/>.

Embassy Contact Information

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