

AMERICAN CITIZENS SERVICES NEWSLETTER

САЙХАН ШИНЭЛЭЭРЭЙ!

The Consular Section congratulates you on the Lunar New Year and wishes you and your families health, happiness and prosperity!

American Citizens' Visa Hour

Every **Tuesday at 4:00pm** at the Consular Section except on U.S. and local holidays.

Taboos of Tsagaan Sar:

Don't formally greet your spouse.
 Don't wash or mend old clothes.
 Don't wear a knife or weapon.
 Don't stay the night in another ger.
 Don't accept gifts with shirt sleeves rolled up.
 Don't get drunk during the house visits.
 Don't borrow anything from another ger.



SMS System for Future Announcements

The Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy Ulaanbaatar has set up a bulk SMS communication system for all registered American Citizens residing in Mongolia. This system will be used to send out **ONLY time-sensitive messages via text message to your cell phone**. We will not use this service for each and every warden message. Instead, the SMS program will allow us to quickly reach you in the event of an emergency, or when other modes of communication are down.

Please be aware that an independent telecom company will be providing the service, not the U.S. Embassy itself. This service is completely free of charge for you. If you have not [registered with the Embassy](#) but are interested in getting our text-messages, please send us a short email with your valid cell phone numbers to be included in our SMS program to UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov.

We will appreciate it greatly if you inform us of any changes in your cell phone numbers at UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov. This might be a good chance to send us any other updates on your contact information (new email, mailing addresses) or to enroll with STEP. If you no longer reside in Mongolia, and would like to remove your email from the distribution list, let us know as well.

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Ask the Consul

I would like to know if my friend has applied for a visa and what the status is. Who should I contact?

Under U.S. law, specifically the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) 222(f), visa records are confidential. Therefore, the visa applicant should inquire at the U.S. Embassy where he/she applied regarding necessary information about visa application status. Because of confidentiality of visa records, you'll need to ask your friend, the visa applicant your questions about whether a visa application was made, or a visa was issued or denied.

New POC for NIV Applications

National Visa Center (NVC) was previously the domestic point of contact for all immigrant (i.e. permanent residence or 'green card') visa cases being processed through a U.S. Embassy or Consulate outside of the United States. Beginning on Monday, January 12, 2015, the NVC is also the point of contact for all domestic inquiries regarding nonimmigrant visa cases.

The Visa Office reports that it choose to designate the NVC as the single point of contact for all visa matters at Consular Posts worldwide in order to improve the efficiency and consistency of responses to the public.

Consular posts will still accept inquires on individual visa cases and Legalnet will remain active and respond to inquiries from attorneys seeking advisory opinions on the interpretation or application of U.S. Immigration Law.

The general public may contact NVC by email at AskNVC@state.gov. Please note NVC will only answer the routine questions about case status and provide general information about the visa process.



Driving in a Foreign Country

If you plan to drive overseas, you may need to obtain an International Driving Permit (IDP). Many countries do not recognize U.S. driver's licenses without an accompanying IDP, and it is illegal to drive without a valid license and insurance in most places. You should check with the [embassy of the country where you plan to travel](#) to find out more about driver's license and car insurance requirements. To renew a U.S. driver's license while abroad, contact the Department of Motor Vehicles in your home state. For more information, please review our page on [Driving Abroad](#).

Driving in Mongolia:

The Mongolian government doesn't recognize U.S. driver licenses or IDPs. You must obtain a Mongolian driver's license if you reside in Mongolia for an extended period of time and plan to drive. The [Traffic Police's License Center](#) requires the following documents to process the application:

- A formal request letter
- A valid Mongolian local address
- Copy of employer's registration/license
- Passport
- Copy of the Mongolian visa page
- Foreign driver's license with its translation
- Copy of Mongolian Residency Card with validity of at least another three months
- Payment of 37,500 tugrik
- Driver's health form
- Two 4 cm x 6 cm photos
- A written test is mandatory and only given in Mongolian. Applicant needs to bring his/her own translator.

Tax Information

Income tax season is fast approaching. We recommend that you obtain your tax forms online at <http://www.irs.gov/formspubs/index.html>.

Please note that All U.S. citizens and resident aliens must file a U.S. individual income tax return, even if they permanently live outside the United States and may not owe any tax because of income exclusion or tax credit. 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.

You are allowed an automatic 2-month extension to file your return and pay any amount due without requesting an extension. Simply write "Taxpayer Resident Abroad" at the top of your tax return. Please note this extension applies only for filing your tax return, not for payment. If you owe any taxes, you're required to pay by April 15, 2015. Interest and penalties will generally be applied if payment is made after this date.

You can mail your tax return and payment using the postal service or approved private delivery services. A list of [approved delivery services](#) is available on IRS.gov. If you mail a return from outside the United States, the date of filing is the postmark date. However, if you mail a payment, separately or with your return, your payment is not considered received until the date of actual receipt. You can prepare and e-file your income tax return, in many cases for free. Participating software companies make their products available through the IRS [E-File options](#).

You also may have to file FinCEN Form 114, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts (FBAR), by June 30, 2015.

Tax guidance for U.S. citizens abroad: Please visit IRS Webpage [U.S.-Citizens-and-Resident-Aliens-Abroad](#) or [Taxes / Internal Revenue Service](#)

Upcoming Holidays

February 16 – Presidents' Day
February 19 and 20 – Lunar New Year
March 9 – International Women's Day

Embassy Contact Information

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Ulaanbaatar 14190 Mongolia

Tel: 976-7007-6001
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Travel Warnings and Alerts

Warning

February 12, 2015	Cameroon
February 11, 2015	Yemen
February 5, 2015	Sierra Leone
February 4, 2015	Cameroon Travel Warning
February 2, 2015	Nigeria
January 21, 2015	Liberia
January 20, 2015	Libya
January 16, 2015	Iran
January 13, 2015	Mali
January 8, 2015	Chad Travel

Alert

Potential Implications for Travel Because of Ebola in [Parts of West Africa](#)

For additional information about these travel warnings and alerts, please go to the State Department [website](#).