

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.



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

American Citizens' Visa Hour

Every **Tuesday at 4:00pm** at the Consular Section,

Inside this issue:

Consular Section Open House	1
Holiday Travel Tips	2
Affordable Care Act	3
STEP Enrollment	3
Travel Warnings and Alerts	3
Upcoming Holidays	3
Embassy Contact	3

Happy Holidays!

A. False B. True

Thank you to everyone who attended the Consular Section Open House!



A. True or false? Consular Officers can perform marriages.



B. True or false? Everyone born in the U.S. is a U.S. citizen.

Holiday Travel Tips

What You Can Bring on the Plane What You Need to Know

Each time you enter into an airport, a number of precautions are taken to ensure your flight is safe. By following the procedures below and ensuring that your baggage meets Transportation Security Administration (TSA) standards, the airport screening process can be much faster and easier.

TSA and our security partners conducted extensive explosives testing since August 10, 2006 and determined that liquids, aerosols and gels, in limited quantities, are safe to bring aboard an aircraft. The one bag limit per traveler limits the total amount each traveler can bring. Consolidating the bottles into one bag and X-raying them separately from the carry-on bag enables security officers to quickly clear the items.

3-1-1 for carry-ons = 3.4 ounce (100ml) bottle or less (by volume) ; 1 quart-sized, clear, plastic, zip-top bag; 1 bag per passenger placed in screening bin. One-quart bag per person limits the total liquid volume each traveler can bring. 3.4 ounce (100ml) container size is a security measure.

Be prepared. Each time TSA searches a carry-on it slows down the line. Practicing 3-1-1 will ensure a faster and easier checkpoint experience.

3-1-1 is for short trips. If in doubt, put your liquids in checked luggage.

Declare larger liquids. Medications, baby formula and food, and breast milk are allowed in reasonable quantities exceeding three ounces and are not required to be in the zip-top bag. Declare these items for inspection at the checkpoint. Officers may need to open these items to conduct additional screening.

<http://www.dhs.gov/how-do-i/learn-what-i-can-bring-plane>

Traveling with Food or Gifts How to Pack Food and Gift Items

To avoid the risk of having to abandon your liquid duty free items in the U.S. and abroad know the rules at home and abroad. When it comes to bringing items through checkpoints, we've seen just about everything. Traveling with food or gifts is an even bigger challenge. Everyone has favorite foods from home that they want to bring to holiday dinners, or items from their destination that they want to bring back home.

Not sure about what you can and can't bring through the checkpoint? Here's a list of liquid, aerosol and gel items that you should **put in your checked bag, ship ahead, or leave at home if they are above the permitted 3.4 oz.**

Cranberry sauce
Cologne
Creamy dips and spreads (cheeses, peanut butter)
Gift baskets with food items (salsa, jams)
Gravy
Jams
Jellies
Lotions
Maple syrup
Oils and vinegars
Perfume
Salad dressing
Salsa
Sauces
Snow Globes
Soups
Wine, liquor and beer

You can bring **pies and cakes** through the security checkpoint, but they are subject to additional screening.

While **wrapped gifts** are not prohibited, if a bag alarms our security officers may have to unwrap a gift to take a closer look inside. We recommend passengers wrap gifts after their flight or ship them ahead of time to avoid the possibility of having to open them during the screening process.

Items purchased after the security checkpoint have been pre-screened and can be taken on the plane.

Latest revision: 16 October 2012

<http://www.tsa.gov/traveler-information/traveling-food-or-gifts>

Prohibited Items - Sharp items, sporting goods, guns and firearms, tools, martial arts and self defense items, explosive and flammable materials, chemicals, and other dangerous items are strictly prohibited. Check the online database if you have questions.

Traveling with children - You are encouraged to travel with only as much formula, breast milk, or juice in your carry-on needed to reach your destination.

Travelers with Disabilities and Medical Conditions - All disability-related equipment, aids, and devices continue to be allowed through security checkpoints once cleared through screening.

Affordable Care Act

U.S. citizens living abroad are generally subject to the same individual shared responsibility provision as U.S. citizens living in the United States. Starting in 2014, the individual shared responsibility provision calls for each individual to have minimum essential coverage (MEC) for each month, qualify for an exemption, or make a payment when filing his or her federal income tax return. However, U.S. citizens or residents living abroad for at least 330 days within a 12 month period are treated as having MEC during those 12 months and thus will not owe a shared responsibility payment for any of those 12 months. Also, U.S. citizens who qualify as a bona fide resident of a foreign country for an entire taxable year are treated as having MEC for that year.

All U.S. citizens are subject to the individual shared responsibility provision as are all permanent residents and all foreign nationals who are in the United States long enough during a calendar year to qualify as resident aliens for tax purposes. Foreign nationals who live in the United States for a short enough period that they do not become resident aliens for federal income tax purposes are not subject to the individual shared responsibility payment even though they may have to file a U.S. income tax return. The IRS has more information available on when a foreign national becomes a resident alien for federal income tax purposes. Learn more [here](#).

For general questions about the Act, see the dedicated ACA website operated by [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services \(HHS\)](#). The [HHS website](#) includes a link to information about whether U.S. citizens residing abroad are subject to ACA. The Health Insurance Marketplace, sometimes known as the Health Insurance Exchange, is a new way to find quality health coverage. To be eligible for health coverage through the Marketplace, you must live in the United States; must be a U.S. citizen or national (or be lawfully present) and can't be currently incarcerated.

For tax issues related to ACA, see the [ACA page](#) within the IRS website. The IRS site provides further links/webpages, depending on whether you are an individual, employer, or other organization. For more information, see the [Question and Answer page for Individuals](#).



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 (STEP) at <https://step.state.gov/step/>. Don't forget to enter your email address, local address and phone number, 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

Republic of South Sudan 12/17/2013
 Libya 12/12/2013
 Venezuela 11/22/2013

Travel Alerts

Egypt 12/18/2013
 Madagascar 12/12/2013
 Bangladesh 12/03/2013

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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Upcoming Holiday Closings in January 2014

Wed, Jan 1	New Year's Day
Mon, Jan 20	Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday
Thu, Jan 30	Bittuun (Lunar New Year's Eve)
Fri, Jan 31	Lunar New Year