

ACS Kathmandu, Nepal

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This newsletter is published by the American Citizen Services Unit, U.S. Embassy, Kathmandu, Nepal.

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Emergencies only)

Email: consktm@state.gov

Website:

<http://nepal.usembassy.gov>

U.S. Department of State's
Consular travel website:
www.travel.state.gov

**American Citizen Service
Hours:**

1:30 to 4:00 pm, Monday
through Friday, excluding
holidays.

To schedule an appointment:

<http://go.usa.gov/Yjc>



Welcome to Ambassador Bodde

Ambassador to Nepal

Ambassador Bodde joined the Foreign Service in 1981, and has served in Georgetown, Guyana; Kathmandu, Nepal (twice, most recently as Deputy Chief of Mission from 1994-1997 and as Financial Management Officer from 1982-1984); Hamburg, Germany; Sofia, Bulgaria; Copenhagen, Denmark; and New Delhi, India, where he was the Minister Counselor for Administrative Affairs. He served as Consul General at the United States Consulate General in Frankfurt, Germany from 2002 to 2006, as the Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad from 2006 to 2008, and as the United States Ambassador to Malawi from, 2008 to 2010. He was most recently the Assistant Chief of Mission for Assistance Transition, U.S. Embassy Bagdad, Iraq, class of Minister-Counselor. His languages are German, Bulgarian, and Nepali.

Ambassador Bodde is married to Tanya Lee Will Bodde. They have two children.

Date to Remember: Ambassador Bodde will be hosting a Town Hall Meeting open to all U.S. Citizens, on October 16 at 5:30 pm at the Ambassador's residence, Kamal Kunj.

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Act early to make sure your vote is counted.

The election season has once again closed in upon us. As overseas voters, it is important to act early to ensure that your ballot is received in time to be counted. Voter registration and absentee ballot requests are determined by the individual states. As a general rule, you should try to send in your completed voter registration and/or absentee ballot request so that it reaches your local election officials at least forty-five days before the election in which you are eligible to vote. In most cases, this will provide time for election officials to process the request and send you a ballot. Contact your state's chief election administrative office to determine the procedures and obtain the correct forms.

The United States has streamlined absentee voting procedures for U.S. citizens living outside the United States. U.S. citizens can register to vote and request an absentee ballot from local election officials in their home state by completing a single form – the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). Voters can visit www.FVAP.gov, where an on-line wizard walks voters through the process of completing the form. Most registered voters are able to send the completed signed form via email or fax to local election officials in the United States. First-time voters typically need to send in the signed, original form by mail. The U.S. Embassy can assist voters to return these forms free of charge.

Note: you must send in a FPCA to your local election officials **every year**—even if you have previously voted overseas—and every time you change your name, physical address, or email address.

You can drop off your voter registration requests, absentee ballot requests, and voted absentee ballots at the U.S. Embassy Kathmandu for delivery to your local election official in the United States. The U.S. Government offers this service to U.S. Citizens living overseas to make absentee voting as easy as possible. The box is located inside the consular section security checkpoint building. Any U.S. Citizen can drop off the mail items listed above and the U.S. Embassy Kathmandu will send them via Diplomatic Pouch to the United States Postal Service (USPS) in Virginia. The mail will then enter the USPS system. It will take approximately three weeks for the mailed item to reach your local election official. You **must include proper postage and complete “to” and “from” addresses** on envelopes. Proper postage is needed for domestic mail, as if the envelope was deposited in a mailbox in the United States. If the envelope says postage paid on it, then no additional postage is necessary.

All U.S. citizens who want to vote in the U.S. presidential election should complete the FPCA in 2012 and request electronic delivery of their blank ballot. U.S. states will begin sending out ballots to overseas voters on or about September 22. We urge all U.S. citizens who need assistance with forms or ballots to contact the voting assistance officer at the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate. U.S. embassies and consulates around the world are organizing Absentee Voting Week events (September 30-October 7) to encourage voters to complete and return voted ballots. Voting assistance officers will be on hand at Absentee Voting Week events to collect and return voted ballots to the United States well in advance of ballot receipt deadlines.

The Voting Assistance Officer at the U.S. Embassy Kathmandu is available to answer any questions; please email us at VoteKathmandu@state.gov.

WANTED

WARDENS for Zones 9, 12 and 14 & Co-WARDENS for all Zones

Are you an American citizen over 21 years of age living in Nepal in Zones 9 (Kirtipur), 12 (Pulchowk/Patan), 14 (airport area)?

If you have forgotten your zone and are interested in being a warden please contact us.

- Do you have an email account and telephone?
- Are you willing to help your fellow citizens?

If you can fill these roles, please consider becoming a warden with the U.S. Embassy.

As part of our effort to serve American citizens living or traveling abroad, the U.S. Embassy has a warden system to assist American citizens, especially in times of emergencies. Wardens are volunteers who serve the particular geographic zone where they live. Usually, we are able to communicate with most of the registered American citizens in Nepal via email or cell phone. However, if a natural disaster, personal crisis, or other emergency strikes; we look to our wardens for help.

What is a warden's responsibility?

- Assist the U.S Embassy in communicating important information.
- Notify the U.S. Embassy of American citizens who need assistance.
- Forward messages, as appropriate, from family members who have lost contact with an American citizen living in Nepal.
- Check on the welfare of American citizens in your area during a natural disaster or other times of crisis.

If you think you would like to volunteer for this important job, or if you would like more information about this program, please contact the U.S. Embassy at: wardenktm@state.gov.

U.S. Messages to Americans

The Embassy wishes to remind American citizens that demonstrations are unpredictable, and can turn violent with little notice. Avoid large crowds and gatherings. Use good judgment and common sense when traveling, and be prepared for disruptions in transportation services. We recommend that U.S. Citizens monitor media coverage of local events for the latest information.

U.S. messages to Americans can be found at:

<http://nepal.usembassy.gov/mfe.html>



Safely Trekking in Nepal

We strongly discourage solo trekking.

Team up or hire a guide.

The U.S. Embassy in Kathmandu strongly recommends that U.S. citizens do not hike alone or become separated from larger traveling parties while on a trail. Solo trekking can be dangerous, and the lack of available immediate assistance has contributed to injuries and deaths, while also making one more vulnerable to criminals. In separate incidents in 2010, two American women on popular trails were attacked and seriously injured while trekking alone. Foreigners have also gone missing while trekking alone. Extensive search efforts are not always successful in tracing the trekker's whereabouts. The safest option for trekkers is to join an organized group and/or use a reputable trekking company that provides an experienced guide and porters who communicate in both Nepali and English. U.S. citizens are strongly encouraged to register their itinerary before undertaking treks outside the Kathmandu Valley and enroll through the STEP Program (see below).

Further information on trekking safely in Nepal can be found at:

<http://nepal.usembassy.gov/service/travel-alerts-and-warnings-for-nepal/safely-trekking-in-nepal.html>

<http://www.travel.state.gov/>

<http://www.himalayanrescue.org/>

<http://www.taan.org.np/>

***Spread the word to American friends visiting Nepal
to enroll with the U.S. Embassy through the STEP Program.***



U.S. citizens living or traveling in Nepal are encouraged to enroll with the U.S. Embassy through the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](https://step.state.gov/step/). STEP helps us help you in the case of an emergency or disaster. STEP enrollees also automatically receive updates from the Embassy, including Travel Warnings and Travel Alerts.

<https://step.state.gov/step/>

Job Opportunities at the U.S. Embassy

http://nepal.usembassy.gov/about_the_ambassy/job-opportunities.html



Foreign Service Office Management Specialist

Vacancy announcement for Foreign Service Office Management Specialists will open September 12, 2012. It will close on September 26, 2012. The announcement is available on www.careers.state.gov

Open to all U.S. citizens



Upcoming Holidays

The US Embassy will be closed:

- ◆ On Monday October 8 in observance of Columbus Day.
- ◆ From Monday October 22 to Thursday, October 25, 2012 in observance of Dashain.
- ◆ From Monday November 12 to Friday November 16, 2012 in observance of Veteran's Day and Tihar.

Date to Remember

- ◆ Town Hall Meeting on October 16 at 5:30pm at the Ambassador's Residence. More information about this event will be forthcoming.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

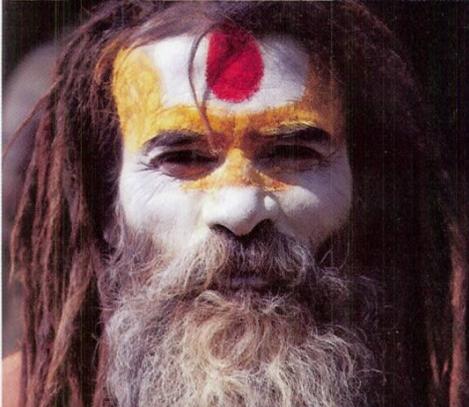
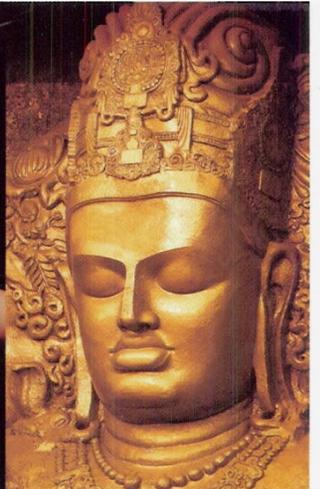
TIP OF THE MONTH

Scan your family's important documents, photographs, etc. and consider storing them on a flash drive or portable hard drive in your Go-Bag. Or you could even store your important data in the cloud*. Some examples of important documents to make portable are:

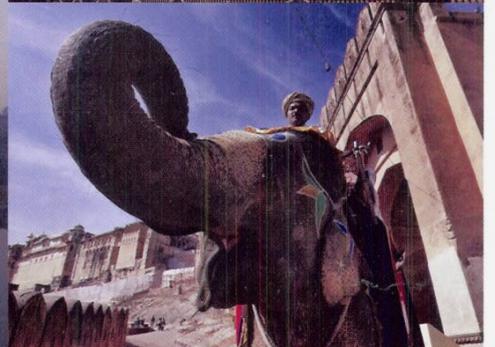
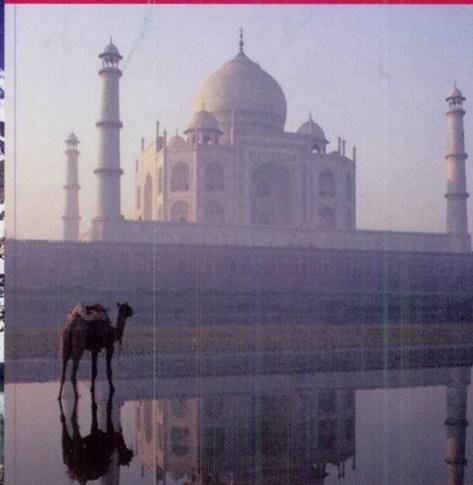
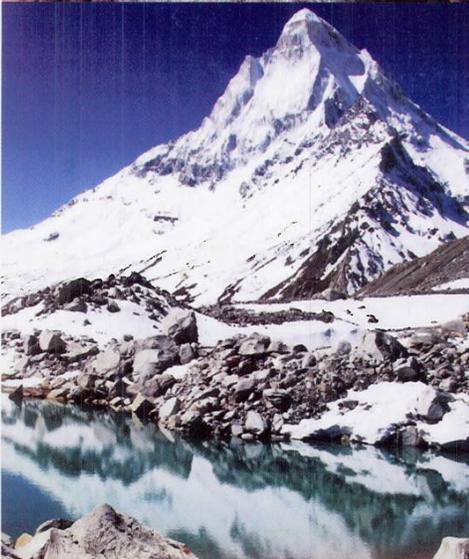
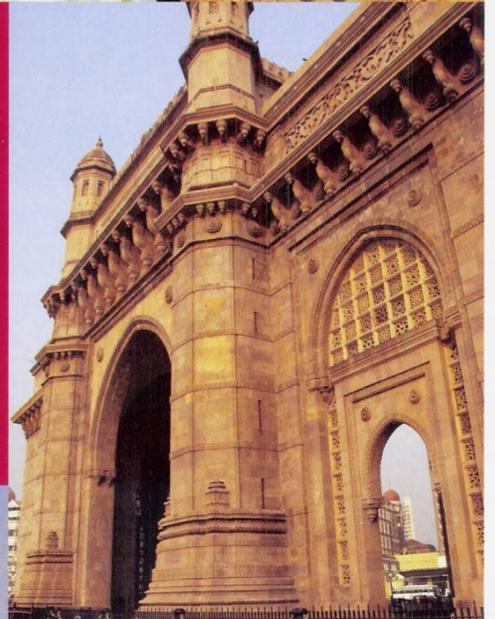


- ID and citizenship papers
- Pet's papers
- Financial account numbers
- Insurance policies
- Prescriptions in English and Nepali
- Birth and marriage certificates, wills, diplomas, etc.
- Phone numbers and addresses of friends and family members

*Online data storage services allowing you to access your data from anywhere there is Internet.



Are you
an American
Citizen visiting
South Asia?



STAY INFORMED.

STAY CONNECTED.

STAY SAFE.

Tell us where you're going as you travel through this amazing region!

All American citizens are encouraged to sign up for our free Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP). By providing the details of your stay in South Asia, you will automatically receive the most current safety and security information about your trip. In case of a local emergency or should we need to contact you because of an emergency at home, our Embassy and Consular personnel will be better able to locate and assist you.



<http://www.travel.state.gov/step>