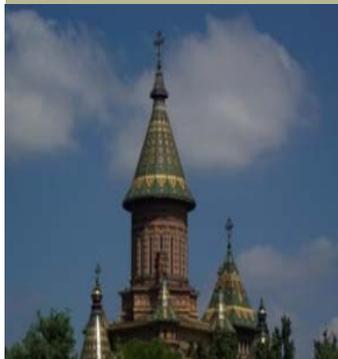




American Citizen Services eNewsletter

September 2011



U.S. Embassy Move: Temporary Closure and New Location

*The Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy Bucharest will temporarily suspend public access on **September 8, 2011** due to the Embassy move to a new compound.*

We will resume operations at the new Embassy compound in Baneasa on Wednesday, September 14, 2011.



facebook



Please note that appointments through Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2011 will take place at the current Consular Section, located at 26 Nicolae Filipescu, Bucharest.

During the temporary closure, there will be no routine services available for American citizens.

Public transportation information for the new Embassy location may be found [here](#).

Bus transportation from Bucharest to Embassy: (*note that bus line 301 will be the closest*)

- Drumul Matasii lines: 301, 148, 149, 449;
- Baneasa Shopping City lines: 131, 335, 605, 261;
- Weather Forecast Institute lines: 148, 149, 301, 304, 449, 476, 783;
- Aleea Privighetorilor lines: 148, 301
- Baneasa Restaurant lines: 148, 301

Please be advised that the Embassy does not have public parking facilities at this time.

The Embassy encourages all persons interested in obtaining more information about our services, hours of operation, and general information about traveling or living in Romania to visit our [website](#).

Instructions on arrival and entrance procedures at the Embassy are also available on [our website](#).



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Consular Section Contact Information



4-6 Dr. Liviu Librescu Blvd. (just north of the Baneasa Shopping Center)



(021) 200-3300 and/or (021) 270 6000; after-hour emergencies (021) 200-3433



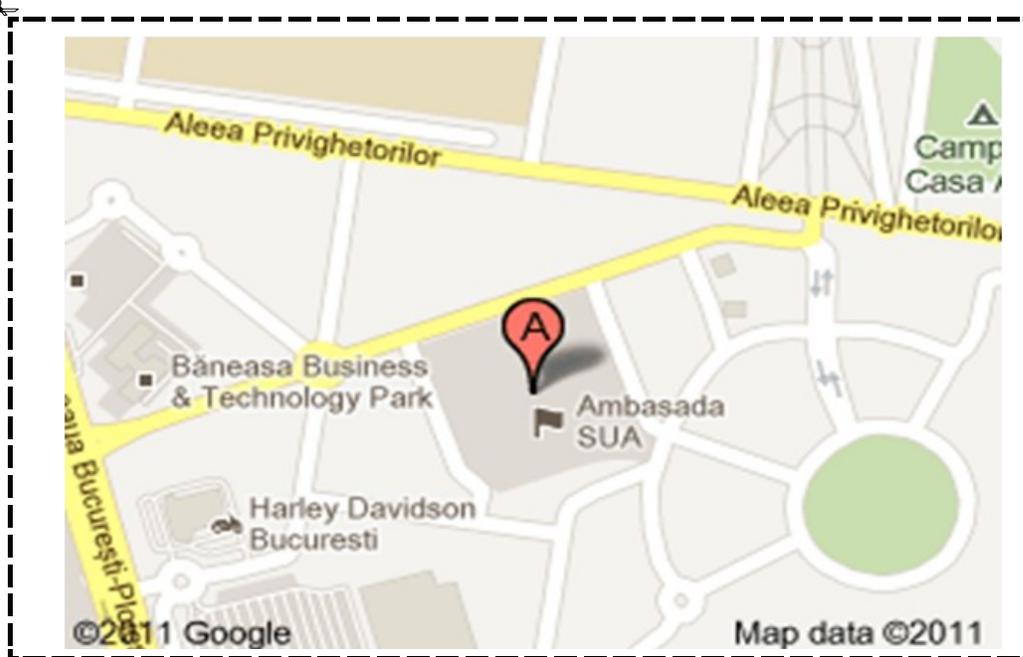
(021) 200-3578 (American Citizen Services)



ACSBucharest@state.gov



<http://romania.usembassy.gov>



We kindly remind our customers that, for security reasons, the following items may not be brought to the consular section:

- large bags, such as backpacks, suitcases and other types of luggage;
- electronic devices, such as cell phones, Blackberries, cameras, as well as laptops.

“Because the U.S. Government is committed to preserving the environment, I would particularly like to highlight for you today the environmentally friendly aspects of this project. The U.S. Department of State is a leader in the design and construction of “green” buildings in our new embassies worldwide. We require our contractors to certify the buildings through the strict guidelines of the United States Green Building Council and its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Program. Our design focuses on innovative technology in the areas of efficient water use, optimization of energy performance, and creation of open and green spaces to reduce heat-producing surfaces”.



From the remarks of the Chargé d’Affaires Jeri Guthrie-Corn at the groundbreaking of the New Embassy Compound site on May 28, 2009, [Embassy website](#)

QUICK FACTS ON PLASTIC POLLUTION

- A plastic milk jug takes 1 million years to decompose.
- A plastic cup can take 50 - 80 years to decompose.
- Recycled plastic can be used to make things like trash cans, park benches, playground equipment, decks, and kayaks.
- Special fleece-like fabrics used in clothes and blankets can be made out of recycled plastic bottles.
- Americans use **2.5 million** plastic bottles every **HOUR**.
- Plastic bags and other plastic garbage thrown into the ocean kill as many as 1 million sea creatures every year.
- Recycling plastic saves twice as much energy as burning it in an incinerator.
- A United States law, implementing an international agreement called MARPOL Annex V, became effective on December 31, 1988. It prohibits the disposal of plastics into the marine environment and requires ports to provide reception facilities for ship-generated plastic waste.
- Today, Americans generate **10.5 million** tons of plastic waste a year but recycle only 1 or 2 % of it.
- An estimated **14 billion pounds** of trash, much of it plastic is dumped in the world’s oceans every year.
- The worldwide fishing industry dumps an estimated 150,000 tons of plastic into the ocean each year, including packaging, plastic nets, lines, and buoys.
- About 1,200 plastic soft drink and salad dressing containers could carpet the average living room.
- It takes 1,050 HDPE (#2) milk jugs to make a six-foot plastic lumber park bench.
- Every year we make enough plastic film to shrink-wrap the state of Texas.

Nearly every piece of plastic EVER made still exists today...

Read more at www.greenfeet.net.

“Last autumn, a **Museum of Garbage** opened its doors inside a Bucharest shopping center. The museum is the only of its kind in Europe and was made possible thanks to the support of the *Center of Excellence for Sustainable Development and the Ministry of the Environment and Forestry*. It is divided into the 15 areas dedicated to various types of waste and also features a workshop section for students between the first and eighth grade.”

Read complete article on the website of the **Radio Romania International**.



Traveling to the United States and your American passport expires while you're there? Do not despair!

On Saturday, September 17 only, apply for your U.S. passport at a [Regional Passport Agency](#) without an appointment. You will be able to apply for standard processing (4-6 weeks) or pay an additional \$60 for Expedited processing (2-3 weeks, door-to-door).

Passport Day in the USA also means passport-themed events for adults and children at Regional Passport Agencies and many passport Acceptance Facilities across the country in communities like yours. *If you've been waiting to get your passport, this is the time!*



Passport Day in the USA 2011

Saturday September 17th



Smart Traveler, the official State Department app for U.S. travelers, invites you to see the world with easy access to frequently updated official country information, travel alerts, travel warnings, maps, U.S. embassy locations, and more.

With *Smart Traveler*, you can create personal itineraries, add notes, and organize your trips. It also provides access to the *State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)*. Free STEP enrollment enables the State Department to better assist you in emergencies such as natural disasters, unrest in foreign countries, or lost/stolen passports overseas. During your travels, STEP can help your family and friends reach you in an emergency. *Smart Traveler* also provides quick access to the Department's Consular Affairs Facebook and Twitter pages. And for a bit of fun, you can shake your iPhone to get information on a random country!

Read more about *Smart Traveler* application on the [State Department's website](#).



iPhone Screenshots
Check it out!





EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES
BUCHAREST • ROMANIA

WE REMIND YOU...

...that the ACS section chose to commit to the [appointment system](#) because of its flexibility and several other advantages it has to offer. It allows us to provide better-quality services to our American and Romanian customers by ensuring that we have adequate staffing to cover public hours, as well as minimizing public wait time. Also, the appointment system allows us to better manage section's routine workflow and dedicate time to provide responses to public inquiries via email and telephone. So, if you need to come to the consular section for a non-emergency appointment, please, follow the link to [U.S. Citizen Services](#) on the Embassy website, find appropriate service under "General Information" drop-down box on the left-hand side, and *voila!* - you are ready to [make an appointment](#).

...that we will be happy to assist you with a variety of services, including passport and birth registration services; registration in the Warden System for potential evacuation; provide notary and authentication services, provide list of local attorneys and doctors; provide public announcements and travel warnings; assist with transfer of funds in case of temporary destitution; visit incarcerated U.S. citizens and contact designated family members; assist next-of-kin in death cases; attempt to locate missing persons in *Romania*; relay emergency messages to and from family back home; provide voting information; provide federal tax forms; provide information on the Selective Service System; help you obtain a social security number; liaise with agencies on federal benefits; provide forms to process immigrant visas for non-U.S. citizen family members; provide general information on Romanian government visa requirements...

... but we cannot assist you as a travel, employment or real estate agent; or to locate lost property; or to prepare tax returns; or to prepare translations; or to issue U.S. birth/marriage/death certificates; or to issue U.S. police records; or to renew or replace driver's license; or to collect or forward mail or packages; or to cash checks; or to provide legal advice or intervene in judicial cases; or to locate or provide information on persons in the *United States*; or to divulge information on U.S. citizens registered with the Embassy.

ENGAGE

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Important

The Embassy will be closed on September 5, 8, 9, 12 and 13, October 10, November 11, November 24 and December 1 in observance of U.S. and Romanian official holidays and for administrative reasons.



Did you know?

The first Labor Day in the United States was observed on **September 5, 1882**, by the Central Labor Union of New York. It became a federal holiday in 1894, when, following the deaths of a number of workers at the hands of the U.S. military and U.S. Marshals during the Pullman Strike, President Grover put reconciliation with the labor movement as a top political priority.

Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Labor_Day



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

I am married to a Romanian. Can you help me to get an immigrant visa for my spouse?

No, we can't but... ***we know who can!*** If you decide that you and your spouse would like to return to the United States for permanent residence or a long-term stay, you may file an I-130 petition for an immigrant visa on behalf of your spouse with the [U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service \(USCIS\)](#).

Please note that, ***effective August 15, 2011***, petitioners residing overseas will **no longer be able** to routinely file Forms I-130, *Petitions for Alien Relative*, with U.S. Embassies and Consulates except in locations where U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has a public counter presence within the Embassy or Consulate. Petitioners residing overseas in countries where USCIS does not have a public counter presence will be required, starting August 15, 2011, to file their Forms I-130 by mail with the USCIS Chicago lockbox. U.S. Embassies and Consulates that do not have a USCIS presence will only be able to accept and process Forms I-130 in exceptional circumstances (www.uscis.gov).

If you have any questions about the process of filing an immigrant visa petitions, please, email VisasBucharest@state.gov or find answers to your questions at [the website of the USCIS](#).

