

US Embassy Singapore  
American Citizen Services  
[singapore.usembassy.gov](http://singapore.usembassy.gov)

[travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov)

email: [SingaporeACS@state.gov](mailto:SingaporeACS@state.gov)

tel: (+65) 6476-9100

**In case of emergency:**

If you are an American citizen with an after-hours emergency, please call our hotline at (65) 6476-9100.

For non-emergency issues, please see our [General Contact Page](#).

## American Citizen Services (ACS) Newsletter

December 2011- January 2012

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!!!**

The newsletter is our way of sharing topics of general interest as well as any changes in Embassy hours or procedures. We will continue to send time-sensitive announcements separately. If you need to update your registration (the Safe Traveler Enrollment Program, or STEP) please click [here](#). Please share your feedback with us at [SingaporeACS@state.gov](mailto:SingaporeACS@state.gov). *Thank you!*

If you no longer live in or travel to Singapore, please send us an email with your full name and request for removal to [SingaporeACS@state.gov](mailto:SingaporeACS@state.gov).

The U.S. Embassy is now on **Facebook**. Please click [here](#) and become a "fan" today.

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## **New Voter Registration and Ballot Request Now Available**

The online electronic version of the revised Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) is available now at [FVAP.gov](http://FVAP.gov). The FPCA registers and requests ballots for voters simultaneously. Voters can visit [FVAP.gov](http://FVAP.gov) to use the online wizard or access the PDF fillable forms. The FPCA is a standard form accepted by all 55 States and Territories for uniformed and civilian overseas voters to apply for an absentee ballot. The length of time the FPCA is valid and its completion requirements vary by State so be sure to refer to the [FVAP.gov](http://FVAP.gov) web portal or the [2012-2013 Voting Assistance Guide](#).

Read more at [FVAP News Release #28](#)

Further information regarding the 2012 elections can be found at:

[Primary Election Calendar](#)

[2012 Primary Elections by State](#)

[FAQs](#)

### **NH, SC, FL, MO, AZ, MI Voters:**

### **Submit Your Registration and Ballot Request Form for Upcoming January and February 2012 Primaries**

These States allow you to submit your FPCA now in 2011 so that you receive your State ballot and return it in time to be counted for these primaries.

**HOWEVER!** To ensure you are eligible to vote in other 2012 elections, including the General Presidential election, you must submit an FPCA AGAIN in January of 2012!

To read more please visit [FVPA News Release #30](#)

## U.S. Citizens and Resident Aliens Living Abroad – Getting Ready for Taxes

Check out the IRS comprehensive tax page on [U.S. Citizens and Resident Aliens Living Abroad](#) which provides basic tax information that Americans overseas need to know as well as links to more detailed topics such as the foreign earned income exclusion, foreign tax credit, reporting foreign bank accounts, and many others. This page offers a “one-stop-shopping” experience by providing answers to tax FAQs, information on how to contact the IRS and links to obtain additional assistance.

Please note that the IRS does not have an office in Singapore and that Consular staff is not authorized to answer inquiries on preparing or filing U.S. tax returns. Any inquiries on tax matters should be directed to the regional IRS office in Beijing at [irs.beijing@irs.gov](mailto:irs.beijing@irs.gov) or to the International Taxpayer Helpline in Philadelphia (Tel: 267-941-1000, open 6 AM – 11 PM Eastern Standard Time).

## APEC Business Traveler Card (ABTC)

The Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum has established an APEC Business Traveler Card to help expedite business travel among APEC member countries. The United States is a "transitional member" of this program. The ABTC is not yet being issued to U.S. citizens. Please look online for answers to [U.S. Participation in the APEC Business Travel Card \(ABTC\) Scheme - Frequently Asked Questions](#) (pdf file)\* about the ABTC. To track the progress of U.S. participation, please see the [APEC website](#) or contact the APEC Office, U.S. Customs & Border Protection, International Affairs & Trade Relations division by fax at 202-344-3549 or e-mail [USA-ABTC@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:USA-ABTC@cbp.dhs.gov).

## Traveling Back to the U.S. Over the Holidays with Food or Gifts

Traveling back to the U.S. for the holidays bearing gifts for friends and family? Not sure about what you can and can't bring back? Check the links below to find out what items are prohibited and which items are best put in your checked bag. Also, remember it's best to wait until you get to your destination to

wrap gifts you're taking on the plane. If needed, security officers may have to unwrap gifts to take a closer look.

[Traveling with Food or Gifts](#)

[Prohibited Items](#)

[Know Before You Go](#)

## Topic of Interest: [Traveling Abroad for the holidays? Tips for a Joyful Trip](#)

### **Make sure:**

#### **Your passport has at least 6 months validity**

Check your passport expiration date. Many countries require travelers to have at least 6 month validity on their passports to enter. If you need a new passport, come on by our ACS office. Keep in mind that that even though applications for regular passports are accepted and approved here by our ACS officers, passports are issued in the United States and processing time for applications is between 7 and 10 workdays. Make sure you plan in advance! For further information please visit the [Renewing a Passport](#) page of our website.

#### **You have sufficient passport pages**

Check your passport to make sure you are not about to run out of pages for visas and entry/exit stamps. If your passport still has at least 6 months validity, but not sufficient visa pages, then please stop by our ACS office to have extra visa pages added. It takes one business day to process requests for additional visa pages. Keep in mind that the Embassy may add a maximum of **3** visa page inserts. For further information visit the [Add Extra Visa Pages](#) page of our website.

#### **You are well informed**

A well informed traveler is a safer traveler. Look up [Country Specific Information](#) about the places you plan to visit, as well as [Travel Warnings](#) and [Travel Alerts](#). In addition, make sure to check with the embassies of your destination countries for information on prohibited items.

#### **You have signed up for the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program**

Sign up for the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#). It's easy and it's free! Doing so will help your family and friends get in touch with you in case of an emergency and the U.S. Embassy or Consulate contact you in case of a crisis in the places you visit.

In addition, be sure to check out [Tips for Travelling Abroad](#) to help make sure you have a **HAPPY HOLIDAY!!**

### Upcoming holiday and Administrative Closures

The Consular section will be closed on the following dates in December 2011 and January 2012. For an emergency during these holidays involving an American citizen, please contact the Duty Officer at 6476-9100.

<b>Thursday, December 8, 2011</b>	<b>Consular Administrative day*</b>
<b>Monday, December 26, 2011</b>	<b>Christmas Day (observed)</b>
<b>Monday, January 2, 2012</b>	<b>New Year's Day (observed)</b>
<b>Monday, January 16, 2012</b>	<b>Birthday of Martin Luther King Jr.</b>
<b>Thursday, January 19, 2012</b>	<b>Consular Administrative day*</b>
<b>Mon. &amp; Tues., January 23 &amp; 24, 2012</b>	<b>Chinese New Year</b>

**Every Thursday afternoon** from 12 noon onward, we are closed to the public for training and administrative purposes except for collection of passports between 3:00-3:30.

**Holidays:** The Embassy observes certain local and American holidays. On these days, the Consular Section will be closed. For an emergency involving an American citizen, please contact the Duty Officer at 6476-9100.

\* We are closed for all routine American Citizen Services such as passport renewal, extra passport pages and notarial services on consular administrative days. We are open for collection of documents, only, from 3:00 – 3:30pm. Regular service resumes the following business day.

### Updated Country Specific Information

The Department of State maintains at all times Country Specific Information for every country in the world. This information is updated approximately twice a year or as necessary due to

changing conditions. Recent updates include the following countries below. To research other countries please visit the Department of State's [International Travel page](#):

- [China](#) 11/10/2011
- [Indonesia](#) 11/02/2011
- [Micronesia](#) 11/03/2011
- [Mongolia](#) 11/02/2011
- [Thailand](#) 10/31/2011

The most up-to-date information regarding permitted and prohibited items on flights can be viewed online at: <http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/prohibited/permitted-prohibited-items.shtm>

For additional information, please visit "Americans Traveling Abroad" on the Department of State website: [http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/americans/americans\\_1252.html](http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/americans/americans_1252.html)

Students traveling abroad may wish to visit: <http://studentsabroad.state.gov/>

To obtain up-to-date information on security conditions, please call 202-501-4444.

## Current Travel Warnings

Travel Warnings are issued when long-term, protracted conditions that make a country dangerous or unstable lead the State Department to recommend that Americans avoid or consider the risk of travel to that country. Please visit the following links to review recent travel warnings. For a complete list of travel warnings, please visit: <http://travel.state.gov>.

- [Burundi](#) 11/25/2011
- [Eritrea](#) 11/04/2011
- [Kenya](#) 11/04/2011
- [Guinea](#) 11/04/2011
- [Korea, North](#) 11/03/2011
- [Iran](#) 10/21/2011
- [Nigeria](#) 10/13/2011
- [Lebanon](#) 10/12/2011
- [Mauritania](#) 10/12/2011

## Current Travel Alerts

Travel Alerts are issued to disseminate information about short-term conditions, either transnational or within a particular country, that pose significant risks to the security of U.S. citizens. Please visit the following links to review recent travel alerts. For a complete list of travel alerts, please visit:

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

- [Bahrain](#) 11/18/2011
- [Thailand](#) 11/16/2011
- [Liberia](#) 11/09/2011
- [Egypt](#) 11/07/2011
- [Congo, Democratic Republic of the](#) 11/03/2011
- [India - Potential Terrorism](#) 10/18/2011
- [Worldwide](#) 10/11/2011
- [Japan](#) 10/07/2011