

# U.S. Consulate General Dubai Newsletter

DECEMBER 2013

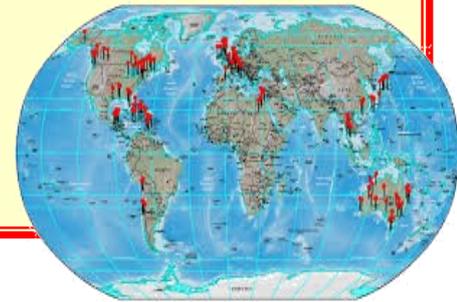


## American Citizen Services Dubai Newsletter

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## Are You Traveling During The Holidays?

We all know that the holiday season is peak travel time. Whether you are packing your bags for the sunny beaches of the Caribbean or head to the snowy slopes of Switzerland, we hope you will take advantage of the following tips to help make your holiday travels safe, smooth, and stress-free.



## Holiday Travel Tips

Passports for children under age 16 are only valid for 5 years, not 10. Be sure to double check the expiration date of your child's (and your) passport before traveling. New passports take about 1-2 weeks to process.

Did you know that a U.S. passport is now required for land and sea travel to Mexico and the Caribbean? You can use a passport book at both, but you can also use a passport card at a land crossing. Consider if a passport card is right for you. New passport cards are processed in about 4-6 weeks.

Make sure you have a signed, valid passport, and a visa, if required for your destination and transit country, and fill in the emergency information page of your passport. Information on entry / exit requirements for many countries is found at: [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov).

Enroll in the Smart Traveler Program (STEP) so that your family and the State Department can contact you in an emergency; leave a copy of your travel itinerary, passport data page and credit card with a trusted family member or friend. For more, visit: <https://step.state.gov/>

Ask your medical insurance company if your policy applies overseas, and if it covers emergency expenses such as medical evacuation. If not, consider buying travel insurance.

Familiarize yourself with local conditions and laws; while in a foreign country, you are subject to its laws.

## Frequently Asked About...

### Authentications and Attestations for U.S. Documents

Did your employer, school or a UAE immigration official ask you to “get a document stamped” by the U.S. Consulate?

The U.S. Consulate is unable to authenticate documents originating in the U.S. If the document is for use in the UAE, you must complete the “chain authentication process” in which a series of authorities will affix a succession of seals on your document, beginning with the stamp of a U.S. notary or registrar then the seals of the UAE Embassy in Washington, DC and the appropriate office of the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Complete information on this process is found on our website at: [http://dubai.usconsulate.gov/documentary\\_services.html](http://dubai.usconsulate.gov/documentary_services.html).

We strongly encourage U.S. citizens to authenticate their U.S. documents in the U.S. before coming to the UAE, as this can be a lengthy process.



#### Greetings from American Citizen Services (ACS) at the U.S. Consulate General in Dubai!



As a recently arrived Consular Officer for ACS, it’s likely that you and I will meet at some point should you come to the consulate for passport or notary services. If not, I do hope you find this month’s newsletter helpful and informative.

From Thanksgiving to New Year’s, the holiday season is indeed upon us. For those of us who live and work abroad, celebrating with friends and family often necessitates international travel. Particularly during such an important time of year, we encourage all of you to check your and your family member’s U.S. passports to ensure that they are valid for at least the next six months and have enough blank visa pages for entry/exit stamping. Remember, renewing passports here at the consulate takes one to two weeks, so it’s best that you renew your passports well ahead of your travel dates.

If you and your family are utilizing the holiday period to visit a country other than the U.S., we encourage you to visit [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov) to select your intended travel country and ensure that you meet that country’s visa requirements and are aware of relevant health and safety issues. Many countries require that your U.S. passport be valid for at least six months past your intended tourism dates, so again, renewing passports early is the key to ensuring that your holiday travels begin without incident.

Finally, it’s essential that you and your family create a profile at [step.state.gov](http://step.state.gov) to receive the Consulate’s latest travel, health, and safety advisories. Register today to keep you and your family safe and well-informed.

Happy holidays everyone!

Scott

Consular Corner

#### The Smart Traveler App



Available for both [Android](#) and [iPhone](#), provides easy access to your [STEP](#) account and allows you to create personal itineraries, add notes, and organize your trips. Not only that, but it provides quick access to our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.

## Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)

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

The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) is a free service provided by the U.S. Government to U.S. citizens who are traveling to, or living in, a foreign country.

STEP allows you to enter information about your upcoming trip abroad so that the Department of State can better assist you in an emergency.

STEP also allows Americans residing abroad to get routine information from the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate



To remove yourself from the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP):

- If you are no longer in Dubai and do not wish to receive these messages, go to <https://step.state.gov> and update your profile with current information.
- You may leave the list at any time by sending "SIGNOFF POST\_DUBAI" in the subject line to [LISTSERV@CALIST.STATE.GOV](mailto:LISTSERV@CALIST.STATE.GOV).

## TSA Pre✓

TSA Pre✓™ allows select frequent flyers of participating airlines and members of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Trusted Traveler programs who are flying on participating airlines, to receive expedited screening benefits. Eligible participants use dedicated screening lanes for screening benefits which include leaving on shoes, light outerwear and belts, as well as leaving laptops and 3-1-1 compliant liquids in carry-on bags.

Learn more about how you can participate and receive expedited screening.



## Apple Pie Recipe

### Ingredients

2 (9-inch) pie crust recipe	¼ cup granulated sugar
2 baking apples	1 tablespoon apple pie spice
2 crisp eating apples	pinch Kosher salt
1 Granny Smith apple	1 tablespoon cornstarch
1 tablespoon lemon juice	3 tablespoons milk
½ cup brown sugar	2 tablespoons granulated sugar



### Instructions

Preheat oven to 350° F/ 180°C.

Prepare 2 (9-inch) pie crust recipe. Place bottom crust into pie plate and freeze as directed. Roll second pie crust and set aside while preparing apple pie filling.

Peel all apples and slice into ¼-inch slices, being sure to remove any core. Toss apples into a large bowl with lemon juice and coat to prevent apples from turning color. Add brown sugar, granulated sugar, apple pie spice, salt, and cornstarch.

Remove pie plate from freezer and pour apple mixture into the bottom crust. Top with second pie crust and turn bottom crust on top of edges of the top crust. Crimp or press closed. Cut slits into the top of the pie crust, place on top of a rimmed baking sheet to catch any drippings.

Brush top of pie crust with milk and sprinkle with granulated sugar. Bake 45 – 50 minutes, until top crust has browned. Remove from oven and allow to cool at least 30 minutes before slicing.

Store remaining pie tightly covered in the refrigerator.



## Be Prepared for any Emergency, even a **Zombie Apocalypse!**

There are all kinds of emergencies out there that we can prepare for. Take a zombie apocalypse for example. That's right, I said z-o-m-b-i-e a-p-o-c-a-l-y-p-s-e. You may laugh now, but when it happens you'll be happy you read this, and hey, maybe you'll even learn a thing or two about how to prepare for a *real* emergency. Better Safe than Sorry!

So what do you need to do before zombies, or hurricanes, earthquakes, or pandemics, actually happen? The most important thing is to have an emergency kit in your house. This includes items like water, food, and other supplies to get you through the first couple of days before you can locate a zombie-free refugee camp (or in the event of a [natural disaster](#), it will buy you some time until you are able to make your way to an evacuation shelter or utility lines are restored). Below are a few items you should include in your kit, for a full list visit the [CDC Emergency page](#).

- **Water** - 1 gallon per person per day
- **Food** - stock up on non-perishable items that you eat regularly
- **Medications** - this includes prescription and non-prescription meds
- **Tools and Supplies** - utility knife, duct tape, battery powered radio, etc.
- **Sanitation and Hygiene** - household bleach, soap, towels, etc.
- **Clothing and Bedding** - a change of clothes for each family member and blankets
- **Important documents** - copies of your driver's license, passport, and birth certificate to name a few
- **First Aid supplies** - although you're a goner if a zombie bites you, you can use these supplies to treat basic cuts and lacerations that you might get during a [tornado](#) or [hurricane](#)



**Walking Dead fans, check out CDC's latest post on Emergency Preparedness:** <http://go.usa.gov/Q4J>

Once you've made your emergency kit, you should sit down with your family and come up with an **emergency plan**. This includes where you would go and who you would call if zombies started appearing outside your door step. You can also implement this plan if there is a flood, earthquake, or other emergency.

Family members meeting by their mailbox. You should pick two meeting places, one close to your home and farther away

1. **Identify the types of emergencies that are possible in your area.** Besides a zombie apocalypse, this may include floods, tornadoes, or earthquakes. If you are unsure contact your local Red Cross chapter for more information.
2. **Pick a meeting place for your family to regroup in case zombies invade your home ...or your town evacuates because of a hurricane.** Pick one place right outside your home for sudden emergencies and one place outside of your neighborhood in case you are unable to return home right away.
3. **Identify your emergency contacts.** Make a list of local contacts like the police, fire department, and your local zombie response team. Also identify an out-of-state contact that you can call during an emergency to let the rest of your family know you are ok.
4. **Plan your evacuation route.** When zombies are hungry they won't stop until they get food (i.e., brains), which means you need to get out of town fast! Plan where you would go and multiple routes you would take ahead of time so that the flesh eaters don't have a chance! This is also helpful when natural disasters strike and you have to take shelter fast.

**To learn more about what CDC does to prepare for and respond to emergencies of all kinds, visit:** [http://emergency.cdc.gov/cdc/orgs\\_progs.asp](http://emergency.cdc.gov/cdc/orgs_progs.asp)

**To learn more about how you can prepare for and stay safe during an emergency visit:** <http://emergency.cdc.gov/>



**Always be prepared.**

[www.READY.gov](http://www.READY.gov) and [www.FEMA.gov](http://www.FEMA.gov) have information on preparing for any emergency. Visit both websites to learn what do to before, during and after an emergency.



# Internet Dating and Romance Scams



U.S. citizens should be aware of individuals they meet on internet dating websites who feign friendship, profess romantic interest, and/or express marriage intentions over the internet. Scammers commonly claim to be U.S. citizens who are engaged in international business, requiring them to frequently travel overseas. In fact, these individuals are not U.S. citizens.

The U.S. Consulate receives several emails weekly from individuals claiming that a “fiancé” needs money to help them get out of a difficult situation. Too often, these pleas for financial help are false. Unless you are sure that your friend or fiancé is in need, contact the Consulate before you send money at:

[DubaiACS@state.gov](mailto:DubaiACS@state.gov) .

## Romance scams involve one or more, sometimes all, of the key signs below:

- You met online through a dating website, an e-mail chat room, Facebook, or another online website.
- The scammer claims to be a native-born U.S. citizen, but has a thick accent and/or uses poor grammar indicative of a non-native English speaker.
- Scammers have the worst luck imaginable -- often getting into car crashes, arrested, mugged, beaten, or hospitalized -- usually all within the course of a couple of months.
- The scammer’s “bad luck” often occurs on the way to the airport to catch a flight to the United States to meet you. Scammers like to build the anticipation of their victims to prevent him/her from making the trip.
- The scammer asks you for money to get out of a bad situation. Note: Since scammers prey on the good intentions of U.S. citizens, some of them will not actually *ask* you for money. Rather, they will share their heart-breaking situation with you in hopes that you will willingly send money to help them.
- The scammer claims that the U.S. Embassy would not help them. Likely they have never tried to get help from the embassy, because they are not actually U.S. citizens.

If you feel you have been a victim of an Internet scam, please send all reports of Internet fraud directly to the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) - a partnership between the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C).



## STAYING CONNECTED



Follow these icons to different links to stay connected with the Department of State!

## Top 12 Online Holiday Scams

**Social Media Scams :** Cyber criminals use promotions and contests on Facebook and Twitter to gather personal information. Be careful before providing info to any 3rd party.

**Malicious Mobile Apps:** Mobile applications like games, wallpaper, or music can carry malware designed to steal information from your smartphone or send out text messages.

**“It” Gift Scams:** Hot holiday gifts often sell out early. Be suspicious of any deal mentioning hot holiday gift items, especially at extremely low prices. Verify the offer before claiming.

**Travel Scams:** Cyber criminals use travel-related scams to gain personal or financial information. Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

**Malicious e-Cards:** Be careful before clicking on or downloading holiday screensavers, ringtones, or e-cards. Many of these carry malicious code.

**Deceptive Online Games:** Online games are a popular gift. Be sure to download games from reputable sites.

**Holiday Phishing:** Look out for phony emails with holiday themes and messages. These emails may trick you into providing personal information. They may appear legitimate –examples include those from UPS, your bank, or text messages.

**Bogus Gift Cards:** Be wary of buying gift cards from 3rd parties; it is best to buy from the official retailer. Don't spend real money on a fake gift card.

**Holiday SMiShing:** SMiShing is phishing via text message. Don't click on links in messages that appear to come from your bank asking you to verify information or visit a (phony) website. Type in the real website address yourself.

**Fake Charities:** As you open your hearts and wallets, be sure to verify the legitimacy of the charity before you donate.

**Romance Scams:** An abundance of niche dating sites makes it hard to know which are real and which are scams. Stick to well known sites.

**Phony E-tailers:** Phony e-tailers may try to lure you into giving your credit card or other personal information by promoting great deals. Shop only on known websites.

Source: <http://blogs.mcafee.com/consumer/family-safety/2013-holiday-online-scams>

## Crazy Facts You Probably Did Not Know About Your State!

ALABAMA -Was the first state to have 911. It started in 1968.

ALASKA- One out of every 64 people has a pilot's license

ARIZONA- Is the only state in the continental U.S. that doesn't follow Daylight Savings Time.

ARKANSAS-Has the only active diamond mine in the U.S.

CALIFORNIA -Its economy is so large that if it were a country, it would rank seventh in the entire world.

COLORADO—In 1976 it became the only state to turn down the Olympics.

CONNECTICUT -The Frisbee was invented here at Yale University.

DELAWARE -Has more scientists and engineers than any other state.

FLORIDA -At 874.3 square miles, Jacksonville is the largest U.S. city

GEORGIA -It was here, in 1886, that pharmacist John Pemberton made the first vat of Coca-Cola.

HAWAII-Hawaiians live, on average, five years longer than residents of any other state.

IDAHO - TV was invented in Rigby, Idaho, in 1922.

ILLINOIS- Has a Governor in jail, one pending jail, & is the most corrupt state in the union!

INDIANA-Home to Santa Claus, Indiana, which gets a half million letters to Santa every year.

IOWA- Winnebagos get their name from Winnebago County. Also, it is the only state name that begins with two vowels.

KANSAS - Liberal, Kansas, has an exact replica of the house in The Wizard of Oz

KENTUCKY - Has more than \$6 billion in gold underneath Fort Knox.

LOUISIANA- Has parishes instead of counties because they were originally Spanish church units.

MAINE -It's so big, it covers as many square miles as the other five New England states combined.

MARYLAND -The Ouija board was created in Baltimore in 1892.

MASSACHUSETTS -The Fig Newton is named after Newton, Massachusetts.

MICHIGAN- Fremont, home to Gerber, is the baby food capital of the world.

MINNESOTA - Bloomington's Mall of America is so big, that if you spent 10 minutes in each store, you'd be there nearly four days.

MISSISSIPPI -President Teddy Roosevelt refused to shoot a bear here ... that's how the teddy bear got its name..

MISSOURI -Is the birthplace of the ice cream cone.

MONTANA - A sapphire from Montana is in the Crown Jewels of England.

NEBRASKA-More triplets are born here than in any other state.

NEW HAMPSHIRE -Birthplace of Tupperware, invented in 1938 by Earl Tupper.

NEW JERSEY -Has the most shopping malls in one area in the world.

NEW MEXICO - Smokey the Bear was rescued from a 1950 forest fire here

NEW YORK -Is home to the nation's oldest cattle ranch, started in 1747 in Montauk

NORTH CAROLINA -Home of the first Krispy Kreme doughnut.

NORTH DAKOTA- Rigby, North Dakota, is the exact geographic center of North America.

OHIO -The hot dog was invented here in 1900

OKLAHOMA -The grounds of the state capital are covered by operating oil wells

OREGON-Has the most ghost towns in the country.

PENNSYLVANIA -The smiley :) was first used in 1980 by computer scientists at Carnegie Mellon University.

RHODE ISLAND - The nation's oldest bar, the White Horse Tavern, opened here in 1673.

SOUTH CAROLINA-Sumter County is home to the world's largest ginkgo farm.

SOUTH DAKOTA -Is the only state that's never had an earthquake

TENNESSEE-Nashville's Grand Ole Opry is the longest running live radio show in the world

TEXAS - Dr. Pepper was invented in Waco in 1885. The hamburger was invented in Arlington in 1906.

UTAH -The first Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant opened here in 1952

VERMONT- Montpelier is the only state capital without a McDonald's.

VIRGINIA- Home of the world's largest office building, The Pentagon.

WASHINGTON -Seattle has twice as many college graduates as any other state.

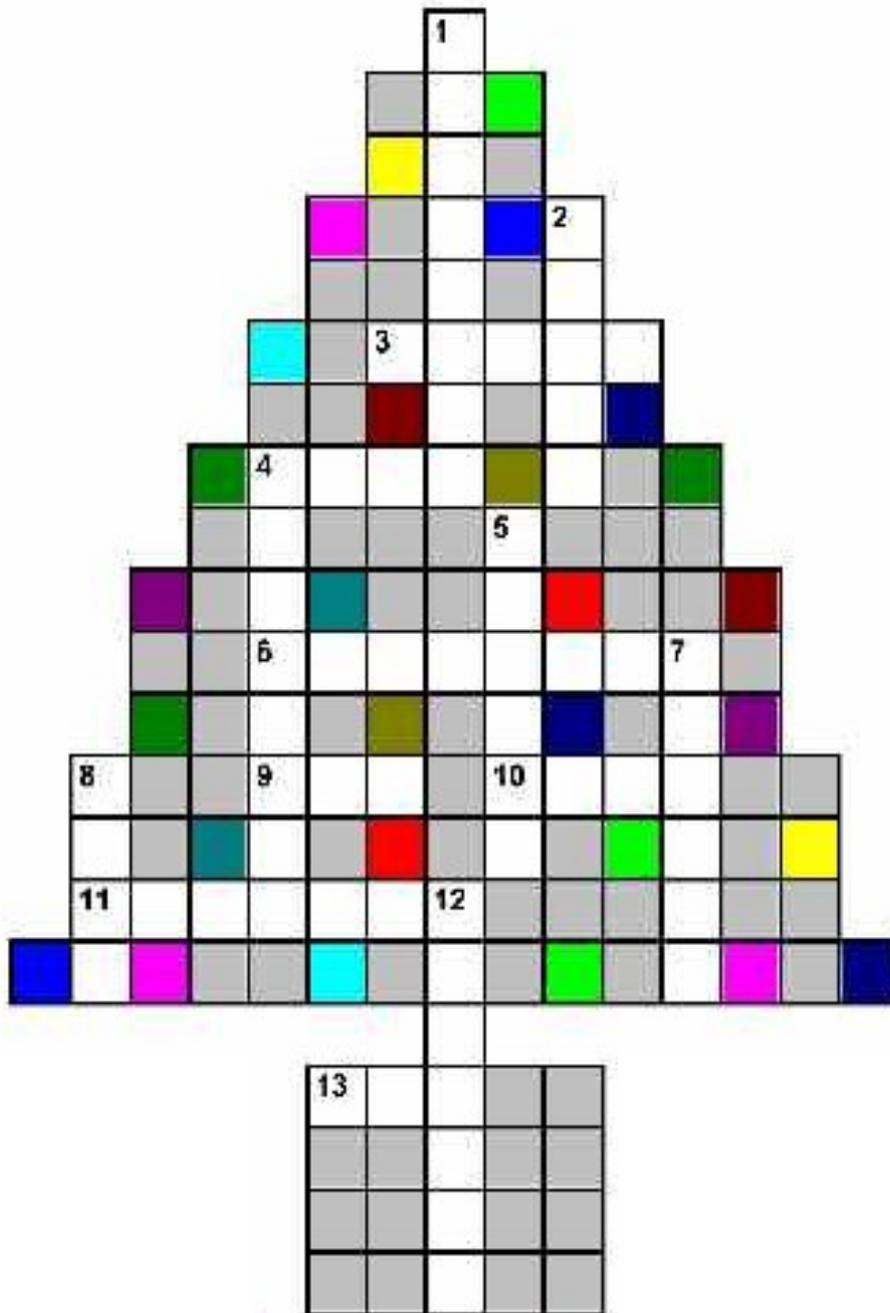
WASHINGTON D.C. -Is the first planned capital in the world.

WEST VIRGINIA -Had the world's first brick paved street, Summers Street, laid in Charleston in 1870.

WISCONSIN- The ice cream sundae was invented here in 1881 to get around Blue Laws prohibiting ice cream from being sold on Sundays.



# CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD



### Across:



### Down:



  
**Kids.gov**  
 A safe place to learn and play

Visit <http://kids.usa.gov/> for more ideas on children's health, safety and fun.

### Upcoming Holidays / Consulate Closing

Christmas Day	Dec 25, 2013
New Year's Day	Jan 1, 2014
The Prophet's Birthday*	Jan 13, 2014
Washington's Birthday**	Feb 16, 2014
Memorial Day	May 26, 2014
The Prophet's Ascension Day*	May 27, 2014
Independence Day	July 3, 2014
Eid Al Fitr	July 29-31, 2014
Labor Day	Aug 31, 2014
Arafat (Haj) Day*	Oct 4, 2014

\*Dates are subject to change

The U.S. Consulate is closed on these holidays. In addition, the American Citizen Services section is closed on most Mondays. To see which days ACS is open and accepting appointments, please visit our appointment calendar on our website [HERE](#).



### ACS Appointment System

In order to provide the most efficient service to our community, the American Citizen Section at the US Consulate General in Dubai has established an appointment system for all routine services. Please book an appointment online at [dubai.usconsulate.gov](http://dubai.usconsulate.gov) under US Citizen Services. When you have made your appointment, a confirmation page will appear on your screen. Please print the confirmation page and bring it with you on the day of your appointment. We do not allow walk-in appointments.

Emergency appointments are provided on an as-needed basis; please send an email to [DubaiACS@state.gov](mailto:DubaiACS@state.gov). We answer our emails daily.

#### Contact Us

**Telephone number:** +971 4 309 4000

ACS Public Phone Hours: daily 8:00-10:00

(ask the operator to transfer to x.3103)

**Email:** [DubaiACS@state.gov](mailto:DubaiACS@state.gov)

**Facebook:**

<http://www.facebook.com/USConsulateGeneralDubai>

**Emergency:** +971-4-309 4000, ask for the Duty Officer.

#### Dubai Emergency Numbers

**Police/Ambulance:** 999

**Fire:** 997



The U.S. Consulate General in Dubai is located at the Corner of Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Road and Al Seef Road, Bur Dubai, Dubai, UAE