

U.S. Embassy Dakar, Senegal
Security Message for U.S. Citizens: Holiday Security Habits
09 October 2013

The U.S. Embassy encourages U.S. citizens in Senegal to practice good security habits during all holidays as an increase in crime usually coincides with these holidays. In particular, crimes such as pickpocketing, purse snatching, thefts from vehicles, snatch and grab, etc., tend to increase. In past years there have been increases in residential break-ins and thefts of unsecured items from garages and yards during holiday periods.

U.S. citizens should practice good security habits at home and on the streets. Lock up cash, jewelry and other valuables at home, and use home security alarms if you have them. Avoid carrying valuables in public and be alert to the possibility of street crime. The Embassy recommends the following steps that will help increase your personal security:

- In Dakar, do not walk along the Corniche during hours of darkness, especially between Ebets Field and the Mosque de Ouakam, and be cautious in other areas when visibility is diminished.
- Remain aware of your surroundings at home, in your car, and when walking in public places.
- Refrain from carrying purses or backpacks that may attract unwanted attention; do not carry excessive amounts of cash or flaunt expensive accessories.
- Maintain a low profile and do not engage in activities that may draw extra attention.
- Travel in groups if at all possible, plan ahead of time and know how to reach your destination without getting lost.
- Give preference to well-lit establishments that offer a security presence.

Take appropriate safety precautions, including maintaining good situational awareness, avoiding crowds and demonstrations, monitoring local news outlets and reviewing emergency procedures, travel documents, and contingency plans.

Stay in Touch with the Embassy

You can stay in touch and get Embassy updates by checking the [U.S. Embassy Dakar](#) website. You can also get global updates at the U.S. Department of State's, [Bureau of Consular Affairs website](#) where you can find the current [Worldwide Caution](#), [Travel Warning](#), [Travel Alerts](#), and [Country Specific Information](#). Follow us on [Twitter](#) and the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on [Facebook](#) as well, or you can download our free Smart Traveler App, available through [iTunes](#), and the [Google Play](#) store, to have travel information at your fingertips. If you don't have internet access, current information on safety and security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada, or, for callers from other countries, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

If you are going to live in or travel to Senegal or Guinea-Bissau, please take the time to tell us about your trip by enrolling in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program ([STEP](#)). If you enroll, we can keep you up to date with important safety and security announcements. It will also help your friends and family get in

touch with you in an emergency. You should remember to keep all of your information in STEP up to date. It is important during enrollment or updating of information to include your current phone number and current email address where you can be reached in case of an emergency.

The U.S. Embassy in Dakar is located on Route des Almadies, Dakar, and is open Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. If you have questions or concerns about safety or related issues, you are encouraged to contact the consular section at the Embassy by sending an email message to DakarACS@state.gov. For after hours emergencies, please call Tel: +221 33.879.4444 and ask to speak to the duty officer.