



# Informing U.S. Citizen Travelers

## Consular Safety and Security Messaging

*Our clear, timely, and reliable safety and security information helps U.S. citizens make informed decisions about their time overseas. Consular Affairs provides information on the internet, through the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP), and on social media.*

While we issue an overall Travel Advisory level for every country, levels of advice may vary for specific locations or areas within a country. For instance, we may advise U.S. citizens to "Exercise Increased Caution" (Level 2) in a country, but to "Reconsider Travel" (Level 3) to a particular area within the country.

### TIMELY AND RELIABLE INFORMATION

We review and update each Travel Advisory as needed, based on changes to security and safety information. In addition to these "as needed" reviews, we review Level 3 and 4 Advisories semiannually, and Level 1 and 2 Advisories annually.

### ALERTS

Alerts are used to notify U.S. citizens of specific events and changes happening locally, and as quickly as possible. The embassy or consulate can choose from a menu of pre-approved language for a number of threat types, making the process efficient and allowing them to get information to U.S. citizens quickly.

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

## Travel Advisories

We issue a Travel Advisory for every country, providing overall levels of advice from 1 to 4.

### 1 Exercise normal precautions

**Level 1 - Exercise Normal Precautions:** This is the lowest advisory level for safety and security risk. There is some risk in any international travel. Conditions in other countries may differ from those in the United States and may change at any time.

### 2 Exercise increased caution

**Level 2 - Exercise Increased Caution:** Be aware of heightened risks to safety and security. The Department of State provides additional advice for travelers in these areas in the Travel Advisory. Conditions in any country may change at any time.

### 3 Reconsider travel

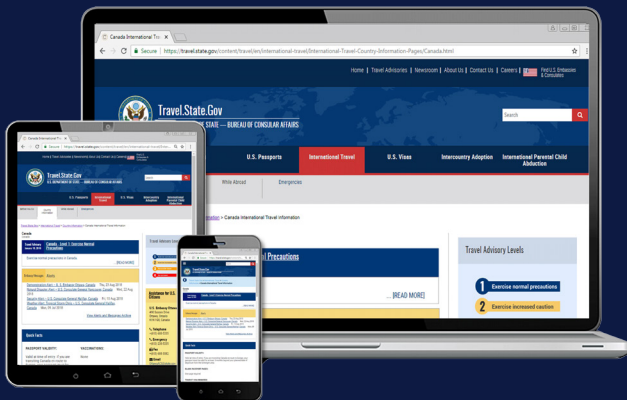
**Level 3 - Reconsider Travel:** Avoid travel due to serious risks to safety and security. The Department of State provides additional advice for travelers in these areas in the Travel Advisory. Conditions in any country may change at any time.

### 4 Do not travel

**Level 4 - Do Not Travel:** This is the highest advisory level due to greater likelihood of life-threatening risks. During an emergency, the U.S. government may have very limited ability to provide assistance. The Department of State advises that U.S. citizens not travel to the country or leave as soon as it is safe to do so. The Department of State provides additional advice for travelers in these areas in the Travel Advisory. Conditions in any country may change at any time.

Our detailed Travel Advisories will also provide clear reasons for the level assigned, using established risk indicators, and offer specific advice to U.S. citizens who choose to travel there:

- E** **TIME-LIMITED EVENT:** A short-term event, such as an election, sporting event, or other incident that may pose a safety risk.
- C** **CRIME:** Widespread violent or organized crime is present in areas of the country. Local law enforcement may have limited ability to respond to serious crimes.
- T** **TERRORISM:** Terrorist attacks have occurred and/or specific threats against civilians, groups, or other targets may exist.
- U** **CIVIL UNREST:** Political, economic, religious, and/or ethnic instability exists and may cause violence, major disruptions, and/or safety risks.
- N** **NATURAL DISASTER:** A natural disaster, or its aftermath, poses danger.
- H** **HEALTH:** Health risks, including current disease outbreaks or a crisis that disrupts a country's medical infrastructure, are present. The issuance of a Centers for Disease Control Travel Notice may be a factor.
- K** **KIDNAPPING OR HOSTAGE TAKING:** Criminal or terrorist individuals or groups have threatened to and/or have seized or detained and threatened to kill, injure or continue to detain individuals in order to compel a third party (including a governmental organization) to do or abstain from doing something as a condition of release.
- O** **OTHER:** There are potential risks not covered by previous risk indicators. Read the country's Travel Advisory for details.



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

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Smart  
Traveler  
Enrollment  
Program

Enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) at [step.state.gov](http://step.state.gov) to receive security and emergency alerts.