

Advice for Travel to High-Risk Areas



Before You Go to a High-Risk Area

After careful consideration, if you decide to go to high-risk areas, we strongly encourage you to:

- Enroll your trip in the State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP).
- Draft a will and designate appropriate insurance beneficiaries and power of attorney.
- Establish a **personal security plan** in coordination with your employer or host organization or consider consulting with a professional security organization. Develop a communication plan with your family, employer, and host organization to monitor your safety and location.
- Specify a **key point of contact** who you would contact first in case of an emergency. Plan how they should share the information with the group.
- Identify **key sources of assistance** for you and your family in case of an emergency, such as the local U.S. embassy or consulate, FBI, the State Department's Office of American Citizen Services, your employer (if traveling on business), and local friends and family in the high-risk area. Share this list.
- Learn how to use your phone or other smart devices to **share your location** with your friends and family while you are abroad.
- Erase **sensitive information** like photos, comments, or other materials from your social media pages, cameras, laptops, and other electronic devices that could be considered controversial or provocative by local groups.
- Leave your expensive or sentimental belongings behind.

Plan Now in Case You are Kidnapped

- Establish a **proof of life protocol** with your loved ones, so that if you are taken hostage, they will know specific questions (and answers) to ask the hostage-takers to be sure that you are alive (and to rule out a hoax).
- Leave **DNA samples with your medical provider** in case it is necessary for your family to access them.
- Discuss a **plan with loved ones** regarding care and custody of children, pets, property, belongings, non-liquid assets (collections, artwork, etc.), funeral wishes, etc.
- Share **important information** like documents, login information, and points of contact with loved ones so that they can manage your affairs if you are unable to return as planned to the United States.

HAITI

TRAVEL ADVISORY LEVEL 4, DO NOT TRAVEL



- **Do not travel to Haiti** due to kidnapping, crime, civil unrest, and poor health care infrastructure. U.S. citizens in Haiti should consider departing Haiti now by commercial or other privately available transportation options, in light of the current security situation and infrastructure challenges. U.S. citizens wishing to depart Port-au-Prince should monitor local news and only do so when considered safe.
- Kidnapping is widespread, and victims regularly include U.S. citizens.
- Violent crime, such as armed robbery, carjackings, and kidnappings for ransom that include American citizens are common.

Embassy Contact info

U.S. Embassy Port-au-Prince

Boulevard du 15 October, Tabarre 41, Route de Tabarre Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Telephone: +(509) 2229-8000 / 2229-8900

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Find more info
on Travel to High-
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