Upcoming U.S. Citizens Services Visits

Officials from the American Citizen Services (ACS) unit in Ho Chi Minh City will offer consular services in November at the following locations:

**Vung Tau:**
- Date: Thursday, 10 November 2016 (Thứ Năm, ngày 10 tháng 11 năm 2016)
- Place: The Pullman Hotel (15 Thi Sach, Thang Tam Ward, Vung Tau City, Vietnam)
- Time: from 09:00am to 12:00pm

**Nha Trang:**
- Date: Tuesday, 15 November 2016 (Thứ Ba, ngày 15 tháng 11 năm 2016)
- Place: Intercontinental Nha Trang (32-34 Tran Phu Street, Nha Trang City, Khanh Hoa Province, Vietnam)
- Time: from 09:00am to 12:00pm

No appointments are necessary. Consulate officials will offer notarial services, deliver federal benefits checks, and U.S. citizens will be able to apply for U.S. passports.

Federal benefits annuitants who have not been contacted by SSA or consulate for the stop of quarterly physical presence please come to finalize the paperwork.

At this time, officials will not be interviewing for Consular Reports of Birth Abroad. Visa and immigration services will not be provided. Only the services listed will be available during the visits.

For additional information concerning applying for U.S. passports and notary services please see our Website at: [https://vn.usembassy.gov/](https://vn.usembassy.gov/)

The ACS unit also has a planned services trips to Da Nang and Nha Trang in the next few months. Please check our website for more information as it becomes available.

November Holiday Closures

The Embassy and Consulate will be closed on the following days:

- Friday, November 11 – Veterans Day
- Thursday, November 24 – Thanksgiving Day

The American Citizen Services Section of U.S. Embassy Hanoi will be open for emergency services only on the afternoon of Tuesday, November 8, and the entirety of Wednesday, November 9.

A complete list of all of our holiday closings for 2016 is available online at [http://vn.usembassy.gov/holiday-calendar/](http://vn.usembassy.gov/holiday-calendar/)

*Vietnamese Holiday
+American Holiday
U.S. Consulate General
2016 Presidential Election Watch Party

GEM Center, 8 Nguyen Binh Khiem
Wednesday, November 9, 8:00 am

Join the U.S. Consulate General HCMC to watch the live U.S. Presidential Election results! This event is open to the public, no RSVP required.

Theo dõi kết quả trực tiếp cuộc Bầu cử Tổng thống cùng với Tổng Lãnh sự quán Hoa Kỳ tại TP.HCM! Sự kiện được mở cửa cho công chúng, không cần đăng ký trước.
For Your Information

Glasses No Longer Accepted in Photos


Request for Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

In May 2016, the U.S. Peace Corps and the Government of Vietnam announced a historic partnership to establish a Peace Corps program for the first time in Vietnam. As this partnership moves forward, there may be opportunities to involve Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs - those who have served as Peace Corps Volunteers in other countries in the past) to be included in different events. If you are an RPCV and interested in receiving such invites, please let us know by submitting your contact information [here](https://www.peacecorps.gov/news/library/viet-nam-peace-corps-first-time/). For more about Peace Corps: [https://www.peacecorps.gov/news/library/viet-nam-peace-corps-first-time/](https://www.peacecorps.gov/news/library/viet-nam-peace-corps-first-time/)
Vietnam Extends Visa Validity for U.S. Citizens Traveling For Business and Tourism

On April 9, the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam approved a plan to issue 12-month, multiple-entry visas to American citizens who travel temporarily for business or tourism. The new reciprocity arrangement, entered into force on 29 May 2016, will benefit American and Vietnamese tourists and business travelers, generating new opportunities for trade, investment and tourism. The successful conclusion of the arrangement underscores the commitment of the U.S. and Vietnam to improve the bilateral relationship by expanding existing trade and economic opportunities and developing people-to-people ties.

Although the agreement officially took effect on May 29, 2016, Vietnam has not yet completed full routine implementation. As a result, American citizens applying at Vietnamese embassies abroad may discover those embassies are not yet prepared to issue multiple-entry 12-month visas. The U.S. is working closely with the GVN to resolve the issues hampering full implementation of the arrangement.

We welcome feedback from American citizens applying for 12-month visas. Information about their experience with the application process will help us to better work with the GVN towards full implementation of the arrangement.

To share your experience, please contact us at ACShanoi@state.gov.
Message for U.S. Citizens

Final Opportunities to Return Voted Ballots

Don’t wait, return your voted ballot right away! Remember, U.S. embassies and consulates are not polling places; same-day in-person voting is not available outside the United States. The majority of states require voted ballots to reach local election officials by the close of polls on Tuesday, November 8. U.S. citizens who want to participate in the 2016 U.S. elections should have already returned their absentee ballots to their local election officials.

Never received your ballot? If you registered to vote and requested an absentee ballot prior to your state’s registration deadline, but have not yet received your ballot, complete and return a Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot to ensure your vote reaches election officials by your state’s deadline. If your regular ballot arrives later, complete and return it as well. Your Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot will only be counted if your regular ballot does not reach local election officials by your state’s deadline. Your vote will not be counted twice.

RETURNING YOUR BALLOT:
The final date to return your paper ballot to your local election officials by election day for free via the U.S. Embassy or Consulate was October 24, 2016. If you missed this deadline, you have three options:

1. If your state allows voters to return ballots electronically (email, fax), we strongly recommend you use this method.
2. Mail your ballot via a private mail service which guarantees delivery by your state’s deadline for receipt.
3. Continue to bring ballots to the Embassy or Consulate. Your ballot will be postmarked with that day’s date and sent to the United States as soon as possible. Some states accept late ballots if they are postmarked before election day.

Find your state’s guidelines at www.FVAP.gov, or check with your ACS section for clarification.

Have Questions? Please contact U.S. Embassy Hanoi or U.S. Consulate General Ho Chi Minh City’s Voting Assistance Officer at VoteVietnam@state.gov. You can also contact the Federal Voting Assistance Program directly if you encounter issues with local election officials by emailing Vote@FVAP.gov or toll free by phone from many countries around the world.
Zika Virus Information

The U.S. Embassy in Vietnam informs U.S. citizens that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued Travel Guidance for Vietnam regarding the risk of Zika virus infection. Zika virus is endemic. The risk of Zika to travelers, especially pregnant women, in endemic countries is likely lower (but not zero) than in areas where Zika is newly introduced and spreading widely. Women who are pregnant or planning to become pregnant should discuss their travel plans with their medical provider and consider postponing nonessential travel to Vietnam. Men whose partners are pregnant or are considering pregnancy should talk to their medical provider about CDC’s recommendations on how to avoid sexual transmission of Zika infection to their partners.

The CDC has concluded that the Zika virus is a cause of microcephaly and other severe fetal brain defects in some fetuses and babies born to some infected mothers. Zika also rarely may lead to the Guillain-Barré syndrome or other neurological conditions, which can affect individuals of any age or sex.

Zika virus is typically transmitted by the day biting Aedes aegypti mosquito, but there have been confirmed cases of transmission through sexual contact and blood transfusion. CDC reports that travel to elevations higher than 2,000 m (6,500 ft) above sea level is considered to have minimal likelihood for mosquito-borne Zika virus transmission, even within countries reporting active transmission.

For general information and the latest updates about Zika and steps to prevent mosquito bites and sexual exposure to the virus, please visit the CDC website.

For further information:
• See the State Department’s travel website for the Worldwide Caution, Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and Vietnam Country Specific Information.

• Enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) to receive security messages and make it easier to locate you in an emergency. Please remember to complete the privacy waiver located in the STEP registration as well; should the need arise, the Embassy can then contact the persons or offices that you designate.

• Contact the U.S. Embassy in Vietnam, located at 7 Lang Ha Street, Hanoi, Vietnam, at (84) (4) 3850 5000 from Vietnam or (+84) (4) 3850 5000 internationally, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. After hours emergency telephone (84) (4) 3850 5000/3850 5105 from Vietnam or (+84) 4 3850 5000/3850 5105 internationally

• Contact the U.S. Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, located at 4 Le Duan Blvd, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City, at (84) (8) 3520-4200 from Vietnam or (+84) (8) 3520 4200 internationally, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and from 1:00p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. After-hours emergency number for U.S. citizens, please call the U.S. Consulate General 24/7 at (08) 3520-4200 within Vietnam, or (011) (84) (8) 3520-4200 internationally

• Call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

• Follow us on Twitter and Facebook.
United States Embassy Hanoi
United States Consulate General Ho Chi Minh City

Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens

October 11, 2016

The State Department alerts U.S. citizens to the South Pacific Tropical Cyclone Season, which begins November 1, 2016, and ends April 30, 2017. This Travel Alert expires on April 30, 2017.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) recommends that people living or traveling in regions prone to tropical storms and tropical cyclones be prepared. Minor tropical cyclones can develop into typhoons very quickly, limiting the time available for a safe evacuation. Inform family and friends of your whereabouts and remain in close contact with your tour operator, hotel staff, transportation providers (airlines, cruise lines, etc.), and local officials for evacuation instructions during a weather emergency. For further information about tropical cyclone preparedness, please visit our Tropical Season – Know Before You Go and Natural Disaster webpages, and NOAA's Tropical Cyclones Preparedness Guide.

While we do our best to assist U.S. citizens in a crisis, local authorities bear primary responsibility for the safety and well-being of people living or traveling in their countries. For more information, please visit our What the State Department Can and Can’t Do in a Crisis page.

For further information on tropical cyclone warnings in the South Pacific region, consult the Joint Typhoon Warning Center, the National Weather Service's Central Pacific Hurricane Center, the Government of Fiji's Regional Specialized Meteorological Center, or the Government of Australia's Bureau of Meteorology.

For further information:

- See the State Department's travel website for the Worldwide Caution, Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and Country Specific Information for your destination.

- Enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) to receive security messages and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.

- Check the website of the U.S. embassy or consulate with consular responsibilities for the territory you will be visiting.

- Call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

- Follow us on Twitter and Facebook.
Typhoon Season Tips

The typhoon and severe storm season in Vietnam runs from approximately May through November. We would like to pass along some severe weather preparation tips to U.S. citizens residing or traveling in Vietnam.

During the approach of a typhoon or severe storm U.S. citizens are encouraged to monitor the storm’s path by listening to the radio, watching television, or monitoring the following websites:

- U.S. Joint Typhoon Warning Center
- Vietnam National Center for Hydro-Meteorological Forecasting (Tiếng Việt)
- Tropical Storm Risk

If you are in the path of a typhoon or severe tropical storm, please take the following precautionary measures to ensure minimal disruption or damage. You should contact friends and family in the United States with updates on your whereabouts.

- Locate shelter and follow all official instructions, including evacuation if ordered.
- Carry your travel documents at all times (i.e., copies of your U.S. passport, birth certificate, picture ID’s, etc.) or secure them in a safe, waterproof location.
- Secure loose outdoor items (limbs, roofing material, windows (coverings), doors, debris (trash), etc.).
- Fill vehicle, generator, and water tanks.
- Check and charge radios.
- Charge cell phones and carry your charger, including portable chargers available for most cell phone models at many convenience stores and electronic shops.
- Have bottled water; make ice.
- Gather flashlights, tools, and first aid supplies.
- Have fresh batteries, candles, matches, water, groceries (canned and/or dry foods), and pet supplies.
- Assure an adequate supply of first aid materials and prescription medications.
- Stay home and let your family and office know how you plan to weather the storm, especially those family members in the United States.

Additional information on natural disasters including hurricanes/typhoons and storm preparedness may be found on the following disaster preparedness websites.

**General Disaster Preparedness Websites**

- U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs [Natural Disasters website] - general information and resources pertaining to natural disasters.
- U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) [Ready website] - general information and resources for emergency preparedness
- [American Red Cross] - Member of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.
The U.S. Embassy and U.S. Consulate have installed air quality monitors to measure PM 2.5 particulates as an indication of the air quality. You can read more information and check the current reading for Hanoi and for Ho Chi Minh City at: https://vn.usembassy.gov/embassy-consulates/embassy-air-quality-monitor/ for Hanoi, and https://vn.usembassy.gov/embassy-consulates/ho-chi-minh-city/air-quality-monitor/ for Ho Chi Minh City.

For more details on air quality index, please follow the link to the Environmental Protection Agency’s Air Now website. The AQI can be observed either by clicking on the location on the map, or by selecting Hanoi or Ho Chi Minh City in the “Select a City” option on the upper right part of the page. The page provides AQI over the last 24 hour period as well as pollutant concentration and a downloadable historical document.

Please note that citywide analysis cannot be done with data from a single monitor. This data provides an accurate measure of the air quality in the section of each city close to the location of the monitor. The Vietnamese Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment also provides air quality data for Hanoi. You can view this information at http://www.cem.gov.vn/.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed a formula to convert PM 2.5 readings into an air quality index (AQI) value that can help inform health-related decisions. Meanings of AQI numerical values can be seen in the chart below. For more information on AQI and how it is

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Air Quality Index Levels of Health Concern</th>
<th>Numerical Value</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>0 to 50</td>
<td>Air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>51 to 100</td>
<td>Air quality is acceptable; however, for some pollutants there may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups</td>
<td>101 to 150</td>
<td>Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is not likely to be affected.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unhealthy</td>
<td>151 to 200</td>
<td>Everyone may begin to experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Unhealthy</td>
<td>201 to 300</td>
<td>Health warnings of emergency conditions. The entire population is more likely to be affected.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazardous</td>
<td>301 to 500</td>
<td>Health alert: everyone may experience more serious health effects.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Travel Alerts and Warnings

The U.S. Department of State regularly issues travel alerts or travel warnings for various countries and regions. For information regarding all travel alerts and warnings, please go to this site: http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/alertswarnings.html

U.S. citizens are reminded to maintain a high level of vigilance and to take appropriate steps to increase their security awareness.

How to Subscribe/Unsubscribe to this Newsletter

The U.S. Embassy in Hanoi and U.S. Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City are sending this monthly newsletter via the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) as a public service to U.S. citizens in Vietnam.

If you are departing Vietnam after a long stay, please be sure to update your status in STEP: https://step.state.gov/step/

Updating your status if you move away from Vietnam will remove you from the mailing list for this newsletter and other Embassy and Consulate Messages for U.S. citizens in Vietnam.

If you encounter any difficulties or have any questions about the travel registration website, please send an e-mail to CASTEP@state.gov

Please note: Inclusion of Non-U.S. Government links or information does not imply endorsement of contents.
Services for U.S. Citizens

Ho Chi Minh City
The Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City uses a service-by-appointment system. Please visit our Website at: https://vn.usembassy.gov/ to make an appointment to apply for a U.S. passport, a Consular Report of Birth Abroad, and for notary services and authentications.

Those with genuine emergencies, such as the death, arrest, or life threatening illness of a U.S. citizen, can appear on a walk-in basis from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday (except Vietnamese and American public holidays) or call us any time at (84-8) 3520-4200.

Every day we have a number of no-shows for routine services. If you make an appointment and find you cannot keep it, please log back into the appointment system and cancel the appointment so that the appointment slot will be available to another client. If you are picking up passports or Federal Benefits checks/correspondence you do not need to make an appointment and can walk in for assistance between the hours of 8:30 – 11:30 a.m., Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, excluding Vietnamese and American holidays. If you are submitting additional information related to a Consular Report of Birth Abroad case you can walk in for assistance between the hours of 1:15 – 2:00 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, excluding Vietnamese and American holidays.

Hanoi
The U.S. Embassy in Hanoi uses a service-by-appointment system. Please visit our website at https://evisaforms.state.gov/Instructions/ACSSchedulingSystem.asp to make an appointment to apply for a U.S. passport, a Consular Report of Birth Abroad, as well as for notary services.

Those with genuine emergencies, such as the death, arrest, or life threatening illness of a U.S. citizen, can appear on a walk-in basis from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday (except Vietnamese and American public holidays) or call us any time at (84-4) 3850-5000.

Every day we have a number of no-shows for routine services. If you make an appointment and find you cannot keep it, please log back into the appointment system and cancel the appointment so that the appointment slot will be available to another client.

If you are picking up passports or Federal Benefits checks/correspondence you do not need to make an appointment and can walk in for assistance between the hours of 8:30 – 16:30 p.m., Monday to Thursday, excluding Vietnamese and American holidays. If you are submitting additional information related to a Consular Report of Birth Abroad case you can walk in for assistance between the hours of 1:15 – 2:00 p.m., Monday to Thursday, excluding Vietnamese and American holidays.

ALL APPOINTMENTS ARE FREE (no cost) FOR U.S. CITIZEN SERVICES, including passports, notary services, and Consular Reports of Birth Abroad. The website also has detailed instructions about service costs and required documents/procedures for each service. WE ARE DEDICATED TO FIGHTING FRAUD. If you wish to report fraudulent activity related to any of the Consular services we provide, please contact our Consular Fraud Prevention Unit at HCMCFPU@state.gov for Ho Chi Minh City or HanoiFPU@state.gov for Hanoi.