

EMBASSY UPDATES

NEWSLETTER FOR U.S. CITIZENS IN VIETNAM

U.S. EMBASSY HANOI • U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL HO CHI MINH CITY

DECEMBER 2020

Routine U.S. Citizen Services

Please use our online scheduling system (<http://bit.ly/acs-slot>) to request passport and notarial appointments for the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi and Consulate HCMC. The U.S. government has gradually resumed production of regular full-validity passports and Consular Reports of Birth Abroad (CRBAs). Wait times may be longer than usual due to limited capacity.

****Failure to obtain an appointment or arrive on time for any service may result in being denied entry.***



The Election for the U.S. Senate is not over

Eligible **Georgia** residents can register to vote [online](#) or by mailing an application to the Secretary of State's office. Voters can check their registration status [online](#).

Monday, December 7: Georgia Voter Registration Deadline

Tuesday, January 5: Election Day

You can turn in your ballots at both the U.S. Embassy and U.S. Consulate General in Vietnam, or if more convenient, you can return your FPCA or ballot to your local election officials via international mail or professional courier service at your own expense.

Voters are encouraged to walk-in to drop off ballots or ask voting questions every Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. or between 1:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. at one of the following locations:

- **Consular Section – U.S. Embassy, 2nd floor, Rose Garden Annex, 170 Ngoc Khanh Street, Hanoi**
- **ACS Unit – U.S. Consulate General, 4 Le Duan Blvd., District 1, Ho Chi Minh City**

Important Announcements

ACS Outreach Events:

American Citizen Services (ACS) in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City will be canceling all consular outreach trips for the foreseeable future due to resource constraints.

Sexual Assault Awareness:

[Important Information for U.S. Citizens](#)

Vietnamese Visa Extension:

For the latest guidelines visit the Vietnamese immigration website: <https://xuatnhapcanh.gov.vn>

Holidays & Upcoming Events

December 25: Christmas Day

January 1: New Year

The U.S. Embassy and U.S. Consulate General are closed during U.S. and Vietnamese public holidays



American Citizen Services

Contact us if you have any questions at:

Embassy Hanoi 24/7: (024) 3850-5000 • U.S. Consulate General Ho Chi Minh City 24/7: (028) 3520-4200

ACS Inquiry Form: <https://vn.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/acs-inquiry-form/>



Raising Awareness and Celebrating 25 years of U.S./Vietnam Bilateral Relations

This year marks the 25th anniversary of U.S.—Vietnam bilateral relations. The U.S. Mission to Vietnam is commemorating this anniversary by highlighting the various ways our bilateral relationship advances our shared ideals.

This month’s theme is “**Improve Public Health.**” In close collaboration with the Government of Vietnam and civil society organizations, USAID provides funding and technical support to prevent, detect and respond to new and emerging diseases.

Additionally, the holiday season can be a difficult time. To learn more online about the Center of Disease Control’s **Mental Health Tools and Resources**, visit their website at <https://www.cdc.gov/mentalhealth/tools-resources/index.htm>

STEP Enrollment



The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) is a free service to allow U.S. citizens and nationals traveling and living abroad to enroll their trip with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. STEP provides important updates from the Embassy regarding conditions in your destination country and can help the Embassy contact you in an emergency. <https://step.state.gov>



Useful Information for LPRs During COVID-19

If you are a U.S. lawful permanent resident (LPR) stranded outside of the United States due to COVID-19, you may find the information below useful. U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) retains jurisdiction over the status of LPRs and any request for official guidance should be directed to them. [Click here for more info.](#)

U.S. Embassy Hanoi



U.S. Consulate Ho Chi Minh City



#stormseason

Monitor local weather reports to be aware of incoming storms.



Visit the [website](#) of the U.S. Embassy in Vietnam for the latest weather and travel alerts.

Air Quality Index Levels of Health Concern	Numerical Value	Meaning
Good	0 to 50	Air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk
Moderate	51 to 100	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.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101 to 150	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is not likely to be affected.
Unhealthy	151 to 200	Everyone may begin to experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
Very Unhealthy	201 to 300	Health warnings of emergency conditions. The entire population is more likely to be affected.
Hazardous	301 to 500	Health alert: everyone may experience more serious health effects.

Air Quality in Vietnam

The U.S. Embassy and U.S. Consulate General have air quality monitors to measure PM 2.5 particulates as an indication of the air quality. You can check the current reading for Hanoi [here](#) and HCMC [here](#). The air monitors convert PM 2.5 readings into an air quality index (AQI). For more information on AQI and how it is calculated please visit: <https://www.airnow.gov/aqi/aqi-basics/>.

Vietnam issues e-Visa for Americans

The Vietnamese government rolled out an electronic visa (e-Visa) program for citizens from 80 different countries, including U.S. citizens, earlier this year. Visitors with e-visas can enter Vietnam at eight international airports, 16 international land border gates, or 13 seaports across the country.

Although Vietnam has suspended the issuance of visas due to the global pandemic, Americans can take advantage of this new program once Vietnam resumes issuing visas to foreigners.

Our Commitment to Fighting Fraud

All appointments are free for U.S. Citizens, including passports, notary services, and Consular Reports of Birth Abroad. [This website](#) has detailed instructions about service costs and required documents for each service.

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.

U.S. Citizens with Emergencies, please call:

- Embassy Hanoi 24/7: (024) 3850-5000 within Vietnam or +8424-3850-5000 internationally.
- U.S. Consulate Ho Chi Minh City 24/7: (028) 3520-4200 within Vietnam; or +8428-3520-4200 internationally.

For information about general, non-emergency services provided by U.S. Citizen Services, including urgent appointment requests, please contact us via our [ACS inquiry form](#).

Vietnam Travel Advisory: Level 2

On October 5, the Department of State downgraded its [travel advisory](#) for U.S. Citizens interested in traveling to Vietnam. It recommends all U.S. Citizens exercise increased caution when considering Travel to Vietnam due to Covid-19. Please visit the U.S. Embassy and Consulate's [website](#) to see information on entry restrictions, quarantine policies, and urgent health information for Vietnam.

Update on U.S. Passport Operations

To see the current update on passport operations in response to Covid-19 visit: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/passport-covid-19.html>