



Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy

JULY/AUGUST 2008
E-NEWSLETTER
FOR THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY

U.S. Embassy Lisbon

Av. das Forças Armadas,
Sete-Rios
1600-081 Lisbon
Tel: 21-727-3300

American Citizen Services
Hours: Monday to Friday
8 am—11:30 a.m.
Mondays and Wednesdays,
1:30—3:30 p.m.
Tel: 21-727-2122
E-mail: Conslisbon@state.gov

For emergencies concerning an
American citizen afterhours, please
call 21-727-3300.

U.S. Consulate Ponta Delgada

Av. Principe do Monaco
No. 6-2 F
9500-237 Ponta Delgada
Azores
Tel: 296-282-216

American Citizen Services
Hours: Monday to Friday
9 am—12:30 pm, 1:30—5 pm
E-mail:

U.S. Consular Agency Funchal

Rua da Alfandega, No. 10
2nd Floor, Rooms A & B
9000-059 Funchal
Tel: 291-235-636

American Citizen Services
Hours: Monday to Friday
9 am—1 pm



Closures of the Consular Section for July and August

The Consular Section will be closed for the following upcoming holiday:

August 15 - Assumption Day

It's Summer: Be Aware of Petty Crime

As summer crowds flock to Bairro Alto, Castelo de Sao Jorge, the Alfama and other popular tourist sites, criminal predators follow closely behind. The following tips from our Security Office will help you avoid becoming a victim here in Lisbon and elsewhere in Portugal:

- Remain alert when traveling in crowded downtown areas, on buses, trains and trolleys
- Don't carry large amounts of cash
- Carry cash in several different pockets
- Leave credit cards at home
- Travel with a buddy
- Don't wear expensive jewelry or watches
- Don't leave bags unattended, not even for a second
- Try not to look like a tourist (baseball cap, map, USA t-shirt)
- Don't use ATM machines on the street (bad guys will watch the ATMs for victims)
- Look suspicious characters straight in the eye to let them know you see them and are aware of their game

A final note about GPSs: Store your GPS and GPS mount out of site. Criminals have broken into cars to steal GPSs hidden in the glove compartment if they've seen a GPS mount on the dashboard!

Questions About Avian Flu?

The best safeguard for your health and safety in the event of an avian influenza pandemic is information and preparation.

The U.S. Government and international health agencies are advising Americans living, working and/or traveling overseas on how best to prepare if there is an outbreak in your country. For a Fact sheet, a list of frequently asked questions, and the latest guidance for travelers, please visit, the [Avian Flu Page](#) of our travel website.

PHONE LINE

Call the
American Citizen
Services Phone
Line for
recorded
information
about our
services.

21-727-2122

Appointment System for Citizen Services

Don't forget! the American Citizen Services Unit now offers appointments for services, including passports, birth registrations, notaries, and general inquiries.

It has been a great success, allowing our customers to plan their visit in advance and shorten their wait times.

For information on how to make an appointment, please visit our [Appointments Page](#). You may also call 21-770-2122 during our public phone hours, 2 to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, or send us an e-mail at: conslisbon@state.gov.

New Look for the Embassy's Website

Check out the U.S. Embassy's new website: <http://portugal.usembassy.gov>. We recently launched a new format designed to make browsing easier and less time consuming. Soon, all the websites of U.S. Embassies around the world will have the same look so our citizens do not need to re-learn a new site for each U.S. Embassy. Your suggestions concerning our Citizens Services section are always welcome. Please send them to: conslisbon@state.gov. Note that this is a new website address. The old address will be valid until the end of September.

For the latest information on voting,
[click here!](#)



Child Abduction Prevention for Dual Citizens

Many U.S. citizen children that fall victim to international parental abduction may possess or have a claim to dual nationality. While the Department of State will make every effort to avoid issuing a U.S. passport without the consent of both parents, the Department cannot prevent embassies and consulates of other countries from issuing their passports to children who are also their nationals.

You can, however, ask a foreign embassy or government not to issue a passport to your child. Send the embassy or government agency a written request, along with certified complete copies of any court orders you have which address custody or the overseas travel of your child. In your letter, inform them that you are sending a copy of this request to the U.S. Department of State.

If your child is only a U.S. citizen, you can request that no visa for that country be issued in his or her U.S. passport. Just keep in mind that no international law requires compliance with such requests, although some countries may comply voluntarily.

PHONE LINE

Call the American Citizen Services Phone Line for recorded information about our services.

21-727-2122

Do You Qualify for Social Security?

The U.S. Social Security program provides insurance against the loss of income due to retirement, death, or disability. The U.S. system is relatively new compared to many national pension systems.

To be eligible for Social Security benefits, a worker generally has to work at least 10 years in the U.S. However, there is recognition of the growing number of workers who have spent their careers working in more than one country. Thus, many of these workers have found that they do not qualify for benefits under the normal rules. For this group of workers, social security agencies have entered into "totalization agreements" whereby each country can use another country's work record to qualify the worker for benefits from one or both countries.

For workers who fall under a totalization agreement, only 1.5 years of work in the U.S. is needed to qualify for benefits. In addition, the worker's spouse and young children, under certain conditions, may also qualify for benefits (neither the worker or the dependants have to be U.S. citizens). The U.S. has totalization agreements with nearly all western European countries, including Portugal. For a list of countries that have an agreement with the U.S., please visit the [SSA Website](#).

For questions, please contact our Federal Benefits Unit at 21-770-3300, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Consular Fees

Passport	Adult Renewal	51.00 €	\$75.00
	Minor Renewal	58.00 €	\$85.00
	1st time Applicant	68.00 €	\$100.00
	Lost/Stolen	68.00 €	\$100.00
Report of Birth Package		102.00 €	\$150.00
Consular Certificate		20.00 €	\$30.00
Notaries	1st document	20.00 €	\$30.00
	2nd Document	14.00 €	\$20.00