



# Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy

FEBRUARY 2009  
E-NEWSLETTER  
FOR THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY

## U.S. Embassy Lisbon

Av. das Forças Armadas,  
Sete-Rios  
1649-044 Lisbon  
Tel: 21-727-3300

American Citizen Services  
Appts: Monday to Friday  
8:15—9:45 a.m.  
Mondays and Wednesdays,  
1:30—3:30 p.m.  
Tel: 21-770 2122  
Phone hours:  
Mon. to Fri. from 2:00pm to 4:00pm  
E-mail: [Conslisbon@state.gov](mailto:Conslisbon@state.gov)  
<http://portugal.usembassy.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

## 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



## A New Year and A New President



On January 20, 2009, Barack Obama was sworn in as the 44th President of the United States. [Click Here](#) to see and/or read his inaugural speech.

The official website of the White House, [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov), is a great tool to become acquainted with President Obama's policies.

You may also learn fun facts about the White House, the Presidents, First Ladies and even First Pets at "White House 101: Fun and Facts for All Ages". [Click Here](#) for the site!

## VECTA Tax Help Program Discontinued

The IRS has discontinued the VECTA (Volunteer Embassy/Consular Tax Assistance) Program for the immediate future. As such, the Embassy can no longer provide a venue for IRS-trained volunteers to assist taxpayers.

We will continue to provide tax forms and pamphlets to individuals. IRS Paris covers residents in Portugal and they can be reached at: {33} 01-4312-2555; [irs.paris@irs.gov](mailto:irs.paris@irs.gov). We have also included a list of private tax consultants who are familiar with U.S. tax law on our website. [Click Here](#) for more information. You may also visit the IRS homepage for further guidance: [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

**TAXPAYER ALERT:** Please do not open any e-mails that claim to be from the IRS. Scam artists use the IRS as a lure; however the IRS does not contact taxpayers by e-mail nor do they request personal information. The IRS asks that such e-mails be forwarded to [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov).

## February Holidays

The Consular Section will be closed for the following holidays:  
February 16 — George Washington's Birthday  
February 24—Carnival

**PHONE LINE****21-770-2122**

**Our staff takes phone calls from 2 to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.**

**Outside those hours, we have a recorded Information Line for your convenience.**

**For emergencies, you will be connected directly to an Embassy official.**

## Social Security Changes for 2009

### Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA)

The Social Security Administration will receive a 5.8% COLA for 2009, based on the increase in the Consumer Price Index from the 3rd quarter of 2007 through the 3rd quarter of 2008. The tax rate for employees remains unchanged at 7.65% and for self-employed at 15.30%.

### Quarter of Coverage

In 2009, you will need to earn \$1,090 to earn one Social Security credit.

### Medicare

The Medicare Part B premium for 2009 is \$96.40 a month.

### Full Retirement Age

Full Retirement Age for 2009 is age 66 and over (people who were born in 1943 and earlier).

**Visit our website to make an appointment for  
the American Citizen Services or Visa units.  
It's easy and fast!  
[Portugal.usembassy.gov](http://Portugal.usembassy.gov)**

## Travel Information for Portugal

Did you know that the State Department issues travel information for countries around the world to keep the public informed of conditions abroad that may affect their safety and security?

The Consular Information Program is an invaluable tool for travelers. Before you hit the road, it's worth checking the [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov) website to research your destination.

The program also issues Travel Alerts and Travel Warnings when conditions in countries warrant extra caution.

[Click Here](#) for Portugal's Country Specific Information.



## Annual Warden Meeting

This month, we host our annual Warden meeting to update volunteers on security issues for Americans and new travel requirements for Europeans. We welcome any suggestions that you would like us to share with the wardens at this event. Please send them to: [conslisbon@state.gov](mailto:conslisbon@state.gov).

Wardens are usually, but not always U.S. citizens/noncitizen nationals resident in the host country who volunteer their assistance to the U.S. citizen community.

We have about 45 volunteer wardens serving throughout Portugal. Though we are not currently soliciting new volunteers, we will keep you posted when the need arises for a warden in a particular area. A warden system provides a reliable way for the Embassy to reach U.S. citizens in the event of an emergency, disaster or threat and to distribute other information of interest to the private U.S. community.



Trivia Fact: The term "warden" is derived from the World War II "air raid warden" who alerted the public to danger.

## Consular Fees

<b>Passport</b>	Adult Renewal	61.00 €	\$75.00
	Minor Renewal	70.00 €	\$85.00
	1st time Applicant	82.00 €	\$100.00
	Lost/Stolen	82.00 €	\$100.00
<b>Report of Birth Package</b>		123.00 €	\$150.00
<b>Consular Certificate</b>		25.00 €	\$30.00
<b>Notaries</b>	1st document	25.00 €	\$30.00
	2nd Document	16.00 €	\$20.00



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