

Public Announcement - Senegal

The U.S. Department of State issued the following Public Announcement on March 9. This Public Announcement is being issued to advise American citizens to defer most non-essential travel to the Casamance region due to an increase in violence there. This Public Announcement is valid until June 9, 2007. In the past month, there has been fighting on both sides of the Casamance river between rebels and the Senegalese military. Due to the increased violence and the unpredictability of the current security situation in the Casamance region, the Department of State recommends against all nonessential travel to the Casamance region, except direct air travel to the Cap Skirring resort area or to the city of Ziguinchor.

Americans should avoid driving outside Ziguinchor and Cap Skirring's city limits. American citizens who must travel to the Casamance region should regularly monitor the Department's Internet web site at <http://travel.state.gov> where the current Consular Information Sheet for Senegal, the Worldwide Caution Public Announcement, and other travel information can be found. Up to date information on security can also be obtained by emailing consulardakar@state.gov or calling 1-888-407-4747 toll free in the United States and Canada, or, for callers outside the United States and Canada, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

Americans living or traveling in Senegal are urged to register with the U.S. Embassy in Dakar, where they can obtain updated information on travel and security within Senegal. Security updates are e-mailed to all registered Americans with an e-mail address. Registration is done online and can be done in advance of travel at <https://travelregistration.state.gov>. Americans without Internet access may register directly with the U.S. Embassy in Dakar. By registering, U.S. citizens make it easier for the Embassy to contact them in case of emergency. The U.S. Embassy is located at Avenue Jean XXIII, Dakar; the mailing address is B.P. 49, Dakar, Senegal. The telephone number is (221) 823-4296; after-hours (221) 823-4604. The U.S. Embassy website is <http://usembassy.state.gov/dakar>.