

U.S. Embassy in Singapore

Consular Section

<http://singapore.usembassy.gov>

<http://www.travel.state.gov>

SingaporeACS@state.gov

Tel: (65) 6476-9100

American Citizen Services (ACS) Newsletter

December – January 2010

Happy Holidays to you and your family!

The newsletter is our way of sharing topics of general interest as well as any changes in Embassy hours or procedures. We will continue to send time-sensitive announcements separately. If you need to update your registration, please click [here](#). Please share your feedback with us at SingaporeACS@state.gov. *Thank you!*

If you no longer live in or travel to Singapore, please click [here](#). If you have any difficulty with your registration or feedback, please contact us at SingaporeACS@state.gov.

Topics covered in this Issue:

Upcoming Holiday and Administrative Closures

Happy Trails to You . . . Be a Prepared Traveler

Updated Travel Information

Topic of Interest: Do you need notarial services related to refinancing your home in the United States?

Upcoming ACS Closures

The Consular section will be closed on the following dates in December 2009 and January 2010. For an emergency during these holidays involving an American citizen, please contact the Duty Officer at 6476-9100.

December 24, 2009 (Thursday)	Consular Administrative Day*
December 25, 2009 (Friday)	U.S./Singapore Holiday - Christmas
January 1, 2010 (Friday)	U.S./Singapore Holiday - New Year's Day
January 18, 2010 (Monday)	U.S. Holiday - Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.
January 28, 2009 (Thursday)	Consular Administrative Day*

Holidays: The Embassy observes certain local and American holidays. On these days, the Consular Section will be closed. For an emergency involving an American citizen, please contact the Duty Officer at 6476-9100.

* We will be closed for all routine American Citizen Services such as passport renewal, extra passport pages and notarial services on these days. We will be open for collection of documents only at 3:00 – 3:30pm (except on December 24, 2009). Regular services will resume the following working day. For emergency services at any time, please call 6476-9100.

Happy Trails to You. . . Be a Prepared Traveler

Does your **passport** have more than **six months' validity**? If not, many countries in this region may not allow you to enter their borders. Please allow 7-10 working days for passport renewal and visit our website at: <http://singapore.usembassy.gov/passports.html> for documents required.

As you prepare for holiday travels, have you checked to see if your passport has enough **visa pages**? If you need to add additional pages to your passport, please visit the following website for additional information: http://singapore.usembassy.gov/add_extra_visa_pages.html.

Know what to do **if you become sick or injured on a trip** to another foreign country: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/content/illness-injury-abroad.aspx>.

Look up **your specific destination** regarding current **issues of health**, such as recommended vaccinations or current epidemics: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list.aspx>

Current Travel Alerts of regional interest:

Travel Alerts are issued to disseminate information about short-term conditions, generally within a particular country, that pose imminent risks to the security of U.S. citizens. Below please find links to current Travel Alerts for countries of regional interest. For a complete listing of Travel Alerts for all regions, please visit <http://travel.state.gov>.

- [India](#)
- [Philippines](#)
- [China](#)

Current Travel Warnings of regional interest:

Travel Warnings are issued to describe long-term, protracted conditions that make a country dangerous or unstable. Below please find links to Travel Warnings for countries of regional interest. For a complete listing of Travel Warnings for all regions, please visit <http://travel.state.gov>.

- [Nepal](#)
- [Sri Lanka](#)

Current Warden Messages of regional interest:

Warden Messages are notices sent directly to American citizens to provide important information about local conditions.

- [Shooting incident in Banda Aceh, North Sumatra, Indonesia 11/23/2009](#)
- [Rabies Deaths in Bali, Indonesia 10/05/2009](#)

Country Specific Information Updates

The Department of State maintains at all times Country Specific Information for every country in the world. This information is updated approximately twice a year or as necessary due to changing conditions. Recently, updates have been posted for the following countries in the region.

- [Thailand](#) November 4, 2009
- [Australia](#) November 10, 2009
- [Nepal](#) November 5, 2009

As you make your travel plans, don't forget to check www.travel.state.gov for the most current safety and security information.

Topic of Interest: Do you need notarial services related to refinancing your home in the United States?

In general, mortgage documents require that you sign in the presence of a notarial officer. Consular officers at the U.S. Embassy may render notarial services. Before you come to the embassy with your mortgage documents, please prepare your documents at home. By doing so, you will enable us to serve you more quickly. Here's how you can prepare your documents:

1. Go through your documents and pre-flag all specific pages that need notarization.
2. Please do not submit any documents where a notarial seal is NOT required.
3. Bring witnesses along if required as the Embassy does not provide witnesses.
4. Fill in any empty blanks throughout the document that require your attention.
5. Anticipate this process to take 1-2 hours as your document has to go through a preparation process.
6. If you have multiple documents to be notarized, divide them all with paper clips or binder clips, and number each page of your documents in pencil so that they can easily be put back in order after the notarization.
7. We recommend you come at opening hours of 8:30am or 1:30pm for notarial services. Please note that notarial services may be performed at any time during working hours; however, afternoon notarial services are for American citizens only.