

# THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

## COUNTRY INFORMATION

*As of March 2026. Please check [travel.state.gov](https://travel.state.gov) for the most up-to-date information.*

The U.S. Department of State currently recommends U.S. citizens DO NOT TRAVEL to Russia due to the danger associated with the continuing war between Russia and Ukraine, the risk of harassment or wrongful detention by Russian security officials, the arbitrary enforcement of local laws, limited flights into and out of Russia, the Embassy's limited ability to assist U.S. citizens in Russia, and the possibility of terrorism. Travelers to Russia should have no reasonable expectation for privacy as the Kremlin and Russian security services maintain broad surveillance authorities of foreigners in the country.

- Russia will not recognize your U.S. citizenship if you are a dual U.S.-Russian citizen or have a claim to Russian citizenship.
- Russia has blocked U.S. consular officers from visiting detained dual U.S.-Russian citizens.
- The Russian government has forced people with dual citizenship to join the military and has stopped them from leaving the country.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

The U.S. government's ability to provide routine or emergency services to U.S. citizens in Russia is severely limited, particularly in areas far from the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, due to Russian government limitations on travel for embassy personnel and staffing, and the ongoing suspension of operations, including consular services, at U.S. consulates.



**U.S. Embassy Moscow,**  
**+7 (495) 728-5000;**  
Bolshey Deviatinsky, Pereulok  
No. 8, Moscow 121099,  
Russian Federation;  
**[MoscowACS@state.gov](mailto:MoscowACS@state.gov)**  
**<https://ru.usembassy.gov/>**

To contact the State Department if you or a family member is endangered, please call: **1-888-407-4747** if you are located in the US and **+1 202-501-4444** if you are located overseas.

U.S. nationals traveling abroad should participate in the State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP), which informs local U.S. Embassy officials of your travel and provides U.S. nationals with important security updates. **<https://step.state.gov>**

## KEY PLAYERS

### Federal Security Service (FSB):

The FSB is the largest security service in Europe and is the most powerful security service in Russia with close ties to President Putin. It is responsible for counterintelligence, antiterrorism, and surveillance of the military. The FSB has a counterintelligence arm specifically responsible for monitoring foreigners in Russia.

### Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR):

The SVR has historically close ties to the Kremlin. Unlike the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB), it is tasked with intelligence and espionage activities outside the Russian Federation. SVR consists of several special state agencies and is tasked with protection from external threats.

## DETENTION TACTICS

- Russian security services have detained U.S. citizens on false charges or for minor criminal infractions, singled out U.S. citizens in Russia for detention and harassment, denied them fair and transparent treatment, and convicted them in secret trials or without presenting credible evidence, frequently levying prison sentences that are not commensurate with the severity of the alleged crimes. Detained U.S. citizens can spend several months in pre-trial detention before their case enters the court system.
- Russian authorities may not notify the U.S. Embassy about the detention of a U.S. citizen and may delay U.S. consular assistance. If you are detained, ask the police or prison to notify the U.S. Embassy immediately and to provide you with access to U.S. consular officers.
- Pro-Kremlin media outlets may leverage opportunities to exploit the cases of detained U.S. citizens if it can be used to further Moscow's political objectives or otherwise denigrate the U.S.
- Recent legislation has expanded the ability of Russian authorities to detain, question, and arrest individuals suspected of acting against Russia's interests, including posts on personal social media accounts, engaging with foreign and international entities, discrediting the Russian state or military, and advocating for gay and lesbian rights. Russian security services have arrested U.S. citizens and other foreign nationals based on information found on electronic devices. This includes information that was created, transmitted, or stored while in another country.
- Russia is known to detain individuals carrying prescription medication that is legally prescribed in the United States, but considered illegal in Russia such as CBD products and anti-depressants. Confirm all medication is legal prior to arrival.

## MOST COMMON ACCUSATIONS FOR DETENTION



Espionage



Criminal  
Behavior

Police do not need to show probable cause in order to stop, question, or detain individuals. Please comply with the requests of local law enforcement officials.

## FREQUENTLY TARGETED INDIVIDUALS FOR ENHANCED SCRUTINY



Business  
Travelers



Journalists



Tourists



Academics



Current or former U.S.  
military members or  
government personnel

Any U.S. citizen with current or prior U.S. government, military or law enforcement experience—even those with indirect ties—may be subject to additional scrutiny by Russian security services.