



## Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens: Kigali (Rwanda), Lifting Travel Restrictions

Political Violence

Africa > Rwanda > Kigali

12/10/2012

The U.S. Embassy alerts U.S. citizens that travel by official U.S. citizen personnel to the Rubavu district, Volcanoes National Park, the town of Kinigi, or the area to the north and west of Kinigi that abuts Volcanoes National park is no longer restricted. U.S. citizens are no longer advised to avoid the aforementioned areas. There are currently no daytime travel restrictions in place for official U.S. citizens within Rwanda.

Although we are no longer restricting travel by official U.S. citizen personnel, travelers should be aware of the continued possibility of incursions or cross-border fire from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). On November 17 and 20, cross-border fire landed within the borders of Rwanda in the vicinity of Gisenyi. On November 27, there was an incursion by armed militants in the vicinity of Mudende. On December 2, a small element of armed individuals, who allegedly crossed the border from Eastern DRC, attacked a ranger camp on the outskirts of Volcanoes National Park. The attack, which occurred northwest of Kinigi, left one ranger dead. We continue to monitor closely both the situation and the Government of Rwanda's response to these attacks.

Although the borders between Rwanda and the DRC are quiet at this time, we remind U.S. citizens that the situation in Eastern DRC remains extremely volatile. If fighting resumes, we urge you to leave the conflict area immediately. There are numerous militias and armed groups in the DRC provinces of North and South Kivu, and these areas have high rebel activity. U.S. citizens living in the Rwanda districts of Rubavu, Rusizi, Nyabihu, and

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Musanze should exercise extreme caution when traveling in the border areas. If you are unfamiliar with the region and not accompanied by an experienced guide, you should avoid approaching the Rwanda-DRC land borders. There are many areas where the Rwanda-DRC border is not clearly marked.

You can stay in touch and get Embassy updates by checking the U.S. Embassy Kigali website or receiving consular information on Twitter. You can also get global updates at the U.S. Department of State's, Bureau of Consular Affairs website where you can find the current Worldwide Caution, Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and Country Specific Information. Follow us on Twitter and the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on Facebook as well. You can also download our free Smart Traveler App, available through iTunes and the Android market, to have travel information at your fingertips. If you don't have internet access, you may obtain up-to-date information on security conditions by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll free in the United States and Canada, or from other countries on 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).

If you are going to live in or travel to Rwanda, please take the time to tell us about your trip by enrolling in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP). If you enroll, we can keep you up to date with important safety and security announcements. It will also help your friends and family get in touch with you in an emergency. You should remember to keep all of your information in STEP up to date. It is important during enrollment or updating of information to include your current phone number and current email address where you can be reached in case of an emergency.

The Embassy is located at 2657 Avenue de la Gendarmerie; the mailing address is B.P. 28, Kigali, Rwanda; tel. +250 (252) 596-400. The consular section's e-mail address is [consularkigali@state.gov](mailto:consularkigali@state.gov).

Routine American Citizens Services are available by appointment Tuesdays from

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09:00 to 12:00 and Fridays from 09:00 to 12:00, except for U.S. and Rwandan holidays. For after-hours emergencies, please call +250 (252) 596-400. For additional information on consular services, please visit the Embassy's website.

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