



Security Message for U.S. Citizens: Guatemala City (Guatemala), Semana Santa Holiday Security Reminder

Crime

Western Hemisphere > Guatemala; Western Hemisphere > Guatemala > Guatemala City

3/26/2015

As

we approach the *Semana Santa* holiday season in Guatemala, the U.S. Embassy would like to remind all U.S. citizens to maintain good daily security habits and practices, especially in heavily visited tourist destinations. You should be aware of your surroundings at all times -- especially in traffic and while walking, and not take unnecessary risks. That means being aware in advance of what could happen and how you would/should deal with it.

To

decrease the likelihood of becoming a victim, do not display items of value and refrain from using a cell phone in public or in traffic. Do not resist if you are being robbed. Assailants are often armed with guns and do not hesitate to use them if you resist. Also avoid, if at all possible, walking or driving after dark.

Be

aware that large, dense crowds such as those in Antigua during *Semana Santa* are an ideal environment for highly-skilled pickpockets. Every year, pickpockets victimize members of the community at such events.

U.S.

citizens should report security, medical, and traffic incidents to local police, the Guatemalan Tourist Agency (INGUAT), and the U.S. Embassy.

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We

strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Guatemala enroll in the Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) at <https://step.state.gov/step>. STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Regularly

monitor the State Department's website at <http://travel.state.gov>, where you can find current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the Country Specific Information for Guatemala at

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_4965.html. For additional information, refer to "A Safe Trip Abroad" on the State Department's website.

Contact

the U.S. embassy or consulate for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free from within the United States and Canada, or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on Twitter at <https://mobile.twitter.com/travelgov> and Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/travelgov> to have travel information at your fingertips.

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The U.S. Embassy in Guatemala is located at Avenida Reforma, 7-01, Zona 10 and is open from Monday to Thursday from 7:30 to 12:00 and from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m., on Fridays from 7:30 to 11:30, PBX (502)2326-4000, American Citizens Services Unit (502)2326-4000. If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance, the emergency number for the U.S. Embassy is (502)2331-2354.

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