



## Security Message for U.S. Citizens: Gaborone (Botswana), Holiday Security Remind

Crime; Travel Health and Safety

Africa > Botswana; Africa > Botswana > Gaborone

12/9/2015

The U.S. Embassy in Gaborone, Botswana would like to remind U.S. citizens in Botswana of the following security risks and practices as we enter the holiday season. While this information is specific to Gaborone, the same practices and vigilance are worth keeping in mind in other areas of the country as well.

Historically, criminal incidents tend to increase during the pre-holiday and holiday season. Recently, U.S. Embassy Gaborone received reports of numerous smash/snatch and grabs from vehicles, muggings, and home break-ins in the general community in the Gaborone area. It's important to remain vigilant at all times while driving, particularly near notorious intersections. Keep windows up, doors locked, valuables out of sight (includes keeping off your mobile device!) and eyes on anyone approaching your vehicle. Two areas of Gaborone known for crime include the Seboni/New Lobatse T-junction at the north end of the Central Business District and the Nelson Mandela stretch between Broadhurst and Lemmenyane. Reports indicate groups of 4-6 individuals have approached vehicles with speed and precision, checking for unlocked doors or smashing windows with heavy tools.

This time last year, an attempted burglary of a residence occurred while the occupant was away on holiday. The would-be intruders were thwarted by locked doors – a basic countermeasure. Remember, routine use of all residential security features, including activated central alarm monitoring systems, will make your home a harder target.

The consular section at the U.S. Embassy in Gaborone wishes all of you a safe and happy holiday season.

For further information:

See the State Department's travel website for the Worldwide Caution, Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and Country Specific Information for Botswana.

Enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) to receive security messages and

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make it easier to locate you in an emergency.

The U.S. Embassy in Angola is located at the addresses below.

Call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

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After-hours emergencies: 267-395-7111

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