



Security Message for U.S. Citizens: Moscow (Russia), Celebratory Events on July 31 Aug 2

Significant Events; Travel Health and Safety

Europe > Russia; Europe > Russia > Moscow

7/27/2016

There are two upcoming Russian celebrations, one on Sunday, July 31st, and the other on Tuesday, August 2, that the U.S. citizen community should be aware of.

Sunday, July 31 marks the **Day of the Russian Naval Fleet**.

Historically, celebrations are carried out in the main public parks of Russian cities. Official and unofficial events typically involve gatherings of large amounts of former Russian Navy service members.

Additionally, **Tuesday, August 2, 2016** marks the 86th anniversary of **Paratroopers' Day** in Russia. The event will be celebrated in Moscow and throughout the country. Current and former paratroopers will wear their uniforms (light blue berets and light blue and white striped shirts), sing patriotic songs, and toast their organization and its legacy.

In Moscow, the holiday will be marked with a ceremony at Poklonnaya Gora in Victory Park. Other locations for commemorative gatherings include Alexandrovsky Garden, Gorky Park, Kievskaya Square, Pushkinskaya Square, Red Square, Victory Park at Kutuzovsky Prospekt, the VVC Exhibition Center, and local markets. A part of Ilyinka Street will be closed for traffic from Birzhevaya square to Red square (6:00 – 16:00) due to a religious procession in the name of The Prophet Elijah, who is considered to be the patron saint of paratroopers.

Although the majority of these gatherings are expected to be peaceful, past celebrations have involved incidents of violence, some of which were directed against foreigners. Brawls and other incidents of public disorder, often fueled by the consumption of alcohol, have been reported during previous years' celebrations. To help maintain public order this year, the Moscow City Police plan an increased presence in parks throughout the city.

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The U.S. citizen community should exercise caution when in or near public parks and at the locations listed above on both holidays. U.S. citizens should avoid all public demonstrations, whether properly authorized by local officials or not, and avoid any large crowds and public gatherings that lack enhanced security measures. As with all large gatherings, citizens are urged to review your personal security plans, maintain a low-profile, remain aware of your surroundings, including local events, and monitor local news stations for updates. Maintain a high level of vigilance and take appropriate steps to enhance your personal security.

For more information:

See the **State Department's travel website** for the **Worldwide Caution**, Travel Warnings, European Travel Alerts, and **Country-Specific Information Sheet for the Russian Federation**.

Enroll in the **Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)** to receive security messages and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.

Contact the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, located at 21 Novinsky Blvd. in Moscow, at +7 (495) 728-5577, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. weekdays or by e-mail at moscowwarden@state.gov or visit the Embassy website at <http://moscow.usembassy.gov/service.html>. **After-hours emergency number for U.S. citizens is +7 (495) 728 5000 after 6:00 p.m. and on weekends and holidays.**

U.S. Consulate General St. Petersburg: The U.S. Consulate General in St. Petersburg is located at 15 Furshatskaya Street, Tel: +7 (812) 331-2600. You may contact the Consulate's ACS unit by e-mail at StPetersburgACS@state.gov, or by fax at +7 (812) 331-2646, or visit the **Consulate website**. **For after-hours emergencies, call +7 (812) 331-2600 and listen to the recorded message for the Duty Officer's cell phone number.**

U.S. Consulate General Vladivostok The U.S. Consulate General is located at 32 Pushkinskaya Street, Vladivostok, Russia 690001, Tel.: +7 (423) 230-0070, fax: +7 (423) 230-0091, **Emergency telephone: +7 (914) 791-0067 (24 hours)**
E-mail: vladcons@state.gov

U.S. Consulate General Yekaterinburg: The U.S. Consulate General in Yekaterinburg is located at 15 Gogolya Street, Tel: +7 (343) 793-001. You may contact the Consulate's ACS Unit by e-mail at ConsulYekat@state.gov by fax at +7 (343) 379-4515, or visit the

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Consulate's website at <http://yekaterinburg.usconsulate.gov>. **For after-hours emergencies, you may call the Duty Officer at +7 (917) 569-3549.**

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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