



Security Message for U.S. Citizens: Bogota (Colombia), Update on Demonstrations & Embassy Personnel Travel Restrictions

Transportation Security; Riots/Civil Unrest

Western Hemisphere > Colombia; Western Hemisphere > Colombia > Bogota

5/1/2014

The U.S. Embassy in Bogota advises U.S. citizens residing or traveling in Colombia of road conditions which may affect ground transportation throughout the country. Due to ongoing demonstrations and roadblocks, the U.S. Embassy strongly advises against overland travel outside of major cities in Colombia at this time. In addition, two demonstrations are planned in Bogota on May 1 and may affect public transportation and cause traffic delays and disruptions. Recent road closures have also affected overland travel in other areas, particularly in Boyacá.

U.S. government officials and their families are currently prohibited from traveling overland from Bogota to points northeast of the city towards the city of Tunja to include La Calera.

The U.S. Embassy reminds U.S. Citizens to monitor our demonstration notices at <http://bogota.usembassy.gov/demonstrations.html> as well as local media for developments. As always, we advise U.S. citizens that even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. You should avoid areas of demonstrations, and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations.

Please review your personal security plans; remain aware of your surroundings, including local events; and monitor local news stations for updates. Maintain a high level of vigilance

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and take appropriate steps to enhance your personal security and follow instructions of local authorities.

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

Regularly monitor the State Department's website at <http://travel.state.gov>, where you can find current Travel Warnings, including the Travel Warning for Colombia, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the Country Specific Information for Colombia 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 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>, and download our free Smart Traveler iPhone App at <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/smart-traveler/id442693988?mt=8> to have travel information at your fingertips.

You can contact the American Citizen Services Unit at the U.S. Embassy in Bogota, Colombia, via e-mail at acsbogota@state.gov or by telephone at (571) 275-2000. The U.S.

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Embassy is located at Carrera 45, # 24B-27, Bogota, D.C., Colombia and is open to the public by appointment on Monday through Thursday from 09:00 to 11:30. You can schedule a non-emergency appointment by visiting <http://bogota.usembassy.gov/service.html>.

The Embassy operates a Consular Agency in Barranquilla, Colombia which also provides assistance to U.S. citizens. The Barranquilla Consular Agency is located at Calle 77B No. 57-141, suite 511. Hours are 8:00 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday. No appointment is necessary.

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