



Special Travel Notice for Eritrea

Posted: December 31, 2014

Reviewed: July 18, 2016

In accordance with MS 220, 3.3.2, the Offices of Safety and Security and Global Operations restrict Volunteer travel to Eritrea until further notice.

For additional information, please consult the Department of State Travel Warning issued on May 6, 2015 at www.travel.state.gov.

The U.S. Department of State continues to warn U.S. citizens of the risks of travel to Eritrea. The Government of Eritrea continues to restrict the travel of all foreign nationals, including U.S. diplomats posted in Asmara. Consequently, the U.S. Embassy cannot guarantee its ability to provide emergency consular assistance outside of Asmara. In addition, contrary to its obligations under the Vienna Convention, the Government of Eritrea does not notify the U.S. Embassy when a U.S. citizen is detained or arrested. U.S. citizens of Eritrean ethnicity are often subject to the same laws and obligations as Eritrean nationals, particularly those who enter the country using their Eritrean identity card in lieu of a U.S. passport with an Eritrean visa. This Travel Warning replaces the Travel Warning for Eritrea dated September 12, 2014. The Eritrean government continues to restrict the travel of all foreign nationals. These restrictions require all visitors and residents, including U.S. diplomats, to apply 10 days in advance for permission to travel beyond 25 kilometers (15 miles) of Asmara's city limits. While permission is often granted for popular tourist destinations such as Massawa and Keren, requests to travel near the border areas, particularly with Ethiopia and Djibouti, are regularly denied. Requests by U.S. diplomats to travel to areas outside of Asmara are also routinely turned down, thus impairing the ability of consular officers to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in areas outside Asmara. Travelers should be aware that travel permits are valid for the approved final destination only, and do not allow for stops along the way to or in the proximity of the approved destination...