

Travel Warning

United States Department of State
Bureau of Consular Affairs
Washington, DC 20520

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ERITREA

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The U.S. continues to warn U.S. citizens of the risks of travel to Eritrea and recommends that U.S. citizens defer all travel until the U.S. government lifts any government restrictions on travel outside the capital city of Asmara, an increased number of U.S. citizens arrested and heightened tensions along Eritrea's borders with Ethiopia and Djibouti. This replaces the Travel Warning dated

10/12/09. The U.S. continues to restrict the travel of all foreign nationals, including resident diplomats. These restrictions require all visitors to apply in advance for permission to travel outside the Asmara city limits. As a result, the U.S. Embassy cannot provide assistance outside of Asmara.

▶ Increased number of Eritrean-U.S. dual citizens arrested without apparent cause. Once arrested, detainees may be held in very small cells, being told the purpose of their incarceration. Conditions are harsh – those incarcerated may be held in very small cells with no showers, bedding, food or clean water. The Eritrean government does not inform the U.S. Embassy when U.S. citizens who are not dual nationals, have been arrested or detained.

▶ U.S. citizens should be aware of anti-U.S. sentiment among Eritrean nationals since UN sanctions were imposed on Eritrea in 2009. There have been no specific incidents of violence targeting Americans, but anti-UN sanction demonstrations against the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea's detachments intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. U.S. citizens are therefore urged to avoid demonstrations, and to exercise caution if within proximity of any demonstrations. U.S. citizens should be aware of media coverage of local events and be aware of their surroundings at all times.

U.S. citizens are strongly advised to avoid travel near the Eritrean-Ethiopian border and to the Southern Red Sea region, including the port of Assab.

U.S. citizens considering travel within Eritrea should be aware of the presence of large numbers of Eritrean and Ethiopian troops along the Eritrean-Ethiopian border, and acute political tensions between the two countries. In March 2008, Eritrean restrictions on diesel fuel supplies caused the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea's detachments to withdraw from the Temporary Security Zone, leaving no international observers monitoring the border. Skirmishes between troops of both countries resulted in fatalities in January and February of 2010.

Since April 2008, Djiboutian and Eritrean troops have been deployed along the Eritrea-Djibouti border. The Djiboutian government claims Eritrean troops have crossed into its territory and on June 10, 2008, Djiboutian and Eritrean troops exchanged fire along their shared border.

The consular section of Embassy Asmara is open only for emergency American citizen services. U.S. citizens currently living or traveling in Eritrea are strongly encouraged to register with the U.S. Embassy in Asmara through the State Department's travel registration web site, <https://travelregistration.state.gov>, and to obtain updated information on travel and security within Eritrea. By registering, U.S. citizens make it easier for the Embassy to contact them in case of an emergency and provide updates on the security situation. The U.S. Embassy is located at 179 Alaa Street, P.O. Box 211, Asmara; telephone (291-1) 12-00-04, available 24 hours in case of emergency; fax (291-1) 124-255 and (291-1) 127-584; web site <http://asmara.usembassy.gov/>.

For additional information, consult the Department of State's [Country Specific Information sheet for Eritrea](#) and the [Worldwide Caution](#) at <http://travel.state.gov>. American citizens may also obtain up-to-date information on security conditions by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada, or 1-202-501-4444 from overseas.