

## **PALANCA NEWS**

Welcome to the Palanca News, a newsletter from the Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy in Angola for the American Citizen community. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide you with updated information about consular services available to Americans abroad, as well as provide information about health and safety issues for travelers. We hope you will find this newsletter useful, and we welcome your suggestions and input.

**July 2009**

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## **Contact Us**

- Address: Rua Presidente Houari Boumedinne N 32
  - Phone: (244) 222-641-000/222-641-086
  - Fax: (244) 222-641-259
  - Email: [Consularluanda@state.gov](mailto:Consularluanda@state.gov)
  - Web page: <http://angola.usembassy.gov>
  - 24-hour Duty Officer cell phone: 923-404-209 (for emergencies only)
  - Embassy web site: <http://luanda.usembassy.gov/>
  - American Citizen Services hours: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Emergency services 24/7
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## **Registration with the U.S. Embassy in Luanda**

The cornerstone of our efforts to keep the American traveling public aware of problems threatening their safety and security is our Consular Information Program. If you would like to receive important information issued by the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Embassy in Luanda, please register your stay in Angola by using this online registration service: <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>. By indicating your e-mail address at the time of registration you will automatically receive all U.S. Embassy bulletins and warden messages. Alternatively, you may print the attached form and bring it, along with your U.S. passport, to the U.S. Embassy to register in person.

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## **Complimentary Registration Letter**

As a courtesy, the U.S. Embassy in Luanda provides U.S. citizens with a registration letter when you register in person. It will include a copy of your passport data page and current Angolan visa, which you may carry as backup identification in the event of a lost or stolen passport. You may obtain a letter by coming in during American Citizen Services hours: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Remember to bring your passport!

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## **Upcoming Holidays/Closures**

The U.S. Embassy will be closed the following days:

July 3- **U.S. Independence Day (Celebrated)**

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## **AWAA (American Women's Association in Angola) 4th of July Celebration**

The AWAA will host  
the 6th annual community Independence Day Celebration:

Sunday July 5th, 2009  
11:00 am to 3:00 p.m.  
at Riviera Complex

Bring your favorite side dish and beverages to share with others. Join your friend for an afternoon of fun with a DJ playing your favorite music, swimming and more! Everyone is invited!

RSVP REQUIRED BY JULY 3RD at [awangola@yahoo.com](mailto:awangola@yahoo.com)  
All names are needed for the entrance gate.

Please email all names attending and company affiliation.  
Please bring photo identification and accompany your family members through the entry to the picnic.

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## **Country Specific Information Sheet for Angola**

Please note the changes recently made regarding travel and safety in Angola:

[http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1096.html](http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1096.html)

(Updated February 20, 2009)

This replaces the Country Specific Information for Angola dated June 20, 2008, to update sections on Medical Facilities and Health Information, Aviation Safety Oversight and Registration/Embassy Location.

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## **Recent Warden Messages**

Most Recent Warden Message  
Issued 30 April 2009

H1N1 INFLUENZA (SWINE FLU) INFORMATION AND TOWN HALL MEETING:  
[http://angola.usembassy.gov/wm\\_05042009.html](http://angola.usembassy.gov/wm_05042009.html)

Also check...

World Wide Caution: [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/pa/pa\\_1161.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_1161.html)

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### **Volunteer to be a Warden!**

The U.S. Embassy is currently recruiting volunteer wardens to assist the Consular section with distributing warden messages regarding security and safety issues to registered Americans in Angola. Wardens also assist the Consular section with maintaining up-to-date contact information for registered Americans, and would play a vital role in an emergency. Serving takes a few hours of time on average each month, including attendance at periodic warden meetings at the Embassy. Serving as a warden is a great way to serve your fellow Americans in Angola. For more information about becoming a warden, please call 222-641-000 ext.1086 or send an email to [consularluanda@state.gov](mailto:consularluanda@state.gov)

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### **Online Passport Application Wizard**

When applying for a passport at the U.S. Embassy Luanda, the American Citizen Services (ACS) unit recommends that all applicants utilize the online Passport Application Wizard (<https://pptform.state.gov/>).

The Wizard will help you determine which form you need (Form DS-11, DS-82, DS-5504 or DS-4085), then assist you to complete the form online, estimate your payment, and generate the documents to print and submit.

Also, if your passport is ever lost or stolen, you can use the Wizard to print out a Statement Regarding Lost or Stolen Passport (Form DS-64). And if you are applying for a minor's passport and both parents are unable to sign the application together with the child at the Embassy, one of the parents may use the Wizard to print out a Statement of Consent (Form DS-3053), which must be notarized.

*\* Remember to sign your passport and fill in the emergency information page!*

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### **U.S. Customs Restrictions – What You Cannot Bring Back With You**

There are special rules for products made from endangered wildlife. Many wildlife and wildlife products are prohibited either by U.S. or foreign laws from

import into the United States, and you risk confiscation and a possible fine if you attempt to bring them into the U.S. when you return. Watch out for the following prohibited items:

- All products made from sea turtles
- All ivory, both Asian and African elephant, and rhinoceros
- Furs from spotted cats
- Furs from marine mammals
- Feathers and feather products from wild birds
- Most crocodile and caiman leather
- Most coral, whether in chunks or in jewelry

You may import an object made of ivory if it is an antique. To be an antique the ivory must be at least 100 years old, and you will need documentation that authenticates the age of the ivory. You may import other antiques containing wildlife parts under the same conditions: they must be accompanied by documentation proving they are at least 100 years old. Certain other requirements for antiques may also apply.

To see a full list of products that are prohibited by law to import into the U.S., please visit:

[http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/vacation/kbyg/prohibited\\_restricted.xml](http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/vacation/kbyg/prohibited_restricted.xml)

*For more information, contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Law Enforcement, P.O. Box 3247, Arlington, VA 22203-3247, or call 800-358-2104, or visit <http://www.fws.gov/>.*

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## **Foreign Entry Requirements for Other Countries**

For information on entry requirements for a specific country, please go to the Entry/Exit Requirements section in the Country Specific Information for the country you are interested in at [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1765.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1765.html). You may also contact the U.S. embassy or consulate of that country for further information.

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## **What You Should Know If You Are a Victim of Crime:**

Consular officers are committed to assisting American citizens who become victims of crime while abroad. Familiar with local government agencies and

resources in the country where they work, consular officers can help American crime victims to:

- Replace a stolen passport;
- Contact family, friends, or employers;
- Obtain appropriate medical care;
- Address other emergency needs that arise as a result of the crime;
- Provide information about the local criminal justice process and about the case itself;
- Obtain information about local resources to assist victims, including foreign crime victim compensation programs;
- Obtain a list of local attorneys who speak English

For more information about consular assistance for victims of crime abroad, see [http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/emergencies/emergencies\\_1748.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/emergencies/emergencies_1748.html).

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### **Leaving Angola?**

If you are departing Angola and you have formally registered your stay with the Embassy, please be sure to "cancel" your registration when you leave.

You can close out your registration by sending us an e-mail at [ConsularLuanda@state.gov](mailto:ConsularLuanda@state.gov) with your full name and departure date.

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### **Useful Web Pages**

- State Department Employment Opportunities - [www.careers.state.gov](http://www.careers.state.gov)
- The official U.S. government jobs website- [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov).
- Travel Advisories - <http://travel.state.gov>
- Internal Revenue Service (for tax forms and information) - [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)
- Department of Motor Vehicles (for driver's license renewal information) - [www.dmv.org](http://www.dmv.org)

- Social Security Administration - [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)
- U. S. Customs - [www.customs.ustras.gov](http://www.customs.ustras.gov)  
Medicare - <http://www.medicare.gov>
- Federal Voting Assistance Program website : [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov)
- U.S. Passport Applications and Forms-  
[http://travel.state.gov/passport/forms/forms\\_847.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/forms/forms_847.html)