



# Travel: STEP Program

## STEP

The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) is a free service offered by the U.S. Department of State to allow U.S. citizens and nationals traveling and living abroad to enroll their trip with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. STEP provides information about safety conditions at your destination and can assist the U.S. Embassy in contacting you in the case of a family emergency or other reasons for concern. To register, visit [www.step.state.gov](http://www.step.state.gov).

The primary purpose of STEP is to keep American citizens safe. A few reasons to consider using STEP might include:

- Traveling to an area that's politically unstable or prone to violence.
- Taking an extended trip (several weeks or monthslong) where you may have limited internet access.
- Traveling for a major event, summit or conference (such as the World Cup) that might become a target of protests or attacks.
- You're a minority traveling to an area where you might be targeted as an outsider.
- Receiving urgent information from home regarding an emergency.

It's important when traveling with a team or group that all members of the party consider registering with STEP so everyone can be accounted for and kept safe. When traveling, officials may contact you in various ways, including through simple encrypted text message through programs such as WhatsApp. You will also receive updated fact sheets and emergency messages for the countries you're visiting delivered right to your email.

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