

Thank you to those who participated in the Ambassador's townhall for Americans on September 13, 2022. For those who missed the town hall, please find answers to some frequent questions.

- Do Americans face risk of arbitrary arrest?
 - As indicated in the U.S. Travel Advisory, American citizens are at risk of arbitrary arrest. This risk for all Americans in-country has been a constant following the military coup, and the U.S. Embassy underscores the seriousness of the risks of living and working in Myanmar.

- What impact does the deteriorating economy have on American citizens?
 - Consider economic instability as you review your personal contingency planning. The military coup, the regime's ongoing violence and repression, and its deeply flawed economic policies have had a devastating effect on the Myanmar people and economy. Some of the impacts include a depreciation of the kyat currency and limitations and possible loss of USD holdings, limited banking services, rising inflation, reduced supplies of consumer goods (cooking oil, fuel, rice), and for many a very concerning rise in food insecurity. These trends are not expected to reverse and more likely will continue. We recommend reviewing the World Bank's most recent economic monitor that outlines the details of Myanmar's economic conditions.

- What are the potential risks of doing business in Myanmar?
 - We encourage all individuals interested in doing business in Myanmar to review the [U.S. Business Advisory released in January](#), as well as a number of supplementary U.S. government reports, including [the country commercial guide and investment climate statement](#) as you consider such a

decision. We urge American to educate themselves on the risks and challenges of the current business context in Myanmar. We also urge businesses to operate responsibly.

- Can you confirm whether the regime denies visa extensions for foreigners (particularly U.S. citizens) or makes them more complicated to process? What assistance, if any, is the U.S. Embassy providing for its citizens?
 - Borders and immigration procedures/processes are under the authority of each country. Just as the State Department may deny visa applications and our customs and border patrol may refuse entry into the United States, Myanmar's military regime plays this same role. We understand that part of the visa extension application process requires an affidavit of citizenship. In this regard, the Consular section provides assistance through our notarial service. An individual drafts such an affidavit and the Consular section may notarize it. You may contact the American Citizen Services Unit for additional information on affidavits and notarial services.

- How can I get a passport extension since I am unable to leave Myanmar before it expires?
 - There are no extensions for U.S. passports. Instead, you may apply for a new passport – please see our website for instructions and the downloadable application forms ([Apply Outside the United States](#)).

- What steps are needed if we tried to register legally with our local immigration (within 24 hrs, etc.) but the officials either refused to take our paperwork or delayed the process for several days?
 - We understand the challenges in the administrative processes with local regime offices. Since the U.S. Embassy does not have authority over these offices, we do not have visibility on their operations.

- When will the Embassy reopen for non-immigrant visa applications?
 - We currently only accept student visa applications. We do not have a set date for when we will accept visa applications for tourism. Please visit our website for updates.

- How can American tourists apply for Myanmar visas?
 - Please contact the nearest Embassy of Myanmar for instructions.
 - We stress that we are at a Level 4 Do Not Travel advisory. We strongly encourage travelers to consider the risks stated on our website, and for those already here who decide to remain to review your plans for emergency situations.

- How restricted is travel for foreigners throughout Myanmar?
 - The regime has imposed two types of travel restrictions in Myanmar for both foreign and domestic travelers. They are: ethnic armed organization controlled areas where individuals may travel at their own risk and restricted areas that mostly include areas around military facilities.
 - Fighting between the Burmese military and various ethnic armed groups and People's Defense Forces continues in parts of Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Shan, Rakhine, and Chin States, as well as Magway and Sagaing Regions. For this reason, a Level 4 warning – Do Not Travel – is in effect, and we strongly recommend Americans not travel to these areas.

- What conditions can we expect to find outside Yangon?
 - Conflict-affected areas are of greatest concern, including border regions and parts of Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Shan, Rakhine, and Chin States, as well as Magway and Sagaing Regions. However, violence and regime acts of repression can occur throughout much of the country.

- Many parts of the country are ravaged by fighting and regime attacks. Infrastructure is generally weak, with power outages occurring regularly. In addition, landmines still pose a threat as they are often not marked or identifiable. American Citizen Services will release alerts on safety and security events as appropriate.
- Are there any restrictions for travel within Myanmar, from Yangon to other usual areas like the beaches and Kalaw, and back?
 - Destinations previously frequented by most U.S. citizen travelers include Yangon, Bagan, the Kalaw-Inle Lake region, Ngapali Beach, Naypyitaw, and Mandalay. We strongly encourage American to consider the risks before traveling anywhere in Myanmar, including the potential for security incidents, poor infrastructure, and the lack of adequate medical facilities.
- Are there any U.S. Citizen specific issues currently or anticipated?
 - Beyond the current conflict, all of Chin State and parts of Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Rakhine, Shan, and Tanintharyi States have limited infrastructure. U.S. citizen travelers experiencing a medical emergency will have difficulty receiving adequate treatment and evacuating in a timely manner.
 - The tourism industry is unevenly regulated, and safety inspections for equipment and facilities do not commonly occur. Hazardous areas and activities are not always identified with appropriate signage, and staff may not be trained or certified. In the event of an injury, hospitals seek to provide urgent medical treatment, though very serious injuries often require medical evacuation. We encourage U.S. citizens to purchase medical evacuation insurance.
 - Crime rates in Myanmar, especially involving foreigners, are lower than those of many other countries in the region. Nevertheless, the crime rate has been increasing, particularly

home burglaries and petty crime. Violent crime against foreigners is rare, but there have been incidents involving attacks by taxi drivers and muggings. American citizens are advised to take particular care when taking taxis late at night.

What happens if I am arrested or detained?

- You are subject to local laws. If you violate local laws, even unknowingly, you may be expelled, arrested, or imprisoned. Moreover, since the coup there is an absence of rule of law in Myanmar, raising the prospect of arbitrary arrest.
- If you are arrested or detained, ask police or prison officials to notify the U.S. Embassy immediately. See our [webpage](#) for further information.
- Should you be detained, especially outside of Yangon, we may not be able to assist quickly. **Law enforcement officials do not routinely notify us of the arrest of U.S. citizens**, and prison officials have been known to obstruct regular access by consular officers to U.S. citizen detainees.