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Monday September 27, 2004

Travel Warning

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

*This information is current as of today, Mon Sep 27
13:30:34 2004.*

Haiti

July 8, 2004

This Travel Warning is being issued to inform American citizens that, while the ordered departure of Embassy officers and families has been lifted, the security situation in Haiti remains unpredictable and potentially dangerous. U.S. citizens are encouraged to defer non-emergency travel to Haiti. This Travel Warning supersedes the Travel Warning issued May 25, 2004.

Although many areas have calmed considerably since earlier this year and major commercial air carriers have resumed their operations into and out of Haiti, the Department warns U.S. citizens that travel in Haiti still involves serious risks. Visitors and residents must remain vigilant due to the absence of an effective local police force in Haiti; the potential for looting; the presence of intermittent roadblocks set by armed gangs or by the police which may disrupt travel; and the possibility of random violent crime, including kidnapping.

Travel can be hazardous within Port-au-Prince, and Embassy staff is not allowed to travel to some parts of the city. The Embassy has imposed a curfew, which could change periodically, from midnight to 5:00 a.m. Staff members must remain in their homes or in U.S. Government facilities during the hours covered by the curfew. The U.S. Embassy has limited travel by its staff outside of Port-au-Prince and the ability to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens outside of Port-Au-Prince remains extremely limited. Many international organizations drew down their staffs earlier this year and while the UN stabilization force (MINUSTAH) has begun

to deploy, the international presence throughout Haiti will remain limited for some time to come. U.S. businesses continue to operate in Haiti, but take special precautions to protect their facilities and personnel.

U.S. citizens who travel to or remain in Haiti despite this Travel Warning must remain vigilant with regard to their personal security and are strongly advised to register at the Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince to obtain updated information on travel and security in Haiti. The Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy can be reached at (509) 223-7011, the fax number is (509) 223-9665 and the e-mail address is acspap@state.gov.

Travelers should also consult the Department of State's latest Consular Information Sheet for Haiti and the Worldwide Caution Public Announcement 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 or Canada or 1-317-472-2328 from overseas.

Return to Consular Information Sheets and Travel Warnings
Page