

# August 2019

## Water Safety

It's summertime and Israel's beaches are calling. However, it is important to remember rip currents and dangerous surf conditions exist at many beaches. Bathers should exercise caution, swim near a lifeguard, and follow lifeguards' verbal and posted instructions. The majority of drownings in Israel's seas occur when a lifeguard is not present. Stay safe while enjoying all that Israel's beaches have to offer this summer.

More information on safe swimming in Israel can be found at the Israeli Ministry of Interior [website](#) for recreational water safety.

## Emergency Preparedness

The Israel Defense Forces Home Front Command mobile application is an optional tool for civilian preparedness. It covers a range of emergencies, and provides instructions on how to respond in the event of an emergency. For more information, visit the [Home Front Command website](#) (available on devices within Israel) or view the [Preparedness Information PDF](#). U.S. citizens may also wish to download the free Israel Defense Forces Home Front Command application on [Android](#) or [Apple](#) devices to receive real-time security and safety alerts; follow the link for [Download Instructions in English](#). Free commercial applications, such as Red Alert: Israel, are also available.

## Passport Renewal



American citizens shouldn't wait until their U.S. passport expires to apply for a new one. Make an appointment at our Embassy Branch Office in Tel Aviv or Embassy in Jerusalem well ahead of your planned travel to avoid travel delays. Many U.S. Citizens can even renew their passports by mail. Visit the [U.S. Citizen Services](#) section of our website for more information.

## Travel Planning

Are you planning summer travel? Whether you are traveling for work or pleasure, solo or in a group, or staying for a few days or longer, planning ahead can help ensure your time abroad is both enjoyable and safe. [Travel.State.Gov](#) offers a wealth of resources, including the [Traveler's Checklist](#) and [Country Information](#) related to entry and exit requirements, local laws and customs, health conditions, safety and security, and other details.



## Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)

Whether you are traveling abroad or staying home, consider enrolling in the [The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#) (STEP). STEP is a free service that allows U.S. citizens traveling or living abroad to receive the latest security updates from the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.



Benefits of enrolling in STEP Include:

- Receive important information from the Embassy about safety conditions in your destination country, helping you make informed decisions about your travel plans.
- Help the U.S. Embassy contact you in an emergency, whether natural disaster, civil unrest, or family emergency.
- Help family and friends get in touch with you in an emergency.

## Tel Aviv Branch Office Now Accepts SS-5 with CRBA

The Embassy Branch Office in Tel Aviv now accepts Form **SS 5** (PDF 61KB) – Application for a Social Security Number when submitted with the **DS 2029** (PDF 216KB)– Application for Consular Report of Birth Abroad for children under 12. Follow the link for further details on the [CRBA application process](#). For Social Security matters, please visit Embassy Jerusalem's Federal Benefits Unit [website](#).

## National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

If you are a United States citizen living in Israel who has a temporary or permanent visual impairment, low vision, a physical disability that prevents you from holding a book, or another print disability, you may be eligible for a free program from the Library of Congress.

The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS)—which serves U.S. citizens living abroad as well as residents living within the United States — has tens of thousands of books in audio and braille that can be instantly downloaded or mailed to you at no cost. NLS has mobile apps that make it easy to play books on your personal iOS or Android device, or you can request a free talking-book player when you sign up. NLS also has dozens of popular magazines in audio and braille—and the world's largest collection of accessible musical scores and music instruction and appreciation materials.

To learn more and find out how to get started, email the NLS Overseas Librarian at [NLSoverseas@loc.gov](mailto:NLSoverseas@loc.gov).

	Tel Aviv Branch Office	Embassy Jerusalem
<b>Physical Location</b>	71 HaYarkon St., Tel Aviv	17 David Flusser, Jerusalem
<b>Work Week</b>	Monday-Friday	Monday-Friday
<b>Hours</b>	7:30AM-4:00PM	8:00AM-4:30PM
<b>Email Address</b>	<a href="mailto:TelAvivACS@state.gov">TelAvivACS@state.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:JerusalemACS@state.gov">JerusalemACS@state.gov</a>
<b>Telephone During Working Hours</b>	03-519-7575 (emergencies only)	02-630-4000
<b>After-Hours Emergencies</b>	03-519-7575	02-622-7230
<b>On-Site Parking</b>	NO	YES
<b>Passport Appointments</b>	<a href="#">Online</a>	<a href="#">Online</a>
<b>Consular Reports of Birth Abroad (CRBA) Appointments</b>	<a href="#">E-mail</a>	<a href="#">Online</a>
<b>Notary Appointments</b>	<a href="#">Online</a>	<a href="#">Online</a>
<b>Emergency Passports</b>	YES	YES
<b>Federal Benefits (e.g., Social Security)</b>	Federal Benefits Unit comes to the Embassy monthly to provide limited services.	<a href="#">Full (Federal Benefits Unit located onsite)</a>
<b>Renunciations</b>	YES	YES
<b>Passport Outreach (accept passport and CRBA applications and provide notary services)</b>		Ramallah and Erez Crossing