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Consular Information Sheet

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Marshall Islands

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COUNTRY DESCRIPTION: The Republic of the Marshall Islands consists of two chains of coral atolls in the Central Pacific with a total area of approximately 705 square miles. The Republic of the Marshall Islands is a parliamentary democracy, constitutionally in free association with the United States of America. It has a developing agrarian and service-oriented economy. Tourist facilities are not widely available, but they are adequate. Hotels exist in the capital of Majuro and on Ebeye, the country's second most populous island. Water shortages are common.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: Visas are not required for U.S. citizens. A valid passport, sufficient funds for a stay, and an onward/return ticket are required for stays up to 30 days (and may be extended for up to 90 days from the date of entry). A departure fee is required. A health certificate is required if arriving from infected areas. An AIDS test may be required for visits over 30 days (U.S. tests are accepted). For further information on entry requirements for the Marshall Islands, please contact the Embassy of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, 2433 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008. The telephone number is (202) 234-5414. Also, [the Embassy of the Marshall Islands](http://www.rmiembassyus.org/) has a web site: <http://www.rmiembassyus.org/>.

DUAL NATIONALITY: U.S. citizens may obtain dual nationality at the discretion of the Cabinet of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. For more information, please contact the Embassy of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. In addition to being subject to all Republic of the Marshall Islands laws affecting U.S. citizens, dual nationals may also be subject to other laws that impose special obligations on Marshall Islands citizens. For additional information on dual nationality, consult the Bureau of Consular Affairs' web site, <http://travel.state.gov>, for our [Dual Nationality flyer](#).

SAFETY AND SECURITY: Overall, travel around the Republic of the Marshall Islands is safe. There is no political violence nor have there been any terrorist or insurgency threats identified. Travelers should be aware that flights are oftentimes cancelled which could result in visitors being stranded on outlying islands. The absence of reliable communication exacerbates problems within the Marshall Islands.

CRIME: The Republic of the Marshall Islands has a relatively low, but increasing, crime rate. The most common crimes are break-ins and thefts from homes, hotel rooms, and vehicles. Random acts of vandalism are also on the rise.

The loss or theft abroad of a U.S. passport should be reported immediately to the local police and the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. If you are the victim of a crime while overseas, in addition to reporting to local police, please contact the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate for assistance. The Embassy/Consulate staff can, for example, assist you to find appropriate medical care, to contact family members or friends and explain how funds could be transferred. Although the investigation and prosecution of crime is solely the responsibility of local authorities, consular officers can help you understand the local criminal justice process and find an attorney if needed. U.S. citizens may refer to the Department of State's pamphlet, "[A Safe Trip Abroad](#)," for ways to promote a trouble-free journey. The pamphlet is available by mail from the Superintendent of Documents, [U.S. Government Printing Office](#), Washington, D.C. 20402, via the Internet at http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs, or via the Bureau of Consular Affairs home page at <http://travel.state.gov>.

MEDICAL FACILITIES: Health facilities in the Republic of the Marshall Islands are adequate for routine medical problems, but they are available only on Majuro and Ebeye. Majuro has a private clinic and a public hospital. Ebeye has a new public hospital. Most outer islands have medical dispensaries. Serious medical problems requiring hospitalization and/or medical evacuation to the United States can cost thousands of dollars. Doctors and hospitals often expect immediate cash payment for health services.

MEDICAL INSURANCE: The Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and if it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation. U.S. medical insurance plans seldom cover health costs incurred outside the United States unless supplemental coverage is purchased. Further, U.S. Medicare and Medicaid programs do not provide payment for medical services outside the United States. However, many travel agents and private companies offer insurance plans that will cover health care expenses incurred overseas including emergency services such as medical evacuations.

When making a decision regarding health insurance, Americans should consider that many foreign doctors and hospitals require payment in cash prior to providing service and that a medical evacuation to the United States may cost well in excess of \$50,000. Uninsured travelers who require medical care overseas often face extreme difficulties. When consulting with your insurer prior to your trip, please ascertain whether payment will be made to the overseas healthcare provider or if you will be reimbursed later for expenses you incur. Some insurance policies also include coverage for psychiatric treatment and for disposition of remains in the event of death.

Useful information on medical emergencies abroad, including overseas insurance programs, is provided in the Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs brochure, "[Medical Information for Americans Traveling Abroad](#)," available via the Bureau of Consular Affairs home page: <http://travel.state.gov> or by autofax at (202) 647-3000.

OTHER HEALTH INFORMATION: Information on vaccinations and other health precautions, such as safe food and water precautions and insect bite protection, may be obtained from [the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's](#) hotline for international travelers at 1-877-FYI-TRIP (1-877-394-8747); fax 1-888-CDC-FAXX (1-888-232-3299), or via the CDC's Internet site at <http://www.cdc.gov/travel>. For information about outbreaks of infectious diseases abroad consult the World Health Organization's website at <http://www.who.int/en>. Additional health information for travelers is available at <http://www.who.int/ith>.

TRAFFIC SAFETY AND ROAD CONDITIONS: While in a foreign country, U.S. citizens may encounter road conditions that differ significantly from those in the United States. The information below concerning the Republic of the Marshall Islands is provided for general reference only, and it may not be totally accurate in a particular location or circumstance.

Safety of Public Transportation: Good
Urban Road Conditions/Maintenance: Good
Rural Road Conditions/Maintenance: Good
Availability of Roadside Assistance: Poor

Majuro atoll has a paved road, but there are few traffic signs and no traffic lights. Drivers should be alert for animals roaming the streets and children darting onto the roads. Drinking and driving is a common practice, especially on the weekends, so drivers should use caution. Walking beside the street can be dangerous due to poor lighting and drivers who drink and drive.

After heavy rains, some roads experience temporary flooding. Vehicle traffic proceeds at a slow rate, rarely over 25 miles per hour. Since visibility is poor with few streetlights, night driving requires special caution. For specific information concerning driver's permits, vehicle inspection, road tax and mandatory insurance, please contact the Republic of the Marshall Islands' Embassy in Washington, D.C.

AVIATION SAFETY OVERSIGHT: [The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration \(FAA\)](#) has assessed the Republic of the Marshall Islands' civil aviation authority as

Category 1 -- in compliance with international aviation safety standards for oversight of the Republic of the Marshall Islands' air carrier operations. For further information, travelers may contact the Department of Transportation within the U.S. at 1-800-322-7873, or visit the FAA's Internet website at <http://www.faa.gov/avr/iasa>. The U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) separately assesses some foreign air carriers for suitability as official providers of air services. For information regarding the DOD policy on specific carriers, travelers may contact DOD at (618) 229-4801.

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS: The Republic of the Marshall Islands customs authorities strictly prohibit the importation of firearms, ammunition, explosives and indecent publications. Certification from the Quarantine Division is required for importing animals, plants and fruits. It is advisable to contact the Embassy of the Republic of the Marshall Islands in Washington, D.C. or one of the Republic of the Marshall Islands' Consulates in the United States for specific information regarding customs requirements.

CRIMINAL PENALTIES: While in a foreign country, a U.S. citizen is subject to that country's laws and regulations, which sometimes differ significantly from those in the United States and may not afford the protections available to the individual under the U.S. law. Penalties for breaking the law can be more severe than in the United States for similar offenses. Persons violating Marshall Islands' laws, even unknowingly, may be expelled, arrested, or imprisoned. Penalties for possession, use, or trafficking in illegal drugs in the Marshall Islands are strict, and convicted offenders can expect jail sentences and heavy fines.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES: The Republic of the Marshall Islands uses U.S. currency. Most hotels and a few restaurants accept VISA and MasterCard.

CHILDREN'S ISSUES: [For information on international adoption of children and international parental child abduction](#), please refer to our Internet site at http://travel.state.gov/children's_issues.html, or telephone 1-888-407-4747.

REGISTRATION/EMBASSY LOCATION: Americans living in or visiting the Marshall Islands are encouraged to register at the Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy in Majuro. The U.S. Embassy does not have a street address in Majuro. The Embassy is located on the ocean-side of the island's road, near the Church of the Latter-Day Saints and Gibson's Express, "Long Island." The U.S. Embassy's mailing address is P.O. Box 1379, Majuro, MH 96960-1379. The telephone number is (692) 247-4011. The fax number is (692) 247-4012. [The U.S. Embassy home page](#) on the Internet is <http://usembassy.state.gov/majuro/>.

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This replaces the Consular Information Sheet dated September 8, 2000, to update the sections on Crime, Medical Facilities, Medical Insurance, Other Health Information, Traffic Safety and Road Conditions, and Registration/ Embassy Location, and to add a section on Safety and Security

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