



U.S. Consulate General Amsterdam

January 2009

Consul's Corner



Passports and Travel

Passports

SAVE YOURSELF A TRIP – RENEW YOUR PASSPORT BY MAIL

Did you know that it is possible to use mail services to renew most adult passports, apply for additional visa pages, apply for a new passport if your name has changed through marriage or divorce, or replace an emergency passport with a regular passport?

This service is open to those applicants who are not required to make a personal appearance at the time of application. To see if you are eligible for this service, please go here: http://amsterdam.usconsulate.gov/ppt_applybymail.html.

Soon, this method of passport renewal will become mandatory!

Further, if renewing an adult passport but unable to submit the application by mail because of an urgent need to travel, you may apply during our regular hours of operation. Click here for requirements for emergency issuance: http://amsterdam.usconsulate.gov/repl_emergppt_mail.html

For details and other important information, please see http://amsterdam.usconsulate.gov/passport_adults.html

!!ATTENTION!! ALL VISA WAIVER TRAVELERS - IMPORTANT TRAVEL CHANGES:

Effective January 12, 2009, all international travelers who travel to the United States without visas **will be required** to obtain an electronic travel authorization prior to your trip. You can obtain this authorization at the following website: <http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/>. It is quick and easy, and most travelers will receive their authorization electronically within minutes.



PASSPORT CARD INTRODUCED

In July 2008 the Department of State responded to the needs of border resident communities for a less expensive and more portable alternative to the traditional passport book.



This wallet-size passport card is valid for 10 years for adults and 5 years for children up to 15 years of age.

The passport card facilitates entry and expedites document processing at US land and sea ports-of-entry when arriving from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Bermuda. **This card may not be used for travel by air.**

US citizens living in the Netherlands may apply for the passport card at the American Consulate General in Amsterdam. **Please note:** the passport card does not meet the requirements of the Dutch Compulsory Identification Act. For more information and application, please visit the website at: http://travel.state.gov/passport/ppt_card/ppt_card_3921.html

E-VISA APPLICATIONS

The US Consulate General in Amsterdam is pleased to announce that it has streamlined and reduced the waiting time for E-Visa (Treaty Traders and Investors) applications. For more information, please click here:

http://amsterdam.usconsulate.gov/e_visas.html

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. TRIBUTE AND DINNER

Overseas Americans Remember (OAR) is celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day with an evening event. For those interested, please see the below information and details. This event is not sponsored by the US Consulate in Amsterdam.

January 25, 5:30 p.m.

Dinner EU 30 Children to 12 – EU 10

Van der Valk Hotel Den Haag Wassenaar

Zijdweg 54 2245 BZ Wassenaar (formerly Motel De Bijhorst - off the A-44 at the Bridge)

You are welcome to join OAR at the 24th annual Tribute and Dinner for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for dinner and music. There will be a jazz combo with Jimmy Yarnell. Adrienne West and Tony Ward, professional American performers based in The Netherlands, will sing. There will be a reading of the "I Have A Dream" speech and young international students will give their impressions of the meaning of "The Dream". Children are welcome.

For reservations & information: Roberta Enschede, OAR Coordinator 070-5118409 0654253650 oarinnl@yahoo.com