

Warden Message



To: All U.S. citizens living in Republic of the Congo
Subject: Road Closures in Brazzaville (11-16 August)

No. 2010/02
Date: 12 August 2010

This weekend, the Republic of the Congo will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of its independence. While events celebrating independence are scheduled throughout the country, the majority of the festivities will take place in Brazzaville. A schedule of the various activities has not been widely disseminated in the local media, but we anticipate serious traffic problems throughout Brazzaville through the end of the official events on August 16. There has been no published accounts of road closures, but you can expect predictable delays commuting anywhere within the Brazzaville city limits over the next five days as roadways will be periodically closed to regular traffic.

As the President is scheduled to attend most of the signature events, all major thoroughfares in Brazzaville will experience closures for extended periods of time. Additional security forces have been deployed within the city at all intersections and around local hotels for added security of the visiting delegations, and to facilitate the shutting down of traffic.

The Consular Section encourages U.S. citizens resident in Brazzaville to stock up on essential supplies prior to the weekend and delay non-essential movements within the city until the close of the Independence celebrations next Monday.

Below is a schedule of major events with expected appearance by the President. We expect major road closures before and after these events. Additional road closures are likely as other official delegations move in Brazzaville.

- 12 AUG: Launch of the International Half-Marathon, Stade Saint Denis
Public Concert, Place de la Liberté, Poto-Poto
Miss Congo 50th Anniversary, Palais Des Congrés
- 13 AUG: State of the Union Address, Palais des Congrés
Yassou N'Dour Concert, Stade Eboue
Fashion Show hosted by First Lady Sassou, Olympic Palace
- 14 AUG: Arrival Ceremony for visiting Heads of State, Maya Maya Airport
50th Anniversary Ceremony, Stade Alphonse Massamba Debat
- 15 AUG: 50th Anniversary Parade, Boulevard Alfred Raoul (Boulevard Des Armées)
Grand Fireworks Show, Mairie Central (along corniche)
- 16 AUG: Departure of Heads of State and VIP delegations.

While Independence Day is a cause for celebration, a few simple tips can help you enjoy the holiday and keep you safe at the same time:

- VIP motorcades and security force vehicles may be travelling at high rates of speed. Exercise extreme caution regardless of whether you are a pedestrian or motorist. Always yield the right of way.
- Plan extra time to reach your destination due to traffic congestion and possible road closures.
- Many people have travelled from outside Brazzaville to enjoy the weekend. It is reasonable to expect a slight increase in petty crimes such as pick pocketing and theft. Remember to keep your vehicle doors locked and your windows rolled up; secure all valuables out of sight if you leave your vehicle. Do not carry more cash than is necessary. Be aware of your surroundings and travel with a friend if possible.
- Keep a copy of your passport and valid visa for the Congo with you at all times. You should also have your cell phone at all times.
- Be extremely cautious of taking photographs in the vicinity of government facilities, security force deployments, and VIP motorcades.
- Obey the directions of security forces. If you are detained or arrested, contact the Embassy immediately.

For the latest security information, Americans living and traveling abroad should regularly monitor the [Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs website](#) where the current Worldwide Caution, Travel Alerts, and Travel Warnings can be found. Up-to-date information on security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll free in the U.S and Canada or, for callers in other areas, by calling a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

The U.S. Embassy in Brazzaville also encourages U.S. citizens to register or update their information at [Department of State's Travel Registration website](#). Please note that it is important during registration or updating of information to include your current phone number and current email address where you can be reached in case of an emergency.

The U.S. Embassy is located on Boulevard Maya-Maya across from the Blanche Gomez Maternity Hospital. The Consular Section is open Monday-Thursday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM and on Fridays from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Our daytime telephone number is +242 612-2046. The Consular Section can also be contacted via email at BrazzavilleACS@state.gov. For after-hours emergencies, call +242 444-0013.
