

LAOS

Laos is one of the few remaining communist states in the world. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Laos has struggled to find its position within a rapidly changing political landscape.

Observers say there are disagreements between the increasingly aged politburo, which wants to further ties with Vietnam, and younger party members, who see closer links with China as the way forward. BBC News

Consulate in the U.S.

Currency, Exchange Control, Credit Cards, Telephone, Time Zone, Business Hours, Electricity, Official Languages, On-Line and Paper Maps, Foreign Organizations, (Embassies, NGOs, Clubs), Arts and Crafts, Photography, Weather, Points of Interest, and More.

Embassy of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, 2222 S St. N.W., Washington DC 20008, tel: 202-332-6416, fax: 202-332-4923, [Internet home page: http://www.laoembassy.com](http://www.laoembassy.com).

Consular Information Sheet - U.S. Department of State

Health, safety and other up-to-date advisories about the country
<http://travel.state.gov/laos.html>

Country Profile – BBC News

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/country_profiles/1154621.stm

Post Report - U.S. Department of State

Covers a wide variety of information provided to foreign service officers and their families prior to embarking to a new country. Includes living conditions, employment issues for spouses, availability of products, and much more.
http://foia.state.gov/MMS/ustrpt/pr_view_all.asp?CntryID=82

U.S. Embassy in Laos

U.S. citizens living in or visiting Laos are encouraged to register at the U.S. Embassy where they may obtain updated information on travel and security within the country. The U.S. Embassy is located at Thanon Bartholonie (near Tat Dam), in Vientiane; from the U.S., mail can be addressed to U.S. Embassy Vientiane, Box V, APO AP 96546; telephone (856-21) 212-581, 212-582, 212-585; duty officer's emergency cellular telephone (856-20) 502-016; Consular Section fax number (856-21) 251-624; Embassy-wide fax number (856-21) 512-584; [Internet home page: http://usembassy.state.gov/laos/](http://usembassy.state.gov/laos/).

The World Factbook: (August 2003)

CIA overview of Geography, People, Government, Economy, Communications, Transportation, Military and Transnational Issues.
<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/la.html>

LATVIA

“Situated in northeastern Europe with a coastline along the Baltic Sea, Latvia is geographically the middle of the three Baltic countries.

It is also the middle republic in terms of size and population.

Latvia shares much common history with its Baltic neighbours: in 1940 they were absorbed into the Soviet Union and only re-emerged in 1991 as independent states.”
BBC News

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Latvian Embassy, at 4325 17th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20011, tel. (202) 726-8213, website <http://www.latvia-usa.org>. Within Latvia, please contact the Citizenship and Immigration Department at Raina bulv. 5, Riga, LV 1508, tel. (371) 721-9424 or (371) 721-9427, fax (371) 782-0306, <http://www.pid.gov.lv>. Any traveler to Russia, even in transit, is advised to obtain a Russian visa before entry into Latvia. The process of obtaining a visa at the Russian Embassy in Riga can be lengthy and involve surrender of the passport for an

Consular Information Sheet - U.S. Department of State

Health, safety and other up-to-date advisories about the country

<http://travel.state.gov/latvia.html>

Country Profile – BBC News

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/country_profiles/1106666.stm

Post Report - U.S. Department of State

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http://foia.state.gov/MMS/posrpt/pr_view_all.asp?CntryID=83

U.S. Embassy in Latvia

Americans living in or residing in Latvia are encouraged to register at the Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy in Riga and obtain updated information on travel and security within Latvia. The U.S. Embassy is located at Raina Boulevard 7; tel. (371) 703-6200; fax (371) 781-4088. Consular information and current travel information can also be found on [the Embassy Riga home page](http://www.usembassy.lv) at <http://www.usembassy.lv>.

The World Factbook: (August 2003)

CIA overview of Geography, People, Government, Economy, Communications, Transportation, Military and Transnational Issues.

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/lg.html>

LEBANON

“One of the most complex and divided countries in the region, for the past three decades Lebanon has been on the fringes, and at times at the heart, of the Middle East conflict surrounding the creation of Israel.

A small, mountainous country, Lebanon was under French mandate until independence in 1943. Its population is a mixture of various Christian sects, Sunni Muslims, Shi'i Muslims, Druze and others, having been a refuge for the region's persecuted minorities.

Government structures are divided between the various groups. The country has also seen several large influxes of Palestinian refugees, most of whom still have limited legal status.” BBC News

Consulate in the U.S.

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Embassy of Lebanon, 2560 28th Street N.W., Washington, D.C., 20008, tel. (202) 939-6300. Additional information can be found on the [Embassy of Lebanon's web site](http://www.lebanonembassy.org/)
<http://www.lebanonembassy.org/>

Consular Information Sheet – U.S. Department of State

Health, safety and other up-to-date advisories about the country
<http://travel.state.gov/lebanon.html>

Country Profile – BBC News

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/country_profiles/791071.stm

Post Report - U.S. Department of State

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http://foia.state.gov/MMS/postrpt/pr_view_all.asp?CntryID=84

U.S. Embassy in Lebanon

Located in Awkar, near Antelias, P.O. Box 70-840, Beirut, Lebanon. The telephone numbers are [961] (4) 542-600, 543-600, 544-310, 544-130, and 544-140. The Consular fax is [961] (4) 544-209. The American Citizen Services office is open to the public Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. and the Federal Benefits Unit is open from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Public inquiries are answered from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please check the U.S. Embassy home page for up-to-date information on hours and services. Those who wish to

receive warden messages by e-mail via a free subscriber service may send a request to join-wardenmessagebeirut@mh.databack.com.

The World Factbook: (August 2003)

CIA overview of Geography, People, Government, Economy, Communications, Transportation, Military and Transnational Issues.

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/le.html>

LESOTHO

“The Kingdom of Lesotho is made up mostly of highlands where many of the villages can be reached only on horseback, by foot or light plane.

During winter months shepherds wearing only boots and wrap-around blankets have to contend with snow.

While much of the tiny country, with spectacular canyons and thatched huts, remains untouched by modern machines, developers have laid down roads to reach its mineral and water resources.

Major construction work has been under way in recent years to create the Lesotho Highlands Water Project to supply South Africa with fresh water.” BBC News

Consulate in the U.S.

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Embassy of the Kingdom of Lesotho, 2511 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008, telephone: (202) 797-5533. Overseas inquiries may be made at the nearest Embassy or Consulate of Lesotho.

Consular Information Sheet - U.S. Department of State

Health, safety and other up-to-date advisories about the country

<http://travel.state.gov/lesotho.html>

Country Profile – BBC News

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/country_profiles/1063291.stm

Post Report - U.S. Department of State

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http://foia.state.gov/MMS/postrpt/pr_view_all.asp?CntryID=85

U.S. Embassy in Lesotho

The U.S. Embassy is located at 254 Kingsway, Maseru West; the mailing address is P.O. Box 333, Maseru 100, Lesotho. The telephone number is 266-22-312-666.

The World Factbook: (August 2003)

CIA overview of Geography, People, Government, Economy, Communications, Transportation, Military and Transnational Issues.

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/lt.html>

LIBERIA

“Situated in West Africa, Liberia is Africa's oldest republic. However, since the 1990s it has become better known for its long civil war and its role in the war in Sierra Leone.

Although founded by freed American slaves, Liberia is mostly made up of indigenous Africans, with the slaves' descendants comprising 5% of the population.

Liberia was relatively calm until 1980 when William Tolbert was overthrown by Sergeant Samuel Doe after food price riots.” BBC News

Consulate in the U.S.

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[Embassy of the Republic of Liberia](#), 5201 16th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20011, tel. (202) 723-0437, website: <http://www.liberiaemb.org/>. Overseas, inquiries should be made to the nearest Liberian embassy or consulate.

Consular Information Sheet - U.S. Department of State

Health, safety and other up-to-date advisories about the country

<http://travel.state.gov/liberia.html>

Country Profile – BBC News

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/country_profiles/1043500.stm

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http://foia.state.gov/MMS/posrpt/pr_view_all.asp?CntryID=86

U.S. Embassy in Liberia

Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy at 111 United Nations Drive, Mamba Point, Monrovia, Liberia, tel. (231) 226-370, fax (231) 226-148. U.S. citizens who wish to write to the U.S. Embassy may address letters to the Consular Section, Monrovia Place, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20521-8800.

The World Factbook: (August 2003)

CIA overview of Geography, People, Government, Economy, Communications, Transportation, Military and Transnational Issues.

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/li.html>

LIBYA

“Libya, isolated by much of the international community over the 1988 bombing of a PanAm plane above the Scottish town of Lockerbie, formally took responsibility for the incident in August 2003.

The move, part of a deal to compensate families of the 270 victims, paved the way for the lifting of UN sanctions which were imposed to force Libya to cooperate with investigators.” BBC News

Consulate in the U.S.

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No Official Site Available at this time.

Consular Information Sheet - U.S. Department of State

Health, safety and other up-to-date advisories about the country

<http://travel.state.gov/libya.html>

Country Profile – BBC News

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/country_profiles/819291.stm

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U.S. Embassy in Libya

There is no U.S. Embassy in Libya. The U.S. Government is not in a position to accord normal consular protective services to U.S. citizens in Libya. U.S. Government interests are represented by the Government of Belgium, which, as a protecting power, can provide only limited services to U.S. citizens. Inquiries on the present local situation, like currency regulations, should be made to the U.S. Interests Section of the Embassy of Belgium. The Belgian Embassy is located at Dhat El-Emad Towers Complex, Tower Number Four, Fifth Floor, in the capital city of Tripoli; mailing address: P.O. Box 91650, Tripoli, Libya. The telephone number is (218-21) 33771; the fax number is (218-21) 335-0937

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CIA overview of Geography, People, Government, Economy, Communications, Transportation, Military and Transnational Issues.

LIECHTENSTEIN

“The Principality of Liechtenstein is a tiny, landlocked country whose wealth is based on its status as a low tax haven.

Around 75,000 companies have their nominal, 'letter box' offices in Liechtenstein, where business tax rates are very favourable.” BBC News

Country Profile – BBC News

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/country_profiles/1066002.stm

LITHUANIA

“The largest of the three Baltic states, Lithuania has sought to reassert its place in Europe since declaring its independence from the Soviet Union in 1990.

Lithuania took a historic step away from the shadow of its Soviet past when in late 2002 it received formal invitations to join both Nato and the EU.

The people went on to back EU membership in a referendum in May 2003. The president and prime minister as well as all the major political parties had been united in campaigning for a "Yes" vote and predictions that turnout might be too low for the poll to be valid proved unfounded. Lithuania is now set to join in May 2004.” BBC News

Consulate in the U.S.

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[Lithuanian Embassy](#) at 2622 16th Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009, tel. (202) 234-5860, www.ltembassyus.org for current information on visa requirements.

Consular Information Sheet - U.S. Department of State

Health, safety and other up-to-date advisories about the country

<http://travel.state.gov/lithuania.html>

Country Profile – BBC News

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/country_profiles/1106095.stm

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http://foia.state.gov/MMS/postrpt/pr_view_all.asp?CntryID=87

U.S. Consulate in Lithuania

Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy in Vilnius and obtain updated information on travel and security within Lithuania. The U.S. Embassy is located at Akmenu gatve 6; telephone (370)(5) 266-5500 or 266-5600, fax (370)(5) 266-5590. Consular information can also be found on [the Embassy Vilnius](#) home page at www.usembassy.lt

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CIA overview of Geography, People, Government, Economy, Communications, Transportation, Military and Transnational Issues.

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/lh.html>

LUXEMBOURG

“The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg is a small country, landlocked by Belgium, France and Germany, and its history has been inextricably linked with that of its far larger neighbours.

Despite declaring its neutrality, Luxembourg was occupied by Germany during both World Wars.

Attempts to escape German influence initially led to an economic union with Belgium in 1921.

After renewed occupation in World War II, Luxembourg abandoned its neutrality and became a front-rank enthusiast for international co-operation.” BBC News

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Embassy of Luxembourg

2200 Massachusetts Avenue, NW

Washington, D.C. 20008, tel: (202) 265-4171 or 4172, or the Luxembourg consulates general in New York tel: (212) 888-6664 or San Francisco tel: (415) 788-0816.

Consular Information Sheet - U.S. Department of State

Health, safety and other up-to-date advisories about the country

<http://travel.state.gov/luxembourg.html>

Country Profile – BBC News

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/country_profiles/1061821.stm

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http://foia.state.gov/MMS/postrpt/pr_view_all.asp?CntryID=88

U.S. Embassy in Luxembourg

The U.S. Embassy is located at 22 Boulevard Emmanuel Servais in Luxembourg City, tel: (352) 46-01-23 extension 2213 (2:00 - 5:00pm), fax: (352) 46-19-39, email:

usconsul@pt.lu. The Embassy's Internet address is <http://www.amembassy.lu>.

The World Factbook: (August 2003)

CIA overview of Geography, People, Government, Economy, Communications,
Transportation, Military and Transnational Issues.

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/lu.html>