

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · LAKE CHARLES

Consulate, Military Service and Apostilles from Lake Charles 2026

All of Louisiana falls under the Consulate General in Houston, and it is in another state. There is no nonstop international flight from here either: book in advance and finish everything in one trip.

SHORT ANSWER

Louisiana is served by the Turkish Consulate General in Houston; the mission's own page lists its district as **eight states** and Louisiana is on that list. **The practical conclusion is clear: the consulate general is not in your state,** which makes it necessary to **book the appointment in advance and finish everything in one trip.** The in-person window is weekdays **9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** **The item weighs more for Lake Charles,** because **there is no nonstop international flight from here** and the city's airport is served by **only two commercial airlines.** **Whether there is a Turkish honorary consulate in the region was not found by research;** we do not say there is none.

Consulate general details

ITEM	INFORMATION
Address	5333 Westheimer Road, Suite 1050, Houston, TX 77056
Telephone	+1-346-439 65 60
After-hours emergency (duty officer)	+1-832-774 18 61
Email	consulate.houston@mfa.gov.tr
Working hours	Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Visa application hour	2 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
District	Eight states, Louisiana included
Call center	+90 312 292 29 29, around the clock, seven days a week
Toll-free from the U.S. and Canada	+1 888 566 7656

- The same building houses the **religious affairs, education and commercial attache offices;** they are **separate units.** If you have a school registration or credential recognition matter in Türkiye, **the education attache office is a separate door.**
- **An appointment is required** and is made through one central system: konsolosluk.gov.tr. The same system handles appointment lookup, cancellation and visa pre-application for foreign nationals as separate flows.

- **The headings in the service catalog:** birth, civil registry, savings accounts, marriage, passport, military service, notarial acts, citizenship, death, judicial matters, e-government, driver licenses and employment.
- **Fees and document lists vary by transaction and were not measured one by one this round;** check the mission's own subpage before you book.
- **Honorary consulate:** the consulate general's own pages never mention honorary consulates; only the three attache offices are listed as subordinate units. **We do not say there is none; we say it was not found. And one limit to keep in mind:** even where an honorary consulate exists, **it may not perform transactions such as passports.**

FINISH IT IN ONE TRIP

- 1 **List everything you need to do first:** passport renewal, a power of attorney, a civil registry matter, a criminal record certificate, a military service matter, an e-government password, a service certificate.
- 2 **Read the documents required for each from the mission's own service catalog.**
- 3 **Try to book the appointments for the same day or consecutive days;** account for **the half-day working hours.**
- 4 **Take originals and photocopies separately.**
- 5 **Scope matters in a power of attorney:** have the text drafted **in advance** by your lawyer in Türkiye or by the institution that will act on it; a power of attorney with missing authority means a second trip.
- 6 **For an after-hours emergency** (a lost passport, detention, hospital, death) there is a **duty officer line;** save that number in your phone.

Dual citizenship and the Blue Card

Becoming a U.S. citizen does not by itself end Turkish citizenship. By the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' own definition, the **Blue Card** is the official document issued to people who were Turkish citizens by birth and **lost that citizenship by obtaining a release**, and to the descendants the statute lists. So the Blue Card only comes up when a **release** has been obtained; a person who keeps dual citizenship continues with a **Turkish identity card and passport**, not a Blue Card.

- **Rights:** apart from the exceptions the statute lists, the rights granted to Turkish citizens **continue to apply in full.**
- **The exceptions the statute itself lists:** **no right to vote or stand for office**, no right to import a vehicle or household goods duty free, and **no obligation to perform military service. Vested social security rights are preserved.**
- **Public employment:** permanent and principal public service posts tied to an established position and governed by public law are not open; employment in public institutions as a **worker, temporary or contracted staff** is possible.
- **Identity number:** the records of those who lose citizenship by release are moved to the relevant register **without changing the identity number;** descendants who are not Turkish citizens are issued a **foreign national identity number** on application.

- **Application:** a petition, **two photographs** and presentation of an identity document or passport issued by foreign authorities.

Paid military service

The Ministry of National Defense's distance learning portal states in its own words that this training is a **step required by statute**. The item most often confused is this:

SITUATION	WHAT IS REQUIRED
Turkish citizenship only	Having actually worked at least three years abroad with a residence or work permit, in one of the listed capacities
Multiple citizenship status	No employment requirement; actually being abroad for at least three years is enough

- **In both cases, time spent in Türkiye does not count. Most accounts online do not draw this distinction** and push readers into collecting documents they do not need.
- **The sequence:** register on the portal with your identity number, complete the course content and the end-of-section questions, then apply to the consulate you are attached to **with documents proving your residence and employment situation and a valid passport**. In Louisiana that means the **Consulate General in Houston**.
- **We do not print the fee and we explain why:** the figures circulating do not agree, the ministry's own portal does not publish a current amount, and **the amount depends on the exchange rate on the day of payment**.
- **On deferral and postponement**, the ministry's own text could not be reached this round; **we describe no procedure here**.
- **The distance learning is not a formality but a prerequisite for the consular application;** complete it before you book, or you will not be able to transact on the day you go. **Since the trip from here is a long one, that matters especially.**

Retirement and crediting foreign service

- **Periods that can be credited:** documented periods of insured employment abroad after turning 18, periods of unemployment **of up to one year each** between or after them, and periods spent abroad as a homemaker. **Periods before age 18 are outside the scope.**
- **Documentation is mandatory**, and in situations such as the United States the required service certificate is obtained **from a Turkish embassy or consulate general**; the **employment** heading in the catalog is exactly this. **Handle it on the same trip.**
- **The amount owed: 45 percent** of the daily earnings base chosen between the lower and upper limits in force on the application date, multiplied by the number of days credited. The assessed debt is paid **within three months of notification**; if it is not, a new application is required. **Partial crediting is possible**, but the number of days must be specified.
- **What it does and does not do:** credited periods are taken into account **only in granting a retirement or old-age pension**; they are **not considered for disability or survivor pensions**.

- **A final return to Türkiye is required** for a pension to be granted, and a separate declaration and undertaking is taken with the application; **a pension claim by someone who continues to work abroad can be denied.**
- **The conflict we print: one page** of the institution requires the applicant to be a Turkish citizen at the moment of crediting (or to have been a citizen by birth and lost it by release); **a guide** published by the same institution says that requirement **was removed by a statute dated 2014. We print both and take no side;** ask the institution before you apply.

Apostilles: a two-stage task that runs remotely

- 1 Obtain the certified copy from the issuing institution.** For birth and death certificates, the state vital records registry; for court documents, the parish Clerk of Court; for diplomas and transcripts, the school itself.
- 2 Send the certified copy to the relevant division of the secretary of state** or take it in person. The division attaches a second document certifying the signature and capacity on the record.
- 3 Leave the translation for last** and confirm the order with your counterpart in Türkiye.

ITEM	INFORMATION
Fee	\$20 per document; \$10 if it relates to an adoption (proof may be requested)
In-person hours	Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Mailing address	Louisiana Secretary of State, Commissions Division, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9125
Courier address	8585 Archives Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809
Telephone	225.922.0330

- The office certifies the signatures of: **notaries, clerks of court and their deputies, ex officio notaries, sheriffs and their deputies, judges, justices of the peace and the state registrar**, plus transcripts and diplomas signed by the registrar, president or dean of accredited universities in the state.
- **Documents issued by a clerk of court or the vital records registry need no separate notarization, but photocopies of those records are not accepted.** Documents not certified by the officials on that list must be notarized by a **Louisiana notary**, with the notary's **printed name and notary identification number below the signature.**
- **The shipping trap:** the office **does not pay for return shipping**, requires a prepaid envelope or label, and in its own words asks that **its own address not be written on the return label.** A mailed application also requires **a request letter stating which country the document is going to** and a daytime phone number.
- **No apostille is issued for documents to be used within the United States.** If an institution inside the U.S. asks you for an apostille, **ask whether it really wants an apostille or a certified copy.**
- **An apostille does not certify the content of a document;** it certifies only the signature, the seal and the capacity of the signer.
- **Good news for a Lake Charles reader:** this task **runs remotely**, so you do not have to travel to the capital. **But two mistakes double the time:** sending a photocopy, and **not preparing the prepaid return envelope.**

A vital record sent by mail can take **eight to ten weeks; order several certified copies from the start.**

Time difference and getting to Istanbul

PERIOD	DIFFERENCE WITH TÜRKİYE	EXAMPLE
During daylight saving time	8 hours	9 a.m. here is 5 p.m. in Türkiye
During standard time	9 hours	9 a.m. here is 6 p.m. in Türkiye

- **The entire state is in the Central Time Zone**, and daylight saving time begins on the **second Sunday in March** and ends on the **first Sunday in November**; **Türkiye does not change its clocks** and is ahead.
- **Watch the changeover weeks**: because the two countries do not change clocks on the same day, **the difference shifts twice for a short period in March and November**. If you have an appointment, a hearing or a flight in those weeks, **check the time twice**.
- **In practice**: if you need to reach an institution in Türkiye, call **early in the morning** from here; an office that closes at 5 p.m. in Türkiye has closed by about 9 a.m. here.
- **Flights**: the city's airport is served by **two commercial airlines**, one flying nonstop to one major airport and the other to another. **There is no nonstop international flight**; getting to Istanbul takes **at least one connection**. **There is no nonstop flight to Istanbul from the state's large airport either**, so looking for an alternative inside the state does not solve it.
- **Which airline flies to Istanbul from which U.S. city could not be verified this round**, so we name no airline.
- **Five rules for a connecting flight**: leave a generous connection time; ask how far the baggage is checked; note whether you bought one ticket or two separate ones, because on two tickets a delay is your responsibility; check transit visa rules for the country where you connect; and **carry your immigration documents in your hand baggage, never in a checked bag**.
- **If you travel during hurricane season**, allow for the possibility that your flight is cancelled.

If you will travel to Türkiye while an immigration case is pending, that is a separate legal decision and in some statuses it affects the right to return; ask your attorney before you buy the ticket. For the statewide rules, see [our Louisiana guide](#).

TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN LAKE CHARLES

Have a question about your immigration status?



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