



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**100+ Embassy Open Houses Highlight Passport DC’s 10th Anniversary  
 This May Visit the World Without Leaving Washington**

**Washington, DC (April 19, 2017)**—[Passport DC](#) celebrates its 10th anniversary in May. The annual festival commemorating International Cultural Awareness Month in the District of Columbia runs from May 1 through 31 with a wide array of cultural activities presented at a record 100+ embassy open houses, multiple street festivals around metropolitan Washington in conjunction with performing arts organizations throughout the city. On **Saturday, May 6**, countries who are not members of the European Union will open their doors during *Around the World Embassy Tour*, and the 28 members of the European Union will hold their open houses during *A Shortcut to Europe* the following **Saturday, May 13**.

**Steven E. Shulman**, executive director of **Cultural Tourism DC**, the festival’s producing organization said, “We expect 75 or more embassies to host open houses as part of Passport DC this year. When embassies open their doors, visitors can expect to encounter the art, music, crafts, cuisine, geography, and the manufacturing prowess of the participating countries. The embassies want to express that their countries are attractive places to visit and do business, and in our tenth year, more countries than ever are participating.”

Recruitment for participants began in early 2017, and **Brazil**, a perennial favorite among attendees, was the first country to register. The delegation will present a day-long program of music and colorfully costumed dancers hosted at the magnificent Brazilian ambassador’s residence. The sounds of **Botswana** will fill the air around Dupont Circle as its embassy presents a showcase of music, live art, and traditional cuisine. Nearby, on Massachusetts Avenue, the embassy of **Peru** plans to have live alpacas in the yard, native dancers and a taste of the Peruvian drinks and gastronomy as guests are invited to tour the embassy. The celebrations and education continues throughout Washington with embassies convenient to Dupont Circle, Van Ness, Columbia Heights, and elsewhere opening their doors. As embassies confirm participation they are added to the Passport DC [website](#) and the festival’s mobile site, which can be viewed at <https://passportdc.oncell.com/en/index.html>.

As of April 19, the following embassies are registered to participate in *Around the World Embassy Tour*:

Afghanistan	Chile	Kenya	Pakistan
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African Union	Dominican Republic	Korea	Peru
Albania	Gabonese Republic	Kosovo	Qatar
Angola	Ghana	Kyrgyz Republic	Saudi Arabia
Azerbaijan	Guatemala	Malawi	South Africa
Bangladesh	Haiti	Malaysia	Sri Lanka
Barbados	Indonesia	Mexico	Tunisia
Benin	Iraq	Nepal	Uganda
Bolivia	Japan	Nicaragua	Uruguay
Botswana	Kazakhstan	Oman	Zimbabwe
Brazil			

Passport DC Signature Events include:

*A Celebration of Global Fashion*

Wednesday, April 26

Opening Celebration at Macy's Metro Center, featuring fashion ensembles from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Botswana, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Kosovo, Malawi, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, and Ukraine.

*Flower Mart at National Cathedral*

Friday and Saturday, May 5-6

Taking place on the National Cathedral grounds, the spring time market brings together thousands of patrons each year for a colorful, family-friendly celebration of the season. A full schedule is at <https://www.allhallowsguild.org/Flower-Mart/flower-mart>.

*Around the World Embassy Tour*

Saturday, May 6

*A Shortcut to Europe*

Saturday, May 13

*Events DC Embassy Chef Challenge*

Wednesday, May 24

Presented by TCMA at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, featuring culinary presentations by embassy chefs from 40+ countries. Ticket information is available at [www.eventsdcebassychefchallenge.com](http://www.eventsdcebassychefchallenge.com).

To inquire about interviews with participating Ambassadors or cultural organizations, or to apply for credentials to attend and cover any of the 2017 Passport DC events, visit

<http://www.culturaltourismdc.org/portal/passport-dc1>.

**ABOUT PASSPORT DC**

Cultural Tourism DC produces Passport DC annually. Events DC is the Presenting Sponsor of Passport DC. Additional sponsors include Macy's Metro Center, The Melrose Georgetown Hotel, Daimler, Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority, Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, The Washington Diplomat, United States Chamber of Commerce, DuPlain Global Enterprises, Washington DC Economic Partnership, and SH International. The producers and presenters are grateful to the more than 500 volunteers who provide services throughout the month in support of the educational mission of Passport DC as well as the donors who financially support these endeavors. Cultural Tourism DC, Inc. is located at 700 12th

Street, NW #700 Washington, DC 20005. For more information visit [www.culturaltourismdc.org](http://www.culturaltourismdc.org)  
or follow on social media using @DCCulture, #PassportDC, or #EmbassyChef.

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