

# COUNTRY RISK SUMMARIES

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## Report for the week ending May 28, 2023.

**Latest Updates:** Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Haiti, India, Iraq, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Russia, Somalia, Sudan, and Ukraine.

- **Afghanistan:** On May 22, at least seven people died, and dozens of buildings were damaged or destroyed in Chagcharan and Pasaband districts of Ghor province after heavy rainfall triggered flash flooding.
- **Burkina Faso:** On May 22, at least 19 civilians were killed, and several others injured during an attack by suspected Jama'at Nasr al-Islam wal Muslimin (JNIM) militants in the peripheral districts of Komienga, Est region, on 21 May; the assailants also stole livestock.
- **Burkina Faso:** On May 22, at least 14 people were killed by unidentified gunmen in the village of Kié, Kossi province, Boucle du Mouhoun region.
- **Burkina Faso:** On May 22, heavy clashes took place between Jama'at Nasr al-Islam wal Muslimin (JNIM) and ISGS militants in the Tankougounadié area of Yagha province, Sahel region, triggering multiple casualties and the displacement of the civilian population in the area.
- **Burkina Faso:** On May 22, at least a dozen Islamist militants and one security officer were killed, and two others injured amid clashes when security forces thwarted a militant attack near the Naré bridge in Centre-Nord, on the road between Kaya, Centre-Nord, and Dori, Sahel.
- **Burkina Faso:** On May 23, at least 15 people were killed, and several others injured after Jama'at Nasr al-Islam wal Muslimin (JNIM) militants attacked Yalgo village, Koulpélogo province, Centre-Est region.
- **Cameroon:** On May 22, at least one member of a vigilante group was killed during an attack by Boko Haram militants in Mozogo, Far North region.
- **Cameroon:** On May 22, at least two soldiers were killed when their vehicle hit an improvised explosive device (IED) in Mbonge, Southwest region.
- **Cameroon:** On May 23, around 50 women were abducted in Big Babanki, Northwest, after they protested illegal taxes imposed by separatist rebels. The Ambazonian Dark Forces (ADF) claimed responsibility for the attack.

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- **Colombia:** On May 22, at least two people were killed, and one other was injured after a shootout erupted between rival gangs in the Villa del Diamante sector of Ciudad Bolívar, Bogotá.
- **Colombia:** On May 23, at least four people were injured after vehicle-borne unidentified gunmen opened fire in the Kennedy neighbourhood of Buenaventura, Valle del Cauca department.
- **Colombia:** On May 24, at least two police officers and a civilian were killed while three police officers and four civilians were also injured by an improvised explosive device (IED) blast in Barrio Santander Bajo, Tibú, Norte de Santander department.
- **Ecuador:** On May 22, at least seven people were injured in San Juan, Los Ríos province, following a shooting incident.
- **Ethiopia:** On May 23, at least 10 people were killed, and 12 others injured after South Sudanese Murle militants launched an attack in the Nuer zone, Gambella region. The militants reportedly opened fire on civilians in Wantuwa and Makuwei districts after crossing the border.
- **Haiti:** On May 24, health officials confirmed at least 2,835 cases of cholera and 704 related fatalities, amid an outbreak in all departments, including Ouest, Centre, Artibonite, Grand-Anse, Sud, Sud-Est, Nord-Ouest, Nord, Nippes and Nord-Est, with Port-au-Prince, Cité Soleil and Delmas accounting for most of the cases. Over 43,291 suspected cases were reported.
- **India:** On May 23, at least six people were killed, and 10 others were injured in the Buldhana district of Maharashtra state, following a bus-truck collision.
- **India:** On May 24, at least two people died, and three others were injured in separate incidents in Haridwar, Uttarakhand state, due to falling structures during a heavy rainstorm in the region.
- **Iraq:** On May 23, at least three members of the Shingal Resistance Units (YBS) were killed following a suspected Turkish drone strike targeting a YBS base in Khalaf village, Sinjar district, Nineveh governorate.
- **Kenya:** On May 24, police used tear gas to disperse protesting students near Kisumu National Polytechnic. The students blocked roads in the area and were pelting stones at police amid a protest over an increase in school fees.
- **Kenya:** On May 25, police fired tear gas to disperse supporters of former Mungiki leader, Maina Njenga, outside the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) headquarters on Kiambu Road in Nairobi, amid ongoing protests in support of Njenga, who is being held for questioning.
- **Mexico:** On May 22, bodyguards opened fire after an unidentified assailant stole a luxury watch from an American National at Stanza hotel on Avenida Álvaro Obregón in Colonia Roma Norte, Mexico City.

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- **Mexico:** On May 22, at least two unidentified gunmen were killed after a shootout with police erupted outside a business on Atlapulco road in the Chimalhuacán municipality of State of Mexico.
- **Mexico:** On May 24, a Catholic priest was shot dead in his vehicle near Lake Cuitzeo in Capacho, Huandacareo municipality, Michoacán state, by suspected cartel gunmen.
- **Mexico:** On May 25, at least one person was killed near the intersection between Luis Echeverría Avenue and Zihuatanejo Street in the Ejidos de San Agustín area of Nezahualcóyotl, State of Mexico, at around afternoon hours local time following a shooting incident.
- **Nigeria:** On May 22, at least nine people were killed, and several others injured while three people were kidnapped in Unguwar Danko near Dogon Dawa village in Birnin Gwari local government area (LGA), Kaduna state, due to an attack by unidentified gunmen.
- **Nigeria:** On May 22, at least six people were killed in Akpete community, Apa local government area (LGA), Benue state, due to an attack by gunmen, suspected to be armed Fulani herders.
- **Nigeria:** On May 22, at least 18 people were killed, and several others injured after suspected Fulani herdsmen attacked Iye village, located near Joseph Sarwuaan Tarka University Makurdi (JOSTUM) in Guma local government area (LGA), Benue state.
- **Pakistan:** On May 22, at least three militants were killed in clashes with security forces during a counter-terrorism operation in Tank district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province; two Pakistan Army soldiers were also killed in the fighting.
- **Pakistan:** on May 23, at least six people, including members of security forces, were killed in Hangu district's Manji Khel area, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, after militants stormed a private oil and gas exploitation plant.
- **Pakistan:** On May 24, a civilian was killed, and a policeman was injured in clashes between security forces and some gunmen in the Banjot area of Swat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.
- **Pakistan:** On May 24, at least four people were killed when a suicide bomber detonated his explosive devices whilst being frisked by military at a checkpoint near the Afghanistan border in South Waziristan district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.
- **Pakistan:** On May 24, at least six militants were killed in clashes during a security operation in the Kot Azam area of South Waziristan district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.
- **Pakistan:** On May 24, at least four people, including three security officers and a civilian, were killed by a vehicle-borne suicide bomber (VBIED) blast in Datta Khel, North Waziristan district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.
- **Panama:** On May 25, a 6.6-magnitude offshore earthquake struck approximately 43km (26 miles) northeast of Puerto Obaldía, Guna Yala at a depth of 10km (6.2 miles).

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- **Russia:** On May 22, at least one person was killed, and two others were wounded when Ukrainian-backed partisans stormed the Grayvoron border crossing in Grayvoronsky district, Belgorod oblast; clashes were also reported in Kozinka, Glotovo and Gora-Podol.
- **Russia:** On May 23, at least two Russian soldiers were killed, and several were wounded along with 12 civilians as fighting continued for a second day in Belgorod oblast, following an incursion by Ukrainian-backed partisans. Residents were evacuated from Graivoron, Novostroyevka, Gor'kovskii, Bezymeno, Mokraya Orlovka, Gora Podol, Glotovo, Zamoste and Spodaryusheno.
- **Somalia:** On May 22, at least five soldiers from the Turkish trained unit of the Somalian army, known as the Gorgor, were killed when an explosive device was detonated, targeting their vehicle in Daynile district of Mogadishu.
- **Sudan:** On May 22, Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) were firing on Rapid Support Forces (RSF) positions across central parts of Khartoum including the Republican Palace and the Khartoum International Airport (KRT/HSSK) as well as neighbouring Omdurman and Bahri.
- **Sudan:** On May 22, at least five people were killed by stray bullets and shrapnel in Nyala, South Darfur, amidst ongoing clashes between the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF).
- **Sudan:** On May 22, Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) soldiers exchanged gunfire and shelling including in north-eastern Khartoum, despite a ceasefire.
- **Sudan:** On May 23, sporadic clashes between the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) were taking place across Khartoum, including south of Khartoum and near the Sudan University of Science and Technology.
- **Sudan:** On May 24, at least four people were killed, and four others kidnapped by unidentified gunmen in Zalingei, Central Darfur. No group claimed responsibility for the attack. Most businesses and medical facilities were shut down due to looting as Rapid Support Forces (RSF) reportedly surrounded the city.
- **Sudan:** On May 24, at least four militia members were killed, and 17 others wounded in a security operation by Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in El Geneina, West Darfur state.
- **Ukraine:** On May 19, authorities announced that the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Station in Enerhodar, Zaporizhzhia oblast, was in a blackout mode following Russian shelling.
- **Ukraine:** On May 22, explosions were heard in Kyiv, Odesa and Dnipro, amid an ongoing nationwide air raid alert for Russian drone and missile strikes.
- **Ukraine:** On May 25, Russian armed forces attacked Kharkiv oblast, including Kharkiv. Officials urged residents to remain in shelters.

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- **Ukraine:** On May 25, air defence forces shot down 36 drones launched by Russia towards targets in western areas of the country. Heavy fighting has continued to centre around Kupiansk, Lyman, Bakhmut, Avdiivka and Maryinka.

Please be aware System Risk Management has asked all members to prohibit travel to extreme risk countries and regions. Please reference memorandum from the Chancellor regarding procedures relating to international travel to be followed by all System members found at this link:

<http://www.tamus.edu/assets/files/safety/pdf/InternationalTraveltoHighRiskCountries.pdf>

Should you have any questions, please contact me directly. Thank you.

**Charles A. Longoria, CRM | Associate Director**  
System Risk Management

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# COUNTRY TRAVEL ADVISORY LIST

Any travel to the below listed Extreme Risk countries or countries with an Extreme Risk region requires an International Travel Questionnaire submission to System Risk Management for review.



## EXTREME RISK COUNTRIES

- |                                   |                 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1) Afghanistan                    | 11) North Korea |
| 2) Belarus                        | 12) Russia      |
| 3) Burkina Faso                   | 13) Somalia     |
| 4) Burma (Myanmar)                | 14) South Sudan |
| 5) Central African Republic (CAR) | 15) Sudan       |
| 6) Haiti                          | 16) Syria       |
| 7) Iran                           | 17) Ukraine     |
| 8) Iraq                           | 18) Venezuela   |
| 9) Libya                          | 19) Yemen       |
| 10) Mali                          |                 |



## HIGH RISK COUNTRIES

- |                                           |                      |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1) Algeria                                | 15) India            |
| 2) Azerbaijan                             | 16) Israel           |
| 3) Burundi                                | 17) Kenya            |
| 4) Cameroon                               | 18) Lebanon          |
| 5) Chad                                   | 19) Mauritania       |
| 6) Colombia                               | 20) Mexico           |
| 7) Congo (Republic of)                    | 21) Niger            |
| 8) Cuba                                   | 22) Nigeria          |
| 9) Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) | 23) Pakistan         |
| 10) Ecuador                               | 24) Panama           |
| 11) Egypt                                 | 25) Papua New Guinea |
| 12) Eritrea                               | 26) Philippines      |
| 13) Ethiopia                              | 27) Saudi Arabia     |
| 14) Honduras                              | 28) Tunisia          |
|                                           | 29) Turkey           |

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# COUNTRY TRAVEL ADVISORY DETAILS BY RISK LEVEL



## Afghanistan

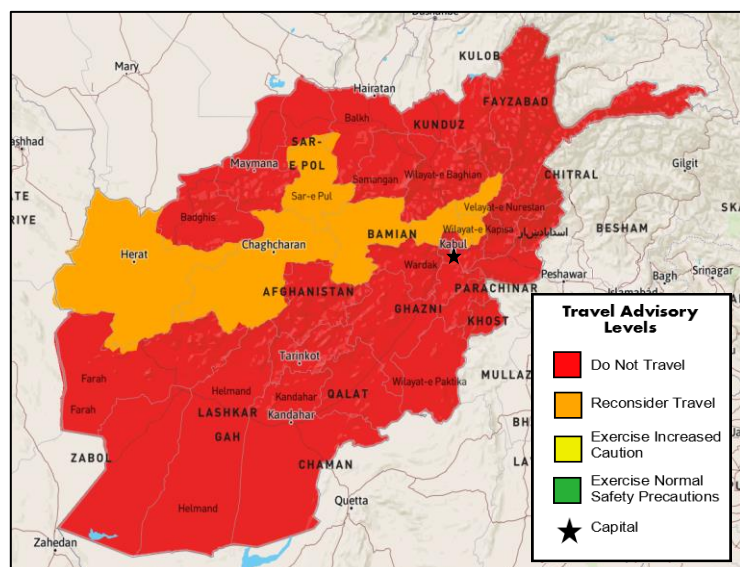
Risk Level: **Extreme**

### Country Overview:

It is advised to avoid all travel to Afghanistan. Travel is unsafe due to the unstable security situation involving armed conflict, terrorism, crime, and civil unrest. There is an extreme risk to personal safety and security because of widespread military operations, terrorism, and insurgent attacks, and high levels of kidnappings, hostage-taking, suicide bombings, landmines, and vehicle-borne or other improvised explosive devices. Due to extensive warlordism and lawlessness, Afghanistan has long been beset by weak governance in many regions.

The Taliban launched a sweeping offensive against government forces resulting in the complete collapse of the Afghan Government following the US-led withdrawal of foreign forces from the country. The U.S. negotiated a deal with the Taliban, which required the withdrawal of all foreign forces. The agreement ended the two decades of occupation by the U.S. and other foreign countries. With the Taliban's control of the country virtually unopposed, they have been swift to reverse reforms and are on a path of reinstating previously held policies.

The U.S. Embassy in Kabul suspended operations on August 31, 2021. While the U.S. government has withdrawn its personnel from Kabul, they continue to assist U.S. citizens and their families in Afghanistan from Doha, Qatar. It is advised to avoid traveling to Afghanistan due to the armed conflict.



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## Belarus

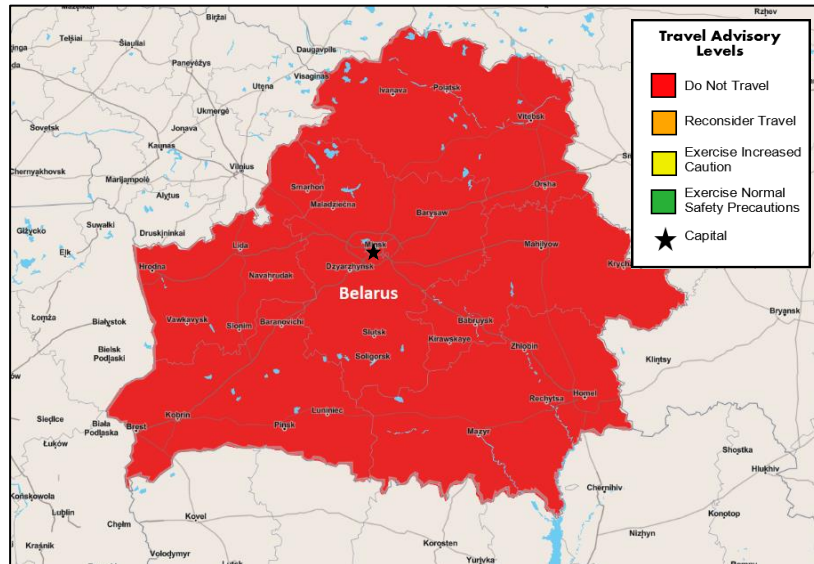
Risk Level: **Extreme**

### Country Overview:

The security situation in Belarus is extremely dangerous due to ongoing Russian military operations in Belarus and Russian military operations in Ukraine. Travel to Belarus is not advised due to the risk of arbitrary enforcement of laws, the Russian military attack on Ukraine, and Russian military operations.

The U.S. Embassy in Belarus has closed, and all U.S. consular services have been suspended. All U.S. government employees have departed the country, and it is advised to exit the country, exercise extreme caution and vigilance and avoid all public demonstrations. Belarusian authorities are known to detain individuals for suspicion of alleged affiliations with opposition parties or alleged participation in political demonstrations. The Belarusian Government has detained thousands of individuals in the past, and Belarusian authorities have targeted independent and foreign media. It forced a commercial aircraft transiting Belarusian airspace to stop and land to arrest an opposition journalist.

The Belarusian Government supports Russia's attack on Ukraine, with Russian military operations taking place in Belarus and the country facilitating the launch of Russian missile strikes into Ukraine. There is a heightened threat of conflict ensuing within Belarusian borders. The situation remains unpredictable and could escalate without warning. The following areas are considered exceptionally high risk due to Russian and Belarusian military presence; Yelsk, Rechitsa, Mazyr, Gomel, Bresk, Baranovich, and Asipovichy. Avoid all restricted areas and do not take photographs of any military activity or establishments, as it is illegal. The situation is calm throughout the rest of the country and Minsk but could change quickly and without warning. Some border crossings into Poland have been closed to vehicles, and more movement restrictions can be implemented at short notice, especially in the border regions.



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## Burkina Faso

Risk Level: **Extreme**

### Country Overview:

The security situation in Burkina Faso is highly dangerous, with some parts of the country being extremely unsafe. It is advised to avoid all travel to Burkina Faso due to terrorism and crime. There is a high risk to personal safety and security because of terrorist activity and common violent crimes.

On September 30, Burkina Faso's military Government was

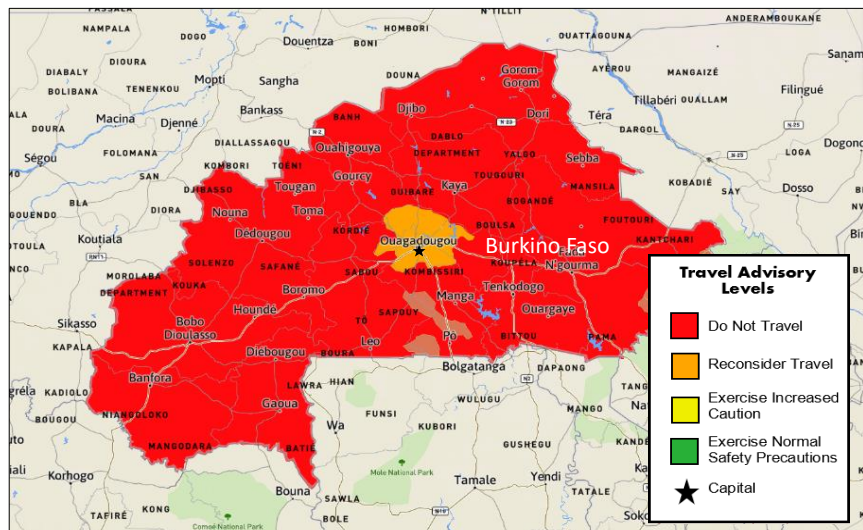
dissolved, the constitution and transitional charter suspended, and army Captain Ibrahim Traore deposed military leader Paul-Henri Damiba. Also, on September 30, security forces fired tear gas to disperse protesters who had gathered outside the French Embassy building in Ouagadougou. This came after Traore accused the side-lined Damiba of seeking refuge in the French base in Kamboisim and plotting a counteroffensive.

The latest episode of violence in Burkina Faso is also linked to the perceived failure of Damiba to suppress attacks from armed groups associated with ISIL (ISIS) and al-Qaeda. It also represents the second coup this year in the West African nation and the most recent in the Sahel region, following the overthrowing of Roch Kabore in January. In response, there has been widespread condemnation from the international community, including the United Nations (U.N.), the African Union (A.U.), and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), who have called for soldiers to return to their barracks.

General staff within the Burkina Faso army implied that the coup was a result of internal friction within the army and that dialogue between the conflicting parties was ongoing.

Westerners have been abducted and killed in Burkina Faso and the greater Sahel region. Kidnapping is still a serious concern throughout Burkina Faso, especially in Ouagadougou and the larger Sahel region. Additionally, there is a chance that terrorist organizations could enter Burkina Faso through the northern border with Niger and the border from Mali to carry out kidnapping attacks, particularly in Ouagadougou.

It is advised to avoid Soum in the north and the southeast on the border with Benin as these are active military zones. Civilians found in these areas risk getting caught up in ongoing military operations.



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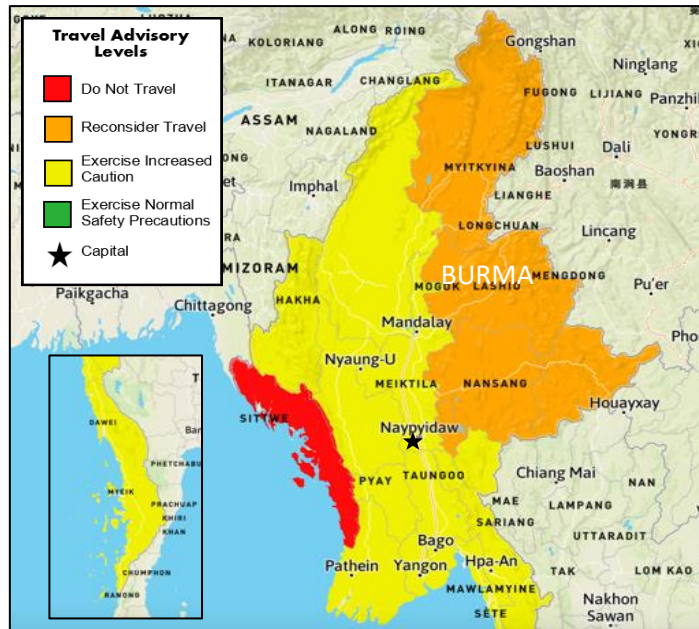
## Burma (Myanmar)

Risk Level: **Extreme**

### Country Overview:

The security situation in some parts of Myanmar is highly dangerous, with specific areas of the country being extremely unsafe. Due to civil unrest and armed conflict, it is advised not to travel to Myanmar. There is a high risk to personal safety and security because of fighting between the Myanmar military and various ethnic armed groups and militia forces.

It is advised to avoid all travel to Rakhine State due to civil unrest and armed conflict. Travel to townships in Chin State, Kayah State, Kachin State, and Shan State is not advised due to civil unrest and armed conflict. Travelers should avoid areas bordering China, Laos, Thailand, Bangladesh, and India.



On February 1, 2021, the former State Counsellor of Myanmar, Aung San Suu Kyi, was detained by the Myanmar military along with other senior figures from the ruling party over unsubstantiated election fraud claims. Since the coup, pro and anti-military rallies have been held in Yangon and Mandalay daily and often escalate into violence, with security forces regularly firing live ammunition at protestors. Hundreds of protestors have been killed, including children, resulting in widespread international condemnation. On August 1, 2021, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing declared himself Prime Minister, and August 2023 was the provisional date for new elections and an end to the state of emergency.

Aung San Suu Kyi has been found guilty in her series of trials and sentenced to 26 years in prison. The charges are seen as politically motivated, and the international community considers the trials illegal.

A state of emergency remains in place across Myanmar. The security situation in Myanmar is unpredictable and liable to change without notice. Current townships under martial law are Hlaing Thaya, Shwe Pyithar, North Okkalapa, North Dagon, South Dagon, and Dagon Seakkan, but these are subject to change.

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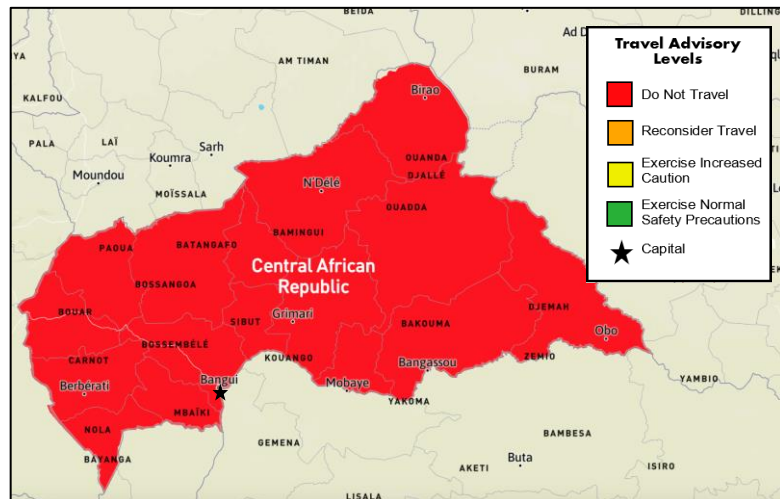
## Central African Republic

Risk Level: **Extreme**

### Country Overview:

The security situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) is dangerous. It is advised to avoid all travel to the CAR, if possible. Travel is unsafe due to civil unrest and crime. There is an extreme risk to personal safety and security because of sectarian violence by armed groups and everyday criminal activities, such as armed robbery, aggravated battery, and homicide.

Although there have been no specific incidents of violence or threats explicitly targeting U.S. citizens, civil unrest, demonstrations, and post-election violence (including renewed outbreaks of armed conflict) continue to be a threat.



Tensions remain high, and the potential for further violent attacks is highly likely across the country with little to no notice. Attacks on groups and individuals (including carjackings) can happen anytime.

For essential travel to rural areas, avoid travel after dark and move only in a convoy with a security escort. A national curfew is in place, which comes into effect at 10 pm and ends at 5 am. You should follow the Government's instructions and avoid traveling around Bangui during these hours.

There are confirmed reports of a haemorrhagic fever outbreak in the Central African Republic, resulting in four deaths. The cases were reported in the city of Kabo in the Ouham-Fafa Prefecture, 60km south of the border with Chad. Areas bordering the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are at risk of Ebola outbreaks; exercise increased caution when traveling to these areas.

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## Haiti

Risk Level: **Extreme**

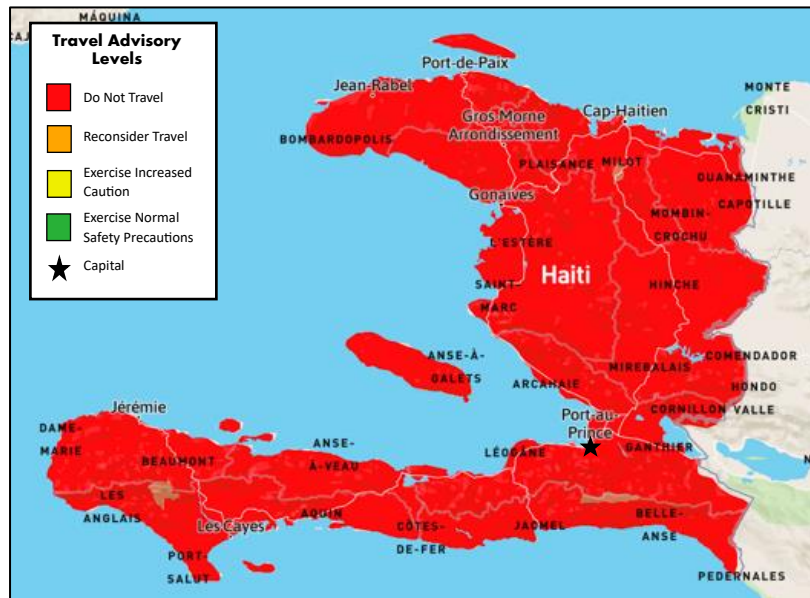
### Country Overview:

The security situation in Haiti is unstable and extremely dangerous. It is advised to avoid all travel to Haiti due to civil unrest and crime. There is a high risk to personal safety and security due to the widespread violent and unpredictable demonstrations in Port-au-Prince and elsewhere in the country.

Haiti has been gripped by violent protests and riots since early July 2018, leaving dozens of people dead. The country is currently plagued by severe fuel shortages, which have impacted essential service provision countrywide. Medical services, electricity, and communications have been heavily affected. Travelers are advised to ensure they have adequate supplies for their stay.

Gang conflict has intensified in the capital, with heavily armed gangs seizing sections of the city from government authority. Estimates place gangs in control of approximately 60% of the city. Kidnappings in the city are on the rise, as gangs target people going to and from work. The country is also experiencing an acute food shortage, with nearly half the country's population facing hunger and a recent surge in cholera.

It is advised to avoid all travel to Haiti, mainly to avoid the Bel Air, Carrefour, Cité Soleil, and Martissant neighborhoods in Port-au-Prince. Do not drive through roadblocks; if you come across a roadblock, turn around and get to a safe area. Travelers are sometimes followed, violently attacked, and robbed shortly after leaving Port-au-Prince. The U.S. Embassy requires personnel to use official transportation to and from the airport. Robbers and carjackers have attacked private vehicles stuck in heavy traffic congestion and often target lone drivers, particularly women driving alone.



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## Iran

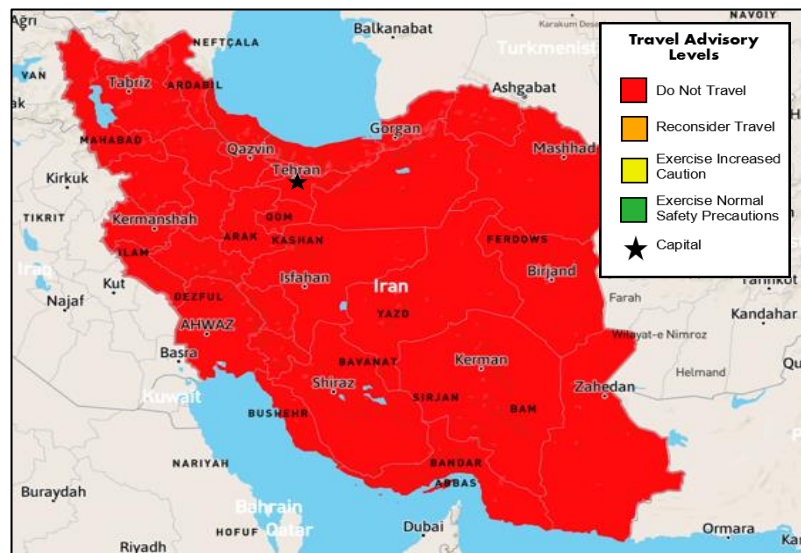
Risk Level: **Extreme**

### Country Overview:

The security situation in Iran is extremely dangerous, with specific parts of the country being extremely unsafe. Travel to Iran is not advised due to arbitrary arrest and detention risk. Iran experienced one of the highest incidences of COVID-19 in the Middle East. The risk of community transmission remains high and extreme caution is advised. Iran has begun lifting its lockdown and resuming business activity.

U.S. citizens visiting or residing in Iran have been kidnapped, arrested, and detained on spurious charges. Iranian authorities continue to detain and imprison U.S. citizens unjustly, particularly dual national Iranian Americans, including students, journalists, business travelers, and academics, on charges including espionage and posing a threat to national security. Iranian authorities routinely delay consular access to detained U.S. citizens and consistently deny consular access to dual U.S.-Iranian citizens. The U.S. government does not have diplomatic or consular relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. The U.S. government cannot provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in Iran.

It is advised that all visitors to Iran avoid travel to border areas surrounding Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, including Sistan and Baluchistan province and regions east of Bam in Kerman province, until further notice due to the risk of violent unrest and cross-border clashes. Visitors to eastern border regions are strongly advised to avoid loitering in the vicinity of military checkpoints, outposts, and personnel. For extended travel between cities, consider contracting a reputable local guide. Immediately report suspicious behavior and packages to local authorities. Be aware of vehicles traveling in a convoy. The Iranian military regularly disguises troop movements by transporting them in unmarked vehicles, making convoys an attractive target for militants.



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## Iraq

Risk Level: **Extreme**

### Country Overview:

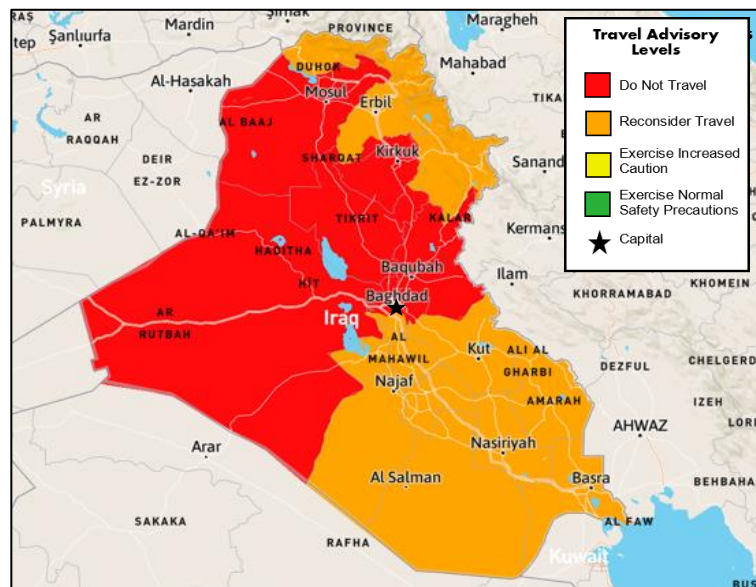
The security situation in Iraq is extremely dangerous. It is advised to avoid traveling to Iraq. Travel is unsafe due to terrorism, kidnapping, and armed conflict. There is also an extreme risk to personal safety and security because of active insurgent and terrorist groups, sectarian militias, and high levels of violence, including kidnappings, suicide bombings, and vehicle-borne or other improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

Iraq remains subject to regional tensions. Militia groups opposed to the Western presence in Iraq continue to threaten Western interests in Iraq, including through attacks on Global Coalition military bases, diplomatic premises, and foreign nationals. Following the October 2021 elections, there have been long-drawn-out negotiations on government formation, leading to protests primarily in Baghdad in and around the International Zone. The fractious election has also stirred conflict within Shiite political groups, with conflicts erupting between different factions. The security situation remains uncertain and could deteriorate with little warning.

Protests and demonstrations are volatile and can happen at any moment. It is advised to avoid rallies, marches, and gatherings.

Turkey has a regular military presence in the north of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). There is a particular risk in mountainous areas, especially in and around the Qandil, Makhmur, and areas bordering Turkey. Iran has claimed responsibility for recent ballistic rockets and drone attacks in Erbil, Koya, and surrounding areas.

Avoid areas near the Turkish, Syrian, and Iranian borders. There are continuous military operations against insurgent groups in the regions bordering Iraq and armed conflict at the Syrian border. U.S. citizens should not travel from Iraq to Syria to engage in armed conflict. They would face extreme personal risks (kidnapping, injury, or death) and legal risks (arrest, fines, and expulsion). The Kurdistan Regional Government stated that it would impose prison sentences of up to ten years on individuals illegally crossing the border. Additionally, fighting on behalf of, or supporting designated terrorist organizations, is a crime that can result in penalties, including prison time and hefty fines in the United States.



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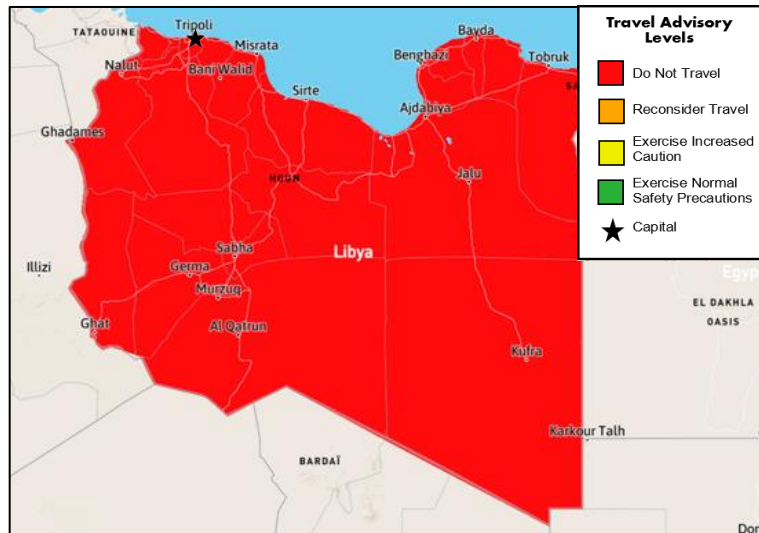


## Libya

Risk Level: **Extreme**

### Country Overview:

The security situation in Libya is extremely dangerous. It is advised to avoid travel to Libya. Travel is unsafe due to armed conflict, terrorism, civil unrest, and crime. There is an extreme risk to personal safety and security because of high levels of terrorist activity and corruption, including kidnapping for ransom, suicide bombings, and the use of vehicle-borne or other improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Terrorist groups continue plotting attacks in Libya. Violent extremist activity in Libya remains high, and extremist groups have made threats against U.S. government officials and citizens. Terrorists may attack with little or no warning, targeting tourist locations, hotels, transportation hubs, markets/shopping malls, and government facilities.



Libya's political and security situation remains volatile and extremely dangerous, and the advice to avoid all travel to Libya has remained in place since 2014. Since April 2019, militarized forces have appeared across western and central Libya, resulting in frequent heavily armed clashes occurring south and west of Tripoli. Military and inter-militia clashing continue to threaten air travel leading to the suspension and closure of airports. The U.S. government has prohibited any U.S. commercial aviation operations within Libyan airspace due to concerns about terrorist groups targeting commercial transportation.

The 2021 Libyan election is effectively on permanent hold as no significant political actor in the country shows any interest in preparing for an election that will likely see them lose power. Recent protests in the country have signaled a growing dissatisfaction amongst the electorate for the current defacto rulers: internationally recognized Prime Minister Hamid Dbeibah and renegade militant commander Khalifa Haftar. Civil unrest is likely as the current delays continue. Outbreaks of violence between competing armed groups can occur with little warning and potentially impact U.S. citizens.

The capital, Tripoli, and other cities, such as Surman, Al-Jufra, Misrata, Ajdabiya, Benghazi, Sabha, and Derna, have witnessed fighting among armed groups and terrorist attacks. Hotels and airports frequented by Westerners have been the targets of these attacks. Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. Militia or armed groups sometimes detain travelers for arbitrary reasons, do not grant detainees access to a lawyer or a legal process, and do not allow detainees to inform others of their status. The U.S. government cannot provide emergency or routine assistance to U.S. citizens in Libya, as the U.S. Embassy in Tripoli suspended its operations in July 2014.

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## Mali

Risk Level: **Extreme**

### Country Overview:

The security situation in Mali is extremely dangerous. It is advised to avoid traveling to Mali. Travel is unsafe due to political instability, crime, and terrorism. There is an extreme risk to personal safety and security because of terrorist activity and violent crimes such as kidnapping and armed robbery.

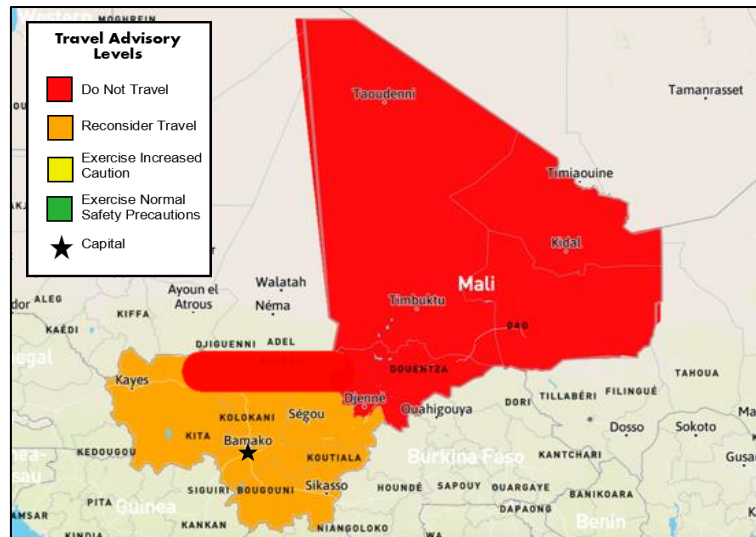
In Mali, violent crimes such as kidnapping and armed robbery are common. Violent crime is prevalent during seasonal events and local holidays, especially in Mali's southern regions and Bamako suburbs. It is common to see random police checkpoints and roadblocks at night throughout the country. Armed groups and terrorists continually plague Mali with kidnappings and attacks with little or no warning. They often target nightclubs, restaurants, places of worship, hotels, Western diplomatic missions, and other locations that foreigners frequently visit.

Terrorist attacks are likely to be carried out in Mali. Although kidnapping is particularly prevalent in the northern and central parts of the country, kidnappings occur elsewhere across Mali.

There is an extreme risk to personal safety and security to Westerners in Bamako as the Al-Qaeda-affiliated terrorist group, Jamaat Nusrat al-Islam wal Muslimeen (JNIM), publicly stated their intention to conduct attacks in Bamako. The U.S. government has ordered all U.S. government employees and families to depart the country due to the increase in terrorist attacks carried out in areas frequented by Westerners.

In Mali, thousands of foreign troops are leaving due to escalating violence, expanding Russian influence, and a severe humanitarian catastrophe. Since their initial deployment a decade ago, thousands of French troops and U.N. peacekeepers have failed to stop large portions of Mali from falling under the control of an Islamic extremist insurgency affiliated with organizations like al-Qaida and the Islamic State.

Anti-government unrest is expected to continue, arising over a host of issues. These include national strikes by police and teachers' unions, arrests of anti-corruption activists, allegations of voter fraud in the March legislative elections, inter-communal clashes in northern and central regions, and the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.



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## North Korea

Risk Level: **Extreme**

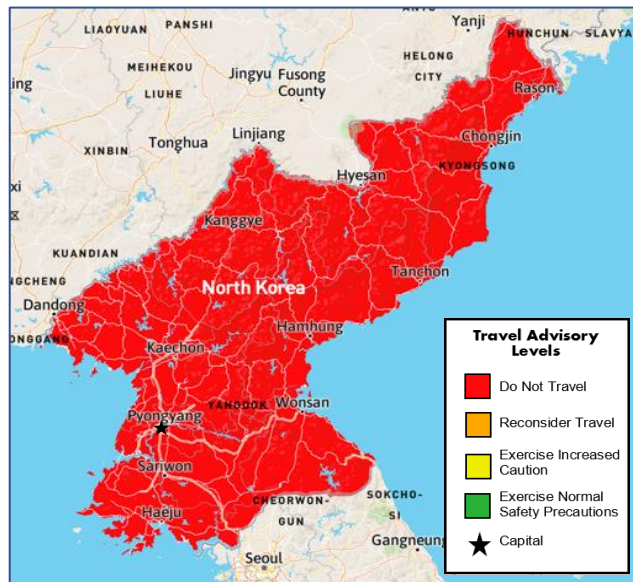
### Country Overview:

It is advised to avoid all travel to North Korea. The security situation remains volatile on the Korean peninsula, and North Korea's political tensions can change with little notice and no warning and propose an extreme risk to visitors.

Travel is unsafe due to the severe risk of arrest and long-term detention. In addition, U.S. passports are not valid for travel to, in, or through North Korea without specific validation from the U.S. Department of State. Special validations are granted only in limited circumstances.

During the second day of a key Workers' Party meeting, Kim Jong Un revealed new plans for his country's military, which point to more intense weapons testing and regional tension in the coming year.

The U.S. government cannot provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in North Korea as it does not have diplomatic or consular relations with North Korea. Sweden serves as the protecting power for the United States in North Korea, providing limited emergency services. The North Korean Government routinely delays or denies Swedish officials access to detained U.S. citizens.



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## Russia

Risk Level: **Extreme**

### Country Overview:

In some parts of Russia, the security situation is highly dangerous, with specific areas extremely unsafe. It is advised to exercise increased caution in Russia due to terrorism, harassment, and the arbitrary enforcement of local laws. There is an overall moderate risk to personal safety and security throughout the rest of the country due to terrorist groups continuing to plot attacks.



It is advised to avoid all travel to parts of the North Caucasus region (including the Mount Elbrus area), such as Chechnya, Dagestan, Ingushetia, North Ossetia, and the southeast part of Stavropol bordering Chechnya, Kabardino-Balkaria, and Karachay-Cherkessia; and within 10km of the border with the Ukrainian Donetsk and Lugansk Oblasts. It is further advised to limit all but essential travel to the Ukrainian Kharkiv Oblast within 20km of the border.

Russia enforces special restrictions on dual U.S.- Russian nationals. It may refuse to acknowledge dual U.S.- Russia nationals' U.S. citizenship, including denying U.S. consular assistance to detained dual citizens and preventing their departure from Russia. Due to the Russian government-imposed reduction in U.S. diplomatic personnel, the U.S. government may delay providing services to U.S. citizens, especially in the Saint Petersburg area.

Russia launched a full-scale attack on Ukraine on February 24, 2022, which is still ongoing. As a result, western nations have placed severe economic sanctions against Moscow with far-reaching effects on those in the country. Russian forces have faced setbacks after making initial gains, occupying nearly a fifth of Ukraine. As Russian forces continue to suffer frontline losses, there is a threat of the use of chemical and nuclear weapons as the war continues.

The Russian Government lifted the remaining COVID-19 entry restrictions on October 21, 2022, including the need to produce a negative PCR test on arrival. Random testing may still take place on arrival in Russia. Currently, there are a limited number of air links and rail routes to Russia due to sanctions.

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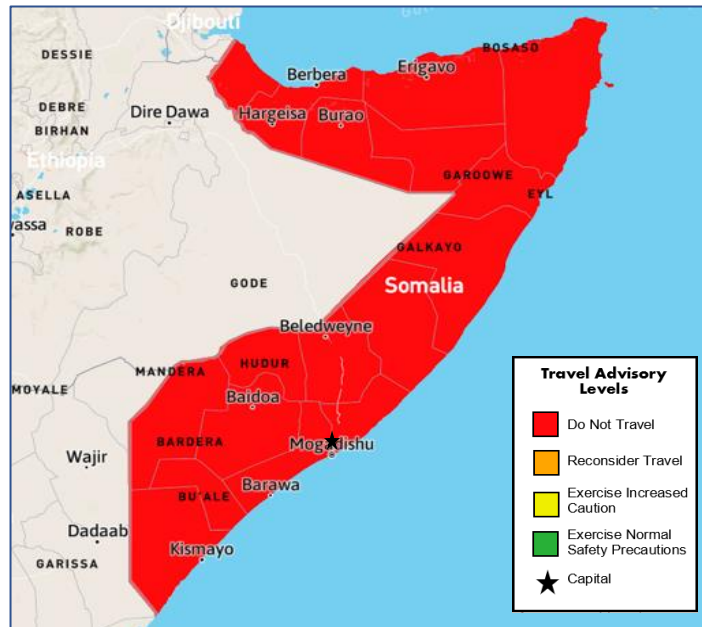
## Somalia

Risk Level: **Extreme**

### Country Overview:

It is advised to avoid traveling to Somalia. The security situation in Somalia is extremely dangerous. Travel is unsafe due to crime, terrorism, and piracy at the hands of armed militia. There is an extreme risk to personal safety and security because of terrorist activity and violent crime, such as kidnapping and murder, which are common throughout the country.

Al-Shabaab has lost control of a significant portion of its southern and central Somalia territory due to the success of the Africa Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM)-led Operation Indian Ocean offensive. Along with the regular cross-border fighting, Somalia has multiple violent risks that can endanger travelers and residents. There is a current outbreak of Polio that has the potential to impact travelers. Medical facilities across Somalia have limited capacity and are often non-existent in rural areas.



Violent crime, such as kidnapping and murder, is common throughout Somalia, including Puntland and Somaliland. Illegal roadblocks are also widespread. Several schools acting as "cultural rehabilitation" facilities operate throughout Somalia with unknown licensing and oversight. Reports of physical abuse and people being held against their will in these facilities are common.

Terrorists continue to plot kidnappings, bombings, and other attacks in Somalia. They may conduct attacks with little or no warning, targeting airports and seaports, government buildings, hotels, restaurants, shopping areas, and other areas where large crowds gather and Westerners frequent, as well as Government, military, and Western convoys. Attack methods include car bombs, suicide bombers, individual attackers, and mortar fire.

Cases of Dengue Fever have been reported in Somalia. Despite the Government's acknowledgment of the disease and its confirmation in all parts of the country, it has repeatedly minimized its lethality and has not released official statistics on infection and mortality rates but has issued National Guidelines on the Management of Dengue Fever and Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever.

The U.S. government has minimal ability to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in Somalia due to the lack of permanent consular presence.

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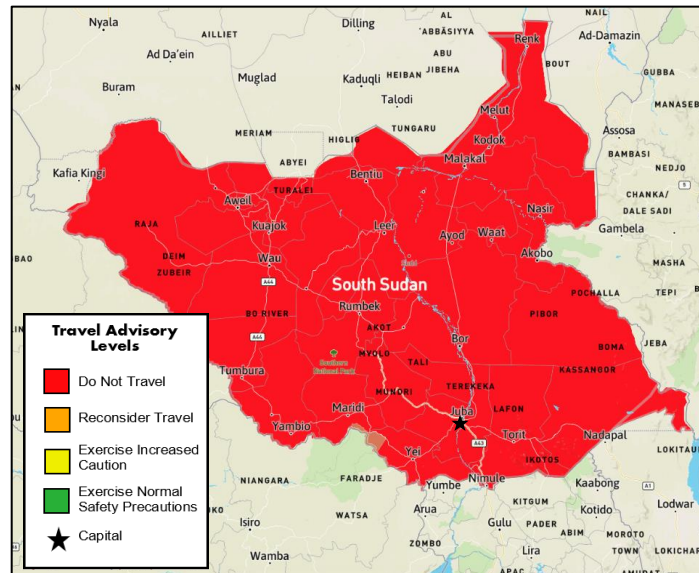


## South Sudan

Risk Level: **Extreme**

### Country Overview:

The security situation in South Sudan is extremely dangerous. Travel is unsafe due to crime and armed conflict. There is an extreme risk to personal safety and security because of armed clashes, border disputes, ethnic violence, and crime, including carjacking, shootings, ambushes, assaults, robberies, and kidnappings. Travelers to South Sudan should ensure that they have comprehensive contingency plans that do not depend on support from the Embassy. U.S. government personnel in South Sudan are under strict curfew, they require armored vehicles for nearly all movements, and official travel outside Juba is limited.



Foreign nationals have been the victims of rape, sexual assault, armed robberies, and other violent crimes. Armed conflict is ongoing throughout the country and includes fighting between various political and ethnic groups, and weapons are readily available to the population. Journalist work is also very hazardous and illegal without the proper documentation.

It is advised to avoid all travel to South Sudan.

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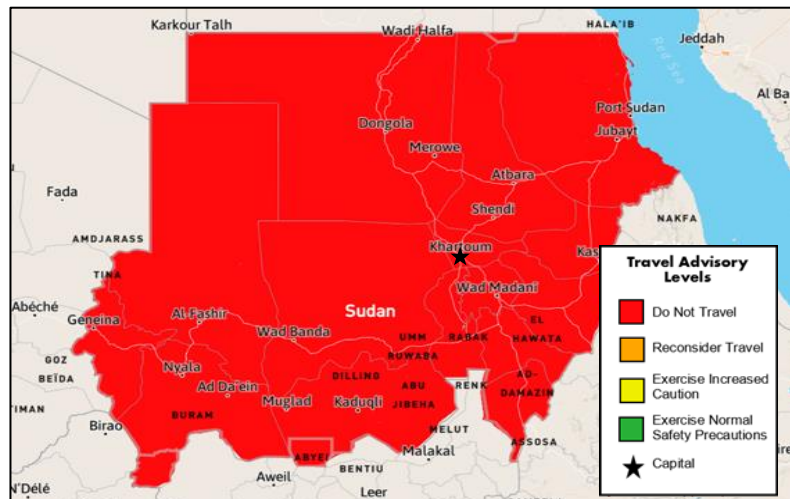
## Sudan

Risk Level: **Extreme**

### Country Overview:

The security situation in Sudan is extremely dangerous. Travel is unsafe due to crime, terrorism, kidnapping, and armed conflict. Armed conflict and criminal activity are mainly present in contested regions, although kidnappings, armed robberies, and carjacking occur in all parts of the country.

After months of intense protests, Sudan's journey to democratic rule has been fragile since the April 2019 military ouster of the long-time ruler Omar al-Bashir. A power-sharing agreement was established to form a government involving the military, civilian representatives, and protest groups. However, a second military coup on October 25, 2021, reignited the ongoing political crisis. An agreement in November to reinstate a civilian government led to the reinstatement of the Prime Minister, who resigned in January 2022. Since then, ongoing efforts and talks have been made to resolve the crisis, but the political situation remains fragile.



Fighting between the military and paramilitary forces erupted in Khartoum on April 15, 2023. The conflict has caused significant damage to the city, and the violence has quickly spread throughout the country, resulting in civilian casualties. The security situation is unstable, with reports of looting, sexual assaults, and attacks on foreigners and international organization employees.

Access to essential services, including hospitals, food, water, medication, and fuel, has been disrupted, and the telecommunication network is unreliable. Commercial flights to all airports have been halted, and Chad has closed its border with Sudan. Overland travel is highly hazardous.

Crimes, such as kidnapping, armed robbery, home invasion, and carjacking, happen regularly and are more frequent outside of Khartoum. Members of known terrorist groups and individuals sympathetic to these groups in Sudan could attack with little to no warning, targeting foreign and local government facilities and areas frequented by Westerners. Demonstrations can occur with no warning. The most recent protests in Khartoum have been peaceful. However, police and other security forces may intervene to disperse demonstrators, including tear gas, when protests occur near key governmental locations and impair freedom of movement. Avoiding all travel within 20km of the border with Eritrea, Ethiopia, and the al-Fashaga region is advised.

Sudan is experiencing an outbreak of Dengue fever. Dengue fever is a mosquito-borne illness that typically spreads close to still water sources. As of January, there were 844 confirmed cases and 5,358 suspected cases of the disease, according to the Sudanese Health Ministry.

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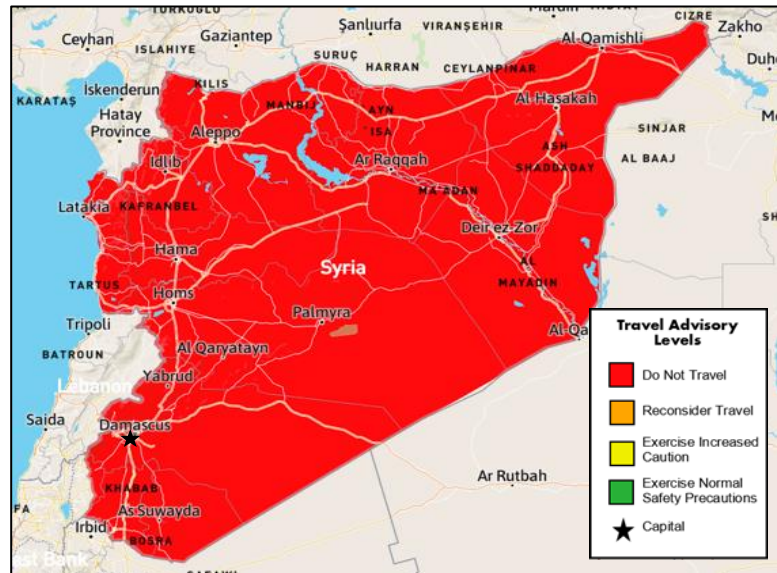
## Syria

Risk Level: **Extreme**

### Country Overview:

In Syria, the security situation is exceptionally dangerous. It is advised to avoid traveling to Syria. Travel is unsafe due to armed conflict, terrorism, and civil unrest. There is an extreme risk to personal safety and security because no part of Syria is considered safe from violence. Widespread military operations involving chemical warfare, shelling, and aerial bombardment have significantly raised the risk of death or severe injury.

In northern Syria, Turkish air attacks pose a threat to United States military personnel, and the escalating situation threatens years of progress against ISIL (ISIS). Throughout Syria, security status and situations are extremely fragile and can escalate into deadly armed clashes without warning.



The U.S. has not publicly condemned NATO ally Turkey's air operations against Kurdish-led YPG (People's Protection Units) forces in northern Syria. In 2012 the U.S. Embassy, located in Damascus, suspended its operations. Currently, the Czech Republic provides protection power for the United States in Syria. Consular services that the Czech Republic provides to U.S. citizens are extremely limited (including accepting applications for U.S. passports and U.S. Consular Reports of Birth Abroad, as well as providing notarial services), and the U.S. government is unable to provide any emergency services to U.S. citizens in Syria. U.S. citizens who seek consular services should try to leave the country and contact a U.S. embassy or consulate in a neighboring country quickly and safely.

Long-standing conflict with neighboring states and porous borders has contributed to a complex and unpredictable security environment. There is a continuous risk of kidnapping and detention of U.S. citizens and Westerners throughout the country. U.S. citizens remain a target, with many abductions since mid-2012 and as recently as early 2019. U.S. citizens are targets of arbitrary abduction and detention by the Syrian Government and do not have access to medical attention or due process while in detention. The Government detention centers are known to be unsanitary facilities where inhumane, cruel, and degrading treatment of detainees has been documented, as well as torture and extrajudicial killings. Several international commercial flights from and to Damascus International Airport are now operational. It is, however, advised to avoid all travel to Syria.

Cities in northern Syria have yet to recover from the major 7.5 earthquake that struck the Gaziantep region of Southeast Turkey on February 6, 2023. The reported death toll sits at 7,200, with damage estimated to be in excess of \$5 billion (USD).

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## Ukraine

Risk Level: **Extreme**

### Country Overview:

It is advised to avoid all travel to Ukraine. The security situation in eastern Ukraine is dangerous, with some areas considered highly unsafe. Due to Russia's invasion, there is a heightened risk to personal safety and security throughout Ukraine.

On February 24, 2022, Russia launched an invasion of Ukraine with ground and air attacks on major Ukrainian cities, including its capital, Kyiv. Russia's military moved into Ukraine from Crimea, Donetsk, and Luhansk territories and across the Russian Northern border and neighboring northern country Belarus. Preliminary attacks focused on Kyiv, Kharkiv, Odesa, and Mariupol. Ukrainian forces have rallied and begun a series of offensives against captured territories, making significant gains and retaking lost villages, towns, and cities.



Do not travel to Crimea as the international community, including the United States and Ukraine, does not recognize Russia's annexation. There are continuing abuses against foreigners and the local population by the occupation authorities in Crimea, particularly against those who challenge their influence on the peninsula.

Occupation authorities reportedly abused and arbitrarily imprisoned both foreigners and some of the local population. They mainly target individuals who oppose Russia's occupation of the peninsula. It is advised to avoid all travel to Ukraine due to military activity. There is a real risk to life, and it is recommended to leave the country if you deem it safe. Ukrainian airspace is closed, and most evacuations from the country are via its western borders into neighboring countries. Martial law remains in place, and travelers should follow the instructions and advice of the Ukrainian authorities.

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## Venezuela

Risk Level: **Extreme**

### Country Overview:

The security situation in Venezuela is extremely dangerous. Travel is unsafe due to ongoing political instability, crime, poor health infrastructure, and arbitrary arrest and detention of foreign nationals. Political marches and demonstrations, which occasionally become violent, are frequent in all areas, and crimes like homicide, armed robbery, kidnapping, drug trafficking, and carjacking are common.

Demonstrations typically elicit a strong police and security force response that includes tear gas, pepper spray, water cannons, and rubber bullets against participants and occasionally devolves into looting and vandalism. The United Nations Human Rights Council's Fact-Finding Mission reported that the regime has engaged in thousands of extrajudicial killings.



Some of Venezuela's land and sea borders are subject to closure. U.S. citizens residing or traveling in Venezuela are advised to depart the country. Consular access to detained U.S. citizens is severely restricted, and the U.S. government is unlikely to be granted access. Security forces have arbitrarily detained U.S. citizens for long periods. Venezuelan authorities may not notify the U.S. government of the detention of a U.S. citizen.

Since March 11, 2019, the U.S. Department of State has suspended all operations at the U.S. Embassy in Caracas and has withdrawn all diplomatic personnel from Venezuela. The U.S. has suspended all nonstop flights between Venezuela and the U.S. until further notice.

There are shortages of food, electricity, water, medicine, and medical supplies throughout much of Venezuela, and it is advised to avoid all non-essential travel. No formal tourism industry infrastructure is in place, and emergency consular support is extremely limited or may be unavailable altogether. Travelers are advised to avoid the area within a 50-mile radius along the entire Venezuelan-Colombian border.

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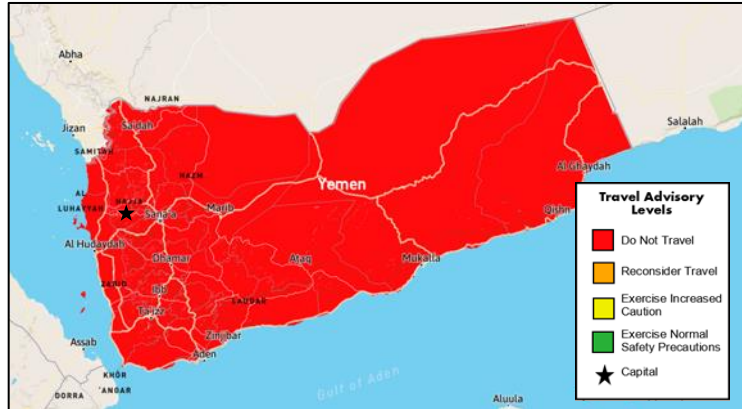


# Yemen

Risk Level: **Extreme**

### Country Overview:

The security situation in Yemen is extremely dangerous. Travel is unsafe due to armed conflict, terrorism, and civil unrest. There is an extreme risk to health and personal safety because of ongoing military conflict, heightened terrorist activity, kidnappings for ransom, and unlawful detentions by rebel groups. Employees of western organizations may be targeted for attack or abduction. Military conflict has caused significant destruction of infrastructure, housing, medical facilities, schools, and power and water utilities. This limits the availability of electricity, clean water, and medical care.



The U.S. Embassy in Sana'a suspended its operations in February 2015, and the U.S. government cannot provide emergency services to U.S. citizens. Cholera is also present throughout Yemen, and the provision of adequate medical supplies is either extremely limited or unavailable.

There is a very high risk of kidnapping, and detention of U.S. citizens in Yemen, particularly dual-national Yemeni Americans. Rebel groups in Sana'a have detained U.S. citizens, including dual Yemeni American citizens. U.S. citizens, including dual nationals, have faced difficulty departing Yemen, including lengthy delays.

There are reports of companies outside of Yemen offering tourist visits to the Yemeni island of Socotra and misrepresenting the security situation in the area. They include facilitating unofficial and invalid visas to the region. The sovereign Republic of Yemen Government is the only entity that can issue valid Yemeni visas. U.S. citizens should not travel to Socotra or any part of Yemen.

It is advised to avoid all travel to Yemen.



## HIGH RISK COUNTRIES

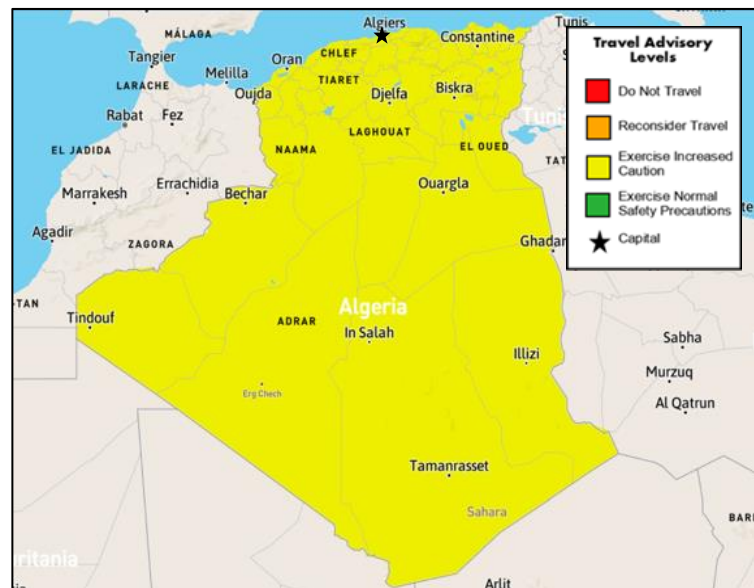


### Algeria

Risk Level: **Moderate Risk**

#### Country Overview:

In some parts of Algeria, the security situation is highly dangerous, with specific areas being extremely unsafe. It is advised to exercise increased caution in Algeria due to terrorism. There is a moderate risk to personal safety and security because terrorists are likely to carry out attacks, including kidnappings, and civil disturbances sometimes occur throughout the country. Since February 2019, mass protests have taken place across Algeria, demanding immediate political reform. Travelers should avoid political gatherings and demonstrations and follow local advice.



Avoid traveling to rural areas within 50 km (31 miles) of the border with Tunisia and within 250 km (155 miles) of Libya, Niger, Mali, and Mauritania due to terrorism and criminal activities, including kidnapping.

The Algerian authorities lifted all entry requirements related to Covid-19 on October 30, 2022. There is a limited commercial flight schedule and a high demand for flights. Many airlines show flights as bookable but continue to get canceled shortly before scheduled departures. It is advised to contact airlines directly when making a booking and receive confirmation that the schedule will be running.

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## Azerbaijan

Risk Level: **Moderate Risk**

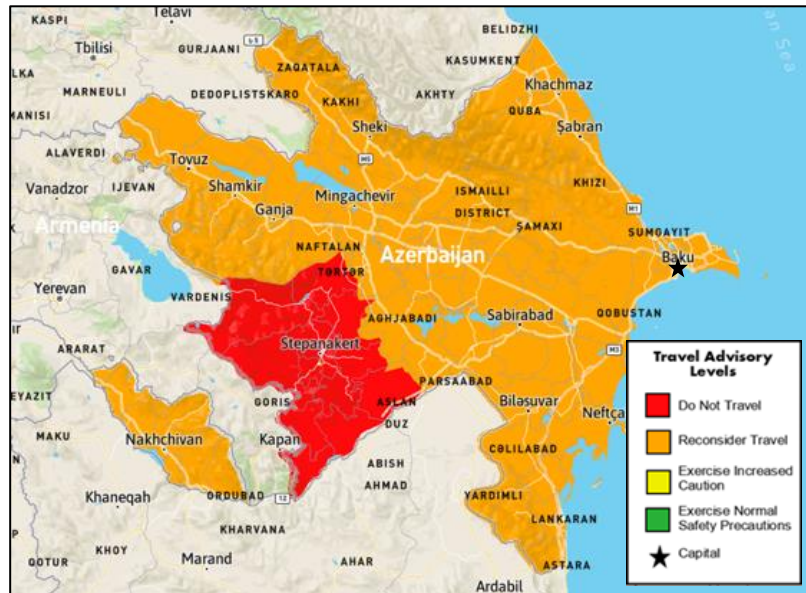
### Country Overview:

The security situation in some parts of Azerbaijan is highly dangerous, with specific areas being extremely unsafe. It is advised to reconsider travel to Azerbaijan due to terrorism and armed conflict risk. There is a moderate threat to personal safety and security because terrorist groups continue to plot attacks as casualties occur in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict with Armenia.

Azerbaijan and Armenia have seen the worst fighting in decades over the Nagorno-Karabakh disputed territory, with reports of over 1,000 civilian casualties. On November 9, 2020, a peace deal was signed by Russia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan after six weeks of fighting between Azerbaijan and ethnic Armenians. Effective November 10, the peace deal aims to resolve the dispute but is seen as a win for Azerbaijan. The region is recognized internationally as Azerbaijani but has been governed by ethnic Armenians since 1994. Clashes between Azerbaijani and Armenian forces infrequently occur over the disputed region; however, with international assistance, the two countries reinstated the ceasefire relatively quickly after a flare-up.

The occasional use of artillery systems, including land mines, mortars, and intermittent gunfire, has resulted in casualties each year in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Roads near the 'line of contact' and the international border between Armenia and Azerbaijan should be avoided. Some areas still contain unexploded ordinances (UXO), including the towns and rayons of Ganja, Tartar, Barda, Beylagan, and Aghjabadi. Efforts to remove these UXO are currently underway, and it is advised not to touch or approach any UXO but rather to warn Azerbaijani authorities immediately. The U.S. government cannot provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in Nagorno-Karabakh as access is restricted.

Travelers are advised to avoid all travel to Nagorno-Karabakh and its surrounding regions.



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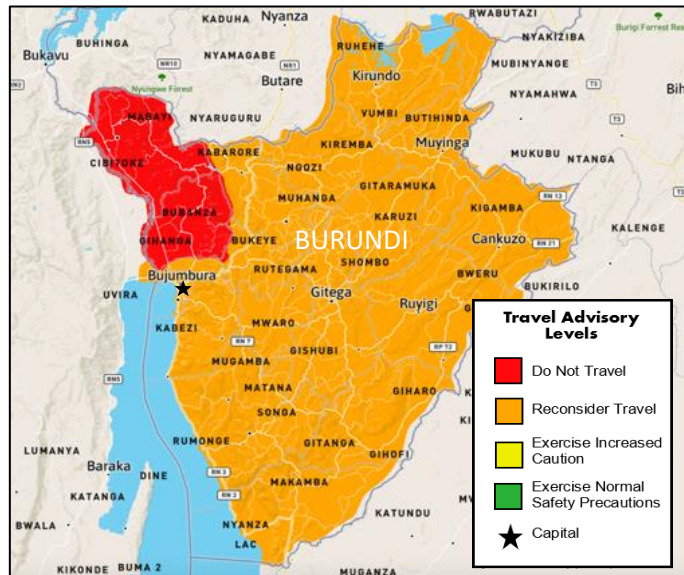
## Burundi

Risk Level: **High Risk**

### Country Overview:

The security situation in Burundi is highly dangerous, with some regions of the country being extremely unsafe. It is advised to reconsider travel to Burundi. There is a high risk to personal safety and security because of ongoing political tensions, sporadic violence, clashes by armed groups, and serious crimes, such as armed robbery.

It is advised to avoid all travel to Cibitoke and Bubanza provinces; areas of Bujumbura Rural province west of the Rusizi river towards the Democratic Republic of the Congo border, except for the Rusizi Delta Nature Reserve; Ruvubu National Park; the road north of Bujumbura airport towards Cibitoke; and the main road running west from Kayanza through the Kibira National Park. It is also advised to limit all but essential travel to the rest of Burundi (excluding airside transit through Bujumbura International Airport).



The country's first-ever Rift Valley Fever (RVF) outbreak, a disease that primarily affects livestock, was reported in April 2022. The Government's response was to prohibit the slaughter of cattle, goats, and sheep. There are no reports of humans contracting the disease in Burundi; however, human infection remains possible through mosquito bites or for people in direct contact with infected animals.

In Burundi, the U.S. government has limited ability to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens. As a consequence of travel restrictions on U.S. Embassy personnel, the U.S. government is not able to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in the following areas of Burundi: the provinces of Bubanza and Cibitoke, Kibira National Park (including the park's southernmost part in Muramvya province), and Ruvubu and Buriri Forest.

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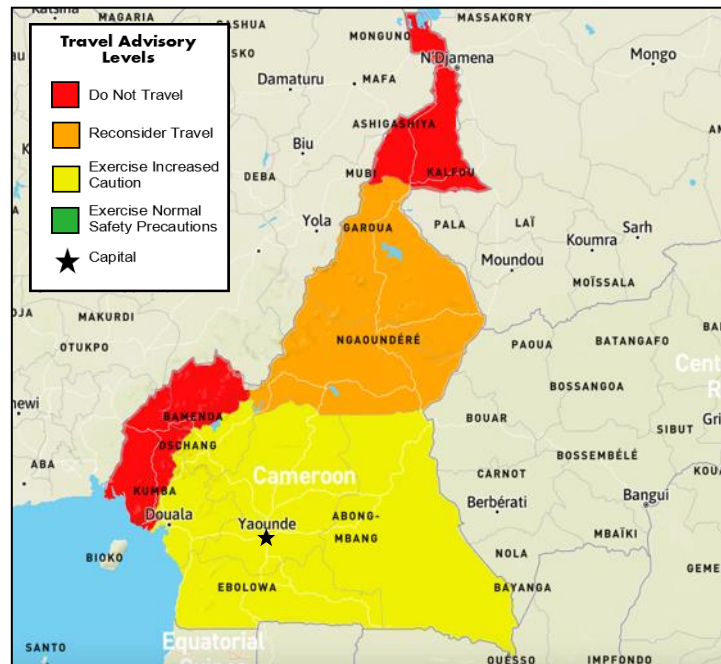
## Cameroon

Risk Level: **Moderate Risk**

### Country Overview:

The security situation in certain parts of Cameroon is extremely dangerous. It is advised to exercise increased caution in Cameroon due to crime, civil unrest, and terrorism. There is an overall moderate risk to personal safety and security because of terrorist activity in Northern and Eastern Cameroon and violent crime, such as kidnapping, armed robbery, assault, and common carjacking.

There have also been multiple clashes between security forces and armed groups over the past year in many places in the Northwest and Southwest regions, including in the towns of Bafut, Tubah, Ndu, Widikum, and Lebialem division, the Gughe village, DongaMantung division, the Kikaikelaki village (Kumbo commune), Bui division, Bamessing village (Ndop commune), Ngoketunjia division. Travelers should be vigilant, keep a low profile, and monitor local media.



It is advised to avoid travel to the North, Far North, Northwest, and Southwest Regions and parts of the East and Adamawa Regions within 20 km of Cameroon's border with the Central African Republic due to armed violence, terrorism, crime, and kidnapping.

In Kie Ntem Province, in the north of Equatorial Guinea, there have been reports of an outbreak of hemorrhagic fever. The area surrounding it is off-limits to travel. In and around Kie Ntem, Equatorial Guinea, as well as Ambam, Kye-Ossi, and Olamze in southern Cameroon, Ntem, and Woleu in Gabon, you should exercise extreme caution. Before you travel, check with the local authorities.

Due to current official travel restrictions, the U.S. government has limited ability to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in the North, Far North, Northwest, Southwest, and Parts of Adamawa and East Regions of Cameroon.

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## Chad

Risk Level: **High Risk**

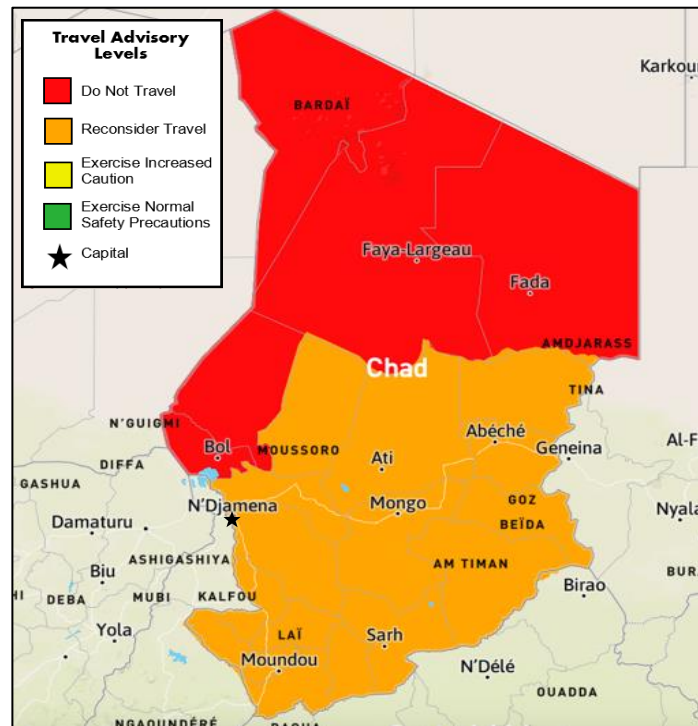
### Country Overview:

The security situation in Chad is highly dangerous, with some parts of the country being extremely unsafe. It is advised to reconsider travel to Chad due to crime, terrorism, and the existence of minefields. There is a high risk to personal safety and security because of widespread violent crimes, such as armed robbery and mugging, as well as terrorist attacks and minefields along the borders of Libya and Sudan.

The President of Chad, Idriss Deby Io, was killed in battle while fighting rebels en route to N'Djamena, Chad's capital city. The military has taken control of the country in the interim, announcing that the late President's son, General Mahamat Idriss Deby Itno, would serve as interim head of state. Parliament and the Government have been dissolved and replaced by a transitional military council. The interim Government was declared to hold power for 18 months, with elections planned for late 2022. To date, Chad remains susceptible to potential instability, especially in its border regions and during significant political events such as the ongoing political transition and upcoming elections now scheduled for the end of 2024.

It is advised not to travel at all to the Lake Chad Region and the borders with the Central African Republic, Libya, and Sudan due to terrorism, armed conflict, and active minefields.

The U.S. Government has extremely limited ability to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in Chad. U.S. Government employees must obtain special authorization to travel outside the capital, including the Lake Chad Basin.



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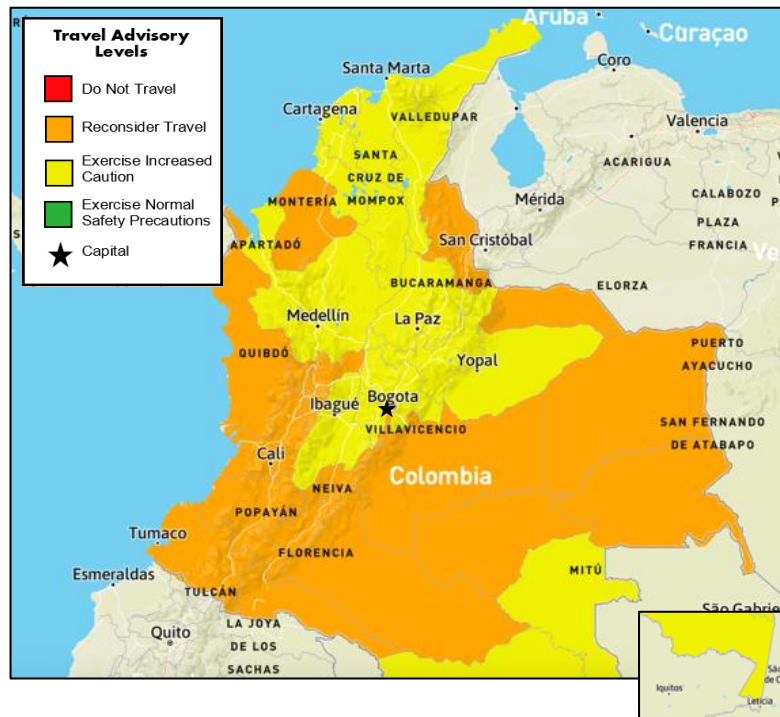
## Colombia

Risk Level: **Moderate Risk**

### Country Overview:

In some parts of Colombia, the security situation is highly dangerous, with specific areas being extremely unsafe. It is advised to reconsider travel to Colombia due to crime, civil unrest, and terrorism. There is an overall moderate risk to personal safety and security as the National Liberation Army (ELN) continues to plot attacks and violent and organized criminal activities, such as homicide, assault, armed robbery, extortion, and kidnapping. Travelers should be vigilant and pay close attention to warnings issued by the Colombian authorities.

There has been a recent uptick in large-scale protests in recent months, which have often turned violent. Several people have been killed during these demonstrations, and it is advised to avoid them and monitor local media for the latest updates.



It is advised to avoid all travel to areas within 20km of the Venezuela and Ecuador border, except the Pan-American Highway crossing at Ipiales. It is also advised to limit all but essential travel to the Arauca, Guaviare, Choco, the Ariari region of southern Meta, the South Pacific, Sanquianga and Telembi regions of Narino, the Western region of Cauca (except Popayan), Buenaventura, the Bajo Cauca and Uraba regions of Antioquia, the region of Southern-Bolivar, the region of Southern-Cordoba, the Catatumbo region of Norte de Santander, Peurto Caicedo, Valle del Guamuez, Orito, San Migue, Peurto Guzman, Peurto Asis and Peurto Leguizamo in Putumayo, Peurto Carreno in Vichada, Cartagena del Chaira, San Vicente del Caguan, El Doncello, Peurto Rico, Paujil and La Montanita in Caqueta due to crime and terrorism.

The U.S. government has limited ability to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens as U.S. government personnel cannot travel to these areas because of security restrictions and limited domestic travel options.

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## Congo (Republic of)

Risk Level: **Moderate Risk**

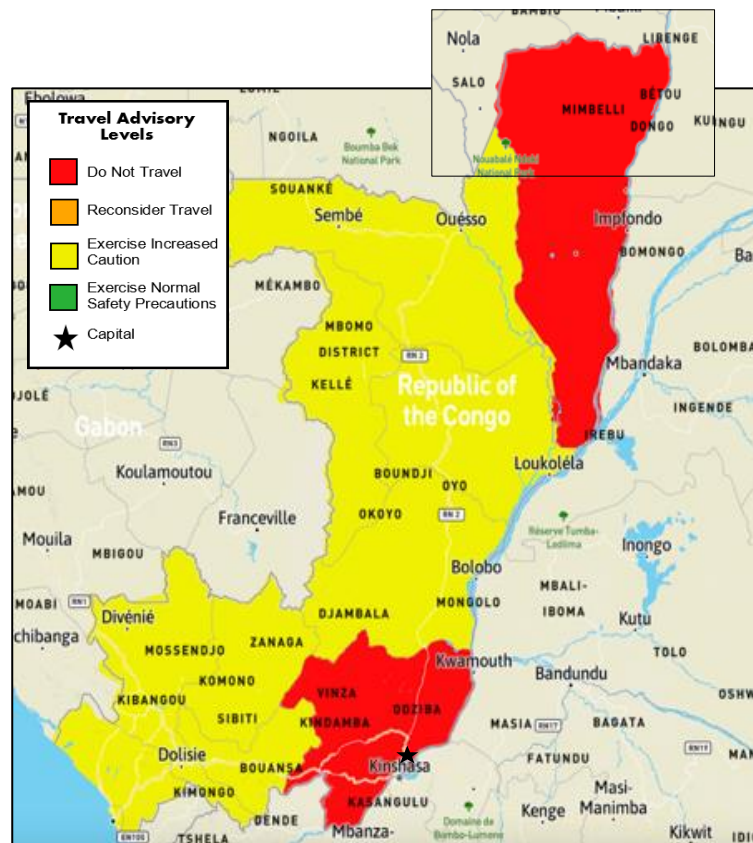
### Country Overview:

The security situation in parts of the Congo is extremely dangerous. It is advised to exercise increased caution in the country due to crime and civil unrest. There is a moderate risk to personal safety and security because violent crime, such as armed robbery and assault, is common. In addition, political demonstrations and armed clashes can be unpredictable.

The neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) experiences sporadic but localized outbreaks of Ebola. Travelers are advised to take precautions when traveling near border regions with the DRC.

It is advised to avoid all travel to the southern and western districts of the Pool region, including the Boko, Kindamba, Kinkala, Mayama, and Mindouli districts; the Mouyondzi district of Bouenza region; and within 50km of the border with the Central African Republic in Likouala region.

The U.S. government has limited ability to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens outside Brazzaville.



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## Cuba

Risk Level: **Moderate Risk**

### Country Overview:

The security situation in Cuba is relatively stable and characterized by a strong military and police presence. American citizens should exercise increased caution due to health attacks targeting numerous U.S. Embassy employees. Other travelers' personal safety and security in Cuba may also be at risk. While there is no recent history of terrorism in Cuba, attacks cannot be ruled out. Tourists should be aware of the threat of petty crime, and Cuba does, at times, experience violent crimes such as armed robbery, sexual assault, and homicide. Exercise caution at all times.



Travelers to Cuba may experience border closures, airport closures, travel prohibitions, stay-at-home orders, business closures, and other emergency conditions within Cuba due to COVID-19. It is advised to avoid Hotel Nacional and Hotel Capri in Havana. If you experience any unusual acute auditory or sensory phenomena, immediately move to another area.

Raul Castro retired and stepped down as the first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba, transferring power to President Miguel Diaz-Canel. In the short term, little change is expected as Diaz-Canel is a staunch ally and supporter of the Castro family. The U.S. has declared Cuba a state sponsor of terrorism and has imposed sanctions over human rights violations.

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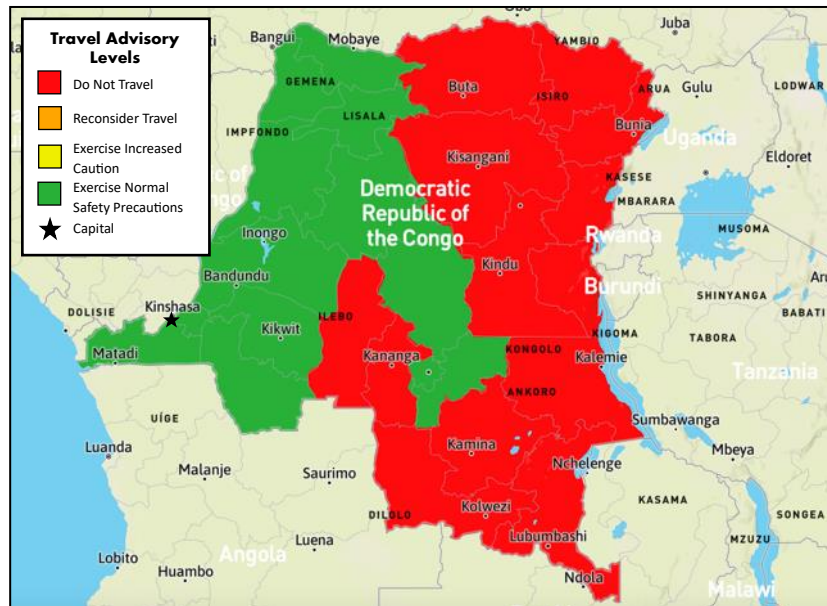
## Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Risk Level: **High Risk**

### Country Overview:

In some areas of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the security situation is highly dangerous, with extremely unsafe specific parts of the country. It is advised to reconsider travel to the DRC due to civil unrest, terrorism, and crime.

There is a high risk to personal safety and security due to the activities of rebels and other armed groups, potential civil unrest, and outbreaks of violence, including killing, rape, kidnapping, and pillaging. Avoid overland travel in rural areas in eastern Congo. Contract a private security escort with local experience for business-critical travel.



Clashes between M23 and the DRC military around Goma are ongoing. Existing routes out of the city may close suddenly, including the airport and border. We advise against all travel to Goma in North Kivu province.

There is an ongoing risk of protests in the East, especially around Goma, and travelers should exercise increased caution and be aware of their surroundings at all times. Demonstrations have the potential to affect transportation and everyday operations, and travelers should be prepared to leave at short notice.

The danger of "express" kidnapping in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is increasing, with foreigners targeted explicitly by criminals posing as police officers in the Limete division of Kinshasa. These incidents occurred in February, March, and April of 2023, and the kidnappings are typically motivated by a desire for financial gain or other criminal intentions. Foreigners may be seen as more affluent than locals and, therefore, are at a higher risk of being kidnapped for monetary purposes.

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) experiences sporadic but localized outbreaks of Ebola. Travelers are advised to avoid travel to outlying population centers.

It is advised to avoid all travel to the provinces of Kasai, Kasai Central, Kasai Oriental, Sud-Kivu, Nord-Kivu, Maniema, and Tanganyika in eastern DRC and Ituri, as there have been sporadic and severe outbreaks of violence targeting civilians, including killing, rape, kidnapping, and pillaging. Limiting all but essential travel to the rest of the country is further advised.

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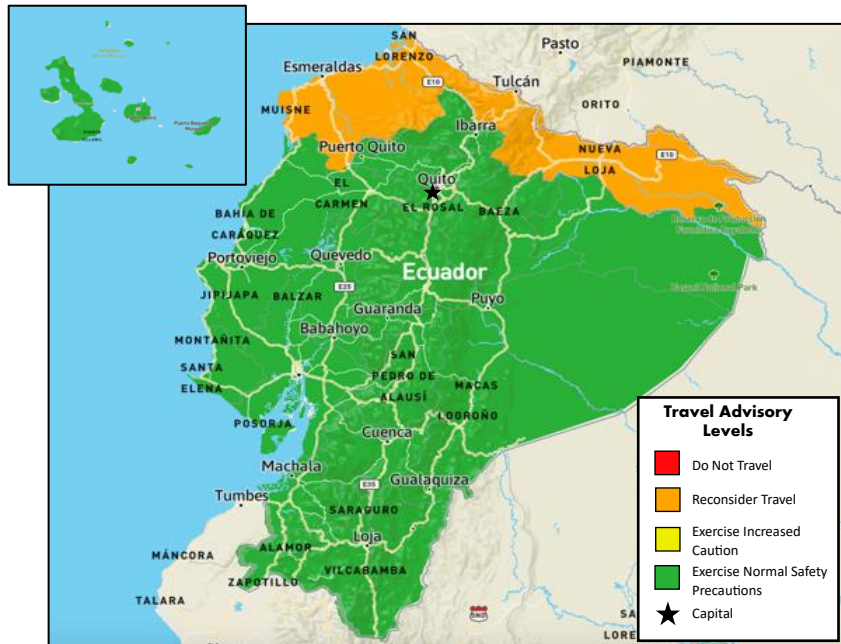


## Ecuador

Risk Level: **Moderate Risk**

### Country Overview:

In some parts of Ecuador, the security situation is highly dangerous, with specific areas being extremely unsafe. Travelers are advised to exercise increased caution due to crime and civil unrest. There is a heightened risk to personal safety and security in the northern border area with Colombia because it has a higher crime rate, including kidnapping for ransom, than the rest of the country. Serious, sometimes violent demonstrations and road blockades occur throughout Ecuador with little to no warning.



Crime, particularly violent crime, is a concern throughout Ecuador. Limited police and judicial resources contribute to Ecuador's overall high crime rate. Pickpocketing, purse snatching, robbery, and theft of travel documents are the crimes most committed against U.S. citizens. It is advised to avoid all travel within 20km of the border with Colombia, except for the official border crossing town of Tulcan in Carchi province. Limiting all but essential travel to Sucumbíos and Esmeraldas provinces is further recommended.

Transnational crime groups operating in Esmeraldas province have engaged in violent crime, killed local citizens, and carried out bombings targeting the Ecuadorian military and law enforcement. The U.S. government is limited in its ability to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in the Colombian border area, as U.S. government personnel cannot travel to the provinces of Esmeraldas, Carchi, and Sucumbíos without permission from the Embassy's security office.

Legislative and presidential elections are due to take place in 3 months following the dissolution of parliament by President Lasso on May 17, 2023, per the constitution. Travelers are advised to avoid protests, strikes, and demonstrations as they are common during election periods and may turn violent.

It is advised to avoid travel to Carchi, Sucumbíos, and the northern part of Esmeraldas provinces, including Esmeraldas city and Guayaquil, south of Portete de Tarquí Avenue, due to crime.

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## Egypt

Risk Level: **Moderate Risk**

### Country Overview:

In some parts of Egypt, security is highly dangerous, with specific country areas being extremely unsafe. Travelers to Egypt should reconsider travel due to terrorism. There is a moderate risk to personal safety and security overall due to several extremist organizations operating in Egypt. It is advised to avoid traveling to the Governorate of North Sinai and 20km of the Egyptian and Libyan border because of the significant increase in criminal activity and continued terrorist attacks on police and security forces.



As a result of the unstable security situation in Sudan, many people are reportedly trying to cross the border into Egypt. The two primary land border crossings between Egypt and Sudan are Qustul and Argeen. The closest town in Sudan to these crossings is Wadi Halfa, situated approximately 30km away from the border. However, there is a severe lack of infrastructure at these border crossings, resulting in extended wait times of several days for people attempting to cross. Travelers should know that access to food and water is very limited at these crossings.

It is also advised to limit all but essential travel to the eastern part of Ismailiyah, the Hala'ib Triangle, Bir Tawil Trapezoid, and the Governorate of South Sinai, except for the area within the Sharm el-Sheikh perimeter barrier, which includes the airport and the areas of Sharm el Maya, Hadaba, Naama Bay, Sharks Bay, and the area west of the Nile Valley and Nile Delta regions, excluding the coastal areas between the Nile Delta and Marsa Matruh.

Local law prohibits protesting or demonstrating without a permit. Being near anti-government protests can draw scrutiny from Egyptian police and security forces. U.S. citizens have been detained for participating in demonstrations and posting content on social media perceived as critical of Egypt or its allies.

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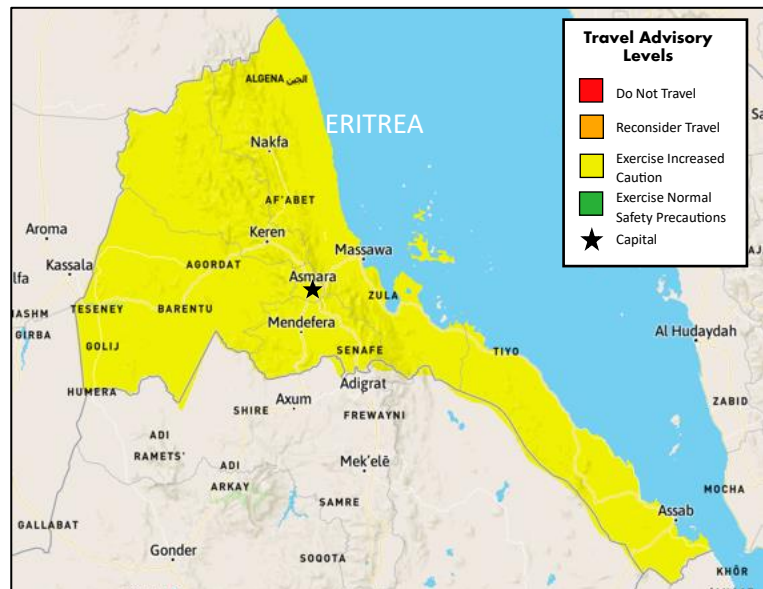


## Eritrea

Risk Level: **Moderate Risk**

### Country Overview:

The security situation in some parts of Eritrea is extremely dangerous. Due to travel restrictions, limited consular assistance, and political volatility, it is advised to exercise increased caution in Eritrea. There is an overall moderate risk to personal safety and security because of ongoing instability, tensions with Ethiopia, and the presence of landmines. Landmines can be found in many remote areas in Eritrea, particularly in Nakfa, AdiKeih, Arezza, the 40 km-wide regions between the Mereb and Setit Rivers, and in the region north and west of Keren, areas near Ghinda, Massawa, Barentu, Agordat, Dekemhare, and south of Tessenae.



Eritrea's land borders are closed, though international flights have resumed. Travelers are no longer required to provide proof of a negative PCR test.

It is advised to avoid all travel within 25km of Eritrea's land borders. All border crossings between Eritrea and Ethiopia are closed, and all foreign nationals, including diplomats, must apply for a travel permit well in advance to leave Asmara. Bearers of U.S. passports are advised not to attempt land travel between the two countries.

In Eritrea, the U.S. government cannot provide emergency services to U.S. citizens because U.S. government employees must obtain special clearance to travel outside Asmara. Eritrean law enforcement officials regularly block access to foreign nationals in detention. Therefore, the U.S. Embassy may not receive notification or be allowed access to you if you are detained or arrested.

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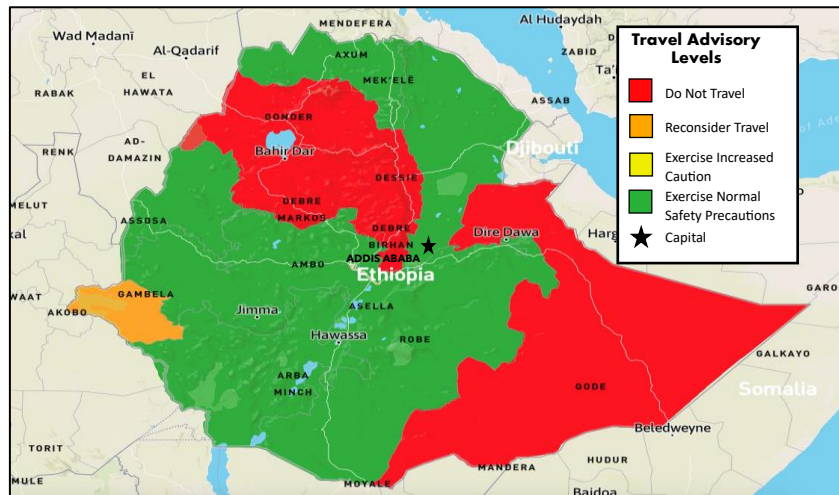
## Ethiopia

Risk Level: **Moderate Risk**

### Country Overview:

The security climate in some parts of Ethiopia is highly dangerous, with some regions being extremely unsafe. It is advised to reconsider travel to Ethiopia due to armed conflict, communications disruptions, civil unrest, crime, and terrorism.

The military conflict in Tigray has subsided after the Ethiopian Government and Tigray People's Liberation Front signed a peace agreement. The peace remains fragile, and travelers are advised to avoid the area.



Travelers are advised to reconsider traveling to Ethiopia and leave the country if they have not already done so due to the extreme risk and uncertainty of the conflict. People of the Oromo or Tigrayan ethnicity may still face scrutiny at airports or during police operations and should always be vigilant.

It is advised to avoid all travel within 10km of the border of Eritrea, South Sudan, and Kenya and within 20km of the border with Sudan. It is also advised to avoid travel to the whole of the Tigray regional state, the whole of Gambella regional state, the West Wollega Zone, East Wollega Zone, Kellem Wellega and Horo Gudru Wellega in the Oromia regional state, the whole of Metekel Zone and Maokomo Special zone in the Benishangul Gumuz regional state, north of the A4 road in West Shewa Zone, south and west of the A3 in North Shewa Zone in the Oromia regional state, and within 100km of the border with Tigray regional state to the north of Anseba town in Afar, and within 30km of the border with Tigray to the south of Anseba town in Afar, within 100km of the Ethiopian border with Somalia and Kenya in Ethiopia's Somali region and within 30km of the Ethiopian border with Somalia in the Fafan zone with the exception of the border town and crossing at Wajale and the principal road between Jijiga and Wajale.

There is a risk of widespread protests in response to political and religious unrest. Demonstrations may occur on short notice. These can result in enormous gatherings, which might cause travel disruptions and road closures. You should use caution and avoid crowds, especially those near places of worship.

The Government of Ethiopia has restricted or shut down the internet, cellular data, and phone services during and after civil unrest. These restrictions impede the U.S. Embassy's ability to communicate with and provide consular services to U.S. citizens in Ethiopia. The U.S. Embassy has limited ability to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens outside of Addis Ababa.

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## Honduras

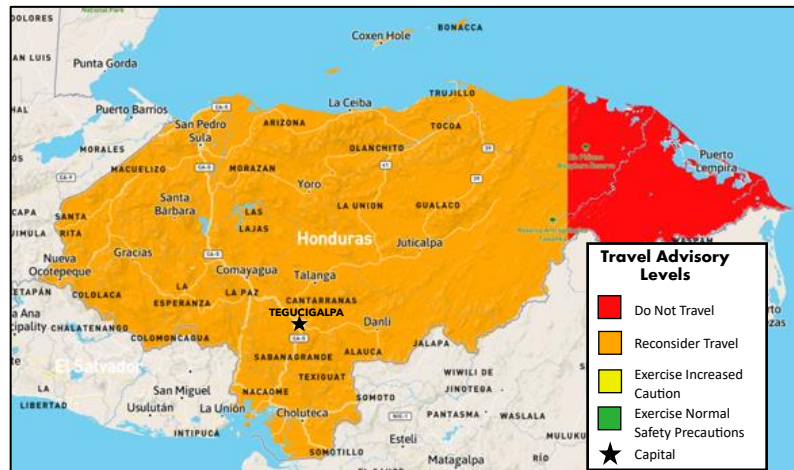
Risk Level: **High Risk**

### Country Overview:

The security situation in Honduras is highly dangerous, with a specific part of the country being extremely unsafe. It is advised to reconsider travel to Honduras due to crime. There is a heightened risk to personal safety and security because of violent crimes, such as homicide and armed robbery.

There has been a sharp increase in cases of dengue fever in Honduras, particularly in the departments of Cortés, Yoro, Olanchito, and Santa Bárbara.

Travelers should monitor local media for updates.



Gracias a Dios is an isolated region with high criminal activity and drug trafficking levels. Infrastructure is weak, government services are limited, and police and military presence is scarce. It is advised to avoid all travel to Gracias a Dios Department and limit all travel to the rest of the country unless it's essential.

COVID-19 preventative measures and restrictions are in place. You must wear face-covering masks in public. If you violate the restrictions, you could be fined for endangering public health. Obey the instructions of local authorities, including those related to physical distancing. Avoid crowded areas.

The U.S. government has limited ability to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in Gracias a Dios.

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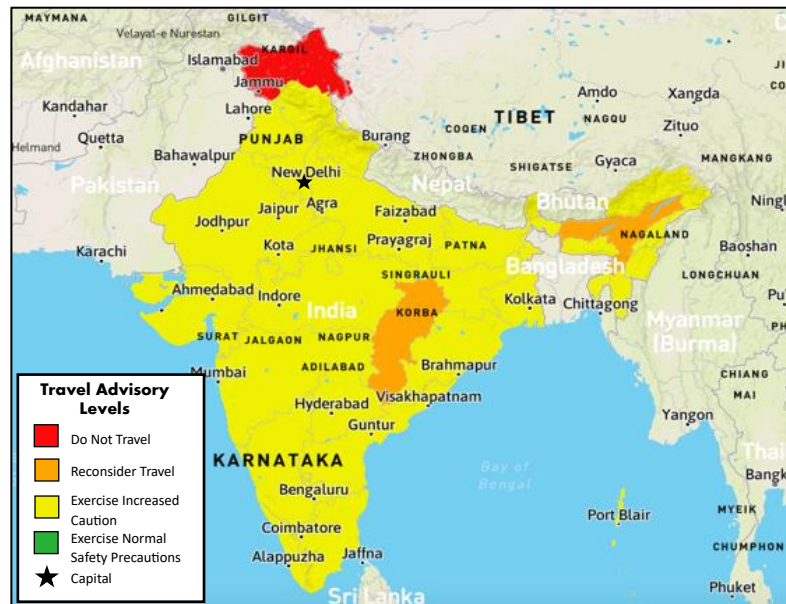
## India

Risk Level: **Moderate Risk**

### Country Overview:

The security situation in some parts of India is highly dangerous, with specific areas of the country being extremely unsafe. It is advised to exercise increased caution in India due to crime and terrorism. There is an overall moderate risk to personal safety and security because of terrorist and insurgent activity, civil unrest and the potential for armed conflict, and violent crime, such as sexual assault.

Since the Indian Government's constitutional change that altered Jammu and Kashmir's internal political status, the region has seen regular protest action and political violence. An increased security presence is in place due to frequent terrorist attacks in the region.



The country is experiencing heightened religious tensions between Hindus and Muslims. The rising Hindu nationalism within the ruling BJP party has seen frequent incidents of anti-Muslim hate crimes that authorities have ignored or downplayed. The country was subject to heavy criticism when a BJP spokesperson made derogatory remarks about Islam from Muslim countries. Tensions are likely to lead to an increase in violent incidents. Travelers should avoid large gatherings and protests and avoid speaking about religious matters while traveling in India.

Ethnic clashes broke out across Manipur between April and May 2023, resulting in several restrictions, including implementing curfews in various parts of the state. Transportation has been disrupted, with mobile internet access remaining suspended. Travelers are advised to avoid protests, strikes, and demonstrations as they may turn violent.

It is advised to avoid all travel to Jammu and Kashmir (except the Ladakh region) and the India- Pakistan border (except the Atari crossing). Limiting all but essential travel to the North-eastern states (Assam, except Guwahati, Nagaland, and Manipur), Chhattisgarh, and neighboring states' border areas.

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## Israel

Risk Level: **Moderate Risk**

### Country Overview:

The security situation in Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza are unstable, and certain areas are incredibly unsafe. Travelers to Israel or the Palestinian Territories are advised to exercise increased caution due to terrorism, civil unrest, and armed conflict. There is a moderate risk to personal safety and security because of clashes between Palestinians and Israeli authorities.

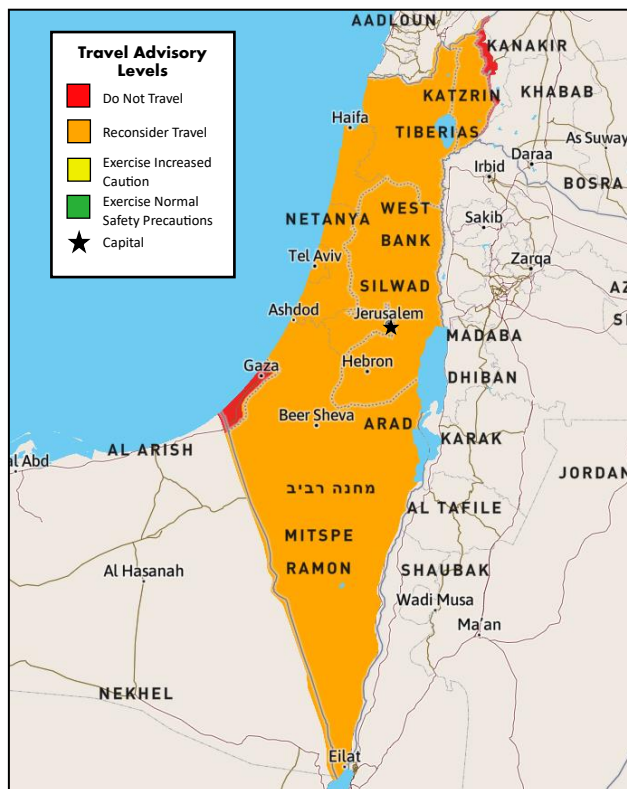
Travelers to Israel should remain vigilant of cross-border hostilities between Israel and Hamas in Gaza. Rocket attacks from Gaza are a present danger, with Israeli air defenses not always able to stop all incoming rockets. Such incidents are more likely following incidents of violence between Israeli security forces and Palestinians.

There are widespread anti-government protests and the right-wing Netanyahu government's judicial reforms. These protests can turn violent, and travelers are advised to avoid all demonstrations.

Terrorist attacks in Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territories are very likely and are indiscriminate to place or person. Exercise increased caution at all times. These attacks could be indiscriminate and occur in places frequently visited by foreigners, including tourist sites, public transport hubs, and busy public spaces. Tensions in the occupied territories have worsened with the right-wing Government's election under Benjamin Netanyahu. Palestinian protestors and Israeli security forces frequently clash, and travelers are advised to steer clear of demonstrations and highly charged confrontations.

Israel has stepped up its campaign against Iran as the U.S. and Iran are engaged in talks with the E.U. to restore the JCPOA, more commonly known as the Iran Nuclear Deal. Israeli spy networks have targeted Iranian sites related to their uranium enrichment program. This has led to Iran-backed forces engaging in rocket attacks on Israel. Rising regional tensions are likely to see further aggressive acts in the short term.

In early May 2023, tensions escalated following the Israeli Defense Forces' airstrikes on Gaza that killed at least four senior Islamic Jihad commanders, amongst several other civilians. Gaza responded by launching over 400 rockets toward the Gaza periphery and areas across southern and even central Israel, including Tel Aviv. Israel's iron dome missile defense system intercepted most of these rockets. Though a ceasefire was agreed on May 14 between Israel and the Islamic Jihad in Gaza, it is still unclear how long it will last.



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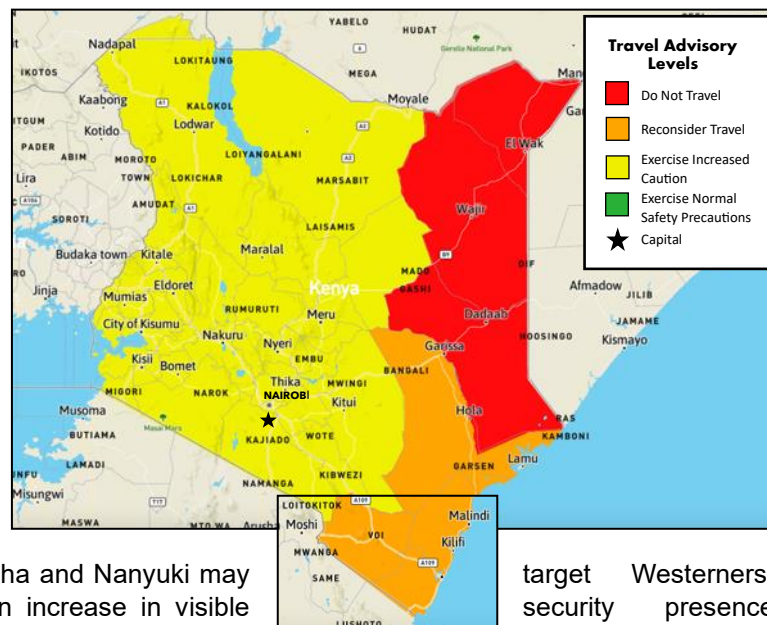
## Kenya

Risk Level: **Moderate Risk**

### Country Overview:

In some areas of Kenya, the security situation is highly dangerous, with specific parts of the country being extremely unsafe. It is advised to exercise increased caution in Kenya due to terrorism, health issues, and crime. There is an overall moderate risk to personal safety and security because of terrorist attacks and violent crimes, such as armed carjacking, mugging, home invasion, and kidnapping.

The U.S. State Department has warned that credible information indicates that extremists in Nairobi, coastal areas of Kenya, and Naivasha and Nanyuki may Resultantly, there is likely to be an increase in visible over the festive period.



target Westerners.  
security presence

Cholera cases have also been detected in Narok, Kajiado, Garissa, and Machakos counties. Travelers are advised to monitor the latest updates from the World Health Organization.

Travelers should be aware that protests that occurred in Kisumu, Nairobi, and other towns in March 2023 could resume without prior notice. Demonstrations can turn violent, with protestors clashing with police. Travelers are advised to avoid large gatherings and monitor local media for updates.

Limiting all but essential travel to Nairobi neighborhoods of Eastleigh and Kibera, Eastern Garissa County, Mandera County excluding Mandera West sub-county, Lamu County excluding Lamu Island and Manda Island, areas of the Tana River County north of the Tana River itself, within 15km of the coast from Tana River down to the Galana river and be extremely cautious when traveling anywhere in Kenya after dark. It is advised to defer all travel within 60km of the Kenya-Somalia border and areas of Turkana County.

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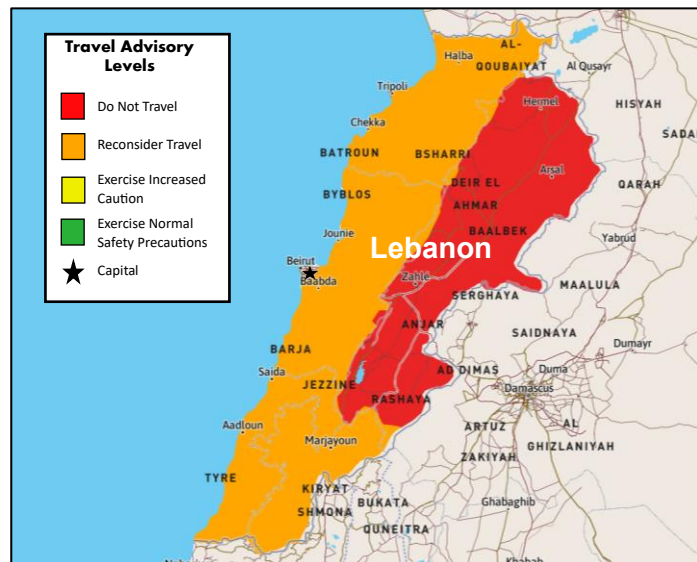
## Lebanon

Risk Level: **High Risk**

### Country Overview:

The security situation in Lebanon is highly dangerous, with some parts of the country being extremely unsafe. It is advised to reconsider travel to Lebanon due to crime, terrorism, and armed conflict. There is a high risk to personal safety and security because of terrorist activity, armed clashes, kidnapping, and outbreaks of violence near Lebanon's borders with Syria and Israel.

Lebanon has witnessed frequent demonstrations by protesters seeking changes in Government. Travelers in Lebanon should keep clear of demonstrations and exert caution if in the proximity of any large gatherings or protests. It is advised to avoid all travel to Palestinian refugee camps, the Hermel Area, including Aarsal, Ras Baalbek, Qaa, Laboué, and Nahlé, and within 5km of the border with Syria and Israel due to the potential for armed conflict.



It is further advised to limit all but essential travel to all other territories of Akkar district between 3 miles (5km) from the Syrian border and the Halba, Aabdeh, and Qoubaiyat highway, including the towns of Halba and Qoubaiyat; the city of Tripoli; the village of Brital, and the area around it up to 3 miles (5km) from the Syrian border, and south of Nahlé town. This excludes Baalbek town; the towns of Rachaiya, Hasbaiya, and Khiam, and the area between these towns up to 3 miles (5km) from the Syrian border, within 500m of the Ain el Hilweh Palestinian refugee camp in Saida (Sidon); and south of the Litani River except the main Naqoura-Tyre-Saida (Sidon)-Beirut highway and all districts to the west of it.

Basic commodities in Lebanon have become increasingly scarce, and electricity is limited. The economic crisis and fuel shortages have affected the quality and availability of medical treatment, and travelers should thoroughly prepare themselves before traveling to Lebanon.

Conflict with Israel could flare up at any moment with little to no warning, leading to a rapid escalation in violence. There have been cross-border shelling, rocket fire, and air strikes on southern Lebanon from the Israeli Defence Forces. On April 6, multiple rocket and artillery strikes occurred along the Blue Line, which marks the boundary between Lebanon and Israel. The situation remains tense, and there is a risk of sudden escalation without prior warning.

The Lebanese Government cannot assure the protection of U.S. citizens against sudden eruptions of violence. Neighborhood, family, or sectarian disputes can spiral out of control quickly and, in turn, can lead to gunfire or other violence with no apparent warning.

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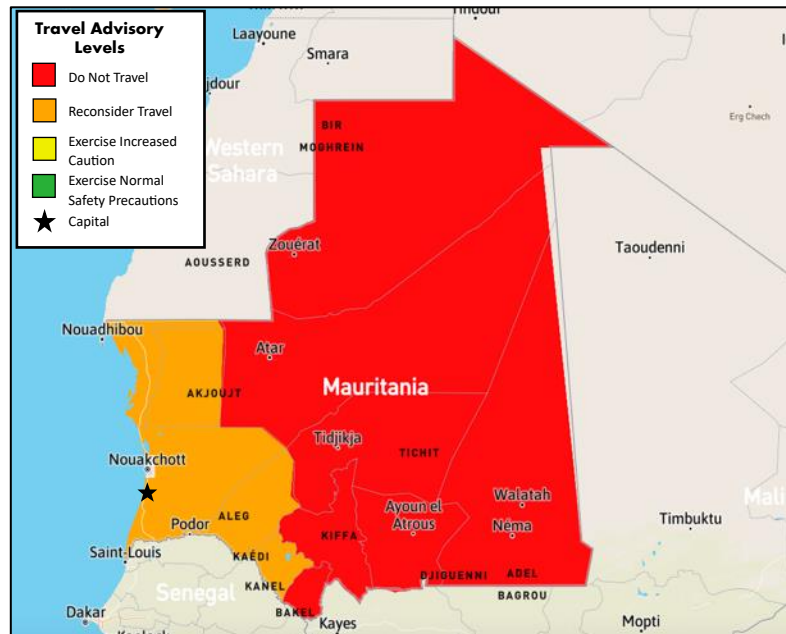
## Mauritania

Risk Level: **High Risk**

### Country Overview:

The security situation in Mauritania is highly dangerous, and specific parts of the country are extremely unsafe. It is advised to reconsider travel to Mauritania due to crime and terrorism. There is a high risk to personal safety and security because of activities by terrorist groups and violent crimes, such as mugging, armed robbery, kidnapping, rape, and assault.

It is advised to avoid travel to the province of Tiris Zemmour (except the town of Zouérat); the province of Adrar (East of Atar); the regions of Tagant, Hodh el Chargui, Hodh El Gharbi, Assaba, and Guidimaka; and within 25km of the Western Sahara border (except the Nouakchott - Nouadhibou corridor).



The Government of Mauritania designates certain areas off-limits to foreigners and most Mauritians. These "No Movement Zones" are hazardous due to their proximity to Mali, where armed groups engaged in an active insurgency carry out cross-border attacks into Mauritania.

The U.S. government has limited ability to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in Mauritania as U.S. government employees must obtain special authorization to travel outside Nouakchott.

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## Mexico

Risk Level: **Moderate Risk**

### Country Overview:

The security situation in some parts of Mexico is highly dangerous, with specific areas of the country being extremely unsafe. Travelers to Mexico should exercise increased caution due to crime. There is a high risk to personal safety and security in certain areas because of widespread violent crime, such as homicide, kidnapping, carjacking, and robbery.



It is advised to avoid all travel to Colima State, Guerrero State, Michoacán State, Sinaloa State, Tamaulipas State, and Zacatecas State. Limit all but essential trips to Baja California, Guanajuato, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Durango, Jalisco, Morelos, Nayarit, Nuevo Leon State, San Luis Potosi State, Sonora State, Zacatecas State. Violent crimes – such as homicide, kidnapping, carjacking, and robbery – are widespread. Armed criminal groups have targeted and robbed commercial vessels, oil platforms, and offshore supply vessels in the Bay of Campeche.

Protests regularly plague Mexico City and other parts of the country, and travelers should avoid all demonstrations and exercise increased caution. Follow the advice of local authorities if you are caught in a protest. Several clashes have broken out between rival criminal gangs in popular tourist destinations such as Cancun and surrounding areas. Be extremely mindful of your surroundings.

The Pacific and Atlantic coasts of Mexico can be affected by hurricanes during the hurricane season, which runs from June to November. During tropical storms and hurricanes, flooding, landslides, and disruptions to local services may occur hundreds of miles from the storm's center.

Increased volcanic activity on the Mt Popocatepetl and Colima volcanoes has resulted in their closures to the public. Mt Popocatepetl lies 92 km (57 miles) southeast of Mexico City and 64 km (39 miles) west of Puebla. A 12 km (7 miles) exclusion zone has been established around Popocatepetl volcano. With the alert level currently raised to Level 3 (Intermediate to High), travelers are advised to remain alert and be prepared for a possible evacuation. Volcanic ash results in disruption of air travel and possible airport closures at short notice.

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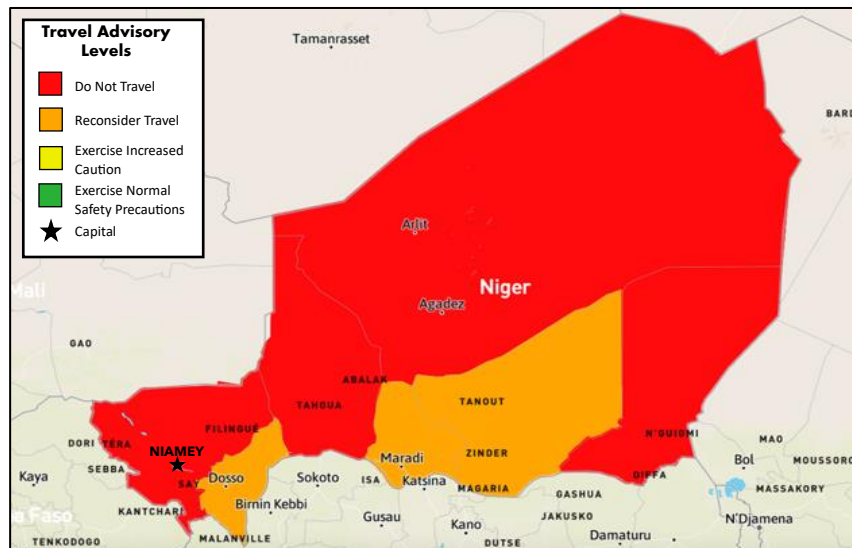


## Niger

Risk Level: **High Risk**

### Country Overview:

The security situation in Niger is highly dangerous, with large parts of the country being extremely unsafe. It is advised to reconsider travel to Niger due to crime and terrorism. There is a high risk to personal safety and security because of terrorist attacks, kidnapping threats, and violent crimes, such as armed robbery. The threat of terrorist attacks remains high, targeting local and foreign government facilities.



It is advised not to travel at all to the following parts of Niger: all areas of the country north of the city of Abalak, including the Aïr Massif region; the province of Agadez (including the road linking Assamakato Agadez and the city of Agadez); areas of Tahoua province north of the city of Tahoua, including the city itself; the area of Tillabéri province north of Niamey, including the road from Niamey to Gao and the road from Niamey to Menaka; areas within 40km of the border with Nigeria in Diffa, Zinder, and Maradi provinces; and the Parc du W, plus the contiguous Dosso and Tamou hunting zones. It is further advised to limit all but essential travel to the rest of Niger, including the capital city Niamey.

The U.S. government has limited ability to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in remote and rural areas as U.S. government employees must obtain special authorization to travel outside of the capital.

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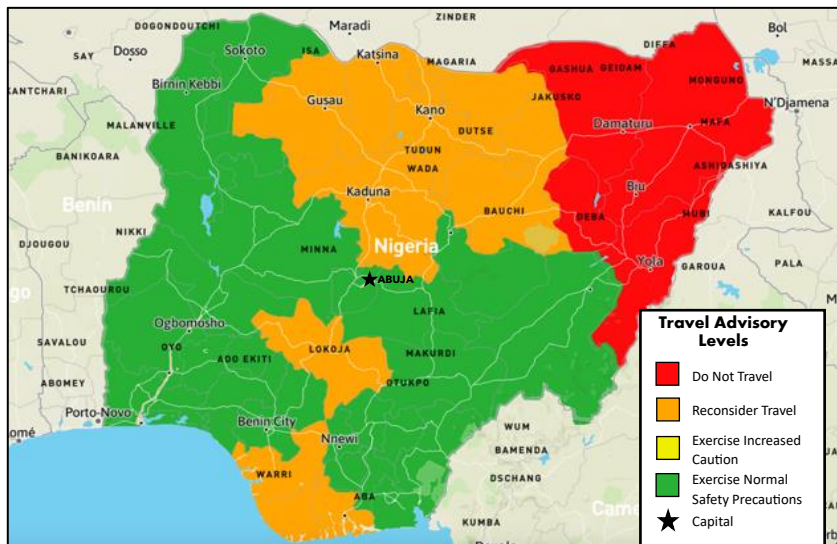


## Nigeria

Risk Level: **High Risk**

### Country Overview:

The security situation in Nigeria is highly dangerous, and specific parts of the country are extremely unsafe. It is advised to reconsider travel to Nigeria due to crime, terrorism, and piracy. There is a high risk to personal safety and security because of the threat posed by extremist organizations, kidnappings, and violent crimes, such as armed robbery, assault, carjacking, and rape.



Throughout 2022, the number of kidnappings in Nigeria, particularly in the northern and Middle Belt states, has steadily increased compared to previous years. Gangs and unidentified individuals have carried out most of these attacks, but Boko Haram militants were behind some of them in northeast Nigeria. Even though the kidnappings often end without bloodshed once a ransom is paid, these attacks can result in injuries and fatalities. Criminal groups usually fire indiscriminately at vehicles to stop them. Reconsider overland travel across the country until further notice due to an ongoing spike in kidnapping-for-ransom and bandit attacks.

A U.S. diplomatic convoy was attacked on May 16, 2023, in Anambra state, with investigations still ongoing. Militant groups have also launched several other attacks targeting oil and gas infrastructure in the Niger Delta region, with the area's risk of robbery, criminality, and kidnapping remaining high.

It is advised to avoid travel to Borno State, Kaduna State, Katsina State, Zamfara State, Yobe State, Adamawa State, Gombe State, the riverine areas of Delta, Bayelsa, Rivers, Akwa Ibom, and the Cross River States; and within 20km of the border with Niger in Zamfara State. It is also advised to limit all but essential travel to Bauchi State; Kano State; Jigawa State; Sokoto State; Abia State; Plateau State; Taraba State; Kogi State; within 20km of the border with Niger in Sokoto and Kebbi States; non-riverine areas of Delta, Bayelsa and Rivers States.

The Government has started relaxing the lockdown restrictions in Lagos and Abuja and has replaced them with new requirements. These include a nationwide curfew from 12 am to 4 am and the mandatory use of face masks in public. Most states have their own restrictions on movement, and travelers are advised to adhere to the requirements of their respective locations.

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## Pakistan

Risk Level: **High Risk**

### Country Overview:

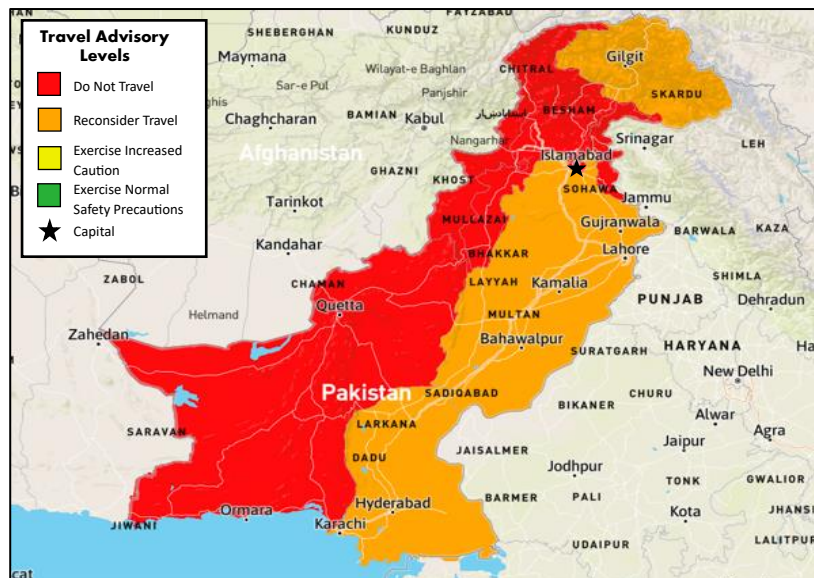
The security situation in Pakistan is highly dangerous, and a significant part of the country is extremely unsafe. It is advised to reconsider travel to Pakistan due to terrorism. There is a high risk to personal safety and security because terrorist attacks remain frequent and political demonstrations often become violent. Travelers should continue to exercise caution, monitor news reports, and follow the advice of local authorities.

It is advised to avoid all travel to Arandu town and the road between Mirkhani and Arandu in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province, Balochistan; the Federally Administered Tribal Areas; Khyber- Pakhtunkhwa (excluding Chitral district); the immediate vicinity of the Line of Control and border areas with Afghanistan and India (excluding Lahore, Wagah, Kasur, Narowal, and Sialkot). Limiting all but essential travel to the rest of Pakistan is recommended.

Protests and civil unrest have increased following the arrest and subsequent release of former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Imran Khan from outside the Islamabad High Court. These rallies and demonstrations can turn violent and result in clashes with the police. Travelers should avoid large gatherings, rallies, and protests.

Terrorist groups continue organizing attacks in Pakistan. A history of terrorism and ongoing ideological aspirations of violence by extremist groups has led to indiscriminate attacks on civilians, local military, and police targets. Following the death of Al Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri in a U.S. drone attack in Afghanistan, foreign nationals in Pakistan should be extra vigilant. Terrorists may retaliate and attack with little or no warning, targeting transportation hubs, markets, shopping malls, military installations, airports, universities, tourist locations, schools, hospitals, places of worship, and government facilities. Terrorists have targeted U.S. diplomats and diplomatic facilities in the past.

The U.S. government is restricted in providing emergency services to U.S. citizens in Pakistan due to the security environment.



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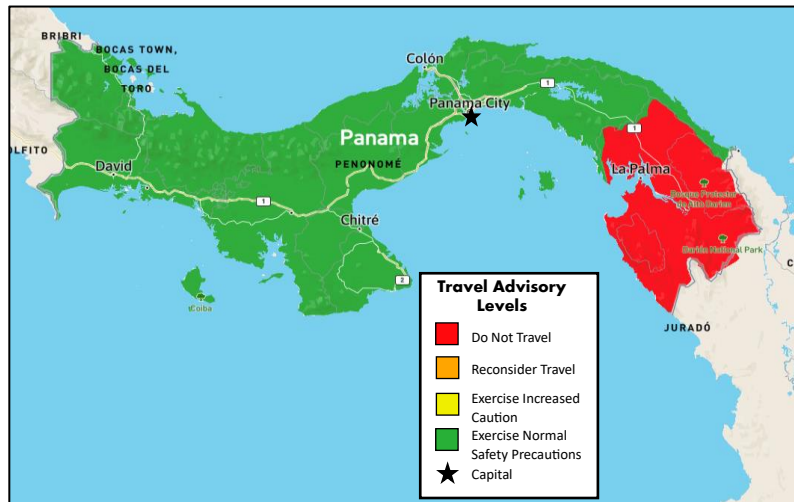
## Panama

Risk Level: **Low Risk**

### Country Overview:

The security situation in Panama is relatively safe, but a specific region within the country has an extreme risk due to the presence of criminal elements and the operation of drug and human trafficking networks. Moreover, emergency response and consular assistance are limited in some areas. Overall, travelers should exercise standard precautions in Panama.

It is advised to avoid all travel to parts of the Darién Region, Mosquito Gulf, 10 miles of the coastline from Boca de Rio, Chiriqui to Cocolé del Norte, all areas south of Jaque to Manenito to Yaviza to Lajas Blancas cities to the Colombian border, the city of Lajas Blancas and the city of El Salto. If you plan to travel to Darién province, it is advised to do so only with an organized group and to destinations that are under the surveillance of the Panamanian police.



There may be demonstrations to protest internal Panamanian issues or, more rarely, manifestations of anti-American sentiment. While most demonstrations are non-violent, the Panamanian National Police have used tear gas and riot control munitions in response to protests, mainly when roadways are blocked or aggression is used against the police. Panama City, Colon, and Chiriqui provinces have the highest crime rates. Common crimes include shootings, home invasions, sexual assault, armed robberies, muggings, and thefts.

The U.S. government has limited ability to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in this region as U.S. government personnel must obtain prior approval before traveling there and face additional restrictions before such travel is approved.

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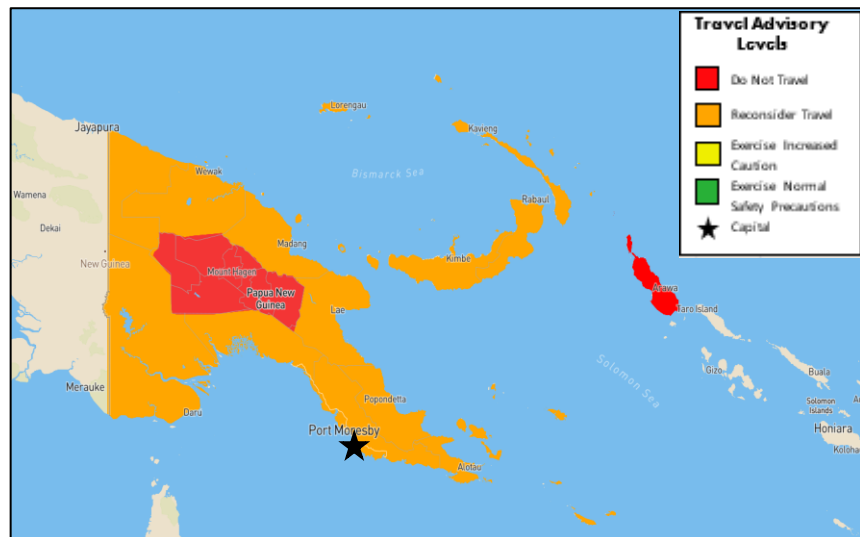


## Papua New Guinea

Risk Level: **High Risk**

### Country Overview:

The security situation in Papua New Guinea is considered high risk due to crime and civil unrest, and travelers are advised to reconsider travel. Exercise increased caution due to unexploded ordinance (UXO) and volcanic activity. Seasonal natural disasters, such as tropical cyclones and flash flooding, are common in Papua New Guinea. Keep an eye on the most recent weather reports.



Law and order are poor or very poor in many parts of the country. Though the risk of severe armed conflict or terrorist activity is low, crime is a serious concern in major cities, and parts of the country are unstable. Common violent crimes include sexual assault, carjackings, home invasions, and armed robberies. Outside of the capital of Port Moresby, police presence is limited, and officers may be unable to assist due to limited resources. Pay close attention to your safety, especially after dark, and keep an eye on local media for potential new security threats.

There is a high risk of tribal fighting in Hela and Southern Highlands provinces. Tensions between communal or tribal groups can erupt anytime and without warning and quickly escalate. Avoid large crowds and public gatherings, as they can turn violent.

Due to civil unrest, avoiding all travel to the Highlands region, Southern Bougainville, particularly areas near the Panguna mine, is advised. Reconsider travel to Rabaul in East New Britain Province, Kimbe in West New Britain Province, and Manam Island in Madang Province due to the high seismic and volcanic activity risk. There is still WWII unexploded ordinance, and travelers should exercise increased caution when traveling in remote areas, particularly along the Kokoda trail and at Milne Bay and Rabaul.

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## Philippines

Risk Level: **Moderate Risk**

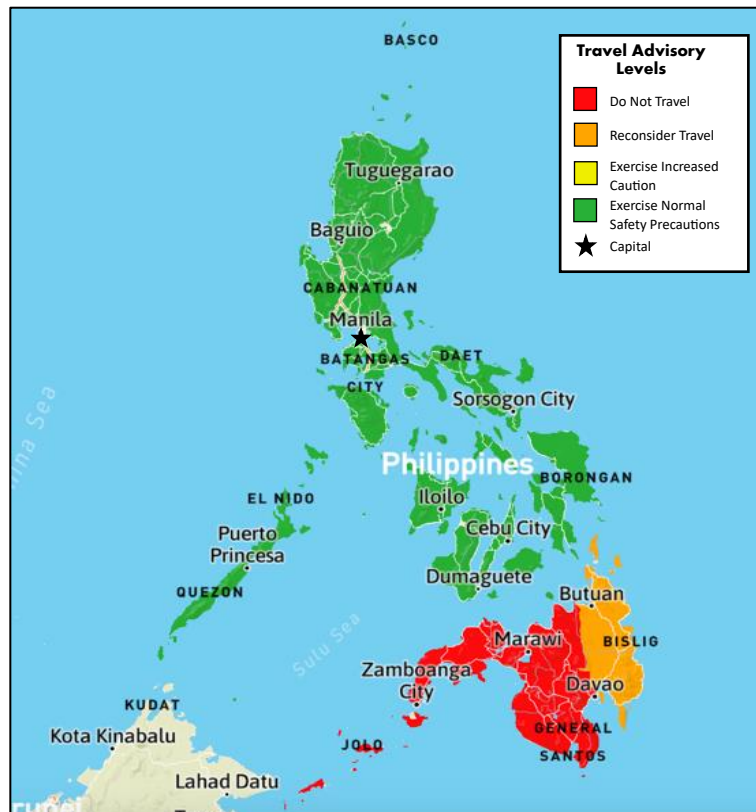
### Country Overview:

In some parts of the Philippines, the security situation is highly dangerous, with specific areas being extremely unsafe. It is advised to exercise increased caution throughout the country due to crime, terrorism, and civil unrest. There is a high risk to personal safety and security because of occasional kidnappings, bombings, and widespread criminal activity, such as con games, pickpocketing, internet scams, and credit/ATM card fraud. Travelers should keep up to date with local information and avoid any demonstrations. The Philippines has seen a resurgence in the Poliovirus nationwide, and travelers are advised to consult their doctor before traveling. There have also been numerous cases of Dengue fever which has now exceeded the epidemic threshold.

It is advised to avoid all travel to western and central Mindanao and the Sulu Archipelago (including the southern Sulu Sea) because of terrorist activity and clashes between the military and insurgent groups. Limit all travel unless it is crucial to the remainder of Mindanao (excluding Siargao Islands, Dinagat, and Camiguin) and the south of Cebu province, including the municipalities of Badian and Dalaguete and the surrounding areas leading to Badian and Dalaguete, due to the threat of terrorism.

Terrorist and armed groups continue to organize plans for bombings, possible kidnappings, and other offensive maneuvers in the Philippines. Armed groups and terrorists may attack with little to no warning, targeting shopping malls, markets, tourist locations, and local government facilities. The Philippine Government has declared a "State of National Emergency on Account of Lawless Violence in Mindanao."

Authorities have permitted foreign nationals who are fully vaccinated to enter the Philippines subject to proof of a negative COVID-19 test. Foreign nationals who aren't fully vaccinated will have to present a laboratory-based rapid antigen test that is negative for COVID-19 and taken no more than 24 hours before departing for the Philippines. Anyone aged 15 years or older who fails to present a negative pre-departure test shall be required to take a test upon arrival at the airport. Face masks are mandatory on public transport and in public spaces.



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## Saudi Arabia

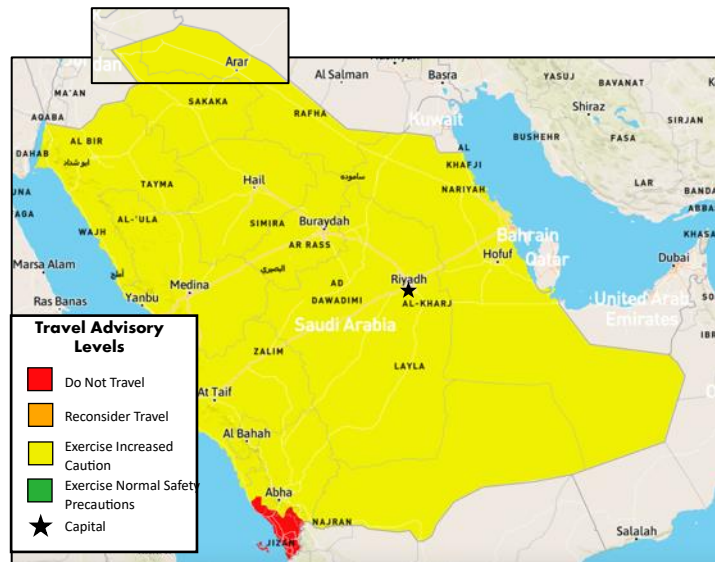
Risk Level: **Moderate Risk**

### Country Overview:

In some parts of Saudi Arabia, the security situation is highly dangerous, with specific areas being extremely unsafe. It is advised to exercise increased caution in Saudi Arabia due to terrorism and armed conflict. There is an overall moderate risk to personal safety and security because terrorist groups continue plotting possible attacks in the country. Rebel groups operating in Yemen have launched missiles, drones, and IEDs into Saudi Arabia, targeting populated areas and critical national infrastructure.

It is advised to avoid all travel within 50 miles of the Saudi-Yemen border. This includes the cities of Jizan, Najran, and Qatif in the Eastern province and its suburbs, including Awamiyah. Abha International Airport also falls in this avoid advisory.

Regional forces hostile to Saudi Arabia have conducted destructive and sometimes lethal attacks against various targets, including critical infrastructure, airports, military facilities, and energy facilities throughout the country, and targeting vessels in Red Sea shipping lanes. The civilian airport in Abha, areas close to Jeddah, Riyadh, and Yanbu, military deployments in the south, and specific oil and gas establishments are all examples of recent targeted attacks. The Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI) has supplied Yemen-based Houthis and other regional proxy groups with weapons, including missiles, rockets, and drones. Houthi militants continue to organize and conduct attacks against locations in Saudi Arabia. Violence associated with Iran-supported groups represents a significant threat. U.S. citizens living and working near military bases and critical civilian infrastructure, particularly near the border with Yemen and the Eastern Province, are at heightened risk of missile and drone attacks.



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## Tunisia

Risk Level: **Moderate Risk**

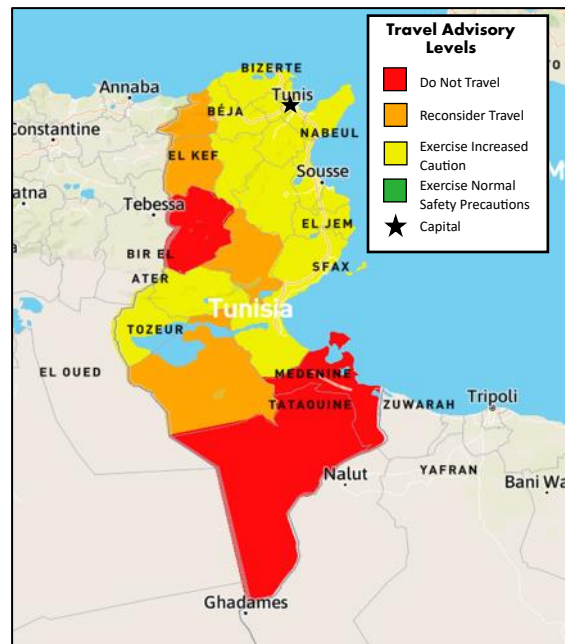
### Country Overview:

In some parts of Tunisia, the security situation is highly dangerous, with specific areas extremely unsafe. It is advised to exercise increased caution in Tunisia due to terrorism. Terrorist groups active in the country pose a significant threat to travelers in the region. A state of emergency has been in effect since November 24, 2015. The state of emergency has been extended numerous times, with the most recent extension extending it to the end of 2023.

On July 26, 2022, President Saied was declared the victor in a constitutional referendum he had called for to solidify his hold on power. The victory allows him to appoint judges and government ministers and introduce laws. These new presidential powers open the country up to significant democratic backsliding, risking Tunisia falling back into an autocratic and repressive rule.

It is advised to avoid all travel to the Mount Chaambi National Park area, including the town of Kasserine, areas along the Libyan border, including the town of Ben Guerdane and the immediate surrounding area, and the militarized zone south of the towns of El Borma and Dhehiba. It is also advised to limit all but essential travel to areas south of, including the towns of Nefta, Douz, Medenine, and Zaris; and the Governorates of Le Kef, Jendouba, and Sidi Bou Zid.

The U.S. government has limited ability to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in some areas of Tunisia.



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## Turkey

Risk Level: **Moderate Risk**

### Country Overview:

The security situation in some parts of Turkey is highly dangerous, with specific areas of the country considered extremely unsafe. It is advised to reconsider travel to Turkey due to terrorism and arbitrary detentions.

There is a high risk to personal safety and security because terrorist groups continue to plot attacks in Turkey. Government security officials have detained individuals on scant or secret grounds that have appeared to be primarily politically motivated. Most attacks have occurred in southeast regions of the country, Ankara and Istanbul.

It is advised to avoid all travel within 10km of the border of Syria, the city of Diyarbakir, Sirnak province, and Hakkari province.



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## COVID-19 STATISTICS UPDATE:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Total Cases</u>	<u>Total Deaths</u>	<u>Total Recovered</u>	<u>Active Cases</u>
Afghanistan	220,994	7,913	196,732	16,349
Algeria	271,827	6,881	183,040	81,906
Azerbaijan	831,789	10,273	821,431	85
Belarus	994,037	7,118	985,592	1,327
Burkina Faso	22,056	396	21,596	64
Burundi	53,751	38	53,569	144
Cameroon	125,036	1,972	122,807	257
CAR	15,368	113	15,200	55
Chad	7,701	194	4,874	2,633
Colombia	6,367,600	142,748	6,188,967	35,885
Congo	25,375	386	24,006	983
Cuba	1,113,960	8,530	1,105,247	183
Ecuador	1,061,766	36,019	1,025,081	666
Egypt	516,023	24,613	442,182	49,228
Eritrea	10,189	103	10,086	N/A
Ethiopia	500,884	7,574	488,102	5,208
Haiti	34,237	860	33,357	20
Honduras	472,619	11,116	N/A	N/A
India	44,988,426	531,854	44,450,404	6,168
Iran	7,611,490	146,250	7,365,341	99,899
Iraq	2,465,545	25,375	2,439,497	673
Israel	4,825,362	12,524	4,798,473	14,365
Lebanon	1,237,556	10,914	1,087,587	139,055
Libya	507,262	6,437	500,818	7
Mali	33,148	743	32,331	74
Mauritania	63,715	997	62,471	247
Mexico	7,614,771	334,107	6,861,981	418,683
Myanmar	638,301	19,494	617,264	1,543
Niger	9,931	312	8,890	729
Nigeria	266,675	3,155	259,953	3,567
Pakistan	1,580,967	30,660	1,538,689	11,618
Panama	1,038,642	8,623	1,029,434	585
Papua New Guinea	46,864	670	43,982	2,212
Philippines	4,133,644	66,466	4,050,696	16,482

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Russia	22,917,873	398,919	22,346,830	172,124
Somalia	27,334	1,361	13,182	12,791
South Sudan	18,368	138	18,115	115
Sudan	63,993	5,046	58,679	268
Syria	57,595	3,164	54,370	61
Tunisia	1,153,261	29,415	N/A	N/A
Turkey	17,232,066	102,174	N/A	N/A
Ukraine	5,544,969	112,271	5,426,086	6,612
Venezuela	552,695	5,856	546,537	302
Yemen	11,945	2,159	9,124	662

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