

COUNTRY RISK SUMMARIES

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Report for the week ending December 3rd, 2023.

Latest Updates: Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Burma (Myanmar), Central African Republic, Colombia, Ethiopia, Ecuador, Honduras, India, Israel, Lebanon, Mali, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria and Ukraine.

- **Afghanistan:** On November 27, an explosion occurred in Kabul's Police District 4 (PD4) at around 19:30 local time (15:00 GMT).
- **Burkina Faso:** On November 27, at least 400 militants as well as 40 civilians were killed, and 42 others were injured during a counter-offensive involving ground troops and air vectors by the Burkinabè Armed Forces after approximately 3,000 militants launched large attacks against Djibo, Soum Province in Sahel region, during evening hours local time. Fighting was predominant at the local military camp.
- **Burkina Faso:** On December 1, Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport (CDG/LFPG)-based Air France announced that the suspension of all flights to and from Burkina Faso's Ouagadougou Airport (OUA/DFFD) was extended until at least 30 March 2024 inclusive, amid the closure of Nigerien airspace to French planes by the National Council for the Safeguard of the Homeland (CNSP).
- **Burma (Myanmar):** On November 28, deadly clashes between the Burmese military and rebels in Shan state resulted in one Burmese resident being detained and a smoke grenade being used by Chinese security forces at a border area between Myanmar's Laukkaing township in Shan state and China's Lincang in Yunnan province.
- **Burma (Myanmar):** On November 28, urban guerilla groups were behind bomb blasts that targetted the Otaw ward administration office in Amarapura Township, the Pyigyitagon Township administrative office, and a military checkpoint at the Kandawgyi Intersection in Chanmyathazi Township across Mandalay, in the Mandalay region.
- **Central African Republic:** On November 29, at least five people were killed by heavy flooding of the Ubangi River in Ngandou, including 65,000 people that were impacted and over 3,600 homes destroyed in Bangui, Mobaye, Bangassou and parts of Ouham, Basse-Kotto and Haut-Mbomou prefectures due to floods.
- **Colombia:** On November 27, at least two people were killed after an unidentified gunman opened fire on 73 and 80 Sur streets in the Laureles neighborhood of Bogotá during early morning hours local time. Another person died of a heart attack upon witnessing the shooting.
- **Ethiopia:** On November 30, at least 772 confirmed cases, including 23 related deaths, were recorded in the Somali region in the last two weeks amid an outbreak of cholera following recent

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heavy flooding; Kelafo district was worst-affected. Further rain is forecasted for the coming weeks and could exacerbate the situation.

- **Ethiopia:** On November 28, at least 20 people were killed, and more than 30 others were injured after a bus traveling from Milami city to Wayu crashed in the Teltele district of Borena zone, Oromia region, during morning hours local time.
- **Ecuador:** On November 30, at least three people, including one police officer, were killed following an exchange of gunfire outside the Hospital Básico de Naranjal in Naranjal, Guayas province.
- **Honduras:** On November 27, police attempted to disperse protesting students in the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH) area near Suyapa Boulevard in Tegucigalpa during local afternoon hours. The students protested their lack of job opportunities after being excluded from civil service.
- **Israel:** On November 27, Hamas representatives indicated the group was open to extending the ceasefire, promising to release a further ten hostages per day. Israeli security authorities stated that they were open to developing for 24 hours should at least ten hostages be released. Representatives of Qatar, Egypt, the United States, the European Union, and Spain were engaged in brokering the ceasefire extension.
- **Israel:** On November 28, gunfire and explosions were heard in and around Gaza City, Gaza governorate, Gaza Strip, as of morning hours local time.
- **Israel:** On November 29, Israel Defence Forces (IDF) fire targeted a Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) convoy in the vicinity of a United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL) base near Houla, Nabatieh governorate, as of morning hours local time.
- **Israel:** On November 30, at least three people were killed and six others were injured after two assailants opened fire at the Givat Shaul junction near the entrance to Jerusalem during morning hours local time; the suspects were reported by Shin Bet as members of Hamas and shot dead by security forces and an armed civilian in the immediate aftermath of the incident. Highway 1 was closed to traffic from Motsa Junction toward Jerusalem.
- **Israel:** On November 30, Israel Defence Forces (IDF) announced that a drone launched from southern Lebanon, which triggered sirens in Dovev, Mattat, and Sasa in Israel's Northern District during morning hours local time, was successfully intercepted. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage. The sirens were the first in several days amid an ongoing ceasefire.
- **Israel:** On December 02, rocket sirens were sounding in Israel's Holit and Sufa, Southern District, during morning hours local time amid the ongoing conflict between Palestinian militants and Israeli forces. No further details were immediately available.
- **Israel:** On December 03, rocket sirens sounded in parts of Israel's Southern District near the Gaza Strip, including Ashkelon and Sderot, during early morning hours local time amid the ongoing conflict between Palestinian militants and Israeli forces.

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- **Kenya:** On November 28, at least 120 people were killed, hundreds more injured, and 500,000 others displaced nationwide, with Tana River, Garissa, Wajir, and Mandera the worst affected counties due to flooding from heavy rainfall in recent weeks. Roads were washed away in several counties, including Isiolo, Samburu, Kwale, Homa Bay, Makueni, Tharaka Nithi, Lamu, Taita Taveta, Meru, and Kisumu.
- **Kenya:** On November 28, at least six people were killed and 16 others injured after armed bandits attacked Lochacha village in Parkou in the Sarmach area, West Pokot County, during morning hours local time. The perpetrators were suspected to have crossed from Turkana County to raid the village and steal livestock.
- **Lebanon:** On November 28, unidentified assailants opened fire on the home of a former leader of the Islamic Group political party, located near al-Zahra Hospital in the Abu Samra district of Tripoli, during early morning hours local time; there were no reports of injuries. A search for the assailants was underway, along with an investigation into the motive for the attack.
- **Lebanon:** On November 28, an Israeli shell hit an area near Aita al-Shaab in Lebanon's Nabatieh governorate during morning hours local time amid an ongoing ceasefire between Israel Defence Forces and Hamas in the Gaza Strip. Ceasefire agreements between Israel and Lebanon have loosely reflected the situation in Gaza.
- **Lebanon:** On November 30, Israel Defence Forces (IDF) announced that a drone launched from southern Lebanon, which triggered sirens in Dovev, Mattat, and Sasa in Israel's Northern District during morning hours local time, was successfully intercepted. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage. The sirens were the first in several days amid an ongoing ceasefire.
- **Mali:** On November 27, over 136,000 individuals are still confined in Timbuktu, Tombouctou region, as of 27 November, due to an enduring state of siege imposed by Islamist militants linked to al-Qaeda since August. The prohibition on entering crucial supplies such as food, fuel, and medicines remains in effect.
- **Mali:** On November 29, at least 40 ethnic Fulani civilians were killed by Wagner Group mercenaries in several villages, including Sokolo, in the Niono cercle of Ségou region on 22-24 November. Unconfirmed reports indicated that Malian Armed Forces (FAMa) soldiers participated in the executions, while other sources stated that FAMa attempted to stop the extrajudicial killings.
- **Mali:** On November 30, Malian Armed Forces (FAMa) repelled an attack by suspected Jama'at Nasr al-Islam wal Muslimin (JNIM) militants on a FAMa base in Mourdiah, Nara cercle, Koulikoro region, during early morning hours local time.
- **Mexico:** On November 29, at least four journalists were shot at, among whom three were injured, in the Las Palmas neighborhood near the Mexican Army's sixth infantry battalion facilities in Chilpancingo, Guerrero state, at around 12:00 local time (18:00 GMT) by two unidentified gunmen on motorcycles.

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- **Mexico:** On December 1, at least two people were killed and two others injured after unidentified gunmen opened fire on Avenida Tchaikovsky and Calle Misión San Julián in Zapopan, Jalisco state, during early evening hours.
- **Nigeria:** On November 27, at least 50 Islamic State-West Africa Province (ISWAP) militants were killed when their vehicle convoy struck an improvised explosive device (IED) in Arina Masallaci in Marte local government area (LGA), Borno state.
- **Nigeria:** On November 27, at least three people, including two police officers, were killed and multiple others wounded when unidentified gunmen opened fire at a security checkpoint in the Ahiara area of Ahaizu Mbaise local government area (LGA) of Imo state.
- **Nigeria:** On November 27, several people were injured and several others kidnapped after armed bandits attacked the Gandu community, located near the Federal University of Lafia in Nasarawa state.
- **Nigeria:** On November 27, at least 11 loggers were beheaded by suspected Boko Haram militants near the village of Bale in Damboa local government area (LGA) of Borno State.
- **Nigeria:** On November 29, at least one person was killed, and two others were injured after police forces fired live rounds and tear gas to disperse demonstrators blocking Katsina Road in Fagge local government area (LGA) of Kano state during morning hours local time, amid protests to denounce a recent Appeal Court judgment that sacked Governor Abba Yusuf of the New Nigeria People's Party.
- **Nigeria:** On November 30, at least seven people were killed in the Pukah community of Mangu local government area (LGA), Plateau state, during early morning hours local time due to an attack by unidentified gunmen. The same gunmen also attacked the Pinper community in the area. No casualties were reported there.
- **Pakistan:** On November 28, at least two Islamist militants were killed in a security operation in the Nagao area in Kalat district, Balochistan province. Several weapons and ammunition were recovered following the operation.
- **Pakistan:** On November 30, at least one Islamist militant was killed, and two others were injured following a security operation in the Domain area of Bannu district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.
- **Pakistan:** On December 1, at least one police officer was killed after Islamist militants attacked a polio eradication team in the Nallah Khwar area of Khyber district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. One militant was killed in clashes as officers fought them off.
- **Panama:** On November 27, riot police fired tear gas to disperse protesters who blocked the Interamerican Highway near Risacua Bridge in David, Chiriquí province, during afternoon hours local time. A related blockade was reported in San Félix.
- **Papua New Guinea:** On November 27, a 6.5-magnitude coastal earthquake struck 43.1km (26.8 miles) east of Wewak, East Sepik province, at a depth of 12.3km (7.6 miles) at around 07:46 local time (21:46 GMT, 27 November). No tsunami warning was immediately reported. Strong shaking was reported in Wewak and other areas near the epicenter.

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- **Papua New Guinea:** On November 29, protest rallies got underway outside the Boroko Police Station, among other parts of Boroko and Gordon suburbs in Port Moresby, as of afternoon hours local time over the death of a youth that occurred during the prior day.
- **Philippines:** On December 1, a newly elected barangay chairman was shot and killed by two unidentified motorcycle-borne gunmen in the Zone 4 area of barangay Cawit in Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Sur province, at around 07:00 local time (23:00 GMT).
- **Russia:** On November 27, at least two people were killed, several others injured, and multiple homes, roads, and railway lines were damaged in Krasnodar Krai, including Novorossiysk, Tuapse, Anapa, and Sochi, due to strong winds and floods triggered by a Black Sea cyclonic storm. While Sochi Airport (AER/URSS) resumed operations, storm warnings remained in effect for Krasnodar Krai, Karachay-Cherkessia, Stavropol Krai and Adygea.
- **Russia:** On November 27, at least one person was killed, and around 425,000 people remained without power in Crimea, including Bakhchysarai, Oktyabrsky, Simferopol, Kerch, Lenino, Sudak, Sevastopol, Saky, Yevpatoria and Belogorsk, as of early afternoon hours local time, due to a Black Sea cyclonic storm. Public transport and internet access were severely disrupted across the peninsula; emergency operations were ongoing.
- **Russia:** On November 30, a train carrying fuel exploded on the Baikal Amur Mainline (BAM) in Buryatia during late evening local time. The incident followed a previous incident where a freight train transporting fuel caught fire in the Severomuysky Tunnel between Taksimo and Yanchukan earlier in the day.
- **Russia:** On November 30, border crossings open between Finland and Russia will close effective 00:00 local time for at least two weeks, until 14 December, in response to a surge in illegal border crossings by migrant asylum seekers in Russia.
- **Somalia:** On November 29, at least 101 people were killed, and 1.1 million more were displaced nationwide, including in Hiraa, Bakool, Bay, and Gedo regions, due to flooding triggered by heavy rainfall connected to the El Nino phenomenon. Over 140,000 homes were destroyed.
- **South Sudan:** On November 28, heavy fighting broke out between the South Sudan People's Defense Forces (SSPDF) and the opposition SPLA-IO forces in the Kai Kang and Adok Port areas of Leer County, Unity state, during morning hours local time.
- **Sudan:** On November 27, at least 249 suspected cholera cases, 186 confirmed cases, and five related fatalities were recorded in the Red Sea State, including in Port Sudan's Al-Mirghaniyah neighborhood. Three thousand three hundred fifty-nine cases, including 108 deaths, amid the ongoing cholera outbreak that broke out in Gedaref and Khartoum before spreading to other states, including Gezira and the White Nile.
- **Sudan:** On November 28, at least two people were killed and several others were injured in Dilling, South Kordofan state, during evening hours local time following tribal clashes between the Baggara tribe and Nuba people; several homes were also set on fire.
- **Sudan:** On December 1, a total outage of communications and internet has been ongoing in El Geneina, West Darfur state, for more than six days. The outage comes amid heavy fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) across West Darfur state.

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- **Syria:** On December 1, explosions were heard in and near Damascus. Air defences were activated in the city amid reports of an alleged Israeli airstrike. At least two pro-Hezbollah fighters were killed, and seven others were injured near Sayyidah Zaynab (Sitt Zaynab), Rif Dimashq governorate, near Damascus, during early morning hours local time after Israeli airstrikes targeted Hezbollah sites.
- **Ukraine:** On November 28, at least one person was killed and two others injured by Russian shelling in Nikopol, Dnipropetrovsk oblast, during morning hours local time.
- **Ukraine:** On November 30, at least one person was killed and 15 others injured across the oblasts of Kherson and Donetsk, including Pokrovsk and Darivka, amid heavy Russian shelling in the last 24 hours.
- **Ukraine:** On November 30, at least one person was killed, and three others were rescued with injuries from under rubble after Russian airstrikes targeted residential buildings in Toretsk, Donetsk oblast, during evening hours local time. At least 18 drones and one missile were also intercepted overnight.
- **Ukraine:** On December 1, at least one person was killed and another injured after Russian shelling targeted Tiahynka village in Kherson oblast overnight.

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 get in touch with me directly. Thank you.

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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 | 12) Mali |
| 2) Belarus | 13) North Korea |
| 3) Burkina Faso | 14) Russia |
| 4) Burma (Myanmar) | 15) Somalia |
| 5) Central African Republic (CAR) | 16) South Sudan |
| 6) Haiti | 17) Sudan |
| 7) Iran | 18) Syria |
| 8) Iraq | 19) Ukraine |
| 9) Israel | 20) Venezuela |
| 10) Lebanon | 21) Yemen. |
| 11) Libya | |



HIGH RISK COUNTRIES

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

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COUNTRY TRAVEL ADVISORY DETAILS BY RISK LEVEL

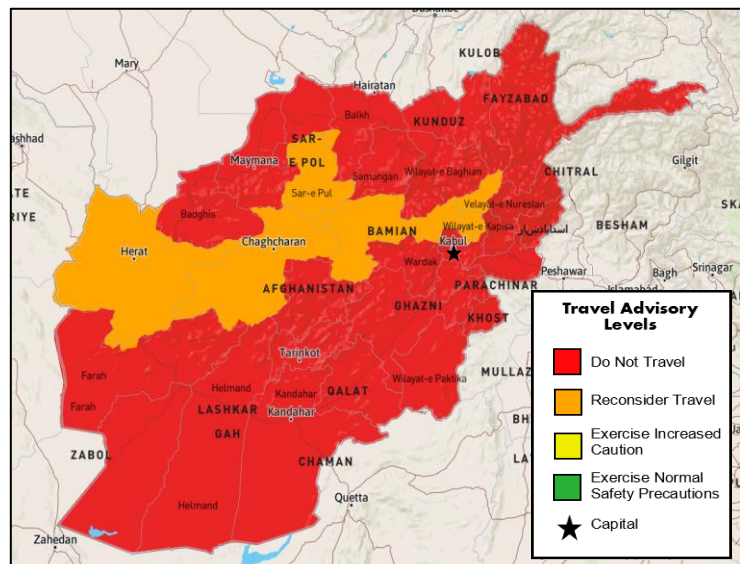


Afghanistan

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 warlords 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 troops 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**

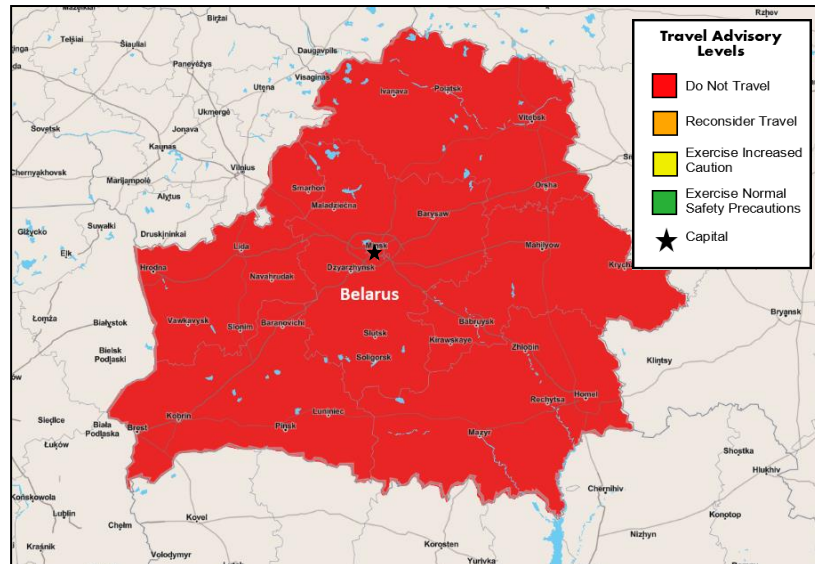
Country Overview:

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 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 protests. The Belarusian Government has arrested thousands of individuals, 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. Belarus does not recognize dual nationality; authorities consider travelers with a Belarusian passport as Belarusian.

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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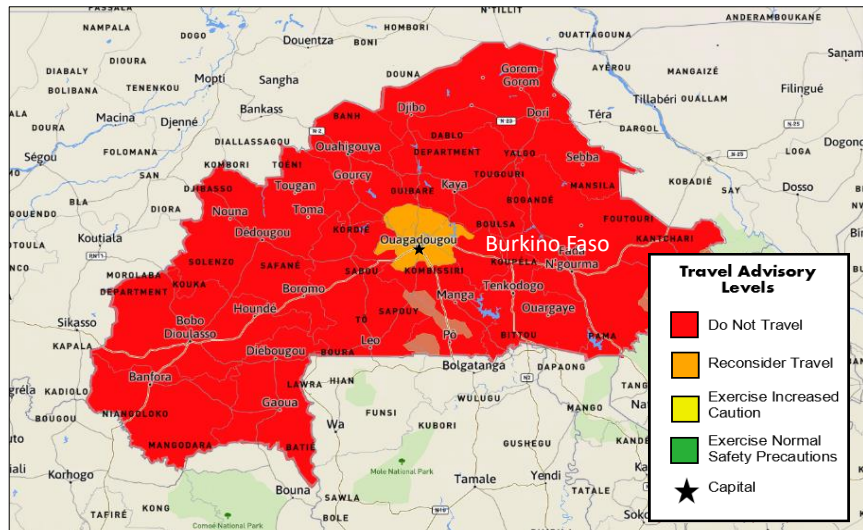
Burkina Faso

Risk Level: **Extreme**

Country Overview:

The security situation in Burkina Faso is hazardous, 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.

Burkina Faso's military Government was dissolved in September 2022, with the constitution and transitional charter suspended.



This coup stems from the perceived failure of now-deposed leaders 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. General staff within the Burkina Faso army implied that the coup resulted from internal friction within the military 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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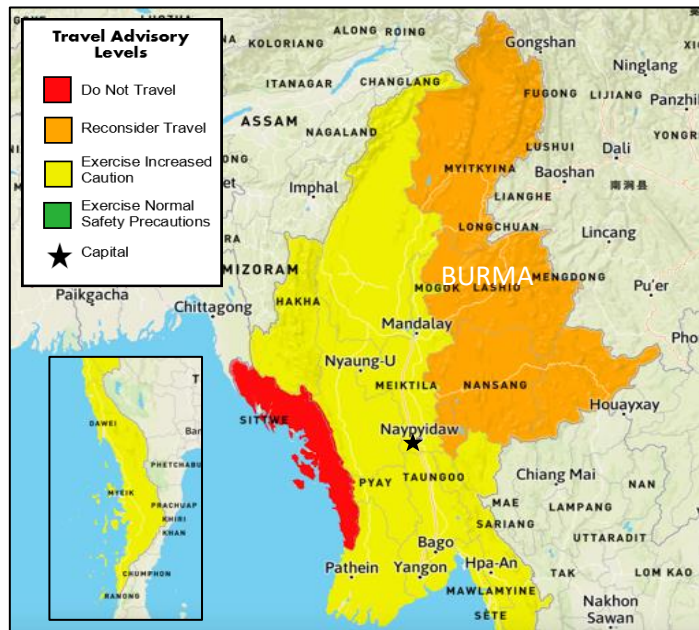
Burma (Myanmar)

Risk Level: **Extreme**

Country Overview:

The security situation in some parts of Myanmar is hazardous, with specific areas 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.

Avoiding travel to Rakhine State due to civil unrest and armed conflict is advised. Trip to Chin, Kayin, Kachin, and Shan State townships is not recommended 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 and 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 trials and sentenced to 26 years in prison. The charges are seen as politically motivated, and the international community considers the practices 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:

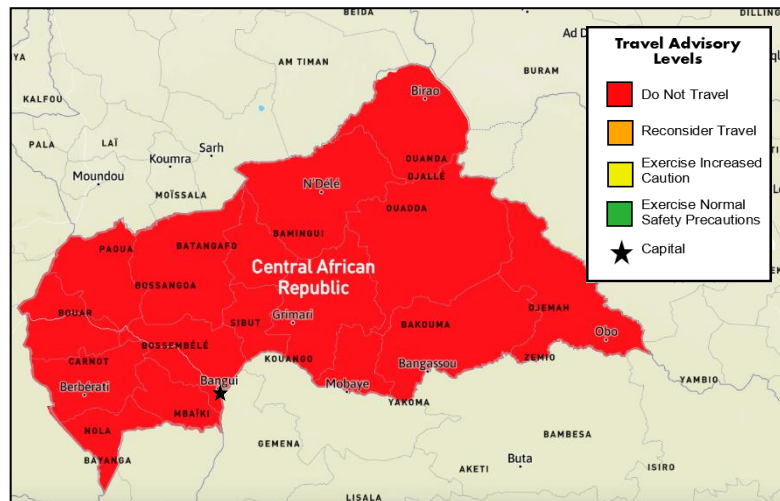
The security situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) is dangerous. It is advised to avoid all travel to the CAR, if possible. Travel is unsafe due to civil unrest and crime. There is an extreme risk to personal safety and security because of sectarian violence by armed groups and everyday criminal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

Although there have been no specific 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. Travelers should note that local elections and a constitutional referendum are scheduled for July, increasing the risk of social unrest. 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 occurs at 10 p.m. and ends at 5 a.m. You should follow the Government's instructions and avoid traveling around Bangui during these hours.

There are reports of a hemorrhagic fever outbreak in the Central African Republic, resulting in four deaths. The cases were reported in 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:

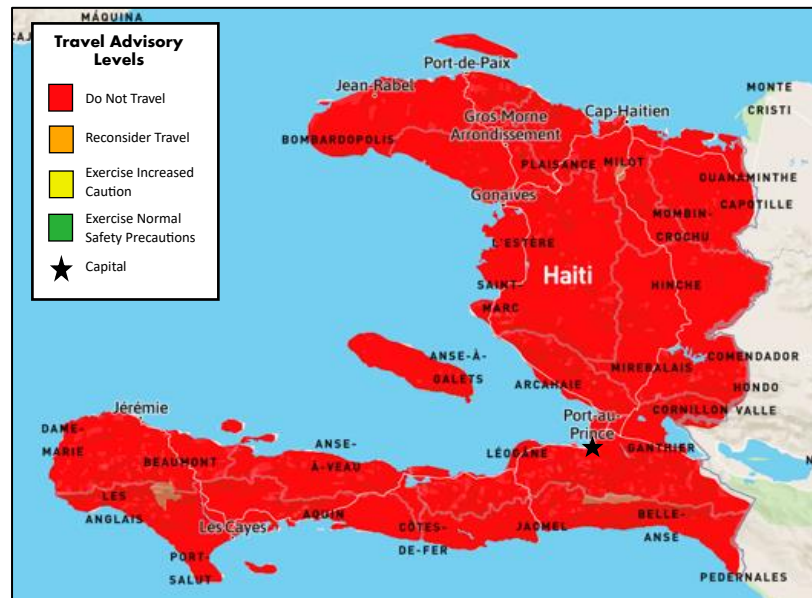
The security situation in Haiti is unstable and extremely dangerous. Avoiding travel to Haiti due to civil unrest and crime is advised. There is a high risk to personal safety and security due to the widespread violent and unpredictable demonstrations in Port-au-Prince and elsewhere in the country.

Haiti has been gripped by violent anti-government protests and riots since early July 2018, leaving over 200 people dead. Severe fuel shortages plague the country, impacting 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 city sections from government authority. Estimates place gangs in control of approximately 60% of the city. Kidnappings in the city are rising 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.

While the land border between Haiti and the Dominican Republic remains shut, the Dominican Government has declared the resumption of air travel between the two countries on October 30th. The situation concerning the border can change suddenly, and it is advisable to monitor local media for any updates.

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 encounter one, 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

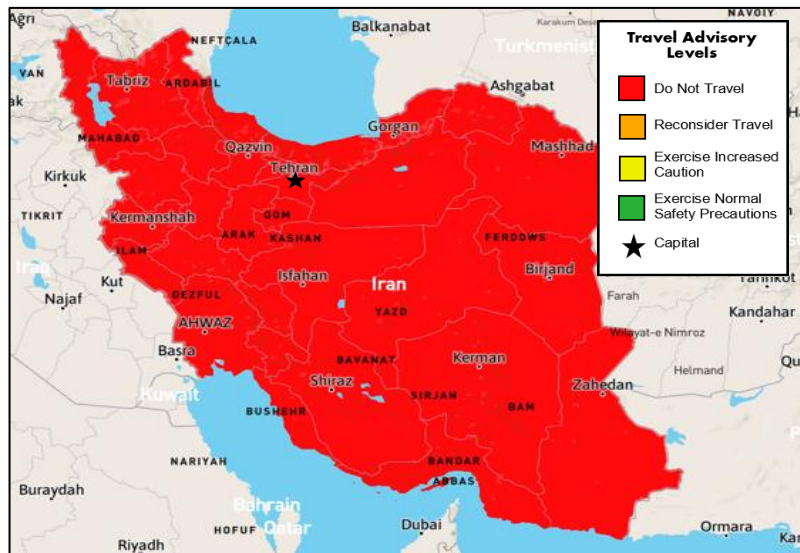
Risk Level: **Extreme**

Country Overview:

The security situation in Iran is hazardous, 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 near 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 cars, making convoys an attractive target for militants.



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Iraq

Risk Level: **Extreme**

Country Overview:

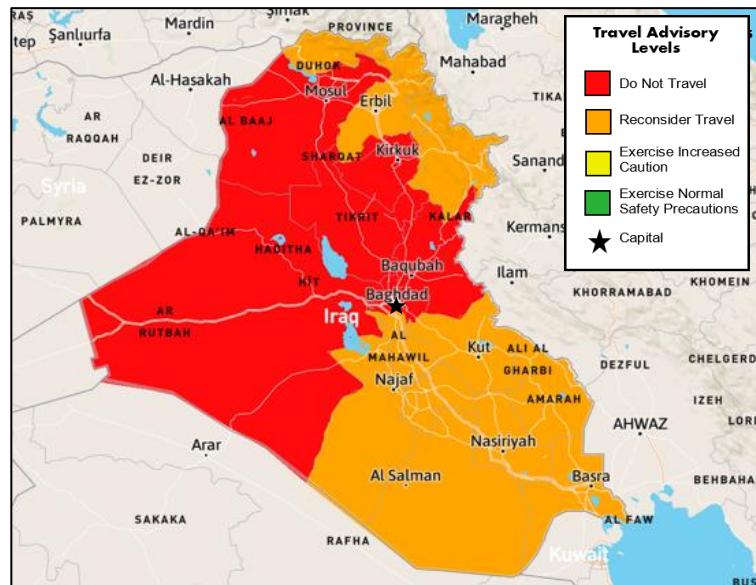
The security situation in Iraq is hazardous. It is advised to avoid traveling to Iraq. Travel is unsafe due to terrorism, kidnapping, and armed conflict. There is also an extreme risk to personal safety and security because of active insurgent and terrorist groups, sectarian militias, and high levels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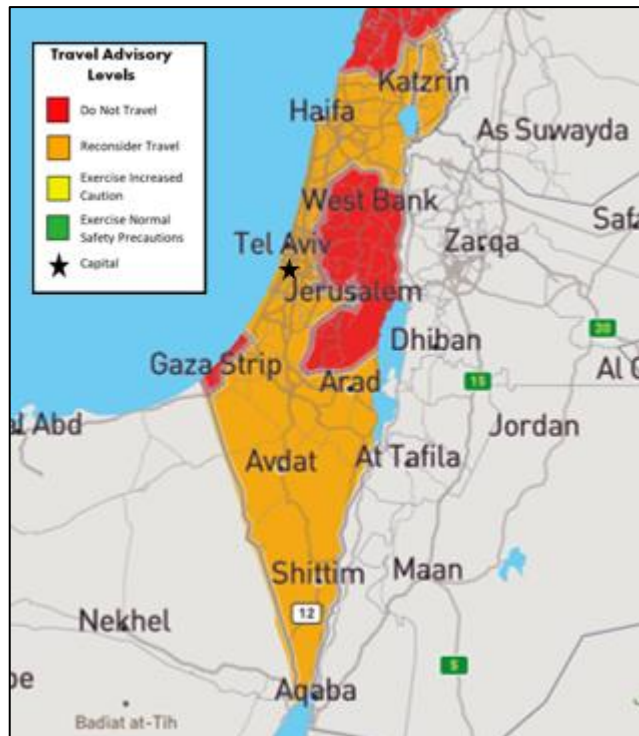
Israel

Risk Level: **Extreme**

Country Overview:

The security situation in Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza is 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.

On October 7, the Hamas militant group launched a surprise attack on southern Israel in the areas surrounding Gaza. Thousands of rockets were launched, combined with a ground attack from Gaza. The militants broke through the Gaza border fence and attacked nearby towns, cities, kibbutzim, and a music festival. At least 1,300 Israelis were killed in the attack, with a suspected 150 captured and taken into Gaza as hostages. Israel responded with airstrikes in Gaza, killing over 1,000 people. Tensions in the region are high as Israel began amassing troops on the Gaza border and has significantly expanded operations to include ongoing bombardment of Gaza. Israel has also started moving troops to its northern border with Lebanon to prepare for possible Hezbollah attacks.



On November 1st, the Rafah border crossing between Egypt and Gaza was partially operational, with its main purpose being to assist in the evacuation of severely injured Palestinians and select foreign individuals. Travelers near the Gaza border are advised to leave the area as soon as possible; otherwise, avoid the area. Travelers in Israel are advised to leave as soon as possible. The security situation is expected to deteriorate as the conflict continues.

Terrorist attacks in Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territories are very likely and are indiscriminate to place or person. Exercise increased caution always. These attacks could be indiscriminate and occur in places frequently visited by foreigners, including tourist sites, public transport hubs, and busy public spaces.

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Lebanon

Risk Level: **Extreme**

Country Overview:

The security situation in Lebanon is hazardous, with some parts of the country being extremely unsafe. It is advised to avoid all travel to Lebanon due to the unpredictable security situation related to rocket, missile, and artillery exchanges between Israel and Hizballah or other armed militant factions. 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.

The situation in Lebanon is rapidly changing, and it has the potential to deteriorate without much warning. There are ongoing exchanges of mortar and artillery, along with airstrikes near the border with Israel in South Lebanon. Tensions are running high, and events might escalate suddenly, impacting the availability of exit routes from Lebanon. Travelers currently in Lebanon are encouraged to leave as soon as possible while commercial travel options are still open.



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 Arsal, 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.

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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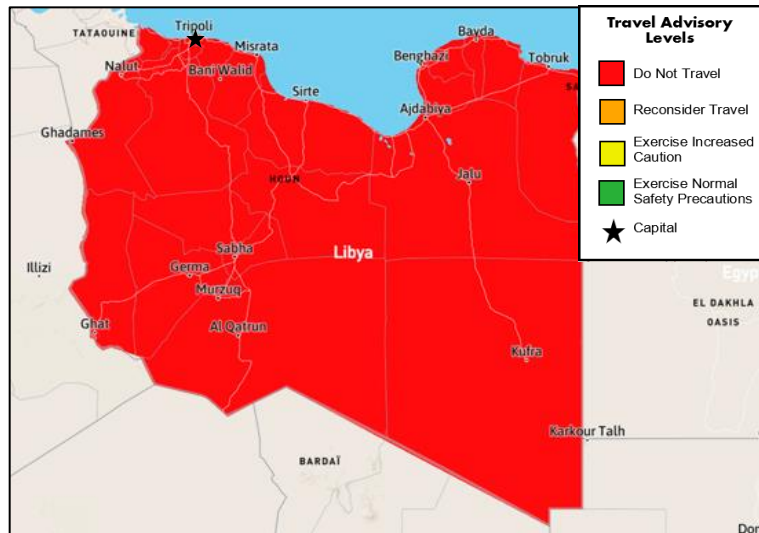


Libya

Risk Level: **Extreme**

Country Overview:

The security situation in Libya is hazardous. 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 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 without warning, targeting tourist locations, hotels, transportation hubs, markets/shopping malls, and government facilities.



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 and outbreaks of violence between armed groups occur with little warning.

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.

After a catastrophic collapse of two dams following massive flooding and mudslides caused by Storm Daniel in eastern Libya on September 11, 2023, at least 11,300 people were killed, 10,000 more were still missing, and more than 30,000 were forced to flee their homes in the city of Derna.

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Mali

Risk Level: **Extreme**

Country Overview:

The security situation in Mali is hazardous. 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.

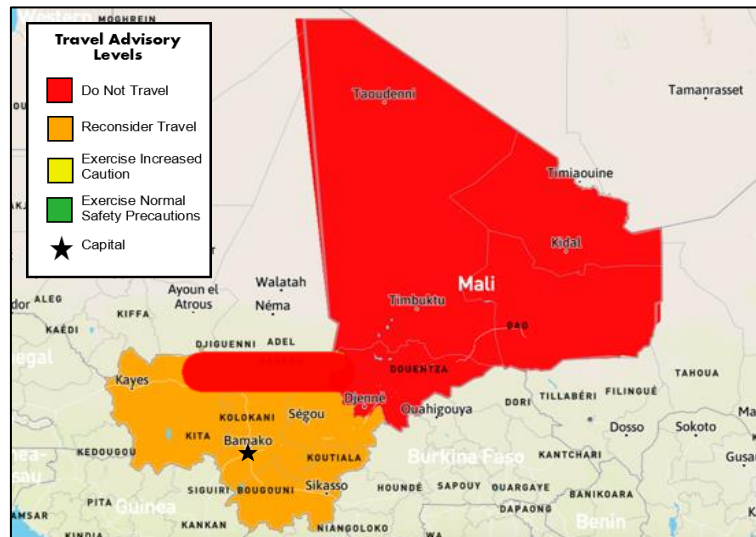
In Mali, violent crimes such as kidnapping and armed robbery are common. Violent crime is prevalent during seasonal events and local holidays, especially in Mali's southern regions and Bamako suburbs. It is common to see random police checkpoints and roadblocks at night throughout the country. Armed groups and terrorists continually plague Mali with kidnappings and attacks without 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 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. Mali held a referendum on June 18 to approve a new draft constitution. The result favored the constitutional changes, allowing the head of state more direct control over the Government.



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North Korea

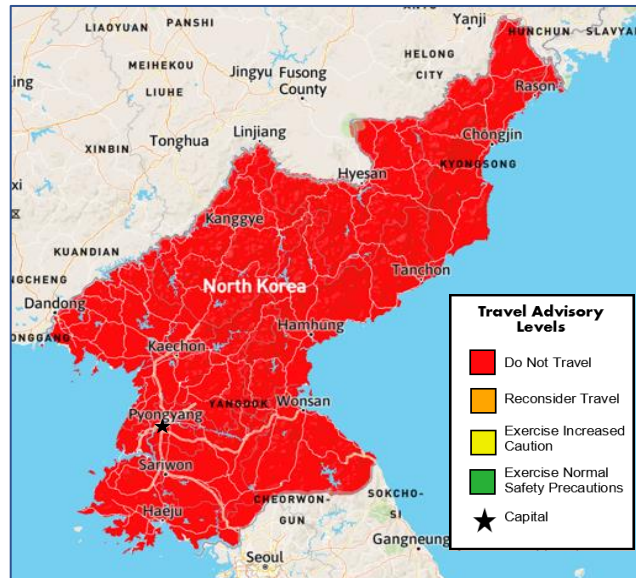
Risk Level: **Extreme**

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 pose 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 only valid for travel to, in, or through North Korea with specific validation from the U.S. Department of State. Unique assurances are granted only in limited circumstances.

During the second day of a critical 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.



Russia

Risk Level: **Extreme**

Country Overview:

In some parts of Russia, security is hazardous, 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. Furthermore, avoiding traveling to the Ukrainian Kharkiv Oblast within 20 kilometers of the wall is suggested, save for necessities.

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 Saint Petersburg.

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. Ukraine has begun a counteroffensive to retake Russian-occupied territory; however, progress has been slow.

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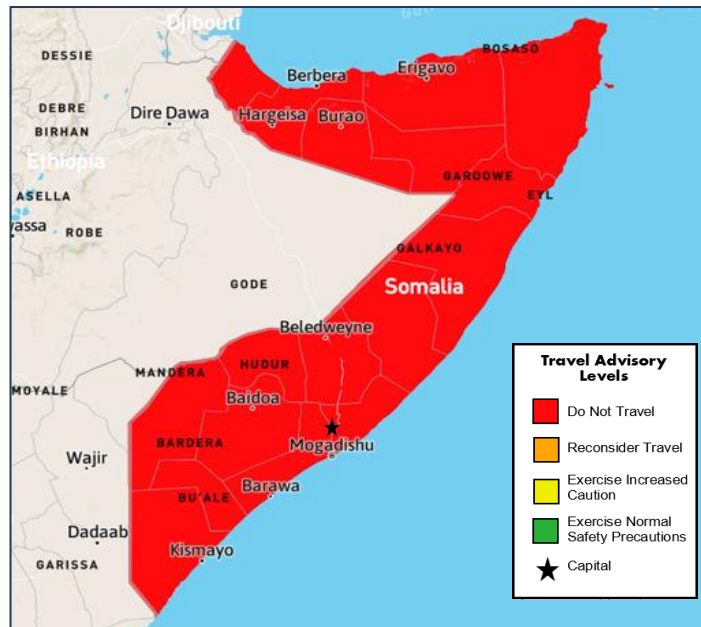
Somalia

Risk Level: **Extreme**

Country Overview:

It is advised to avoid traveling to Somalia. The security situation in Somalia is hazardous. 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 shared.

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.

The U.S. government can only provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in Somalia without a permanent consular presence.

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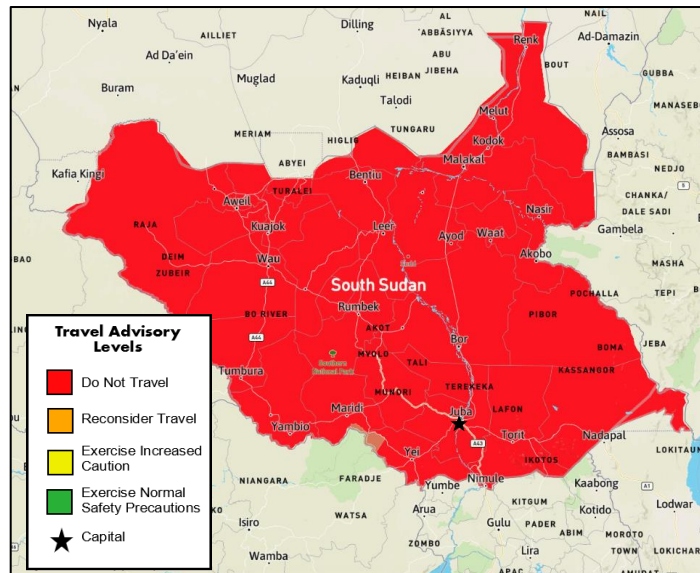


South Sudan

Risk Level: **Extreme**

Country Overview:

The security situation in South Sudan is hazardous. 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 corruption, 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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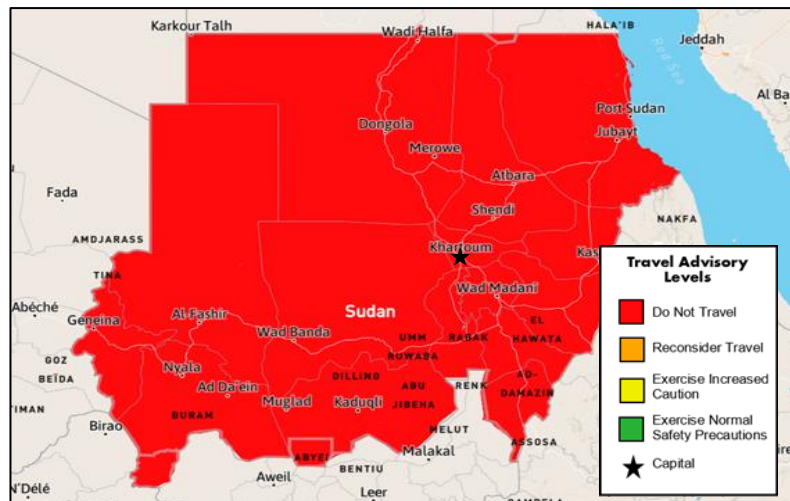
Sudan

Risk Level: **Extreme**

Country Overview:

The security situation in Sudan is hazardous. 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 could be more reliable. 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. 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 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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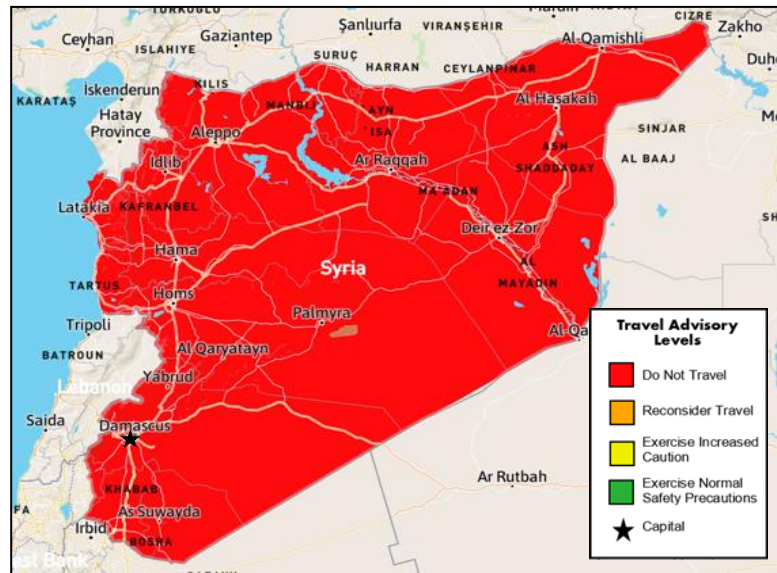
Syria

Risk Level: **Extreme**

Country Overview:

In Syria, the security situation is hazardous. 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 threaten United States military personnel, and the escalating situation threatens years of progress against ISIL (ISIS). Security status and cases throughout Syria are fragile and can escalate into deadly armed clashes without warning.



In 2012, the U.S. Embassy 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 minimal (including accepting applications for U.S. passports and U.S. Consular Reports of Birth Abroad and notarial services). The U.S. government cannot 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 created 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 kidnapping and detention by the Syrian Government and do not have access to medical attention or due process while in custody. The Government detention centers are 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 advised to avoid all travel to Syria.

Cities in northern Syria have yet to recover from the significant 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 more than \$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 invaded 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. Ukrainian forces have begun a long-awaited offensive against captured territories; however, progress has been slow.

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 foreigners and some 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 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 hazardous. 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, including tear gas, pepper spray, water cannons, and rubber bullets against participants, and occasionally devolve 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 avoiding non-essential travel is advised. Formal tourism industry infrastructure needs to be implemented, and emergency consular support is minimal or may be unavailable altogether. Travelers are advised to avoid the area within a 50-mile radius along the Venezuelan-Colombian border.

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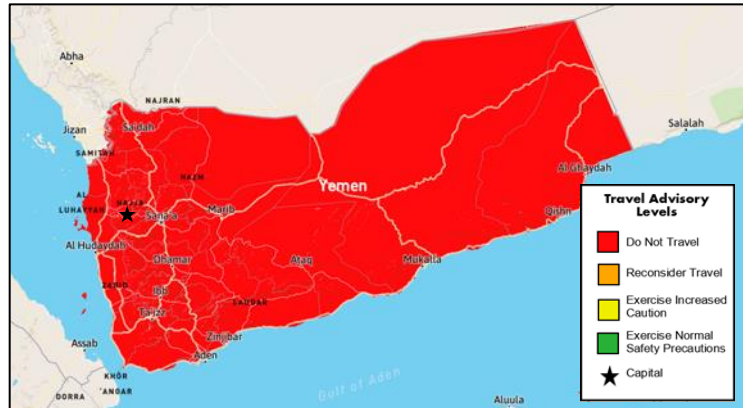


Yemen

Risk Level: **Extreme**

Country Overview:

The security situation in Yemen is hazardous. 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 tickets. U.S. citizens should not travel to Socotra or any part of Yemen.

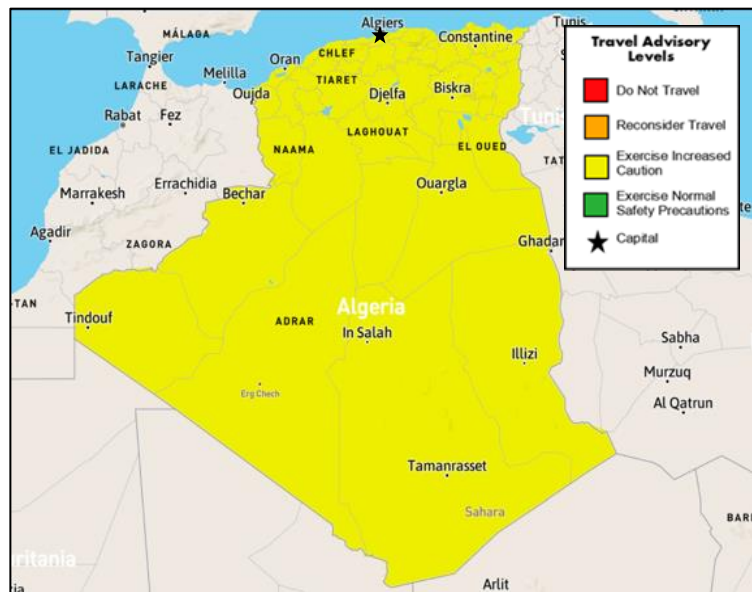
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**HIGH RISK COUNTRIES****Algeria**Risk Level: **Moderate****Country Overview:**

In some parts of Algeria, the security situation is hazardous, with specific areas 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 occurred 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 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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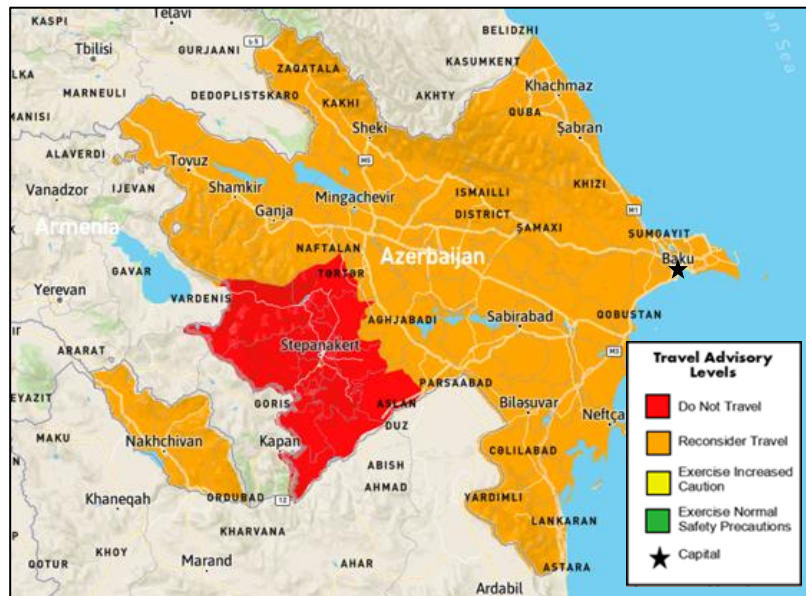
Azerbaijan

Risk Level: **Moderate**

Country Overview:

The security situation in some parts of Azerbaijan is hazardous, with specific areas 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.

Azerbaijan and Armenia are in dispute over the Nagorno-Karabakh territory. The region is recognized internationally as Azerbaijani, but ethnic Armenians have governed since 1994 following a separatist movement. Conflict between the two countries erupted again on September 19 after Azerbaijani police and civilians died from landmines. Azerbaijan mobilized and seized control of the territory within two days. Azerbaijan has exerted control over the state and begun disbanding the former Government. Nagorno-Karabakh will cease to exist from January 2024, resulting in most ethnic Armenians attempting to flee the territory to Armenia. Travelers are advised to avoid Nagorno-Karabakh and the nearby border with Armenia.



Nagorno-Karabakh 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 UXOs are 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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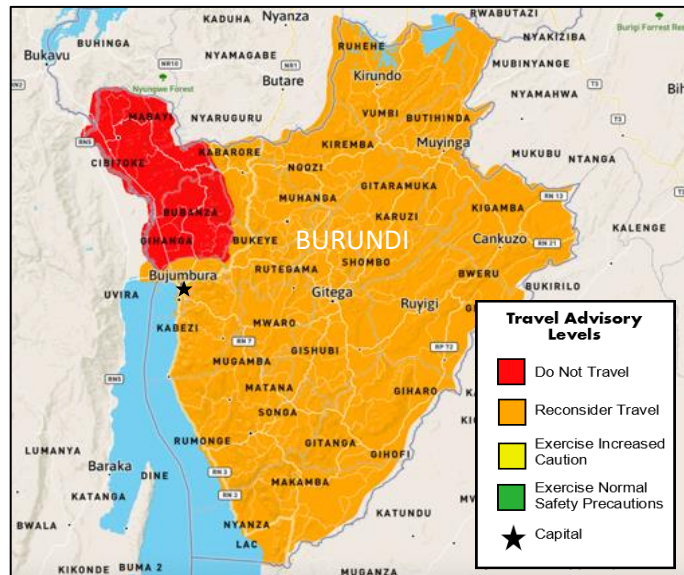
Burundi

Risk Level: **Extreme**

Country Overview:

The security situation in Burundi is hazardous, with some regions of the country being extremely unsafe. It is advised that you 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 primarily affecting 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 cannot provide emergency services to U.S. citizens. Due to 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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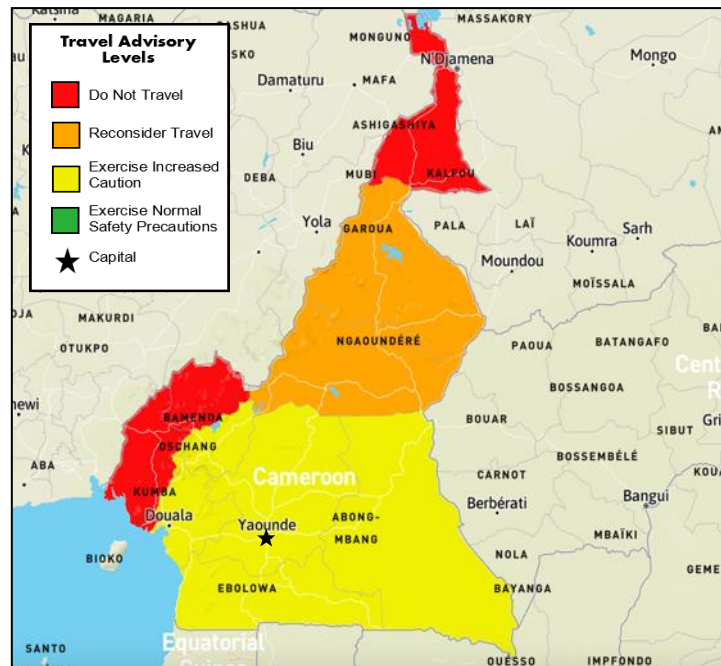
Cameroon

Risk Level: **Extreme**

Country Overview:

The security situation in certain parts of Cameroon is hazardous. It is advised to exercise increased caution in Cameroon due to crime, civil unrest, and terrorism. There is a 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.

The Anglophone Crisis, sometimes referred to as the Ambazonia War or the Cameroonian Civil War, is an ongoing armed confrontation that is a component of a long-standing Anglophone crisis to carve out and independent state called Ambazonia in western Cameroon. This Civil war between the Cameroon Armed Forces and Ambazonian separatist rebel organizations started on September 9, 2017.



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

Due to current official travel restrictions, the U.S. government cannot 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: **Extreme**

Country Overview:

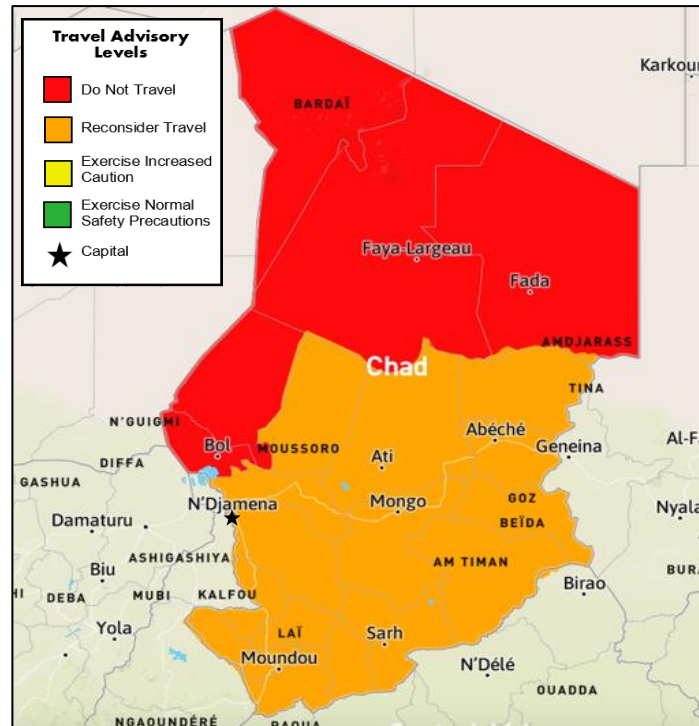
The security situation in Chad is hazardous, with some parts of the country being extremely unsafe. It is advised to reconsider travel to Chad due to crime, terrorism, and the existence of minefields. There is a high risk to personal safety and security because of widespread violent crimes, such as armed 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 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 needs more 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**

Country Overview:

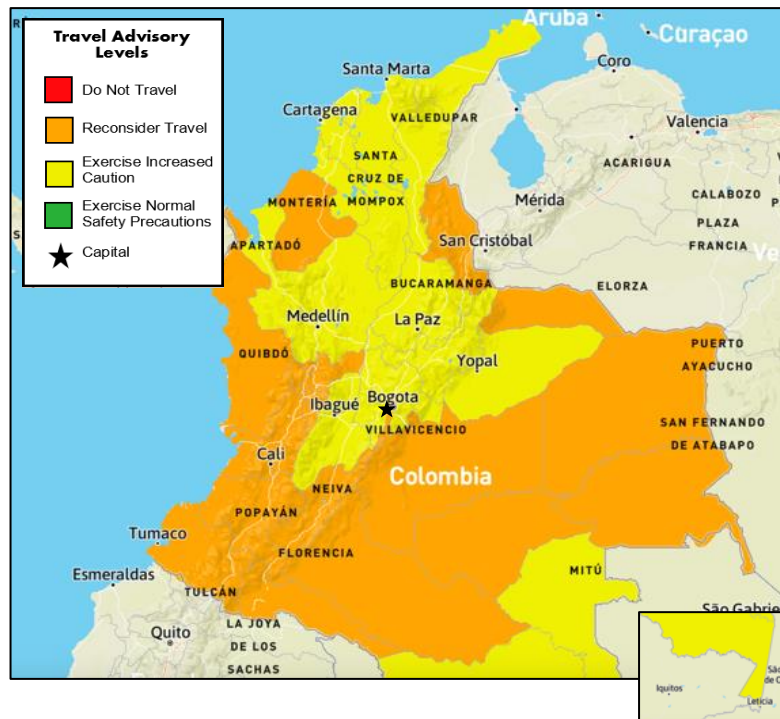
In some parts of Colombia, the security situation is hazardous, with specific areas extremely unsafe. It is advised to reconsider travel to Colombia due to crime, civil unrest, and terrorism. There is a moderate risk to personal safety and security as the National Liberation Army (ELN) continues to plot 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.

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

Elections are scheduled for October 29, presenting an increased risk of demonstrations and heightened military and police presence. Large gatherings can rapidly spiral out of control and may affect local services. Travelers are advised to avoid protests and rallies of any kind.

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 recommended 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 part of Cauca (except Popayan), Buenaventura, the Bajo Cauca and Uraba areas of Antioquia, the site 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 cannot 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**

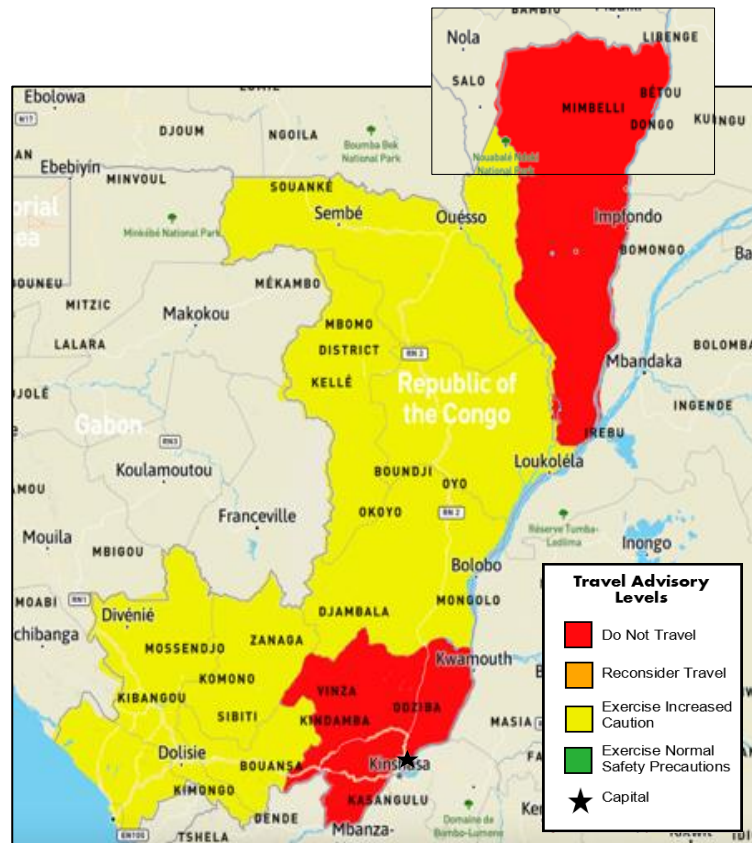
Country Overview:

The security situation in parts of the Congo is hazardous. 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 neighboring 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 needs more ability to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens outside Brazzaville.



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Cuba

Risk Level: **Moderate**

Country Overview:

The security situation in Cuba is relatively stable and characterized by a strong military and police presence. Americans should exercise increased caution due to health attacks targeting numerous U.S. Embassy employees. Other travelers' 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 always.

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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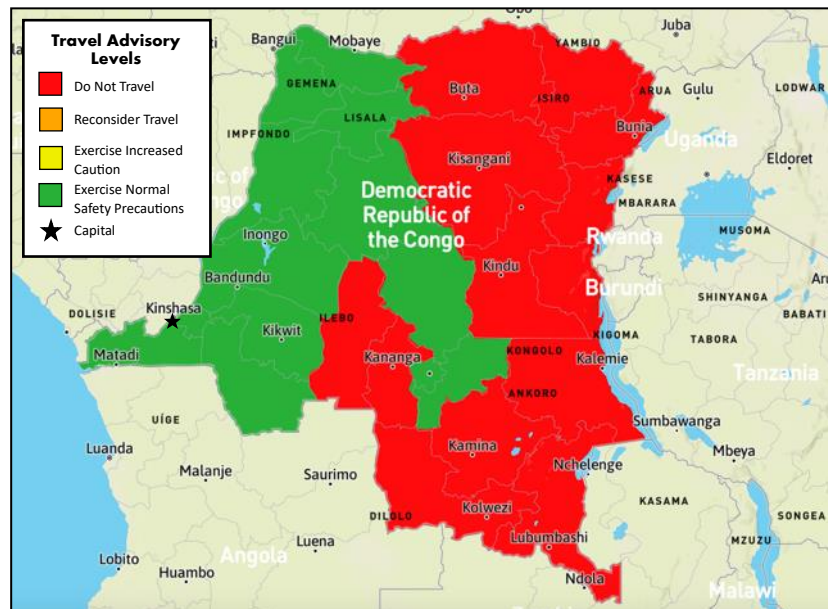
Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Risk Level: **Extreme**

Country Overview:

In some areas of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the security situation is hazardous, 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 trips.



Clashes between M23 and the DRC military around Goma are ongoing, with some territories and villages within a 30-kilometer radius of Goma under the temporary control of armed factions. 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.

The DRC will hold Presidential, Parliamentary, and local elections on December 20, 2023. Travelers should anticipate protests and demonstrations, particularly in major population centers like Kinshasa.

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 more likely to be kidnapped.

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 recommended 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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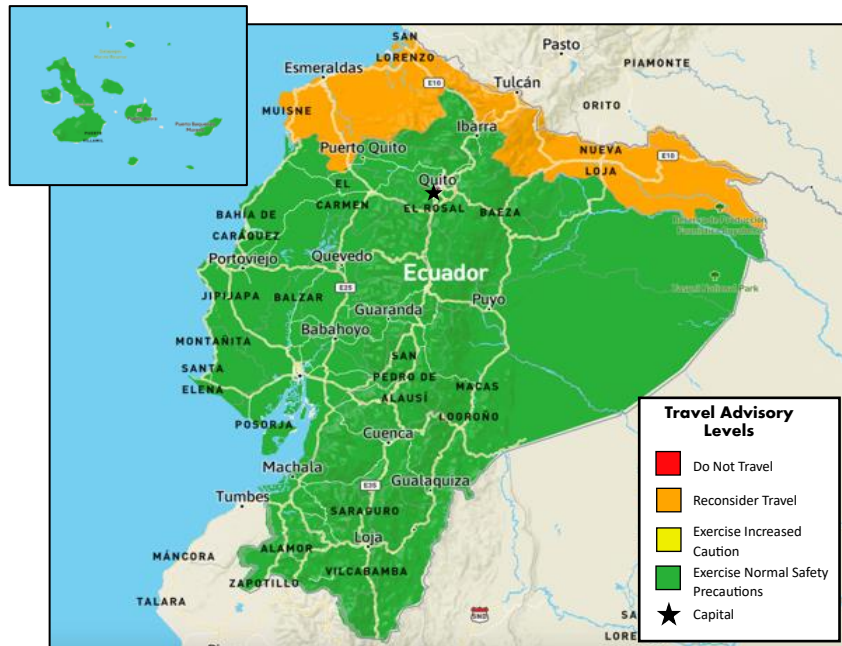


Ecuador

Risk Level: **Moderate**

Country Overview:

In some parts of Ecuador, the security situation is hazardous, with specific areas being 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. Severe, sometimes violent demonstrations and road blockades occur throughout Ecuador with little 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 Colombian border, 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.

Commencing on October 27, scheduled power outages will occur across the entire country. Each municipal electric utility is tasked with arranging the timetable for these planned power interruptions. Specific details regarding these outage schedules can be accessed through the official social media accounts of the respective electric company, including X, Facebook, and Instagram, as well as other authorized websites.

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.

Ecuador is prone to intense seismic activity, leading to volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, and earthquakes. Travelers are encouraged to monitor weather reports, especially from October to May, and to familiarize themselves with the proper precautions to prepare for potential natural disasters.

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Egypt

Risk Level: **Moderate**

Country Overview:

In some parts of Egypt, security is hazardous, with specific country areas 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 town closest to these crossings in Sudan is Wadi Halfa, situated approximately 30km away from the border. However, there needs to be more 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.

As the Israel-Hamas conflict in Gaza intensifies, the safety situation at and near the Egypt-Gaza border will deteriorate. On November 1st, the Rafah border crossing was partially operational, with its main purpose being to assist in the evacuation of severely injured Palestinians and select foreign individuals. Travelers near the Gaza border are advised to leave the area as soon as possible; otherwise, avoid the area.

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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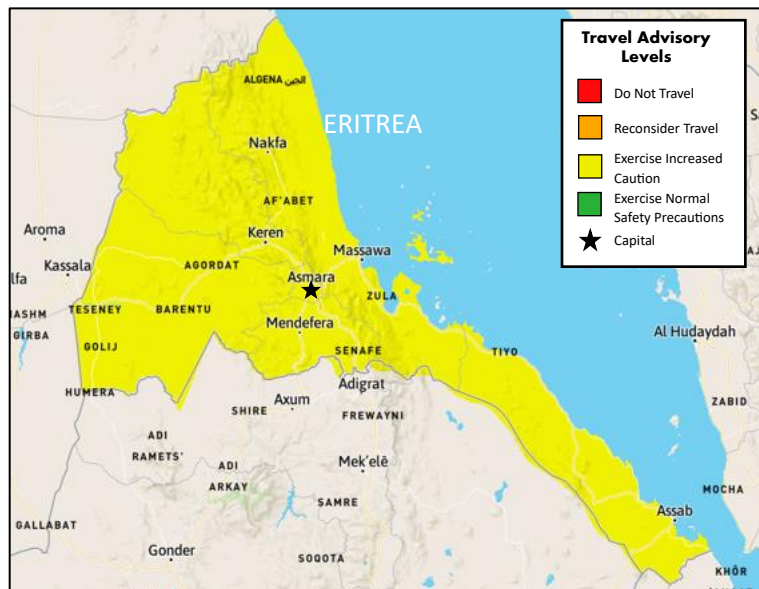


Eritrea

Risk Level: **Extreme**

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 a high risk to personal safety and security because of petty crimes like bandit attacks and pickpocketing, the ongoing instability with Ethiopia, and border disputes with Djibouti. 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.



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 to avoid attempting 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**

Country Overview:

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

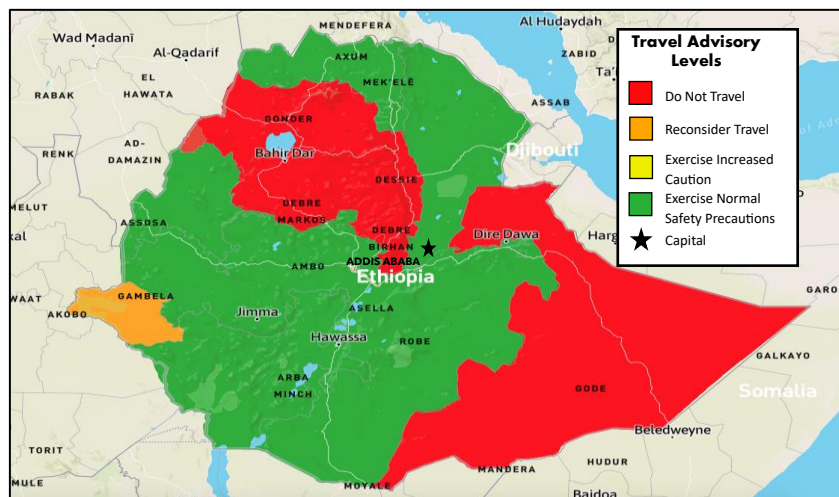
The military conflict in Tigray has subsided after the Ethiopian Government and Tigray People's Liberation Front signed a peace agreement. The peace remains fragile, and travelers are advised to avoid the area.

Travelers are advised to reconsider traveling to Ethiopia and leave the country if needed due to the conflict's extreme risk and uncertainty. 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 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 provincial state, the West Wollega Zone, East Wollega Zone, Kellem Wellega and Horo Gudru Wellega in the Oromia regional state, the total of Metekel Zone and Maokomo Special zone in the Benishangul Gumuz provincial 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 provincial 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 30km of the Ethiopian border with Somalia in the Fafan zone except 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 at 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 cannot provide emergency services to U.S. citizens outside Addis Ababa.



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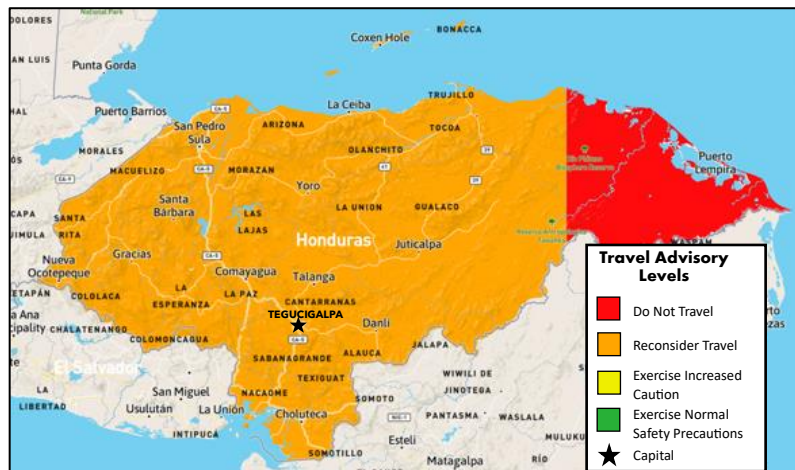
Honduras

Risk Level: **Extreme**

Country Overview:

The security situation in Honduras is hazardous, 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 like homicide and armed robbery.

There has been a sharp increase in cases of dengue fever in Honduras, particularly in the departments of Cortés, Yoro, Olancho, 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. You could be fined for endangering public health if you violate the rules. Obey the instructions of local authorities, including those related to physical distancing. Avoid crowded areas.

The U.S. government needs more ability to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in Gracias a Dios.

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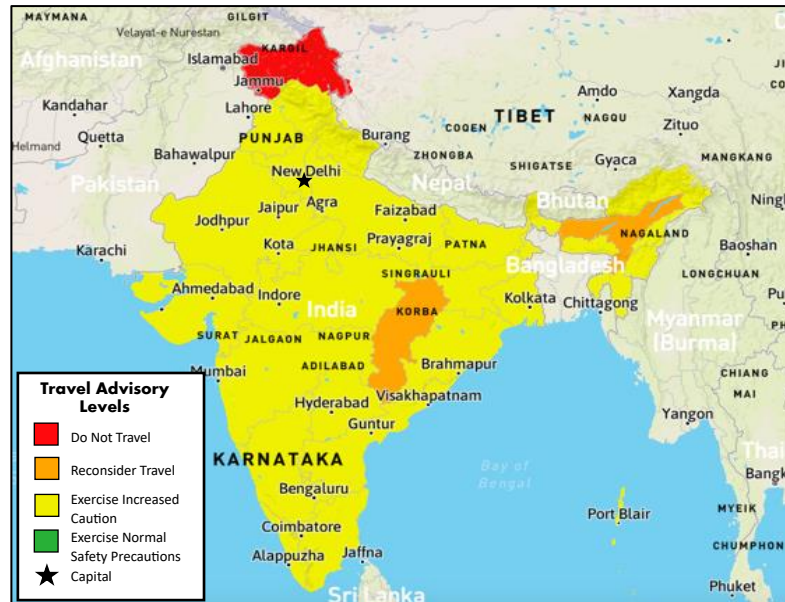
India

Risk Level: **Moderate**

Country Overview:

The security situation in some parts of India is hazardous, 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, 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 area.



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 heavily criticized 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 speak about religious matters while traveling in India.

Ethnic clashes across Manipur between April and May 2023 resulted 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 trips to the Northeastern states (Assam, except Guwahati, Nagaland, and Manipur), Chhattisgarh, and neighboring states' border areas is also advised.

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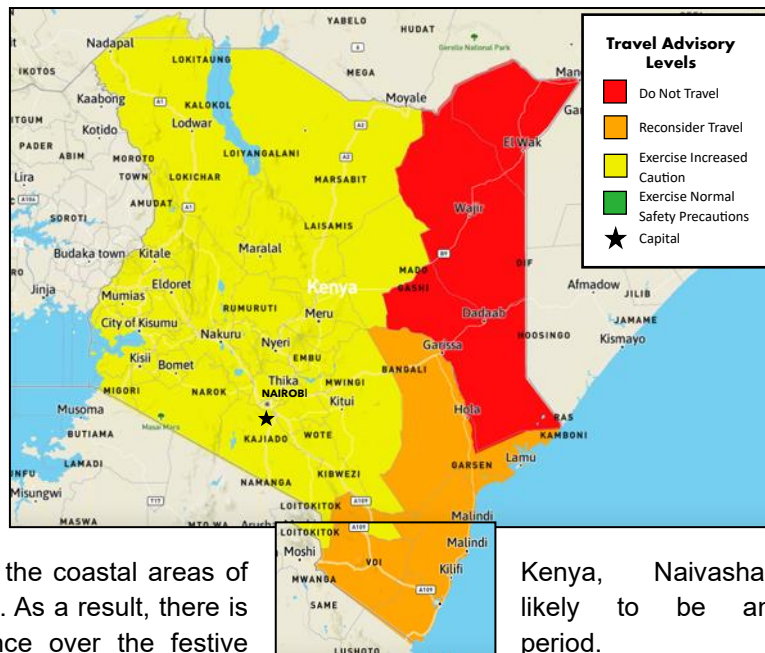
Kenya

Risk Level: **Moderate**

Country Overview:

In some areas of Kenya, the security situation is hazardous, 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, the coastal areas of and Nanyuki may target Westerners. As a result, there is increase in visible security presence over the festive



Kenya, Naivasha, likely to be an period.

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 know that the political opposition has arranged anti-government demonstrations in recent months that could resume without prior notice. Recent protests turned violent, with protestors clashing with police, resulting in deaths and injuries. 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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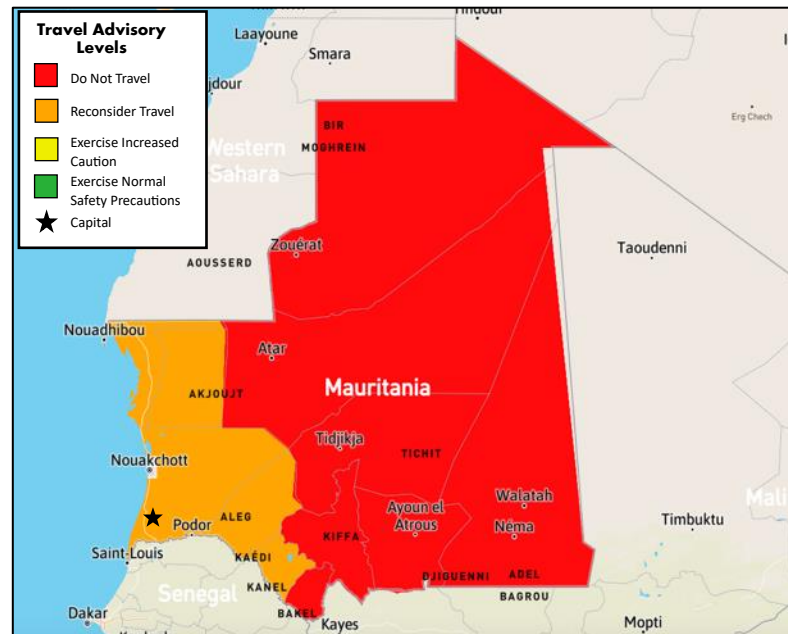
Mauritania

Risk Level: **Moderate**

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 area 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 cannot 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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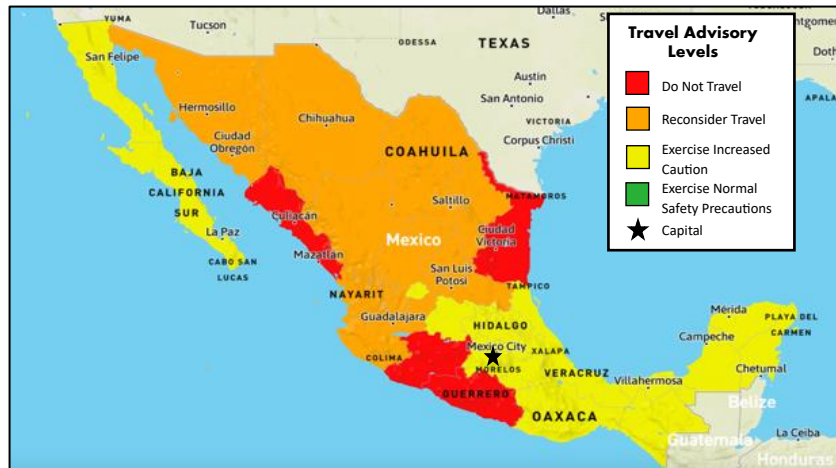


Mexico

Risk Level: **Moderate**

Country Overview:

The security situation in some parts of Mexico is hazardous, 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 and landslides may occur hundreds of miles from the storm's center and even after the storm's passing.

Hurricane Otis, a category five hurricane, disrupted primary transport, health, and communications, resulting in complete road and airport closures. Travelers should take precautionary measures even after the storm has passed and continue to monitor weather reports.

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 2 of the Amber tier, travelers must remain vigilant and be prepared for a possible evacuation. Volcanic ash disrupts air travel and possible airport closures at short notice.

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Niger

Risk Level: **Extreme**

Country Overview:

The security situation in Niger is hazardous, 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.

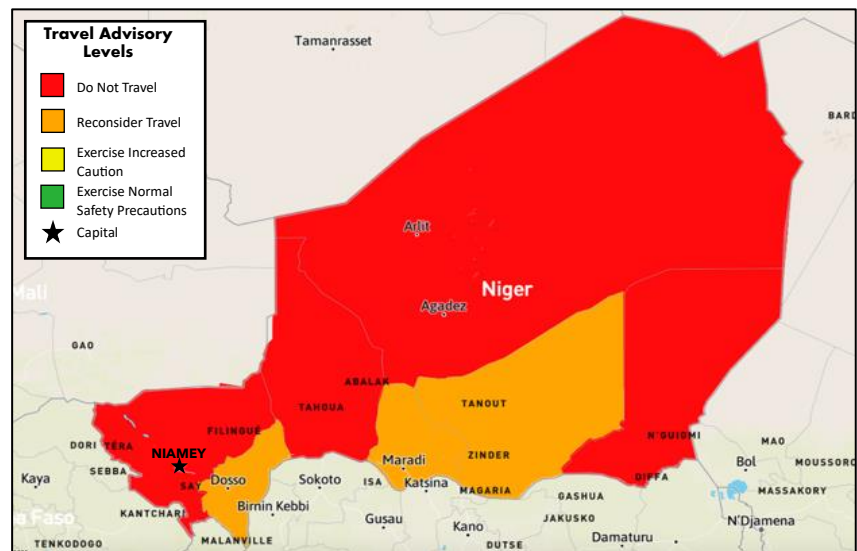
On July 26, 2023, the military staged a coup in Niamey. General

Abdourahmane Tchiani declared himself the new leader of Niger. There is a heightened military presence near government buildings, including at the Presidential Palace on Boulevard de la République. Security forces have announced the closure of air and land borders and a nationwide curfew from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. until further notice. The situation remains volatile and could escalate without warning. Tensions are escalating between Niger's new military regime and the West African regional bloc that has ordered the deployment of troops to restore Niger's flailing democracy.

Niger's junta had informed a top U.S. diplomat that they would kill ousted leader Mohamed Bazoum if neighboring countries attempted any military intervention to restore his rule. It is unclear when or where the ECOWAS force would deploy and how reports of the threats against Bazoum would affect a decision by the 15-member bloc to intervene. The force would likely comprise some 5,000 troops led by Nigeria and could be ready within weeks. Travelers are advised to avoid all travel to Niger.

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, the province of Agadez, Tahoua province, Tillabéri province north of Niamey; 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 cannot 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: **Extreme**

Country Overview:

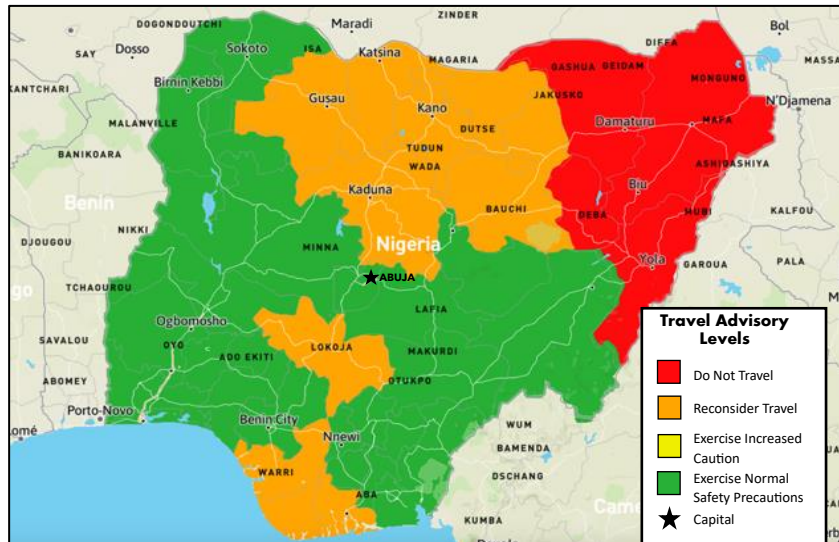
The security situation in Nigeria is hazardous, and specific parts of the country are incredibly unsafe. It is advised to reconsider travel to Nigeria due to crime, terrorism, and piracy. There is a high risk to personal safety and security because of the threat posed by extremist organizations, kidnappings, 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.

Militant groups launch 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; Imo State; within 20km of the border with Niger in Sokoto and Kebbi States; non-riverine areas of Delta, Bayelsa and Rivers States.

Nigeria has an ongoing diphtheria outbreak, specifically in the Kano state. Diphtheria is spread by human contact and airborne exposure. Travelers are advised to avoid the area and close contact with people from the state. Travelers should be fully vaccinated if they need to travel to impacted areas.



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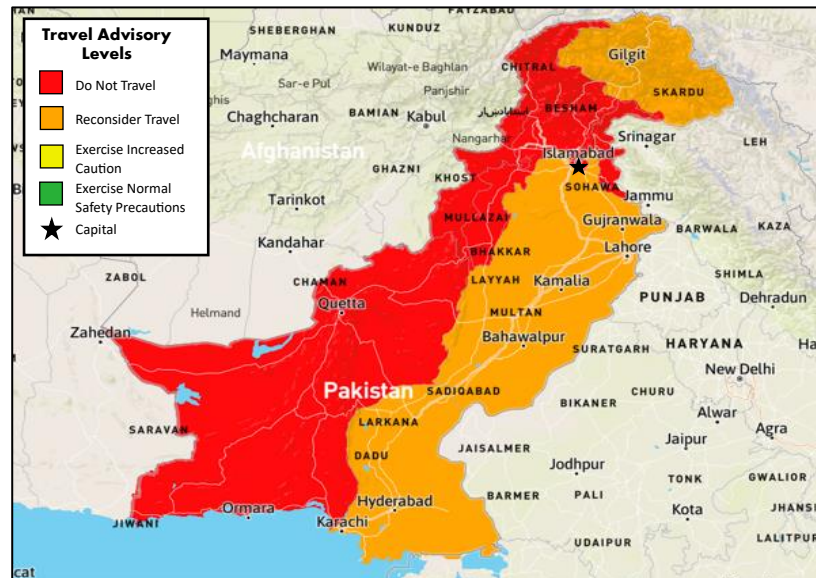


Pakistan

Risk Level: **Extreme**

Country Overview:

The security situation in Pakistan is hazardous, and a significant part of the country is exceptionally 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 local 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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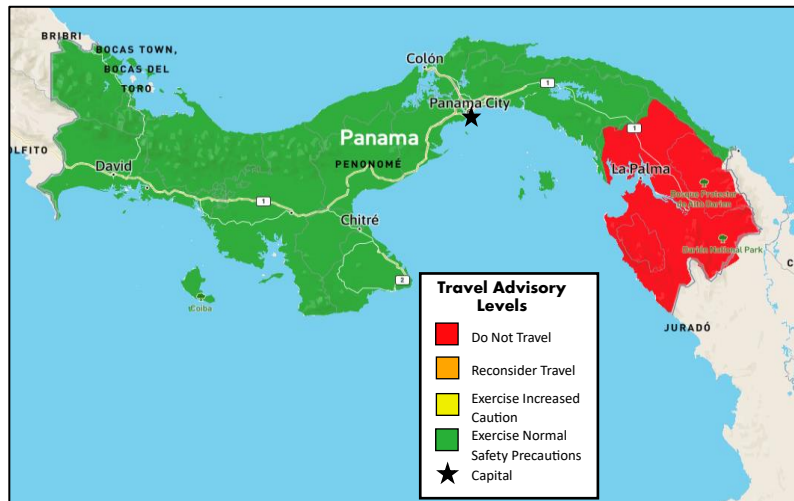
Panama

Risk Level: **Moderate**

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 Cocle del Norte, all areas south of Jaque to Manene 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 Darien 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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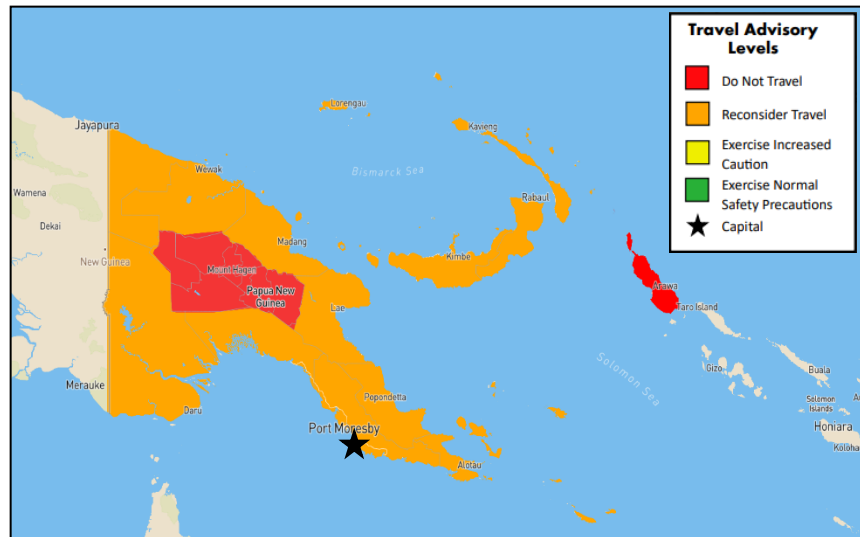


Papua New Guinea

Risk Level: **Extreme**

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 watch 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. Travelers are advised to avoid the Highlands provinces and monitor local media for updates.

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**

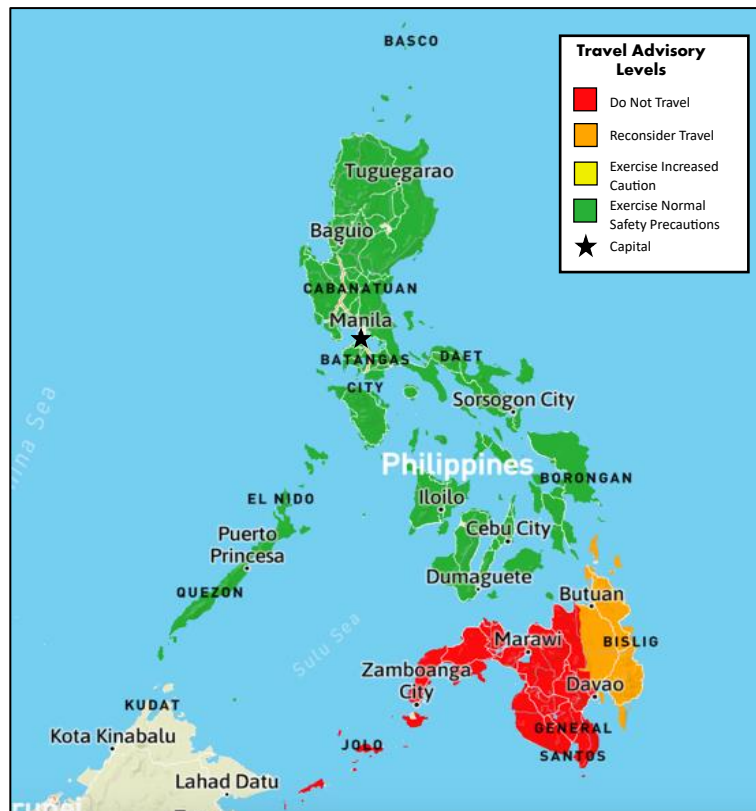
Country Overview:

In some parts of the Philippines, the security situation is hazardous, with specific areas 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 warning, targeting shopping malls, markets, tourist locations, and local government facilities.

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 negative for COVID-19 and taken up to 24 hours before departing for the Philippines. Face masks are mandatory on public transport and in public spaces.



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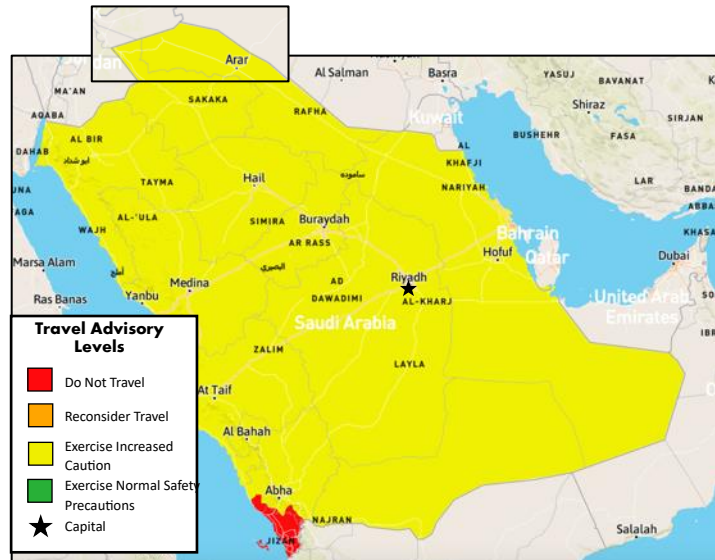


Saudi Arabia

Risk Level: **Moderate**

Country Overview:

In some parts of Saudi Arabia, the security situation is hazardous, with specific areas extremely unsafe. It is advised to exercise increased caution in Saudi Arabia due to terrorism and armed conflict. There is a moderate risk to personal safety and security overall 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.



Avoiding all travel within 50 miles of the Saudi-Yemen border is advised. 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**

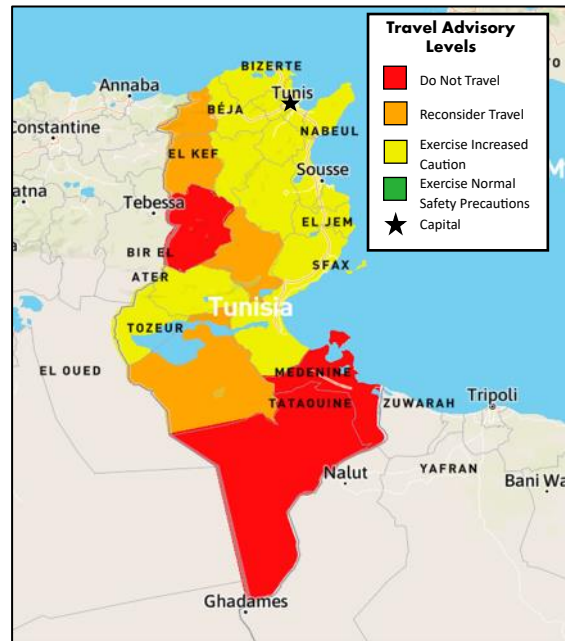
Country Overview:

In some parts of Tunisia, the security situation is hazardous, 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 allowed 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 city 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 needs more ability to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in some areas of Tunisia.



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Turkey

Risk Level: **Moderate**

Country Overview:

The security situation in some parts of Turkey is hazardous, with specific areas considered highly 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 who appear primarily politically motivated on scant or secret grounds. Most episodes have occurred in southeast regions of the country, Ankara and Istanbul.

Recent events in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories have increased regional tensions, leading to ongoing demonstrations in various parts of Turkey. Significant protests have occurred outside diplomatic facilities related to the conflict, particularly Israeli diplomatic missions in major cities such as Ankara and Istanbul. Travelers are recommended to avoid demonstrations as they can deteriorate into violence.

Since the beginning of 2023, there has been a surge in gastrointestinal infections, with over 200 cases of Salmonella detected from travelers returning from Turkey. To protect themselves from potential diseases, travelers should take precautions with food and water.

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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