

# COUNTRY RISK SUMMARIES

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## Report for the week ending April 21, 2024.

**Latest Updates:** **Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso, Burma (Myanmar), Colombia, Ethiopia, Haiti, Iran, Israel, India, Kenya, Lebanon, Mali, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Russia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine.**

- **Afghanistan:** On April 15, thirty-three people were killed, 27 others were injured, more than 600 houses were completely or partially damaged, roads were destroyed, and livestock perished across 20 provinces nationwide, due to flash flooding triggered by torrential rainfall. The most affected provinces were western Farah, Herat, southern Zabul, and Kandahar.
- **Afghanistan:** On April 15, two Taliban members were killed, and two others wounded in an ambush carried out by National Resistance Front (NRF) militants in Kabul's Police District during the evening.
- **Afghanistan:** On April 17, sixty-six people were killed, 36 others were injured and around 1,235 homes were destroyed across the country, including in Parwan, Herat, and Zabul provinces, due to severe flooding triggered by rainfall.
- **Azerbaijan:** On April 17, the entire Russian peacekeeping contingency, consisting of some 2,000 troops, were beginning their withdrawal from the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh, after Azerbaijan's recapture of the territory in late 2023. The Kremlin confirmed the withdrawal as of morning hours local time.
- **Burkina Faso:** On April 18, 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 May 31 inclusive, amid the closure of Nigerian airspace to French planes by the National Council for the Safeguard of the Homeland (CNSP).
- **Burma (Myanmar):** On April 17, six people were injured in a bomb attack at a hospital in Palaw, Tanintharyi region, it was not clear which group was responsible for the attack.
- **Colombia:** On April 16, nine people were killed, including investigative journalist Jaime Vásquez, in the Atalaya, Los Olivos, La Riviera, and other areas of Cúcuta, as the result of suspected cartel violence.
- **Ethiopia:** On April 15, the United Kingdom (UK) Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCO) indicated that the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) launched a market strike and roadblocks in Oromia region, triggering overland travel disruptions to and from Addis Ababa. OLF leader Bate Urgessa was earlier found shot dead in Meki after being arrested a day earlier.

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- **Ethiopia:** On April 16, the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) forces reportedly took control of several kebeles (wards) near Alamata in the Tigray region following fighting with local militia forces; at least three militia members were reportedly killed.
- **Haiti:** On April 15, initial reports indicated that gunfire erupted on Boulevard Toussaint Louverture leading to Port-au-Prince's Toussaint Louverture International Airport (PAP/MTPP)
- **Haiti:** On April 17, united states (US)-based American Airlines flights through Toussaint Louverture Airport (PAP/MTPP) in Port-au-Prince remain suspended until at least 2 May, amid civil unrest and gang clashes in Haiti. JetBlue and Canada-based Air Transat flights remain suspended until at least 15 May and 12 June, respectively, and Spirit Airlines flights.
- **Haiti:** On April 18, a nightly curfew was extended in the Ouest department to run until at least May 3, amid an ongoing state of emergency to maintain public order and security amid a wave of gang violence in Port-au-Prince.
- **Iran:** On April 16, the embassy of the Netherlands in Tehran announced that it will reopen for consular services following its earlier closure due to security concerns, amid increased tensions between Israel and Iran.
- **Iran:** On April 14, the embassy of Italy in Tehran closed its consulate until further notice amid security concerns due to regional tensions between Iran and Israel. Essential consular services for Italian citizens remain available.
- **Israel:** On April 15, strikes triggered the closure of the road between Alma al-Shaab and Al-Dhahira in Southern governorate, Lebanon as of morning hours local time.
- **Israel:** On April 15, one Israel Defence Force (IDF) soldier was killed, and three others injured when their vehicle struck an explosive device, allegedly laid by Lebanese Hezbollah, in Tal Ismail, Lebanon, overnight. IDF was engaged in an operation on the Lebanese side of the border.
- **Israel:** On April 15, two people were injured in Majdal Zoun, South governorate of Lebanon, as Israeli airstrikes targeted suspected Hezbollah sites also in Jabal Blat as well as in Markaba and Hamra in Nabatieh governorate in response to rockets fired from Lebanon to Hanita in Israel's Northern District; no casualties were reported in Hanita.
- **Israel:** On April 15, Israeli airstrikes targeted suspected Hezbollah sites in Mays al-Jabal and near Chebaa in Nabatieh governorate and Tayr Harfa in South governorate of Lebanon, in response to missile strikes from Lebanon towards Shebaa Farms in Israel's Northern District.

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- **Israel:** On April 16, two explosive-laden drones launched from Lebanon struck near Israel's Beit Hillel, injuring three people, shortly after, Lebanese media reported that an Israeli drone targeted a vehicle in Ain Baal, near Tyre. Further details were not available. Earlier in the day, Israel Defence Forces (IDF) held drills in ground combat and cyberspace in the Northern district, aimed at "increasing preparedness in the arena."
- **Israel:** On April 16, dozens of explosions were heard over Galilee in the Northern District of Israel as of evening hours local time, due to missiles from Lebanon targeting the Meron Air Control Base. At least two people were killed in IDF strikes against suspected Hezbollah sites in Ain Baal, Aalma ash-Shab, Hanine, and Yaroun in the South and Nabatieh governorates of Lebanon.
- **Israel:** On April 17, KLM, which is based at the Netherlands' Amsterdam Airport Schiphol (AMS/EHAM), suspended all flights to Tel Aviv Ben Gurion Airport (TLV/LLBG) in Israel through April 18 due to security concerns caused by the Iran-Israel conflict.
- **India:** On April 15, over 50 people were injured, and a police vehicle was damaged after clashes erupted between two groups during a religious procession in Remuna, Balasore district, Odisha state, however, police claimed that only four people were injured. Tight security measures were implemented in the area.
- **India:** On April 16, air India flights between New Delhi Indira Gandhi Airport (DEL/VIDP) in India and Tel Aviv Ben Gurion Airport (TLV/LLBG) in Israel were suspended until April 20 due to the conflict between Israel and Iran.
- **India:** On April 16, twenty-nine Maoist rebels were killed, and three police officers were injured during a security operation in the Binagunda-Koragutta jungle areas of the Kanker district, Chhattisgarh state.
- **India:** On April 18, twenty people were injured in Rejinagar, Murshidabad district, while around four people were injured in a separate but similar incident in Egra, Purba Medinipur district, West Bengal state, after stone-pelting and clashes erupted amid Hindu religious processions. Tight security measures were deployed in the affected areas.
- **India:** On April 18, one hundred trains were diverted, delayed, or partially canceled through the Shambhu railway station in Patiala district, Punjab state, near the border with Haryana state, as farmers belonging to the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) continued to stage a blockade at the station for the second consecutive day, to demand the release of their associates.
- **Lebanon:** On April 15, Israeli strikes triggered the closure of the road between Alma al-Shaab and Al-Dhahira in the Southern governorate of Lebanon.

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- **Lebanon:** On April 17, missiles launched from Lebanon targeted Israel's Biranit base in the North district. Israeli fighter jets targeted Lebanon's Khiam, Mansouri, Aalma ash-Shab, and Yater across Southern and Nabatieh governorates.
- **Lebanon:** On April 17, eighteen people were wounded when Hezbollah in Lebanon launched a drone strike on Arab-al-Aramshe in Israel's North district during afternoon hours local time, hitting a community center in the town. A vehicle was also reportedly burning in the area following the strike. Israel returned fire in Lebanon, targeting Naqoura in the Southern governorate
- **Lebanon:** On April 18, Israeli airstrikes in multiple areas of Southern and Nabatiyeh governorates, including in and around Alma Al-Shaab, Al-Dhahira, and Khiam. Reports of phosphorous munitions in the area could not be verified.
- **Lebanon:** On April 18, Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) targeted Hezbollah sites in southern Lebanon, including Khiam, Dier Mimas, Shebaa, and Kafr Kila. At least two Hezbollah operatives were killed in an airstrike on Kafr Kila.
- **Lebanon:** On April 18, incoming rocket sirens sounded in Kiryat Shmona and Margalioth in Israel's Northern District, during evening hours local time, amid ongoing cross-border firing between the IDF and Hezbollah. Earlier, sirens also sounded in Ma'ayan Baruch, HaGoshrim, and Beit Hillel.

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- **Mali:** On April 18, Paris Charles De Gaulle Airport (CDG/LFPG)-based Air France announced that the suspension of all flights to and from Mali's Modibo Keita International Airport (BKO/GABS) in Bamako was extended until at least May 31, amid the closure of Nigerian airspace to French planes by the National Council for the Safeguard of the Homeland (CNSP).
- **Mexico:** On April 15, two police officers were killed after unidentified shooters opened fire on their vehicle in the San Miguel neighborhood of Tenango del Aire municipality, State of Mexico.
- **Mexico:** On April 15, six people were killed after unidentified shooters opened fire inside a home suspected of criminal activity in La Pila, San Luis Potosí state.
- **Mexico:** On April 15, fifty families were displaced in San Juan Nepomuceno and El Arenal, Guadalupe y Calvo municipality of Chihuahua state, due to armed clashes between suspected La Línea and Gente Nueva hitmen.
- **Mexico:** On April 17, four people were killed when motorcycle-borne assailants opened fire at a group of people in a suspected direct attack near 20 de Noviembre and Josefa Ortiz de Domínguez streets in San Andrés Mixquic, Tláhuac borough of Mexico City.
- **Mexico:** On April 17, eight suspected criminals were killed in clashes between security forces and criminals in Rancho San Marcos, Jalapa municipality of Tabasco state, at least four suspects were arrested.
- **Mexico:** On April 18, three police officers were injured after shooters ambushed them during a security operation in El Durazno community of Jerez municipality, Zacatecas state, overnight on 16-17 April. Shooters also opened fire at security forces at the Morfín Chávez tollbooth in Fresnillo though there were no reports of injuries. Police and politicians are frequently targeted by criminals and by stander injury is common.
- **Nigeria:** On April 15, twelve suspected bandits were killed in a security operation in the Babban Doka, Gobirawar Challi, and Kabaro areas of Maru local government area (LGA), Zamfara state. Further attacks are possible in the near-term; exercise a high degree of caution in rural areas and consider a personal security escort for overland travel.
- **Nigeria:** On April 16, thirty-three militants, including three commanders, were killed in airstrikes by the Nigerian Air Force (NAF) targeting an Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) hideout in Kolleram village in Kukawa local government area (LGA), Borno state.
- **Nigeria:** On April 17, bandits abducted at least 16 passengers traveling on a passenger bus on the Abuja-Lokoja highway in Kogi state after they shot the bus driver as the vehicle passed through Chikara village on the Abuja-Lokoja highway. Six abductees were subsequently released however the other 10 remain missing.

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- **Pakistan:** On April 18, seven militants were killed in clashes with Pakistan Army soldiers when the militants allegedly attempted to infiltrate the Pakistan-Afghanistan border in North Waziristan district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Weapons and explosives were also recovered by security forces after the fight.
- **Pakistan:** On April 18, seventy-one people were killed and 67 others were injured due to flooding and landslides amid heavy rainfall across the country, with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province being particularly affected. Heavy rainfall, windstorms, and thunderstorms were expected to continue throughout the day in most parts of the country.
- **Pakistan:** On April 18, four customs officials and two civilians were killed when Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) militants opened fire at a checkpoint on Sago Road in Daraban tehsil, Dera Ismail Khan district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.
- **Pakistan:** On April 19, authorities imposed Section 144 measures, including the ban on large public gatherings, across Lahore, Kasur, Chakwal, Gujrat, Bhakkar, Wazirabad, Narowal, Sheikhpura, Rahim Yar Khan, and Dera Ghazi Khan districts in Punjab province until April 22 due to the holding of by-elections. Follow all official directives. Anticipate heightened security and associated disruptions near electoral infrastructure and political party offices.
- **Pakistan:** On April 19, a suspected suicide bomb attack targeted a vehicle carrying foreign nationals in the Mansehra Colony area of Landhi Town, Karachi, Sindh province; unconfirmed reports indicated that at least two people were killed, and gunfire was heard in the area.
- **Panama:** On April 15, Sunrise Airways announced the operation of special flights between Cap Haitien International Airport (CAP/MTCH) in Haiti and Panama City (PTY/MPTO) in Panama
- **Philippines:** On April 15, officials will close Pagadian Airport (PAG/RPMP) in Zamboanga del Sur province, Zamboanga Peninsula region from April 15 to May 15, due to runway repair works. Flights will be redirected to Dipolog Airport (DPL/RPMG) in the Zamboanga Peninsula region or Labo (Ozamis) Airport (OZC/RPMO) in the Northern Mindanao region. Operations of Philippine Airlines will be affected.
- **Russia:** On April 15, the maritime border crossings on the islands of Haapasaari and Santio and the port of Nuijamaa will be closed to leisure boating until further notice, in response to a surge in illegal border crossings by migrant asylum seekers in Russia.
- **Russia:** On April 15, authorities in Tyumen oblast declared a pre-emptive state of emergency (SoE) advising residents along the banks of the Tobol and Ishim rivers to evacuate due to anticipated rising water levels expected to hit more than 50 communities, including Ishim, Novolybaevo, Vikulovo, Yalutorovsk, Ilyinka, Kazanskoye, Laikovo and Butyrki. Anticipate weather-related disruptions to travel/services in affected areas.

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- **Russia:** On April 17, alleged explosions, and a fire around the military airfield in Dzhankoi, Crimea, amid the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine.
- **Somalia:** On April 15, ten al-Shabaab militants were killed in the Tafloow area of the Bay region by The National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA) forces and residents during a security operation.
- **Sudan:** On April 15, officials in West Kordofan state announced that a state of emergency (SoE) was extended for three months until July 15, over insecurity.
- **Syria:** On April 17, the ministry of Foreign Affairs advised Dutch citizens against all travel to Syria, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, Yemen, Israel, and the Palestinian Territories in response to increased tensions between Israel and Iran.
- **Syria:** On April 19, suspected Israeli airstrikes targeted military installations in Izraa, Namir, Qarfa, and Daraa governorate, and Al-Thaala Air Base in the As-Suwayda governorate.
- **Syria:** On April 19, there was material damage after suspected Israeli airstrikes targeted an air defence site located between Izraa and Qarfa, as well as the agricultural airport in Izraa, Daraa governorate, and Al-Thaala Air Base in As-Suwayda governorate.
- **Ukraine:** On April 18, Polish protesting farmers planned to close the Korchova-Krakowiec checkpoint between Subcarpathian voivodeship in Poland and Lviv oblast in Ukraine from April 18, permitting a capacity of one car per hour through the crossing in the ongoing demonstration against the European Union's agricultural policies. Blockades remain ongoing at the Rava-Ruska and Yahodyn crossings.
- **Ukraine:** On April 19, six people were injured and some others were trapped under rubble as a five-story building caught fire and was partially damaged following suspected Russian strikes in Dnipro, Dnipropetrovsk oblast.
- **Ukraine:** On April 19, two people were killed and 15 others, including railway workers, were injured while several buildings and the railway station were damaged in Dnipro, Dnipropetrovsk oblast, following a Russian missile strike; railway services were suspended at Dnipro Station. Similar strikes were also reported in Kriviy Rih and Synelnykove in Dnipropetrovsk oblast.

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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.

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

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# COUNTRY TRAVEL ADVISORY LIST

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



## EXTREME RISK COUNTRIES

- |                                   |                 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1) Afghanistan                    | 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

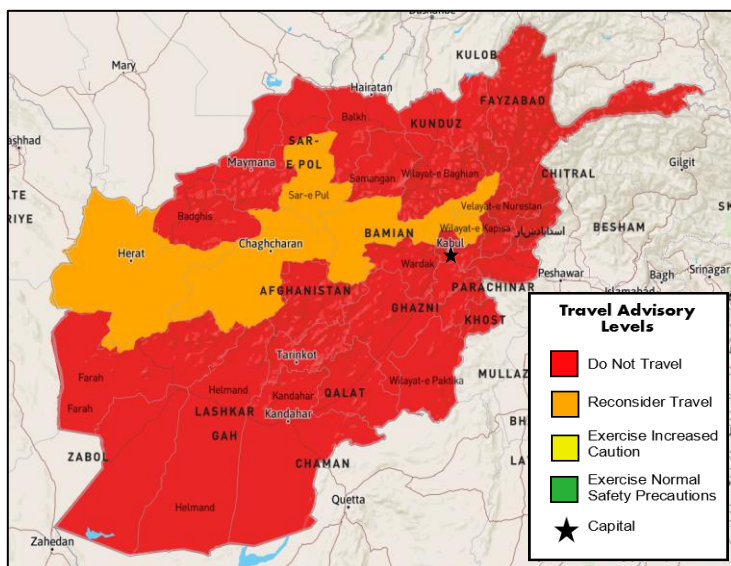


## Afghanistan

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**

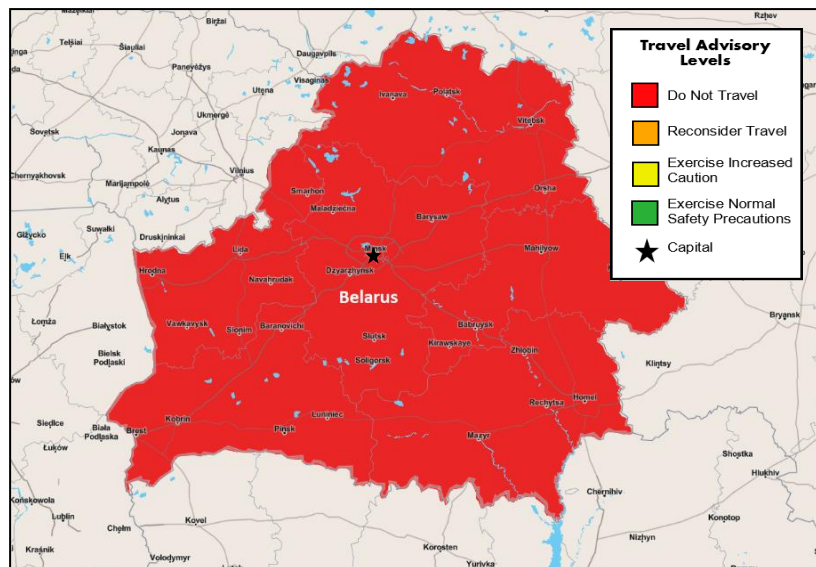
### Country Overview:

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 to be 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, Baranovichi, 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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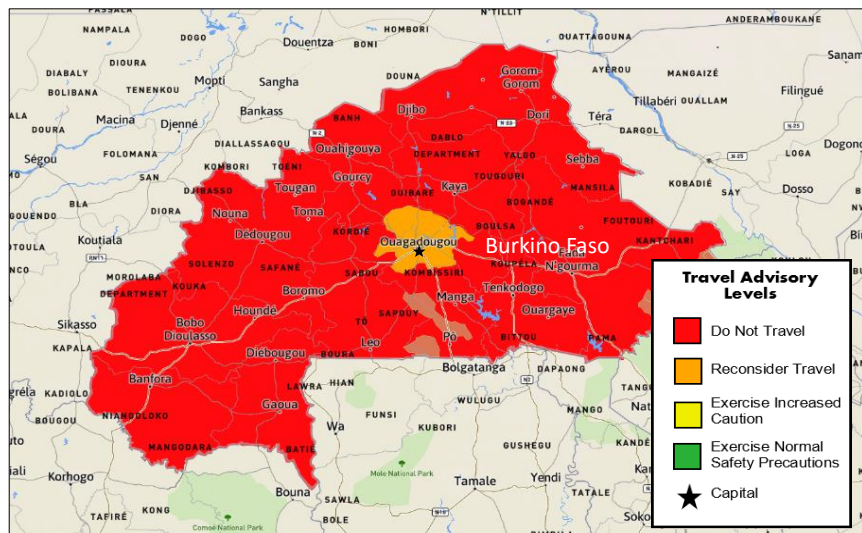
## Burkina Faso

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 is also the second coup in a year in the West African nation following the overthrowing of Roch Kabore in January 2022. 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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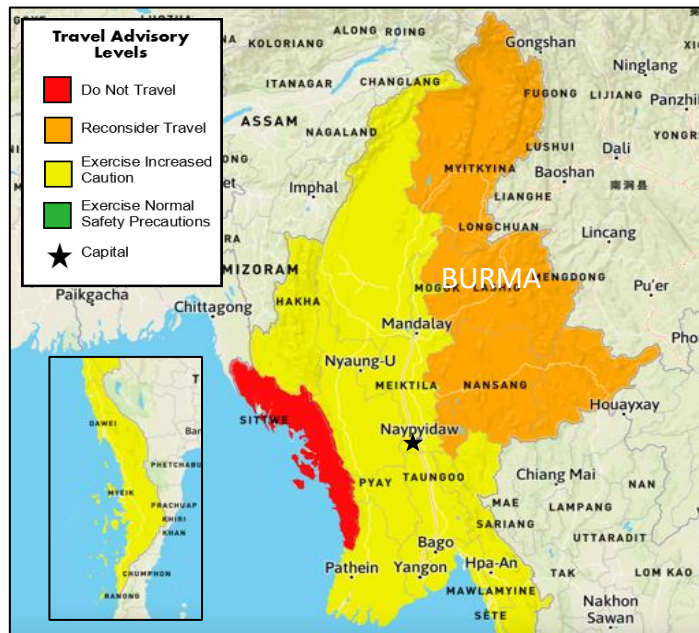
## Burma (Myanmar)

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 and subsequently sentenced to 33 years in prison. 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. Following the coup, rebel groups in the north have banded together to combat the military junta, taking control of towns and territories. The Myanmar armed forces have failed to counter the rebels, despite having superior equipment and air support. The conflict has seen artillery fire hit Chinese border cities, injuring Chinese citizens. Travelers are advised to avoid travel to Myanmar.

It is advised to avoid all but essential travel to the east of the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway in the Bago region and Rakhine state.

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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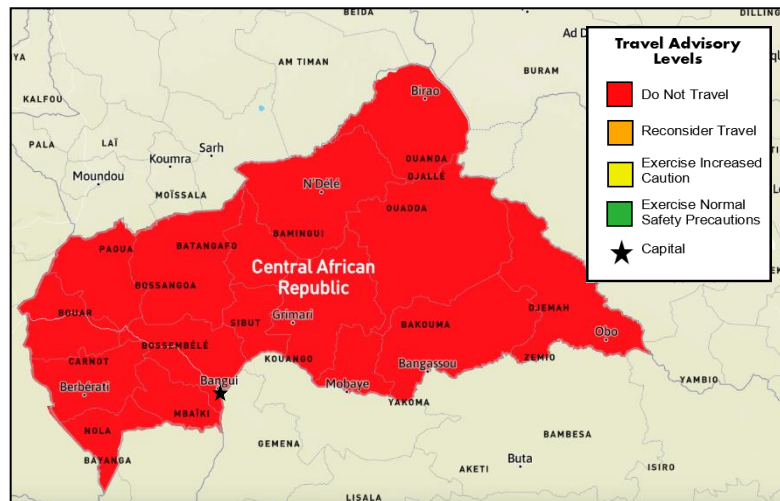


## Central African Republic

Risk Level: **Extreme**

### Country Overview:

The security situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) is perilous, and all travel is strongly advised against due to civil unrest, crime, and extreme risk to personal safety. Sectarian violence by armed groups, along with everyday criminal activities, poses significant threats such as armed robbery, aggravated battery, homicide, looting, kidnapping, and carjacking incidents, particularly outside the capital.



Although there are no specific threats targeting U.S. citizens, civil unrest, demonstrations, and post-election violence remain ongoing risks. The likelihood of violent attacks, including carjackings, is high with little notice. Armed conflict persists in the north and east; government services are limited outside Bangui. Poor road conditions, especially in the rainy season; few paved roads outside Bangui. Armed patrols by various groups, including government forces and militias.

Exercise caution in outlying areas where theft and robbery are common, often perpetrated by armed gangs. Take precautions by seeking professional security advice and using trusted transport to enhance your safety.

For essential travel to rural areas, it is recommended to avoid traveling after dark and move only in a convoy with a security escort. A national curfew is in place from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m., and compliance with government instructions is crucial. Additionally, there are reports of a hemorrhagic fever outbreak in CAR, resulting in four deaths, particularly in Kabo, Ouham-Fafa Prefecture.

Areas bordering the Democratic Republic of Congo are at risk of Ebola outbreaks, warranting increased caution when traveling to these regions.

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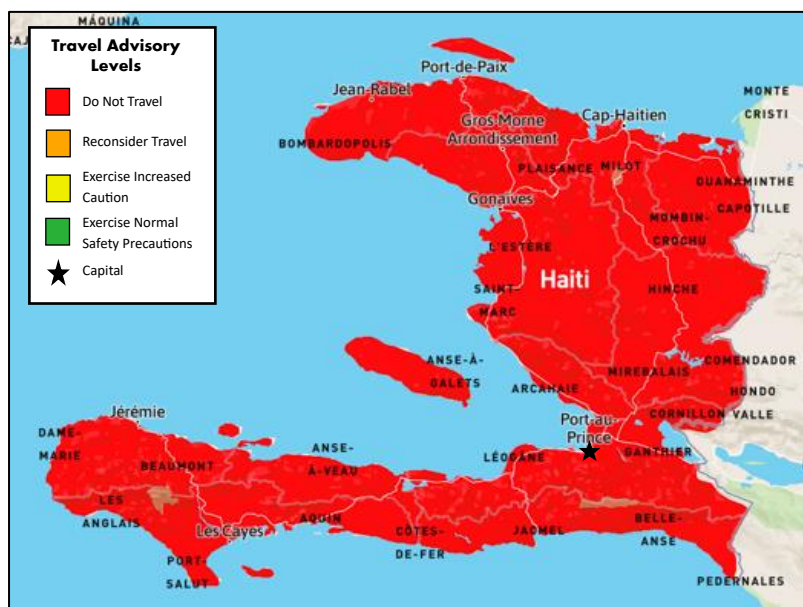
## Haiti

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.

Severe fuel shortages plague the country, impacting essential service provision countrywide. Medical services, electricity, and communications have been heavily affected.



On March 3, 2024, a state of emergency was declared in all areas in the Department de l'Ouest following a prison break after gangs overwhelmed security forces at the main prison in Port au Prince. The state of emergency is in effect until May 3, 2024. Gang conflict has intensified in the capital, with heavily armed gangs seizing city sections from government authority, attacking government buildings, and calling for the resignation of the prime minister. Prime Minister Ariel Henry has agreed to resign in response, allowing for the formation of a transitional council, with the backing of the US, France, and Caribbean neighbors. The proposed Kenyan police mission to Haiti is still expected to happen, however, it is on hold due to the pending change in the Haitian government.

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.

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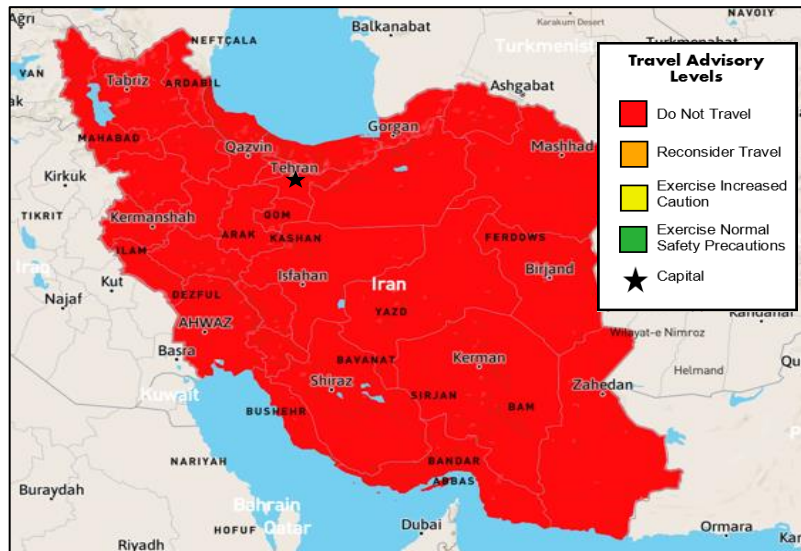


## Iran

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 in Iran face the risk of kidnapping, arrest, and unjust detention on various charges, particularly dual national Iranian Americans. These charges include espionage and posing a threat to national security. Iranian authorities often delay consular access and consistently deny it to dual U.S.-Iranian citizens. The U.S. government lacks diplomatic relations with Iran, limiting its ability to provide emergency services. Foreign nationals in Iran are urged to carefully consider the risks, as detention could lead to prolonged imprisonment.

On April 1, an Israeli air strike hit the consulate in Iran resulting in the death of two guards. Tensions between Israel and Iran have since escalated and Iran has expressed its readiness in a possible retaliatory attack on Israel.

Recently, Pakistan conducted military strikes on Iran in response to Iranian air raids in Balochistan, escalating tensions between the two neighbors. Pakistan claimed the strikes were a "highly coordinated" intelligence-based operation against armed groups in Iran's Sistan-Baluchestan province, citing "impending large-scale terrorist activities." Iran reported at least nine casualties and summoned the senior-most Pakistani diplomat for explanations. The move followed Iranian air raids against Jaish al-Adl in Pakistan, resulting in casualties and drawing Pakistan's condemnation.

Travelers are advised to avoid border areas near Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, including Sistan and Baluchistan province and regions east of Bam in Kerman province, due to the risk of violent unrest and cross-border clashes. Avoid lingering near military checkpoints and report suspicious activity. For extended travel between cities, it's recommended to hire a reputable local guide.

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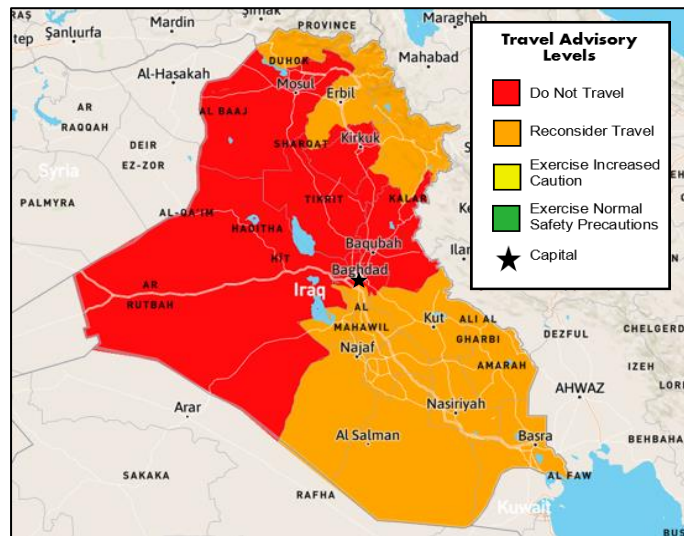


## Iraq

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 regularly take place in and around the International Zone in Baghdad. Protests can, and sometimes do, escalate into violence. You should avoid any rallies, marches, or processions, and follow the instructions of local authorities.

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) have launched missile attacks into Iraq, under the claiming of security and counterterrorism concerns. The strikes mark a departure from Iran's previous efforts to avoid regional tension.

Iraq faces regional tensions, with some areas experiencing sporadic attacks by artillery, drones, and rockets. There is an ongoing threat to Western interests. Travelers are advised to stay vigilant, implement strong security measures, have contingency plans, and stay informed about the latest developments through the media and travel advisories. Regularly reviewing and updating security arrangements is recommended.

U.S. citizens are advised to avoid areas near the Turkish, Syrian, and Iranian borders due to continuous military operations against insurgent groups. There is ongoing armed conflict at the Syrian border, and traveling from Iraq to Syria for armed conflict is strongly discouraged. Engaging in such activities poses extreme personal risks, including kidnapping, injury, or death, as well as legal risks such as arrest, fines, and expulsion. The Kurdistan Regional Government has warned of prison sentences of up to ten years for those illegally crossing the border. Supporting designated terrorist organizations is a crime, carrying penalties such as prison time and hefty fines in the United States.

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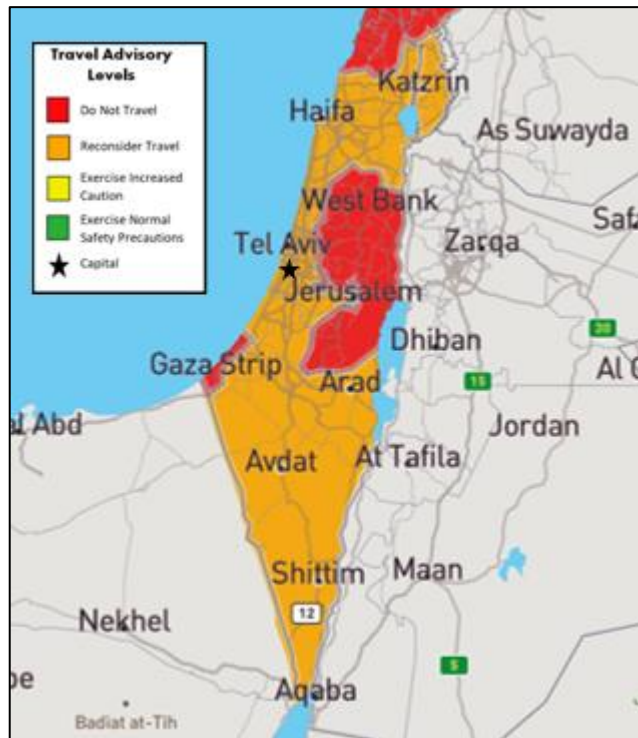
## Israel

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 a full military offensive into the Gaza Strip, with the stated aim of eliminating Hamas. Estimates put Gazan casualties at over 33000.



Hezbollah, a terrorist group operating in Lebanon, conducts sporadic rocket attacks across Israel's northern border. Israel has begun a military build-up along the border to prepare for possible Hezbollah attacks.

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. On April 1, an airstrike from Israel struck the consulate in Iran, which resulted in 2 fatalities. Iran has vowed to retaliate with an attack of their own and the Israeli government expressed the possibility of defending itself against an attack from Iran should the need arise.

Always exercise increased caution. 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 Hezbollah 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.

In January 2024, Deputy Hamas Chief Saleh al-Arouri was killed in a suspected Israeli drone strike in Beirut's southern suburbs of Dahiyeh, risking the expansion of hostilities amidst the Israel/Gaza war.

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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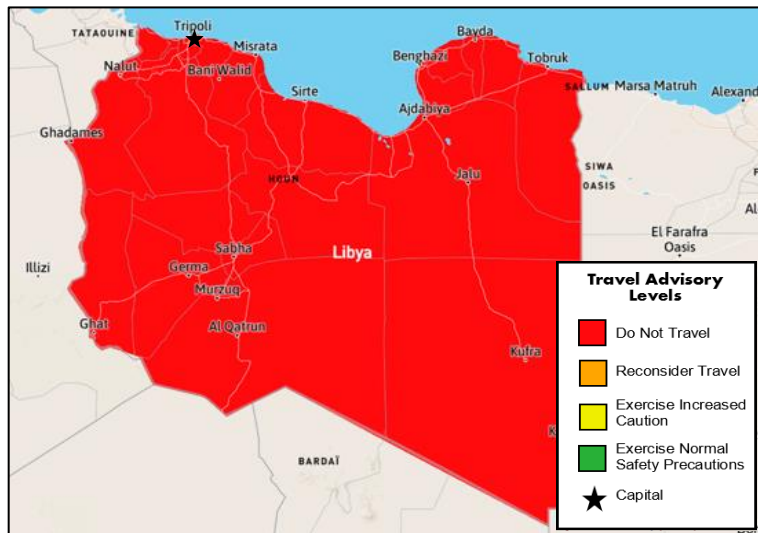


## Libya

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.

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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.

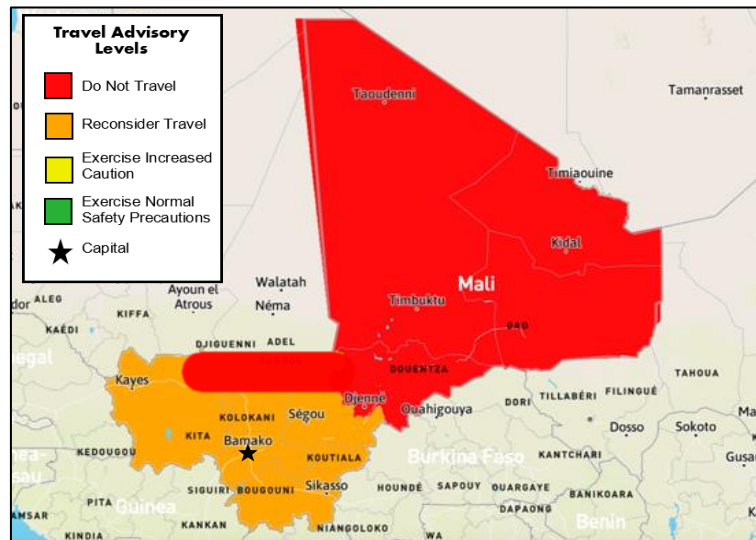
In Mali, violent crimes such as kidnapping and armed robbery are common. Violent crime is prevalent during seasonal events and local holidays, especially in Mali's southern regions and Bamako suburbs. It is common to see random police checkpoints and roadblocks at night throughout the country.

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 with the current Government demanding all troops to leave.





## North Korea

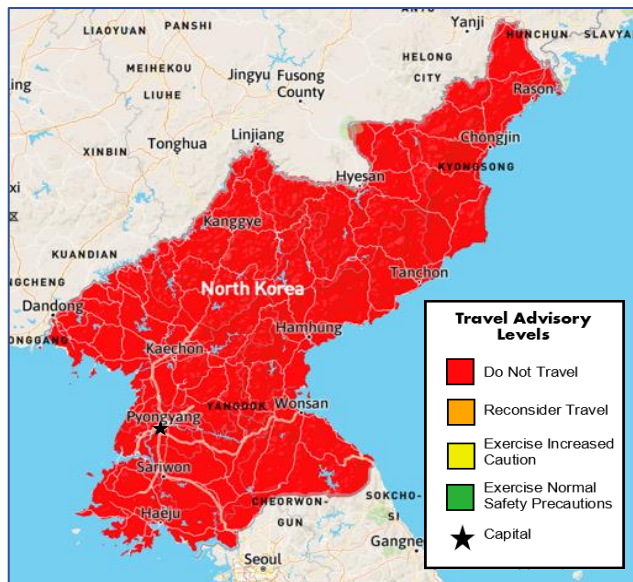
Risk Level: **Extreme**

### 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.

Kim Jong Un revealed new plans for his country's military, which point to more intense weapons testing and heightened regional tensions in the coming year.



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

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## Russia

Risk Level: **Extreme**

### Country Overview:

In some parts of Russia, 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. On March 22, 2024, four gunmen stormed the Crocus City Concert Hall in Krasnogorsk near Moscow and opened fire at patrons before setting the building ablaze resulting in over 137 people dead and several injured. Travelers should be vigilant when in popular and crowded areas. Additional counter-terrorism procedures and restrictions across the country are to be expected.

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.

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.

Recently, Finland has extended the closure of its road borders with Russia until further notice, with its maritime borders being closed off until April 15, responding to what it perceives as an orchestrated influx of asylum seekers from Russia. Moscow denies the claim. The closure, initially imposed last year, was briefly lifted in December, resulting in over 300 asylum seekers entering from Russia within two days and prompting the extended closure.

Russia's full-scale attack on Ukraine 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.

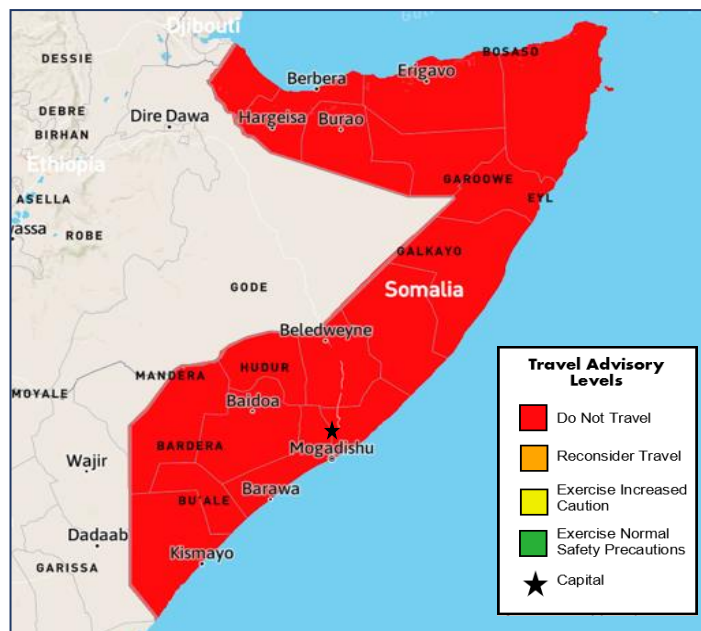
There is a current outbreak of Polio that has the potential to impact travelers.

Medical facilities across Somalia have limited capacity and are often non-existent in rural areas.

Terrorists are very likely to try to carry out attacks in Somalia. There is a high threat of kidnap throughout the country. Several Western nationals, including British nationals, have been kidnapped in Somalia and some have been killed. Terrorist groups have made threats against Westerners and those working for Western organizations. There is a constant threat of terrorist attack in Mogadishu and terrorists continue to plan attacks against Westerners in the rest of Somalia, including Somaliland. Terrorist attacks could be indiscriminate, including in crowded places, high-profile events, events involving government officials, and places visited by foreigners. Due to their use by government officials, hotels are considered legitimate targets by terrorist groups.

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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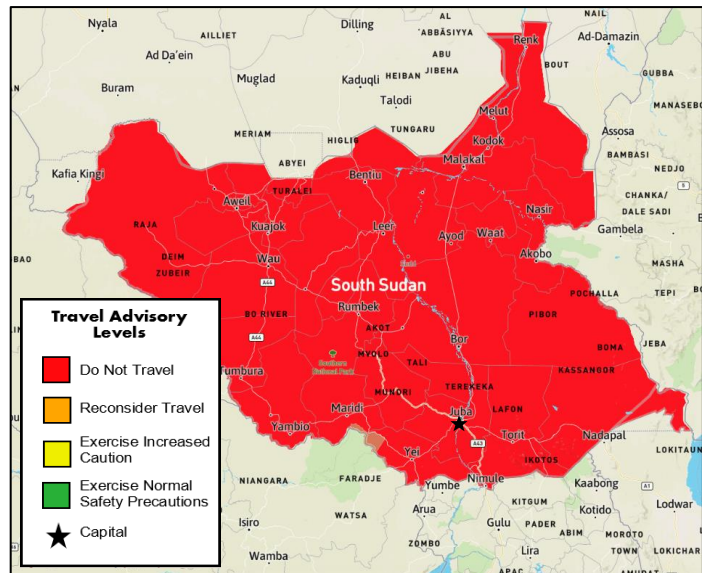


## South Sudan

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

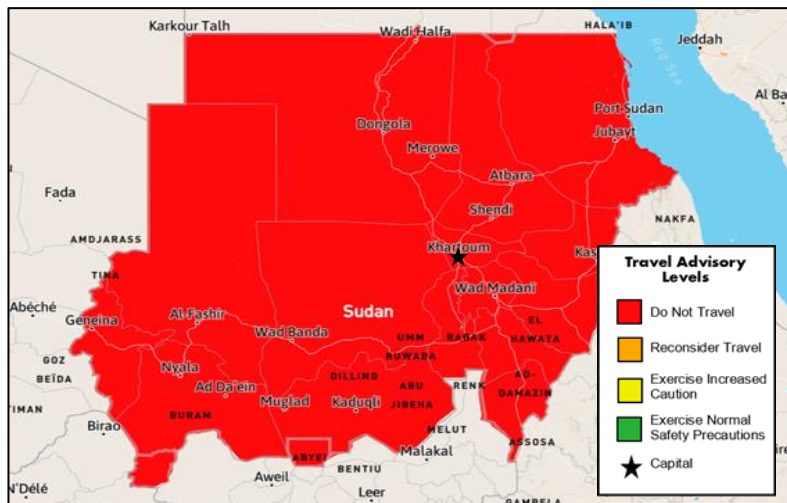
Risk Level: **Extreme**

### 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.

Following 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 and is more likely to occur due to the Israel-Gaza war. 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**

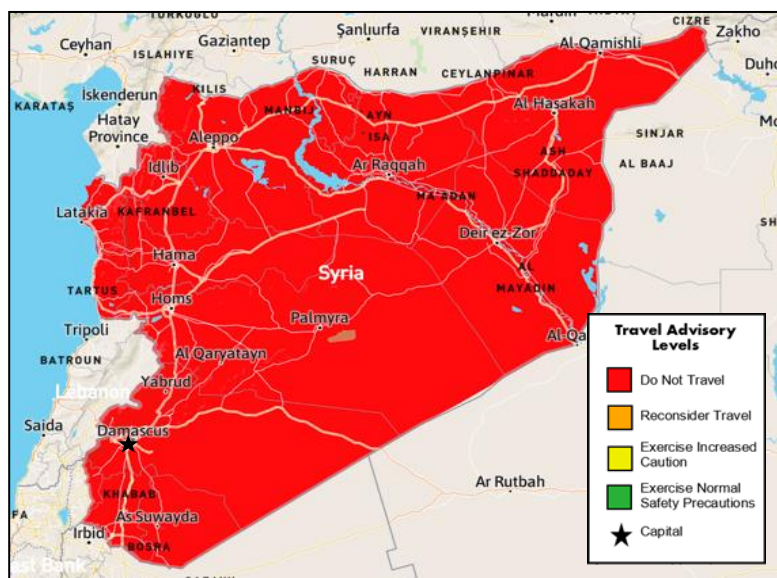
### Country Overview:

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.



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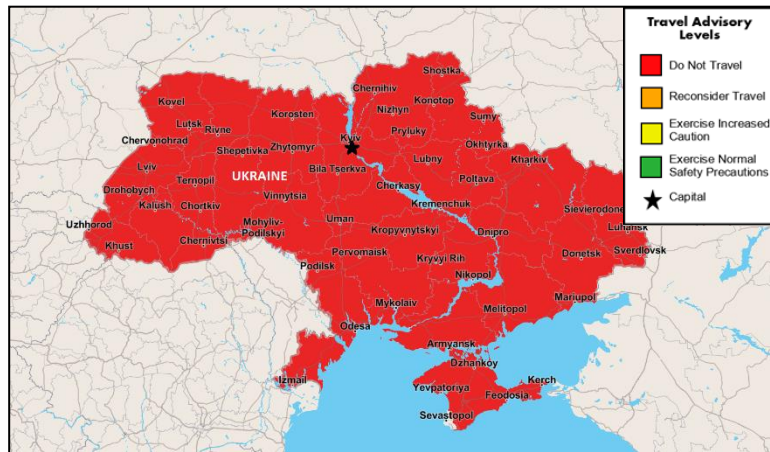
**Ukraine**

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.



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 is continuing abuse against foreigners and the local population by the occupation authorities in Crimea, particularly against those who challenge their influence on the peninsula.

There have been reports of abuse and arbitrary imprisonment by Russian Occupation authorities, targeting both foreigners and residents. Individuals who oppose Russia's occupation of the peninsula are primary targets.

Travelers should avoid all travel to Ukraine due to military activity and to leave the country if already there. 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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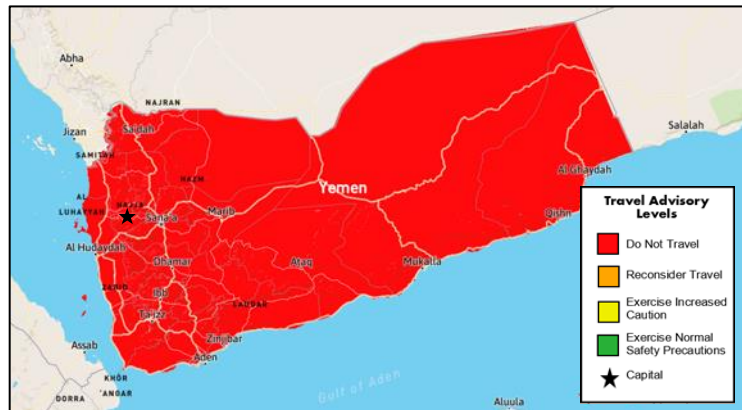


## Yemen

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**

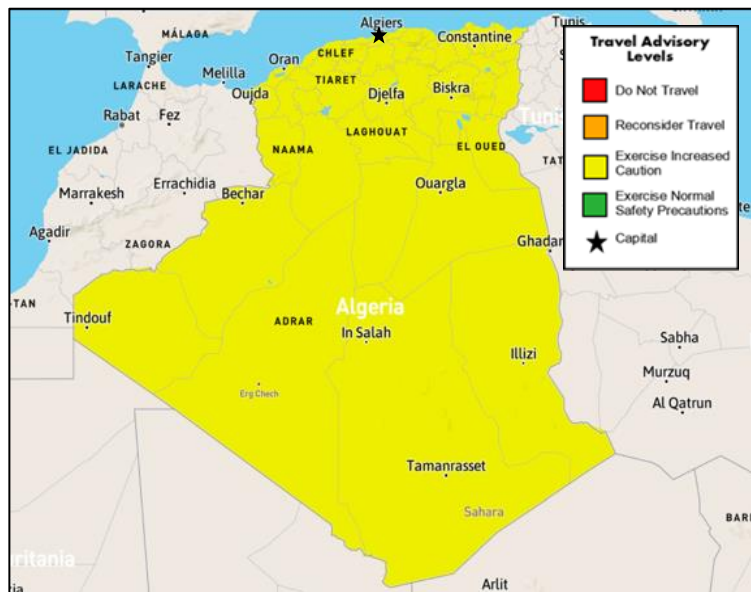


**Algeria**

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.



Terrorists are likely to try to carry out attacks in Algeria, including kidnappings. Terrorist attacks have focused on the Algerian state, but attacks could be indiscriminate and include foreigners. There’s also a risk that lone actors could target foreigners. You should be vigilant at all times and take additional security precautions, especially in the southern, Libyan, and Tunisian border areas; rural and mountainous areas in the north; and the Sahara.

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.

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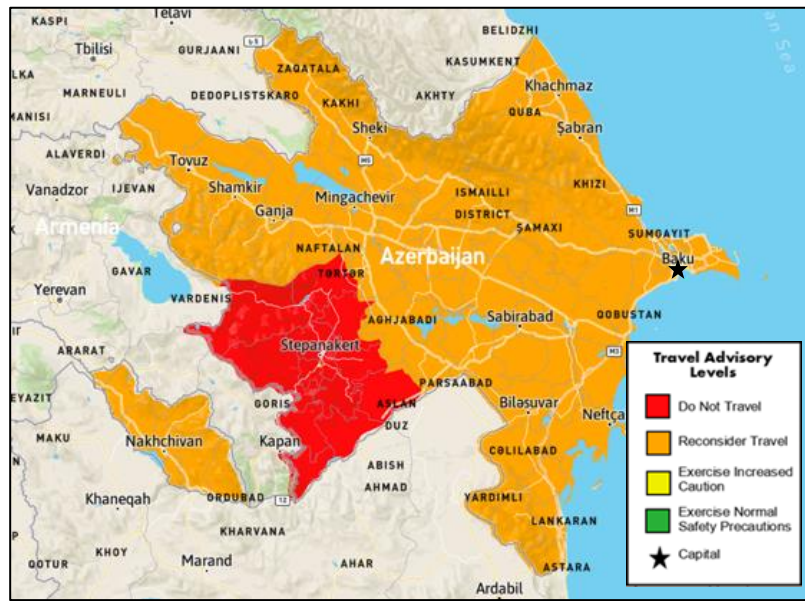
## Azerbaijan

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 were killed by 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. 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.

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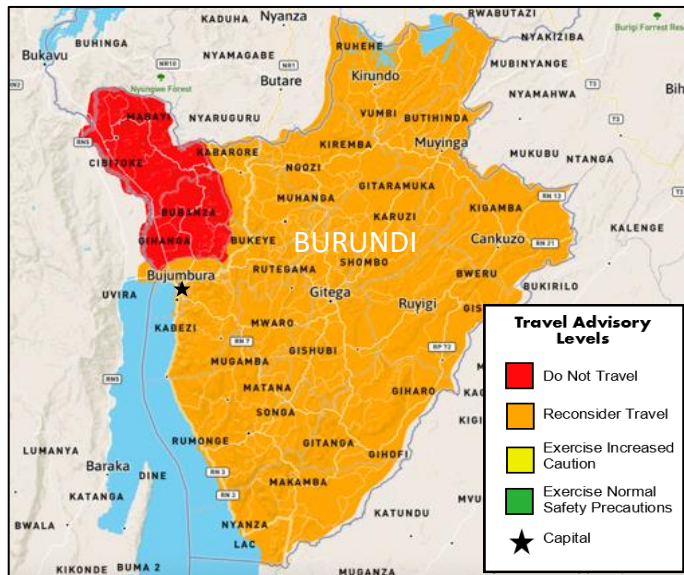
## Burundi

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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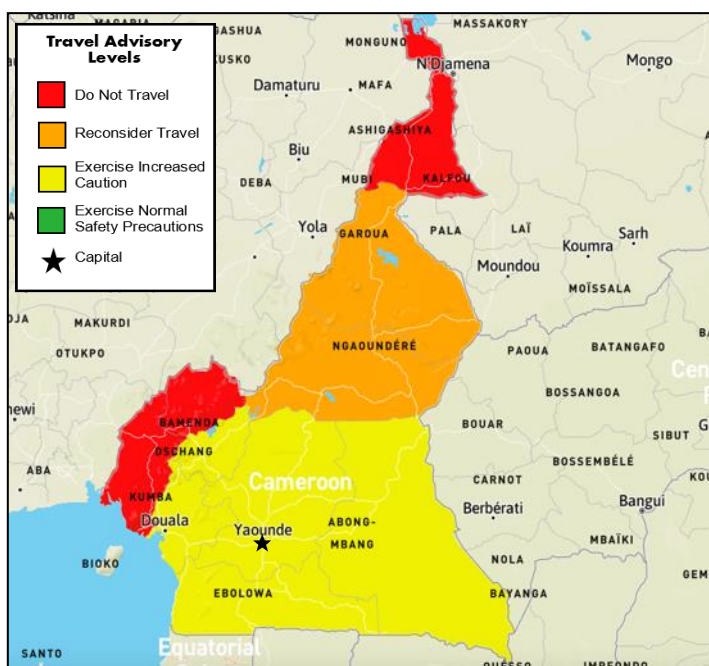
## Cameroon

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 is an ongoing armed confrontation in the long-standing Anglophone conflict 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:

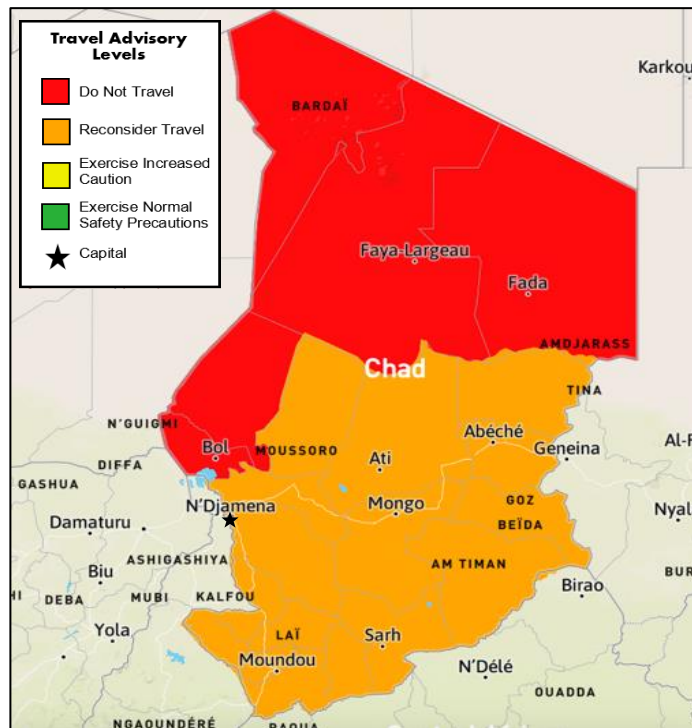
The security situation in Chad is hazardous, with some parts of the country being extremely unsafe. It is advised to reconsider travel to Chad due to crime, terrorism, and the existence of minefields. There is a high risk to personal safety and security because of widespread violent crimes, such as armed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





## 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.

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**

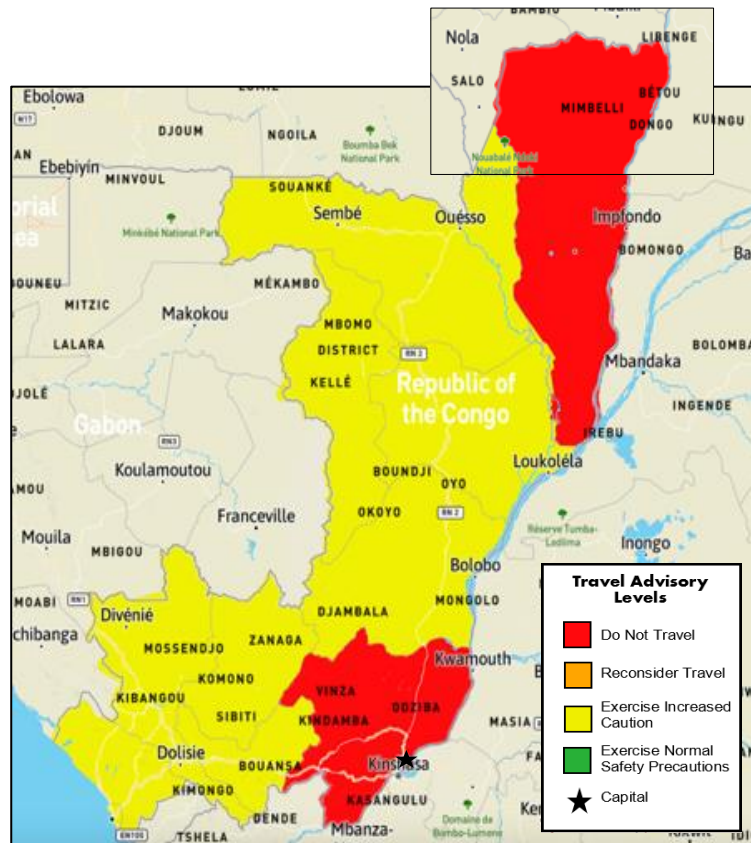
### Country Overview:

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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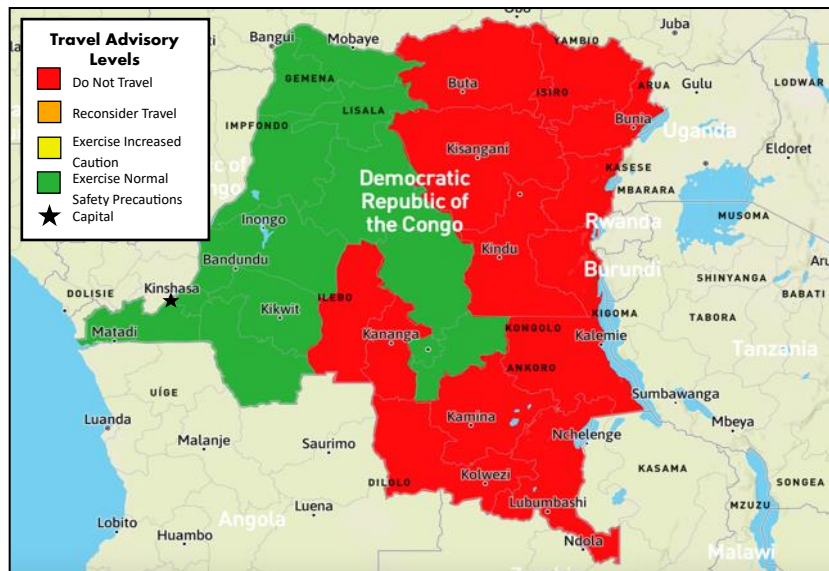
## Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Risk Level: **Extreme**

### Country Overview:

In some areas of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the security situation is hazardous, with specific parts of the country extremely unsafe. 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.



The US Travel Advisory has issued a level 4 "do not travel" alert for specific regions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including North Kivu Province, Ituri Province, the Eastern DRC Region, and the Three Kasai Provinces. Additionally, the advisory applies to all travel to or within 50km of the border with the Central African Republic. Traveling against this advice may invalidate your travel insurance.

A 'state of siege' was imposed for North Kivu and Ituri due to clashes in Goma which intensified in February 2024 and further attacks could occur at any time, leading to exit routes such as airports and borders closing with little to no warning. Travelers are advised to avoid the area.

Spontaneous protests outside of Western embassies are frequent in Kinshasa and North Kivu and could spread throughout the country without warning. Travelers are advised to avoid large gatherings.

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, Mai-Ndombe Tanganyika, 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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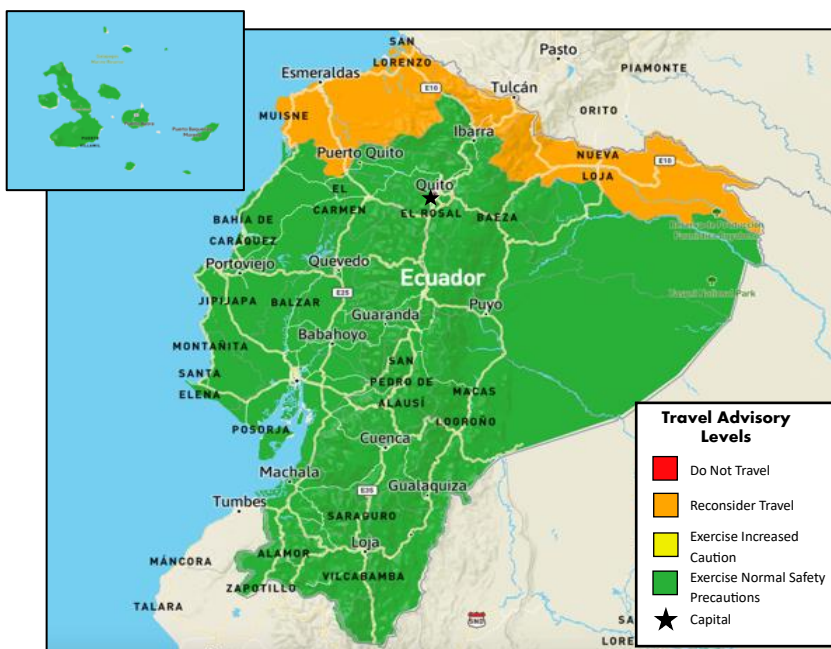


## Ecuador

Risk Level: **Moderate**

### Country Overview:

Travelers in Ecuador are advised to exercise increased caution, particularly in areas with a hazardous security situation. The northern border area with Colombia poses a heightened risk to personal safety due to a higher crime rate, including kidnapping for ransom. Additionally, severe and sometimes violent demonstrations, as well as road blockades, can occur throughout the country with little warning. Awareness and caution are recommended for those traveling to or within



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

From January 18, 2024, to enter Ecuador via land or river borders from Peru or Colombia, travelers must provide a criminal record certificate from their country of residence for the past 5 years. Failure to comply may result in denied entry. Exemptions include individuals with valid Ecuadorean visas, diplomatic passport holders, children under 18, and victims of human trafficking or those seeking international protection under Ecuador's Human Mobility Law. No restrictions apply to those entering Ecuador by air.

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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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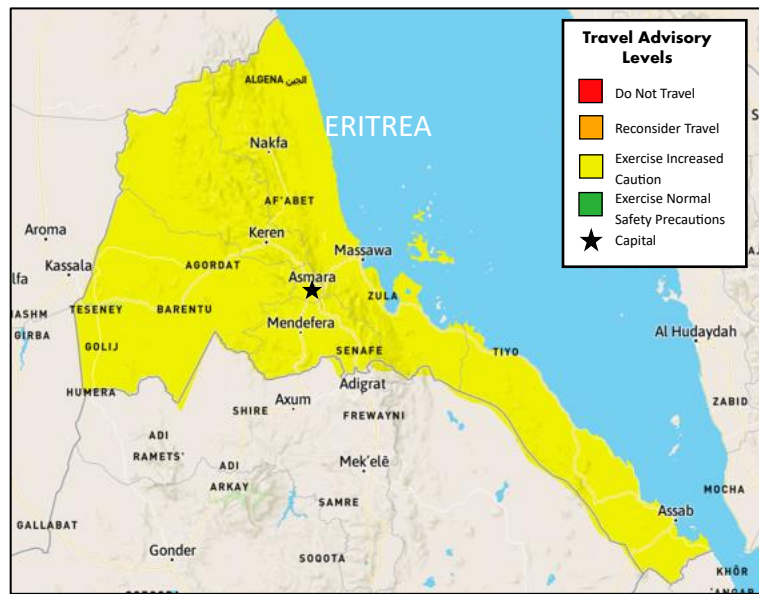


## Eritrea

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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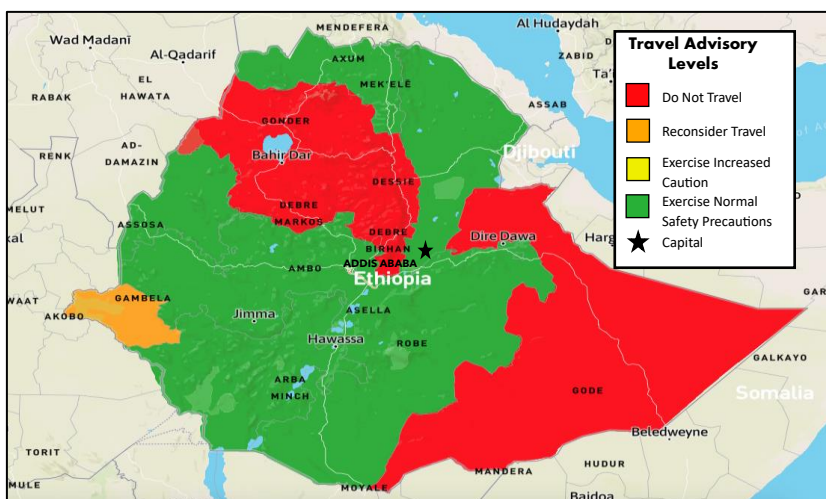
## Ethiopia

Risk Level: **High**

### 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, Kelleme Wellega and Horo Gudru Wellega in the Oromia regional state, the total of Metekel Zone and Maakoma 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

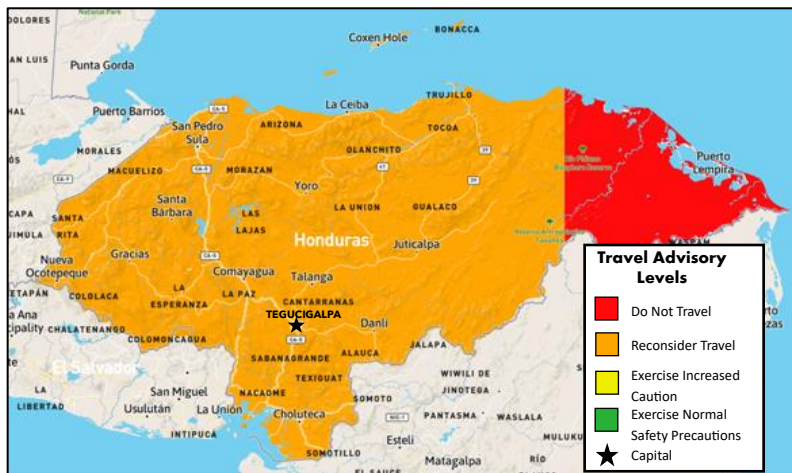
Risk Level: **Extreme**

### 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.



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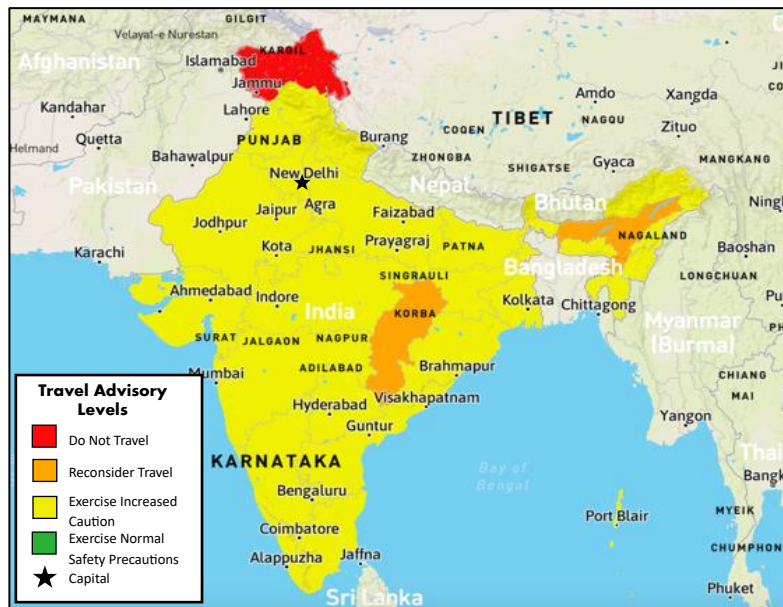
## India

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.



India is set to hold their general elections between April 19 and June 1, 2024, with the results expected to be announced on June 4. Large gatherings are expected as political rallies are predicted to occur across the country. Travelers should avoid large gatherings and rallies as they have the potential to deteriorate into politically motivated violence during this period.

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 occur frequently, leading to authorities implementing restrictions, including imposing curfews in various parts of affected states. Transportation and internet access is often disrupted or 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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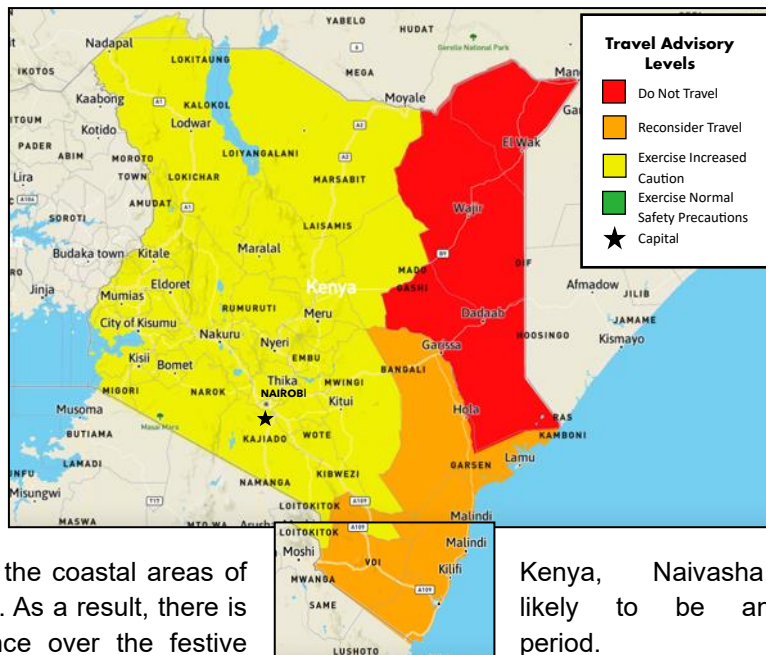
## Kenya

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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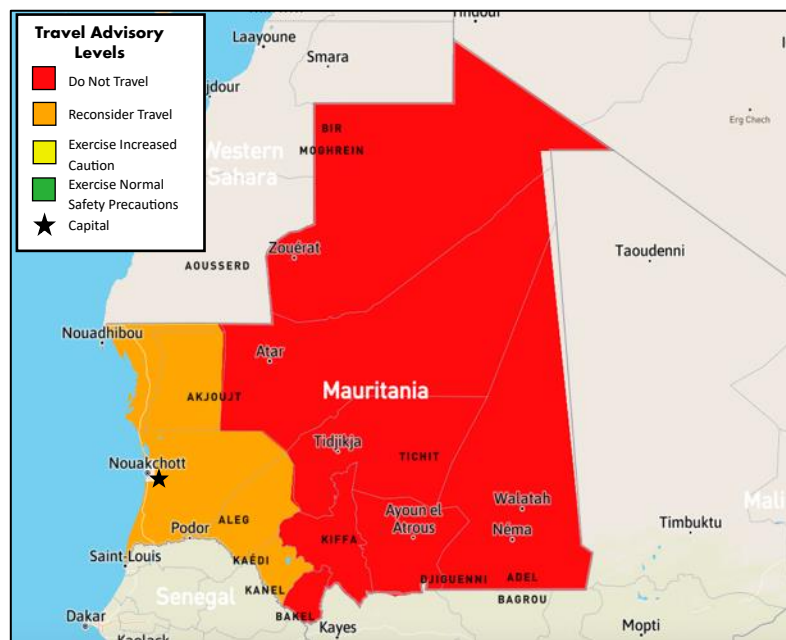
## Mauritania

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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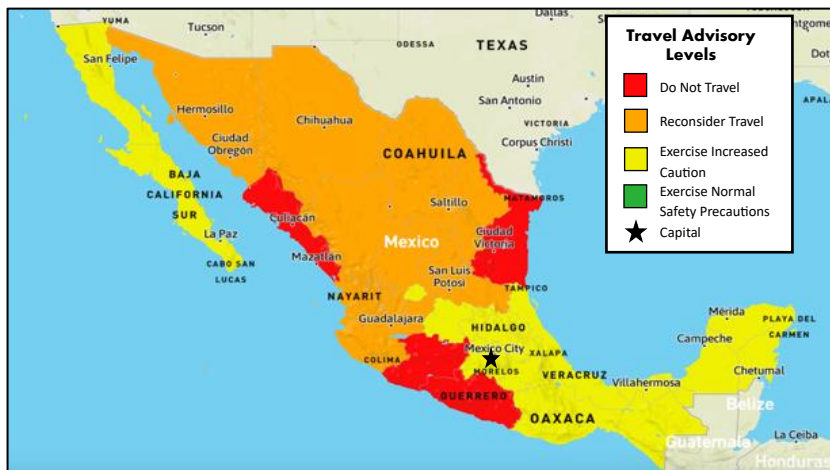


## Mexico

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 and travel on Federal Highway 199 (Carretera Federal 199) between Rancho Nuevo (just outside San Cristobal de las Casas) and Palenque. Violent crimes are widespread and armed criminal groups have targeted and robbed commercial vessels, oil platforms, and offshore supply vessels in the Bay of Campeche. It is advised to limit all but essential travel within 40 km (25 miles) of the Guatemalan border up to and including the border crossing at Gracias a Dio.

Protest action occurs frequently in major cities and travelers should avoid all demonstrations and exercise increased caution in proximity to large gatherings. Follow the advice of local authorities. Incidents of gang violence have occurred in popular tourist destinations such as Cancun and surrounding areas. Travelers are advised to maintain a high level of situational awareness.

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.

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 Popocatépetl 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 results in airport closures at short notice.

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## Niger

Risk Level: **Extreme**

### Country Overview:

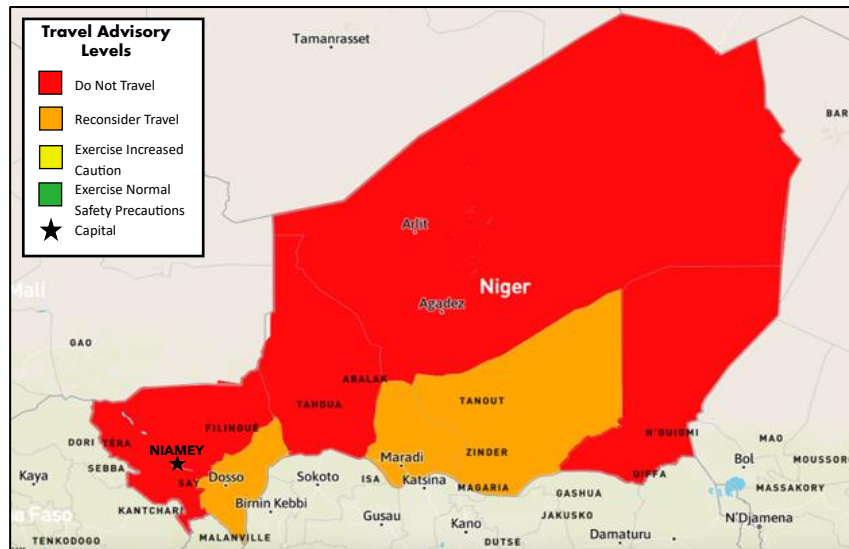
The security situation in Niger is hazardous, with large parts of the country being extremely unsafe. It is advised to reconsider travel to Niger due to crime and terrorism. There is a high risk to personal safety and security because of terrorist attacks, kidnapping threats, and violent crimes, such 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. Land and air borders remain closed. The situation remains volatile and could escalate without warning. Tensions are escalating between Niger's new military regime and the West African regional bloc ECOWAS. 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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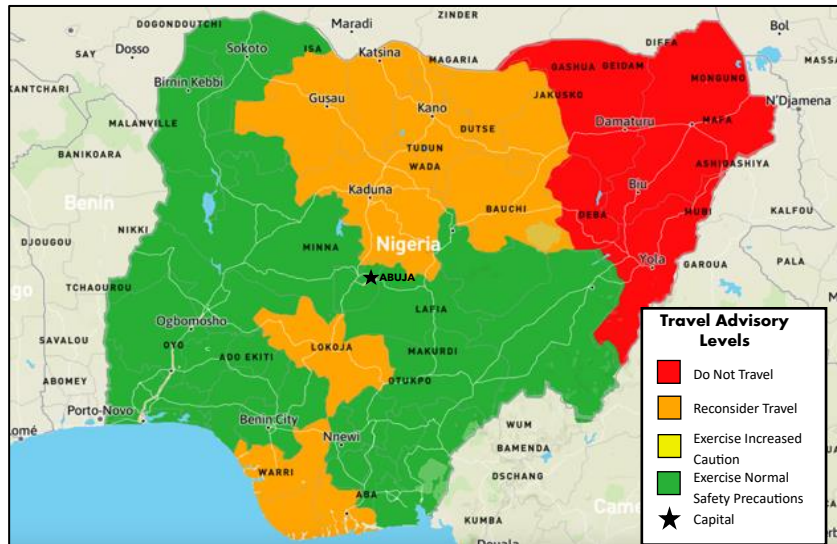


## Nigeria

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.



The risk of kidnappings in Nigeria, particularly in the

northern and Middle Belt states, remains high. 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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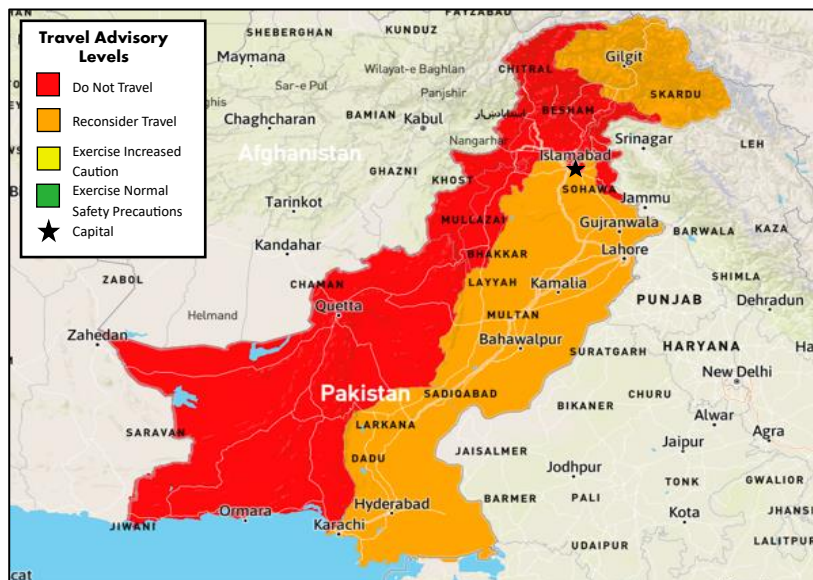


## Pakistan

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 due to terrorist attacks. Political demonstrations often become violent. Travelers should continue to exercise caution, monitor news reports, and follow the advice of local authorities.



The U.S. Bureau of Consular Affairs advises against travel to

specific areas, including within 10 miles of the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, 10 miles of the Line of Control, most areas in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, and all of Balochistan Province. Tensions are heightened amid regional conflicts, such as Israel's actions in Gaza.

Terrorist groups continue organizing attacks in Pakistan. Attacks on civilians, local military, and police targets are commonplace. 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:

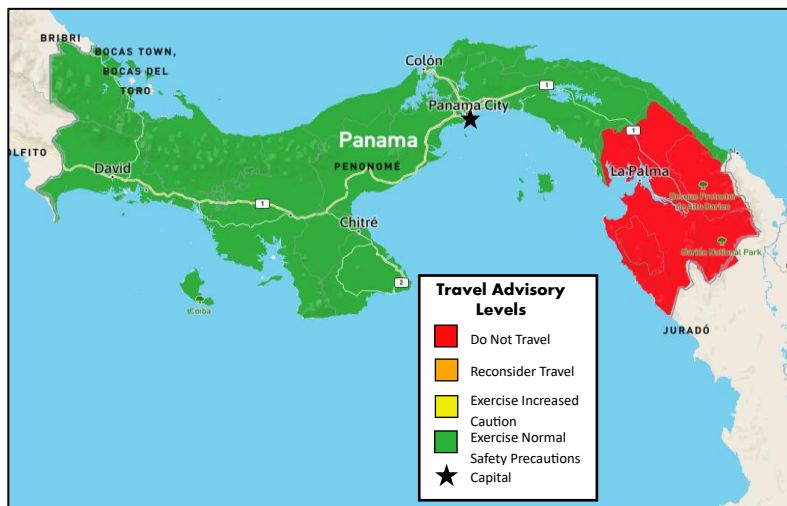
The security situation in Panama is relatively safe, but a specific region within the country has an extreme risk due to the presence of criminal elements and the operation of drug and human trafficking networks. Moreover, emergency response and consular assistance are limited in some areas. Overall,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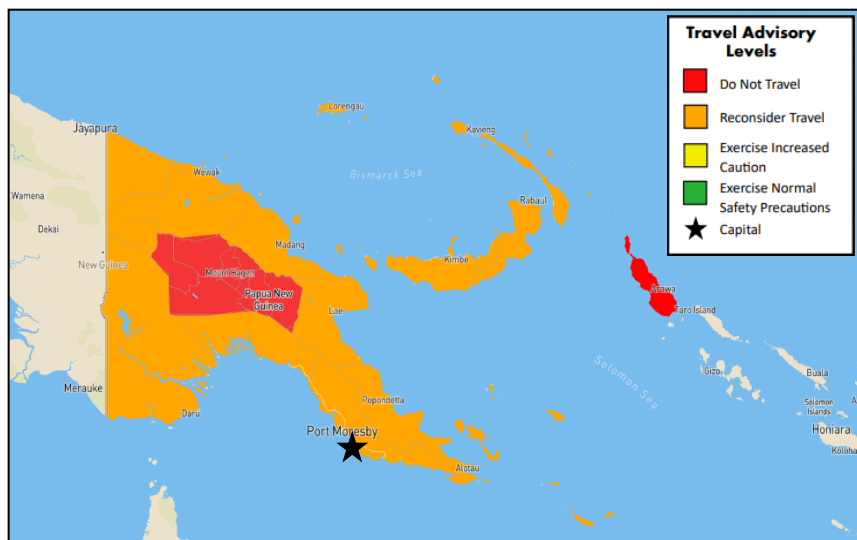


## Papua New Guinea

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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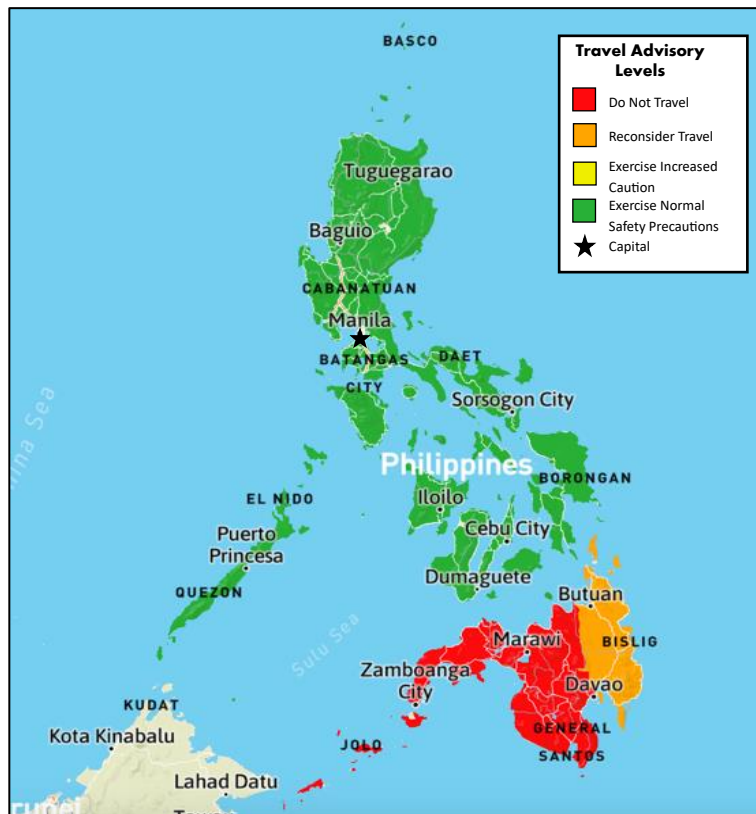


## Philippines

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.

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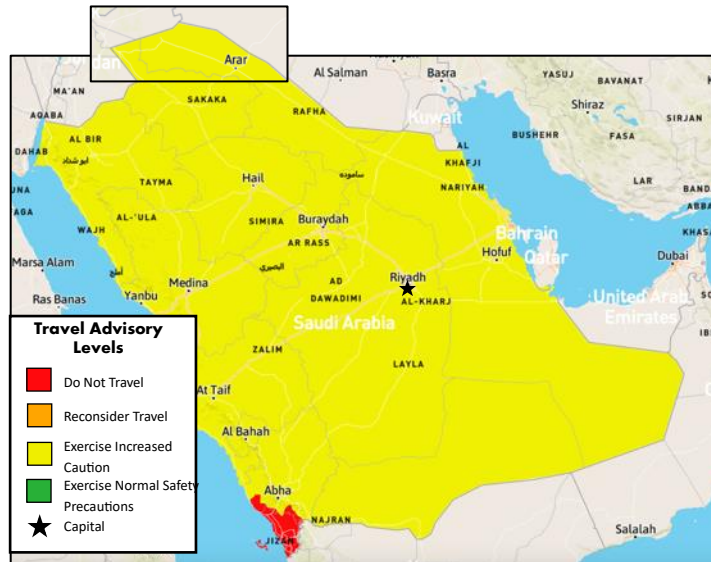


## Saudi Arabia

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**

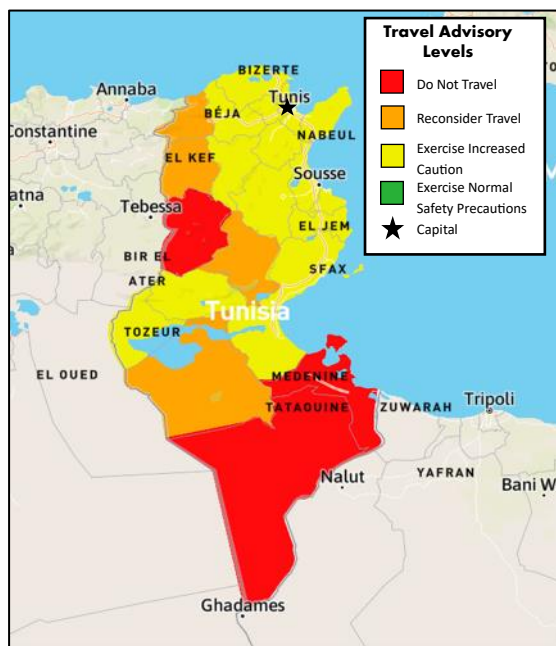
### Country Overview:

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.

The war in Gaza has 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, Sirk province, and Hakkari province.

