

# COUNTRY RISK SUMMARIES

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## Report for the week ending December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

**Latest Updates:** Bangladesh, Burma (Myanmar), Burundi, Colombia, Ethiopia, Haiti, India, Iraq, Israel, Kenya, Lebanon, Mali, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan and Syria.

- **Bangladesh:** On December 9, injuries were reported from clashes between rival groups and authorities in Dhaka.
- **Bangladesh:** On December 10, dengue fever cases continued to soar nationwide.
- **Burma (Myanmar):** On December 10, casualties were reported in Mrauk-U, Rakhine state following an airstrike.
- **Burundi:** On December 10, Burundian officials had closed border crossings with DRC due to the rebel group, M23, having made advancements in South Kivu province.
- **Colombia:** On December 9, ELN rebels attacked a busy tollbooth on Copacabana-Barbosa road in Antioquia department.
- **Colombia:** On December 10, Ex-FARC dissidents targeted police and parliament buildings in Huila department.
- **Colombia:** On December 11, a demonstration turned violent and disrupted public transport near Bogotá's El Dorado International Airport.
- **Ethiopia:** On December 9, an indefinite night-curfew was imposed in Gambella and multiple other regions due to on-going unrest and attacks.
- **Haiti:** On December 8, multiple kidnappings were reported in Delmas 31, Port-au-Prince.
- **India:** On December 10, a curfew was imposed along the India-Bangladesh border in Meghalaya's South West Garo Hills district due to clashes.
- **India:** On December 11, clashes between police and protestants caused injuries in Rajasthan and Karnataka states.
- **Iraq:** On December 9, flooding in Sulaymaniyah governorate resulted in casualties and forced the temporary closure of Baghdad, Basrah, and Al Najaf airports.
- **Israel:** On December 11, Storm Byron triggered an orange weather warning across Israel and the Palestinian territories. It brought heavy rainfall and floods in all affected regions.

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- **Kenya:** On December 9, a protest caused clashes with police outside the Tanzanian Embassy in Nairobi.
- **Kenya:** On December 10, deadly bandit and communal clashes were reported in Narok county.
- **Lebanon:** On December 8, Israeli drone strikes targeted Zefta and Mount Safi, Nabatieh governorate.
- **Mali:** On December 8, authorities extended the nightly curfew in Ségou region until January 6 2026 due to region instability and rebel clashes.
- **Mexico:** On December 9, gunmen ambushed police in Michoacán state.
- **Nigeria:** On December 8, a deadly security operation targeted bandits in Sabon Birni LGA, Sokoto.
- **Nigeria:** On December 9, deadly bandit attacks were reported in Maru, Bukkuyum LGA, Zamfara state and other states.
- **Nigeria:** On December 10, deadly cult attacks were reported following multiple kidnappings in Lagos state.
- **Pakistan:** On December 8, officials imposed the Section 144 order (curfew) in Islamabad Capital Territory, Balochistan and other provinces until January 2026.
- **Pakistan:** On December 9, fatalities were reported following a militant attack in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.
- **Pakistan:** On December 11, a deadly drone strike lead to clashes between police and militants in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.
- **Papua New Guinea:** On December 8, heavy rainfall caused a deadly landslide in Lae, Morobe and Western Highlands province.
- **Philippines:** On December 11, volcanic activities triggered flight bans and possible evacuation warnings in several provinces.
- **Russia:** On December 10, Ukrainian drones caused a deadly fire that prompted evacuations in St Petersburg's Nevsky district.
- **Saudi Arabia:** On December 11, adverse weather conditions triggered disruptions nationwide.
- **Somalia:** On December 8, a deadly security operation targeted al-Shabaab militants in the Lower Shabelle region.
- **Somalia:** On December 10, soldiers successfully prevented an attempted al-Shabaab suicide attack at a military base in Mogadishu.

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- **Sudan**: On December 9, a deadly SAF drone strike targeted oil fields in the South Kordofan state.
- **Sudan**: On December 11, a RSF drone strike targeted a military camp west of Kosti, White Nile state.
- **Syria**: On December 9, Israeli forces clashed with civilians in the Khan Arnabeh, Al-Quneitra governorate.
- **Syria**: On December 11, anti-government protests took place in Suwayda, Suwayda governorate and other governorates.

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) Libya       |
| 2) Bangladesh                     | 13) Mali        |
| 3) Belarus                        | 14) North Korea |
| 4) Burkina Faso                   | 15) Russia      |
| 5) Burma (Myanmar)                | 16) Somalia     |
| 6) Central African Republic (CAR) | 17) South Sudan |
| 7) Haiti                          | 18) Sudan       |
| 8) Iran                           | 19) Syria       |
| 9) Iraq                           | 20) Ukraine     |
| 10) Israel                        | 21) Venezuela   |
| 11) Lebanon                       | 22) Yemen       |



## 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

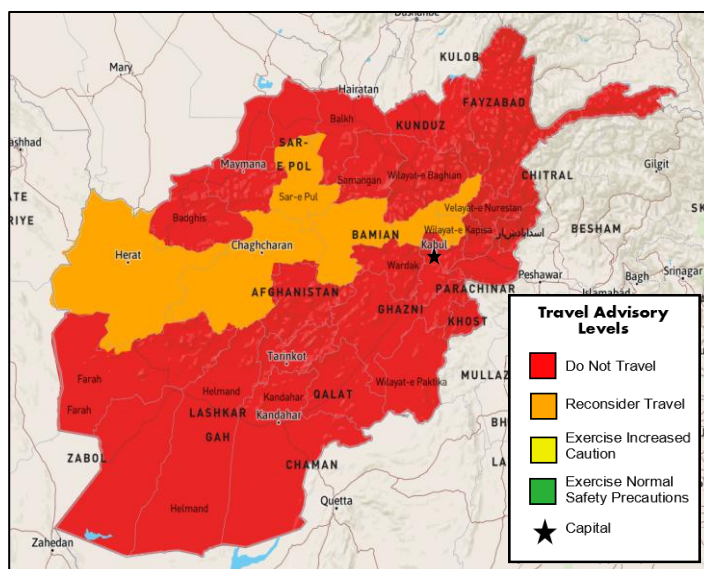
Risk Level: **Extreme**

### Country Overview:

It is advised to avoid all travel to Afghanistan. There is an extreme risk to personal safety, and reliable assistance is not available. The security situation is volatile and presents considerable risk to travelers due to ongoing armed conflict, terrorism, insurgent activity, and widespread crime. Serious threats such as kidnappings, suicide bombings, landmines, and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) are commonplace, along with limited access to medical care and emergency services. Lawlessness, warlordism, and weak institutional governance are pervasive.

Since the withdrawal of U.S. and allied forces and the collapse of the Afghan Government in August 2021, full control over the country has been assumed by the Taliban. Numerous social and political reforms have been rapidly reversed, and civil liberties—particularly for women and girls—have been severely restricted. Further rollbacks of rights and freedoms have been implemented; strict religious laws have been reimposed, and bans on various forms of public expression and cultural activities have been enacted.

Consular support is limited following the suspension of operations at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul on August 31, 2021. All consular services are now provided remotely from Doha, Qatar. As a result, extremely limited assistance can be offered to U.S. citizens who remain or choose to visit Afghanistan.



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## Bangladesh

Risk Level: **Extreme**

### Country Overview:

Travelers should avoid travel to Bangladesh due to the recent civil unrest in Dhaka. The country was gripped by weeks of anti-government protests caused by university student protests over civil service job quotas. As the protests grew, clashes between police and protestors resulted in over 300 deaths. Attempts to quell the protests failed, leading to the resignation of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on August 5, 2024. Professor Muhammad Yunus was appointed Chief Advisor to serve as the caretaker government's Prime Minister.

The interim government of Bangladesh has declared that elections will take place in the first half of February 2026. Political rallies and demonstrations may occur, leading to clashes with law enforcement. Arson, violence, and vandalism can happen in towns and cities nationwide. Attacks against property and public transport are possible.



Travelers should be aware of petty crimes such as pickpocketing in crowded areas. Crimes such as muggings, burglaries, assaults, and illegal drug trafficking constitute most of the criminal activity in Bangladesh's major cities. These crimes tend to be situational, based on time and location.

There have been deaths and cases of severe illness caused by alcoholic drinks containing methanol in Bangladesh. Alcohol is strictly regulated in Bangladesh. Non-Muslim citizens over 21 and foreign visitors may drink in licensed venues with permits, while it is banned for Muslims except for medical reasons. These restrictions often lead people to seek alcohol from unlicensed sources, creating a black market and increasing the risk of methanol poisoning.

Terrorist attacks can occur with little or no warning, targeting public areas such as tourist destinations, transportation hubs, shopping malls, restaurants, places of worship, school campuses, and government facilities. Due to security concerns, U.S. Embassy personnel in Bangladesh are subject to some movement and travel restrictions. The U.S. government may have limited ability to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in Bangladesh due to these travel restrictions, a lack of infrastructure, and limited local emergency response resources.

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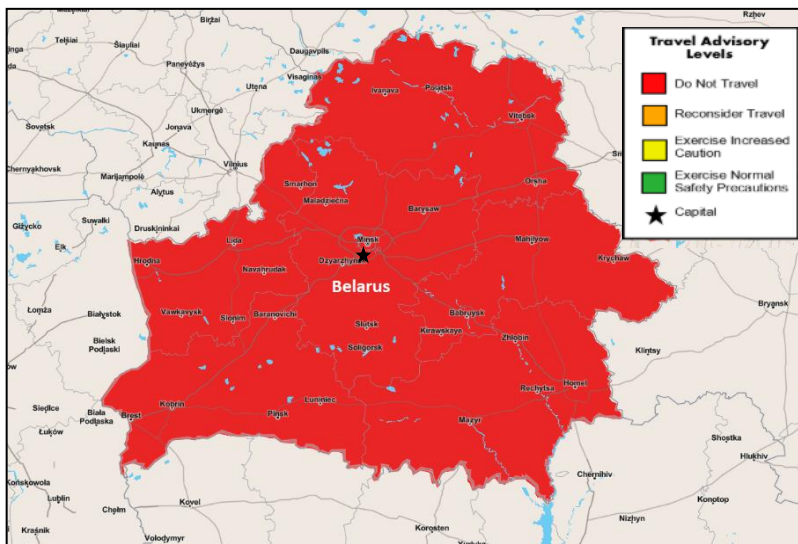
## Belarus

Risk Level: **Extreme**

### Country Overview:

Belarus' security situation is unstable, and it is advised against all travel due to the risk of arbitrary enforcement of law and a maintained presence of Russian military forces in the country. These forces are participating in ongoing military operations impacting both Belarus and Ukraine.

Russian troops and equipment are stationed in Belarus, facilitating missile strikes into Ukraine. Plans for the enhancement of domestic missile capabilities have been announced by Belarusian officials, which may include the deployment of nuclear-armed Polonez rocket launcher systems. Military activity is concentrated in the areas of Yelsk, Rechitsa, Mazyr, Gomel, Brest, Baranovichi, and Asipovichy. Although Minsk may appear calm, the security situation can deteriorate quickly and without warning.



The political environment in Belarus is highly repressive. Thousands have been arrested by authorities, including opposition leaders and activists, while critics and opposition affiliates continue to be targeted, even those living abroad. Participation in or suspected involvement with opposition activities can lead to detention or arrest. Public demonstrations should be avoided by travelers, and extreme vigilance is recommended.

The U.S. Embassy in Minsk has been closed, and all U.S. personnel have departed. Consular services are suspended indefinitely, which has significantly limited access to foreign consular support. Belarus does not recognize dual nationality. Authorities consider individuals with a Belarusian passport to be citizens of Belarus.

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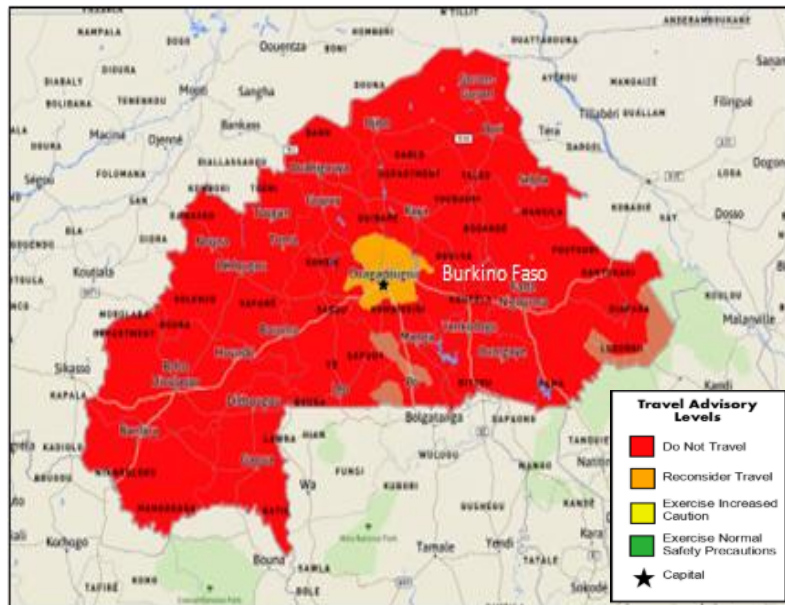
## Burkina Faso

Risk Level: **Extreme**

### Country Overview:

The security situation in Burkina Faso remains volatile due to ongoing political instability, widespread violence, terrorist activity, and deteriorating humanitarian conditions. There is a high risk to personal safety, and travel to Burkina Faso is strongly advised against.

The country has experienced two military coups in the past three years. The most recent occurred in September 2022, when President Roch Marc Christian Kaboré was overthrown. Initially, the military seized power under Lieutenant Colonel Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba, but he was later ousted by Captain Ibrahim Traoré that same year. The human rights situation has deteriorated sharply since then.



In 2024, Burkina Faso witnessed a surge in deadly attacks by Islamist armed groups, alongside reports of abuses committed by security forces and pro-government militias during retaliatory operations. The country has become a hotspot for extreme violence, particularly from groups affiliated with Al-Qaeda and ISIS, including Jama'a Nusrat ul-Islam wa al-Muslimin (JNIM). These groups frequently target both security forces and civilians, especially in the northern and eastern regions. The persistent attacks have led to widespread displacement, disrupted daily life, and forced the closure of schools and markets. The threat of terrorist attacks, kidnappings, and militant activity remains particularly high in rural areas and in regions bordering Mali and Niger.

Attacks, particularly in the capital, Ouagadougou, often target locations frequented by foreign nationals. The risk is heightened during festivals and public holidays. It is advised to avoid the north and the southeast borders with Benin, as these areas are active military zones. Civilians found in these areas risk getting caught up in ongoing military operations. Travelers should remain vigilant and follow the guidance of local authorities.

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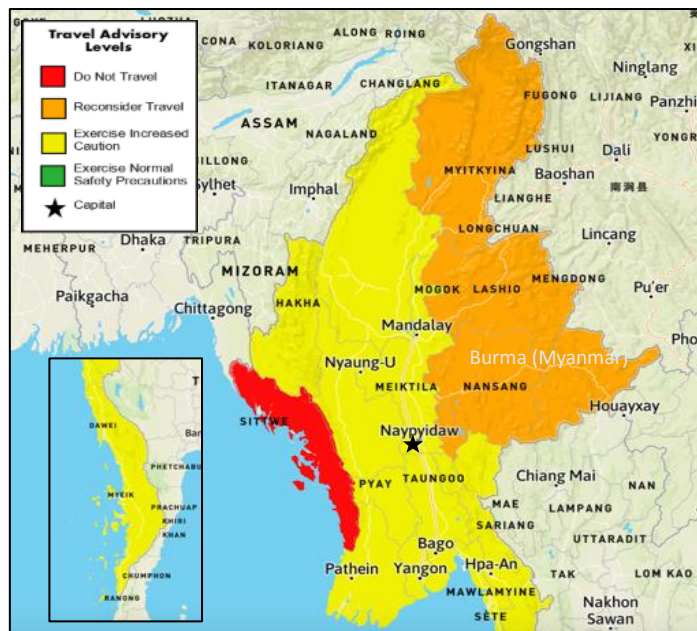
## Burma (Myanmar)

Risk Level: **Extreme**

### Country Overview:

The security situation in some parts of Myanmar is hazardous, with specific areas extremely unsafe. It is advised to avoid travelling to Myanmar due to ongoing civil unrest and armed conflict. 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. Travel to Chin, Kayah, 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, Myanmar's military detained former State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and other senior leaders over unsubstantiated claims of election fraud. Suu Kyi was subsequently sentenced to 33 years in prison. Since the coup, daily pro- and anti-military rallies in Yangon and Mandalay have frequently escalated into violence, with security forces firing live ammunition at protesters. Attacks targeting military personnel and installations, such as checkpoints, are common and sometimes affect civilians and foreign nationals in hotels, restaurants, and residential areas. In response to the coup, rebel groups in northern Myanmar have united against the military junta, seizing control of towns and territories. Despite superior equipment and air support, the military has struggled to suppress the rebels. Cross-border artillery fire has also impacted Chinese cities, injuring Chinese citizens. Travel to Myanmar is strongly discouraged due to ongoing violence and instability.

As the country approaches a proposed election period scheduled to begin in December, security risks are expected to rise. Political tensions, public dissatisfaction, and opposition movements are likely to intensify during this time, especially in conflict-affected regions. Travelers should remain aware that the lead-up to the elections may bring increased violence, tighter restrictions, and disruptions to transport and communication networks.

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 is unpredictable and liable to change without notice, and the authorities can restrict access to any area at any time.

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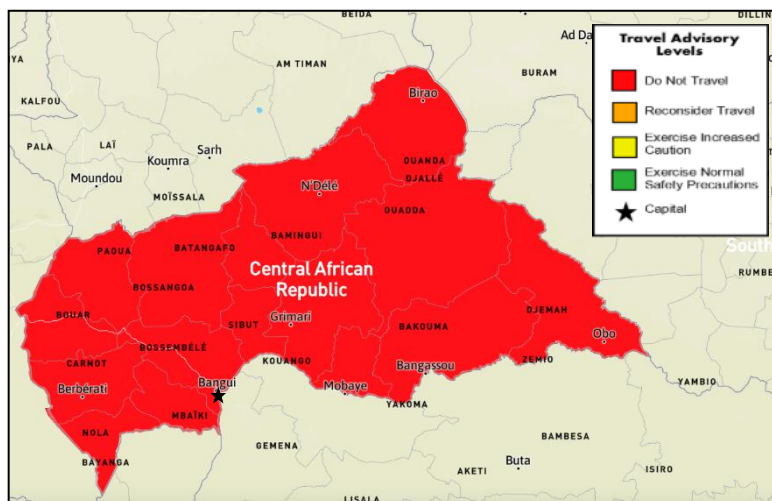


## Central African Republic

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. There are poor road conditions, especially in the rainy season, with few paved roads outside Bangui. Armed patrols by various groups, including government forces and militias, are a frequent occurrence.

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.

Avoid traveling after dark for essential travel to rural areas 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.

Except for the capital, Bangui, it is advised to avoid traveling to any part of the Central African Republic, including the regions of Bimbo, Begoua, and Coline.

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## Haiti

Risk Level: **Extreme**

### Country Overview:

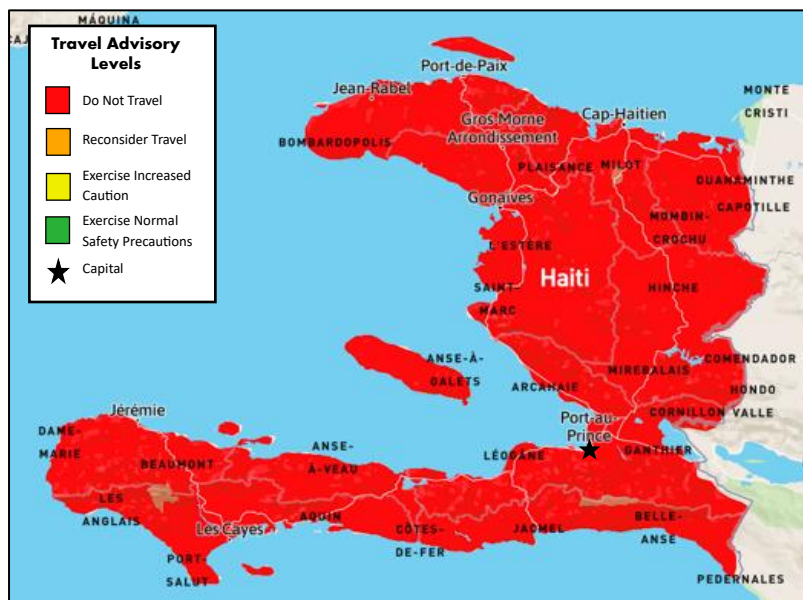
Haiti is a high-risk destination. The country experiences long-standing insecurity, widespread kidnapping, elevated crime, ongoing civil unrest, and critically deficient medical care. Since March 2024, the country has been under a national emergency. The climate is marked by violent crime, kidnapping, and severe shortages of medical care, food, clean water, and fuel. All travel to Haiti should be avoided.

Violence is pervasive, especially in Port-au-Prince. Gang dominance has surged, triggering rampant killings, abductions, and gender-based violence. Gangs frequently shift territories, displacing communities. Violent clashes between rival gangs are common. Gangs also seize control of main thoroughfares and demand tolls from motorists.

Cross-border travel between Haiti and the Dominican Republic, by both land and sea, is currently restricted. Within Haiti, checkpoints can be found at borders, some of which may have less official oversight. Travelers have reported incidents on roads where individuals impersonate law enforcement officers.

First responders, including local police, may not always have full resources to address emergencies. There are frequent shortages of energy, gasoline, medications, and medical supplies. Hospitals and clinics, both public and private, sometimes lack essential materials and staff, and may request cash payments in advance for services.

Political protests against the administration present a significant security risk. Protesters have been known to shoot at police trying to remove barricades. They sometimes throw stones at the windows of passing cars. They also block streets with burning tires. Public demonstrations and impromptu protests are possible. Any protest can turn violent, and bystanders may be caught in altercations between protesters and Haitian National Police (HNP).



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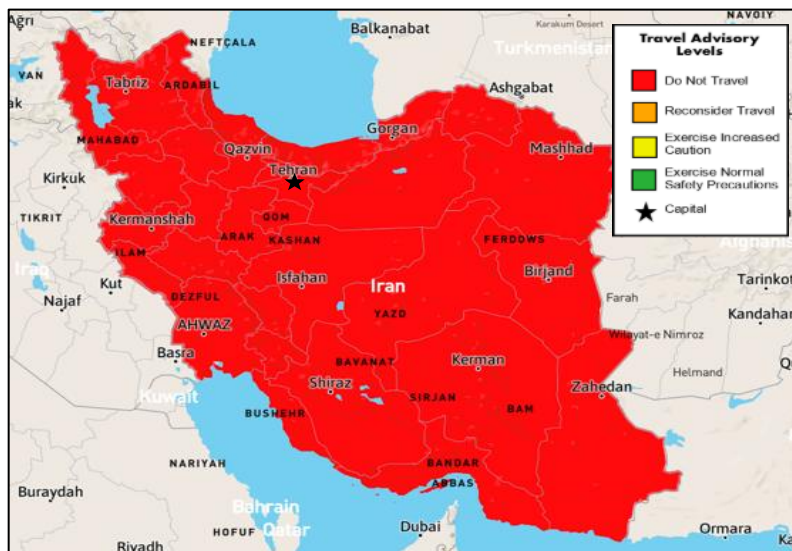
## Iran

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 the risk of arbitrary arrest and detention.

U.S. and British citizens in Iran face the risk of kidnapping, arrest, and unjust detention on various charges, particularly dual-national Iranian Americans and British-Iranian citizens. These charges include espionage and posing a threat to national security. Iranian authorities often delay or deny consular access to Iranian American and British-Iranian citizens. The U.S. and British governments lack diplomatic relations with Iran, limiting their ability to provide emergency services. Foreign nationals in Iran are advised to carefully consider the risks, as detention can result in prolonged imprisonment.



Israel launched targeted strikes on Iranian military and nuclear sites, killing senior officials. These attacks have struck cities in Iran, leading to civilian casualties. On June 22nd, the U.S. launched an attack on Iran's nuclear sites, dropping heavy ordnance to destroy the facilities deep underground. Iran responded with a missile attack on a U.S. base in Qatar. Subsequently, Israel and Iran have declared a ceasefire. Due to the volatile situation, travel to Iran is strongly discouraged, and travelers should closely monitor official updates.

Tensions between Pakistan and Iran remain following the cross-border military strikes against armed groups in Iran's Sistan-Baluchistan province. The risk of escalation remains high, and travelers are advised not to travel to Iran.

Travelers are advised to avoid border areas near Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, including Sistan and Balochistan province and regions east of Bam in Kerman province, due to the risk of violent unrest and cross-border clashes. For extended travel between cities, hiring a reputable local guide is recommended.

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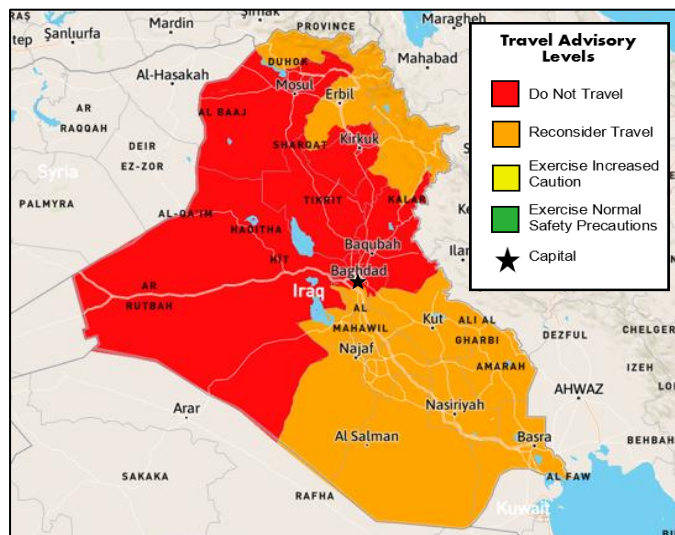
## Iraq

Risk Level: **Extreme**

### Country Overview:

The security situation in Iraq is hazardous. It is advised to avoid traveling to Iraq. There is an extreme risk to personal safety and security due to active insurgent and terrorist groups, sectarian militias, and high levels of violence, including suicide bombings, kidnappings, armed conflict, 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 frequently occur 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.



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 remain vigilant, implement robust security measures, have contingency plans in place, and stay informed about the latest developments through media reports and travel advisories. It is recommended that security arrangements be regularly reviewed and updated. Travelers are advised to avoid travel within 30km (18 mi) of Iraq's borders with Iran, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait, and limit non-essential travel to the Kurdistan region.

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 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:

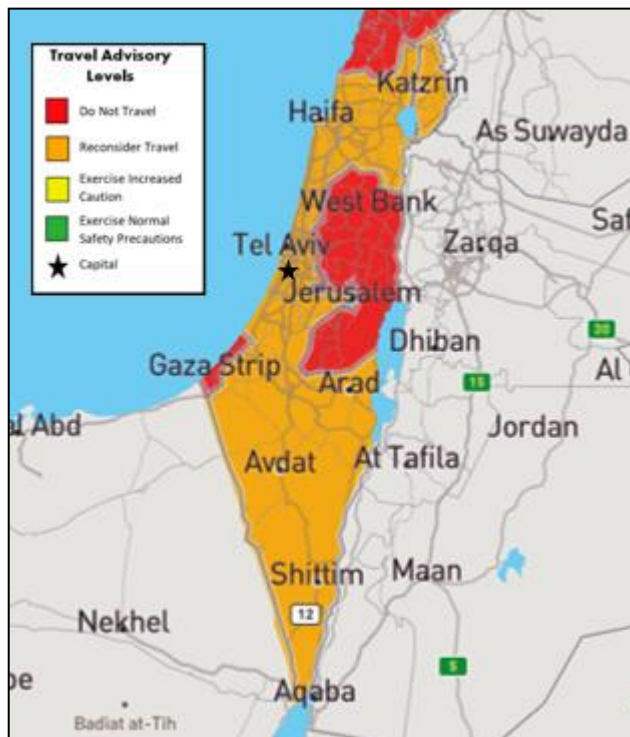
The security situation in Israel and the Palestinian territories remains volatile following the conflict between Israel and Hamas. While a ceasefire is currently in effect, there is still a significant risk of terrorism and civil unrest. Travelers are advised to exercise extreme caution and avoid non-essential travel.

The situation deteriorated after the Hamas attack on October 7, 2023, which prompted a military response from Israel. The Gaza Strip and its border areas are extremely unsafe and are closed to all forms of travel.

In the north, a ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah has reduced immediate hostilities after intense clashes in 2024. This agreement, brokered with U.S. support, required both sides to withdraw their forces from southern Lebanon under UNIFIL supervision. However, this truce remains fragile, and the risk of renewed conflict is high. Travel to regions bordering Lebanon is strongly discouraged.

Israel's confrontation with Iran in 2024, which involved Israeli strikes, Iranian missile retaliation, and U.S. involvement, also resulted in a ceasefire but has left the broader region tense.

Travelers should review official regional guidance carefully before making plans and remain prepared for sudden changes. Terrorist attacks continue to be a persistent threat and may be indiscriminate, targeting transportation hubs, tourist sites, and crowded public areas. Protests and strikes frequently disrupt daily life in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and other cities.



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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.

Travelers should avoid southern Lebanon and depart if they are there, specifically all parts south of Saida, including inland areas. Cross-border rocket, missile, and artillery fire continues to impact southern Lebanon daily. It has caused a significant number of fatalities and injuries.

Israel and Hezbollah have agreed to a ceasefire agreement to bring an end to the two-year-long conflict along Lebanon's southern border. Under the terms of the deal, Israel and Hezbollah must withdraw their forces from the border region south of the Litani River. The Lebanese army will deploy to the area to monitor the ceasefire alongside the UN mission in Lebanon, UNIFIL.

Exercise caution, avoid demonstrations, and monitor local media for developments. There is a risk that access to the airport may be disrupted, whether by traffic congestion, temporary roadblocks, or closure caused by Israeli airstrikes nearby. Celebratory gunfire is common in Lebanon, and there is a risk of gunfire in residential areas in reaction to major regional developments. If you hear gunfire, take cover immediately. If you are traveling to the airport, check the local security situation and only make the journey if you judge it safe to do so. Remain alert to local conditions, as they can change quickly.

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



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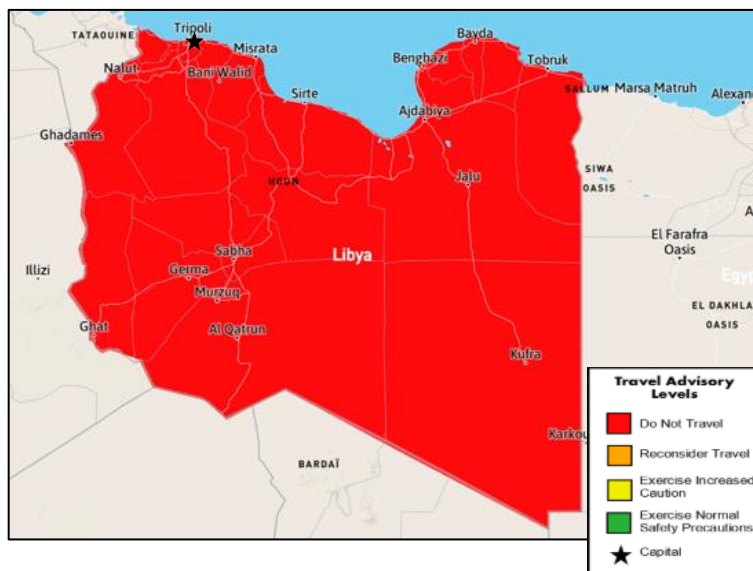
## Libya

Risk Level: **Extreme**

### Country Overview:

Libya is a high-risk destination due to widespread instability and violence targeting foreign nationals, especially U.S. citizens who face kidnapping threats. Since 2011, the breakdown of the Government has allowed armed groups and militias to act with impunity. It is advised to avoid all travel to Libya.

Major cities like Tripoli, Benghazi, and Misrata remain unsafe for tourists due to ongoing conflict, terrorism, and political instability. Armed groups and militias continue to attack public spaces such as hotels and transportation centers. Demonstrations may escalate into violence with little to no warning. Infrastructure is fragile, with poor roads, chronic shortages of power and fuel.



Terrorism remains a persistent problem in Libya, especially in the southwest Fezzan area, where groups such as Daesh and Al-Qaida continue to threaten foreigners, government sites, and infrastructure. These groups exploit weak governance and porous borders, undermining counterterrorism efforts in Libya and neighboring countries. Several urban centers, including Tripoli, Benghazi, and Misrata, have experienced both terrorist attacks and clashes, often targeting hotels and airports.

Foreign workers and visitors in Libya face ongoing dangers from terrorist groups. Commercial travelers in the oil and gas sector are prime targets for criminal and terrorist groups. Journalists, NGO members, and private security contractors risk arrest, harassment, assault, and arbitrary or prolonged detention, especially if they are dual nationals or lack valid documentation.

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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 due to political instability, violent crime such as kidnapping, armed robbery, and terrorism are common occurrences.

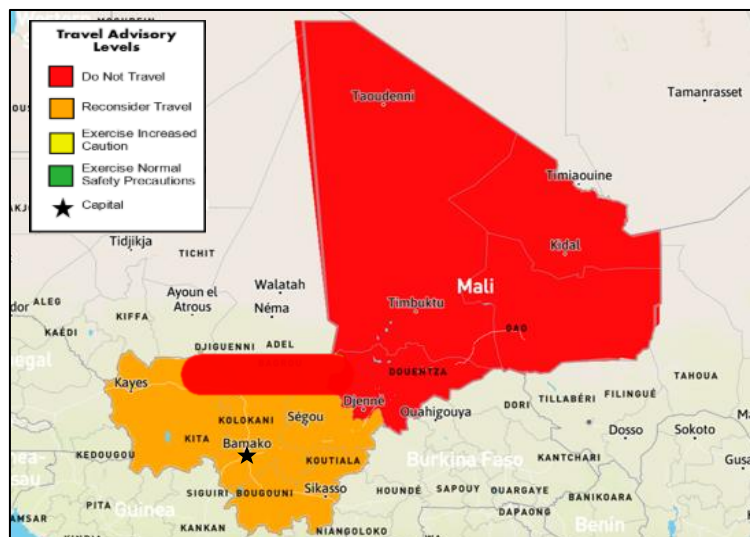
Violent crime remains prevalent during seasonal events and local holidays, particularly in Mali's southern regions and the suburbs of Bamako. It is common to see unplanned police checkpoints and roadblocks at night throughout the country.

Armed groups and terrorists continually plague Mali with kidnappings and attacks without warning. In 2025, kidnappings in southern and western Mali increased significantly, with Al-Qaeda and Islamic State affiliates abducting several foreign nationals. They often target nightclubs, restaurants, places of worship, hotels, Western diplomatic missions, and other locations frequented by foreigners. As of October 2025, Mali is experiencing a fuel shortage, leading to long queues and higher fuel prices in many areas. Travelers should plan ahead to ensure they can reach their destinations.

Terrorist attacks are likely in Mali, particularly during public holidays, especially on major roads and transport routes, with a growing use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs), landmines, and other explosives. While kidnapping is especially prevalent in the northern and central regions, incidents occur throughout the country. There is an extreme risk to the personal safety and security of Westerners in Bamako, where the Al-Qaeda-affiliated group Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM) has publicly declared its intent to carry out attacks. All U.S. government employees and their families have since been ordered to leave the country as a result.

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 UN peacekeepers have failed to stop large portions of Mali from falling under the control of an Islamic extremist insurgency affiliated with organizations like Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State, with the current Government demanding that all troops leave.

Homosexuality is illegal in Mali, with a 2024 Penal Code imposing up to seven years in prison and fines for promoting or participating in same-sex relationships. Individuals perceived as LGBT+ or supporting their rights face increased risks of violence, blackmail, arrests, and abuse.



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## North Korea

Risk Level: **Extreme**

### Country Overview:

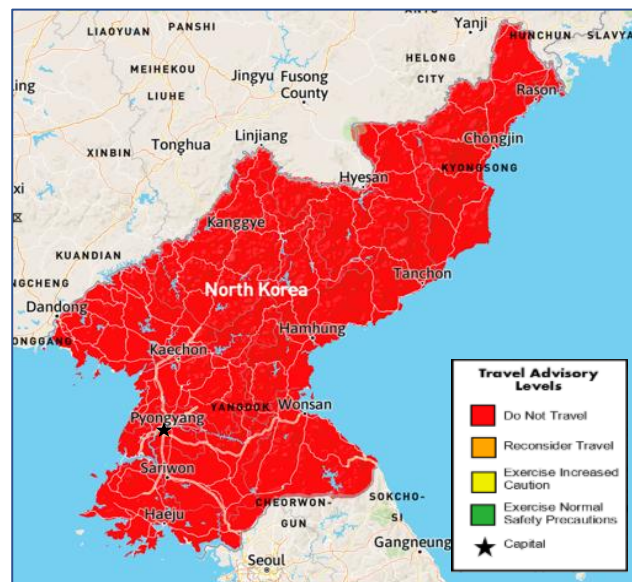
It is advised to avoid all travel to North Korea. The security situation remains volatile on the Korean peninsula, and North Korea's political tensions can change with little notice and no warning, posing an extreme risk to visitors.

Travel is unsafe due to the high risk of arrest and long-term detention. Additionally, U.S. passports are only valid for travel to, in, or through North Korea with specific authorization from the U.S. Department of State. Unique assurances are granted only in limited circumstances.

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

Some 10,000 North Korean soldiers are confirmed to have arrived in Russia in December 2024 to aid in President Putin's efforts to overthrow the Ukrainian Government, which has sparked tensions with the international community. Kim Jong Un has since vowed to send more aid to Russia.

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:

It is advised to avoid all travel to Russia. The country continues to face a complex and evolving security landscape, shaped largely by the ongoing conflict with Ukraine and the resulting geopolitical tensions.

Since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Russia has experienced heightened international scrutiny, sanctions, and shifting diplomatic relationships, which have significantly affected both domestic and cross-border conditions.



While large-scale fighting remains concentrated outside Russia's borders, there have been drone strikes and other incidents on Russian territory, in regions near the Ukrainian border, and in areas like Moscow.

Security measures within Russia have intensified, particularly in major cities and around key transportation hubs, including airports. The Government has increased surveillance, military presence, and security protocols in response to both internal and external threats. Periodic air raid alerts, anti-terror operations, and a visible police presence have become more common in cities such as Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Belgorod.

International sanctions and airspace restrictions have also influenced travel conditions. Many Western carriers have suspended flights to and from Russia, leading to limited international flight availability. Additionally, financial sanctions have disrupted international payment systems, affecting foreigners' ability to use foreign bank cards.

Government censorship and political restrictions have become increasingly stringent, posing risks for both citizens and foreign visitors. Recent laws penalizing negative statements about the military or state institutions have resulted in arrests and monetary penalties. Authorities closely monitor political dissent, and even indirect or subtle remarks can trigger legal action. Foreign nationals have faced detention or interrogation, particularly when linked to protests, unsanctioned gatherings, or content shared online.

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## Somalia

Risk Level: **Extreme**

### Country Overview:

It is advised to avoid traveling to Somalia. The security situation is hazardous due to widespread crime, terrorism, piracy, and frequent incidents of kidnapping and murder, leading to an extreme risk to personal safety.

Al-Shabaab has lost control of a significant portion of its southern and central Somalia territory due to the success of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM)-led Operation Indian Ocean offensive.

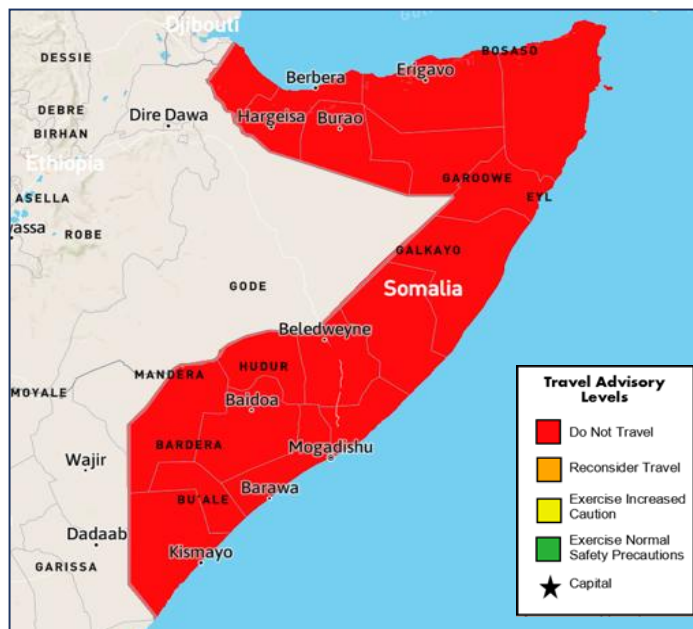
A Polio outbreak is ongoing in Somalia. Medical facilities are limited and often unavailable in rural areas.

The risk of kidnapping is high across Somalia, including areas near the borders with Kenya and Ethiopia, as well as in Somaliland. Kidnappings, often resulting in fatalities, are carried out by various armed groups.

In April 2025, several rocket attacks were launched at Mogadishu International Airport and other locations. Terrorist attacks may occur 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. Due to their use by government officials, hotels are considered legitimate targets by terrorist groups. Attack methods include car bombs, suicide bombers, individual attackers, and mortar fire. The Somali Government regularly carries out counter-terrorist operations against Al-Shabaab, mainly in central and southern Somalia. Stay aware of your surroundings, keep up to date with local media reports, and follow the advice of local authorities.

It is advised to avoid all travel to Togdheer, Sanaag, and Sool in eastern Somaliland, as well as to Awdal, Maroodijeh, and Sahil regions west of Somaliland. Additionally, it is recommended to exercise extreme caution in areas bordering Somalia, such as those with Kenya, Ethiopia, and Djibouti.

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**

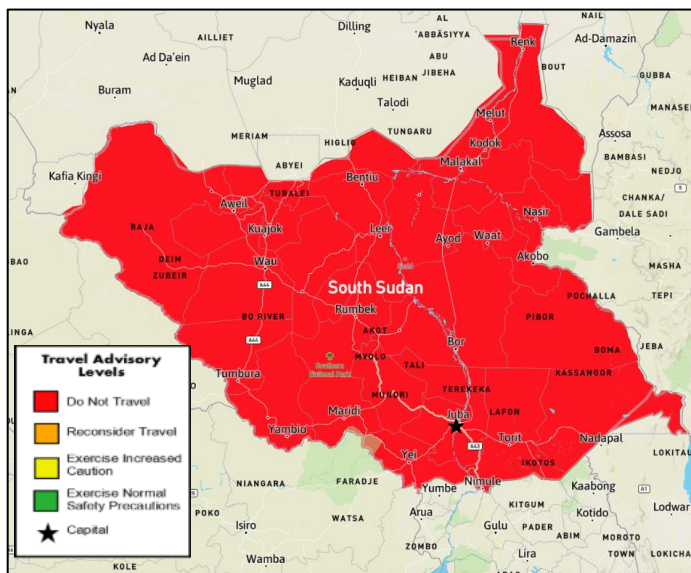
### Country Overview:

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 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 that all travel to South Sudan be avoided.



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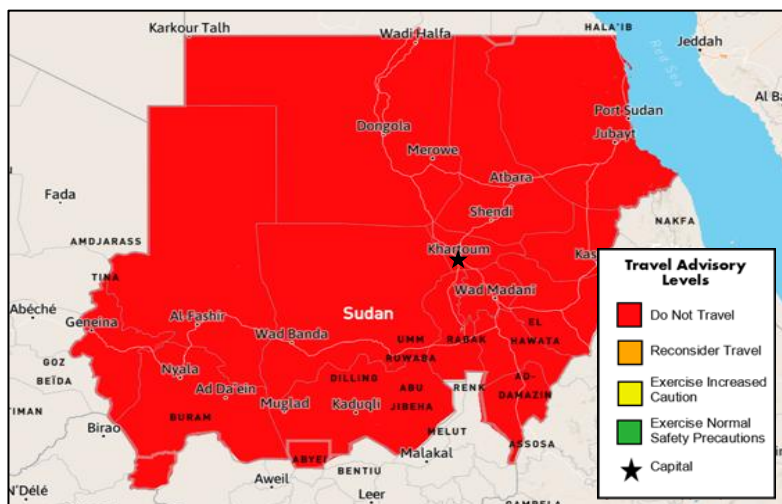


## Sudan

Risk Level: **Extreme**

### Country Overview:

The security situation in Sudan is extremely dangerous. Travel is unsafe due to ongoing armed conflict, terrorism, crime, kidnapping, and armed robbery. Avoid all travel to Sudan. Violence, looting, and carjackings occur across the country. Risk is especially high in Khartoum, Darfur, Kordofan, and Sennar. Terrorist groups continue to pose a threat. Attacks may target foreign nationals, diplomatic sites, and areas frequented by Westerners. Demonstrations can erupt without warning.



Sudan's journey to democratic governance has been fragile since April 2019. After the military ousted long-time ruler Omar al-Bashir, a transitional power-sharing government was formed. This Government included military leaders, civilians, and protest groups. A second coup on October 25, 2021, undermined this Government and reignited instability. On April 15, 2023, a full-scale conflict erupted between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF). The fighting began in Khartoum. Rebel RSF forces initially took control of the capital. However, the SAF recaptured Khartoum in March 2025. The RSF has continued to launch offensives and has repeatedly broken ceasefires.

Overland travel is dangerous. Borders are often closed. Avoid all travel within 20 km of the borders with Eritrea, Ethiopia, and the al-Fashaga region.

Sudan is facing a deepening humanitarian crisis. Over 13 million people have been displaced by the conflict. Large areas, especially south of Khartoum, are at imminent risk of famine. Access to hospitals, clean water, food, medicine, and fuel is severely disrupted. The healthcare system is collapsing. Cholera outbreaks are widespread. Medical facilities are overburdened. Telecommunications are largely unreliable or unavailable in many regions.

Foreign nationals currently in Sudan should closely monitor local developments and maintain a low profile and have contingency plans in place. Evacuation may be difficult or impossible due to security constraints and limited transportation options.

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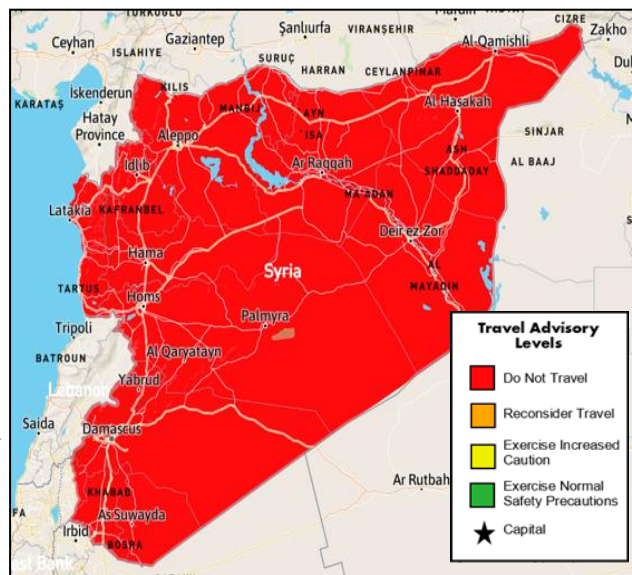
## Syria

Risk Level: **Extreme**

### Country Overview:

The safety and security situation in Syria is critically unstable due to armed conflict, terrorism, and a volatile political climate. The situation is unpredictable and poses serious threats to personal safety. No region is considered secure for visits or operations.

The country remains fractured since the December 2024 collapse of the Assad regime. Rebel forces, led by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, took control and formed a transitional government. However, divisions within this alliance remain. Resistance from former regime elements has led to continued fighting. Armed clashes between rival groups are ongoing, especially in the north.



Terrorist activity is severe. ISIS and similar groups are active and often launch coordinated attacks in public places. Violence increases during holidays. Foreign nationals—especially aid workers, journalists, and business travelers—face attack, kidnapping, and detention. Armed groups regularly use abductions.

Surveillance and limited freedom of movement are common. The potential for arbitrary arrest or mistreatment makes daily operations challenging. Emergency medical care is minimal. Basic infrastructure, such as electricity and communication networks, is unreliable and inadequate.

Syria remains insecure, with fragmented governance and persistent violence. All travel is advised against due to substantial and unpredictable risks. Consular support for U.S. citizens is limited to the Czech Embassy in Damascus.

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## Ukraine

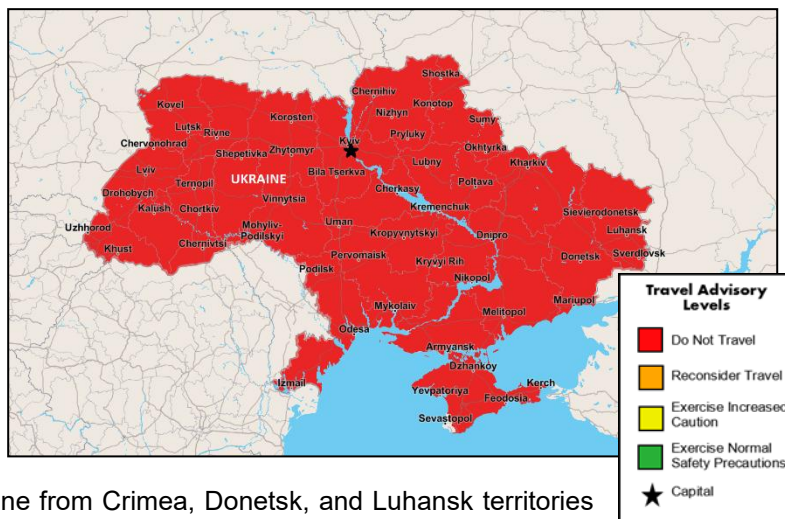
Risk Level: **Extreme**

### Country Overview:

It is advised that travelers 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.



Do not travel to Crimea, as the international community, the United States, and Ukraine do 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 the primary targets.

Due to ongoing military activity, travelers should avoid all travel to Ukraine and consider leaving the country if they are 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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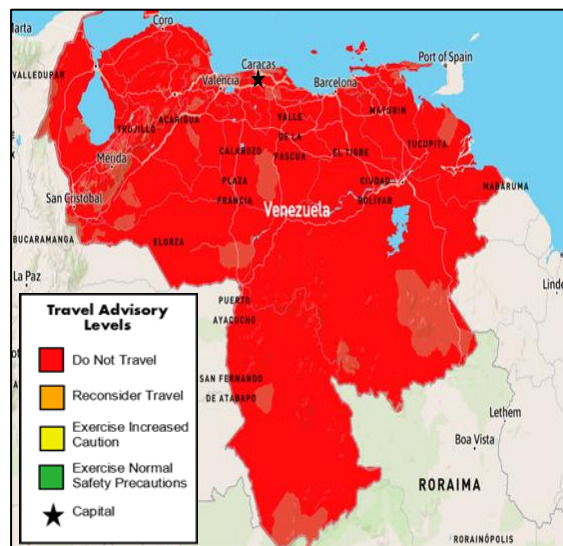
## Venezuela

Risk Level: **Extreme**

### Country Overview:

Venezuela's security situation is highly volatile and is characterized by rampant crime, political repression, civil unrest, kidnapping, risk of wrongful detention, armed conflict, and escalating international tension. The current situation poses a high risk to both locals and travellers. It is strongly advised against all travel, and travelers are urged to evacuate where possible.

Venezuela continues to grapple with economic instability, political repression, and social unrest. The government cracked down on opposition voices and critics ahead of the controversial January 2025 presidential elections, which resulted in incumbent Nicolás Maduro's victory. This included credible reports of killings, enforced disappearances, torture, and detention.



The risk of protests and demonstrations is high, with demonstrations often met with force, resulting in deaths and injuries. Travelers are advised to monitor local media and avoid crowds, political gatherings, and security barricades.

Ongoing violence from armed groups, like Colombia-based Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN) and FARC dissidents, has spilled over into border regions, notably Zulia state. This has prompted Venezuelan military operations to dismantle camps and drug networks. The United States has deployed three Aegis destroyers and approximately 4,000 troops near Venezuelan waters to counter drug trafficking. This has elevated political and military tensions.

Venezuela continues to face extremely high levels of violent crime, including murder, armed robbery, kidnapping, sexual assault, and carjacking, particularly in major cities like Caracas. Criminals are often armed, and attacks can become violent. Foreigners, including dual nationals, are at an elevated risk of arbitrary arrest or detention, often without due process.

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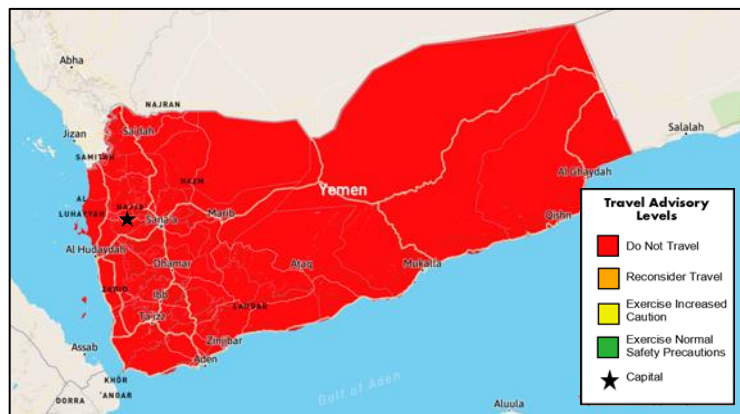


## Yemen

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 in attacks or abductions. Military conflict has caused significant destruction of infrastructure, housing, medical facilities, schools, and power and water utilities. This limits access to electricity, clean water, and medical care.



There have been several instances of Israeli missile attacks targeting areas in Yemen controlled by the Houthis group. The continued risk of missile strikes in these areas poses a significant danger to individuals traveling through them. The presence of military-grade weapons poses a significant threat to visitors to the country, as they may be used by criminals, terrorists, or security forces.

Crime, including carjacking, robbery, and extortion, is pervasive across the country. Tribal conflicts over land frequently escalate into violence, and various militias, including the Houthis, operate extrajudicial detention facilities where arbitrary detention occurs. Recent events in the Red Sea have heightened the risk of foreign nationals being detained.

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 Government of the Sovereign Republic of Yemen 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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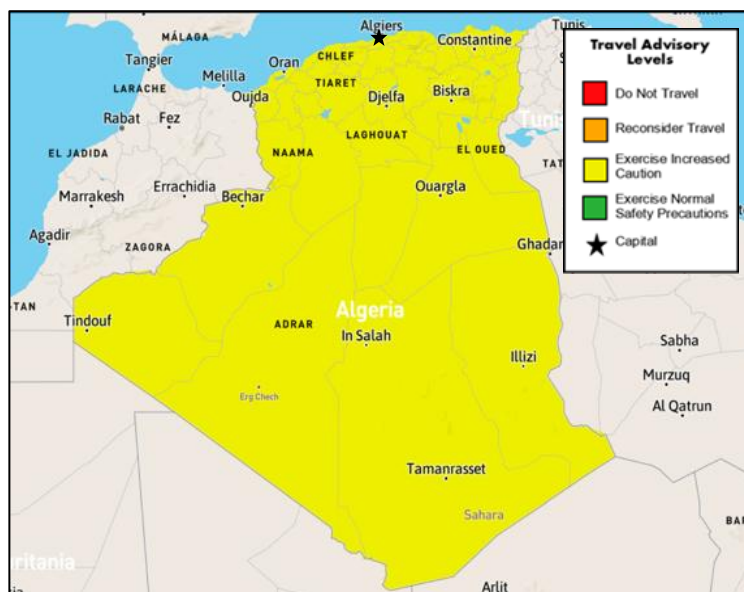
## HIGH RISK COUNTRIES



## Algeria

Risk Level: **Moderate****Country Overview:**

In some parts of Algeria, the security situation is hazardous, with specific areas extremely unsafe. Travelers are advised to exercise increased caution 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 of your surroundings and take additional security precautions, especially in the southern border areas with Libya and Tunisia, the rural and mountainous regions of 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. Traveling within 30 km of the border with Tunisia in the provinces of Illizi and Ouargla, as well as the Chaambi Mountains area, is not advised.

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## Azerbaijan

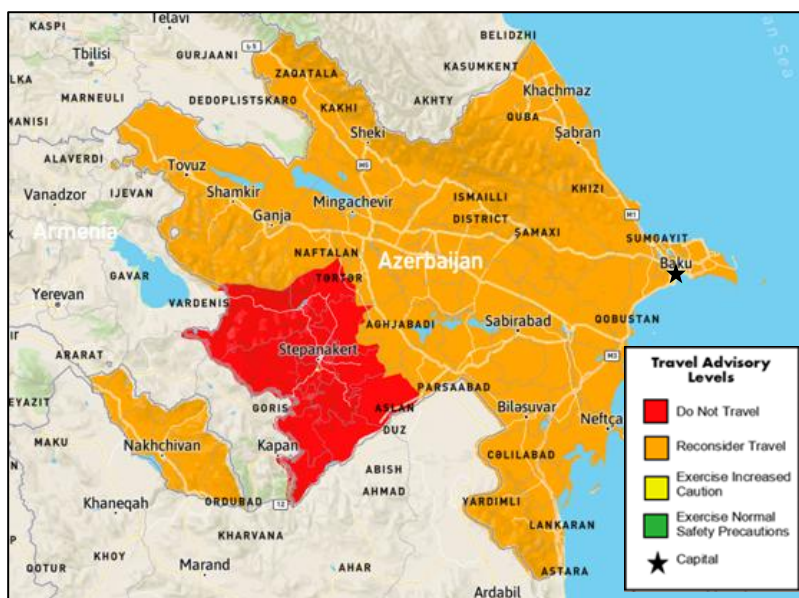
Risk Level: **Moderate**

### Country Overview:

The security situation in some parts of Azerbaijan is hazardous, with specific areas extremely unsafe. It is advised that travel to Azerbaijan be reconsidered due to the risk of terrorism and armed conflict. 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 ordnance (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; instead, it is recommended to warn the 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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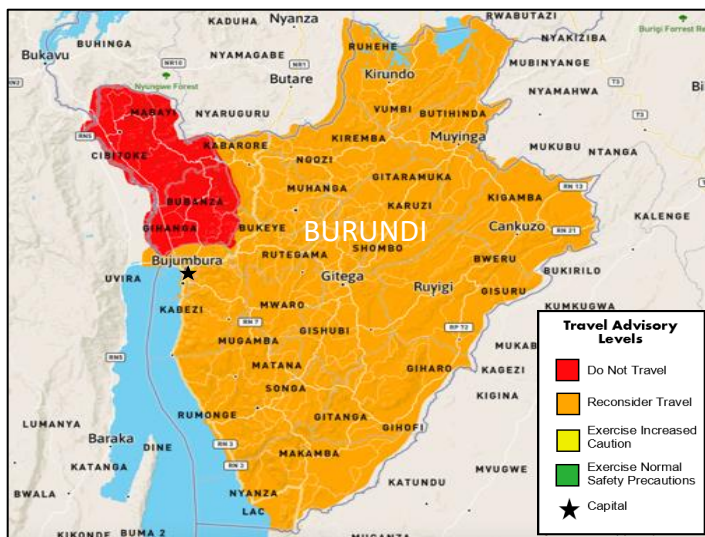
## Burundi

Risk Level: **Extreme**

### Country Overview:

The security situation in Burundi is hazardous, with some regions of the country being extremely unsafe. Travelers are advised to reconsider traveling 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 Rusizi National Park, 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 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).



Rift Valley Fever (RVF), a disease primarily affecting livestock, has been reported in the country. 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. Burundi's rainy season, from October to May, often leads to flash floods.

The U.S. government cannot provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in Burundi due to travel restrictions on U.S. Embassy personnel. This includes the provinces of Bubanza and Cibitoke, Kibira National Park (including the park's southernmost part in Muramvya province), and Ruvubu and Buriri Forest.

Travelers are strongly advised to avoid the border region with the DRC due to the high risk of armed incursions.

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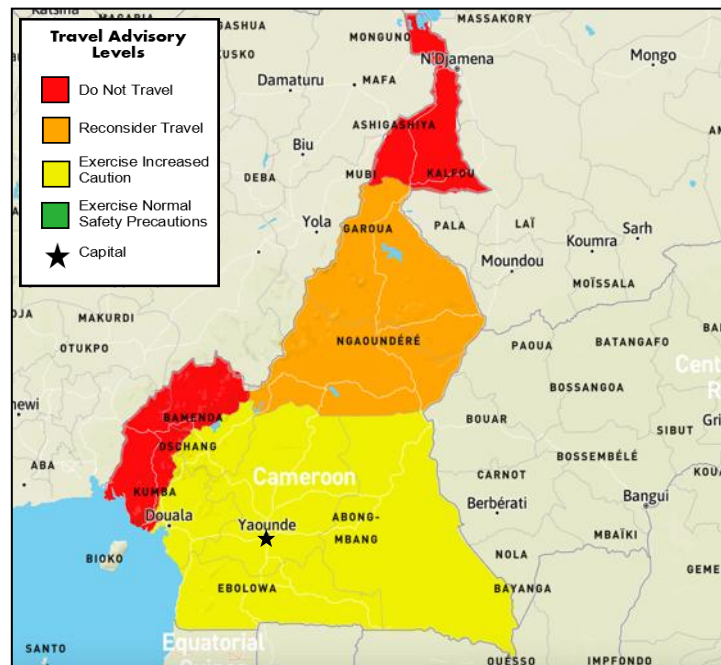
## Cameroon

Risk Level: **Extreme**

### Country Overview:

The security situation in certain parts of Cameroon is dangerous. It is advised to exercise increased caution due to crime, civil unrest, and terrorism. Terrorists often use less sophisticated methods of attack, such as knives, guns, and vehicles, to target large groups of people. Common targets include large public events, hotels, clubs, restaurants popular with tourists, places of worship, schools, parks, shopping malls, markets, and public transportation systems.

The terrorist groups Boko Haram and Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) are mostly active in the Far North Region, though attacks can be indiscriminate, including in big cities like Yaoundé and Douala. Terrorists



often cross into Cameroon from Nigeria and Chad to carry out attacks in the Far North, North, and Adamawa Regions. It is advised to avoid travel to the Northwest, Southwest, North, and Far North Regions of Cameroon, as well as within 20 km of the border with the Central African Republic in Adamawa and East Regions, and within 20 km of the border with Nigeria and north of Ngaoundéré in the Adamawa Region. Access to the Bakassi Peninsula is restricted by Cameroon's military.

The Anglophone Crisis is ongoing, involving clashes between state forces and the Ambazonia Defense Forces, resulting in heavy casualties. Non-state armed groups are increasingly using improvised explosive devices to target civilians in the North-West and South-West regions and against government forces in the Far-North Region. Improvised explosive devices have also been seen in the capital, Yaoundé.

Travelers should exercise increased vigilance, especially in crowded areas. Large gatherings and political rallies should be avoided, as demonstrations and unrest may emerge unexpectedly, and the security situation could deteriorate with little to no warning.

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 the Adamawa and East Regions of Cameroon.

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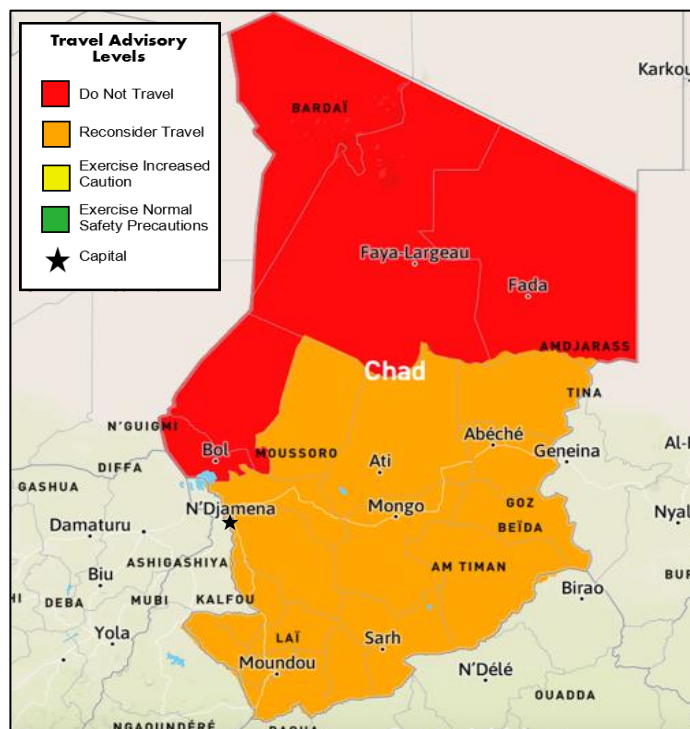
## Chad

Risk Level: **Extreme**

### Country Overview:

Chad's security situation is volatile with parts of the country remaining extremely unsafe. It is advised against all travel to Chad due to political instability, terrorism, violent crime, a humanitarian crisis and the existence of minefields. There is a high risk to personal safety due to threats from extremist groups, escalating political tensions and military clashes between government forces and militias.

Chad's political situation is highly delicate as the nation is navigating a tense transition since President Idriss Déby Itno was killed in combat in 2021, resulting in him being succeeded by his son, General Mahamat Idriss Déby Itno, who consolidated power in a contentious May 2024 election. However, this has done little to ease the underlying friction among the different political factions. As a result, there is a heightened risk of sudden civil unrest, particularly in the capital, N'Djamena, often organized by civil society organizations or opposition parties, which are often met with forceful responses from security personnel.



There is a severe threat to personal safety due to violent crime, mainly from organized extremist groups. The Lake Chad Basin is exceptionally dangerous due to the continuous activity of Boko Haram and the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP). The northern regions of Tibesti and Ennedi are also hazardous due to a mix of armed militias, smuggling operations, and legacy minefields from previous wars. As a result, travel is characterized by heavy military presence with checkpoints being a common sight countrywide.

General criminal activity, such as armed robberies and muggings, present a significant and widespread danger throughout the nation. In contrast to the rest of the country, urban areas like N'Djamena, Moundou, and Sarh are considered relatively safer. However, they still require vigilance due to potential threats. Some areas may be subject to official travel bans or advisories and it is advisable to consult the latest government travel guidelines before planning a visit.

Chad provides refuge for vast numbers of people escaping conflicts in neighboring Sudan, CAR, and Nigeria that are situated in areas vulnerable to cross-border attacks and local violence. The border with Libya is notoriously volatile and marked by frequent conflicts involving local militias. Foreign government employees, such as those from the U.S., require special permission to travel beyond the capital.

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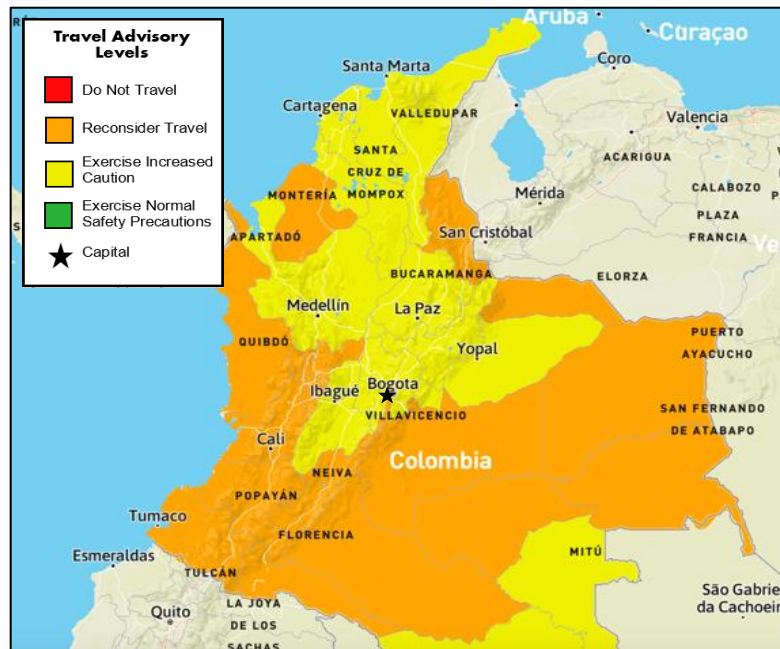


## Colombia

Risk Level: **Moderate**

### Country Overview:

Colombia presents a mixed security environment, with certain regions posing extreme risks due to organized crime, terrorism, and civil unrest, while other areas are comparatively safer for travel. The National Liberation Army (ELN) continues to plot violent attacks, and organized crimes such as homicide, assault, armed robbery, extortion, and kidnapping remain significant threats. Travelers should remain vigilant and follow all warnings issued by Colombian authorities.



Armed groups remain a central source of insecurity across the country. Breakaway groups from the Revolutionary Armed Forces

of Colombia (FARC) and the National Liberation Army (ELN) are especially active in regions such as Arauca, Cauca, Nariño, Norte de Santander, and parts of Chocó. These groups engage in attacks on security forces, kidnappings, extortion, and armed blockades. Authorities warn that the ELN continues to plot violent operations, while criminal networks involved in narcotics trafficking drive instability in remote provinces and along border corridors.

The Colombian government has issued clear warnings against travel within 20 km of the borders with Venezuela and Ecuador, except for the Pan-American Highway crossing at Ipiales, which is considered safer. High-risk areas where travel should be limited to essential purposes include Arauca, Guaviare, Chocó, southern Meta (Ariari region), parts of Nariño (South Pacific, Sanquianga, Telembí), western Cauca (excluding Popayán), Buenaventura, Bajo Cauca and Urabá in Antioquia, southern Bolívar and Córdoba, the Catatumbo region in Norte de Santander, multiple municipalities in Putumayo and Caquetá, and Puerto Carreño in Vichada. These zones remain highly volatile due to armed activity, trafficking, and terrorist threats.

Urban centers, while relatively safer, are not without risks. Violent crime, including homicide, armed robbery, and assault, continues to occur, and recent reports highlight incidents of foreigners being targeted through dating apps in Bogotá, Cartagena, and Medellín. Travelers are advised to avoid secluded meeting places, exercise vigilance in crowded areas, and rely on trusted transportation services. Demonstrations also occur in major cities, often linked to political and economic grievances, and can escalate into clashes with police. Such unrest may lead to roadblocks, curfews, or temporary restrictions on movement.

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## Congo (Republic of)

Risk Level: **Moderate**

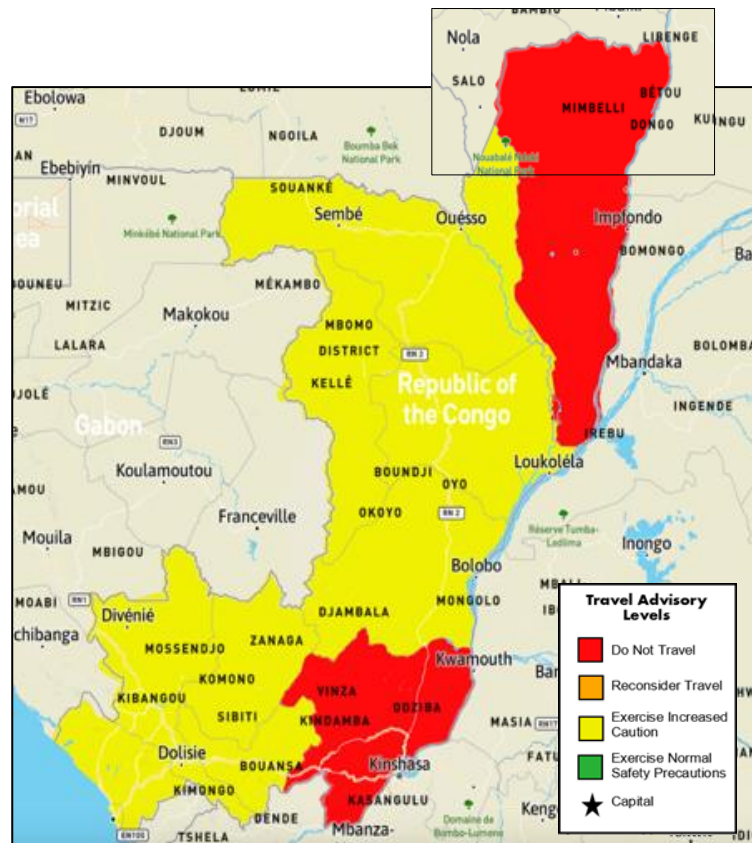
### Country Overview:

The security situation in parts of the Congo is hazardous. Due to crime and civil unrest, it is advised to exercise increased caution in the country. 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, cholera, and yellow fever. 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 the Bouenza region; and within 50km of the border with the Central African Republic in the Likouala region.

The U.S. government cannot provide emergency assistance to citizens outside Brazzaville. The Pool region, historically a conflict zone between the Government and the Ninja insurgent group, remains a potential risk despite a 2017 ceasefire. Violent clashes could resume without warning, particularly in Boko, Kindamba, Kinkala, Mayama, and Mindouli districts.



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## Cuba

Risk Level: **Moderate**

### Country Overview:

The security situation in Cuba is generally stable; however, there is still a risk of petty crime and crimes that target tourists. The country is currently facing an electricity crisis, leading to significant impacts on its infrastructure and service delivery.

Cuba experiences prolonged electricity outages that affect various services. Fuel shortages are common, particularly during

these outages, so travelers should prepare accordingly for potential fuel shortages. Additionally, authorities conduct periodic chemical fumigations to control mosquito-borne illnesses. While these fumigations are intended for health protection, exposure to the chemicals may cause mild to moderate discomfort.

Travelers are advised to remain vigilant, especially in urban and tourist areas. Petty crime, tourist scams, and serious offenses such as armed robbery, sexual assault, and homicide can occur. Therefore, it is important to take necessary precautions while in the country.

The U.S. government has designated Cuba as a state sponsor of terrorism and has imposed sanctions due to human rights concerns. Travelers should be aware of these diplomatic sensitivities and monitor official advisories.



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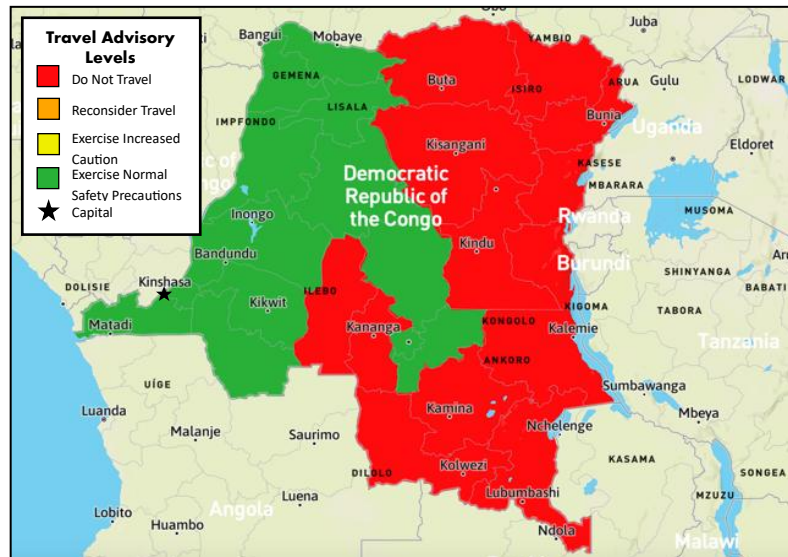


## Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Risk Level: **Extreme**

### Country Overview:

It is advised to reconsider travel to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The DRC is undergoing a deepening security crisis, particularly in the eastern regions of North and South Kivu. Armed confrontations between national forces and the M23 rebel group have intensified, resulting in the fall of strategic cities including Goma and Bukavu. Hundreds of thousands of civilians have been displaced, severely disrupting daily life and presenting serious risks for any form of travel or movement within the affected areas.



Numerous allegations of human rights violations have surfaced, including cases of extrajudicial killings and torture carried out by rebel factions. Large portions of the eastern DRC remain either under rebel control or too dangerous to access. The persistent violence, lack of infrastructure, and limited State or government presence make travel to these areas extremely unsafe and strongly discouraged. Armed groups, such as the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), continue to pose a major threat. Attacks are frequent and widespread, reflecting the scale of insecurity across various provinces. Both rural and urban areas are subject to violence, increasing the danger for both locals and foreigners.

In January 2025, protests erupted in Kinshasa, targeting foreign diplomatic missions in response to perceived international involvement in the conflict. The demonstrations resulted in property damage and prompted heightened security measures; large gatherings should always be avoided or approached with caution. Such protests are likely to continue intermittently, especially in times of heightened political tension or foreign involvement, and they may escalate with little to no notice.

Regions such as Kasai and Ituri continue to experience periodic violence linked to ethnic divisions and unresolved local grievances. These localized disputes often escalate into broader conflicts, fueled by the presence of armed militias and inadequate state oversight. The fractured state of regional security means that travelers can encounter danger even in areas that appear calm, with unstable conditions that could change with little to no warning. However, some regions, such as the capital Kinshasa, as well as parts of Haut-Katanga, Lualaba, and Tshopo, are currently considered relatively stable and safe for travel, provided standard precautions are taken. Non-essential travel to eastern DRC should be avoided. Those currently in the country should remain alert, avoid public demonstrations or crowded areas, and stay informed through local news and embassy updates.

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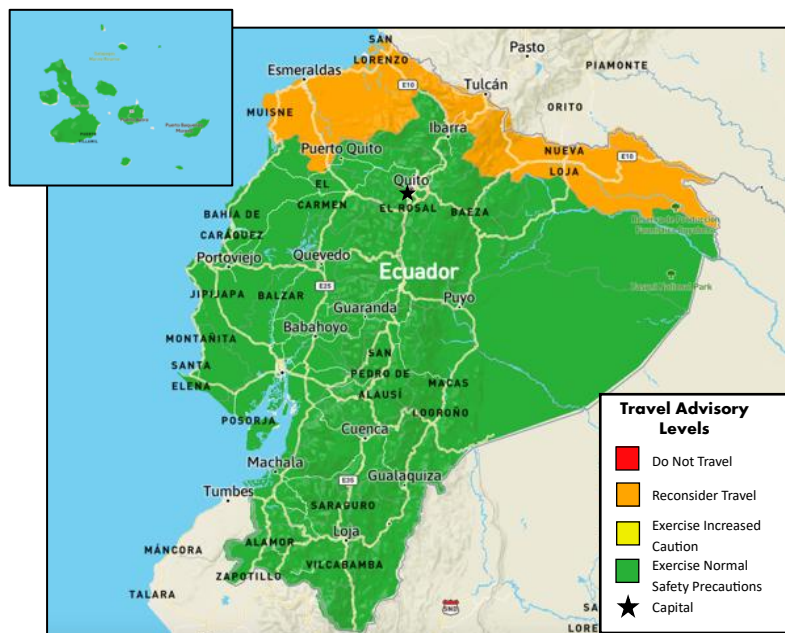
## Ecuador

Risk Level: **Moderate**

### Country Overview:

Travelers in Ecuador are advised to exercise increased caution, with risk levels varying by region. Areas along the northern border and specific provinces face higher security concerns.

The northern border with Colombia has high crime rates, including kidnapping for ransom, sexual assault, and drug-assisted robberies. Violent demonstrations and road blockades may occur nationwide without warning. Remain vigilant, especially in Sucumbios, northern Esmeraldas provinces, Esmeraldas City, and Guayaquil south of Portete de Tarquí Avenue.



On 14 October, a car bomb exploded near the Mall del Sol shopping center and the Sheraton Hotel in northern Guayaquil, resulting in multiple injuries and at least one fatality. Secondary explosions were reported on 15 October on a road connecting the provinces of Guayas and El Oro. Armed robbery is a risk throughout Ecuador. Crimes with the threat of violence, such as gunpoint robbery and home invasion, can happen throughout Ecuador.

Ecuador's public healthcare system offers free services; however, access to high-quality or specialized care may be limited outside of major cities. Ensure your insurance covers air ambulance evacuation. When traveling to the Galápagos Islands by boat, you may be required to provide your blood type and emergency contact information.

Travelers entering Ecuador from Peru or Colombia by land or river must provide a criminal record certificate for the past five years. Exemptions apply to those with valid visas, diplomatic passports, children under 18, trafficking victims, or those seeking protection under Ecuador's Human Mobility Law. No restrictions exist for air arrivals.

On 4 November, due to internal disturbance and armed violence, a 60-day state of emergency was renewed. Ensure to follow police and local authorities in the following areas of Guayas, El Oro, Manabí, Los Ríos, Santa Elena, Bolívar (cantones Echeandía and Las Naves), and Cotopaxi (cantón La Maná).

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## Egypt

Risk Level: **Moderate**

### Country Overview:

In some parts of Egypt, security is hazardous, with some regions of the country being extremely unsafe. Travelers to Egypt should reconsider travel due to terrorism. In particular, UK citizens should exercise extreme caution as threats against them continue to escalate. 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 a 20 km area along the Egyptian and Libyan border because of the significant increase in criminal activity and continued terrorist attacks on police and security forces.



Due to 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 infrastructure at these border crossings is minimal, resulting in extended wait times of several days for individuals attempting to cross the border. Travelers should be aware that access to food and water is limited at these crossings.

It is advised to avoid all travel within 20 km of the Egypt-Libya border, except for El Salloum, where we advise against all travel except for essential purposes. It is also advised not to travel to the northern part of the South Sinai Governorate beyond the St Catherine-Nuweibaa Road, except for the coastal areas along the west and east of the peninsula.

The safety situation at and near the Egypt-Gaza border remains volatile. 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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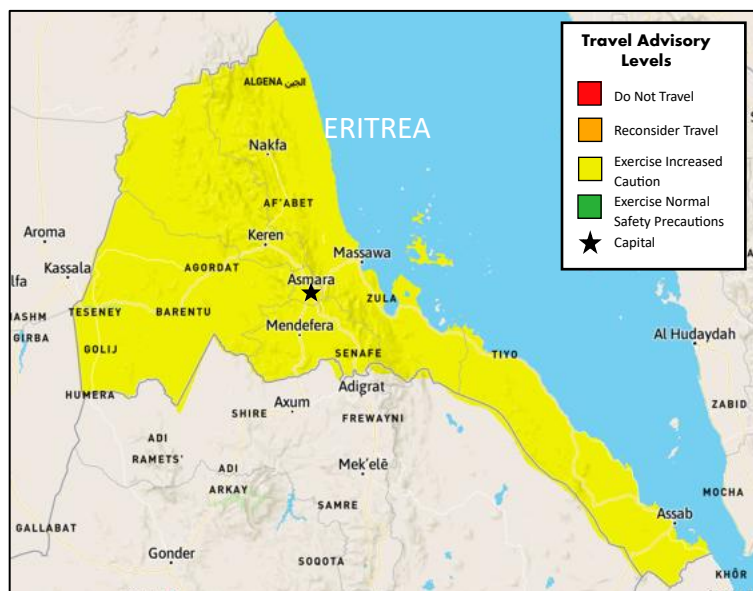
## Eritrea

Risk Level: **Extreme**

### Country Overview:

The security situation in some parts of Eritrea is hazardous. 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 in Ethiopia, and border disputes with Djibouti.

Landmines can be found in many remote areas in Eritrea, particularly in Nakfa, Adi Keih, Arezza, the 40 km-wide regions between the Mereb and Setit Rivers, and in the regions north and west of Keren, as well as areas near Ghinda, Massawa, Barentu, Agordat, Dekemhare, and south of Tessenei.



Rising tensions between Ethiopia and Eritrea could rapidly affect travel and your ability to leave Eritrea. 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.

Consular support for U.S. citizens is currently limited. The U.S. Consulate is unable to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens as 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 if you are detained or arrested.

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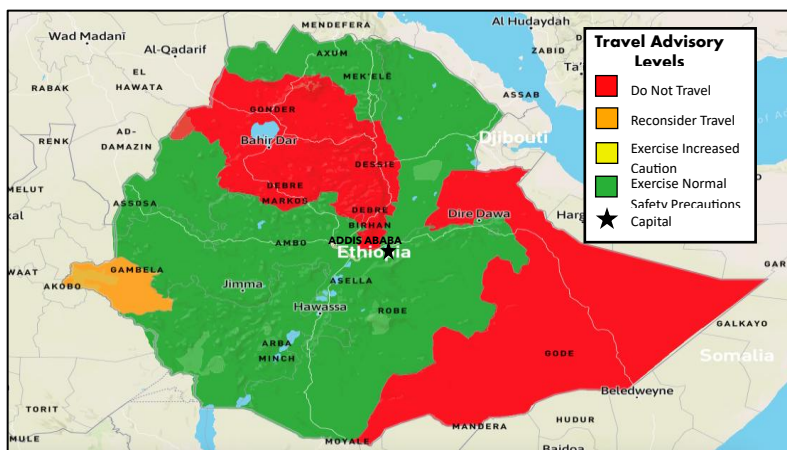


## Ethiopia

Risk Level: **High**

### Country Overview:

Ethiopia is a high-risk destination, and travelers are advised to avoid all non-essential travel. The security situation in Ethiopia remains highly volatile due to ongoing armed conflict, civil unrest, terrorism threats, and the deterioration of essential infrastructure and services. Travelers visiting Ethiopia are encouraged to stay in Addis Ababa, follow strict safety precautions, and monitor local developments closely.



Widespread unrest continues in various regions, driven by ethnic tensions, political disputes, and regional rivalries. Protests can occur without warning and frequently turn violent, leading to road closures and transport disruptions. Travelers should avoid large gatherings and areas of symbolic or political significance.

There is a heightened terrorist threat, with credible warnings of potential attacks on public spaces, religious events, national holidays, and places frequented by foreigners. Such attacks may be indiscriminate and occur without prior notice, increasing the risk for travelers. Several regions are classified as unsafe due to conflict and lawlessness, including areas near the borders with Eritrea, Sudan, South Sudan, and Kenya. Entire regional states—such as Tigray and Gambella—remain no-go zones. Parts of Oromia, Benishangul-Gumuz, and Afar are also perilous, with ongoing violence, poor infrastructure, and limited access to medical or emergency services.

The government has imposed periodic internet and telecommunications blackouts during times of unrest, affecting access to critical information and limiting embassy support, particularly outside the capital. Consular support outside Addis Ababa is extremely limited due to insecurity and poor infrastructure. Travelers should not rely solely on embassy assistance and must have independent access to communications, transportation, and evacuation options.

Ethiopia lies along the East African Rift Valley, an area known for high geological activity and numerous volcanoes. On November 23, 2025, the Hayli Gubbi volcano in the Afar region erupted, causing significant disruptions to ground transport and airspace.

Travelers from countries with Mpox (Monkeypox) cases may be subject to health screenings, including possible quarantine. It is important to verify current health entry requirements with Ethiopian authorities before traveling.

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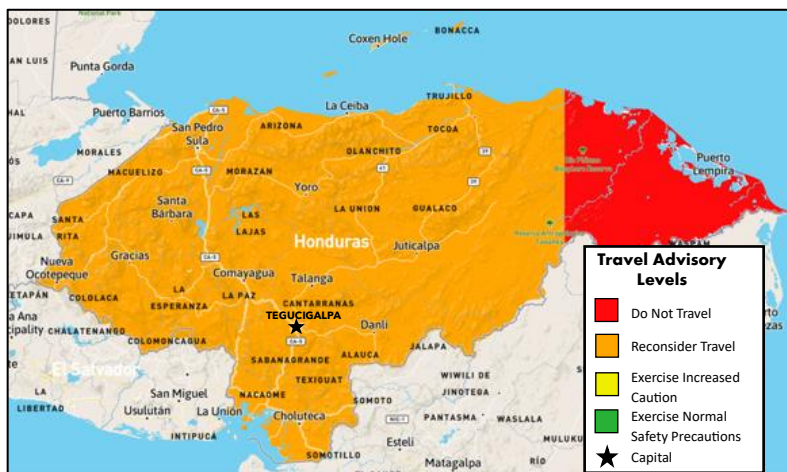
## Honduras

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 that travel to Honduras be reconsidered due to the high crime rate. 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. Government services are limited, and there is a low police and military presence. It is advised to avoid all travel to the Gracias a Dios Department and limit all travel to the rest of the country unless it's essential.

Travelers need a visa to travel to Honduras. However, if you are a cruise ship passenger, you can enter Honduras with a "short pass." This pass permits you to disembark while the ship is docked in Honduras (usually for less than a day). You will need a visa to stay in Honduras beyond the docking hours.

Upon arrival, you will receive a 30-day visit entry stamp in your passport. It's essential to ensure that the border control officer stamps your passport, as failing to do so may result in a fine. If your passport is not stamped, please return to the immigration desk or visit the National Institute of Migration in Tegucigalpa as soon as possible. If you wish to extend your stay, you can apply at an immigration office.

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## India

Risk Level: **Moderate**

### Country Overview:

India presents moderate travel risks. Some areas significantly threaten personal safety. Regular precautions enable feasible travel, but travelers may experience disruptions and security threats.

India's long, contentious border with Pakistan is a historic source of geopolitical strain. Periodic military conflicts occur between the two countries. Jammu and Kashmir remains particularly volatile. Travelers to this area face risks from cross-border shelling, terrorist activity, and military operations. The Line of Control demarcating the disputed boundary is often a flashpoint. Civilians have occasionally been casualties of crossfire and landmine incidents.



The mountainous borders with China, especially in Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, and Ladakh, have seen increased tension in recent years. Military standoffs and infrastructure build-ups have occurred. Outright conflict is rare, but these areas remain militarized. Access is often restricted, particularly for foreign nationals.

Inter-communal clashes, especially between Hindu and Muslim communities, remain a recurring concern. These events are often localized, but can become deadly and disruptive. Communal violence can erupt during religious festivals, political rallies, or after controversial laws or court rulings.

Certain regions in India have significantly elevated risks due to armed conflict, insurgency, or civil disorder. These include Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Chhattisgarh, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, and Delhi. Risks also increase in other urban centers during major religious or political events.

Violent crimes such as assault, armed robbery, murder, and rape frequently target foreigners nationwide. These crimes occur particularly often in cities and regions popular with tourists.

Travelers should avoid protests and large gatherings, including those at religious sites. They should follow advice from local authorities, monitor local news, and comply with any curfew regulations.

As of 3 November, travelers departing India must have a valid entry record. Those without an entry stamp—such as holders of new or emergency passports—must apply online for a special exit visa, which typically takes 5–15 working days to process.

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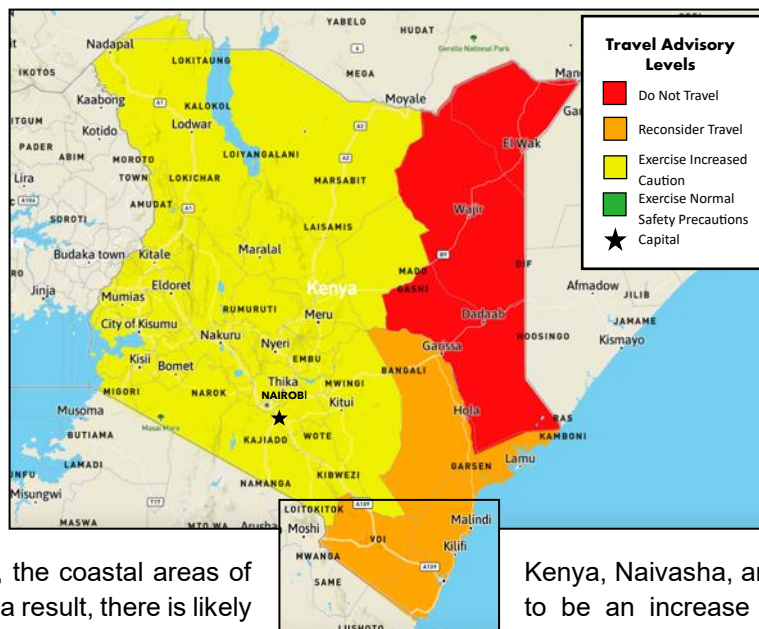
## Kenya

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 Nanyuki may target Westerners. As a result, there is likely visible security services.



Kenya, Naivasha, and to be an increase in

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

Travelers should be aware that the political opposition has organized anti-government demonstrations in recent months, which 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.

Kenya will hold a seven-day national mourning period from October 15 after the death of former Prime Minister Raila Odinga. Protests have already disrupted roads near Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, with further unrest expected in Nairobi and Kisumu. Avoid large gatherings and follow local news and official updates.

There has been an increase in cases of serious illness caused by alcoholic drinks containing methanol in popular travel destinations around the world. Even small amounts of methanol can kill. It is not possible to identify methanol in alcoholic drinks by taste or smell.

Travelers are advised against all travel to the following areas in Kenya: within 60 kilometers of the Kenya–Somalia border; eastern Garissa County (up to 20 kilometers northwest of the A3 road).

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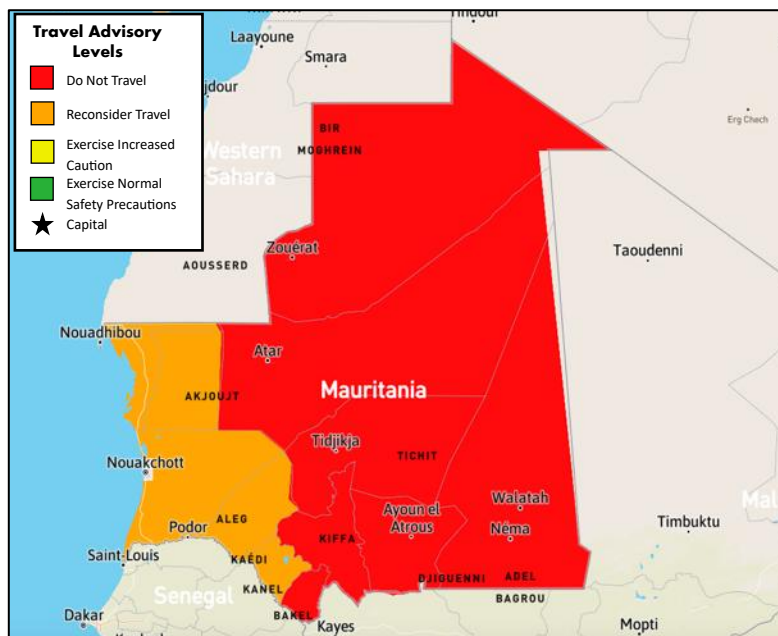
## Mauritania

Risk Level: **Moderate**

### Country Overview:

The security situation in Mauritania is highly volatile, and certain areas of the country are extremely unsafe. It is advised that you reconsider traveling to Mauritania due to the risk of 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 all travel to parts of Tagant, Adrar, Gorgol, Dakhlet Nouadhibou, and within 25 km of the Malian border and to defer all but essential travel to within 25 km of the Western Sahara border.



The Government of Mauritania designates certain areas off-limits to foreigners and most Mauritaniens. 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.

Demonstrations can happen at any time in Nouakchott. Travelers should avoid political gatherings and demonstrations and follow the advice of local authorities and security forces. Travelers should also maintain an adequate supply of non-perishable food and water.

Islam is the only recognized religion in the country, and blasphemy is a criminal offense. Travelers are advised to follow local customs and laws and avoid actions that may be offensive.

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:

Mexico is considered a hazardous travel destination, with extreme risks present in certain regions. Violent crime, including murder and kidnapping, is prevalent throughout the country. Organized criminals, particularly drug cartels, present serious threats to both security and political stability.



Cartel activity primarily takes place along the Mexico–United States border and in states such as Sinaloa, Tierra Caliente, Guanajuato, Guerrero, Baja California, Michoacán, Zacatecas, Chihuahua, Sonora, and Tamaulipas. Travelers are advised to avoid unnecessary travel to these areas.

Certain highways, including Querétaro-Irapuato, Querétaro-San Luis Potosí, Mexico City-Puebla, Puebla-Córdoba, and the Pacific Highway, have been associated with crime, including robbery, murder, kidnapping, and other violent incidents.

Popular tourist destinations like Acapulco, Mazatlán, Puerto Vallarta, Cancun, Tulum, Cozumel, Los Cabos, Nuevo Vallarta, and Playa del Carmen have also experienced incidents of assault, harassment, gang violence, robbery, scams, drink spiking, rape, and kidnapping. It is essential for travelers to take necessary precautions when visiting these locations. Additionally, it is advised to avoid all travel within 40 kilometers (or 25 miles) of the Guatemala border, including the Gracias a Dios border crossing.

Protests are common in major urban areas. Travelers should steer clear of demonstrations and exercise heightened caution near large gatherings, as these events are unpredictable and may escalate into violence.

Mexico's hurricane season runs from June to November. During this time, tropical storms and hurricanes can lead to flooding and landslides, even hundreds of miles away from the storm's center and after the storm has passed.

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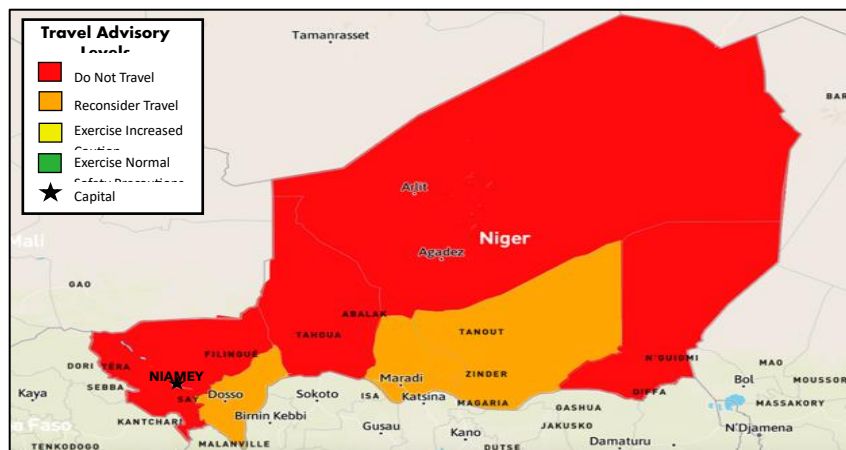


## Niger

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 and all 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.

It is advised to avoid crossing the River Niger on foot at any time due to safety concerns. While Nigerien airspace has reopened, disruptions to commercial flights from Niamey's Diori Hamani International Airport may still occur at short notice. In the event of serious violence, unrest, or a deterioration in the security situation, it could become difficult to leave the country safely. This is due to the rise of reported terrorist and criminal kidnappings of foreign nationals, which have taken place this year in Niger. There is an ongoing risk of terrorist attacks throughout Niger, including in the capital, Niamey. The political situation remains unstable following the military coup in July 2023.

American citizens remain at a heightened risk of kidnapping throughout Niger, including in the capital city. Due to heightened concerns about the threat of kidnapping, the Embassy has modified its security posture to require armored vehicles for all travel by Embassy personnel and family members, restrict the movements of Embassy personnel and family members, and institute a mandatory curfew and routine accountability measures. All restaurants and open-air markets are off-limits to U.S. Embassy personnel and family members.

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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 the risk of 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.

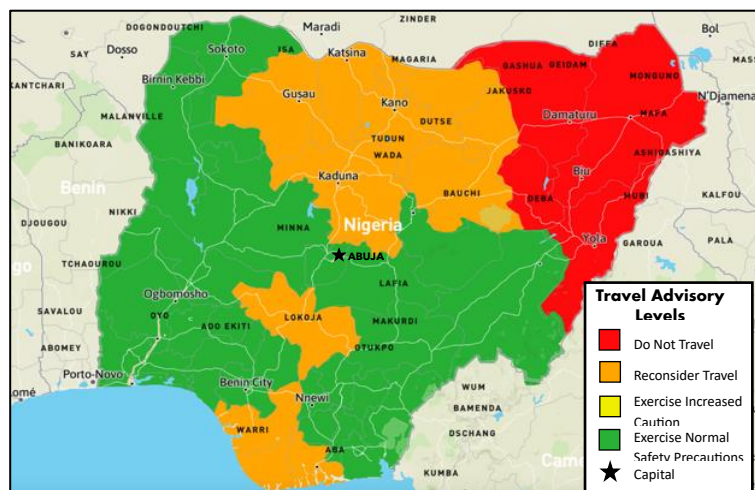
The risk of kidnappings in Nigeria, particularly in the northern and Middle Belt states, remains high. Gangs and unidentified individuals have carried out most of these attacks, but Boko Haram militants were behind some of them in northeast Nigeria. Even though the kidnappings often end without bloodshed 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 launched attacks targeting oil and gas infrastructure in the Niger Delta region, with the area's risk of robbery, criminality, and kidnapping remaining high.

The country experiences sporadic but widespread public demonstrations, notably in major urban centers, such as the capital, Abuja. These events have led to significant disruptions, reports of violence, and the deployment of tear gas by security forces in various locations. Travelers should continue to exercise caution, avoid traveling after dark, steer clear of large crowds, and stay updated through local media.

Nigeria is experiencing a surge in yellow fever cases. A certificate proving that a vaccine for yellow fever is mandatory when entering the country.

It is advised to avoid travel to Borno State, Kaduna State, Kebbi 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, and within 20km of the border with Niger in Sokoto; non-riverine areas of Delta, Bayelsa, and Rivers States.



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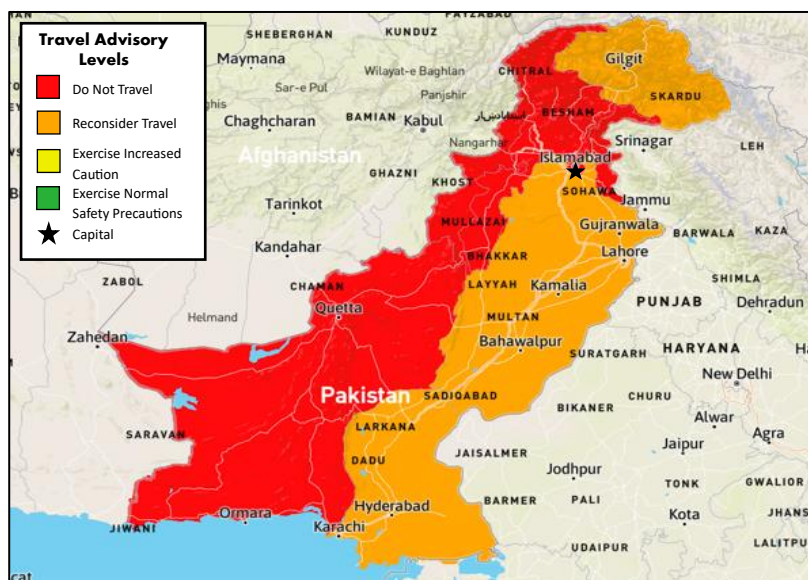


## Pakistan

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.



It is not advised to travel to areas within 10 miles of the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, 10 miles of the Line of Control, most regions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, and all of Balochistan Province, as well as within 5 miles of the international border between Pakistan and India. The Wagah border crossing is closed. Tensions are heightened amid regional conflicts, such as Israel's actions in Gaza.

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.

Crime rates are high, particularly on public transportation and in densely populated areas. Be cautious when moving around urban areas at night, especially on foot, as foreigners have been targeted in the past. There is an active black market for forged and stolen passports, as well as credit card fraud and similar scams. Travelers are advised to take safety precautions, maintain a low profile, and carefully select accommodations.

Due to the security environment, the U.S. government is restricted from providing emergency services to U.S. citizens in Pakistan. Air pollution poses a significant health risk in Pakistan, particularly during the winter months from October to February. The Punjab region, especially Lahore, is among the most severely affected areas.

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## Panama

Risk Level: **Moderate**

### Country Overview:

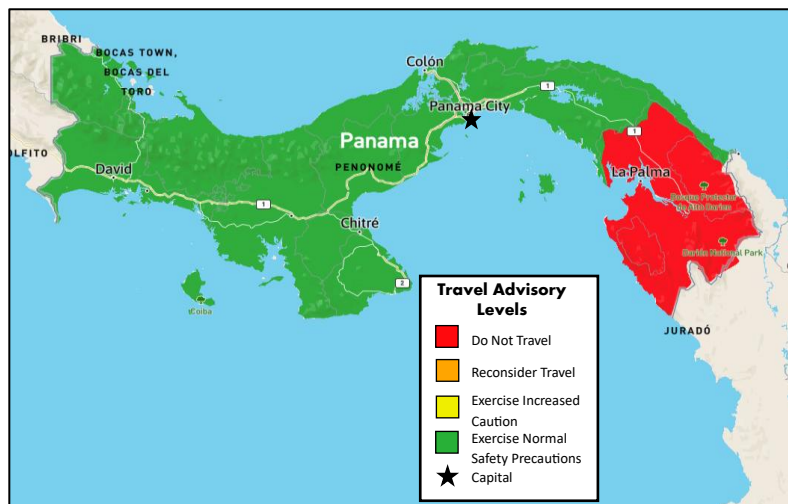
Panama's security situation is generally regarded as secure; however, the nation faces threats from crime, civil unrest, and border disputes. The primary danger comes from Colombian narcotics traffickers operating in Darién Province, which borders Colombia.

The Panama-Colombia border, the Darién Region, the Mosquito Gulf, parts of Chiriquí, and towns such as Lajas Blancas and El Salto are considered high-risk

zones. These areas experience drug and human trafficking and violent crime, leading to a significant presence of security services. Travelers are advised to avoid these regions.

Demonstrations are common in Panama City, Bocas del Toro, and along major roads. These demonstrations can block roads, cause airport delays, and affect border checkpoints. Travelers should not attempt to cross through demonstration areas at night, should listen to local radio and television for updates, follow police instructions, and comply with any curfews that may be imposed.

Emergency services and embassy assistance may be limited in high-risk areas. Therefore, travelers should take the necessary precautions when visiting Panama.



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## Papua New Guinea

Risk Level: **Extreme**

### Country Overview:

The security situation in Papua New Guinea is high risk, primarily due to crime and civil unrest. Travelers are strongly advised to reconsider their plans. Exercise increased caution due to the potential threat of unexploded ordnance (UXO) and volcanic activity. Seasonal natural disasters, such as tropical cyclones and flash flooding, are common in Papua New Guinea. Stay vigilant and monitor recent weather reports.

Law and order are often lacking in many parts of the country.

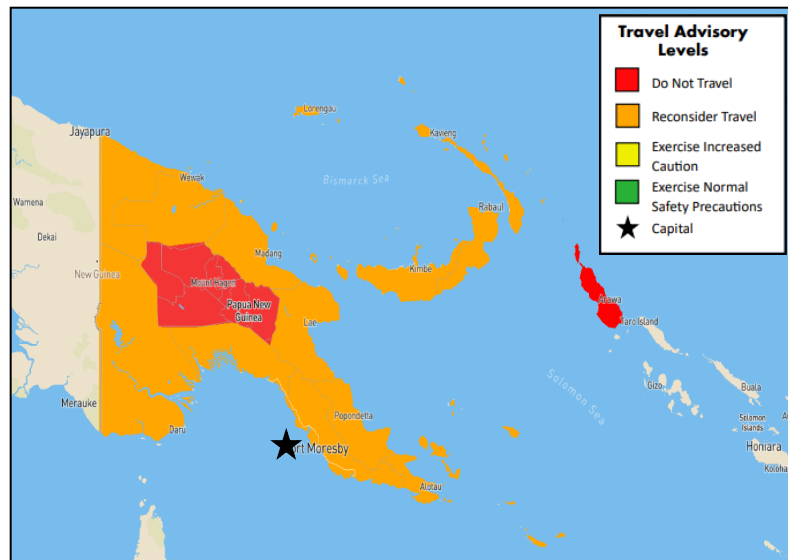
Though the risk of severe armed conflict or terrorist activity is low, crime is a serious concern in major cities, and parts of the country are unstable. Common violent crimes include sexual assault, carjacking, home invasions, and armed robberies. Outside of the capital of Port Moresby, police presence 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 the Hela and Southern Highlands provinces. Tensions between communal or tribal groups can erupt without warning and quickly escalate. Travelers are advised to avoid the Highlands provinces and monitor local media for updates.

In August 2025, following widespread intercommunal violence in the Wapenamanda area of Enga Province, the provincial Government designated all districts as 'fighting zones.' Authorities have reported fatalities, significant property damage, and the suspension of public services. In response, checkpoints, random searches, and curfews are now in effect.

From 1 October 2025, all visitors to Papua New Guinea must complete and submit an online Digital Arrival Card. This is free of charge and should be completed within 72 hours of arrival.

Due to civil unrest, it is advised to avoid all travel to the Highlands region, particularly the southern part of Bougainville and areas near the Panguna mine. Reconsider traveling 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:

The Philippines' security risk levels vary significantly by region. Most areas frequented by tourists have lower risk, while certain parts, specifically the Sulu Archipelago and Mindanao, are considered higher risk. It is advised against all travel to these regions due to the threat of kidnappings for ransom, bombings, and violent attacks by terrorist and armed groups. Travelers are advised to exercise extreme caution due to the risk of 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.

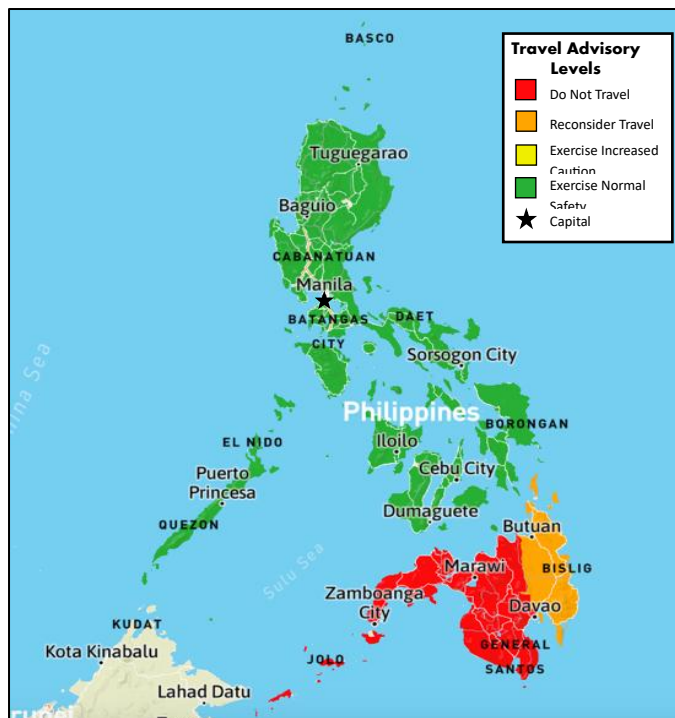
Travel to the Sulu Archipelago and the Sulu Sea is strongly discouraged due to extreme security risks. These include kidnappings for ransom, bombings, and violent attacks by terrorist and armed groups. Foreign nationals, local authorities, and security forces are frequent targets. U.S. government personnel must receive special authorization before traveling. The ability to provide emergency assistance to U.S. citizens in these areas is severely limited.

Marawi City remains highly unsafe amid continuous clashes between terrorist remnants and Philippine security forces. Civilians face a risk of serious harm or death as hostilities persist. As in the Sulu Archipelago, U.S. government staff need special approval to visit Marawi. Emergency support for U.S. citizens is limited.

The Philippines is also home to numerous active volcanoes that can erupt unexpectedly. Travelers must remain vigilant and proactive. Monitor local news before and during your visit to volcanic areas, heed all authority warnings, and strictly follow safety instructions. Taking these actions is vital to minimize risks and ensure your safety.

By contrast, the main tourist destinations, such as Palawan, Boracay, Bohol, Manila, and Cebu, are generally considered low-risk and safe for travelers. Nonetheless, it remains advisable for visitors to stay vigilant about their belongings and valuables, especially in crowded areas, as petty crime can still occur.

Travelers to the Philippines are advised to stay informed by following local news. Be prepared to adjust plans if necessary. Demonstrations should be avoided, as they can become unsafe quickly.



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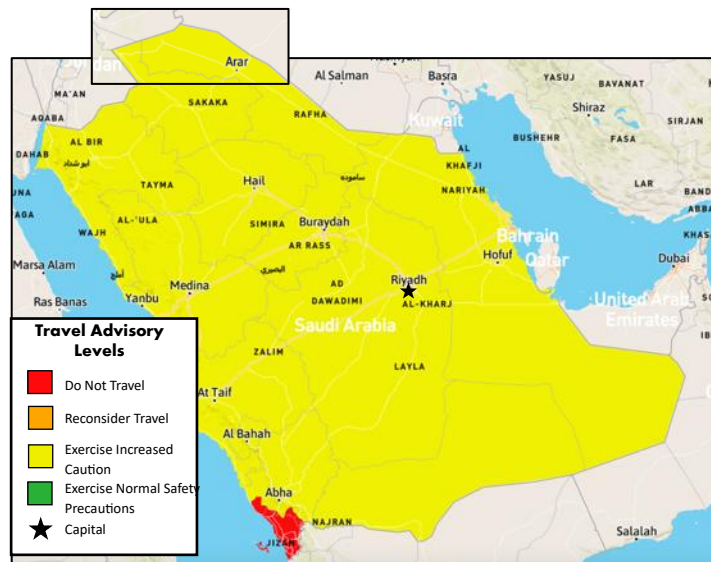


## Saudi Arabia

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.



Avoid all travel within 50 miles of the Saudi-Yemen border. This includes the cities of Jizan, Najran, and Qatif in the Eastern Province, as well as their suburbs, including Awamiyah. Abha International Airport also falls under this advisory.

Regional forces hostile to Saudi Arabia have conducted destructive and sometimes lethal attacks against various targets, including critical infrastructure, airports, military and energy facilities throughout the country, and targeting vessels in the 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.

Travelers entering Mecca without a valid Hajj permit between May 23 and June 21 could receive a significant fine, deportation, and a ban from re-entering Saudi Arabia. The Hajj visa is issued for a specific period and is non-extendable.

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## Tunisia

Risk Level: **Moderate**

### Country Overview:

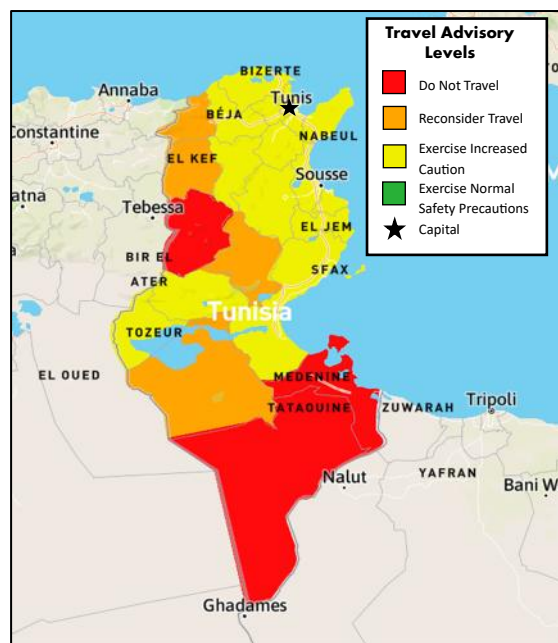
In some parts of Tunisia, the security situation is hazardous, with specific areas extremely unsafe. It is advised to exercise increased caution in Tunisia due to the risk of terrorism. Terrorist groups active in the country pose a significant threat to travelers in the region. Since November 24, 2015, a state of emergency has been in effect. The state of emergency has been extended numerous times, with the most recent extension lasting until December 31, 2025.

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 enabled him to appoint judges and government ministers, as well as introduce new laws.

President Saied's tenure will run its course in October, and elections are planned for Tunisia this year. Attacks on journalists and the judiciary took place in Tunisia throughout his tenure, feeding concerns of a return to authoritarianism and a reversal of democracy. President Saied had also been in charge of a faltering economy, which may have an effect on the forthcoming election.

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

The U.S. government cannot 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 the southeast regions of the country, such as 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 should avoid large public gatherings and demonstrations and monitor local news.

It is advised to avoid all travel within 10 km of the borders of Iran, Syria, the city of Diyarbakir, Sirmak Province, and Hakkari Province.



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