

COUNTRY RISK SUMMARIES

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THE
TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY
SYSTEM

Report for the week ending February 1st, 2026.

Latest Updates: **Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Burma, Cameroon, Chad, Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Haiti, Honduras, India, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Mexico, Niger, Nigeria, North Korea, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Turkey, and Ukraine.**

- **Afghanistan:** On January 24, multiple casualties and fatalities were reported in Bamyan following heavy snowfall in Central and Northern provinces.
- **Algeria:** On January 28, emergency services were placed on high alert after meteorologists warned of high winds posing travel, power, and property hazards.
- **Bangladesh:** On January 25, authorities announced that national general elections are to be held on February 12, 2026.
- **Bangladesh:** On January 25, multiple casualties were reported following clashes between BNP and Jamaat supporters in Chuadanga, Khulna division.
- **Bangladesh:** On January 25, multiple casualties were reported following clashes between supporters of BNP and Jamaat in Lalmonirhat, Rangpur division.
- **Bangladesh:** On January 28, clashes between BNP and Jamaat supporters spread from western regions to the north-central regions of Jhenaigati, Mymensingh division.
- **Bangladesh:** On January 29, Biman Bangladesh Airlines resumed flights between Dhaka International Airport and Karachi, Palestine.
- **Burkina Faso:** On January 29, President Traore released a decree banning all political parties in the country.
- **Burma (Myanmar):** On January 26, the pro-military party claimed victory following the national general elections.
- **Burma (Myanmar):** On January 28, large-scale civilian displacement occurred as fighting intensified between junta troops and military defence forces in Myawaddy, Karen State.

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- **Burma (Myanmar)**: On January 28, authorities enforced Nipah virus surveillance measures at all entry points.
- **Cameroon**: On January 28, officials recorded a rise in Mpox cases in the Littoral and Southwest regions.
- **Chad**: On January 27, fatalities were reported following clashes between Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and Chadian allied forces.
- **Colombia**: On January 27, multiple casualties were reported following an explosion in the Argelia municipality, Cauca.
- **Colombia**: On January 28, a passenger plane crashed in Norte de Santander, resulting in the fatalities of multiple congress members.
- **Colombia**: On January 29, fog disrupted flights at Bogotá El Dorado International Airport.
- **Ecuador**: On January 27, deadly shootings were reported in Duran and General Villamil Playas, Guayas province.
- **Ethiopia**: On January 26, officials declared the end of the Marburg virus outbreak in South Ethiopia and the Sidama region.
- **Ethiopia**: On January 29, Ethiopian Airlines cancelled flights to the Tigray region following violent clashes between the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) and Ethiopian defence forces.
- **Haiti**: On January 25, Zed Airlines suspended flight operations nationwide following a gunfire incident near Port-au-Prince Toussaint.
- **Haiti**: On January 25, legal professionals were kidnapped by armed assailants in Port-au-Prince.
- **Haiti**: On January 26, multiple casualties and property damage were reported following clashes between members of organised criminal groups and Haitian Police Services.
- **Honduras**: On January 27, authorities increased security measures in preparation for the presidential inauguration.
- **India**: On January 23, heavy snowfall disrupted travel in Himachal Pradesh state and the Jammu and Kashmir union territory.
- **India**: On January 29, deadly clashes were reported between security forces and Maoist rebels in Bijapur district, Chhattisgarh state.

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- **Iran**: On January 29, the military commenced live-fire exercises in the Strait of Hormuz.
- **Iran**: On January 28, nationwide internet disruptions continued.
- **Iraq**: On January 28, clashes between security forces and unidentified armed groups occurred in Amarah, Maysan governorate.
- **Iraq**: On January 28, scuffles broke out during an anti-US protest in Baghdad.
- **Iraq**: On January 29, flights were disrupted at Erbil International Airport due to fog.
- **Israel**: On January 27, the IDF responded to an infiltration attempt at the Israel-Jordan border near Paran, Southern District.
- **Israel**: On January 28, KLM Dutch Airlines extended the suspension of flights to Tel Aviv, Dubai, and Saudi airports until further notice.
- **Israel**: On January 29, Iberia Express suspended nighttime flights at Tel Aviv Ben Gurion Airport until February 6.
- **Kenya**: On January 24, a fatality was reported following a fuel tanker explosion in Nairobi.
- **Kenya**: On January 25, former Deputy President Gachagua alleged an attack by security forces in Othaya, Nyeri county.
- **Kenya**: On January 26, a chief was fatally wounded following an Al-Shabaab attack in Hulugho, Garissa county.
- **Kenya**: On January 27, Universal Health Coverage (UHC) workers launched a protest following disputes over working conditions.
- **Kenya**: On January 27, aviation workers threatened to launch a nationwide strike.
- **Lebanon**: On January 25, fatalities were reported following an Israeli strike in Barish, Khirbet Selm, Nabatieh, and the South governorates.
- **Lebanon**: On January 27, fatalities were reported following an Israeli drone strike in Deir Qanoun, Tyre district in the South governorate.
- **Libya**: On January 24, clashes were reported between rival militia groups in Al-Zawiya, Zawiya district.
- **Mali**: On January 29, ISSP militants clashed with Malian Armed Forces (FAMa) in Chimam, Ménaka region.

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- **Mexico**: On January 24, multiple casualties and fatalities occurred after gunmen opened fire on crowds at a football field in Salamanca, Guanajuato.
- **Mexico**: On January 26, armed robberies targeted public buses on the Mexico-Puebla highway in the State of Mexico.
- **Mexico**: On January 26, security forces clashed with gunmen in the Montemorelos municipality, Nuevo León state.
- **Mexico**: On January 26, a shooting injured a government official in Tepetitla de Lardizábal, Tlaxcala state.
- **Mexico**: On January 27, a shooting targeted a vehicle in Zapopan, Jalisco.
- **Mexico**: On January 28, armed attackers targeted lawmakers in Culiacán, Sinaloa.
- **Niger**: On January 29, multiple casualties were reported following a militia-led armed attack at Niamey Diori Hamani International Airport.
- **Nigeria**: On January 25, multiple injuries and fatalities occurred after a Nigerian military helicopter opened fire on civilians at Mariga LGA, Niger state.
- **Nigeria**: On January 26, fatalities were reported during a kidnapping in Birnin Magaji LGA, Zamfara state.
- **Nigeria**: On January 27, fatalities occurred during a bandit attack in Bakori LGA, Katsina state.
- **Nigeria**: On January 28, officials imposed a 24-hour curfew in Ifelodun LGA, Kwara state, to support the ongoing military response to banditry and kidnapping.
- **Nigeria**: On January 29, ISWAP militants stormed a military base in Sabon Gari Gana, Borno state.
- **Nigeria**: On January 29, deadly clashes between police and bandits were reported in Obadigbo LGA, Benue state.
- **North Korea**: On January 27, the military launched an unidentified projectile towards the East Sea.
- **Pakistan**: On January 26, authorities extended Section 144 restrictions on gatherings and gun carrying until February 6 in Rawalpindi, Punjab province.
- **Pakistan**: On January 28, emergency services struggled to evacuate civilians amidst heavy snowfall in Tirah valley, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

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- **Pakistan:** On January 28, authorities enforced Nipah virus screening measures at the country's entry points.
- **Papua New Guinea:** On January 25, technical faults caused ongoing disruptions to the electricity supply in several areas of Port Moresby.
- **Papua New Guinea:** On January 26, authorities commenced a large-scale eviction of illegal squatters in Port Moresby as part of a concerted strategy to combat crime.
- **Papua New Guinea:** On January 26, clashes were reported between locals and police forces during a large-scale eviction of illegal squatters in Port Moresby.
- **Philippines:** On January 26, multiple fatalities were reported due to a ferry sinking near Baluk-Baluk Island, Basilan province.
- **Philippines:** On January 28, an offshore earthquake struck west of Sangay in the Soccoksargen region.
- **Philippines:** On January 28, authorities enforced Nipah virus surveillance measures at the country's entry points.
- **Russia:** On January 27, adverse weather triggered traffic disruptions across Moscow.
- **Russia:** On January 27, adverse weather triggered temporary flight restrictions at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport.
- **Somalia:** On January 25, multiple casualties were reported after airstrikes targeted al-Shabaab militants in Godane, Middle Shabelle region.
- **Somalia:** On January 25, a suspected IED explosion was reported between Balcad and Mogadishu.
- **South Sudan:** On January 25, multiple casualties following an RSF drone strike were reported in Dilling, South Kordofan state.
- **South Sudan:** On January 26, South Sudan Defence Forces (SAF) captured the town of Habila, opening a corridor to Dilling, South Kordofan state.
- **Sudan:** On January 26, the military ordered evacuations across parts of Jonglei state ahead of a major military offensive.
- **Syria:** On January 26, Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) accused government-allied forces of ceasefire violations in Aleppo and Al-Hasakah governorates.
- **Syria:** On January 29, IS militants ambushed security forces in Hajin, Deir ez-Zor governorate.

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- **Syria**: On January 21, an SDF drone strike was reported in Al-Hasakah governorate amid the ceasefire.
- **Turkey**: On January 27, authorities banned gatherings in Mardin through January 31.
- **Ukraine**: On January 27, multiple casualties were reported following Russian strikes targeting Odesa and Kharkiv oblasts.
- **Ukraine**: On January 27, multiple fatalities occurred after a Russian drone strike hit a passenger train near Barvinkove, Kharkiv oblast.
- **Ukraine**: On January 28, fatalities were reported following a Russian drone attack in Kyiv oblast.
- **Ukraine**: On January 29, casualties were reported following a Russian drone attack in Vilniansk, Zaporizhzhia oblast.
- **Ukraine**: On January 28, Air Europa extended flight suspensions between Venezuela's Caracas and Spain's Madrid through February 14, 2026.

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



HIGH RISK COUNTRIES

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



COUNTRY TRAVEL ADVISORY DETAILS BY RISK LEVEL

EXTREME RISK COUNTRIES



Afghanistan

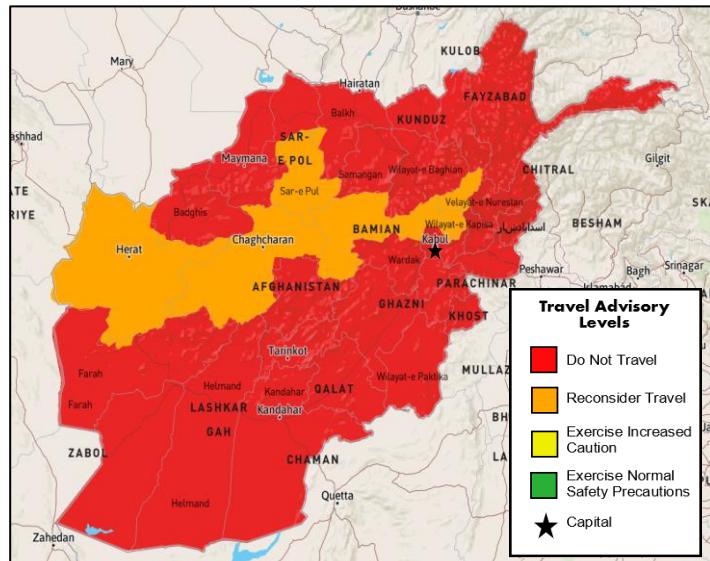
Risk Level: **Extreme**

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.





Bangladesh

Risk Level: **Extreme**

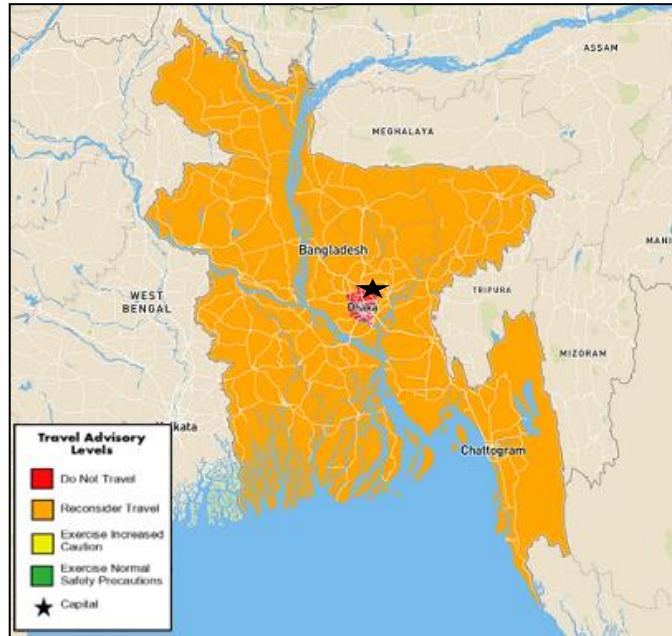
Country Overview:

Travel to Bangladesh is strongly discouraged due to ongoing political instability, security threats, and regional tensions. An interim government assumed control after the removal of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in July 2024. In May 2025, the interim government banned all Awami League activities under anti-terrorism legislation. Nationwide demonstrations and protests, including some violent incidents, have occurred. Curfews and security measures are in place in affected districts. The situation remains unpredictable and may deteriorate rapidly.

Terrorist attacks may occur without warning. These often target public areas, such as tourist sites, transportation hubs, shopping malls, restaurants, places of worship, schools, and government facilities. Law enforcement has conducted crowd-control operations in urban centers to address unrest. Emergency assistance may not be available in all regions or during periods of turmoil.

Urban crime, including mugging, robbery, and assault, has been reported in major cities such as Dhaka and Chittagong, particularly at night and on public transport. Limited law enforcement capabilities may affect the response to incidents. The Chittagong Hill Tracts may pose elevated risks due to communal violence, armed activity, and kidnapping. Some instability exists near the Myanmar border, including Cox's Bazar, and occasional cross-border incidents have been reported along the India–Bangladesh frontier. All but essential travel to the Chittagong Hill Tracts should be avoided due to ongoing violence and criminal activity, especially in remote areas. The region includes the districts of Rangamati, Khagrachari, and Bandarban.

Elections will take place in Bangladesh on February 12. The election campaign started on January 22. Political rallies will become more frequent. Expect large crowds, increased security, and likely transport disruption. Travelers should plan carefully and have alternative arrangements in case of any disruption. The country remains high-risk due to political unrest, terrorism, crime, and infrastructure challenges. Travellers should exercise extreme caution, avoid high-risk areas, stay vigilant in public spaces, and follow official travel advisories.





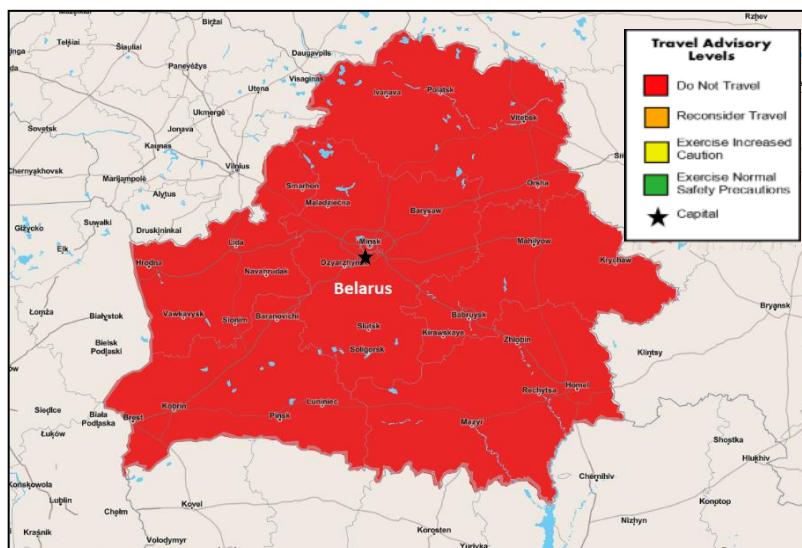
Belarus

Risk Level: **Extreme**

Country Overview:

Belarus' security situation is unstable, and it is advised against all travel due to the risk of arbitrary law enforcement and the continued 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. Belarusian officials have announced plans to enhance domestic missile capabilities, 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. Travelers should avoid public demonstrations, 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, significantly limiting access to foreign consular support. Belarus does not recognize dual nationality. Authorities consider individuals with a Belarusian passport to be citizens of Belarus.

The Polish-Belarusian border is open for civilian and commercial traffic. Travelers seeking to cross the border should confirm the rules and restrictions before attempting to cross. Relations between Belarus and Poland remain fragile and could affect the border at short notice.

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Burkina Faso

Risk Level: **Extreme**

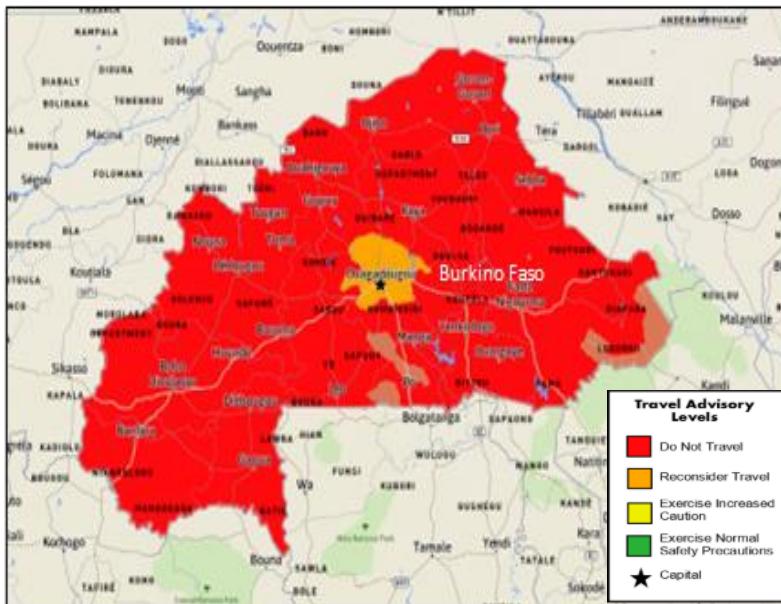
Country Overview:

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.



Country Risk Summaries Cont.



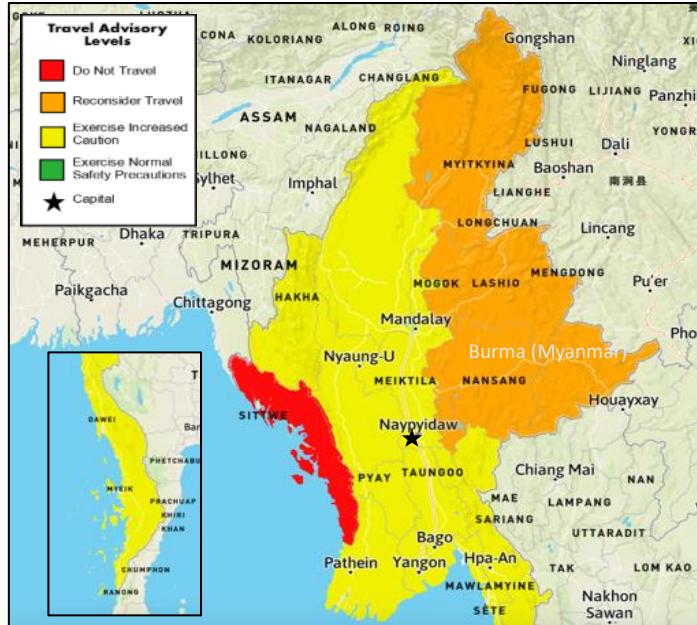
Burma (Myanmar)

Risk Level: **Extreme**

Country Overview:

The security situation in many parts of Burma remains extremely hazardous. Travel to Myanmar is strongly discouraged due to ongoing civil unrest, widespread armed conflict, and significant risks to personal safety and security. Armed clashes between the Myanmar military, ethnic armed organisations, resistance groups, and militia forces are frequent and unpredictable.

Several regions remain exceptionally unsafe. Avoid travel to Rakhine State, Chin State, Kayin State, Kachin State, and much of Shan State due to active fighting and airstrikes, including attacks on civilian infrastructure. Travel to border areas adjoining China, Laos, Thailand, Bangladesh, and India is also not recommended due to spillover violence and instability.



Since the February 1, 2021, military coup, the security environment has deteriorated sharply. Senior political leaders, including former State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, remain detained. The military has used air and artillery strikes against opposition forces, resulting in civilian casualties and destruction, including fatal attacks on hospitals and schools in 2025. Armed resistance and ethnic groups now control significant territory, limiting the junta's authority and increasing risks to civilians and travellers.

Following the conclusion of the military regime's elections and the subsequent lifting of the city-wide curfew in Yangon, the security situation across Myanmar remains highly volatile. Increased violence, tighter restrictions, and disruptions to transport and communications are likely in the aftermath of polling.

A state of emergency remains in effect nationwide. Curfews, martial law, and sudden travel restrictions can be imposed without notice, and access to affected areas may be denied. The security situation remains volatile and unpredictable, with the potential for rapid deterioration at any time.

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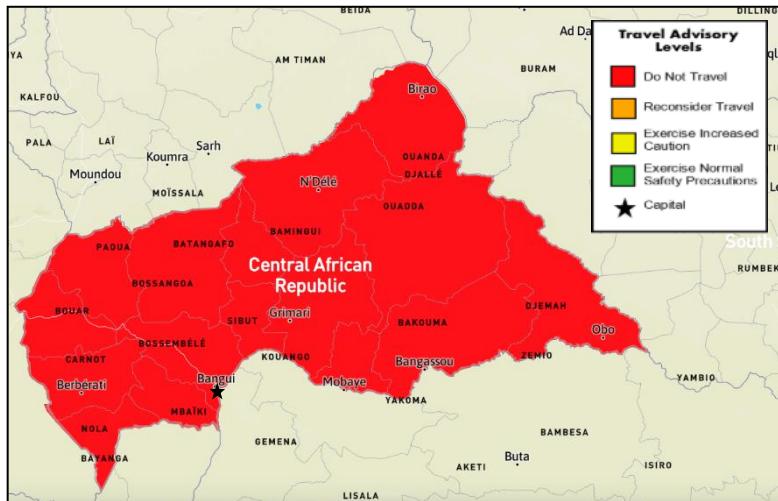


Central African Republic

Risk Level: **Extreme**

Country Overview:

The security situation in the Central African Republic is highly volatile. All travel is strongly discouraged due to ongoing civil unrest, armed violence, and significant risks to personal safety. Armed groups operate across much of the country, engaging in clashes, looting, and intimidation of civilians. These conditions are especially dangerous for travelers outside the capital, where state control and security forces are limited.



Political tensions have increased instability. In January 2026, the Constitutional Court confirmed President Faustin-Archange Touadéra's third-term re-election after a contested vote marked by opposition boycotts and allegations of irregularities. Although large-scale unrest has not occurred in the capital, the political climate remains fragile, and localized incidents may arise with little warning.

Armed conflict persists in the northern, eastern, and southeastern regions, where clashes between government forces and non-state armed groups have intensified. Fighting in areas such as Haut-Mbomou has displaced thousands, disrupted humanitarian access, and strained limited local services. Despite intermittent dialogue and ceasefire efforts, progress is slow, and violence continues in several contested zones.

Security conditions outside Bangui are especially precarious. Criminal activity often overlaps with armed group operations, raising the risk of ambush, armed robbery, kidnapping, and vehicle theft along major roads. Poor infrastructure and limited emergency response capacity further complicate travel and evacuation.

Travel after dark is strongly discouraged. Movement to rural areas should only occur when necessary and with proper security arrangements. A nationwide curfew remains in effect, and travelers must comply with local authorities' instructions. Armed checkpoints by state forces and militias are common, especially along key transit routes.

Except for limited movement within central Bangui, travel to all regions of the Central African Republic is not advised. Areas near the capital, including Bimbo, Bégoa, and Coline, as well as border regions and remote prefectures, carry especially high risks due to ongoing insecurity, displacement, and limited access to assistance.

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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, both by land and by 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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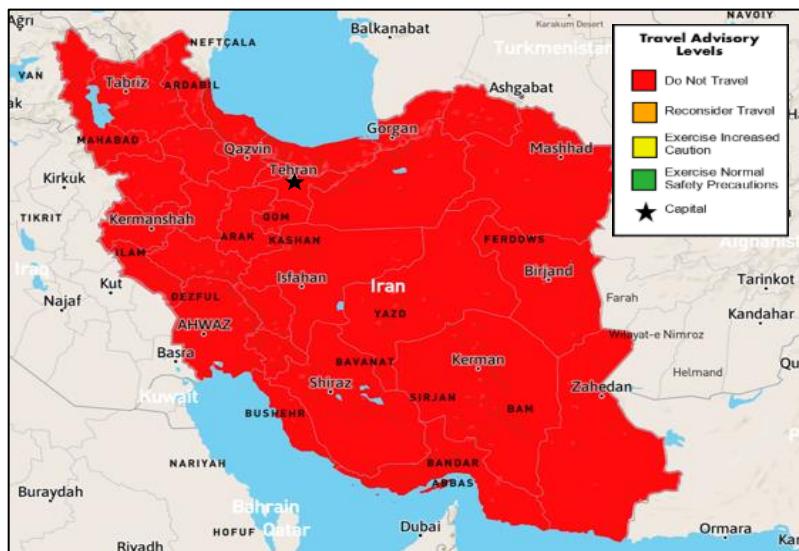
Iran

Risk Level: **Extreme**

Country Overview:

Travel to Iran is hazardous due to the unstable security environment, the possibility of arbitrary detention or imprisonment of foreign citizens, and the possibility of civil unrest. It is due to these dangers and the current tensions in the region that several nations, including the U.S., advise against traveling to Iran altogether.

American and British citizens visiting Iran face a significant risk of being wrongfully detained. Iranian officials have held these citizens without cause or proof that they have committed a crime. These include individuals who are dual citizens of the United States and Iran, as well as students, journalists, scholars, business travelers, and people who have served in the U.S. military or government. These citizens are typically charged with espionage and posing a threat to Iranian national security.



The threat of terrorism remains a major concern in Iran, as attacks can occur at random and often target places that foreign visitors frequent. Several violent extremist organizations, including those classified as terrorist entities by the United States government, are known to be active within the country. In particular, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and its associated groups have claimed responsibility for various bombings and other violent acts in recent years. The ongoing risk of terrorist activity remains a significant threat to both locals and tourists.

Widespread anti-government protests are occurring across Iran, with authorities deploying security forces in response. Many confrontations have turned violent, resulting in numerous fatalities. Travelers should avoid public gatherings, monitor local media, and arrange to leave Iran as soon as possible.

Travelers to Iran should exercise heightened caution due to ongoing security risks and strict local regulations. It is advisable to remain informed about current conditions through reliable news sources and to avoid demonstrations or large gatherings that may turn volatile. High-risk border regions near Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan should be avoided due to militant activity and threats of kidnapping.





Iraq

Risk Level: **Extreme**

Country Overview:

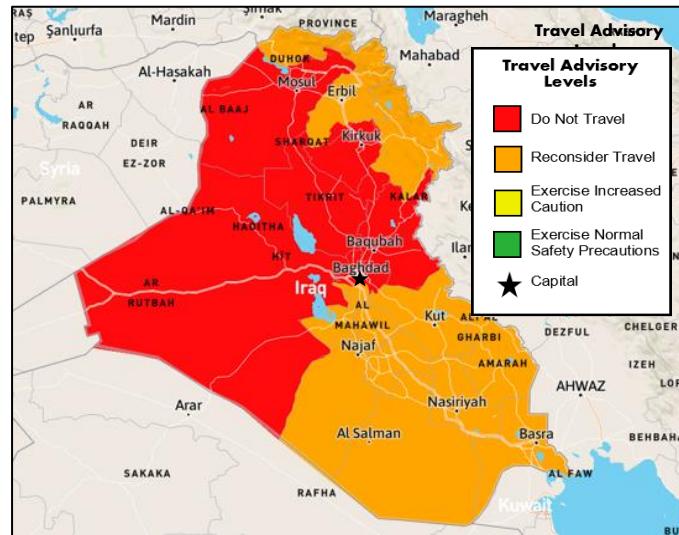
Iraq's security situation is hazardous. Travel is unsafe due to ongoing threats of terrorism, kidnapping, armed conflict, and widespread violence. Insurgent groups, terrorist organizations, and sectarian militias continue to pose serious risks. Kidnapping, suicide attacks, and IED incidents often occur without warning.

Regional tensions in Iraq remain high. Militia groups hostile to Western presence frequently threaten Western interests, including military facilities, diplomatic missions, and foreign personnel. The security environment is unpredictable and can deteriorate rapidly. Protests, especially near the International Zone in Baghdad, often escalate into violence. Travellers should avoid demonstrations and follow local authorities' instructions.

Border regions are hazardous. Sporadic artillery, drone, and rocket attacks occur in many areas, particularly near sensitive borders. Avoid travel within 30 km of Iraq's borders with Iran, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait. U.S. and other foreign nationals should avoid areas near the Turkish, Syrian, and Iranian borders due to ongoing military operations. Crossing from Iraq into Syria carries extreme safety and legal risks, including kidnapping, injury, death, arrest, fines, or expulsion. The Kurdistan Regional Government enforces strict penalties, including up to ten years in prison, for illegal border crossings. Supporting or assisting designated terrorist organizations is a criminal offence.

Avoid all travel to Western Anbar (except Ramadi), Basra province (except Basra city), Diyala (excluding Baqubah), Kirkuk, Ninawa, Salah al-Din, Sadr City, areas south of Baghdad Airport Road, and within 30 km of international borders. Limit travel to essential purposes in the rest of Anbar, other parts of Baghdad province, Basra city, Karbala, remaining areas of Najaf, Babil, Al-Qadasiyah, Dhi Qar, Baqubah City, and the rest of Wasit, Maysan, and Al-Muthanna. In the Kurdistan Region, avoid travel within 5 km of the Turkish border (except Ibrahim Khalil and its crossing), 5 km from Erbil's border with Iran north of the Choman–Haji Omran road, and the Amedi Mountains. Only visit other areas of the region if necessary.

Despite ongoing challenges, Iraq is working to strengthen political stability and support economic recovery. Government priorities include infrastructure improvement, attracting foreign investment, increasing transparency, and addressing corruption. While risks remain high, Iraq offers long-term development potential, especially in energy, agriculture, and infrastructure. Travellers who must visit should exercise extreme caution and follow all security guidance.





Israel

Risk Level: **Extreme**

Country Overview:

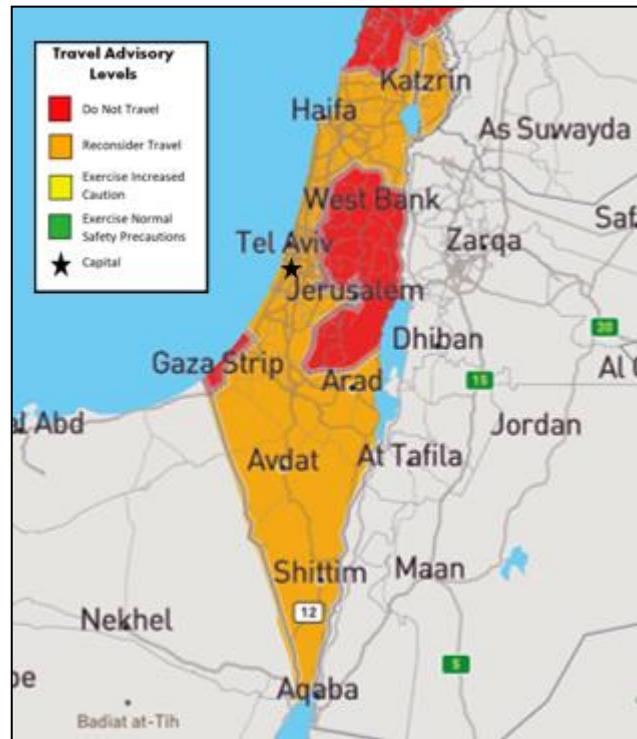
The security situation in Israel and the Palestinian territories remains volatile following the conflict between Israel and Hamas. While a ceasefire is currently in effect, there is still a significant risk of terrorism and civil unrest. Travelers are advised to exercise extreme caution and avoid non-essential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





Lebanon

Risk Level: **Extreme**

Country Overview:

Travel to Lebanon is highly risky due to political instability, civil unrest, and regional conflict, especially near the southern border. Lebanon suffers from a weakened economic and security infrastructure, and it is advised against all travel to Lebanon.

Lebanon faces ongoing risks of terrorist attacks and military operations linked to the regional conflicts. Violent extremist groups, including those designated as terrorist organizations by the United States, remain active. ISIS and affiliated groups have claimed responsibility for suicide bombings, and Western travelers have previously been targeted. The threat of anti-Western activity and risks to bystanders continue. Clashes between authorities and criminal groups also occur in the Bekaa Valley and border regions.



After the recent conflict with Israel, Hezbollah maintains a strong presence in the Bekaa Valley, southern Lebanon, and southern Beirut. In addition to risks associated with Hezbollah, the group is targeted by other extremist organizations because of its support for the former Assad regime in Syria.

Travelers should monitor local news and government advisories. Avoid demonstrations, political gatherings, and border areas, especially near the southern border and refugee camps. Keep copies of important documents, always carry identification, and use reputable transportation and accommodations. Stay aware of your surroundings and respect local customs.





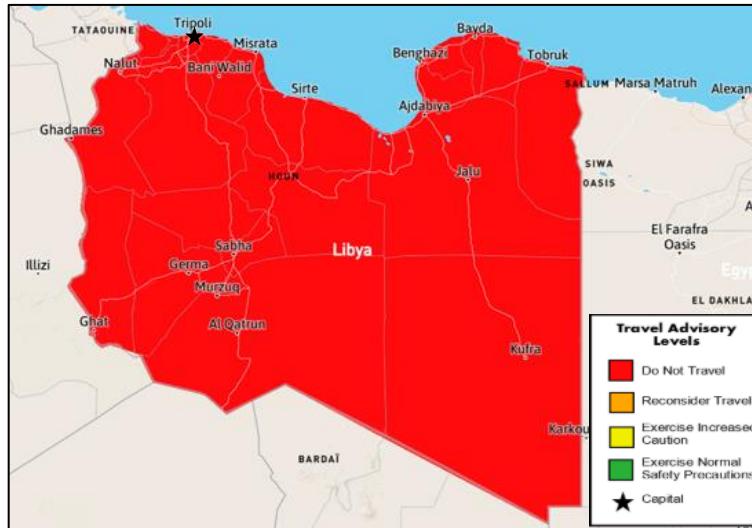
Libya

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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Country Risk Summaries Cont.



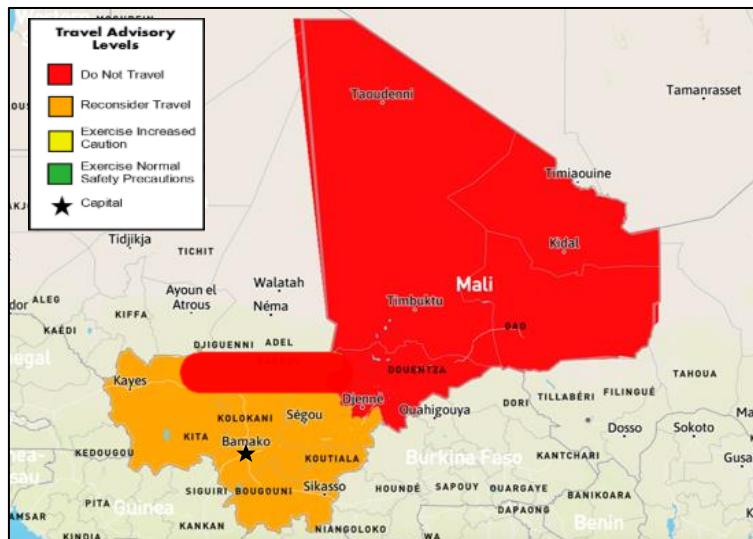
Mali

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, which 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, resulting in long queues and higher fuel prices across 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:

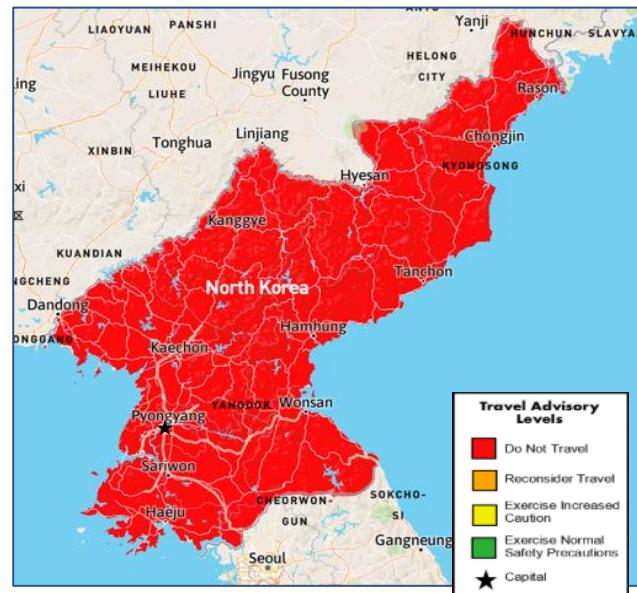
Avoid all travel to North Korea. The security situation on the Korean Peninsula is highly volatile, and North Korea's political and military stance can change rapidly without warning, creating extreme risks for visitors. There is a serious risk of arrest, long-term detention, and wrongful detention of U.S. nationals.

Local laws are often enforced arbitrarily, and severe restrictions apply to movement, communication, and behavior. U.S. passports are not valid for travel to, in, or through North Korea without special validation from the Secretary of State, which is granted only in very limited circumstances.

North Korea is strengthening its military posture and deepening its strategic alignment with Russia, contributing to regional and global instability. Pyongyang has publicly supported Russia's war in Ukraine and sent thousands of troops to assist Russian forces. Kim Jong Un has commemorated North Korean soldiers killed in the conflict, signaling ongoing military cooperation and a willingness to sustain overseas deployments. This partnership raises concerns that North Korea may gain advanced military experience and technology, potentially intensifying future weapons development and regional tensions.

Tensions between North Korea and South Korea remain high, with ongoing military activity and provocations increasing the risk of sudden escalation. Travelers in the region should remain vigilant, as North Korea's missile launches and military activities continue to create instability.

The U.S. government cannot provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in North Korea because there is no diplomatic or consular presence. Sweden acts as the protecting power for the United States, but its ability to assist detained U.S. citizens is limited, and access is often delayed or denied by North Korean authorities.





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 online content.





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.

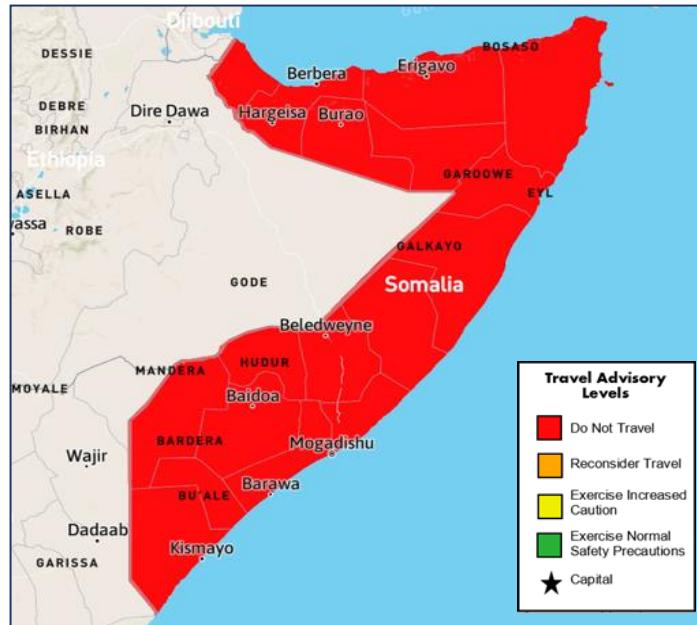
A Polio outbreak is ongoing in Somalia. Medical facilities are limited and often unavailable in rural areas.

The risk of kidnapping is high across Somalia, including areas near the borders with Kenya and Ethiopia, as well as in Somaliland. Kidnapping, 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.



Country Risk Summaries Cont.



South Sudan

Risk Level: **Extreme**

Country Overview:

All travel to South Sudan is strongly discouraged due to armed conflict, criminal activity, and an unstable security environment. Since renewed violence in 2025, risks remain high nationwide, particularly in Upper Nile, Jonglei, Unity, Warrap, Lakes, and Equatoria, with potential spillover into Juba. Political tensions are significant, and conditions may deteriorate without warning.

Regional instability in South Sudan intensified between March and June 2025, with fighting in Nasir (Upper Nile) and Jonglei involving bombings, attacks on UN assets, and large-scale displacement. If conditions worsen, border routes may close, and Juba International Airport may become inaccessible. Flights could be cancelled with little or no notice. Ongoing conflict in Sudan since April 2023 has displaced over a million refugees into South Sudan, further straining borders and infrastructure.

Violent crimes, including carjacking, armed robbery, ambushes, and kidnappings, are common. Cholera and Mpox outbreaks from 2024 to 2025, along with limited medical capacity, increase health risks. U.S. consular support is minimal, and travelers should not expect assistance in emergencies, including evacuation. Non-essential travel is strongly discouraged.



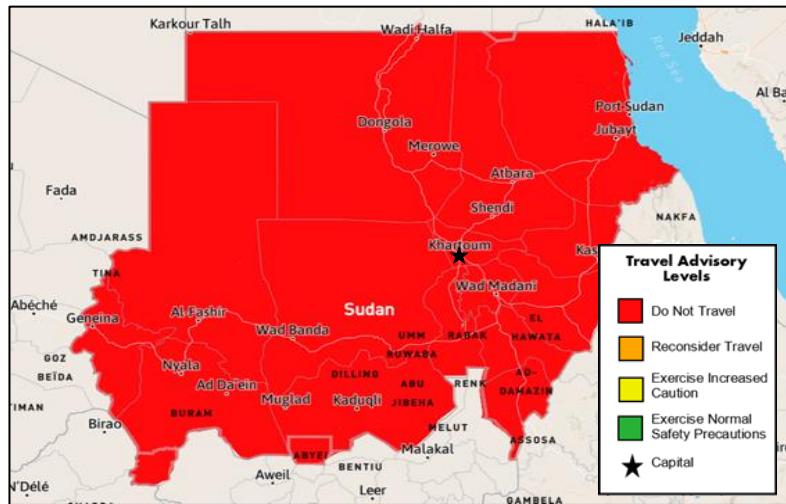


Sudan

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, 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:

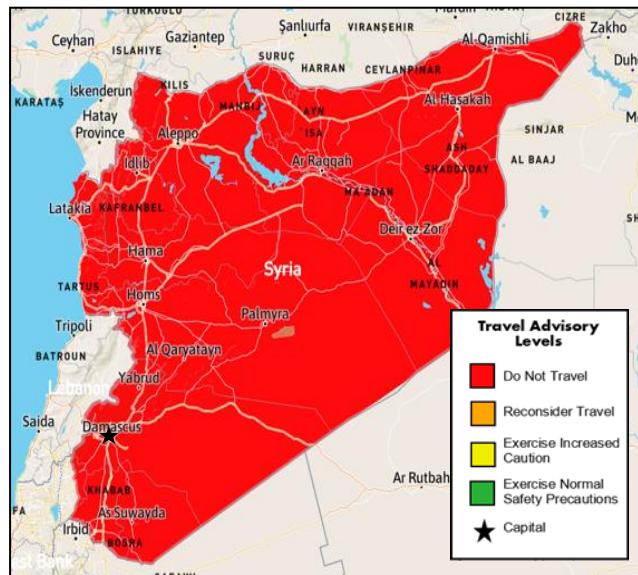
The safety and security situation in Syria is critically unstable due to armed conflict, terrorism, and a volatile political climate. The situation is unpredictable and poses serious threats to personal safety. No region is considered secure for visits or operations.

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.





Ukraine

Risk Level: **Extreme**

Country Overview:

Ukraine's security environment is highly volatile due to the ongoing conflict with Russia, which remains concentrated in the eastern and southern regions but carries nationwide implications. Active hostilities, including artillery strikes, missile attacks, and drone operations, pose serious, unpredictable risks to civilians and travelers in multiple oblasts.



Front-line and recently contested regions represent the most dangerous areas in Ukraine and should be considered outright no-go zones for travelers. This includes the Donetsk, Luhansk, Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia, and Kherson oblasts, where ongoing combat, entrenched military positions, and constant shelling make movement extremely hazardous. Large portions of Mykolaiv and Dnipropetrovsk oblasts also remain high-risk due to proximity to active operations. These areas suffer from severe infrastructure damage, restricted civilian access, and widespread contamination from landmines and unexploded ordnance.

Air alerts and temporary shutdowns of transport infrastructure are common in central and western Ukraine as Russian strikes periodically target energy facilities, transportation nodes, and other critical sites. While rail networks remain operational and are often the safest method of long-distance movement, sudden closures and delays can occur due to drone or missile activity. Travelers should remain prepared for disruptions and have contingency plans for extended sheltering during heightened alert periods. Air travel remains highly restricted, with commercial flights suspended nationwide.

Martial law remains in effect nationwide, affecting movement restrictions, curfews, and the operation of public institutions. Demonstrations may occur in response to mobilization policies, political developments, or economic pressures. These gatherings are generally peaceful, but travelers should avoid them.

Despite the ongoing conflict, several western regions remain comparatively safer and continue to serve as hubs for international organizations, humanitarian operations, and foreign business. Lviv Oblast, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ternopil, and Zakarpattia are among the most stable areas, offering functioning services, better infrastructure, and more predictable travel conditions; however, these areas still experience nationwide air alerts and occasional strikes.

Travelers visiting or transiting through Ukraine should prioritize safer areas, maintain strict situational awareness, avoid all no-go zones near active fighting, and stay informed through official alerts and local guidance. Authorities have invested in shelters, expanded emergency messaging systems, and refined public alert protocols, all of which travelers must constantly monitor and adhere to during alarms.

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Country Risk Summaries Cont.



Venezuela

Risk Level: **Extreme**

Country Overview:

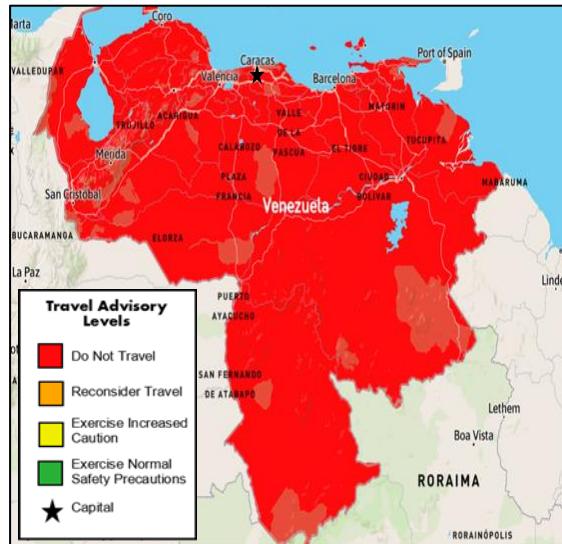
Venezuela's security situation is highly volatile and is characterized by rampant crime, political repression, civil unrest, kidnapping, risk of wrongful detention, armed conflict, and escalating international tension. The current situation poses a high risk to both locals and travellers. It is strongly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



Country Risk Summaries Cont.

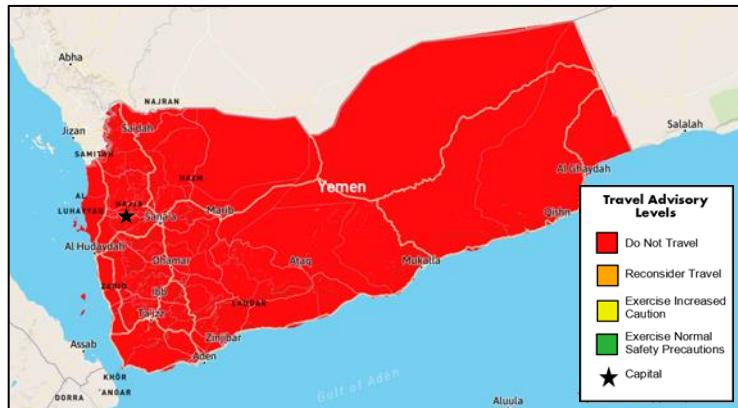


Yemen

Risk Level: **Extreme**

Country Overview:

The security situation in Yemen remains critically unstable, characterised by a volatile political climate and widespread armed conflict. Hostilities involving government forces, Houthi factions, and various other armed groups continue across the country, resulting in frequent gunfire and indiscriminate shelling, posing a persistently high risk to civilians. Clashes along the Yemen–Saudi Arabia border remain common and have led to numerous casualties. Large parts of the country lie beyond effective government control, rendering overland travel highly dangerous and inadvisable without specialised local security expertise.



The threat of terrorism is severe, particularly for foreign nationals. Yemen-based extremist organisations have repeatedly expressed intent to target Westerners and Western-linked assets, which they regard as legitimate targets. Attacks may occur at any site known to attract expatriates or foreign travellers. Potential targets include, but are not limited to, government buildings, diplomatic missions, political and military gatherings, security checkpoints, hotels, restaurants, commercial centres, tourist sites, mosques, military facilities, oil and gas infrastructure, and transportation or aviation interests.

The risk of kidnapping is equally extremely high across the country, including in major cities. Foreign nationals have been deliberately targeted by terrorist, tribal, and criminal groups, with numerous incidents recorded in Sana'a and other population centres. Hundreds of kidnappings have taken place over the past 15 years, often accompanied by substantial ransom demands. There is also a significant risk that hostages initially abducted by tribal or criminal networks may be sold to terrorist organisations. Several foreign captives have been killed by their abductors.

Yemen is considered a high-risk operating environment with rapidly shifting security dynamics. Extreme caution is essential for any organisation with personnel or interests in the country.

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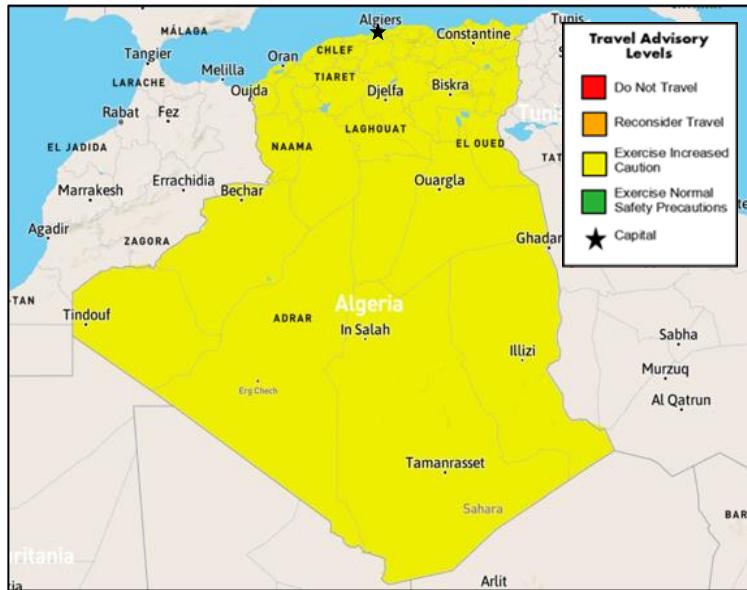
**HIGH RISK COUNTRIES****Algeria**Risk Level: **Moderate****Country Overview:**

The security situation in Algeria is unstable, with heightened risks particularly in the border regions due to terrorism. There is a moderate risk to personal safety in major cities, with security risks including the potential for kidnappings, opportunistic criminal activity such as international financial scams, and sporadic civil disturbances nationwide.

Terrorist attacks in Algeria have primarily been focused on the Algerian state, but attacks could be indiscriminate, as there is a risk of lone actors targeting foreigners. Although terrorist activity is more prevalent in rural and remote regions where incidents largely target government institutions and security forces, urban regions have seen a rising number of incidents. Avoid travel to rural areas within 50 km (31 miles) of the border with Tunisia, and within 250 km (155 miles) of the borders with Libya, Niger, Mali, and Mauritania due to terrorist and criminal activities, including kidnapping. Additionally, avoid overland travel in the Sahara Desert for the same reasons.

Algeria carries personal safety threats due to the potential for kidnappings, opportunistic crime such as international financial scams, and erratic civil disturbances arising nationwide. While overall crime levels are moderate and security force presence is visible, travellers are advised to maintain heightened vigilance, particularly in lower-income areas where the risk of petty crimes, robbery, and burglary is elevated. Female travellers should take into account local cultural norms, as women traveling alone may attract increased unwanted attention in public settings and may wish to consider appropriate mitigation measures to reduce risk.

Travelers should remain vigilant about their surroundings and take additional security precautions, especially in southern border areas with Libya and Tunisia, the rural and mountainous regions of the north, and the Sahara.



Country Risk Summaries Cont.



Azerbaijan

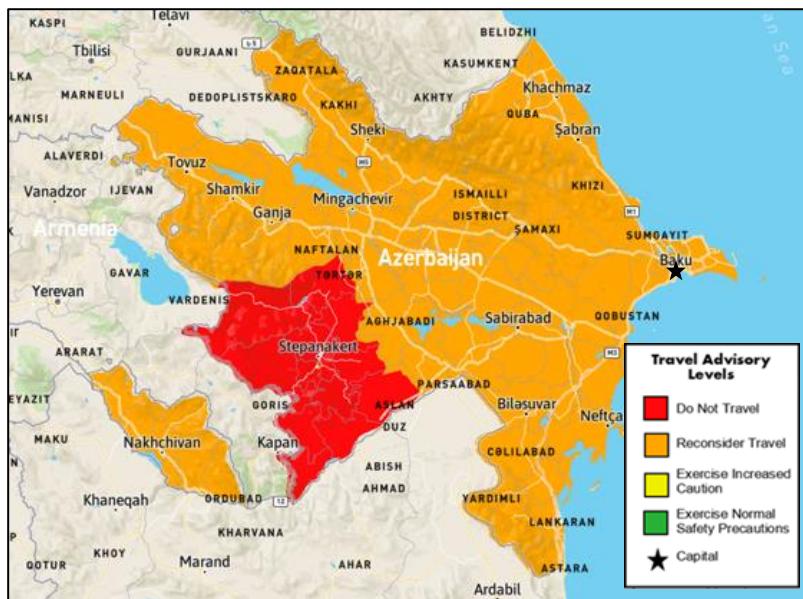
Risk Level: **Moderate**

Country Overview:

Travelers should exercise caution, as some regions of Azerbaijan remain unstable due to ongoing regional disputes. Travel near the Azerbaijan–Armenia border is strongly discouraged because of the risk of sudden violence. Former conflict zones, including areas previously under Nagorno-Karabakh administration, may still contain unexploded landmines, posing ongoing dangers despite the end of large-scale fighting.

A US-brokered peace agreement was reached in August 2025 to promote stability and regional cooperation, but implementation is ongoing. The agreement includes economic and transport provisions, yet sporadic tensions persist along the frontier. While measures such as Azerbaijan's release of Armenian detainees in January 2026 show progress, some border areas remain unsafe for visitors.

The threat of terrorism remains possible. Attacks may occur without warning and could target public places such as transportation hubs, hotels, religious sites, commercial centers, and major events. Visitors should remain vigilant, especially in crowded or high-profile locations. The U.S. government cannot provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in Nagorno-Karabakh due to restricted access.





Burundi

Risk Level: **Extreme**

Country Overview:

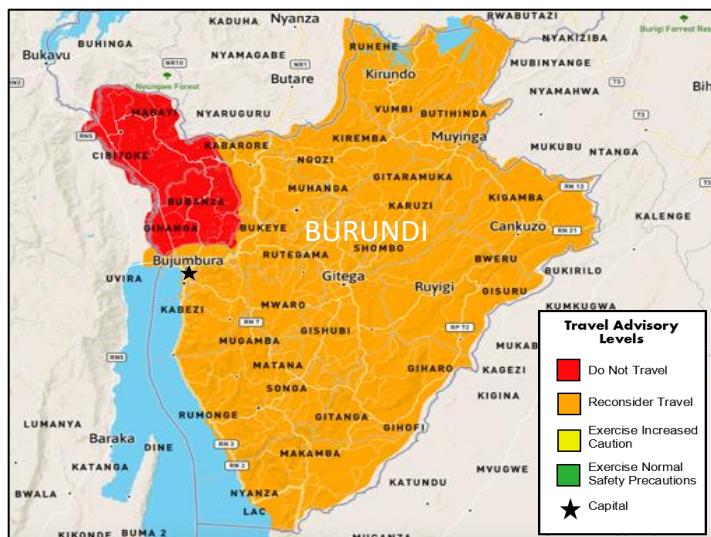
The security situation in Burundi is hazardous, with some regions of the country being extremely unsafe. Travelers are advised to reconsider traveling to Burundi. There is a high risk to personal safety and security because of ongoing political tensions, sporadic violence, clashes by armed groups, and 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 its southernmost part in Muramvya province), and Ruvubu and Buriri Forests.

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



Country Risk Summaries Cont.



Cameroon

Risk Level: **Extreme**

Country Overview:

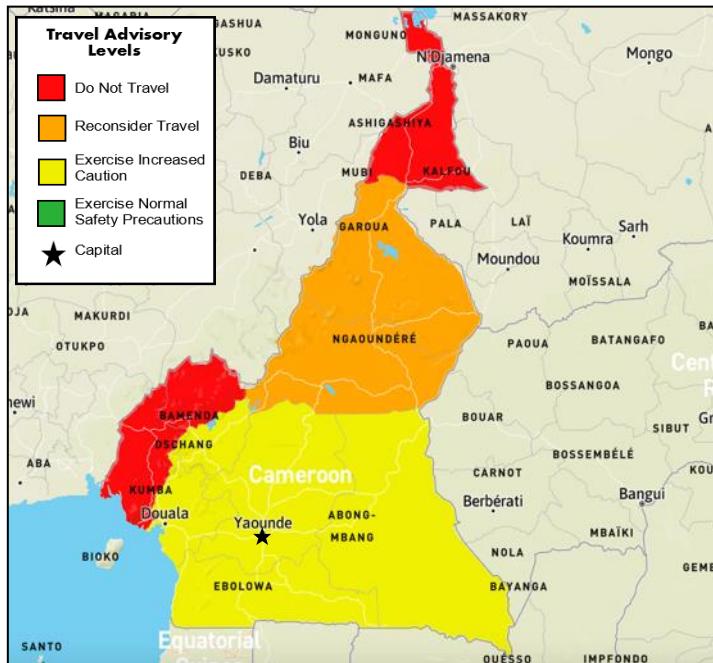
The security situation in certain parts of Cameroon is dangerous. It is advised to exercise increased caution due to crime, civil unrest, and terrorism. Terrorists often use less sophisticated methods of attack, such as knives, guns, and vehicles, to target large groups of people. Common targets include 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 Ngaoudere in the Adamawa Region. Cameroon's military restricts access to the Bakassi Peninsula.

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.





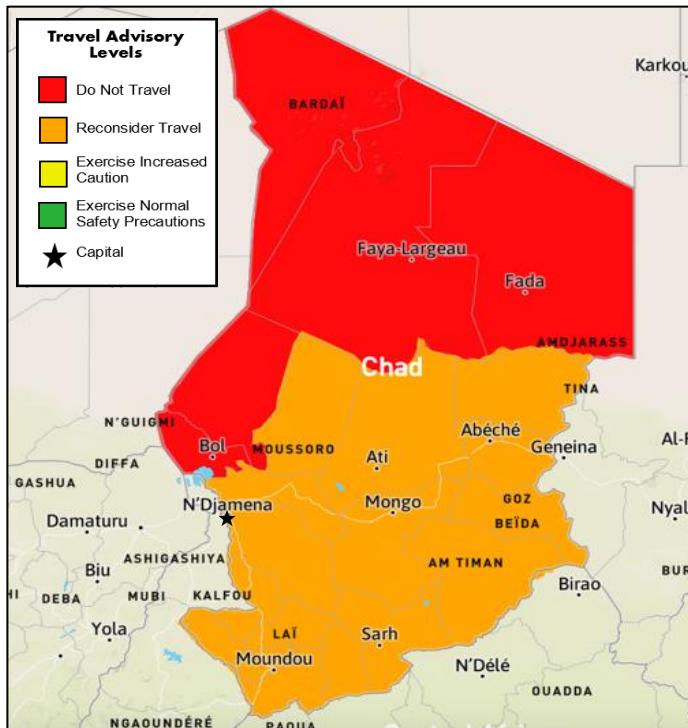
Chad

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 navigates a tense transition since President Idriss Déby Itno was killed in combat in 2021, leading to his son, General Mahamat Idriss Déby Itno, succeeding him and consolidating 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 a heavy military presence, with checkpoints common across the country.

General criminal activity, such as armed robberies and muggings, presents 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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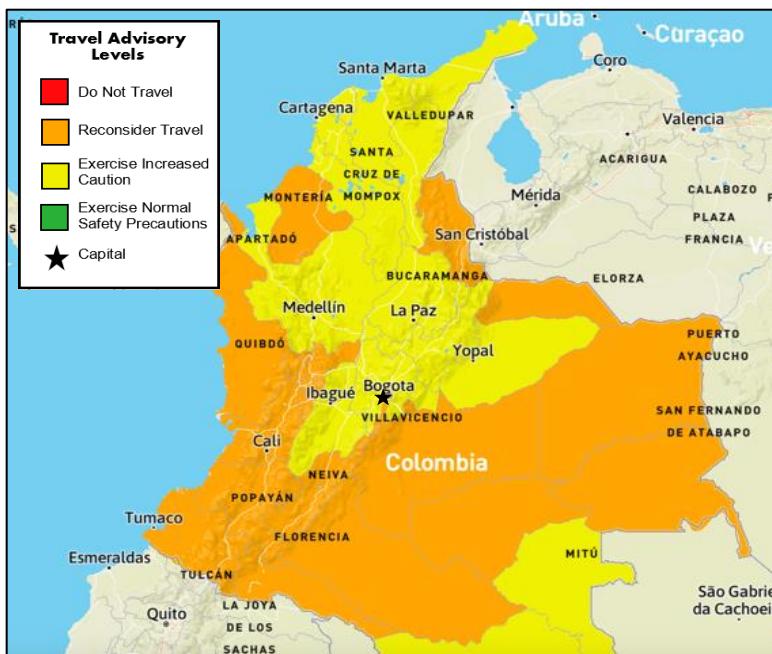
Colombia

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:

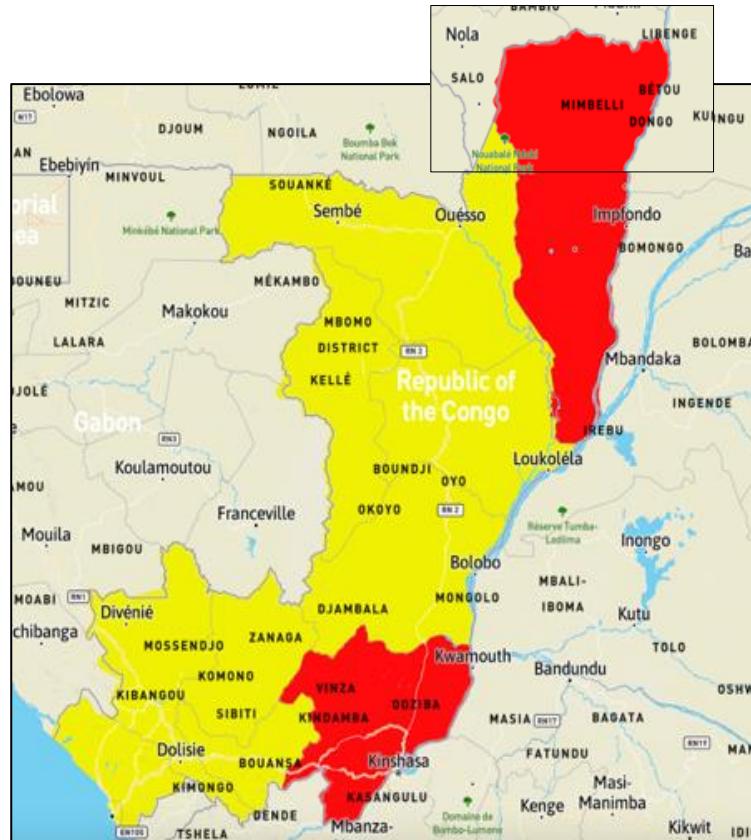
The Republic of the Congo maintains a generally stable political environment, but pockets of insecurity and periodic civil unrest continue to impact travel conditions. While major urban centers such as Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire remain calmer than many regional counterparts, tensions can surface quickly around political events, labor disputes, or local grievances. Travelers should be prepared for sudden transportation disruptions, demonstrations, and heavy security deployments.

Security challenges persist in areas outside firm state control, particularly in the Pool region and the remote northern provinces. Although the conflict between government forces and the "Ninja" militia ended with a 2017 ceasefire, the underlying tensions and occasional flare-ups still make Pool a high-risk zone. Sections of Likouala and Sangha should be avoided due to weak state presence, banditry, and intermittent armed activity. In contrast, Brazzaville's central districts, Pointe-Noire's coastal neighborhoods, and areas around Oyo and Dolisie are considered safer, as they maintain stronger security oversight and better access to services.

Economic instability leads to periodic fuel shortages and logistical constraints, both of which can affect internal travel. Power outages and telecommunications interruptions occur throughout the country and may complicate communication in emergencies.

While Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire offer better access to services, travelers should maintain vigilance in crowded markets, transport hubs, and nightlife districts. Opportunistic crime, such as theft and armed robbery, is more likely in these locations. Local authorities may impose movement restrictions or curfews during periods of unrest, and these measures tend to be most strictly enforced in urban districts considered essential to political stability. Visitors should avoid informal settlements on the outskirts of major cities.

The Republic of the Congo remains accessible to travelers who plan carefully and follow official guidance. Staying within well-secured districts of Brazzaville or Pointe-Noire, avoiding high-risk areas and remote border zones, and maintaining awareness of evolving political developments is advised.





Cuba

Risk Level: **Moderate**

Country Overview:

The security situation in Cuba is generally stable, however, there remains a risk of petty crime and crimes targeting 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 outages, so travelers should prepare accordingly. Additionally, authorities conduct periodic chemical fumigations to control mosquito-borne illnesses. While these fumigations are intended to protect health, 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.



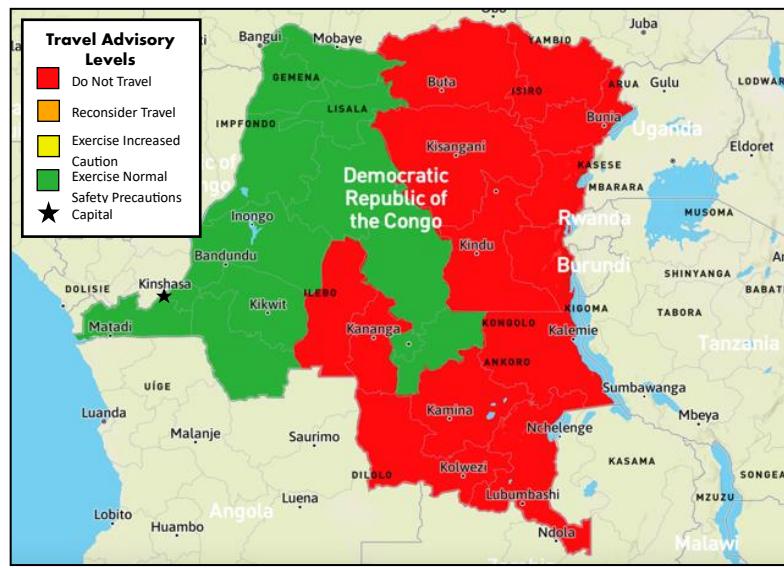


Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

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 during periods of heightened political tension or foreign involvement, and 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 travelers can encounter danger even in areas that appear calm, with conditions that can change with little to no warning. However, some regions, such as the capital, Kinshasa, and 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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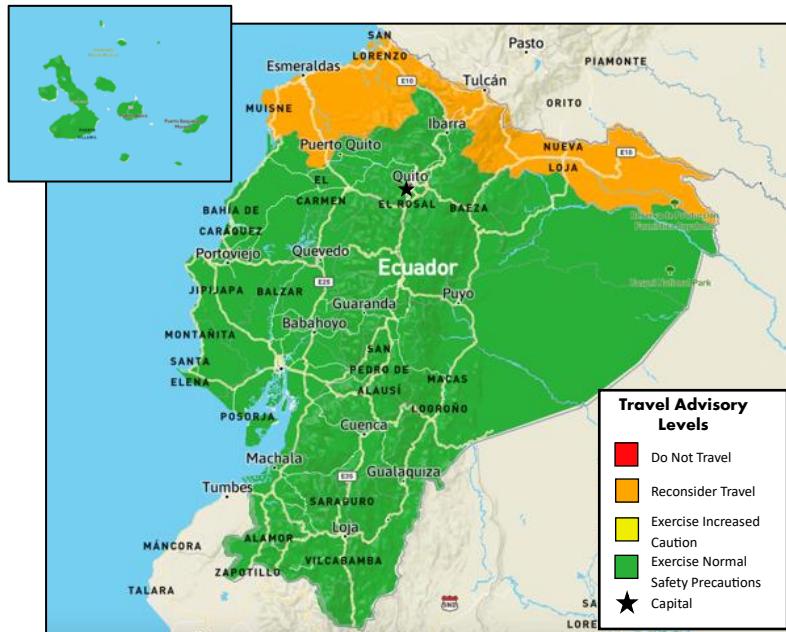
Ecuador

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 Sucumbíos, northern Esmeraldas provinces, Esmeraldas City, and Guayaquil south of Portete de Tarquí Avenue.



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 December 31, 2025, 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, Manabi, 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:

The security situation in Egypt varies by region, with some areas remaining hazardous and others considered extremely unsafe. Travelers should reconsider travel to Egypt due to the ongoing threat of terrorism and regional instability. Travelers should continue to exercise extreme caution, as threats against Western interests remain credible. Overall, there is a moderate risk to personal safety and security stemming from the continued presence of extremist organizations operating within the country. Travel should be avoided to the Governorate of North Sinai and within 20 km of the Egyptian–Libyan border due to persistent criminal activity, arms smuggling, and intermittent terrorist attacks targeting police and security forces.



The security environment near the Egypt–Gaza border is expected to remain volatile in the medium term due to regional tensions with the potential for spillover from ongoing hostilities. Travelers in the vicinity of the Gaza border are advised to leave the area as soon as possible and avoid it entirely. Sudden border closures, military operations, and movement restrictions are possible.

All travel within 20 km of the Egypt–Libya border should be avoided, except for El Salloum, where travel should be restricted for essential purposes only. Travelers are also advised to avoid the northern part of the South Sinai Governorate beyond the St Catherine–Nuweibaa Road, except for the coastal areas along the western and eastern edges of the peninsula. Even in these areas, security restrictions and checkpoints may be imposed with little or no notice.

Ongoing instability in Sudan is expected to sustain elevated cross-border movement into southern Egypt over the next 6–12 months. The primary land border crossings at Qustul and Argeen have limited infrastructure, resulting in extended wait times that may last several days. Travelers should be aware that access to food, water, shelter, and medical assistance at these crossings remains limited, and conditions may worsen during periods of increased arrivals.

Local law strictly prohibits protesting or demonstrating without prior authorization. Presence near demonstrations or politically sensitive gatherings may attract the attention of Egyptian police and security forces. Foreign nationals, including U.S. citizens, have been detained for participating in demonstrations or for social media activity perceived as critical of Egypt, its leadership, or its allies. Enforcement of these regulations is expected to remain stringent over the next year.

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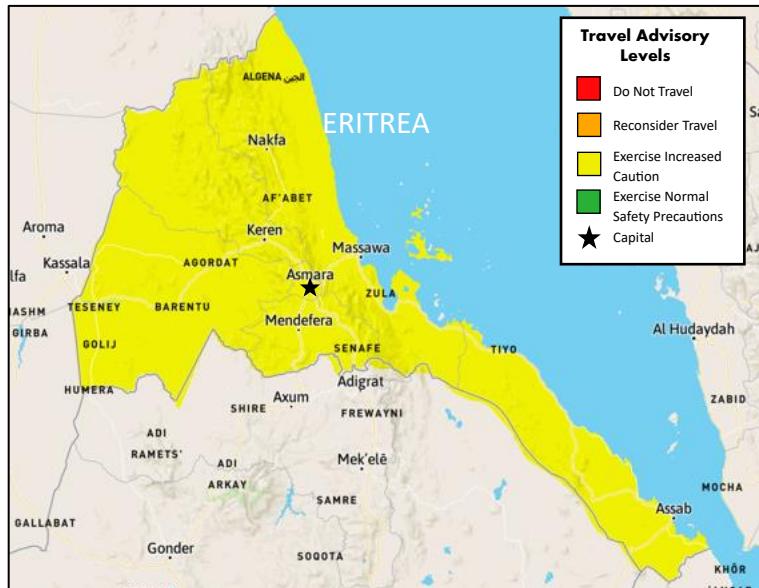
Eritrea

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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Country Risk Summaries Cont.

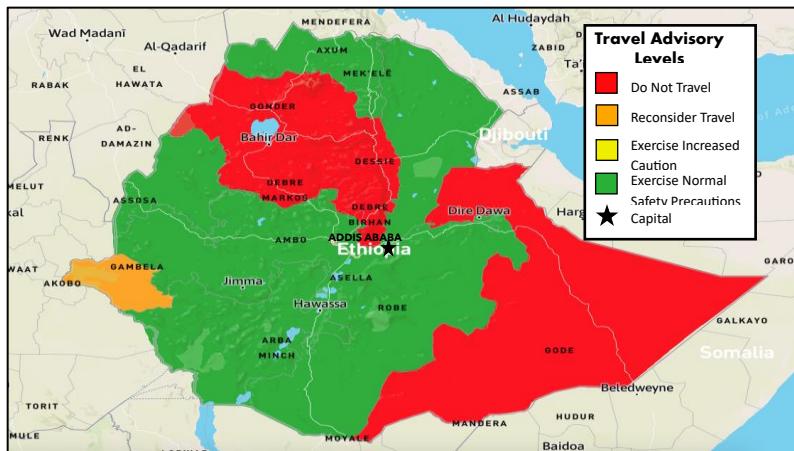


Ethiopia

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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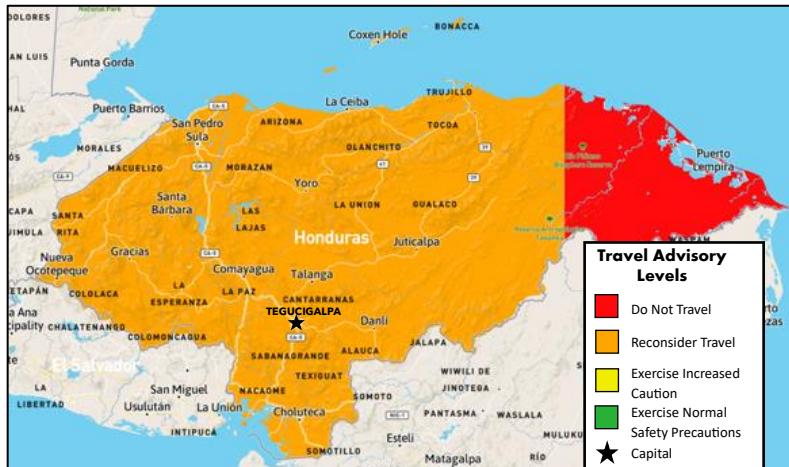
Honduras

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 dengue fever cases 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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Country Risk Summaries Cont.



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 border with China, especially in Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, and Ladakh, has seen increased tensions 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 tourist destinations.

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.

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Country Risk Summaries Cont.



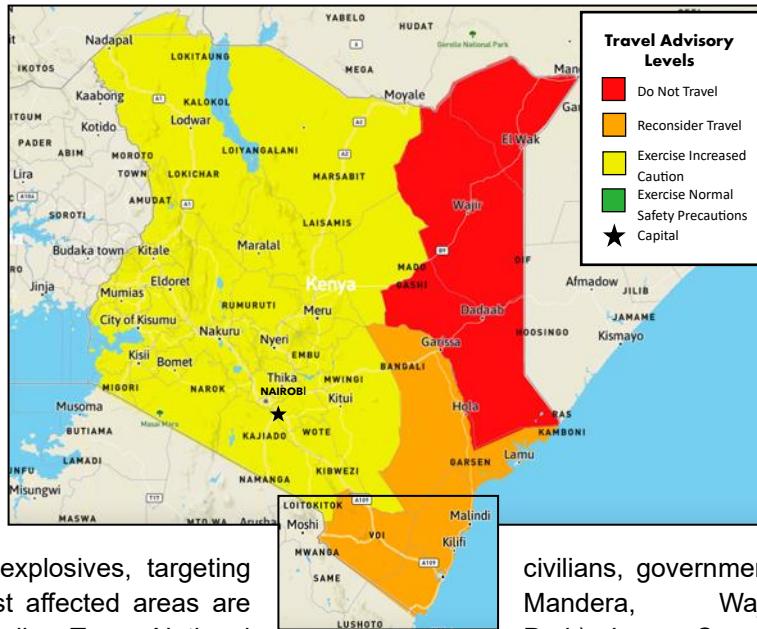
Kenya

Risk Level: **Moderate**

Country Overview:

Exercise heightened caution in Kenya due to high-risk zones affected by terrorism, civil unrest, cross-border instability, and targeted crime. Risk levels vary by location, so travelers should remain vigilant and review security threats specific to their destinations.

Terrorism remains a significant threat, especially in the Eastern and Coastal regions near the Somalia border. Militant groups can conduct indiscriminate attacks, including kidnapping, armed assaults, and the use of explosives, targeting businesses, and tourists. The most affected areas are Garissa, Tana River County (excluding Tsavo National Park), and Kilifi County (north of Malindi).



civilians, government, Mandera, Wajir, Park), Lamu County,

Banditry and intercommunal violence remain prevalent in northern and western regions, including Marsabit and Turkana (near the Ethiopian border), West Pokot and western Turkana (along the Uganda border), and the counties of Elgeyo-Marakwet, Baringo, Laikipia, and Samburu. Security operations continue, and movement restrictions or curfews may be imposed with little notice, especially in hotspots.

Civil unrest and protests are common, particularly in Nairobi, and can escalate quickly with little warning. These events often disrupt transportation and essential services. Travelers should avoid political gatherings and large crowds, monitor local media, and follow guidance from local authorities.

Medical care in Kenya is limited, and facilities may lack adequate medicine, especially outside major cities. Recent protests by medical professionals have also disrupted healthcare services nationwide.

There is a moderate risk to personal safety, especially in urban areas, due to violent crime such as armed carjacking, mugging, and home invasions. Reconsider travel or exercise extreme caution in Eastleigh and Kibera. Street crime may involve multiple armed assailants, and roads in high-risk areas are often congested. Local law enforcement has limited capacity, and police response to serious incidents may be delayed.

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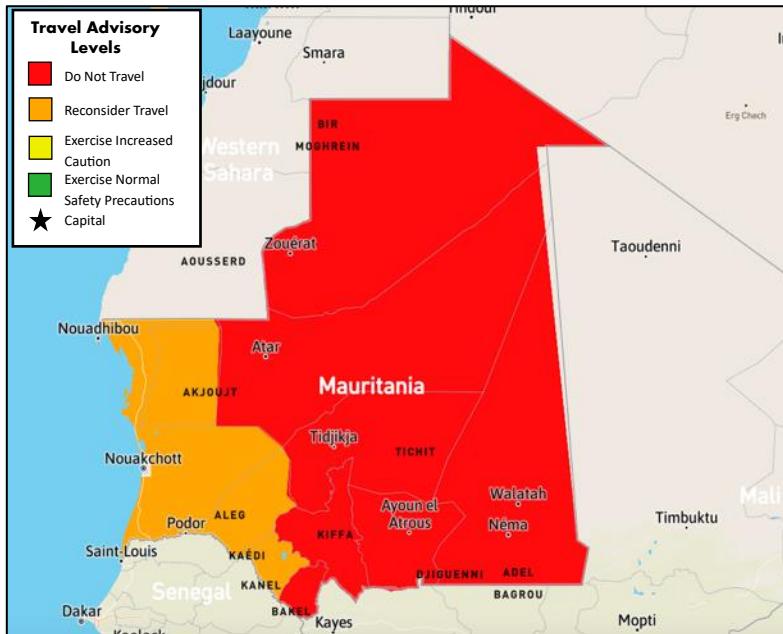


Mauritania

Risk Level: **Moderate**

Country Overview:

Mauritania continues to face an unstable security environment, affecting safety and travel due to the ongoing threats, including terrorism, organized crime, and cross-border instability. The highest risks are in Eastern Mauritania, the Ras Nouadhibou Peninsula, and along the borders with Mali, Western Sahara, and Algeria, including the departments of Tiris Zemmour, Adrar, Tagant, Hodd Ech Chargui, Hodd El Gharabi, Assaba, Guidimaka, and Gorgol. As a result, it is advised to defer non-essential travel and, in some areas, avoid travel altogether.



Military zones further restrict travel. Since 2017, a military area in northeastern Mauritania near the Western Sahara border has been closed to foreigners and most citizens. Passage through designated 'No Movement Zones' is strictly prohibited, as unauthorized entry may be treated as an attack. These zones are primarily east of Tagant and Adrar and along the Mali and Western Sahara borders.

While Mauritania has avoided the level of instability seen in some neighbouring Sahel countries, it remains at risk of terrorism. Elements of AQIM continue to operate within the country and are capable of targeting government buildings and foreign locations, including Nouakchott, despite the deployment of approximately 16,000 troops and 5,000 paramilitaries. Unrest can occur at any time in Nouakchott and other major cities. Crime, including armed robbery, carjacking, and kidnapping, remains a concern.

Obtaining a visa upon arrival in Mauritania is no longer feasible as of January 5, 2025. The Mauritanian National Agency for the Population Register and Secure Titles requires you to apply for an e-visa online before you travel.

Complex infrastructure, limited healthcare, environmental hazards, tropical diseases, and strict cultural and legal codes further complicate travel. Travelers and organizations should exercise extreme caution and take comprehensive precautions.

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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. Travelers need 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 avoid 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 cause flooding and landslides, even hundreds of miles from the storm's center, and after the storm has passed.



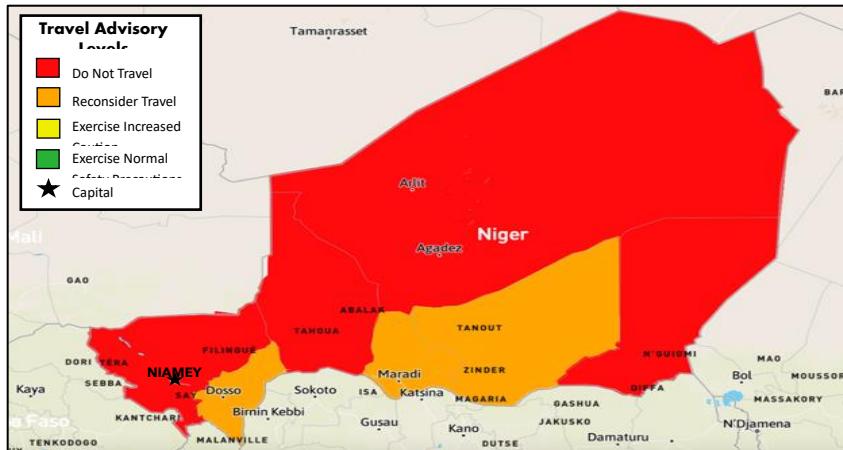


Niger

Risk Level: **Extreme**

Country Overview:

Niger remains extremely dangerous due to terrorism, kidnapping, violent crime, and ongoing political instability following the July 26, 2023, military coup that placed General Abdourahmane Tchiani in power. The country continues to experience a heavy military presence in Niamey, heightened tensions with ECOWAS, and an unpredictable security environment that can deteriorate without warning.



Militant groups, particularly JNIM and ISIS-Sahel, have expanded operations, strengthened by Niger's 2025 withdrawal from the Multinational Joint Task Force, reducing regional counterterrorism coordination and increasing the likelihood of attacks and kidnappings across multiple regions. Foreign nationals, including Americans, face a significantly elevated risk of kidnapping throughout Niger, even in the capital. The U.S. Embassy requires armoured vehicle travel, imposes strict curfews, and prohibits personnel from visiting open-air markets and restaurants.

Medical and emergency services across the country are extremely limited, and safe evacuation may become difficult during periods of unrest or attacks. Travel to northern and border regions—including areas north of Abalak, Agadez and Tahoua provinces, northern Tillabéri, all zones within 40 km of the Nigerian border in Diffa, Zinder, and Maradi, and Parc du W is strictly inadvisable.

Access to Diori Hamani International Airport in Niamey was suspended following gunfire and explosions in the vicinity of the airport on January 29, resulting in the closure of Niamey's airspace and the suspension of all commercial flight operations until further notice. As a result, flights may be disrupted or unavailable at short notice.

With expanding militant activity, political volatility, and deteriorating security conditions, the threat level in Niger is expected to remain severe over the next 6–12 months.

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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.

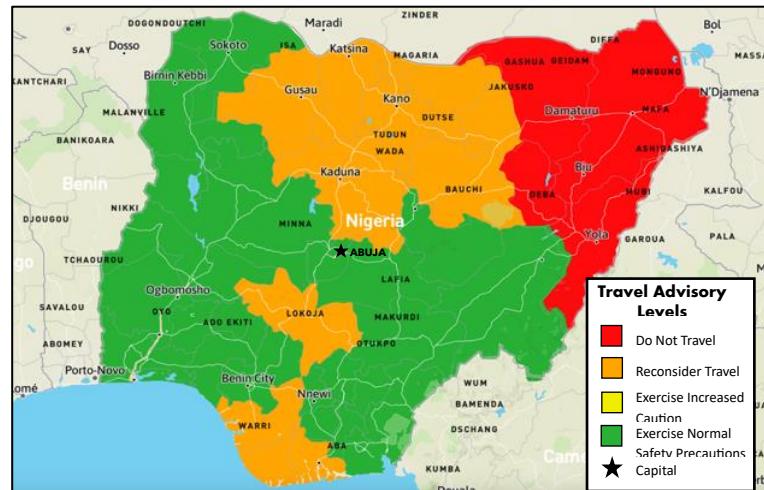
The risk of kidnappings in Nigeria, particularly in the northern and Middle Belt states, remains high. Gangs and unidentified individuals have carried out most of these attacks, but Boko Haram militants were behind some of them in northeast Nigeria. Even though the kidnappings often end without bloodshed 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.



Country Risk Summaries Cont.



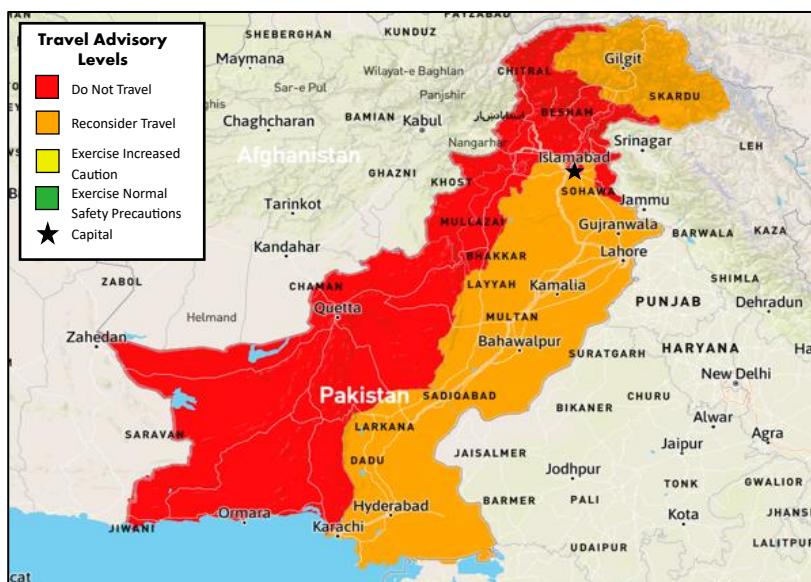
Pakistan

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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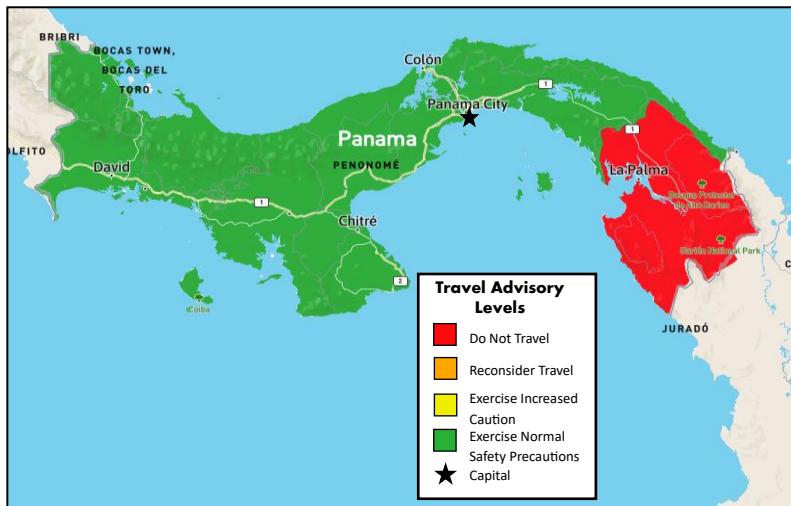
Panama

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. 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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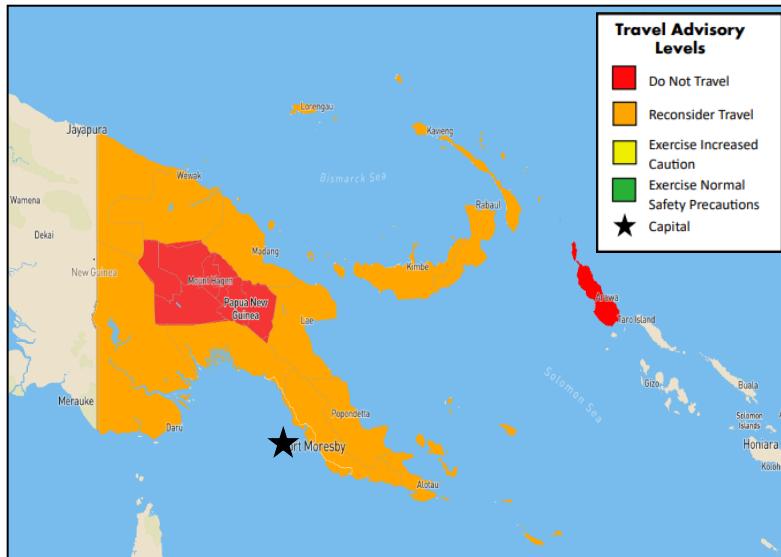
Papua New Guinea

Risk Level: **Extreme**

Country Overview:

Papua New Guinea is a high-risk destination. Non-essential travel should be reconsidered due to serious crime, civil unrest, limited law enforcement, and significant natural hazards. Security conditions are unstable and may deteriorate rapidly without warning.

Violent crime is widespread and poses a persistent threat, especially in Port Moresby, Lae, Mount Hagen, and other major urban centers. Armed robbery, carjacking, home invasions, sexual assault, and gang-related violence are common, often involving firearms and machetes. Police resources are limited, response times vary, and effective assistance may not be available outside major towns, particularly at night.



Ongoing tribal tensions have caused severe communal violence in the Highlands region, including Enga, Hela, Southern Highlands, Western Highlands, and parts of Eastern Highlands Province. This has resulted in fatalities, property destruction, infrastructure damage, road blockages, and suspension of essential services. Parts of Enga Province remain designated as active "fighting zones" with curfews, checkpoints, random searches, and ongoing security operations.

Civil unrest, including riots, looting, and public disorder, occurs in both urban and rural areas. Public gatherings, protests, and demonstrations carry a high risk of violence and may escalate quickly and unpredictably.

Fatalities from methanol-contaminated alcohol continue to be reported. Consuming unregulated, homemade, or locally produced alcohol is a serious and potentially fatal risk. Methanol cannot be detected by taste or smell and can cause severe illness or death even in small amounts.

Papua New Guinea is in a seismically active zone and regularly experiences earthquakes, volcanic activity, landslides, flooding, and tropical cyclones, especially during the November to April wet season. Severe weather often causes infrastructure damage, community isolation, and disruptions to travel and supply chains.

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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 a 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 terrorists 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.

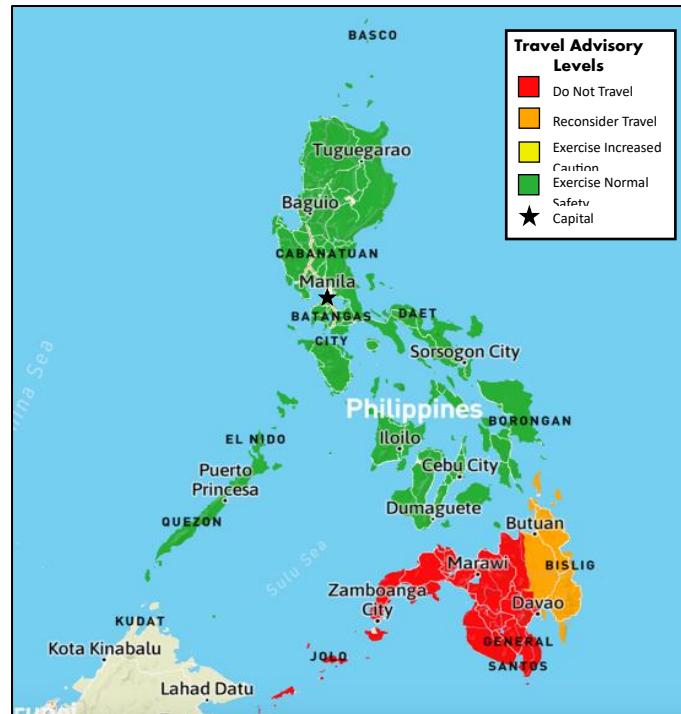
Travel to the Sulu Archipelago and the Sulu Sea is strongly discouraged due to extreme security risks. These include kidnappings for ransom, bombings, and violent attacks by terrorists and armed groups. Foreign nationals, local authorities, and security forces are frequent targets. U.S. government personnel 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 minimizing risks and ensuring 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 quickly become unsafe.



Country Risk Summaries Cont.

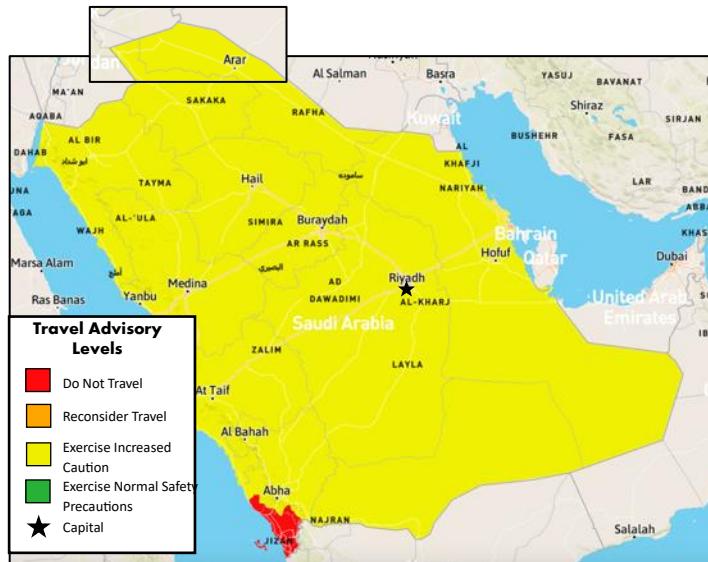


Saudi Arabia

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 face significant fines, deportation, and a ban on re-entry to 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:

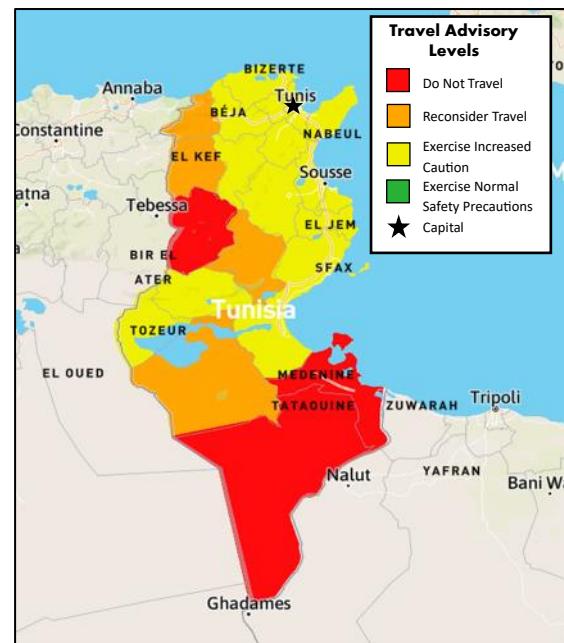
In some parts of Tunisia, the security situation is hazardous, with specific areas extremely unsafe. It is advised to exercise increased caution in Tunisia due to the risk of terrorism. Terrorist groups active in the country pose a significant threat to travelers in the region. Since November 24, 2015, 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.



Country Risk Summaries Cont.



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, Sirnak Province, and Hakkari Province.



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