Afghanistan: Parliamentary elections will be held on October 20, 2018. There is a high likelihood of protests and an increased risk of terrorist attacks. Travelers should follow the instructions of local authorities and avoid any political demonstrations or large gatherings.

Burkina Faso: Information and advice on travel has been updated. It is now advised to avoid all travel to within 40km of the eastern border with Niger; the south-eastern provinces of Gourma, Kompienga, and Tapoa.

Burundi: Information and advice on travel has been updated. It is now advised to avoid all travel to areas of Bujumbura Rural province west of the Rusizi river towards the Democratic Republic of the Congo border, with the exception of the Rusizi Delta Nature Reserve.

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:


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

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COUNTRY TRAVEL ADVISORY LIST

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

EXTREME RISK

1) Afghanistan
2) Central African Republic (CAR)
3) Iraq
4) Libya
5) Mali
6) North Korea
7) Somalia
8) South Sudan
9) Syria
10) Yemen

EXTREME RISK REGIONS

1) Algeria
2) Azerbaijan
3) Burkina Faso
4) Burundi
5) Cameroon
6) Chad
7) Colombia
8) Congo
9) Cuba
10) Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)
11) Ecuador
12) Egypt
13) Eritrea
14) Ethiopia
15) Georgia
16) India
17) Iran
18) Israel
19) Lebanon
20) Mauritania
21) Mexico
22) Niger
23) Nigeria
24) Pakistan
25) Philippines
26) Russia
27) Saudi Arabia
28) Sudan
29) Tunisia
30) Turkey
31) Ukraine
32) Venezuela
COUNTRY TRAVEL ADVISORY DETAILS BY RISK LEVEL

EXTREME RISK

Afghanistan
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:

The security situation in Afghanistan is extremely dangerous. It is advised to avoid travel to Afghanistan, if possible. Travel to all areas of Afghanistan is unsafe due to the unstable security situation involving armed conflict, terrorism, crime, and civil unrest. There is an extreme risk to personal safety and security because of widespread military operations, terrorism and insurgent attacks, and high levels of kidnappings, hostage taking, suicide bombings, landmines, and vehicle-borne or other improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Parliamentary elections will be held on October 20, 2018. There is a high likelihood of protests and an increased risk of terrorist attacks. Travelers should follow the instructions of local authorities and avoid any political demonstrations or large gatherings.

It is advised not to travel to all districts in the following provinces of Afghanistan:

Kapisa; Kunar; Nangahar; Laghman; Nuristan; Ghazni; Khost; Paktika; Paktiya; Logar Wardak; Kandahar; Uruzgan; Zabul; Helmand; Nimroz; Badghis; Farah; Faryab; Jowzjan; Badakhshan; Baghlan; Kunduz and Takhar.

It is further advised not to travel to the following specific districts of Afghanistan: Kabul (Surobi district); Parwan (Charikar City, Bagram, Ghorband/Siaghird, Jabal Saraj, Kohi Saraj, Salang, Sayed Khel and Shinwari districts); Daikundi (Gizab and Kajan districts); Ghor (Dolina/ Du Layna and Pasaband districts); Herat (Shindand district); Balkh (Chaharbolak, Chamtal/Chimtal, Daulat Abad/Dawalatabad, Hairatan Port, Kaldar and Shortipa/Shur Tapa/Shar Tepah districts); Sar-e-Pul (Sar-e-Pul City and Sayad districts).

It is advised to limit all but essential travel to all other provinces and districts of Afghanistan.
Central African Republic
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:

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

It is advised to limit all but essential travel to central Bangui between the Airport and the Oubangui River. It is further advised not to travel to the rest of Bangui and the Central African Republic.

Iraq
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:

The security situation in Iraq is extremely dangerous. It is advised to avoid travel to Iraq, if possible. Travel to Iraq is unsafe due to armed conflict and terrorism. There is an extreme risk to personal safety and security because of active insurgent and terrorist groups, sectarian militias, and high levels of violence, kidnappings, suicide bombings, and vehicle-borne or other improvised explosive devices (IEDs). There have been protests and casualties in parts of Baghdad, Basra, and other southern governorates. Travelers should avoid large crowds and follow the advice of local authorities.

It is advised to avoid any travel to the following areas of Iraq: Anbar province, Ninewah province, Salah-Al-Din province, Diyala province, Tam‘mim (Kirkuk) province, and in Erbil province, south of Road 80, and within 10km of the border with Ninewah province between Road 80 and Road 2. It is further advised to limit all but essential travel to the rest of Iraq, including the remainder of the Kurdistan region.
Country Risk Summaries Cont.

Libya
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:

The security situation in Libya is extremely dangerous. It is advised to avoid travel to Libya. Travel to Libya is unsafe due to armed conflict, terrorism, civil unrest, and crime. There is an extreme risk to personal safety and security because of high levels of terrorist activity and crime, including kidnapping for ransom, suicide bombings, and the use of vehicle-borne or other improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

It is advised to avoid all travel to Libya.

Mali
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:

The security situation in Mali is extremely dangerous. It is advised to avoid travel to Mali, if possible. Travel to Mali is unsafe due to political instability, crime, and terrorism. There is an extreme risk to personal safety and security because of terrorist activity and violent crime such as kidnapping and armed robbery. There may be a heightened risk of demonstrations and terrorist attacks in the run up to the Presidential elections on July 29, 2018.

It is advised to avoid all travel to the provinces of Tombouctou, Kidal, Gao, and Mopti, as well as parts of the provinces of Kayes, Koulikoro, and Segou. It is further advised to limit all but essential travel to the rest of Mali.
**North Korea**
Risk Level: **Extreme**

**Country Overview:**

The security situation remains volatile on the Korean peninsula, and political tensions involving North Korea can change with little notice and with no warning. This poses an extreme risk to visitors. It is advised to avoid all travel to North Korea, if possible. Travel to North Korea is unsafe due to the serious risk of arrest and long-term detention of foreign nationals. In addition, U.S. passports are not valid for travel to, in, or through North Korea without a specific validation from the Department of State.

It is advised to limit all but essential travel to North Korea.

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**Somalia**
Risk Level: **Extreme**

**Country Overview:**

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

It is advised to avoid all travel to Somalia, including Somaliland except for the cities of Hargeisa and Berbera to which it is advised to limit all but essential travel.
Country Risk Summaries Cont.

South Sudan
Risk Level: **Extreme**

Country Overview:
The security situation in South Sudan is extremely dangerous. It is advised not to travel to South Sudan, if possible. Travel to South Sudan is unsafe due to crime and armed conflict. There is an extreme risk to personal safety and security because of armed clashes, border disputes, ethnic violence, and crime, including carjacking, shootings, ambushes, assaults, robberies, and kidnappings.

It is advised to avoid all travel to South Sudan.

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Syria
Risk Level: **Extreme**

Country Overview:
The security situation in Syria is extremely dangerous. It is advised to avoid travel to Syria. Travel to Syria is unsafe due to armed conflict, terrorism, and civil unrest. There is an extreme risk to personal safety and security because no part of Syria is considered safe from violence. Widespread military operations, involving the use of chemical warfare, shelling, and aerial bombardment, have significantly raised the risk of death or serious injury.

It is advised to avoid all travel to Syria.
Country Risk Summaries Cont.

Yemen
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:
The security situation in Yemen is extremely dangerous. It is advised to avoid travel to Yemen. Travel to Yemen is unsafe due to armed conflict, terrorism, civil unrest, and health. There is an extreme risk to personal safety and security because of ongoing military conflict, heightened terrorist activity, kidnappings for ransom, and unlawful detentions by rebel groups.

It is advised to avoid all travel to Yemen.

Algeria
Risk Level: Moderate Risk + Extreme

Country Overview:
The security situation in some parts of Algeria is highly dangerous, with specific areas being extremely unsafe. It is advised to exercise increased caution in Algeria due to terrorism. There is an overall moderate level of risk to personal safety and security because terrorists are very likely to carry out attacks, including kidnappings, and civil disturbances sometimes occur throughout the country.

It is advised to avoid all travel to areas within: 30km of the borders with Libya, Mauritania, Mali and Niger, and 30km of the border with Tunisia in the provinces of Illizi and Ouargla and in the Chaambi mountains area. It is also advised to limit all but essential travel to within 30km of the remainder of the border with Tunisia.
Azerbaijan
Risk Level: Moderate Risk + Extreme

Country Overview:

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

It is advised to avoid all travel to: Nagorno-Karabakh and the military-occupied area surrounding it; within 5km of the Line of Contact; and within 5km of the border with Armenia. Please note that anyone who has visited Nagorno-Karabakh without the permission of the Azerbaijani authorities will be refused entry to Azerbaijan.

Burkina Faso
Risk Level: High Risk + Extreme

Country Overview:

The security situation in Burkina Faso is highly dangerous, with some parts of the country being extremely unsafe. It is advised to reconsider travel to Burkina Faso due to terrorism and crime. There is a high level of risk to personal safety and security because of terrorist activity and common violent crime. On September 18, 2018, purported members of Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) posted an online video announcing their presence in the country. There have been regular attacks on police, military personnel, and civilians, particularly close to the borders with Mali, Niger, and Cote d’Ivoire as well as in the Eastern Region. Further attacks are likely.

It is advised not to travel at all to the following parts of Burkina Faso: within 40km of the eastern border with Niger; the south-eastern provinces of Gourma, Kompienga, and Tapoa. It is also advised to limit all but essential travel to the rest of Burkina Faso, including the capital Ouagadougou.
**Burundi**  
Risk Level: High Risk + Extreme

**Country Overview:**

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

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

**Cameroon**  
Risk Level: Moderate Risk + Extreme

**Country Overview:**

The security situation in certain parts of Cameroon is extremely dangerous. It is advised to exercise increased caution in Cameroon due to crime, civil unrest, and terrorism. There is an overall moderate risk to personal safety and security because of terrorist activity in areas of northern and eastern Cameroon, as well as violent crime, such as kidnapping, armed robbery, assault, and carjacking, which is common. Campaigns for the presidential election on October 7, 2018, have officially begun. Armed separatists in the north-west and south-west regions have announced plans to disrupt the election, encourage a general strike, and organize protests.

It is advised to avoid travel to: Far North Region; within 40km of the border with Nigeria; within 40km of the border with Chad; within 40km of the border with the Central African Republic (CAR); the Bakassi Peninsula; and Ndian division in South West Region. It is further advised to limit all but essential travel to: Koupé-Manengouba, Lebialem, Manvu, and Meme divisions in South West Region; and the rest of North, North West, and Adamawa regions.
Country Risk Summaries Cont.

**Chad**

**Risk Level:** High Risk + Extreme

**Country Overview:**

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

It is advised not to travel at all to the following areas in Chad: areas within 30km of all borders, except for the capital N’Djamena (where it is advised to limit all but essential travel); within 30km of Lake Chad and the parts of Kanem and Lac regions to the west of the towns of Mao and Bol; the regions of Ennedi, and Tibesti; and the region of Borkou, except within 30km of the town of Faya Largeau (where it is advised to limit all but essential travel). It is further advised to limit all but essential travel to the remaining parts of the country, including the capital, N’Djamena, and the town of Faya Largeau.

**Colombia**

**Risk Level:** Moderate Risk + Extreme

**Country Overview:**

The security situation in some parts of Colombia is highly dangerous, with specific areas being extremely unsafe. It is advised to exercise increased caution in Colombia due to crime and terrorism, and reconsider travel to several departments throughout the country. There is an overall moderate risk to personal safety and security because the National Liberation Army (ELN) continues to plot possible attacks, and violent and organized criminal activities, such as homicide, assault, armed robbery, extortion, and kidnapping, are common.

It is advised to avoid all travel to: the port of Buenaventura in the department of Valle de Cauca and the port of Tumaco in the department of Nariño. It is also advised to limit all but essential travel to: the departments of Putumayo, Arauca, Caquetá, Guaviare, Guainía, Vichada, and Norte de Santander (except their capital cities); the department of Cauca (except Popayán and between the San Agustín ruins in Huila and Popayán city); the department of Chocó (except Quibdó, Nuquí and Bahía Solano, and Capurganá); the department of Nariño (except Pasto and the Ipiales border crossing); the department of Meta (except Villavicencio, and Caño Cristales); within 5km of the Venezuelan border in the departments of La Guajira, César and Boyaca; and rural areas in northern Antioquia, southern Cordoba, southern Valle de Cauca, and southern Bolívar.
Country Risk Summaries Cont.

Congo

Risk Level: Moderate Risk + Extreme

Country Overview:

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

It is advised to avoid all travel to: the southern and western districts of the Pool region, including the Boko, Kindamba, Kinkala, Mayama, and Mindouli districts; the Mouyonzi district of Bouenza region; and within 50km of the border with the Central African Republic in Likouala region. It is further advised to limit all but essential travel to: Brazzaville region, except for the city of Brazzaville; and the Ngabe district of Pool region.

Cuba

Risk Level: Moderate Risk + Extreme

Country Overview:

The security situation in Cuba is relatively stable and characterized by a strong military and police presence. Although crime levels range from low to moderate, it is advised that travelers to the country be vigilant. American citizens should exercise increased caution in Cuba due to health attacks targeting numerous U.S. Embassy employees at diplomatic residences and at Hotel Nacional and Hotel Capri in Havana. The personal safety and security of travelers to Cuba may also be at risk. While there is no recent history of terrorism in Cuba, attacks cannot be ruled out.

If you are traveling to Cuba, it is advised to avoid Hotel Nacional and Hotel Capri in Havana.
Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)
Risk Level: High Risk + Extreme

Country Overview:
The security situation in some areas of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is highly dangerous, with specific parts of the country being extremely unsafe. It is advised to reconsider travel to the DRC due to civil unrest and crime. There is a high level of risk to personal safety and security because of the activities of rebel and other armed groups, potential civil unrest, and outbreaks of violence, including killing, rape, kidnapping, and pillaging. On August 1, 2018, the Ministry of Health of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) declared a new outbreak of Ebola virus disease. As of August 17, 2018, there have been at least 90 cases of Ebola reported in North Kivu and Ituri provinces. This includes 49 deaths. It is advised to reconsider travel to the DRC and avoid all travel to North Kivu and Ituri provinces.

It is advised to avoid all travel to: the provinces of Kasaï, Kasaï Central, Kasaï Oriental, Haut-Uele, Haut Lomami, Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu, Maniema and Tanganyika; areas to the west and east of Kananga including Tshikapa and Mwene-Ditu; and within 50km of the border with the Central African Republic and South Sudan. It is also advised to limit all but essential travel to Equateur province, the cities of Goma and Bukavu, and the districts of Ndjili and Kimbanseke in Kinshasa.

Ecuador
Risk Level: Low to Moderate Risk + Extreme

Country Overview:
The security situation in some parts of Ecuador is highly dangerous, with specific areas being extremely unsafe. Travelers should be vigilant due to crime and terrorism. There is a heightened level of risk to personal safety and security in the northern border area with Colombia because it has a higher rate of crime, including kidnapping for ransom, than the rest of the country.

It is advised to avoid all travel within 20km of the northern border with Colombia, except for the official border crossing town of Tulcan in Carchi province. It is further advised to limit all but essential travel to the areas of Tarapoa and the Cuyabeno reserve outside the 20km exclusion zone in Sucumbios; the areas of El Angel Ecological Reserve inside the 20km exclusion zone in the province of Carchi; and all other areas of Esmeraldas province outside the 20km exclusion zone.
**Egypt**

**Risk Level:** Moderate Risk + Extreme

**Country Overview:**

The security situation in some areas of Egypt is highly dangerous, with a specific part of the country being extremely unsafe. It is advised to exercise increased caution in Egypt due to terrorism. There is an overall moderate risk to personal safety and security because there are a number of extremist organizations operating in Egypt.

It is advised to avoid all travel to the Governorate of North Sinai due to the significant increase in criminal activity and continued terrorist attacks on police and security forces.

It is also advised to limit all but essential travel to: the Governorate of South Sinai, with the exception of the area within the Sharm el Sheikh perimeter barrier, which includes the airport and the areas of Sharm el Maya, Hadaba, Naama Bay, Sharks Bay and Nabq (although travel by air to or from Sharm el Sheikh is not recommended); and the area west of the Nile Valley and Nile Delta regions, excluding the coastal areas between the Nile Delta and Marsa Matruh.

**Eritrea**

**Risk Level:** Moderate Risk + Extreme

**Country Overview:**

The security situation in some parts of Eritrea is extremely dangerous. It is advised to exercise increased caution in Eritrea due to travel restrictions, limited consular assistance, and political volatility. There is an overall moderate risk to personal safety and security because of ongoing instability, tensions with Ethiopia, and the presence of landmines.

It is advised to avoid all travel within 25km of Eritrea’s border with Ethiopia (except for the town of Senafe); within 25km of Eritrea’s border with Djibouti; and within 25km of Eritrea’s border with Sudan (except for the town of Tessenei). All foreign nationals, including diplomats, must apply in advance for a travel permit to leave Asmara.
Ethiopia
Risk Level: Moderate Risk + Extreme

Country Overview:

The security situation in some parts of Ethiopia is highly dangerous, with certain areas of the country being extremely unsafe. It is advised to exercise increased caution in Ethiopia due to the potential for civil unrest, crime, and terrorism. There is an overall moderate risk to personal safety and security because the country has been experiencing sporadic and spontaneous unrest, and the Somali Regional State, as well as other border areas, present a significant threat of terrorism. In addition, there has been ethnic violence in various parts of Addis Ababa. Several people were killed in recent attacks. Travelers should exercise particular caution around Addis Ababa and anywhere where large crowds are gathering.

It is advised to avoid all travel to: within 10km of the border with Eritrea, with the exception of the main road through Axum and Adigrat, and tourist sites close to the road (e.g. Debre Damo and Yeha); areas off the principal roads/towns within 10km of the borders with Sudan and Kenya; within 10km of the border with South Sudan; the Nogob (previously Fik), Jarar (previously Degehabur), Shabelle (previously Gode), Korahe and Dollo (previously Warder) zones of the Somali region; within 100km of the Ethiopian border with Somalia and Kenya in the Afder and Liben zones of Ethiopia’s Somali region; and the four woredas (districts) (Akobo, Wantawo, Jikawo and Lare) of the Nuer zone and the Jore woreda of the Agnuak zone of the Gambella region.

It is further advised to limit all but essential travel to: all other areas of the Ethiopian Somali Regional State, with the exception of the main road to Djibouti, and passengers on the Addis Ababa-Djibouti Railway; the woredas (districts) of Tsegede, Mirab Armacho, and Tach Armacho in North Gonder; and the three woredas (districts) of the Agnuak zone of the Gambella region that border on South Sudan (Dima, Goge and Etang) and the Gambella wildlife reserve.
Georgia
Risk Level: Low to Moderate Risk + Extreme

Country Overview:
The security situation in some areas of Georgia is highly dangerous, with specific parts of the country being extremely unsafe. It is advised to exercise increased caution in the Russian-occupied regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia due to civil unrest, crime, and landmines. There is a heightened risk to personal safety and security in these parts of Georgia because Russian troops and border guards occupy both regions, and a number of attacks, criminal incidents, and kidnappings have occurred. Opposition protests and rallies have continued to take place in the country, usually outside Parliament in the center of Tbilisi. Further demonstrations may occur. Travelers should avoid large crowds, be vigilant, monitor local media, and follow any local security advice.

It is advised to avoid all travel to the breakaway regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia, and limit all but essential travel to areas near the Administrative Boundary Lines with Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

India
Risk Level: Moderate Risk + Extreme

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

It is advised to avoid all travel to: the immediate vicinity of the border with Pakistan, other than at Wagah; Jammu and Kashmir with the exception of travel within the city Jammu, travel by air to the city of Jammu, and travel within the region of Ladakh; the tourist destinations of Pahalgam, Gulmarg, and Sonamarg; and Manipur. It is also advised to limit all but essential travel to: the city of Srinagar and travel between the cities of Jammu and Srinagar on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway; and Imphal, the state capital of Manipur.
Country Overview:
The security situation in some parts of Iran is highly dangerous, with specific areas of the country being extremely unsafe. It is advised that U.S. citizens not travel to Iran due to the risk of arbitrary arrest and detention. Overall, there is a heightened level of risk to personal safety and security because of the potential for widespread protests and terrorism. On September 22, 2018, there was an attack on a military parade in Ahvaz, capital of Khuzestan province. At least 29 people were killed, and more than 60 others were wounded. Terrorists are very likely to attempt to carry out more attacks in Iran.

It is advised that all visitors not travel to: within 100km of the entire Iran/Afghanistan border; within 10km of the entire Iran/Iraq border; the province of Sistan-Baluchistan; and the area east of the line running from Bam to Jask, including Bam.

Country Overview:
The security situation in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza is fluid, and specific areas are extremely unsafe. It is advised to exercise increased caution throughout Israel, the West Bank and Gaza due to terrorism, civil unrest, and armed conflict. There is an overall moderate risk to personal safety and security because of clashes between Palestinians and Israeli authorities and settlers, as well as the significant threat of terrorism and regional hostilities. Travelers should note that there currently is a heightened risk of tension in the region. Israel announced that it carried out air strikes in Syria on May 10, 2018, in response to Iranian missile attacks against Israeli forces. In addition, there have been mass protests on the Gazan side of the Gaza/Israel perimeter fence since March 30, 2018. Rockets have been fired from Gaza towards Israel on several occasions, and Israel has responded with air strikes on targets in Gaza. Travelers should follow the instructions of local authorities and keep up to date with local media and travel reports.

It is advised not to travel to: Gaza; the Sheba’a Farms and Ghajjar and within 500m of the border with Lebanon (the ‘Blue Line’) east of Metula, including the northern edge of the town; and east of Route 98 along the Syrian border.
**Lebanon**  
**Risk Level:** High Risk + Extreme  

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

It is advised to avoid all travel to: Palestinian refugee camps; the Hermel Area, including Arsal, Ras Baalbek; the Bekaa Valley east of the Baalbek El Hermel highway to the Syrian border and to the east of the main road which runs south through Rayak, by-passing Masnaa, Rachaiya, Hasbaya and Marjayoun and El Khaim, to the border, except for the town of Baalbek and the road from Baalbek to Zahlé; all areas of the Akkar district north of the Aabdeh, Halba and Qoubaiyat highway excluding Halba and Qoubaiyat; all other eastern areas of the Akkar district within 8km of the Syrian border; the town of Akkar Al Aatiqa in Akkar district; areas of Liban-Nord district north of the southern city limits of Tripoli (Trablous) and east into the Bekaa Valley; southern suburbs of Beirut defined as: south of the sports stadium and the Adnan Al Hakim road which heads west from the stadium to the Beirut-Saida (Sidon) road down to the airport (including the neighborhoods of Bir Hassan, Ghobeiry, Chuya, Haret Hraik, Burj Al Brajne, Mraije, Er Rouais and Laylake, but excluding the main airport highway, the Beirut-Saida (Sidon) road and west of there to the coast, and the area between the airport highway and the coast south of Abbas El Mousawi Road, entailing the Golf Club of Lebanon).

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**Mauritania**  
**Risk Level:** High Risk + Extreme  

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

It is advised to avoid travel to: the province of Tiris Zemmour (except the town of Zouérat); the province of Adrar (east of Atar); the provinces of Tagant, Hodh el Chargui, Hodh El Gharbi, Assaba and Guidimaka; and within 25km of the Western Sahara border (except the Noukchott - Nouadhibou corridor).
Mexico
Risk Level: Moderate Risk + Extreme

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

It is advised to avoid all travel to: Colima state, Guerrero state, Michoacán state, Sinaloa state, and Tamaulipas state. It is further advised to limit all but essential travel to: Chihuahua state, Coahuila state, Durango state, Estado de Mexico state, Jalisco state, Morelos state, Nayarit state, Nuevo Leon state, San Luis Potosi state, Sonora state, and Zacatecas state.

Niger
Risk Level: High Risk + Extreme

Country Overview:
The security situation in Niger is highly dangerous, with large parts of the country being extremely unsafe. It is advised to reconsider travel to Niger due to crime and terrorism. There is a high level of risk to personal safety and security because of terrorist attacks, kidnapping threats, and violent crime, such as armed robbery. On June 4, 2018, three suicide bombers killed at least 9 people at a mosque in the southeastern city of Diffa.

It is advised not to travel at all to the following parts of Niger: all areas of the country north of the city of Abalak, including the Air Massif region; the province of Agadez (including the road linking Assamakato Agadez and the city of Agadez); areas of Tahoua province north of the city of Tahoua, including the city itself; the area of Tillabéri province north of Niamey, including the road from Niamey to Gao and the road from Niamey to Menaka; and areas within 40km of the border with Nigeria in Diffa, Zinder, and Maradi provinces. It is further advised to limit all but essential travel to the rest of Niger, including the capital city Niamey.
Nigeria
Risk Level: High Risk + Extreme

Country Overview:
The security situation in Nigeria is highly dangerous, and specific parts of the country are extremely unsafe. It is advised to reconsider travel to Nigeria due to crime, terrorism, and piracy. There is a high level of risk to personal safety and security because of the threat posed by extremist organizations, kidnappings, and violent crime, such as armed robbery, assault, carjacking, and rape. Protests in Nigeria are becoming increasingly frequent as presidential elections in February 2019 approach. There have been violent clashes between police and protestors. Protests are likely to continue in Abuja, Jos, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, and Zaria. Travelers should keep up to date with local developments, monitor local media, and avoid any political demonstrations or large gatherings.

It is advised to avoid travel to: Borno State; Yobe State; Adamawa State; Gombe State; riverine areas of Delta, Bayelsa, Rivers, Akwa Ibom and 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; Zamfara State; Kano State; Kaduna State; Jigawa State; Katsina State; Kogi State; within 20km of the border with Niger in Sokoto and Kebbi States; non-riverine areas of Delta, Bayelsa and Rivers States; and Abia State.

Pakistan
Risk Level: High Risk + Extreme

Country Overview:
The security situation in Pakistan is highly dangerous, and a significant part of the country is extremely unsafe. It is advised to reconsider travel to Pakistan due to terrorism. There is a high level of risk to personal safety and security because terrorist attacks remain frequent and political demonstrations often become violent. On August 14, 2018, Pakistan will celebrate Independence Day. Large public celebrations are expected on and around this date. Terrorists have attacked large gatherings in the recent past. Travelers should remain vigilant and avoid demonstrations, large crowds of people, and public events.

It is advised to avoid all travel to: the Federally Administered Tribal Areas; the districts of Charsadda, Kohat, Tank, Bannu, Lakki, Dera Ismail Khan, Swat, Buner and Lower Dir in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa; the city of Peshawar and districts south of the city, including travel on the Peshawar to Chitral road via the Lowari Pass; northern and western Balochistan; and on the Karakoram Highway between Islamabad and Gilgit. It is further advised to limit all but essential travel to: the Kalesh Valley, the Bamoboret Valley and Arandu District to the south and west of Chitral in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa; the city of Quetta; and the city of Nawabshah in Sindh Province, and areas of interior Sindh to the north of Nawabshah.
Philippines
Risk Level: Moderate Risk + Extreme

Country Overview:

The security situation in some parts of the Philippines is highly dangerous, with specific areas being extremely unsafe. It is advised to exercise increased caution throughout the country due to crime, terrorism, and civil unrest. There is a high level of risk to personal safety and security because of occasional kidnappings and bombings, as well as widespread and common criminal activity, such as con games, pick pocketing, internet scams, and credit/ATM card fraud. On July 31, 2018, a vehicle based IED exploded at a checkpoint in Lamitan City on the island of Basilan in western Mindanao causing a number of fatalities.

It is advised to avoid all travel to western and central Mindanao and the Sulu Archipelago (including the southern Sulu Sea) because of terrorist activity and clashes between the military and insurgent groups.

It is also advised to limit all but essential travel to the remainder of Mindanao (excluding Camiguin, Dinagat, and Siargao Islands) and to the south of Cebu province, up to and including the municipalities of Dalaguete and Badian, due to the threat of terrorism. In addition, travelers should note that the Philippines government has announced that Boracay Island, a popular destination, will be temporarily closed for tourists for up to six months beginning on April 26, 2018, due to environmental rehabilitation.
Country Risk Summaries Cont.

**Russia**  
Risk Level: **High Risk + Extreme**

**Country Overview:**

The security situation in some parts of Russia is highly dangerous, with specific areas being extremely unsafe. It is advised to reconsider travel to Russia due to terrorism and harassment by government officials. There is a high level of risk to personal safety and security because of terrorist groups continuing to plot attacks, the existence of civil unrest and occupying authorities in some areas, and the mistreatment and extortion of foreign nationals by law enforcement and other officials. The 2018 FIFA World Cup is taking place in Russia from June 14 to July 15, 2018. Travelers should expect increased police presence and enhanced security measures in and around the World Cup venues.

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

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**Saudi Arabia**  
Risk Level: **Moderate Risk + Extreme**

**Country Overview:**

The security situation in some parts of Saudi Arabia is highly dangerous, with specific areas being extremely unsafe. It is advised to exercise increased caution in Saudi Arabia due to terrorism and armed conflict. There is an overall moderate risk to personal safety and security because terrorist groups continue plotting possible attacks in the country, and rebel groups operating in Yemen have fired long-range missiles into Saudi Arabia, specifically targeting populated areas.

It is advised to avoid all travel to within 10km of the border with Yemen. It is further advised to limit all but essential travel between 10km and 80km of this border, including the cities of Jizan and Najran.
**Sudan**

Risk Level: **High Risk + Extreme**

**Country Overview:**

The security situation in Sudan is highly dangerous, with some parts of the country being extremely unsafe. It is advised to reconsider travel to Sudan due to terrorism and civil unrest. There is a high risk to personal safety and security because of the possibility of violent civil unrest, armed conflict, and criminal activity, which is particularly present in the country’s contested regions, although kidnappings, armed robberies, and carjacking occur everywhere throughout the country.

It is advised to avoid all travel to the following parts of Sudan: Darfur; the Red Sea State border with Eritrea; the Abyei region; Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states; areas of Northern Kordofan and White Nile states south of the Kosti-El Obeid-En Nahud road. In addition, it is advised to limit all but essential travel in the areas west of the towns of En-Nahud in North Kordofan up to the Darfur border.

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**Tunisia**

Risk Level: **Moderate Risk + Extreme**

**Country Overview:**

The security situation in some parts of Tunisia is highly dangerous, with specific areas being extremely unsafe. It is advised to exercise increased caution in Tunisia due to terrorism. There is an overall moderate risk to personal safety and security because terrorist groups that are active in the country pose a significant threat to travelers in the region.

It is advised to avoid all travel to: Mount Chaambi National Park area, including the town of Kasserine; within 30 kilometers of the border with Algeria; within 30 kilometers of the rest of the Libya border area north of Dhehiba, including the town of Ben Guerdane and the immediate surrounding area; and the militarized zone south of the towns of El Borma and Dhehiba.

It is also advised to limit all but essential travel to: areas south of, and including, the towns of Nefta, Douz, Medenine, and Zaris; and the Governorates of Kasserine, Le Kef, Jendouba, and Sidi Bouzid.
Turkey
Risk Level: High Risk + Extreme

Country Overview:

The security situation in some parts of Turkey is highly dangerous, with specific areas of the country considered as extremely unsafe. It is advised to reconsider travel to Turkey due to terrorism and arbitrary detentions. There is a high-level risk to personal safety and security because terrorist groups continue to plot possible attacks in Turkey, and government security officials have detained individuals on scant or secret grounds that appear to be mostly politically motivated.

It is advised to avoid all travel to within 10km of the border with Syria and to the city of Diyarbakir. It is further advised to limit all but essential travel to the remaining areas of Sirnak, Mardin, Sanliurfa, Gaziantep, Diyarbakir, Kilis, and Hatay provinces, as well as the provinces of Siirt, Tunceli, and Hakkari.

Ukraine
Risk Level: Moderate Risk + Extreme

Country Overview:

The security situation in eastern Ukraine is highly dangerous, with specific areas considered to be extremely unsafe. Overall, it is advised to exercise increased caution throughout Ukraine due to crime and civil unrest. There is an overall moderate risk to personal safety and security in eastern parts of Ukraine because of armed conflict with occupying authorities in non-government-controlled areas.

It is advised to avoid all travel to Donetsk oblast, Luhansk oblast, and Crimea.
Venezuela
Risk Level: High Risk + Extreme

Country Overview:

The security situation in most parts of Venezuela is highly dangerous, with some areas being extremely unsafe. It is advised to reconsider travel to Venezuela due to crime, civil unrest, poor health infrastructure, and arbitrary arrest and detention of foreign nationals. There is a high risk to personal safety and security in Venezuela, as political marches and demonstrations, which occasionally become violent, are frequent in all areas, and crime, such as homicide, armed robbery, kidnapping, drug trafficking, and carjacking, is common.

It is advised to avoid all travel to: within 80km (50 miles) of the Colombian border in the states of Zulia, Tachira, Barinas, Apure and Bolívar; within 80km (50 miles) of the Colombian border in Amazonas state as far south as 100km (62 miles) south of Puerto Ayacucho; and within 40km (25 miles) of the rest of the Colombian border. It is further advised to limit all but essential travel to the remaining areas of Venezuela due to ongoing crime and instability.