MEMORANDUM

TO: System Employees Considering International Travel

SUBJECT: System Risk Management

RE: Current Status of International Travel

In accordance with the Chancellor's directive dated, 03.10.2020 - System Risk Management will consider all International travel extreme risk and not approve. The current mandate is in effect from 03.16 through 05.01. The only exception to this would be any mission-critical COVID-19 related assistance or health-critical exceptions and these exceptions must be approved in advance by Executive Leadership.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Henry Judah,
Director, Office of Risk Management

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Afghanistan: On April 18, government officials indicated that the city-wide lockdown in Kabul will be extended through at least 9 May due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Bus service remains suspended and non-essential businesses and public venues are closed. Vehicles with more than four passengers were prohibited from entering and exiting the capital.

Algeria: On April 19, local officials indicated that a 15:00-07:00 local time (14:00-06:00 GMT) curfew will be extended from 19-29 April for Algiers, Oran, Bejaia, Sétif, Tizi Ouzou, Tipaza, Tlemcen, Ain Defla and Médéa provinces due to the COVID-19 outbreak; a 19:00-07:00 local time (18:00-06:00 GMT) curfew is in place for the rest of the country. Blida province, the epicentre of the country's outbreak, is under full lockdown.

Azerbaijan: On April 17, authorities announced, that the lockdown, initially due to end on 20 April, would be extended indefinitely. Azerbaijan currently has 1,340 active cases of the COVID-19 infection with 15 associated fatalities after 528 recovered from the virus.

Democratic Republic of Congo: On April 18, at least 23 people were killed, 50 others injured, and dozens of houses destroyed after heavy rain triggered flash floods in Uvira, South Kivu province. The worst affected areas are Kasenga, Kakombe and Mulongwe. Several roads including National Road No. 2 were damaged after the Mulongwe River flooded.

Hong Kong: On April 18, local media reported that at least 14 pro-democracy lawmakers and activists were arrested on charges of taking part in unsanctioned anti-government demonstrations in August and October 2019. Further related arrests are possible in the near-term.

India: On April 18, local media reported that at least three Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) officers were killed and three others wounded when unidentified militants attacked a checkpoint in Sopore, Baramulla district, Jammu and Kashmir. No group claimed immediate responsibility for the attack.

Iraq: Aviation authorities extended a ban on commercial flights until at least 24 April, the first day of Ramadan, amid the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak. Cargo and humanitarian flights will continue to operate.

Israel: On April 19, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced that some COVID-19 restrictions will be eased from 19 April, including the allowance of small gatherings for religious or educational purposes and the reopening and restaffing of some businesses. The frequency of public transport will also increase. Mask wearing in public remains compulsory and malls and markets closed; people with chronic illnesses and the elderly were told to continue to remain at home.

Japan: On April 18, a 6.6-magnitude earthquake struck approximately 205km (127 miles) west of Chichi-shima Island in the Ogasawara Islands archipelago, at a depth of 458km (284 miles) at around 17:25 local time (08:45 GMT). No tsunami warning was issued.

Japan: On April 18, a 5.7-magnitude earthquake struck approximately 213km (132 miles) west of Chichi-shima Island in the Ogasawara Islands archipelago, at a depth of 467km (290 miles) at around 18:24 local time (09:24 GMT). No tsunami warning was issued. This tremour
comes approximately one hour after a 6.6 magnitude quake in the vicinity. Anticipate a high probability of aftershocks over the next 24-48 hours. If caught in an earthquake take cover under and hold onto a sturdy piece of furniture.

- **Libya:** On April 18, initial reports indicated that Government of National Accord (GNA) fighters entered the town of Tarhuna, Murqub district, previously held by the Libya National Army (LNA), taking dozens of hostages during afternoon hours local time. Fighting was also reported around Garabulli (Castelverde) causing the closure of the coastal road. No fatalities or injuries were reported.

- **Mexico:** On April 18, an ashfall warning was issued in Angelópolis and in the Atlixco y Matamoros Valley, Puebla state, after Popocatépetl volcano, located on the Puebla-Mexico state border some 70km (43 miles) southeast of Mexico City, erupted at 00:59 local time (05:59 GMT). The alert level remained at Yellow Phase 2. Avoid travel within a 12-km (7.5-mile) radius of Popocatépetl volcano in the near-term. Avoid driving in heavy ashfall and wear a protective face mask while outdoors.

- **Myanmar:** On April 18, authorities announced that a 22:00-04:00 local time (15:30-21:30 GMT) curfew has been imposed across Yangon and Ayeyarwady regions as well as Nay Pyi Taw to limit the spread of COVID-19. Lockdowns have also been imposed in South Okkalapa, Pabedan, Bahan, Mayangone, Insein, Shwe Pyi Thar and Hlaing Tharyar, Yangon region, and in Pyinmana township, Nay Pyi Taw. Public gatherings of five or more people are also banned.

- **Nigeria:** On April 18, local reports indicated that at least one person was killed in a riot during evening hours on 17 April, triggered as the police arrested a civilian who was violating COVID-19 social distancing measures. Both the arrest and the riot occurred in the vicinity of Uratta Junction on Enugu-Port Harcourt Highway in Aba city, Abia state.

- **Panama:** On April 18, health officials announced that a total lockdown will be imposed on 18 April, with no movement of people or vehicles allowed, amid a nationwide state-sanctioned COVID-19 quarantine. Daily movement restrictions based on gender and hourly restrictions based on the last digit of an identification card or passport have been implemented. These will allow regular windows of time for people to buy groceries and medicines or to attend to medical emergencies.

- **Philippines:** On April 19, the grandson of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) leader, Radullan Sahiron, who was an explosives maker for the militant group, was killed when security forces conducted an operation to pursue two motorcycle-borne ASG members in barangay Bilaan, Talipao, Sulu province. The operation came after at least 11 soldiers were killed by ASG militants in Patikul, on 17 April. Defer non-essential travel to the Sulu Archipelago, including Basilan and Jolo islands.

- **Russia:** On April 18, the head of the Chechen Republic (Chechnya), Ramzan Kadyrov, declared a strict quarantine through 19 April as part of measures to limit the spread of COVID-19. Quarantine measures include a stay-at-home order for all residents, excluding doctors and emergency services. Chechnya’s borders remain closed and all non-essential businesses and services remain suspended until further notice.

- **Saudi Arabia:** On April 18, authorities implemented a 24-hour curfew in Al Dayer and Samtah governorates, Jizan region, from 15:00 local time (12:00 GMT) on 17 April until further notice, to prevent the spread of COVID-19. All travel to and from the governorates was banned, except for essential workers. Residents were allowed outside for essential supplies between 06:00-15:00 local time (03:00-12:00 GMT) and drivers were allowed to transport one passenger per vehicle.

- **Sudan:** On April 18, information Minister Faisal Saleh announced that Khartoum will be under a three-week lockdown in starting on 18 April, after 10 new cases of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) were recorded on 13 April.
Ukraine: Updated reports indicated a further 444 fresh cases of the COVID-19 infection were detected in the last 24 hours, bringing the nationwide total to 5,449 active cases, while fatalities associated with the virus climbed by eight, raising the country’s death toll to 141 after 347 patients recovered. Kyiv remains the hardest hit with at least 770 active infection cases.

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) China  
4) Hong Kong  
5) Iran  
6) Iraq  
7) Italy  
8) Japan  
9) Libya  
10) Mali  
11) North Korea  
12) Somalia  
13) South Korea  
14) South Sudan  
15) Sudan  
16) Syria  
17) Venezuela  
18) Yemen

### EXTREME RISK REGIONS

1) Algeria  
2) Azerbaijan  
3) Burkina Faso  
4) Burma (Myanmar)  
5) Burundi  
6) Cameroon  
7) Chad  
8) Colombia  
9) Congo (Republic of)  
10) Cuba  
11) Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)  
12) Ecuador  
13) Egypt  
14) Eritrea  
15) Ethiopia  
16) Georgia  
17) Haiti  
18) Honduras  
19) India  
20) Israel  
21) Kenya  
22) Lebanon  
23) Mauritania  
24) Mexico  
25) Niger  
26) Nigeria  
27) Pakistan  
28) Panama  
29) Philippines  
30) Russia  
31) Saudi Arabia  
32) Tunisia  
33) Turkey  
34) Ukraine
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. Travel is unsafe due to the unstable security situation involving armed conflict, terrorism, crime, and civil unrest. There is an extreme risk to personal safety and security because of widespread military operations, terrorism and insurgent attacks, and high levels of kidnappings, hostage-taking, suicide bombings, landmines, and vehicle-borne or other improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

On February 29, the United States and the Taliban signed a landmark peace agreement after nearly 20 years of war. On March 2, the United States started to withdraw American troops from Afghanistan soil. This troop drawdown, in alignment with the US-Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Joint Declaration, reduced the number of American forces from 12,000 to 8,600. With this announcement the Taliban declared new attacks on Afghan forces, dashing hopes for a prolonged cease fire.

Government officials indicated that Kabul will be placed on lockdown for at least 21 days from 28 March due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Bus service will be suspended, and non-essential businesses and public venues are closed. Vehicles with more than four passengers will be prohibited from entering and exiting the capital. Follow all official directives. Immediately consult a doctor if experiencing symptoms such as fever and difficulty breathing.

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

Fighting between the rival militias in towns, such as Birao in the Vakaga province, has intensified in recent weeks. Almost 13,000 residents of Birao have been forced to escape the violence and flee from their homes.

Avoid all but essential travel to central Bangui between the Airport and the Oubangui River. It is advised not to travel to the rest of Bangui and the Central African Republic. Have appropriate personal security measures in place, should travel to CAR be required.

The government imposed an entry ban on all foreigners arriving from countries with local COVID-19 transmission as of 28 March. Nationals, diplomats and humanitarian workers will be permitted entry but required to self-quarantine for 21 days. Officials also suspended non-essential services and banned gatherings of more than 15 people.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 12 - Deaths: 0 - Recovered: 4 - Active: 8
Country Overview:

Chinese authorities have put a lockdown on the city of Wuhan, and the Chinese border has been closed following the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus. The virus has currently infected 2,338,335 people globally with 161,030 fatalities. The respiratory illness has since spread to other parts of China, as well as to 185 other countries around the world, including the US. New global cases are being recorded daily. On January 29, 2020, the Department of State allowed for the voluntary departure of non-emergency personnel and family members of U.S. government employees from China.

The Chinese government built a hospital designed specifically for the treatment of COVID-19 patients requiring 1,400 army medics to service it.

The COVID-19 is thought to be a milder form of the SARS and MERS viruses which take longer to develop symptoms. The virus infects the lungs, and initial symptoms include fever and a cough. It can progress to shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the COVID-19 a global emergency. Travelers in the region are advised to partake in local precautionary procedures, such as temperature screenings and quarantine measures.

Some domestic flights will resume in Hubei province following the lifting of some COVID-19 travel restrictions; flights were suspended Enshi, Handan, Yichang, Jingzhou, Xiangyang, Shiyan and Shennongjia airports in January. Wuhan Airport will remain closed until 8 April.

Hong Kong
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:

Hong Kong poses high risk to personal safety. While protest action and police activity have not targeted travelers, travelers should still reconsider all travel to Hong Kong. The protests and confrontations have spilled over into neighborhoods where police have permitted marches and rallies. These demonstrations, which can take place with little or no notice, are likely to continue and are expected to turn violent. Police have used tear gas, live ammunition, rubber bullets and pepper spray, in areas which have also extended to popular tourist, residential and enclosed regions.

Recently, Hong Kong officials stated that they were bracing for what might be a bombing campaign as three IED’s were discovered. This included the homemade device that caused the explosion in the Caritas Medical Centre in Cheung Sha Wan.

In an effort to contain the coronavirus, the Hong Kong government has placed restrictions on entry to their special administration region to individuals who have been to Hubei Province, China. On January 30, Hong Kong temporarily closed certain transportation links and border checkpoints connecting Hong Kong with mainland China and restricted ferry services from Macau. During February, protests erupted again over government plans to set up designated coronavirus clinics near residential areas.

In the event of travel, it is advised that travellers avoid public gatherings and government buildings which are frequent targets for protesters. Do not join public demonstrations and actively avoid any location that may become a protest area. Seek a safe location to wait out protests if avoiding them is not possible. Clashes between police and activists are common, with police utilizing tear gas, rubber bullets and pepper spray to disperse crowds. Comply with all instructions given by local police officers. Make use of local media for information regarding police and protest action and plan activities accordingly. Strike action by public transportation workers, as part of wider protests, is a possibility which can result in various transport services being suspended. Protest action is focused around the legislative buildings in the Admiralty district as well as Victoria Park, the police headquarters in Wan Chai district and Causeway Bay.

Authorities announced a ban on gatherings of more than four people, effective from 29 March for two weeks, to prevent further spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). The ban will apply to both indoor and outdoor public gatherings. Public venues such as gyms and cinemas will also close from 18:00 (10:00 GMT) on 29 March, for two weeks. Adhere to official directives. Consult a doctor if experiencing fever/difficulty breathing.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 1,024 - Deaths: 4 - Recovered: 360 - Active: 660
**Iran**

**Risk Level:** Extreme

**Country Overview:**

The security situation in Iran is highly dangerous, with specific parts of the country being extremely unsafe. Travel to Iran is not advised due to the risk of arbitrary arrest and detention. Iran is also experiencing one of the highest incidences of COVID-19 outside of China, with over 20,000 confirmed cases. Risk of community transmission is high and extreme caution is advised.

Overall, there is a heightened level of risk to personal safety and security because of the potential for widespread protests and terrorism. Terrorists are very likely to attempt to carry out more attacks in Iran.

There is a very high risk of kidnapping, arrest, and detention of U.S. citizens in Iran, particularly dual national Iranian Americans. Iranian authorities continue to unjustly detain and imprison U.S. citizens including students, journalists, business travelers, and academics, on charges such as espionage and posing a threat to national security. On January 3, the US killed Iranian Major-General Qassem Soleimani, head of the elite Quds Force, in an air strike at Baghdad airport. Iran has vowed reprisals against western interests and allies in the region. Extreme caution is advised for all US citizens.

It is advised that all visitors to Iran avoid travel to border areas of Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq.

**COVID-19 Update:** Confirmed: 80,868 - Deaths: 5,031 - Recovered: 55,987 - Active: 19,850
Iraq
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:

The security situation in Iraq is extremely dangerous. It is advised to avoid travel to Iraq. Travel is unsafe due to terrorism, kidnapping, and armed conflict. There is also an extreme risk to personal safety and security because of active insurgent and terrorist groups, sectarian militias, and high levels of violence, including kidnappings, suicide bombings, and vehicle-born or other improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

On December 31, 2019, the Embassy suspended public consular services until further notice, as a result of damage done by Iranian-backed terrorist attacks on the Embassy compound. U.S. Consulate General Erbil remains open and continues to provide consular services. In mid-October 2018, the Department of State ordered the suspension of operations at the U.S. Consulate General in Basrah. That institution remains closed. Due to security concerns, U.S. Embassy personnel in Baghdad have been instructed not to use Baghdad International Airport. On February 16, a U.S.-led coalition military base in Baghdad was hit by several blasts early on Sunday from an apparent rocket attack. It is unknown if the attack caused any casualties or significant damage.

Avoid areas near the Turkish, Syrian and Iranian borders. There are continuous military operations against insurgent groups in the regions bordering Iraq, and armed conflict at the Syrian border.

Iraqi Kurdistan (KRG) officials extended a total curfew across the Kurdistan region until 1 April amid ongoing efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19. All travel between towns and cities in the region is also banned and residents were told to remain indoors to allow health workers to screen for cases. There are 303 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the region and two related deaths.

It is advised to avoid all travel to Iraq.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 1,513 - Deaths: 82 - Recovered: 953 - Active: 478
Italy
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:

Italy’s security situation remains relatively safe, but travelers are advised against all travel as the threat level of COVID-19 is extremely high.

Pervasive, sustained community spread was initially reported in the northern parts of Italy, including regions such as Aosta Valley, Piedmont, Liguria, Lombardy, Emilia-Romagna, Veneto, Friuli-Venezia Giulia and Trentino-Alto Adige. Currently, COVID-19 has spread to all areas of the country which has resulted in a complete lockdown. Other countries have placed restrictions on travel to and from Italy as well as introduced enhanced health screening measures for travelers returning from Italy.

Italy has a longstanding risk presented by terrorist groups, who continue plotting possible attacks in Italy. Terrorists may attack with little or no warning, targeting tourist locations, transportation hubs, markets, shopping malls, local government facilities, hotels, clubs, restaurants, places of worship, parks, major sporting and cultural events, educational institutions, airports, and other public areas.

Japan
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:

Japan’s security situation remains relatively safe, but increased caution needs to be exercised due to the outbreak of COVID-19 in the region.

To control the spread, Japanese authorities have put measures in place, such as quarantine and screening procedures at entry points to Japan.

The island of Hokkaido has lifted the state of emergency as of the 19th of March. The prefecture will allow the areas with a low incidence rate of COVID-19 to reopen schools and host sporting events. Visitors to Japan may have to undergo mandatory quarantine when they return to their respective countries.

Tokyo’s mayor, Yuriko Koike, announced a temporary shelter-in-place order from 28 to 29 March in Tokyo in an effort to slow the rate of COVID-19 infections in the city. Residents may only leave their homes for food, health reasons or work. Any outdoor activity must be conducted at a two-metre distance from any other person.

Comply with all official directives. Immediately consult a health professional if experiencing fever/difficulty breathing.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 10,797 - Deaths: 236 - Recovered: 1,159 - Active: 9,402
Libya
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:

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

The continued fighting and steady involvement of foreign forces in Tripoli has heightened the risk of civil aviation in Libyan airspace, to a critical level. This has led to periodic closures of the Mitiga International Airport, the only functioning commercial airport in the capital.

Since April 4, 2019, armed clashes have taken place in areas to the south and west of the capital, Tripoli, between forces aligned with the UN-recognized Government of National Accord (GNA) and troops under the Khalifa Haftar-led Libyan National Army (LNA). Four months later the conflict has only continued. According to the United Nations, more than 1,000 people, including combatants and civilians, have been killed in the fighting.

Country Risk Summaries Cont.

**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 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. Attacks in the Mopti region has killed more than 160 people. On 29 March, at least nine people were killed when a landmine blast struck a bus between N'Gorkou and Saraféré, Tombouctou region, en route to Mopti. No group claimed immediate responsibility for the blast. During the first few months of 2020, Mali’s Bamako and Segou City has had multiple demonstrations and alerts for the release of possible terror attacks.

It is advised to avoid all travel to Bamako; the Mopti region; parts of the Segou region; areas north of the latitude of Diema; and within 100km of the border with Burkina Faso. 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.

Travel is unsafe due to the serious risk of arrest and long-term detention. In addition, U.S. passports are not valid for travel to, in, or through North Korea without a specific validation from the U.S. Department of State.

It is advised to avoid all travel to North Korea.
Somalia
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:

The security situation in Somalia is extremely dangerous. Travel 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.

Al-Shabaab has lost control of a large portion of their southern and central Somalia territory due to the success of the Africa Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM)-led Operation Indian Ocean offensive. Coupled with the cross-border fighting that happens periodically means that Somalia has multiple violent risks that can endanger both travelers and residents alike. There is a current outbreak of polio in Somalia which has the potential to impact travelers. Medical facilities across Somalia have limited capacity and are often nonexistent in rural areas.

Authorities announced that all domestic flights will be suspended from 29 March to prevent the further spread of COVID-19. The suspension of international flights to and from Somalia will also continue until further notice. 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.


South Korea
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:

The security situation in South Korea is highly dangerous due to the level of community transmission of the COVID-19 coronavirus and the imposition of local quarantine procedures. The South Korean government has reported cases of the COVID-19 in the country and has upgraded its response level to “grave”, its highest response level.

If suspected to have COVID-19 in South Korea, you may face travel delays, quarantine, and expensive medical costs. The cities of Daegu and Cheongdo pose the highest risk of COVID-19 and travel to these regions are not advised.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 10,661 - Deaths: 234 - Recovered: 8,042 - Active: 2,385
South Sudan
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:
The security situation in South Sudan is extremely dangerous. Travel is unsafe due to crime and armed conflict. There is an extreme risk to personal safety and security because of armed clashes, border disputes, ethnic violence, and crime, including carjacking, shootings, ambushes, assaults, robberies, and kidnappings. Foreign nationals have been the victims of rape, sexual assault, armed robberies, and other violent crimes. Armed conflict is ongoing throughout the country and includes fighting between various political and ethnic groups, and weapons are readily available to the population.

It is advised to avoid all travel to South Sudan.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 4 - Deaths: 0 - Recovered: 0 - Active: 4

Sudan
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:
The security situation in Sudan is extremely dangerous. Travel is unsafe due to civil unrest, crime, terrorism, kidnapping, and armed conflict. The situation in Khartoum and across the country is volatile because of ongoing violent civil unrest. Armed conflict and criminal activity are particularly present in contested regions, although kidnappings, armed robberies, and carjacking occur in all parts of the country. On April 11, 2019, President Omar al-Bashir was removed from office by the Sudanese military. As a result, the U.S. Department of State ordered the departure of non-emergency U.S. government employees. Sudanese authorities have clashed with protesters, using tear gas and live ammunition.

Sudan is experiencing an outbreak of Cholera, with 346 cases to date. The risk of Chikungunya and Dengue fever in Kassala remains high. It is advised to avoid all travel to Sudan.

Syria
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:

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

The Syrian regime has used deadly force to quell anti-government protests and is engaged in a full-scale civil war with armed groups. The government is no longer in control of vast swathes of the country, particularly in northern, southern and eastern Syria and the Damascus suburbs. Some armed groups have utilized car bombs, improvised explosive device/indirect-fire attacks, sniper fire, and carried out kidnappings throughout the country.

On October 9, Turkish military forces mobilized against predominantly Kurdish troops along the Turkish/Syrian border. An exact casualty count is currently unavailable, though sources indicate Turkey is targeting the northern cities of Rasal-Ayn and Tal Abyad, striking approximately 181 targets on their first day alone. On October 17, Turkey agreed to a temporary ceasefire of 120 hours to allow Kurdish-led troops to withdraw. More than 235,000 people fled the area of northwest Syria between December 12 and 25, mostly from the beleaguered city of Maaret al-Numan.

It is advised to avoid all travel to Syria.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 38 - Deaths: 2 - Recovered: 5 - Active: 31
**Venezuela**  
Risk Level: **Extreme**

**Country Overview:**

The security situation in Venezuela is extremely dangerous. Travel is unsafe due to ongoing political instability, crime, poor health infrastructure, and the arbitrary arrest and detention of foreign nationals. 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. In addition, a number of Venezuela’s land and sea borders are subject to closure. U.S. citizens residing or traveling in Venezuela are advised to depart the country.

Since March 11, 2019, the US Department of State suspended all operations at the U.S. Embassy in Caracas and has withdrawn all diplomatic personnel from Venezuela. The US has additionally suspended all nonstop flights between Venezuela and the U.S. until further notice. Around 150,000 troops, plus tanks, missile launchers and aircraft are deployed on Colombian border amid renewed tensions between Bogota and Caracas.

It is advised to avoid all travel to Venezuela.


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**Yemen**  
Risk Level: **Extreme**

**Country Overview:**

The security situation in Yemen is extremely dangerous. Travel is unsafe due to armed conflict, terrorism, and civil unrest. There is an extreme risk to health and personal safety because of ongoing military conflict, heightened terrorist activity, kidnappings for ransom, and unlawful detentions by rebel groups. Employees of western organizations may be targeted for attack or kidnapping. Military conflict has caused significant destruction of infrastructure, housing, medical facilities, schools, and power and water utilities. This limits the availability of electricity, clean water, and medical care. It is advised to avoid all travel to Yemen.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 1 - Deaths: 0 - Recovered: 0 - Active: 1
Algeria

Risk Level: Moderate Risk

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 likely to carry out attacks, including kidnappings, and civil disturbances sometimes occur throughout the country. Since February 2019, mass protests have taken place across Algeria in demand of immediate political reform. On June 2, 2019, Algeria’s Constitutional Council announced the cancelation of presidential elections previously scheduled for July 4. Travelers to the country should avoid political gatherings and demonstrations and follow local advice.

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.

Authorities announced that an overnight curfew from 19:00 to 07:00 local time (18:00-06:00 GMT) will be implemented in the provinces of Batna, Tizi Ouzou, Sétif, Constantine, Médéa, Oran, Boumerdes, El Oued and Tipaza from 28 March, to limit the spread of COVID-19. There are at least 367 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Algeria and 25 related deaths.

Azerbaijan
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

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. 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. Casualties continue to occur in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Intermittent gunfire and occasional use of artillery systems, including land mines and mortars, result in deaths and injuries each year. Avoid roads near the ‘line of contact’ and roads near the international border between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The Baku Metro has reduced its hours to 07:00-09:00 and 17:00-20:00 local time (03:00-05:00 and 13:00-16:00 GMT) due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Government officials announced that non-essential travel between cities and districts remains suspended as well. Comply with all directives issued by authorities. Immediately consult a doctor if experiencing symptoms such as fever/difficulty breathing.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 1,373 - Deaths: 18 - Recovered: 590 - Active: 765
Burkina Faso
Risk Level: High Risk

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 December 31, 2018, Burkina Faso declared a state of emergency in several parts of the country, including the whole of the Est and Sahel regions, the western provinces of Kossi and Sourou, the central-eastern province of Koulpélogo, the western province of Kédougou, and the northern province of Lorum. Since then, dozens of people have died in ethnic clashes in areas under threat from Islamist militant attacks. 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.

At least 16 civilians were killed in an armed attack on a market in Moméné town, Zimtenga department, Bam province, Centre-Nord region, on 28 March, in which cattle was also stolen. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. For purposes of business-critical travel in the affected region, vary routines and travel in convoy with an armed security escort.

It is advised not to travel to the following parts of Burkina Faso: all areas of the country north of the town of Boulsa; within 80km of the western border with Mali; Sahel and Est Regions; and Koulpélogo Province in Centre-Est Region. It is also advised to limit all but essential travel to the rest of Burkina Faso, including the capital Ouagadougou. All travel to Karpala, Balkiu, and Rayongo (also known as Dayongo) neighborhoods of Ouagadougou’s Arrondissement 11 are restricted due to the potential for security operations.

Country Overview:

The security situation in some parts of Burma (Myanmar) is highly dangerous, with specific areas of the country being extremely unsafe. It is advised to exercise increased caution in Burma due to civil unrest and armed conflict. There is an overall moderate risk to personal safety and security because of fighting between the Burmese military and various ethnic armed groups and militia forces.

It is advised to avoid all travel to Rakhine State due to civil unrest and armed conflict. Travel to townships in Chin State, Kayin State, Kachin State and Shan State is not advised due to civil unrest and armed conflict. Travelers should avoid areas bordering China, Laos, Thailand, Bangladesh, and India.

The government will suspend all incoming international flights, and all previously granted landing permissions for all commercial flights, starting 23:59 local time (17:29 GMT) on 30 March until 14 April, to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Officials also suspended all visas for foreign nationals, except for diplomats and air and sea crews.

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).

Government officials announced that international flights to and from Bujumbura International Airport, Burundi’s only international airport, will be suspended for a further seven days from 23:59 local time (21:59 GMT) amid the COVID-19 outbreak. Confirm viability of entry to Burundi. Immediately consult a doctor if experiencing fever/difficulty breathing.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 5 - Deaths: 0 - Recovered: 0 - Active: 5
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. Armed separatists have announced extended general strikes in North West and South West regions in 2019. There have also been multiple clashes between security forces and armed groups over the past year in many places in North West and South West regions, including in the towns of Batut, Tubah, Ndu, Widikum, and in Lebialem division. Travelers should be vigilant, keep a low profile, and monitor local media.

The Southern Cameroons Defence Forces (SOCADEF) announced a two-week ceasefire effective from 29 March amid the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. The Ambazonia Defence Forces (ADF) militia was not immediately expected to also join the ceasefire in the Anglophone Southwest and Northwest regions. Limit outdoor exposure and exercise caution in the Anglophone Southwest and Northwest regions. Tensions remain high and further unrest is likely.

It is advised to avoid travel to: Far North Region; within 40km of the border with Nigeria, except Garoua in North Region; within 40km of the border with Chad; within 40km of the border with the Central African Republic (CAR); the Bakassi Peninsula; North West Region; and South West Region (including the towns of Buea, Muyuka, and Tiko in Fako Division), except Limbe in Fako Division. It is further advised to limit all but essential travel to: Limbe in Fako Division of South West Region and the rest of North and Adamawa Regions, including Garoua in North Region.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 1,017 - Deaths: 42 - Recovered: 305 - Active: 670
Chad
Risk Level: High Risk

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 is in effect for the eastern regions of Sila and Ouaddai as well as 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

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. 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. On April 26, 2019, Colombia’s Trasandino oil pipeline was bombed in western Narino province, marking the seventh attack against it this year. Travelers should be vigilant and pay close attention to warnings issued by the Colombian authorities.

It is advised to avoid all travel to areas within 20km of the Venezuela and Ecuador border, except the Pan American Highway crossing at Ipiales. It is also advised to limit all but essential travel to: the departments of Antioquia (except Medellín); Arauca; Caquetá; Cauca (except Popayán); Chocó (except its capital Quibdó and the whale-watching towns of Nuquí, Bania, Solano, and Capurganá); Guainía; Guaviare; Meta (except Villavicencio and the tourist site of Caño Cristales); Nariño (except Pasto and the border crossing of Ipiales); Norte de Santander; Putumayo; Valle de Cauca (except Cali); and Vichada.

Copa Airlines and Wingo announced that 80 percent of their flight operations will be cancelled from 1 to 30 April, due to international travel restrictions related to the COVID-19 outbreak. Anticipate major disruptions to affected flight schedules in the near-term. Consult airline representatives for rebooking/refund options.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 3,621 - Deaths: 166 - Recovered: 691 - Active: 2,764
Congo (Republic of)
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

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 Mouyondzi 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

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 due to health attacks targeting numerous U.S. Embassy employees. The personal safety and security of other travelers to Cuba also may 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. If you experience any unusual acute auditory or sensory phenomena, immediately move to another area.

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)
Risk Level: High Risk

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. At least 14 people, including policemen and soldiers, were reportedly killed and several others were injured by Cooperative for the Development of Congo (CODECO) rebels during an attack in Mambisa, Djugu territory, Ituri province, on 27 March. The attack comes after FARDC forces killed CODECO leader, Justin Ngudjolo, on 25 March. Avoid overland travel in rural areas in eastern Congo. Contract a private security escort with local experience for business-critical travel.

The Ministry of Health of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) declared an outbreak of Ebola virus disease in North Kivu (Nord-Kivu) province, originating in Béni territory. On July 17, 2019, the World Health Organization declared the outbreak to be a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). WHO officials reported that the Ebola death toll had reached more than 2,000. To control the spread of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) authorities have established health check points throughout the Nord-Kivu, Ituri, and Sud-Kivu Provinces, including in the cities of Goma, Beni, and Butembo and in Virunga National Park. New checkpoints may be created with little notice. Medical workers combating the spread of Ebola have come under attack in the DRC. Perpetrators are sometimes members of terrorist groups, but the motives for these attacks are often unknown. The country is also experiencing an outbreak of measles. There have been over 180,000 suspected cases with nearly 3,600 deaths, mostly children under five.

It is advised to avoid all travel to the provinces of: Kasai, Kasai Central, Kasai Oriental, Sud-Kivu, Nord-Kivu, Ituri, Maniema, Tanganyika, Bas-Uélé, and Haut-Uélé as there have been sporadic but severe outbreaks of violence targeting civilians, including killing, rape, kidnapping, and pillaging. It is further advised to limit all but essential travel to the rest of the country.

Ecuador
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:

The security situation in some parts of Ecuador is highly dangerous, with specific areas being extremely unsafe. Travelers are advised to exercise increased caution 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. Serious, sometimes violent, demonstrations and road blockades occurred throughout Ecuador in October 2019, disrupting inter-city, inter-provincial, and international travel. Demonstrations and blockades could occur again in any location with little to no warning.

Serious, and sometimes violent, demonstrations and road blockades occurred throughout Ecuador in October 2019, disrupting inter-city, inter-provincial, and international travel. Demonstrations and blockades could occur again in any location with little to no warning. On October 14, the president scrapped the reforms that were driving the unrest in the country, putting an end to the fuel price increases and leading to a quieting down of the violent protests that have rocked the country.

Crime, including violent crime, is a concern throughout Ecuador. Limited police and judicial resources contribute to Ecuador’s overall high crime rate. Pickpocketing, purse snatching, robbery, and theft of travel documents are the crimes most commonly committed against U.S. citizens. It is advised to avoid all travel within 20km of the border with Colombia, except for the official border crossing town of Tulcan in Carchi province. It is further recommended to limit all but essential travel to Sucumbios and Esmeraldas provinces.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 9,022 - Deaths: 456 - Recovered: 1,008 - Active: 7,558
Country Risk Summaries Cont.

Egypt
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:

The security situation in some parts of Egypt is highly dangerous, with specific areas of the country being extremely unsafe. Travelers to Egypt should exercise increased caution due to terrorism. There is an overall moderate risk to personal safety and security due to a number of extremist organizations operating in Egypt. On August 4, 2019, at least 20 people were killed by a car bomb in central Cairo’s Manial district.

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.

State media indicated that officials extended the required 14-day self-quarantine period for all arriving travellers to 28 days, as of 27 March, to prevent the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Anticipate longer waiting times at entry points nationwide. Follow all official directives. Immediately consult a doctor if experiencing symptoms such as fever and difficulty breathing.

Eritrea
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

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. There are landmines in many remote areas in Eritrea, particularly in Nakfa, AdiKeih, Arezza, the 40 km-wide region between the Setit and Mereb Rivers, and in areas north and west of Keren, areas near Massawa, Ghinda, Agordat, Barentu, Dekemhare, and south of Tessenae.

It is advised to avoid all travel to within 25km of Eritrea’s land borders, with the exceptions of the towns of Senafe and Tessenei, and the border crossings at Debay Sima – Burre, Serha – Zalambessa, and Kesadika (Adi Kuala) – Rama, plus the main paved roads leading to those crossings. (As of May 31, 2019, all border crossings between Eritrea and Ethiopia are closed.) All foreign nationals, including diplomats, must apply in advance for a travel permit to leave Asmara.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 39 - Deaths: 0 - Recovered: 3 - Active: 36
Ethiopia
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

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. The Somali Regional State, as well as other border areas, presents a significant threat of terrorism. In addition, there has been ethnic violence in various parts of Addis Ababa. According to Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, there were attacks targeted against government officials in Addis Ababa and Bahir Dar on June 22, 2019, as part of an attempted coup. Travelers in Ethiopia should exercise particular caution around Addis Ababa, keep a low profile, and follow the advice of local authorities.

It is advised to avoid all travel to Ethiopia’s Somali region, as well as the border areas with Sudan, Eritrea, Kenya, and South Sudan, including the Gambela region. It is further advised to limit all but essential travel to the Danakil Desert in Afar region, and the Guji and Borena zones of the Oromia region. In the wake of recent outbreaks of violence and property destruction, it is advised to avoid travel to the Amhara region. Avoid travel to the East Hararge region and the Guji zone of Oromia State as well as the Benishangul Gumuz and the western part of Oromia State due to armed conflict and civil unrest.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 105 - Deaths: 3 - Recovered: 16 - Active: 86
Georgia
Risk Level: Low Risk

Country Overview:
The security situation in some areas of Georgia is highly dangerous, with specific parts of the country being extremely unsafe. Though it is advised to exercise normal safety precautions in Georgia, avoid travel to 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 of Russian troops and border guards occupy both regions. A number of attacks, criminal incidents, and kidnapings have occurred.

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.

Local authorities indicated that all public transport was suspended and moving around cities and towns for non-emergency reasons was banned in the region of Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti, due to COVID-19. Checkpoints will be set up at borders between municipalities to control vehicular traffic and military, police and health personnel will reinforce directives; vehicles with more than three people - one driver and two passengers - will be stopped.

**Haiti**

**Risk Level:** High Risk

**Country Overview:**

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

Most protests involve tire burning and road blockages on major highways. Clashes, sometimes involving the use of firearms, result in casualties. Avoid demonstrations and any large gathering of people. Do not attempt to drive through roadblocks and if you do encounter a roadblock, turn around and get to a safe area. The most recent mass protests in Port-au-Prince and other parts of Haiti began on February 7, 2019. On February 14, 2019, the U.S. State Department ordered the departure of all non-emergency U.S. personnel and their family members, and strongly advised that U.S. citizens residing or traveling in the country consider departing as soon as possible.

On September 24, 2019, Port-au-Prince’s Toussaint Louverture International Airport was on lock down until 06:00 AM the following morning due to fire. Some of the building’s infrastructure was damaged according to officials. To this day, Haiti has been plagued with demonstrations that turn violent. Roadblocks form quickly and create large traffic congestion within Port-au-Prince.

It is advised to reconsider all travel to Haiti and particularly avoid the Bel Air, Carrefour, Cité Soleil, and Martissant neighborhoods in Port-au-Prince.

**COVID-19 Update:** Confirmed: 44 - Deaths: 3 - Recovered: 0 - Active: 41
Honduras
Risk Level: High Risk

Country Overview:

The security situation in Honduras is highly dangerous, with a specific part of the country being extremely unsafe. It is advised to reconsider travel to Honduras due to crime. There is a heightened risk to personal safety and security because violent crime, such as homicide and armed robbery, is common. Protests have regularly occurred across Honduras since June 2019. Travelers should avoid all demonstrations and follow the advice of local authorities. In addition, there has been a sharp increase in cases of dengue fever in Honduras, particularly in the departments of Cortés, Yoro, Olancho, and Santa Bárbara. As a result, the Honduran government has declared a state of emergency. Travelers are advised to monitor local media for updates.

Gracias a Dios is an isolated area with high levels of criminal activity and drug trafficking. Infrastructure is weak, government services are limited, and police and military presence is scarce. It is advised to avoid all travel to Gracias a Dios Department, and to limit all but essential travel to the rest of the country.

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. Following a terrorist attack in the Kashmir region on February 14, 2019, resulted in heightened tensions between India and Pakistan. On August 5, 2019, India’s government announced constitutional changes that will affect the internal political status of Jammu and Kashmir. An increased security presence is now in place. The Indian government further advised tourists and Amarnath Yatra pilgrims to leave Kashmir immediately due to security threats, though this was scheduled to be lifted as of October 10.

It is advised to avoid all travel to the state of Jammu and Kashmir (except Ladakh region) and the India-Pakistan border (except Atari crossing). It is also advised to limit all but essential travel to the Northeastern states (Assam, except Guwahati, Nagaland, and Manipur), Chhattisgarh, and the border areas of neighboring states.

Aviation authorities extended the suspension of domestic flights, including private services, until 14 April, amid an ongoing nationwide lockdown due to the COVID-19 outbreak; flights were previously suspended until 31 March. Consult airline representatives for rebooking/refund options.

Israel
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:

The security situation in Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza is fluid, and certain areas are extremely unsafe. Travelers to Israel or the Palestinian Territories are advised to exercise increased caution 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.

Travelers to Israel should remain vigilant following the latest cross-border hostilities between Israel and Palestinians in Gaza, amid reports of a renewed Egyptian-brokered ceasefire in May of 2019. Overall violence involved militants in Gaza firing more than 600 rockets into southern Israel, with hundreds of Israeli airstrikes launched in response. Furthermore, there have been mass protests on the Gazan side of the Gaza/Israel perimeter fence since March 30, 2018. Additional Palestinian rocket launches from Gaza targeting Israel are likely to occur, as well as retaliatory Israeli airstrikes on Gaza. Missiles have also been fired towards the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights on several occasions, and Israel has responded with attacks in Syria and Lebanon. On September 11, 2019, the Israeli military targeted 15 sites in Gaza Strip after two rockets were fired at southern Israel the night before. Travelers should follow the instructions of local authorities and keep up to date with local media.

It is advised to limit all but essential travel to the West Bank and within 5km of Gaza, and to avoid all travel to Gaza and the following areas of the Golan Heights: East of Route 98, Shebaa Farms, Ghajjar, and within 500m of the border with Lebanon east of Metula, including the northern edge of town.

Country Overview:

The security situation in some areas of Kenya is highly dangerous, with specific parts of the country being extremely unsafe. It is advised to exercise increased caution in Kenya due to terrorism and crime. There is an overall moderate risk to personal safety and security because of terrorist attacks and violent crime, such as armed carjacking, mugging, home invasion, and kidnapping. From January 15, 2019, the Islamic militant group Al-Shabaab attacked the DusitD2 complex in Nairobi, killing more than 20 people and injuring dozens of others. U.S. State Department has warned that credible information indicates that westerners may be targeted by extremists in Nairobi, coastal areas of Kenya, and the towns of Naivasha and Nanyuki. On October 1, 2019, Kenyan police killed 3 suspected militants in Majengo Mapya, believed to be planning attacks ahead of the country’s national day celebrations.

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

It is advised to limit all but essential travel to the Turkana County due to crime and coastal areas from Lamu county to Mombasa and its outskirts, and to the A2 highway from Isiolo to Moyale. It is also advised to avoid all travel to border regions with Somalia, South Sudan, and Ethiopia.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 262 - Deaths: 12 - Recovered: 60 - Active: 190
Lebanon
Risk Level: High Risk

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 the towns of Arsal, Ras Baalbek, Qaa, Laboué, and Nahlié; and within 5km of the border with Syria and Israel due to potential for armed conflict.

It is advised to limit all but essential travel to the 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. This includes the neighborhoods of Bir assan, Ghobeiry, Chuya, Haret Hraik, Burj Al Brajne, Mraije, Er Rouais, and Laylake, but excludes 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, including the Golf Club of Lebanon.

It is further advised to limit all but essential travel to: all other areas of Akkar district between 5km from the Syrian border and the Aabdeh, Halba, and Qoubayyat highway, including the towns of Halba and Qoubayyat; the city of Tripoli; the town of Brital, and the area around it up to 5km from the Syrian border, and south of Nahlié town, but excluding Baalbek town; the towns of Rachaiya, Hasbaya, and Khiam, and the area between these towns up to 5km from the Syrian border; within 500m of the Ain el Hilweh Palestinian refugee camp in Saida (Sidon); and south of the Litani River except the main Naqoura-Tyre-Saida (Sidon)-Beirut highway and all areas to the west of it.

Mauritania
Risk Level: High Risk

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

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

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. The threat of terrorist attacks remains high with attacks targeting government facilities, local and foreign.

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; areas within 40km of the border with Nigeria in Diffa, Zinder, and Maradi provinces; and the Parc du W, plus the contiguous Dosso and Tamou hunting zones. It is further advised to limit all but essential travel to the rest of Niger, including the capital city Niamey.

President Mahamadou Issoufou declared a nationwide state of emergency on 27 March to combat the spread of COVID-19 and implemented an overnight curfew from 19:00 to 6:00 local time (18:00-05:00 GMT) in Niamey, the only city where cases have been confirmed, for at least two weeks. Isolation measures will also be implemented in the capital from 29 March; however, specific details were not available.

Nigeria
Risk Level: High Risk

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. Political protests in Abuja and other Nigerian cities have become frequent and are of particular concern. Travelers should exercise caution, monitor local media, and avoid crowds or demonstrations.

Terrorist groups based in the Northeast target churches, schools, mosques, government installations, educational institutions, and entertainment venues. Approximately two million Nigerians have been displaced as a result of the violence in Northeast Nigeria. On 28 March, Local media reported that dozens of buildings and part of the Akure-Owo Highway were destroyed after a bomb, which was being transported by a lorry, exploded near Eleyowo, Ondo state, at around 01:00 local time (00:00 GMT). The area was cordoned off and emergency operations remained ongoing. There were no immediate reports of casualties. Anticipate heightened security and disruptions to traffic along the Akure-Owo Highway in the near-term. Plot route bypasses.

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.

On 28 March, Lagos Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu announced that all non-essential businesses are closed and public gatherings of over 25 people are banned due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Pharmacies and food stores will remain open.

Follow all official directives. Immediately consult a doctor if experiencing symptoms such as fever/difficulty breathing.

Pakistan
Risk Level: High Risk

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. Travelers should continue to exercise caution, monitor news reports, and follow the advice of local authorities. In May 11, 2019, armed militants attacked the Pearl Continental Hotel in Gwadar in southern Balochistan, killing five people including a soldier. Adding to the current tension in Pakistan-administered Kashmir areas in Punjab province.

Pakistan is experiencing a Dengue Fever outbreak, with over 20,000 recorded cases and 34 deaths.

It is advised to avoid all travel to Balochistan; the Federally Administered Tribal Areas; Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (excluding Chitral district); and border areas with Afghanistan and India (excluding Lahore, Wagah, Kasur, Narowal and Sialkot). It recommended limiting all but essential travel to the rest of Pakistan.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 7,993 - Deaths: 159 - Recovered: 1,868 - Active: 5,966
Panama
Risk Level: Low Risk

Country Overview:

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

It is advised to avoid all travel to parts of the Darién Region, Mosquito Gulf and particularly all areas south of Yaviza.

Copa Airlines announced that 80 percent of their flight operations will be cancelled from 1 to 30 April, due to international travel restrictions related to the COVID-19 outbreak. Anticipate major disruptions to affected flight schedules in the near-term. Consult airline representatives for rebooking/refund options.

Philippines
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

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. Travelers should keep up to date with local information and avoid any demonstrations.

The Philippines has seen a resurgence in the Polio virus nationwide. Travelers should consult their doctor prior to travel. There has also been an outbreak of Dengue fever which has now exceeded the epidemic threshold.

On January 12, the Taal volcano, about 37 miles (60 kilometers) south of the capital Manila on the island of Luzon, began erupting, sending ash up to nine miles (14 kilometers) into the air and prompting large-scale evacuations.

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 Dalaquete and Badian, due to the threat of terrorism.

A lockdown was implemented in Cebu City, Cebu province, from 12:00 local time (04:00 GMT) on 27 March; borders were closed, the entry of non-residents was limited, and restrictions to movement between barangays was enforced to reduce COVID-19 infections. A province-wide lockdown was scheduled from 30 March ending on 28 April. Essential services including banks, supermarkets, pharmacies, petrol stations and food delivery services remain open.

Country Risk Summaries Cont.

Russia
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:

The security situation in some parts of Russia is highly dangerous, with specific areas being extremely unsafe. It is advised to exercise increased caution in Russia due to terrorism, harassment, and the arbitrary enforcement of local laws. There is an overall moderate risk to personal safety and security throughout the rest of the country due to terrorist groups continuing to plot attacks. 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 further adds to the risk of safety.

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.

Do not travel to Crimea as the international community, including the United States and Ukraine, does not recognize Russia’s purported annexation of Crimea. There are continuing abuses against foreigners and the local population by the occupation authorities in Crimea, particularly against those who are seen as challenging their influence on the peninsula.

Saudi Arabia
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

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 launched missiles, drones, and IEDs into Saudi Arabia, specifically targeting populated areas.

It is advised to avoid all travel within 50 miles of the Saudi-Yemen border, this includes the cities of Jizan and Najran, and Qatif in the Eastern province and its suburbs, including Awamiyah. Abha International Airport also falls in this avoid advisory.

Government officials announced that international flights will remain suspended from 29 March until further notice due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Domestic flights and internal travel also remain suspended. Officials also told employees in all non-essential sectors to continue to work from home. Comply with all directives issued by authorities. Immediately consult a doctor if experiencing symptoms such as fever/difficulty breathing.

Tunisia
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

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. Terrorist groups active in the country pose a significant threat to travelers in the region. On June 27, 2019, two suicide attacks targeting security personnel in central Tunis killed at least one police officer and wounded several people. A state of emergency has been in effect in Tunisia since 2015. Tunisia’s parliamentary elections are scheduled to take place on October 6. Caution is advised in the lead up to the election day.

It is advised to avoid all travel to the Mount Chaambi National Park area, including the town of Kasserine, areas along the Libyan border including the 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 Le Kef, Jendouba, and Sidi Bou Zid.

Turkey
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:

The security situation in some parts of Turkey is highly dangerous, with specific areas of the country considered extremely unsafe. It is advised to reconsider travel to Turkey due to terrorism and arbitrary detentions. There is a high-level of 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 provinces of: Batman, Bingol, Bitlis, Diyarbakir, Gaziantep, Hakkari, Hatay, Kilis, Mardin, Sanliurfa, Sirnak, Tunceli, and Van.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced on 27 March that all international flights were suspended until further notice due to the COVID-19 outbreak, and non-essential intercity travel is restricted. Parks, forests, historical sites and beaches will only open on weekdays with restricted numbers. At least 47,029 cases and 1,006 fatalities have been reported nationwide. Confirm the viability of entering or travelling within Turkey. Consult a doctor if experiencing symptoms such as fever and difficulty breathing.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 82,329 - Deaths: 1,890 - Recovered: 10,453 - Active: 69,986
Ukraine
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:
The security situation in eastern Ukraine is highly dangerous, with some 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 extreme risk to personal safety and security in specific parts of eastern 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 due to arbitrary detentions and other abuses by Russian authorities.

Interior Minister Arsen Avakov indicated that commercial flights in the country will be suspended from 00:00 local time on 28 March (22:00 GMT, 27 March), due to the novel COVID-19 virus (COVID-19) outbreak. The measure also applies to repatriation and charter flights. Anticipate major disruptions to travel until further notice. Comply with all directives issued by authorities.