

Travel Advisory – Middle East (11 March 2026)

Date: 11 March 2026

Areas of Concern: Middle East

Overall Risk Level: HIGH

Key Developments (last 24 – 48 hours)

- Significant aviation disruption reported in Saudi Arabia. Flights from Saudi airports to several regional destinations have been suspended due to heightened security risks linked to the ongoing regional conflict. Services to Abu Dhabi, Amman, Bahrain, Doha and Kuwait have been suspended until 23:59 on Thursday 12 March. The suspension has contributed to widespread disruption across Saudi airports including Jeddah, Riyadh, Medina and Dammam, with hundreds of passengers stranded following approximately 128 cancellations and more than 400 delays.
- Regional airspace instability continues to affect aviation across the Gulf. Airlines operating in the Middle East are adjusting routes and reducing services due to security concerns and restricted airspace, contributing to delays and operational disruption across multiple regional hubs.
- The United States continues military operations and regional force posture adjustments. U.S. forces remain active in the region as strikes against Iranian military targets continue, while Washington has reiterated warnings that any disruption to oil shipments through the Strait of Hormuz would prompt further escalation.
- Gulf states maintain elevated air defence readiness. Several countries across the Gulf region remain on heightened alert following earlier missile and drone launches linked to Iranian forces, with defence systems continuing to monitor potential aerial threats.
- Maritime security concerns persist around the Strait of Hormuz. Shipping operators and regional authorities continue to monitor the strategic waterway closely amid ongoing tensions and warnings regarding possible disruption to global energy shipments.
- Iranian leadership transition continues to influence the strategic environment. Mojtaba Khamenei has consolidated his position as Supreme Leader following the death of Ali Khamenei earlier in the conflict, with Iranian officials signalling continuity in policy and military posture.

Movement Status

Airspace Restriction

Airspace across parts of the Middle East remains subject to restrictions and potential short-notice closure due to ongoing military activity. Several international airlines continue to suspend or limit flights to destinations across the Gulf and Israel.

Regional aviation hubs remain operational under contingency procedures.

Oman

- Muscat International Airport (MCT) – Operational and continuing to handle increased traffic linked to evacuation and repatriation flights.
- Salalah Airport (SLL) – Operational though regional disruption may affect connections.
- Sohar International Airport (OHS) – Operational though regional disruption may affect connections.

United Arab Emirates

- Dubai International Airport (DXB) – Operational though schedules remain limited and subject to change due to regional aviation disruption.
- Al Maktoum International Airport (DWC) – Supporting cargo and limited passenger operations.
- Zayed International Airport (AUH) – Operating with reduced services.
- Other UAE airports – Operational though disruption may affect services.

Israel

- Ben Gurion Airport (TLV) – Limited flight operations continue, including authorised and repatriation flights.

Saudi Arabia

- Major airports remain operational though significant disruption to flight schedules has been reported. Flights to Abu Dhabi, Amman, Bahrain, Doha and Kuwait have been suspended until 23:59 on Thursday 12 March due to regional security risks. The suspension has contributed to cancellations and delays affecting airports including Jeddah, Riyadh, Medina and Dammam.

Kuwait

- Kuwait International Airport (KWI) – Flights remain subject to disruption due to the wider regional aviation situation and suspended services from Saudi Arabia.

Airports with Significant Disruption

- Hamad International Airport (Qatar) – Flight operations remain affected by the wider regional security situation.
- Bahrain International Airport – Aviation operations may be affected by ongoing regional tensions.
- Airports in Iran, including Imam Khomeini International Airport and Mehrabad International Airport – Civil aviation operations remain heavily restricted due to the conflict.
- Major Saudi airports, including King Abdulaziz International Airport (Jeddah), King Khalid International Airport (Riyadh), Prince Mohammad bin Abdulaziz International Airport (Medina), and King Fahd International Airport (Dammam), are experiencing significant disruption following the suspension of flights to several regional destinations due to heightened security risks.

Local Transport Conditions

Most major cities remain operational, though travellers may encounter:

- Increased police and military checkpoints
- Temporary road closures near government or military facilities
- Additional security screening near airports and strategic infrastructure

Consular Contacts – Five Eye Countries

Travellers are advised to register with their embassy

Australia – The Australian Consular Emergency Centre (CEC) provides 24/7 emergency assistance to Australians overseas (+61 2 6261 3305)

Canada – The Global Affairs Canada Emergency Watch and Response Centre provides 24/7 emergency consular assistance to Canadians abroad (+1 613 996 8885), WhatsApp/Signal (+1 613 909 8881/8087), email sos@international.gc.ca

New Zealand – Consular Emergency Line (+64 99 20 20 20)

United Kingdom - Provides 24/7 global support to British citizens abroad (+44 20 7008 5000)

United States – Provides 24/7 consular assistance to Americans abroad (+1 202 501 4444)

Government Repatriation/Evacuation Flights

Governments are in the process of organizing evacuation assistance for their nationals across the Middle East however due to ongoing disruptions to flight and airport operations in the region, some flights have been delayed.

Guidance for Travellers Currently in Middle East

Best advice is to:

- Shelter in place
- Register with your embassy or consulate as soon as possible
- Follow official instructions of local authorities and your embassy
- Report any security or safety concerns through appropriate official channels
- Rely on trusted news sources for accurate and timely updates
- Conduct regular communication checks with your group and key contacts
- Keep all communication devices fully charged, including spare batteries and power banks
- Stay away from windows and keep curtains or drapes closed as a precaution

In the event of a missile or drone alert:

- Immediately
 - Go indoors
 - Move away from windows
 - Use reinforced structures or basements
- Recommended shelter locations
 - Underground parking
 - Basement levels
 - Interior stairwells
 - Designated shelters
- Remain sheltered – Stay inside 10 – 15 minutes after final explosion or alert

In the event of immediate evacuation

- Ensure that you are able to move at short notice with minimal baggage
- Keep important documents and essential medications accessible
- Follow official instructions with authorities promptly

Accountability & Documentation

Prepare and maintain a nominal roll of all individuals in your party, including

- Full name (as per passport)
- Passport details
- Date of birth (DOB)
- Medical conditions and required medications
- Any special considerations

Also record next-of-kin details to ensure timely updates can be provided if required

Remain flexible and prepared to adapt to conditions as they evolve.