

## Travel Advisory – Middle East (12 March 2026)

**Date:** 12 March 2026

**Areas of Concern:** Middle East

**Overall Risk Level:** HIGH

### Key Developments (last 24 – 48 hours)

- Drone strike reported at Kuwait International Airport. A drone reportedly struck infrastructure at Kuwait International Airport earlier today, damaging part of the airport complex and triggering emergency response procedures. Airport authorities-initiated security procedures and flights may experience disruption while assessments continue. No official casualties reported at current.
- Drone strike reported on residential building in Kuwait City. A drone reportedly struck an apartment block in Kuwait City earlier today, causing structural damage and triggering emergency response operations. Ground sources report two casualties from the incident, though official figures have not yet been confirmed. The strike represents an escalation in attacks affecting civilian areas in Kuwait.
- Iran signals continued closure of the Strait of Hormuz. Iran’s new Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei stated that Iran will continue using the closure of the Strait of Hormuz as leverage in the ongoing conflict. In remarks following his assumption of leadership, he warned that regional shipping routes may remain restricted and that U.S. military bases in the region could face attack if operations against Iran continue. The statement signals continued escalation risks for maritime traffic and global energy markets.
- Aviation disruption continues across Saudi Arabia. Flights from Saudi airports to several regional destinations remain suspended due to heightened security risks linked to the regional conflict. Services to Abu Dhabi, Amman, Bahrain, Doha and Kuwait remain suspended until later today (12 March), contributing to disruption across airports including Jeddah, Riyadh, Medina and Dammam.
- Regional airspace instability continues to affect aviation. 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 several regional aviation hubs.
- U.S. leadership signals possible end phase of operations. U.S. President Donald Trump stated that there is “practically nothing left to target” in Iran following extensive U.S. strikes on Iranian military infrastructure, suggesting the campaign may be nearing completion. Despite this messaging, U.S. forces remain active across the region and Washington has reiterated warnings that any attempt by Iran to disrupt oil shipments through the Strait of Hormuz would prompt further escalation.
- Ground sources report normal pattern of life in Saudi Arabia. Contacts operating inside Saudi Arabia report no perceptible change to daily life in Riyadh, with streets busy and shops open as usual during Ramadan. Ground sources also report normal road traffic along major routes in and out of the capital, with reduced traffic observed only near border crossings.

## 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 disruption to flight schedules continues. Flights to Abu Dhabi, Amman, Bahrain, Doha and Kuwait remain suspended until later today (12 March) due to regional security risks. The suspension continues to affect airports including Jeddah, Riyadh, Medina and Dammam. International flights to Moscow and Peshawar remain cancelled until the 15<sup>th</sup> of March

### Kuwait

- Kuwait International Airport (KWI) – Operations may be disrupted following reports of a drone strike affecting airport infrastructure earlier today.

## Airports with Significant Disruption

- Kuwait International Airport (KWI) – Operations may be disrupted following reports of a drone strike affecting airport infrastructure earlier today.
- 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 disruption following suspended regional flight routes.

## Local Transport Conditions

Ground transport across much of the region remains generally operational, though travellers should expect varying levels of security presence and possible movement restrictions depending on local developments.

- Major urban centres across the Gulf continue to function normally, with road traffic operating and commercial activity largely continuing as usual in many areas.
- Authorities in several countries maintain increased security around airports, government buildings and critical infrastructure, which may result in additional checkpoints or temporary road closures nearby.
- Movement near international borders may be more restricted, and travellers should expect reduced traffic volumes and increased security checks in these areas.
- Ground sources operating in Saudi Arabia report no perceptible change to the normal pattern of life in Riyadh, with shops open and streets busy during Ramadan. Road traffic along major routes in and out of the capital appears normal, with reduced vehicle movement primarily observed near border crossings.

## 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](mailto: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.