

Travel Advisory – Middle East (13 March 2026)

Date: 13 March 2026

Areas of Concern: Middle East

Overall Risk Level: HIGH

Key Developments (last 24 hours)

- Missile and drone activity reported across multiple areas in the region.
 - The UAE reported its air defence systems intercepted 7 ballistic missiles and 27 drones.
 - In Dubai, Shelter-in-place alerts were issued at 08:15 due to a potential Iranian missile threat, and the situation was declared safe at 08:40. Earlier a drone intercepted over central Dubai caused debris damage to a building near the Burj Khalifa. No injuries were reported.
 - New missile threats triggered safety alerts in Dubai and Abu Dhabi on Friday evening, with residents urged to seek shelter as air defence systems responded to incoming projectiles. The situation was declared safe shortly afterwards.
 - In Saudi Arabia, officials stated that air defences intercepted 31 drones and 3 missiles targeting sites across the Kingdom, including Riyadh (Diplomatic Quarter), Eastern Province and empty Quarter near Shaybah oil field. Some media reports cite numbers could have been as high as 51 drones and 6 missiles intercepted, with activity also reported near Al Kharj. No casualties reported.
 - A drone crashed in the Al-Awahi industrial area in Sohar, Oman, killing two Indian nationals and injuring several others. Authorities reported that a second drone also crashed in an open area nearby without causing injuries.
 - A ballistic missile launched from Iran entered Turkish airspace and was intercepted by NATO air and missile defence systems deployed in the eastern Mediterranean. Turkish authorities confirmed the interception and said defensive measures remain in place.
- The UK Embassy in UAE warned British nationals not to photograph or share images of missile strikes or impact sites, government buildings or diplomatic missions after a 60 year-old British tourist was charged under cyber-crime laws after they were found to have a video of a strike on his phone. 21 arrests have been made so far in relation to recent missile strikes. Violations could lead to fines, imprisonment or deportation.

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

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- 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 15th 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

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.