

Travel Advisory – Middle East (30 March 2026)

Date: 30 March 2026

Areas of Concern: Middle East

Overall Risk Level: HIGH

Key Developments

Monday 30 March 2026

- Jordanian Armed Forces said it intercepted five missiles and one drone over Jordan in the past 24 hours. Falling debris from the incidents injured a woman.
- The UAE Ministry of Defence said its air defences had intercepted 27 drones and 11 ballistic missiles so far today. It also reported that since the start of the conflict, a total of 1,941 drones, 425 ballistic missiles and 15 cruise missiles have been intercepted.
- Saudi Ministry of Defence stated that it intercepted and destroyed five drones in the past few hours amid ongoing regional tensions.
- Kuwait National Guard reported it had shot down one drone and four other unmanned aerial vehicles in areas under its protection.
- Iraq's Ministry of Defence said rockets struck the Mohamad Alaa air base near Baghdad International Airport in Iraq in the early hours. One aircraft was destroyed and no casualties were reported.
- Iran's foreign ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei stated that proposals presented to Iran were 'unrealistic, unreasonable and excessive.' He said that no direct talks with the US had taken place and communication had taken place through intermediaries.
- Donald Trump stated that the US could 'completely obliterate' Kharg Island if a deal to end the conflict with Iran is not reached soon. He warned that potential targets could include Iran's oil wells, electric generating plants, and possibly desalination plants, particularly if the Strait of Hormuz is not reopened.
- Iran's military operational command Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters claimed that Israel was responsible for the recent strike on a desalination plant in Kuwait. Iranian state media said the attack was carried out under the pretext of blaming Iran and condemned it as an act of aggression.
- Spain's Minister of Economy, Trade and Business Carlos Cuerdo stated today that Spain has closed its airspace to US military flights involved in operations against Iran. This reflects Spain's position that it will not support or participate in what it considers a unilateral war that violates international law.
- Airlines worldwide are raising fares and cutting capacity due to rising fuel costs linked to the conflict. Low cost airlines are expected to be hit hardest, while premium carriers are better positioned to absorb the impact by targeting wealthier travellers.

Sunday 29 March 2026

- Gulf countries faced multiple attacks with the UAE intercepting missiles and drones, sirens activated in Kuwait and Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia shooting down ten drones.
- Kuwait's National Guard said it intercepted and destroyed four drones in areas under its protection.
- Syrian military reported an attack involving four drones launched from Iraq targeted the US base at Qasrak. All drones were shot down and no casualties reported. Officials added the incident followed a similar drone attack the previous day on the al-Tanf base in south east Syria.
- Iranian air strikes targeted Iraq's Popular Mobilisation forces at two locations, hitting a site in the Rashidiya area of Mosul and another headquarters in Tuz Khurmatu in Sala ad-Din province.
- An Indian national was killed in Kuwait after Iranian strikes hit a power and desalination plant.

- Bahrain announced a curfew on maritime traffic, banning movement of fishing and leisure vessels until further notice. The measure has been introduced to protect citizens and coastal security amid heightened tensions and perceived Iranian threats.
- In an official government statement, Bahrain said it has intercepted 174 missiles and nearly 400 drones from Iran since the war began on February 28.
- Iran warned it will target the USS Abraham Lincoln if it comes within range of its missile systems. The threat follows an earlier Iranian strike on a US warship.
- Iran's IRGC warned it could target US-linked university campuses in the Middle East after accusing the US and Israel of destroying two Iranian universities. It also urged employees, students and nearby residents to stay at least 1 kilometre away from these campuses due to the risk of potential attacks.
- Qatar announced that in-person schooling will resume today, after nearly a month of remote learning.
- Approximately 70 British nationals have now been arrested in the UAE for filming and photographing missile and drone strikes, and could face up to 10 years in prison. Authorities are enforcing strict laws on recording sensitive security incidents.
- Pakistan will host foreign ministers from Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Turkey today and tomorrow to discuss ways to de-escalate the conflict.

Saturday 28 March 2026

- Multiple drone attacks targeted Kuwait International Airport, causing significant damage to its radar system but causing no casualties. Emergency teams were working to restore operations and ensure aviation safety.
- Kuwait National Guard said its air defences shot down six drones in the past 24 hours.
- An expatriate worker was injured after two drones targeted the Port of Salalah in Oman, causing minor damage to a crane.
- Bahrain's Interior Ministry issued two public warnings in the past our after alarm sirens were activated twice, urging people to seek shelter. These alerts follow an earlier Iranian attack on Aluminium Bahrain, where a fire was brought under control and two people mildly injured.
- Two drones targeting the US embassy in Baghdad were intercepted by security forces, according to officials, with no further details immediately provided.
- Authorities in Dubai stated that loud noises heard across the city were caused by successful air defence interceptions. Residents were advised to rely on official sources for updates.
- Saudi Arabia's Defence Ministry said its air defence systems intercepted and destroyed a ballistic missile targeting the Riyadh region.
- A strike in Northern Iraq killed one Iraqi fighter and wounded six others according to a medical official.
- It was reported that an Iranian attack on Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia on Friday evening, involved six ballistic missiles and 29 drones. Initial estimates indicate as many as 15 American troops injured, including two seriously. The attack damaged several refuelling aircraft.
- UAE air defences intercepted 20 ballistic missiles and 37 drones launched from Iran today.
- Authorities reported three fires near Khalifa Economic Zones Abu Dhabi, caused by debris from an intercepted ballistic missile, with six people injured. All fires were now under control.
- US President Donald Trump stated that 101 missiles targeted a US aircraft carrier a few days ago, but all were successfully shot down.
- Donald Trump also stated that the US has 3,554 remaining targets in Iran and claimed Iran lacks effective anti-aircraft defences. He added that these targets could be dealt with quickly.
- US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the war with Iran is expected to last weeks, not months, and the US can achieve its objectives without deploying ground troops.
- President Zelensky confirmed that Ukraine had agreed to cooperate with UAE on drone defence measures, having announced yesterday a defence agreement with Saudi Arabia.

- Ukraine officials refuted Iran's claim that it destroyed a Ukrainian anti-drone depot in UAE, accusing Iran of spreading disinformation. The denial came after Iran said it had targeted a facility allegedly supporting US forces.
- French authorities have a 'strong suspicion' of an Iran link to a foiled attempt to bomb a Bank of America building in Paris. A suspect was arrested early Saturday before detonating a homemade explosive near the Champs-Elysees.

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

- 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

Airports with Significant Disruption

- Dubai International Airport (DXB) – Gradual resumption of some flights to and from selected destinations, following the temporary suspension implemented as a precautionary measure after a drone hit a nearby fuel tank.
- Kuwait International Airport (KWI) – Operations are severely disrupted as a result of recent drone strikes which damaged infrastructure and radar equipment.
- Hamad International Airport (Qatar) – Flight operations remain affected by the wider regional security situation.
- Bahrain International Airport – Aviation operations remain severely disrupted due to ongoing 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.