

Travel Advisory – Middle East (9 March 2026)

Date: 9 March 2026

Areas of Concern: Middle East

Overall Risk Level: HIGH

Key Developments (last 24 – 48 hours)

- Leadership transition in Iran. Iranian state media announced that Mojtaba Khamenei has been appointed Supreme Leader following the death of Ali Khamenei earlier in the conflict. The selection reportedly followed deliberations by the Assembly of Experts. The transition signals continuity in Iran’s leadership structure during the ongoing regional conflict.
- Missile and drone attacks continue across the Gulf region. Gulf states have reported additional Iranian missile and drone launches targeting regional military and infrastructure sites. Air defence systems in several countries have been activated to intercept incoming projectiles.
- Infrastructure damage reported in Bahrain. Bahraini authorities reported that a drone strike damaged a water desalination facility, while Bahrain’s national oil company announced operational disruption at refinery facilities following an attack.
- Air defence activity reported in the United Arab Emirates. Authorities in the UAE reported intercepting ballistic missiles and drones targeting the country, with debris from interceptions reported in populated areas.
- Regional security environment remains highly volatile. Ongoing military operations and reciprocal strikes continue to raise the risk of further escalation across the Middle East, particularly affecting the Gulf region and Israel.

Movement Status

Airspace Restriction

Airspace across parts of the Middle East remains restricted or subject to rapid closure due to ongoing military activity. Several airlines continue to suspend or limit flights to destinations across the Gulf and Israel as a result of operational and security risks.

Regional aviation hubs are operating under contingency procedures, and schedules may change with limited notice.

Oman

- Muscat International Airport (MCT) – Operating with increased traffic as governments organise repatriation flights and evacuation movements
- Salalah Airport (SLL) – Operational
- Sohar International Airport (OHS) – Operational

United Arab Emirates

- Dubai International Airport (DXB) – Flight operations have resumed following earlier disruptions, schedules remain limited and subject to change
- Al Maktoum International Airport (DWC) – Supporting cargo and limited passenger operations
- Zayed International Airport (AUH) – Operating with reduced services following recent security alerts
- Ras Al Khaimah International Airport (RKT) – Operational, though regional aviation disruption may affect services

Israel

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

Saudi Arabia

- King Khalid International Airport (RUH) – Operational though regional airspace restrictions may cause delays
- King Abdulaziz International Airport (JED) – Operational with possible disruptions
- Red Sea International Airport (RSI) – Operational with reduced international traffic

Airports with Significant Disruption

- Hamad International Airport (Qatar) – Flight operations have experienced significant disruption due to regional security concerns
- Kuwait International Airport – Flights subject to disruption due to regional conflict conditions
- Bahrain International Airport – Aviation operations affected by the wider regional security situation
- Imam Khomeini International Airport (Iran) – Civil aviation operations heavily restricted due to military activity
- Mehrabad International Airport (Iran) – Civil aviation operations disrupted

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.