

## Travel Advisory – Middle East (13-20 March 2026)

**Date:** 20 March 2026

**Areas of Concern:** Middle East

**Overall Risk Level:** HIGH

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

- Maritime disruption in and around the Strait of Hormuz remains the most significant regional risk. Iran's actions against commercial shipping and continued restrictions in the strait have prompted a coordinated international response, with multiple governments condemning attacks on vessels and calling for safe maritime corridors. Thousands of seafarers remain affected, and disruption to global energy supply chains is ongoing.
- Regional aviation disruption has remained severe and sustained. Major international airlines continue to cancel or reduce services across key Middle East hubs, including Dubai, Doha, Bahrain, Amman and Tel Aviv. Flight schedules remain highly fluid, with short-notice cancellations and rerouting common across the region.
- Gulf energy and critical infrastructure remain under threat. Attacks targeting energy facilities across Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the UAE have been reported during the period, prompting international concern and calls to avoid further strikes on civilian and economic infrastructure.
- U.S. military activity continues alongside efforts to contain escalation. U.S. forces remain active in the region, with operations linked to countering Iranian activity and protecting maritime routes. Public messaging from Washington has increasingly focused on limiting escalation while maintaining freedom of navigation.
- Regional security posture remains elevated. Gulf states continue to operate at heightened alert levels, with air defence systems active and security increased around key infrastructure and urban centres in response to ongoing missile and drone threats.

### Movement Status

#### Airspace Restriction

Airspace across parts of the Middle East remains subject to disruption, rerouting and potential short-notice closure. Airlines continue to adjust schedules or suspend services to destinations across the Gulf and Israel.

Operational conditions remain dynamic, and travellers should expect delays, cancellations and route changes across the region.

#### Oman

- Muscat International Airport (MCT) – Operational but subject to regional disruption and connection delays.
- Salalah Airport (SLL) – Operational, though onward travel may be affected by wider aviation instability.
- Sohar Airport (OHS) – Operational with limited commercial services; regional disruption may impact connections.

### United Arab Emirates

- Dubai International Airport (DXB) – Operational with ongoing schedule adjustments and potential disruption.
- Al Maktoum International Airport (DWC) – Supporting cargo and limited passenger operations.
- Zayed International Airport (AUH) – Operational but subject to reduced or adjusted services.
- Sharjah International Airport (SHJ) – Operational with possible delays linked to regional airspace conditions.

### Israel

- Ben Gurion Airport (TLV) – Significant disruption to international flights, with many carriers suspending or reducing services.
- Ramon Airport (ETM) – Limited operations supporting contingency and domestic travel.

### Saudi Arabia

- King Khalid International Airport, Riyadh (RUH) – Operational with potential disruption to regional and international routes.
- King Abdulaziz International Airport, Jeddah (JED) – Operational but affected by wider regional aviation instability.
- Prince Mohammad bin Abdulaziz International Airport, Medina (MED) – Operational with possible delays.
- King Fahd International Airport, Dammam (DMM) – Operational, though subject to disruption and schedule changes.

### Kuwait

- Kuwait International Airport (KWI) – Operational but exposed to disruption risk following reported attacks on infrastructure and ongoing regional escalation.

## Airports with Significant Disruption

- Dubai International Airport (DXB), Zayed International Airport (AUH), Hamad International Airport (DOH), Bahrain International Airport (BAH) and Kuwait International Airport (KWI) remain at heightened risk of disruption due to airspace instability and airline suspensions.
- Ben Gurion Airport (TLV) continues to experience significant international flight disruption.
- Airports in Iran, including Imam Khomeini International Airport (IKA) and Mehrabad International Airport (THR), remain heavily affected by conflict-related restrictions.

## Local Transport Conditions

Ground transport across much of the Middle East remains generally more stable than aviation, with most major urban centres continuing to function.

- Road networks in major cities across the Gulf remain operational, though conditions may change quickly in response to security developments.
- Travellers should expect increased security presence, including checkpoints and screening, particularly near airports, government buildings and critical infrastructure.
- Movement near border areas and strategic locations may be more restricted, with additional checks and reduced traffic flows possible.

## 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

Advisory Current as of 17:00 GMT 20 March 2026



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.