

3 December 2014

ALGERIA

Business travel to Algiers and major metropolitan areas can now be undertaken but should be vetted by a security professional. Travelers should stay in the “better” hotels (preferably five-star) and avoid wandering the city after dark. We continue to recommend against any travel outside the metropolitan areas. If travel between cities is required, it should be by air when possible. Travel near the borders should be avoided under any conditions. (20 February 2013)

BAHRAIN

In light of current events, business travel to Manama can proceed though travelers need to raise their level of situational awareness. Travelers should be aware that anti-government protests are commonplace. However, there has been an increase in the use of improvised explosive devices (IED's) throughout the country. Travelers should avoid all areas where the Ministry of Interior (MOI) security forces are gathered due to the likely threat of impending anti-government activity. Travelers should not attempt to drive through or otherwise remove debris that is strewn across roadways. Travel outside the Manama metropolitan area should either be avoided or only undertaken with someone knowledgeable of the areas to be visited. (5 March 2014)

EGYPT

While the Presidential elections have been completed, there remain threats of demonstrations and potential terrorist activities following the elections. Normal business travel to Cairo and other major metropolitan areas is possible but should be vetted by a security professional. Travelers should stay in the “better” hotels (preferably five-star) and avoid wandering the city(s) after dark. We continue to recommend against any travel outside the major metropolitan areas. If travel between cities is required, it should be by air whenever possible. While we continue to recommend against all travel to the Sinai Peninsula, an exception does exist for travel to the resorts at Sharm el-Sheikh provided that there is a direct air connection with no land travel. Travel near all border areas should still be avoided under any conditions. (03 June 2014)

IRAN

While the new government under President Hassan Rouhani has toned down the strident anti-west, anti-US rhetoric, there remains a tense political situation with an anti-western focus. Travel to Iran should only be undertaken with a full understanding of the potential risks. Western journalists as well as those westerners affiliated with human rights groups and educational institutions should take into account the possibility of harassment and or arrest by the Iranian authorities. (11 September 2013)

LEBANON

Due to the uncertain political and security environment, we recommend against all but absolutely essential business travel to Beirut. Any such travel should be vetted by a security professional and the traveler must have measures in place to mitigate an increasing risk. Travelers should stay in the “better” hotels (preferably five-star), avoid south Beirut (Hezbollah area) and avoid wandering around Beirut after dark. We strongly recommend against any travel outside of Beirut. (24 June 2014)

LIBYA

Given the current situation, we recommend against all travel to Libya until further notice. (13 September 2012)

MALI

Given the current unrest, we recommend against all travel to Mali until further notice. (7 May 2012)

MAURITANIA

Routine business travel to Nouakchott can be undertaken with limited risk provided that the appropriate personal protection measures are put in place. Travel outside of Nouakchott should be avoided. Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) has in the past targeted westerners in Nouakchott and elsewhere, particularly in remote and desert areas of the country. (11 May 2010)

PAKISTAN

While Karachi remains the primary focus of recent terrorist attacks, there remains a very high threat across the whole of Pakistan. Renewed efforts by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Pakistan Awami Tehreek (PAT) to bring down the government has led to calls for demonstrations and nationwide strikes. Travel to Pakistan should be on strict "Business Essential" basis. Travelers should stay in the "better" hotels (preferably five-star) and should avoid travel in the cities unless accompanied by a knowledgeable Pakistani. (3 December 2014)

SYRIA

Given the current unrest, we recommend against all travel to Syria until further notice. (23 May 2011)

TUNISIA

While the situation has stabilized with the election of a new Parliament, the security situation in the mountains near the border with Libya remain dangerous. We believe that routine business travel to Tunisia can resume. Any such travel should be vetted by a security professional. Travelers should stay in the "better" hotels (preferably five-star) and avoid wandering around Tunis after dark. We also strongly recommend against any travel outside of the Tunis metropolitan area. (3 December 2014)

TURKEY

Random events and anniversary dates can trigger demonstrations with a resulting police response. The police have been taking a very hard line against demonstrations and travelers should be alert to changes in the situation and immediately leave any area where large groups of people begin gathering or the police take up riot control positions. Business travel in southeastern Turkey including Sirnak, Siirt, Diyarbakir and Elazig provinces can be undertaken but appropriate personal security measures need to be in place. Visitors should travel by air whenever possible or, if driving, stay on major highways. Travelers should avoid all road travel at night in southeastern Turkey because of the ongoing threat by Kurdish militants. Due to the influx of refugees and tensions with Syria, the areas near the Syrian border should be avoided at all times. (03 June 2014)

YEMEN

Given the current situation, we recommend against all travel to Yemen until further notice. (1 March 2011)