

MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2022

LegendTravel Bulletin

AMERICAS

AFRICA & THE
MIDDLE EAST

ASIA & THE PACIFIC

EUROPE

Worldwide

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) COVID-19 UPDATE

After an increasing global trend over the past five weeks, the number of weekly cases during the week of July 11 to 17 remained stable, with just under 6.3 million new cases. The number of new weekly deaths was similar to the figure reported during the previous week, with 11,000 fatalities reported.

WORLDWIDE TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

For the most up-to-date information on current entry restrictions, please visit IATA's "Government Measures Related to Coronavirus (COVID-19)" website by clicking [here](#).

MONKEYPOX

Cases of monkeypox have been confirmed in multiple countries. Monkeypox is a viral disease not usually present in these countries. Transmission can occur through close contact with an infected person. Investigations are ongoing into how they became infected. Travelers should prevent infection by following good hygiene measures.

FROSCHE TRAVEL RESOURCES

- [Rebooking Policies](#)
- [Health & Safety Measures](#)
- [Travel Restrictions](#)
- [Face Mask Guidance](#)

NOTEWORTHY EVENTS

AUG 8

- Afghanistan, Australia, Canada, Germany, Gambia, Iran, Somalia, United Kingdom, United States: Ashura
- Bahrain: Ashoora (second day)
- Cote d'Ivoire: Day off for Independence Day
- Germany: Peace Festival in Augsburg
- Algeria: Day of Achura
- Grenada: Carnival (First Day)
- Lebanon: Ashoura
- Monaco: Feast of Saint Roman Eve
- Pakistan: Ashura Holiday
- Senegal: Tamkharit
- Tanzania: Farmers' Day
- United States: Victory Day
- Zimbabwe: Heroes' Day

AUG 9

- Bangladesh, Egypt, Pakistan: Ashura
- Grenada: Carnival (Second Day)
- India: Muharram/Ashura
- Kenya: Election Day
- Monaco: Feast of Saint Roman
- Singapore: National Day
- Suriname: Indigenous Peoples Day
- South Africa: National Women's Day
- Zimbabwe: Defense Forces Day

AUG 10

- Australia: Royal National Agricultural Show Day Queensland
- Ecuador: Independence Day
- Nicaragua: Last Day of Santo Domingo Celebrations

AUG 11

- Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Mauritius, Pakistan, United Kingdom, United States, South Africa: Raksha Bandhan
- India: Raksha Bandhan (Rakhi)
- Japan: Mountain Day
- Sri Lanka: Nikini Full Moon Poya Day
- Chad: Independence Day
- Turkmenistan: Day of Frontiersmen

Americas

UNITED STATES

CDC ENDS NEGATIVE TEST REQUIREMENT TO ENTER US

As of 12:01 AM eastern time on June 12, 2022, the CDC will no longer require air passengers traveling from a foreign country to the United States to show a negative COVID-19 viral test or documentation of recovery from COVID-19 before they board their flight.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL & PREVENTION (CDC) TRAVEL GUIDANCE FOR US CITIZENS

US citizens who are fully vaccinated with an FDA-authorized vaccine or a vaccine authorized for emergency use by the World Health Organization can travel safely within the United States and may travel internationally with close attention paid to the conditions at their destination before traveling. Fully vaccinated travelers are less likely to get and spread COVID-19; however, even fully vaccinated can potentially get and/or spread some COVID-19 variants.

There are several safe and effective vaccines that prevent people from getting seriously ill or dying from COVID-19. The Food & Drug Administration has evaluated that the following vaccines against COVID-19 have met the necessary criteria for safety and efficacy in the United States: Pfizer/BioNTech, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson. The World Health Organization advises people to take whatever vaccine is made available to you first, even if you have already had COVID-19. The COVID-19 vaccines are safe for most people 18 years and older, including those with pre-existing conditions of any kind, including auto-immune disorders. These conditions include hypertension, diabetes, asthma, pulmonary, liver and kidney disease, as well as chronic infections that are stable and controlled.

MASK MANDATE ON CERTAIN AIRLINES LIFTED

On April 18, a federal judge in Florida ruled against the Biden Administrations' mandatory mask mandate for travelers on public transportation, including airplanes. As a result, Alaska Airlines (AS), American Airlines (AA), Delta Air Lines (DL), Southwest Airlines (WN) and United Airlines (UA) have now made masks optional for travelers on their aircraft. Travelers should exercise patience when traveling over the coming days, as enforcement of this change in policy may be inconsistent in the short term. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) announced it will also no longer enforce its Security Directives and Emergency Amendment requiring mask use on public transportation and in transportation hubs.

CDC SHORTENS QUARANTINE PERIOD

Given what is currently known about COVID-19 and the Omicron variant, the CDC is shortening the recommended time for isolation from 10 days for people with COVID-19 to 5 days, if asymptomatic, followed by 5 days of wearing a mask when around others. The change is motivated by science demonstrating that the majority of SARS-CoV-2 transmission occurs early in the course of illness, generally in the 1-2 days prior to onset of symptoms and the 2-3 days after. Therefore, people who test positive should isolate for 5 days and, if asymptomatic at that time, they may leave isolation if they can continue to mask for 5 days to minimize the risk of infecting others. For more information from the CDC, click [HERE](#).

UPDATED INFORMATION ON DOMESTIC TRAVEL FOR FULLY VACCINATED TRAVELERS

The US Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) has updated its recommendations for domestic travel. The CDC continues to recommend delaying travel until travelers are fully vaccinated. Travelers who are fully vaccinated with an FDA-authorized vaccine can travel safely within the United States and do not need to get tested before or after travel unless their destination requires it, nor do they need to self-quarantine. Fully vaccinated travelers should still follow the CDC's recommendations for traveling safely, including wearing a mask over the nose and mouth, staying 6 feet from others and avoiding crowds, and washing hands often or using hand sanitizer. This guidance applies to travel within the United States and its territories.

COLORADO

On August 8, travelers should continue to avoid the Ponderosa Drive and Grand Boulevard area of Colorado Springs, CO following a security operation. Earlier on August 7, authorities responded to a shooting, in which one police officer was killed. A previously issued shelter-in-place order has been lifted and authorities have confirmed there is no direct threat to the public; however, residents are advised to avoid the area as the suspect remains at large.

KENTUCKY

Since July 27, heavy rainfall has caused severe flooding in eastern Kentucky state. At least 25 people have been killed due to flooding, and the death toll is likely to rise. Significant property damage has been reported across the region, with nearly 14,000 households still without power as of July 31. Mudslides, fallen trees, and road closures have also been reported in affected areas. The National Weather Service (NWS) has issued flood advisories, watches, and warnings for most of eastern Kentucky. Travelers should anticipate associated disruption in the coming days. Travelers should reconfirm routes before setting out and exercise enhanced caution.

MONKEYPOX

The monkeypox outbreak has been declared a national Public Health Emergency. Monkeypox is a viral disease not usually present in the US. There is a multi-country outbreak and contact tracing and investigations are ongoing. Transmission can occur with close contact with an infected person. Travelers should prevent infection by following good hygiene measures.

ARGENTINA

Travelers should anticipate disruption in urban centers on August 10 due to a national strike by teachers, and plan journeys accordingly. The action has been organized by the CTERA teachers' union to demonstrate against the criminalization of social protests and to demand the acquittal of a teacher who participated in the September 2019 protests, among other grievances. While details on the gatherings have not been announced, they are likely to take place in main public squares, including Plaza de Mayo in Buenos Aires, and outside government buildings. Demonstrations are likely to be well attended and cause local traffic disruption.

Travelers should anticipate disruption during planned strikes by various labor groups in the education, state and health sectors in Santa Fe province from August 10 through August 12. Beginning on August 10, the Santa Fe Teachers Association and several other unions will observe a 48-hour strike, while the Argentine Teachers' Union will hold a 72-hour industrial action. The events are being organized over salary disputes, among other issues. While no related protests have been announced, demonstrations are possible around the Government House, City Hall and nearby public squares in Santa Fe city.

BELIZE

Travelers should anticipate heightened security and follow official directives amid a state of emergency (SoE) in the Saint Martin de Porres area of Belize City. Authorities imposed the measure until at least August 30 in response to an increase in gang-related violence and a failure of police mediation between rival gangs. Any associated security operations and resulting clashes may pose incidental risks to bystanders.

BOLIVIA

Travelers should anticipate disruption in Santa Cruz department through August 9 during a scheduled 48-hour general strike. Protesters are demanding that the population and housing census be held in 2023 and not delayed to 2024 as proposed by the national government. Though specific details are yet to be announced, organizers have called for roadblocks. Related demonstrations are likely to persist in the coming days with negotiations between the departmental and national governments at a stalemate. Travelers should avoid all related demonstrations due to the potential for unrest.

COLOMBIA

Travelers should plan journeys in Barranquilla on August 9 bypassing an anti-extortion protest. Participants will gather outside Puerta de Oro convention center at 4:30 PM local time to demand the government take action against criminal groups. While the protest is expected to remain peaceful, it is likely to be well-attended and will cause local traffic disruption.

EL SALVADOR

Travelers should continue to expect heightened security and follow official directives in El Salvador after authorities extended the ongoing state of emergency (SoE) until August 24. The measure was initially declared on March 27, following an increase in gang-related violence in the previous days. The National Civil Police have arrested more than 34,500 suspected gang members thus far. The SoE restricts gatherings and allows for arrests without a warrant and the monitoring of communications. Any security operations and resulting clashes may pose incidental risk to bystanders.

VENEZUELA

Travelers should anticipate disruption during pro-government demonstrations on August 8 and August 12 in Cumana and Maturin, respectively. In Cumana, participants will gather at 9:00 AM local time on August 8 at Ruta Virgen del Valle before marching towards Avenida Bermudez. In Maturin, a march is scheduled to start at 9:00 AM local time on August 12 from Plaza Piar. The events have been organized by workers in multiple sectors in support of President Nicolas Maduro's administration. While the demonstrations should pass off peacefully, they are likely to disrupt traffic along their routes.

Africa & the Middle East

ISRAEL & PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

Travelers should continue to exercise caution and monitor developments through August 10 following a proposed ceasefire agreement between Israel and Palestinian militants set to begin at 11:30 PM local time on August 7. Israeli airstrikes in the Gaza Strip since August 5 have killed several people, including a Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) group commander. Close to 1,000 rockets have since been reportedly fired from Gaza towards Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Central and Southern districts. A majority of the rockets were intercepted by Israel's Iron Dome air-defense system. Israeli officials have said that further rocket fire from Gaza is possible before the ceasefire comes into effect.

ASHURA

Travelers should anticipate heightened security measures and logistical disruption in Afghanistan, Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia during the festival of Ashura, the tenth day of the Islamic holy month of Muharram. Although the date varies by location, most countries in the region will commemorate the event on August 7 and August 8. There is a precedent for militant attacks on Shia Muslim religious sites during this time.

ANGOLA

Travelers should monitor developments and avoid gatherings linked to the country's General Elections scheduled for August 24, due to the risk of unrest and local disruption. The ruling Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) and rival National Union for the Total Independence of Angola will begin to hold rallies beginning July 9. Most gatherings are likely to pass off peacefully; however, security forces may disperse protest activity. Travelers should anticipate heightened security force presence around rallies, political party offices and government installations during the electoral period.

GUINEA

Travelers should anticipate and avoid anti-government protests through at least August 10 following the opposition party's calls for renewed protests. The opposition National Front for the Defense of the Constitution (FNDC) had suspended protests until August 6 to allow for ECOWAS mediation over the democratic transition timetable. Several FNDC leaders were arrested for their alleged involvement in fatal protests on July 28-29. All demonstrations are currently banned. As such, there is potential for unrest at gatherings that proceed regardless, posing incidental risk to bystanders.

IRAQ

Travelers should reconfirm the feasibility of movement in Basra on August 8 amid reports of disruptive protests over alleged poor service delivery. Participants are denouncing electricity and water shortages amid high summer temperatures and have blocked several roads with burning tires. Travelers should reconfirm the status of routes before setting out and maintain flexible itineraries.

Travelers should anticipate and avoid further student protests in urban centers across the Kurdistan Region (KR) through at least August 10, due to the risk of local unrest. Protesters reportedly gathered in central Basra on August 8, blocking several roads. On August 6, protests broke out in Sulaymaniyah. Security forces used tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse protesters. At least 40 people were arrested. The opposition New Generation Movement party had earlier called for demonstrations across KR to denounce poor governance, corruption and deteriorating living conditions.

JORDAN

Travelers should plan journeys in Amman bypassing a pro-Palestine protest on August 8 outside the Professional Associations Complex. Activists will gather at 4:00 PM local time to denounce ongoing hostilities between Israel and armed groups in the Palestinian Territories. Previous gatherings have been well attended and security forces may use tough measures to disperse crowds. Any unrest will pose incidental risk to bystanders.

KENYA

Travelers should anticipate heightened security force presence and local disruption in urban centers during the campaign period ahead of the General Elections on August 9. The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) has announced that the official campaign period will last until August 6. Although most political gatherings and rallies are likely to pass off peacefully, local disruption remains possible. An increased police presence and security checks can also be anticipated around high-profile campaign events.

LEBANON

Travelers in Beirut on August 8 should anticipate disruption during a pro-Palestine rally. Participants will gather at 6:00 PM local time at the Cola Intersection and march to the embassies of Egypt and UAE. The event is being held over recent hostilities between Israel and armed groups based in the Gaza Strip. Although the rally is expected to pass off peacefully, it may cause traffic disruption in its vicinity.

MADAGASCAR

At least 32 people were killed on July 29 during an attack by an armed gang of cattle rustlers ('dahalos') in Ambolotarakely. Around 12 assailants attacked the village and burned several houses in the early hours. They stole cattle before escaping. A major military operation to find the perpetrators is underway. The incident underscores the persistent threat posed by armed gangs in remote rural areas.

MOROCCO

Travelers should anticipate flight disruption during a planned strike by air traffic controllers at several airports in Morocco from August 3 until August 18. The industrial action is scheduled to start at 2:00 PM local time on August 3. During the strike, the number of flight arrivals and departures will be restricted at airports, including Agadir-Al-Masira (AGA), Casablanca Airport (CMN) and Marrakesh Menara Airport (RAK).

NIGERIA

Travelers should continue to avoid all protests related to nationwide strikes by education workers due to the risk of unrest. The Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), after an executive council meeting on July 31, announced an extension of the ongoing strike until August 29. The walkout is linked to various issues, including salary-related grievances. Regular student demonstrations opposing the strike have involved roadblocks and clashes with police, including in Abuja and Akure. Related protests for and against the strikes are likely to intensify.

SIERRA LEONE

The US Embassy has issued a warning for potential unauthorized strikes and protests by an unidentified group in Freetown on August 8. According to embassy officials, unspecified protest actions are being rumored on social media and among the local community despite authorities not having received any requests for their approval. Additional security force personnel will be deployed to known flashpoints in the city in anticipation of the events. Possible protest venues include the Sierra Leone People's Party and All People's Congress headquarters as well as the Freetown National Stadium and Cotton Tree area. Police may forcibly disperse participants, posing incidental risks to bystanders. Avoid all gatherings as a precaution.

SUDAN

At least 65 people were killed and around 150 injured during recent clashes in Blue Nile state between members of the ethnic Hausa and Funj communities. The fighting began in Roseires and spread to Damazine, prompting the deployment of security force personnel to the affected areas. Hostilities have reportedly now subsided; however, a nightly curfew between 6:00 PM and 6:00 AM local time is in force and gatherings have been banned in both localities until at least August 16.

Travelers should continue to avoid nationwide anti-military demonstrations throughout August due to the credible risk of violence. At least 116 people have been killed, and 5,000 injured in related unrest since the October 2021

military coup. Near-daily gatherings are continuing across major urban centers, particularly in Khartoum, Khartoum North and Omdurman. The anti-military Khartoum Resistance Committees has called for anti-military protests on August 7, 11, 18, 22, 25 and 31. Smaller sporadic gatherings are likely to occur between such protests. Travelers should stand fast in a secure location on days when major demonstrations are planned.

TANZANIA

An outbreak of cholera has been reported in the Nkasi district of the Rukwa region. Cholera spreads via contaminated food and water. Symptoms include vomiting and profuse, watery diarrhea which can lead to severe dehydration. Travelers staying in quality accommodations with access to safe food and water are at low risk. Nevertheless, travelers should ensure food and water for consumption are safe and consider vaccination if likely to encounter unsanitary conditions.

Asia & the Pacific

MUHARRAM

Travelers should anticipate heightened security and associated disruption in Bangladesh and India during the Islamic holy month of Muharram through August 28. Shia Muslim processions can be expected, particularly around Ashura on August 9 and on Fridays. There is a potential for violence targeting Shia gatherings during this period, especially around imambargahs. Travelers should respect local religious and cultural sensitivities and minimize time spent around potential targets for militant attacks.

AUSTRALIA

Traveler should plan journeys accounting for disruption to rail travel in New South Wales (NSW) state throughout August during a strike by the Rail, Tram and Bus Union (RTBU) to demand safer working conditions and equipment. Union-affiliated rail workers will temporarily cease services on several lines on August 10, 15, 17, 23, 25 and 31. This will likely result in travel delays due to a lack of available alternative options. Travelers should plan journeys in advance and allow additional time on the aforementioned days.

Travelers should plan journeys accounting for intermittent disruption during the ongoing winter season until the end of August. Rain and strong winds have caused disruption to electricity and road travel, as well as damage to buildings in the states of Queensland, South Australia (SA) and New South Wales (NSW), including in Sydney and Adelaide. During the season, dense fog, particularly in the morning, may cause poor visibility, resulting in ferry and flight disruption. Travelers should monitor weather conditions and reconfirm the feasibility of journeys before setting out.

BANGLADESH

Travelers should anticipate disruption and avoid protests through at least August 10 over a recently announced increase in fuel prices. The opposition Jatiya Party will hold a protest on August 8 outside the National Press Club in Dhaka. Additionally, the party has announced nationwide protests across all districts on August 9. Similarly, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal political party will organize nationwide protests, including in Dhaka, on August 10 over the issue. Multiple political parties and student groups have also staged related demonstrations in Dhaka in recent days.

Travelers should anticipate disruption throughout August during protests linked to ongoing nationwide power outages. The country is experiencing a daily power supply deficit following a significant increase in the prices of natural gas and oil. Related demonstrations led by the main opposition Bangladesh National Party took place on July 29-31, during which at least one person was killed and 40 others injured. Further protests by political parties, civil society groups and unions can be expected in the coming days. These events should be avoided due to the risk of unrest.

CAMBODIA

Through November, travelers should plan journeys accounting for intermittent disruption to travel and essential services during the ongoing monsoon season. Flooding and landslides are possible following periods of heavy rainfall, especially in mountainous and low-lying areas, as well as Phnom Penh. Travelers should maintain flexible itineraries during this period and liaise with local contacts to reconfirm the feasibility of road journeys.

CHINA

Travelers should expect intermittent disruption during the ongoing monsoon season, which typically lasts until October. Flooding is common and may occur amid persistent rainfall in low-lying areas near water bodies. Heavy rainfall, strong winds and related disruption can also be expected in southern and eastern coastal areas. Flights at major airports, including Beijing Capital (PEK) and Shanghai Pudong (PVG) international airports, may be affected by adverse weather conditions. Travelers should maintain flexible itineraries and reconfirm the feasibility of journeys before setting out.

INDIA

Travelers should anticipate disruption during a nationwide strike and protests through at least August 10 by a power sector engineers' union. A strike on August 8 will denounce the proposed Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2022, due to be introduced in parliament on the day. Related demonstrations in major urban centers from August 8 to 10 are likely to target electricity department installations, including offices and project sites. The work stoppage is likely to cause disruption to power supply across multiple states.

Travelers should anticipate disruption and protests involving roadblocks in Manipur, including in Imphal, through at least August 10 by members of the All Tribal Students Union Manipur (ATSUM). The protesters are demanding the release of five ATSUM leaders, arrested on August 2. At least 30 people were injured during related demonstrations on August 6 following clashes with police. Prohibitory orders (Section 144), banning all gatherings, are in place until further notice in Imphal and Bishnupur district. Authorities have suspended mobile internet services across Manipur until at least August 12 as a precautionary measure against further unrest.

Travelers should avoid nationwide protests by the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), an umbrella group of farmers' organizations, and anticipate associated disruption throughout August. Participants are protesting several issues, including the alleged delays by the central government in fulfilling promises related to agriculture policies. The group has announced a demonstration at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on August 22. Related protests will also take place other states. Authorities are likely to increase surveillance and heighten security across urban centers and major railway stations ahead of these events.

INDONESIA

Travelers should anticipate and avoid further protests in urban centers through August over the ratification of a controversial Papuan special autonomy law. The pro-Papuan Petisi Rakyat Papua (PRP) group has announced plans to organize nationwide demonstrations on July 29. These will be held near government buildings in Jayapura, Kaimana and Timika. Related rallies on July 14 in Jayapura were forcibly dispersed by police, reportedly injuring several people. Further gatherings are likely to prompt a similarly harsh police response, posing incidental risks to bystanders.

JAPAN

Travelers should plan journeys accounting for intermittent travel disruption due to the ongoing rainy and typhoon seasons. The rainy season typically lasts until the end of July, while tropical storms will affect the country until at least October. Earlier, on May 31, authorities issued evacuation orders for 550,00 people in Naha city due to heavy rain and flooding. Further rainfall and associated flooding and landslides can be expected countrywide during this period, especially in low-lying, riverine and coastal areas. Travelers should follow all official directives and reconfirm the feasibility of journeys before setting out.

KYRGYZSTAN

Travelers should plan itineraries accounting for temporary closure of Batken Airport (KGZ) and Jalal-Abad Airport (JBD). The facilities will be closed from August 1 until at least November 1 for maintenance work.

LAOS

Travelers should anticipate intermittent disruption to travel and essential services during the ongoing monsoon season, which typically lasts until November. Flooding and landslides are possible following periods of heavy rainfall, particularly in provinces along the Mekong River. The passage of tropical storms may also exacerbate damage and disruption during this period. Travelers should maintain flexible itineraries during the monsoon season and reconfirm feasibility of overland journeys prior to setting out.

MALAYSIA

Several locations in the country, including Kuala Lumpur, are currently undergoing power outages. Incidents have been reported in states of Negeri Sembilan, Kelantan, Perak, Penang, Pahang, and Selangor. The electricity company, Tenaga Nasional Berhad, has confirmed the outage and is investigating the cause. Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KUL) has confirmed disruption to power supply at its main terminal. Rapid KL has also reported disruption to rail services in Klang Valley.

Travelers should anticipate intermittent disruption and maintain flexible itineraries during the country's southwest monsoon season, which usually lasts from May until October. The states that may be most impacted include Kedah, Kelantan, Malacca, Penang, Perak, Sabah and Sarawak. While flooding, landslides and associated disruption are more protracted in rural areas, urban centers, such as Kuala Lumpur and Johor Bahru, can also be affected. Travelers should reconfirm the feasibility of journeys before setting out.

MYANMAR

At least 12 explosive-related incidents were reported in Yangon on July 30-31. The incidents followed an announcement by authorities of the execution of four prominent anti-military activists on July 25. Heightened tension and further violence are likely to persist throughout August, with local media reporting that more executions have been planned. More than 74 other anti-military activists remain on death rows. Violence is more likely around key dates, including the anniversary of the 1988 uprising on August 8 and the first anniversary of the National Unity Government's declaration of 'war' on September 7.

NEW ZEALAND

Travelers should plan journeys accounting for disruption in Auckland on August 8 due to heavy fog. Several domestic flights have been delayed or cancelled at Auckland Airport (AKL) because of poor visibility. Some ferry services have also reported weather-related disruption. While the fog is forecast to dissipate within the next few hours, residual delays are likely at the airport as officials work to clear the backlog of flights. Traveler should reconfirm itineraries before setting out, exercise caution if undertaking road travel, and allow additional time for journeys.

PAKISTAN

Travelers should anticipate heightened security and exercise caution during the festival of Ashura on August 8 and August 9, which celebrates the tenth day of the Islamic holy month of Muharram. Federal authorities have declared both days as public holidays and announced COVID-19 prevention guidelines, such as mask and social distancing requirements, for associated events. Ashura commemorates the death of Imam Husayn ibn Ali, grandson of the Muslim prophet Muhammad, and is a particularly significant and sensitive date for Shias. Mosques, imambargahs, religious processions and densely populated locations such as marketplaces should be avoided during this period due to the increased risk of militant attacks and sectarian violence.

Travelers should plan journeys accounting for intermittent disruption to travel and essential services during the monsoon season, which typically lasts until September. The government has warned of higher-than-usual rainfall in Punjab and Sindh provinces and have urged all local authorities to take the necessary measures. Travelers should maintain flexible itineraries and reconfirm the feasibility of journeys before setting out.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

A magnitude 5.6 earthquake struck 92 miles southwest of Kokopo on August 8. The tremor occurred at 3:37 PM local time, originating at a depth of 22 miles. The earthquake was felt in Kokopo, but there are no reports of damage or casualties so far. Authorities may require additional time to complete a full damage assessment.

Authorities have deferred the return of writs for the ongoing General Election to August 12. This indicates a sustained risk of electoral violence around hotspots until the results are announced. Disruption to vote-counting caused by incidents of violence near counting venues have led to delays in many electorates. Despite the presence of security forces, delays in responding to incidents of violence have been reported regularly, increasing incidental risk to bystanders. Travelers should exercise heightened vigilance and avoid sensitive venues due to the potential for short-notice unrest.

SINGAPORE

Dengue fever cases continue to be reported. Dengue is spread mainly by mosquito bites. It can cause a range of symptoms, including fever, headache, and rash. Sometimes, dengue is severe and can have fatal complications. Infants, pregnant women, and those who have had dengue before are most likely to get severe infections. The main way to prevent dengue is by avoiding mosquito bites. A vaccine is available in some places. It is usually only recommended for people who have had dengue before, and who are living or traveling in areas with high levels of the disease.

THAILAND

Travelers should anticipate disruption in Chiang Mai city on August 8 during a rally commemorating the Myanmar 1988 Uprising. Participants will gather at 5:00 PM local time at Tha Phae Gate. The event is likely to be well attended and should pass off peacefully. Local traffic disruption can be expected, particularly along Thapae and Mun Mueang roads.

On August 2, a roadside bombing targeted security force personnel during a patrol in Mai Kaen district, injuring two officers. No group has claimed responsibility for the incident, which notably occurred amid peace talks between the Thai authorities and the separatist National Revolutionary Front (BRN) group on August 1-2. While previous negotiations in April yielded progress, the recent attack highlights the persistent risks posed by insurgent groups in the region. Further insurgent activity can be expected throughout August.

VIETNAM

Travelers should plan journeys accounting for intermittent weather-related disruption during the ongoing monsoon season, which typically lasts until November. Bouts of heavy rain and associated flooding and landslides can be expected during this period, especially in mountainous and low-lying areas in the northern and central provinces. Flash flooding is also possible in urban areas, including Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, due to ill-equipped drainage and sewage systems. Monsoon rains may also prompt short-notice and intermittent flight disruption. Travelers should maintain flexible itineraries, avoid affected areas and reconfirm the feasibility of journeys before setting out.

Europe

LGBTQ+ PRIDE EVENTS

Travelers should anticipate disruption during LGBTQ+ Pride events across urban centers in Europe through August and plan journeys accordingly. These events are likely to be well attended and accompanied by heightened security and road closures. Counterdemonstrations by far-right groups may coincide with such events, particularly in countries where attitudes toward the LGBTQ+ community are more conservative. Meanwhile, targeted attacks against members of the LGBTQ+ community are possible. If planning to attend an event, remain alert to your surroundings.

ARMENIA

Travelers should exercise caution in Yerevan throughout August linked to anonymous bomb threats and follow all official directives. The Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES) received multiple reports of bombs on August 2. These were reportedly planted at all the metro stations, City Hall, National Assembly, Zvartnots International Airport (EVN) and several military and government facilities. The metro stations were evacuated during the investigation. The MES subsequently confirmed all threats to be hoaxes. Further such incidents cannot be ruled out and are likely to cause disruption.

ITALY

Travelers should anticipate disruption and follow all official directives through at least August 10 linked to an ongoing wildfire in Duino. The fire reportedly broke out at around 12:15 PM local time on August 6 in a wooded area near the Duino Nord service station. Smoke from the fire has prompted the closure of a nearby section of the A4 Motorway as well as disrupted railway traffic in the vicinity. Authorities have advised Duino residents to avoid leaving their homes because of the smoke. Fire crews are currently working to extinguish the blaze.

POLAND

Travelers should anticipate disruption due to planned nationwide protests on August 10 at 6:00 PM local time over a controversial media bill. If passed, the bill would limit the ability of non-EU radio and TV companies to operate and hold controlling stakes in Polish media. The main protest will occur outside the Parliament in Warsaw to defend media rights and the freedom of speech. Demonstrations have been announced in other urban centers, including Koszalin and Szczecin. While the gatherings should remain peaceful, any unrest will pose incidental risk to bystanders.

RUSSIA

Travelers should continue to reconfirm the status of flights to, from and within Russia amid the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict. Russian aviation authorities have repeatedly extended the closure of 11 airports and are likely to continue doing so for the duration of the conflict. The number of international flights to and from Russia has reduced amid mutual airspace closures with multiple countries. Further restrictions, flight delays and cancellations can be expected.