

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2022

LEGEND Travel Bulletin

AMERICAS

AFRICA & THE
MIDDLE EAST

ASIA & THE PACIFIC

EUROPE

Worldwide

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) COVID-19 UPDATE

Globally, the number of new weekly cases decreased by 24% during the week of August 8, as compared to the previous week, with over 5.4 million new cases reported. The number of new weekly deaths decreased by 6%, as compared to the previous week, with over 15,000 fatalities reported.

As of August 14, 587 million confirmed cases and 6.4 million deaths have been reported globally.

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

The number of countries reporting monkeypox cases continues to grow. Cases of monkeypox have been confirmed in over 90 countries, some deaths have been reported. 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

- SEPT 14**
- Nicaragua: Battle of San Jacinto
- SEPT 15**
- Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador: Independence Day
 - Spain: Nuestra Señora de la Bien Aparecida
 - Portugal: Birth of Bocage
 - Slovenia: Restoration of Primorska to the Motherland Day
 - Slovakia: Day of Our Lady of Sorrows
 - Senegal: Grand Magal de Touba
- SEPT 16**
- Saint Kitts and Nevis: National Heroes Day
 - Sri Lanka: Public Sector Holiday
 - Libya: Martyrs' Day
 - Mexico, Papua New Guinea: Independence Day
 - Malaysia: Malaysia Day
- SEPT 17**
- Angola: National Hero Day
 - Belarus: National Unity Day
 - Colombia: Valentine's Day
 - Spain: Day of Melilla
 - Honduras: Teacher's Day
 - Iran: Arbaeen
 - Pakistan: Chelum
 - Tonga: Birthday of Crown Prince Tupouto'a-'Ulukalala
- SEPT 18**
- Belgium: Day of the Walloon Region
 - Switzerland: Swiss Federal Fast
 - Chile: National Day
 - Nepal: Jitiya Parwa
- SEPT 19**
- Switzerland: Federal Fast Monday
 - Chile: Army Day
 - Costa Rica, Saint Kitts and Nevis: Independence Day
 - Guernsey, Jersey: Queen Elizabeth II's Funeral Day
 - Italy: The Feast of Saint Januarius (Naples)
 - Japan: Respect for the Aged Day
 - Cayman Islands: Queen Elizabeth's Funeral Day
 - Sri Lanka: National Day of Mourning
 - Nepal: Constitution Day
 - United Kingdom: State Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II

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.

ILLINOIS

Travelers should anticipate disruption through at least September 14 in Chicago, IL linked to flooding caused by ongoing heavy rain. Significant property damage, as well as landslides, fallen trees and road closures, have been reported across the city. Further flooding will likely exacerbate the situation and hamper ongoing recovery efforts. Travelers should reconfirm routes before setting out and exercise enhanced caution.

On September 14, normal movement can resume in the vicinity of Washington Park in Chicago, IL following a security operation on September 13. Authorities responded to reports of gunshots at around 7:45 PM local time in the 500 block of East 51st Street near the park. Investigations found that two groups were engaged in an altercation, with multiple shots fired. At least two people were killed, and seven injured. No arrests have been made so far.

MASSACHUSETTS

On September 14, normal movement can resume in the vicinity of Northeastern University's Holmes Hall in Boston, MA following the conclusion of a police operation. Authorities had originally issued a shelter-in-place order after an individual was reportedly injured by an exploding package at around 7:30 PM local time on September 13. Another suspicious package was found on campus, though this has been deemed safe and the campus is now secure.

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.

WASHINGTON DC

Travelers should anticipate local disruption during a scheduled demonstration in Washington DC on September 14, and plan journeys accordingly. Participants intend to gather at the US Capitol Visitor Center at 10:00 AM local time and march towards different locations in the city before reaching the Puerto Rico veterans area at National Mall. They are calling on the US government to urge the status consultation linked to the statehood for Puerto Rico. The event should pass off peacefully but may be well attended and accompanied by a heightened security presence. Associated traffic disruption can be expected along the march route.

WILDFIRES

Travelers should anticipate disruption through at least September 16 due to ongoing wildfires in several states in the Mountains, Pacific Northwest and Southwest regions. According to the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC), there are nearly 93 large wildfires active across Arizona, California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. More than 1,270 square miles of land has burned, with none of the fires fully contained. Some have led to road closures and evacuations of nearby communities.

ARGENTINA

Travelers should plan journeys accounting for disruption related to a march by union workers on September 15. Members of several labor unions will gather at Plaza Vienni at 9:30 AM local time before marching towards the Nucleoelectrica Argentina office building. The organizers demand freedom of association, among other labor- and union-related resolutions. Travelers should reconfirm the status of routes before setting out and allow extra time for travel near the affected area.

BOLIVIA

Travelers should continue to anticipate disruption and avoid demonstrations in La Paz through at least September 15 by the Adecoca union, which represents coco growers. An estimated 15,000 protesters arrived in La Paz on September 7 amid a conflict with the government over the future of an illegal market in the Villa El Carmen area. On September 8, Adecoca supporters and counter-protesters clashed, throwing Molotov cocktails and dynamite, and the market was set alight. Two people were reportedly injured. Fresh clashes were reported on September 12. The union has announced that protesters will remain in La Paz until the government resolves the issue.

CANADA

Travelers should anticipate disruption through at least September 14 and follow all official directives amid ongoing wildfires in British Columbia province. There are more than 160 active fires, with five classified as 'wildfires of note' due to their potential threat to public safety. Some of the fires have forced road closures and evacuations of nearby communities. Travelers should exercise caution while traveling in the affected areas.

CHILE

Travelers should continue to expect heightened security in Araucania and Biobio regions following the extension of the state of emergency (SoE). On September 13, the Senate passed the seventh extension of the SoE, which will last until at least September 28. The SoE allows troops to guard roads and highways, as well as expand the scope for civilian

protection. This follows continued violence linked to a protracted conflict between authorities and the indigenous Mapuche community, which occasionally also targets workers and facilities in forestry and agriculture sectors. Further security incidents are likely in the coming weeks. Travelers should follow all official directives, including any movement restrictions.

COLOMBIA

Travelers should exercise caution in El Bagre through at least September 14 and abide by an ongoing curfew. The measure was imposed following an increase in violence and crime due to rivalries between organized crime groups. Movement restrictions are in effect from 10:00 PM to 5:00 AM local time daily until at least September 12. Guerrilla groups active in the region include the ELN, FARC, Popular Liberation Army, and the narco-paramilitary Clan del Golfo. Similar measures were declared on September 4 and may be imposed again at short notice.

People traveling to or passing through Amaga should reconfirm routes due to construction delays and subsequent protests through at least September 16. In May, heavy rains caused a landslide that damaged a 984-foot section of the Covipacifico Highway. Since then, efforts to repair the highway have been delayed, leading to disapproval of the local population. In recent days, local residents have protested at the Amaga toll booth against the government's lack of action. Travelers should plan journeys bypassing the affected route and allow additional travel time.

EL SALVADOR

Travelers should continue to expect heightened security through September 19 and follow all official directives after authorities extended an ongoing state of emergency (SoE). The SoE was first declared on March 27 following an increase in gang-related violence and has been extended five times. The SoE restricts gatherings and permits arrests without a warrant, longer detention periods prior to a court hearing and the monitoring of communications. More than 50,000 suspected gang members have been arrested. Any security operations and associated clashes may pose incidental risk to bystanders.

MEXICO

On September 14, normal movement can resume following a security operation in Orizaba. On September 12, authorities and armed members of the Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG) exchanged gunfire in the vicinity of the intersection of Calle Sur 15 and Oriente 4. Authorities announced later the same day they had detained several assailants, one of whom was a regional leader of the CJNG.

PARAGUAY

Travelers should exercise caution and continue to anticipate disruption through at least September 16 accounting for disruption related to ongoing protests by truck drivers over rising fuel prices. On September 13, in Ita, truckers allegedly used sticks and stones against the local police. Further reports suggest that police used rubber bullets to disperse participants, injuring one. Demonstrators have blocked parts of Acceso Sur, between Asuncion and Caacupe since September 12. Along with the blockade, demonstrators also marched on the roadways, causing further disruption. Further blockades and disruption on main routes is likely countrywide.

PERU

Travelers should expect heightened security and follow all official directives linked to ongoing states of emergency (SoE) in Lima and parts of Arequipa, Callao, Loreto, Madre de Dios, Moquegua and Ucayali regions. Most SoEs were imposed in response to rising crime, and each are in effect for varying periods based on location. The armed forces are assisting police in maintaining law and order in these areas. Any confrontations between criminal elements or demonstrators and security forces are unlikely to directly affect business travelers; however, bystanders would face incidental risks.

Africa & the Middle East

ARBAEEN

Travelers should expect heightened security measures and associated disruption in Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia during the Shia Muslim Arbaeen religious festival on September 16-18. Arbaeen marks the end of the 40-day mourning period following Ashura, which commemorates the death of Imam Husayn Ibn Ali, the grandson of the Muslim prophet Muhammad. The nature of commemorative events differs from country to country, but the largest events will occur in Iraq. Travelers not participating in Arbaeen should avoid all related events and Shia religious sites due to the heightened risk of militancy and travel delays.

ANGOLA

Travelers should anticipate disruption in Luanda on September 15 during the inauguration of Joao Lourenco for his second term as President. The ceremony will be held at Praca da Independencia, though the exact time of the event is yet to be announced. Routes near Praca da Republica may be closed or restricted on the day. Opposition groups are planning to gather near the ceremony to denounce the results of the August 24 General Election. Security forces are likely to disperse such protests swiftly and forcibly, posing incidental risks to bystanders.

CONGO (DRC)

Travelers should anticipate disruption during an ongoing fuel shortage and avoid any related protests as a precaution. Long queues have been reported at petrol stations across Kinshasa, while a lack of jet fuel has disrupted flights at Congolese airports. Rationing plans have been adopted by authorities ahead of the next fuel shipment, which is due to arrive on September 14.

Travelers should anticipate disruption during a march in Kinshasa on September 15 to denounce social inequality. Supporters of the collective of citizen movements will gather at 10:00 AM local time at Cohydro Station before marching to the People's Palace via Boulevard Lumumba. The march is linked to various issues, including the rising cost of living and high fuel prices. Local disruption should be expected along the march's route and any unrest will pose incidental risks to bystanders.

GAMBIA

Travelers should anticipate transportation disruption through at least September 16 due to an ongoing nationwide strike called by the General Transport Union. Participants are denouncing high fuel prices, tolls and police checkpoints across the country. The organizers have indicated that the strike will continue indefinitely until their demands have been met. Significant travel disruption has been reported, including in Banjul, as taxi and private bus drivers are observing the industrial action. Related protests may also occur in urban centers and may cause local disruption.

IRAQ

Travelers should continue to monitor developments throughout September linked to the protracted government-formation process. Influential Shia Muslim cleric Muqtada al-Sadr has refused to participate in political talks that have been ongoing since the outbreak of violence on August 29-30. Amid these developments, on September 7, Iraq's Supreme Federal Court dismissed al-Sadr's petition for Parliament dissolution, further heightening political tensions. The risk of political unrest is lower due to the Shia Muslim Arbaeen religious festival on September 16-17. Nonetheless, developments associated with the government-formation process remain contentious and could trigger further unrest.

LEBANON

Travelers should anticipate and avoid further protests throughout September over socio-economic grievances. On September 12, protesters rallied in Beirut and Tripoli to denounce the Central Bank's decision to remove all government subsidies on fuel. Bouts of local unrest were reported in Beirut and protesters barricaded roads in the vicinity of Bechara al-Khoury, Corniche al-Mazraa and Qasqas with waste bins. Frequent and prolonged power outages and increasing costs of living and fuel prices will exacerbate pre-existing hardships, which will in turn fuel further social unrest in the coming weeks.

MALAWI

An outbreak of cholera has been declared in Malawi, involving additional several districts. Many of the cases are in people who had traveled from Mozambique, where an outbreak is ongoing. Cholera spreads via contaminated food and water. Symptoms include vomiting and profuse, watery diarrhea which can lead to severe dehydration. Those staying in quality accommodations with access to safe food and water are at low risk; however, travelers should ensure food and water for consumption are safe and consider vaccination if likely to encounter unsanitary conditions.

MOROCCO

All journeys undertaken in the Southern Provinces using tertiary and unclassified roads should be planned with consideration for land mines. At least two people were reportedly seriously injured on August 27 by a mine explosion in an area south of Dakhla city. They were traveling near National Road 1, the main road for travel between Laayoune and Guerguerat. It is estimated that over 7 million mines are buried in the disputed territory. Thousands have been injured or killed as a result of stepping on land mines. Travelers should liaise with Moroccan authorities when undertaking travel outside of urban centers throughout September.

NIGER

Travelers should plan journeys in the southern regions accounting for disruption throughout September due to ongoing flooding. Heavy rain and flooding have caused significant disruption in several regions, including Maradi, Zinder, Tillaberi and Tahoua. Ongoing severe weather since June has led to the deaths of at least 75 people and impacted more than 108,000 others. More than 12,700 buildings have reportedly been damaged in the flooding. Niamey remains unaffected, though main roads that pass through the city, such as the RN1, are at a risk of being disrupted by surface runoff. Travelers should reconfirm the feasibility of journeys before setting out.

NIGERIA

Travelers should plan journeys accounting for flood-related disruption in Lagos through at least September 14 due to ongoing heavy rainfall. Many major roads and bridges have been inundated, including the Otedola Bridge. Travelers should reconfirm the status of routes before setting out and allow additional time for journeys.

Travelers should anticipate further protests in Ogun state related to nationwide strikes by education workers and avoid them all due to the risk of unrest. On September 13, protesters blocked traffic on the E1 Motorway near Shagamu Interchange. The motorway connects Lagos and Ibadan. Protesters have announced they will continue to demonstrate through at least September 16. Students are demanding the resumption of academic activities amid a strike by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU).

Travelers should continue to avoid all protests related to nationwide strikes by education workers due to the risk of unrest. The ASUU academics' union has extended its ongoing work stoppage indefinitely and other unions may observe related walkouts. The industrial action is linked to various issues, including salary-related grievances. Meanwhile, student protests against the strikes have involved roadblocks and scuffles with police, including in Abuja and Akure. Further demonstrations for and against the walkouts are likely throughout September.

SOUTH AFRICA

Travelers should anticipate disruption during scheduled power outages, locally known as 'load shedding'. State-owned electricity provider Eskom announced that the latest round of load shedding, which began on September 9 because of an unexpected loss of power-generation capacity, will last until at least 11:59 PM local time on September 18. Temporary disruption to cellular and internet services is possible. There is also an increased risk of vehicle and residential robberies in affected areas. Travelers should exercise enhanced caution and ensure your accommodation is equipped to cope with power outages.

SUDAN

Travelers should monitor developments throughout September linked to ongoing negotiations over the roadmap for transitional rule. The activist Forces of Freedom and Change (FFC) is planning further civil disobedience campaigns and a general strike, amid persistent disagreements over a transitional government. Travelers should avoid further pro- and anti-military demonstrations due to the credible risk of unrest and stand fast in a secure location on days when major gatherings are planned.

Through October, travelers should anticipate intermittent weather-related disruption during the ongoing rainy season. More than 70 people have been killed, and 30 injured in heavy flooding since the start of the rainy season. An estimated 0.8 square miles of farmland has been damaged, along with hundreds of water source locations and buildings. On August 21, authorities imposed a State of Emergency in El Gezira, River Nile, South Darfur, West Kordofan, and White Nile states. They have also warned of worsening conditions as well as food, shelter, and medical shortages in some affected areas.

UGANDA

Travelers should plan journeys accounting for intermittent disruption during the ongoing rainy season, which is expected to last until December. The Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA) has forecast moderate-to-heavy rainfall through December, particularly affecting Eastern, Northern and Western regions. Periods of torrential rainfall may cause local flash flooding and mudslides in low-lying areas. Districts near bodies of water, such as Lake Victoria, are also vulnerable to flooding amid such weather conditions.

ZIMBABWE

Travelers should anticipate and avoid gatherings throughout September related to the 2023 Presidential Election. On September 11, a rally in Chinhoyi led by the main opposition and Citizens' Coalition for Change (CCC) leader Nelson Chamisa turned unruly. Chamisa's convoy was reportedly attacked in the vicinity of the venue where the rally was due to take place. The event highlights the risk of unrest associated with such gatherings.

Asia & the Pacific

AUSTRALIA

Travelers should plan journeys bypassing nationwide protests on September 17 over COVID-19-related policies. The protests are part of a series of 'Worldwide Freedom' demonstrations organized by multiple groups around public spaces and legislative buildings in urban centers. Protest locations include Adelaide, Canberra, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney. The gatherings are expected to pass off peacefully. Travelers should anticipate a heightened security force presence and local traffic disruption. Scuffles between demonstrators and police are possible, which would pose incidental risks to bystanders.

BANGLADESH

Travelers should anticipate disruption and avoid planned rallies until September 27 in Dhaka by the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). The BNP has announced the protest campaign to denounce the perceived mismanagement of the economy by the ruling Awami League (AL) party. Authorities are likely to maintain a heightened security presence around related gatherings. Any clashes between police and the protesters or between rival political activists would pose incidental risks to bystanders.

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 minimize non-essential movement in eastern provinces through at least September 16 during the passage of Severe Typhoon Muifa (middle on a three-tier scale). The storm is moving northwest toward Ningbo, where it is expected to make landfall on September 14. An orange typhoon warning (second highest on a four-tier scale) is in place. Persistent heavy rain may cause flash floods, landslides and associated transportation disruption, especially in low-lying, riverine and coastal areas. Flight cancellations have been reported at Shanghai's Hongqiao (SHA) and Pudong (PVG) international airports.

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 nationwide protests from September 15 to September 25 by the Samyuktha Kisan Morcha (SKM) farmer umbrella organization. The SKM will stage block-level protests across the country to denounce perceived anti-farmer federal government policies and to demand legal backing for the Minimum Support Price, among other things. The protests are likely to be well attended, especially in states with a large farming population, particularly Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh states. Local disruption on motorways and around key government buildings can be expected during the demonstrations.

Travelers should anticipate disruption due to ongoing flooding in Nagpur and Pune. Several areas of the cities have been inundated, causing severe traffic congestion along major and arterial roads. In Nagpur, GMCH road, Narendra Nagar railway under bridge, Wardha road and Airport road were among those submerged. In Pune, 25 areas were impacted, including around Wanowrie and NIBM Road. An orange alert (second highest on a four-tier scale) for heavy rainfall is in effect in Pune until September 16, with further rainfall also forecast in Nagpur. Short-notice disruption to road travel can be expected following bouts of heavy rainfall.

INDONESIA

Travelers should anticipate and avoid further nationwide protests throughout September over labor issues and living costs. Related gatherings have occurred at government buildings in major urban centers. Common protest venues in Jakarta include the State Palace, the People's Representative Council, Arjun Wijaya Horse Statue, and the National Library. While most protests have passed off peacefully, clashes between participants and security forces have been reported in recent days. Traveler should anticipate a heightened security presence and related traffic disruption in affected areas.

JAPAN

Travelers should anticipate disruption in southern areas through at least September 14 during the passage of Very Strong Typhoon Muifa (fifth-highest on a six-tier scale). The weather system is currently located over the sea south of Japan and is moving northwest towards Okinawa prefecture. It is forecast to make landfall on the Sakishima Islands between the evening of September 12 and the morning of September 13. Multiple domestic flights have been cancelled at several airports on the Miyako and Yaeyama islands, including New Ishigaki Airport (ISG). Heavy rain and strong winds may cause intermittent transportation disruption in affected areas.

Travelers should plan journeys accounting for disruption until at least September 19 during the passage of Tropical Storm Nanmadol. The tropical storm (second lowest on a six-tier scale) is forecast to strengthen into a typhoon (third highest) on September 17 as it impacts Okinawa and Kyushu regions. It is forecast to weaken into a severe tropical storm (third lowest) as it nears Chugoku, Shikoku and Kansai regions. Travelers should expect heavy rain and strong winds, potentially leading to intermittent transportation disruption in the affected areas.

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 is also liable to exacerbate damage and disruption during this period. Travelers should maintain flexible itineraries during the monsoon season and liaise with local contacts to reconfirm feasibility of overland journeys prior to setting out.

MALAYSIA

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.

NEPAL

Travelers should anticipate disruption and avoid protests through at least September 15 over the President's delay in authenticating the amendments to Nepal's citizenship act. On September 11, members of the NSU, the student wing of the ruling Nepali Congress, from Tri-Chandra College staged a protest outside the college in Kathmandu. The protest resulted in clashes and stone throwing between NSU members and police, with some injuries reported. Similar demonstrations by student groups over the bill are likely in Kathmandu in the coming days. Security forces may use forcible dispersal measures posing incidental risks to bystanders.

NEW ZEALAND

Travelers should anticipate disruption on September 17 in Wellington and other major urban centers due to COVID-19-related protests. Members of the World Wide Rally for Freedom activist group have called for demonstrations to denounce vaccine mandates, and to highlight other human rights concerns. While the protests are likely to pass off peacefully, a heightened security presence and associated disruption should be expected in the vicinity.

PAKISTAN

Travelers should plan journeys accounting for intermittent disruption during the ongoing monsoon season, which typically lasts until mid-September. More than 1,400 people have been killed, and 12,700 injured due to widespread flooding, especially in Balochistan, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh provinces. More than 33 million people have been affected, with 664,000 displaced. While the scale of the flooding is significant, the areas impacted are primarily rural. Large urban centers including Islamabad, Karachi and Lahore remain unaffected beyond normal seasonal disruption.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Non-essential travel to the Highlands region should be deferred through at least September 14 following a magnitude 7.6 earthquake which struck northwest of Lae on September 11. Essential travel to Madang and Morobe provinces is possible with stringent security and logistical support as both provinces have reported disruption to roads and essential infrastructure. At least four people have been killed due to landslides at Wau and the Rai coast area; however, the Goroka (GKA) and Lae Nadzab (LAE) airports, as well as other airports in the affected areas, remain operational.

SRI LANKA

Travelers should anticipate disruption due to scheduled daily countrywide power cuts until September 16. The Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka (PUCSL) announced that one-hour power cuts will be imposed between 6:00 PM and 9:00 PM local time. The outages are linked to authorities' attempt to manage demand amid the ongoing fuel shortages. Although critical public utilities, infrastructure and business-class hotels usually have backup generators, travelers should ensure their accommodation is prepared for the outages.

Travelers should continue to defer all travel to Sri Lanka due to the potential for further unrest and operational disruption linked to the ongoing economic crisis. Demonstrations over issues such as fuel shortages and power outages will persist throughout September. Police fired tear gas and water cannon to disperse a protest march on August 18 by the Inter University Students' Federation (IUSF) at Slave Island in the commercial capital Colombo. They also arrested the convener of IUSF along with four other activists. Further protests to demand the release of the detained members are likely. Bystanders will face incidental risks in the event of any ensuing disturbances.

TAIWAN

Travelers should plan journeys accounting for disruption until at least September 14 during the passage of Typhoon Muifa. The weather system was located 186 miles east of Taipei heading north, as of 5:00 AM local time on September 12. Although it is unlikely to make landfall in Taiwan, the Central Weather Bureau (CWB) expects it will maintain its moderate typhoon strength (second-highest on three-tier scale). Authorities have imposed a Red Warning for heavy rainfall (second-highest on four-tier scale). Flights at Taoyuan International (TPE) and Taipei Songshan (TSA) airports have been disrupted.

THAILAND

Travelers should continue to plan journeys nationwide accounting for monsoon-related disruption through at least September 16. The Thai Meteorological Department (TMD) has forecast further heavy rainfall across the country. This comes amid reports of ongoing widespread flooding, including in Bangkok. There is a continued risk of flash flooding, landslides, power outages and trees falling. Low-lying areas near the Chao Phraya river are at particular risk of flooding due to rising water levels. Heavy rainfall may also cause short-notice transportation and infrastructure disruption.

On September 8, the Constitutional Court requested additional evidence to rule on whether suspended Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha's eight-year term has ended. The court will reconvene on September 14 to review the matter. Prayut was suspended from his duties on August 24, following which Deputy Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwan took over as caretaker Prime Minister. Demonstrations in support of and against Prayut are expected through at least September 16 and should be avoided as a precaution. Widespread unrest remains unlikely.

Three security force personnel and one civilian were injured on September 12 in a roadside bombing in Si Sakhon district. The incident took place after the Emergency Decree in the region was extended until December 19. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack. The incident highlights the persistent risks posed by the southern insurgency despite recent peace talks between authorities and the militant National Revolutionary Front (BRN). Travelers should expect further rebel activity and continue to avoid non-essential travel to insurgency-affected areas.

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 throughout September and plan journeys accordingly. The events are likely to be well attended and accompanied by heightened security and road closures. Counter-demonstrations by far-right groups may coincide with such events, particularly in countries where attitudes toward the LGBTQ community are generally more conservative. The EuroPride march planned on September 17 in Belgrade has been cancelled over safety concerns. Attacks targeting LGBTQ people are possible. If planning to attend an event, travelers remain alert to their surroundings.

RALLIES AGAINST TEMPORARY SHUTDOWN OF NORD STREAM 1 GAS PIPELINE

Russian energy supplier Gazprom announced on September 2 that they would indefinitely close the Nord Stream 1 gas pipeline. While Gazprom officials initially announced a temporary shutdown from August 31 to September 3, they stated that the pipeline would remain closed following the discovery of a mechanical issue. The announcement came shortly after G7 officials agreed to implement a price cap on Russian oil. Meanwhile, on September 3, an estimated 70,000 people protested in Prague against the government's lack of action to protect the country from energy price increases. Further such rallies can be expected throughout September.

CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS ALONG ARMENIA-AZERBAIJAN BORDER

Reports of ceasefire violations in the shared border areas of Armenia and Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh highlight persistently high tensions. On September 13, both the Armenian and Azerbaijani foreign ministries accused the other for instigating attacks on several districts. The attacks were on a larger scale than usual and targeted multiple districts. Heavy shelling began around 12:00 AM local time and continued until at least 8:00 AM local time. Armenia said their 49 soldiers were killed, while Azerbaijan has confirmed casualties but not given an exact figure. These incidents underscore the need to avoid all travel to the affected areas throughout September.

PROTESTS OVER COVID-19-RELATED POLICIES

Travelers should anticipate disruption in major urban centers across Europe on September 17 during protests over COVID-19-related policies. The protests are part of a series of 'World Wide Rally for Freedom' demonstrations organized by activists to denounce the perceived infringement of their rights. While the demonstration is likely to pass off peacefully, local clashes between protesters and police are possible. High engagement on social media suggests that the gatherings will likely be well attended and cause significant traffic disruption.

ARMENIA

Travelers should avoid an ongoing anti-government demonstration near the National Assembly in Yerevan due to the risk of local disruption and unrest. Early on September 14, participants attempted to block entrances of the building, where a meeting of the legislative body is scheduled for 4:00 PM local time. A heightened security force presence has been reported along nearby Derenik Demirtchyan Street. Protests began following clashes with Azerbaijan on September 13. Demonstrators are calling for the resignation of Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan.

AUSTRIA

Travelers should anticipate disruption in Vienna during an anti-fascist rally at Karmeliterplatz at 6:00 PM local time on September 14. The protest is expected to be well attended. Scuffles between demonstrators and counter-demonstrators are likely. Travelers should anticipate a heightened security force presence around the protest and follow all official directives.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Travelers should anticipate disruption during nationwide protests by farmers on September 15. Farmers will block roads throughout the country, including in Prague, to denounce the EU's agricultural policy. A related demonstration is planned in front of the Congress Center in Prague on the same day, as EU agricultural ministers are scheduled to meet there. Exact timings for the demonstrations have not yet been announced. Clashes between protesters and police cannot be ruled out. Any unrest will pose incidental risk to bystanders. Significant traffic disruption can be expected. Travelers should plan journeys bypassing roadblocks and allow additional time for journeys.

FRANCE

Travelers should plan journeys bypassing a planned demonstration by the 'Yellow Vests' (Gilets Jaunes, GJ) movement on September 17 in Paris. The GJ activists will gather at 2:00 PM local time at Palais Royal. The demonstration is linked to various issues, including the rising cost of living and COVID-19-related policies. Police may forcibly disperse participants and any related disturbances would pose incidental risk to bystanders. Traffic disruption can be expected in the vicinity.

GERMANY

Travelers should plan journeys bypassing planned demonstrations in urban centers on September 17 by the left-wing Die Linke party against rising energy prices and inflation. The largest gathering is expected to take place in Leipzig at 1:00 PM local time at Willy-Brandt-Platz. Similar gatherings in Leipzig on September 5 and 12 were well-attended and had far-right counter-protests organized in the vicinity. Further counterdemonstrations are likely on the day and could lead to clashes, posing incidental risk to bystanders.

The Extinction Rebellion (XR) movement has organized demonstrations in Berlin from September 17 to September 20 to demand government action against climate change. On September 17, participants plan to gather at 10:00 AM local time at Invalidenpark. While related events should pass off largely peacefully, they are likely to cause notable disruption. Travelers should reconfirm the status of routes before setting out and allow additional time for journeys.

GREECE

Travelers should plan journeys bypassing a demonstration in Thessaloniki on September 14 due to the risk of local unrest. Participants will gather at 11:00 AM local time outside the Turkish Consulate to demand the release of prisoners on hunger strike. Previous related demonstrations have resulted in clashes between protesters and police. Any such disturbances would pose incidental risks to bystanders.

IRELAND

Travelers should anticipate disruption during a protest in Cork on September 17. Participants will gather at Grand Parade at 2:00 PM local time to denounce the rising cost of living and to demand government support. The event has

been organized ahead of the Budget Day on September 27. The gathering is expected to pass off peacefully, but traffic disruption in the vicinity is likely.

NETHERLANDS

Travelers should anticipate disruption to transportation services during regional strikes on September 16 and plan journeys accordingly. Employees of several public transportation companies have called for 24-hour strikes over alleged poor working conditions and staff shortages. Related strikes on September 13 and 15 were cancelled due to a collective agreement regarding staff salaries being reached.

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.

SERBIA

Travelers should anticipate disruption in Belgrade on September 17 during Pride events organized by members of the LGBTQ+ community. On September 13, police announced a ban on the event amid fears that counter-protesters would gather and threaten the security situation around the event. Organizers have announced that they will appeal the decision and previously said that the events would go ahead. Earlier, anti-LGBTQ+ demonstrations on August 15 and September 11 were largely attended and passed off peacefully. Counter-demonstrations are likely on September 17. Any scuffles between rival demonstrators or between protesters and police would pose incidental risks to bystanders.

UNITED KINGDOM

Travelers should anticipate disruption throughout September following the death of Queen Elizabeth II on September 8. Further nationwide public mourning gatherings are likely to be peaceful but well attended. Official announcements have yet to be made over funeral arrangements, though a national mourning period is likely to be declared and some business hours may vary. Travelers should reconfirm the status of routes before heading out, particularly near Buckingham Palace, Trafalgar and Parliament squares in London.