

MONDAY, OCTOBER 31, 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 11% during the week of September 19-25, as compared to the previous week, with over three million new cases reported. The number of new weekly deaths decreased by 18%, as compared to the previous week, with just over 8,900 fatalities reported. As of September 25, 612 million confirmed cases and 6.5 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.

During the week of September 12-18 2022, the number of monkeypox cases reported in the regions of Europe and the Americas declined, driving the global downward trend observed since August 2022. Since September 7, 8,757 new cases (16.5% increase in total cases) and five new deaths have been reported.

### LEGEND TRAVEL RESOURCES

- [Rebooking Policies](#)
- [Travel Restrictions & Health Measures](#)

## NOTEWORTHY EVENTS

### OCT 31

- Halloween
- Austria, Chile, Germany, Slovenia: Reformation Day
- Burkina Faso: Martyrs' Day
- Hungary: All Saints' Day Holiday
- Ireland: October Bank Holiday
- New Zealand: Marlborough Anniversary Day
- Peru: Public Sector Holiday
- Philippines: Special Family Ties and Domestic Tourism Day
- Venezuela: All Saints Day
- Central African Republic, Congo, Gabon: All Saints' Eve
- Cote d'Ivoire, Venezuela: All Saints Day
- Algeria: Anniversary of the Revolution
- Israel: Election Day
- Israel: Aliyah Day School Observance
- US Virgin Islands: Liberty Day

### NOV 1

- All Saints' Day
- Antigua and Barbuda: Independence Day
- Australia: Melbourne Cup Day
- Bulgaria: Revival Day
- Bhutan: King Jigme Khesar Namgyel's Coronation
- Central African Republic, Congo, Gabon: All Saints' Eve
- Algeria: Anniversary of the Revolution
- Israel: Election Day
- Israel: Aliyah Day School Observance
- US Virgin Islands: Liberty Day

### NOV 2

- Angola, Austria, Australia, Brazil, Belarus, Canada, Costa Rica, Germany, Ecuador, Estonia, French Guiana, Guam, Haiti, Lithuania, Macau, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, San Marino, East Timor, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Vatican City (Holy See), Venezuela: All Souls' Day
- Bolivia, El Salvador: All Saints Day
- Mauritius: Arrival of Indentured Laborers

### NOV 3

- Dominica, Micronesia, Panama: Independence Day
- Ecuador: Independence of Cuenca
- Micronesia: Kosrae Self Government Day
- Japan: Culture Day
- Liberia: Thanksgiving
- Maldives: Victory Day

# Americas

## **AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE JULIA**

Travelers should anticipate residual disruption throughout October following the passage of Hurricane Julia. The hurricane made landfall over Nicaragua on October 9 before moving to other central American countries, including Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. At least 28 people have been reported dead, of whom 14 were in Guatemala. Heavy rains, strong winds and storm surges caused significant destruction. Hundreds of thousands of people will continue to be affected by infrastructure damage, including power outages.

## **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, avoiding crowds, and washing hands often or using hand sanitizer. This guidance applies to travel within the United States and its territories.

## **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.

## **HAWAII**

Travelers should continue to monitor developments and follow official directives through at least November 2 following increased activity at the Mauna Loa volcano in Hawaii. The US Geological Survey (USGS) issued an advisory alert (second lowest on a six-level scale) amid a series of low-magnitude earthquakes and inflation of the summit of the volcano. The volcano's summit is temporarily closed as a precautionary measure. According to the USGS, there are no signs of an imminent eruption of the volcano.

## **MASSACHUSETTS**

Travelers should anticipate disruption on November 1 due to a planned march in Boston, MA by groups protesting US intervention in Haiti. The event will begin at 4:00 PM local time at Park Street station and will proceed at 4:45 PM local time to the Mexican Consulate and then the Haitian Consulate. The event is expected to pass off peacefully.

## **BOLIVIA**

Non-essential travel to Santa Cruz department should be deferred until at least October 31 amid an ongoing indefinite strike. Workforce in Santa Cruz should continue to avoid protests and account for shortages of fuel and essential goods due to persistent roadblocks by rival groups. Supporters of the Santa Cruz Civic Committee are demanding that the population and housing census be held in 2023 and not delayed. Negotiations to resolve the issues have so far failed. Strike opponents are planning marches to enter Santa Cruz from several points on October 31. Clashes between rival demonstrators have escalated in recent days, and groups opposed to the strike have cut off Santa Cruz city from all transportation – including the provision of essential goods – since October 26.

## **BRAZIL**

Travelers should monitor developments and anticipate a heightened security presence and disruption following the release of the Presidential Election results. Former President Luiz Inacio 'Lula' da Silva was declared President-elect, securing 50.9% of votes. Defeated candidate President Jair Bolsonaro has yet to comment on the results, though his key allies have congratulated Lula or acknowledged his victory. Demonstrations by Bolsonaro supporters have been reported in Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina states. Travelers should avoid all political gatherings as a precaution through at least November 4.

Passengers transiting Fernando de Noronha Airport (FEN) should anticipate disruption and reconfirm flights. Brazil's National Civil Aviation Agency (ANAC) has restricted most aircraft from operating at the airport beginning October 12 pending sufficient improvements to the facility's runway. Repair works on the runway reportedly began on October 6 and are expected to be completed after 60 days (December 5); however, full operations at the airport could resume sooner with approval from ANAC.

## **CHILE**

Travelers should continue to expect heightened security in Araucania and Biobio regions following the extension of an ongoing state of emergency (SoE). On October 25, the Senate voted to further extend the SoE until at least November 13. The measure 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 the forestry and agriculture sectors. Further security incidents are likely in the coming weeks. Travelers should follow all official directives, including any movement restrictions.

## **ECUADOR**

Travelers should monitor developments throughout October following the conclusion of the negotiations between the government and the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador (CONAIE). The dialogue began on July 13, following a general strike led by CONAIE on June 13 and a subsequent 18-day period of unrest nationwide. The action was called to protest over various issues, especially the rising cost of basic goods and fuel, insecurity and

unemployment. Although several agreements were reached by the groups, further developments including possible protests can be expected in the coming weeks.

## **EL SALVADOR**

Travelers should continue to expect heightened security until at least November 13 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 seven times. It restricts gatherings and permits arrests without a warrant, longer detention periods prior to a court hearing and the monitoring of communications. More than 55,000 suspected gang members have been arrested thus far. Related security operations and confrontations can pose incidental risks to bystanders.

## **HAITI**

Rally of Progressive National Democrats party leader Eric Jean Baptiste and his bodyguard were killed in Port-au-Prince's Petion-Ville suburb on October 28. The assailants opened fire on the victim's car near his home in the Laboule 12 neighborhood. Although the attackers have not been identified, the area is a stronghold of the Ti Makak criminal gang. All travel to Haiti should be deferred through at least November 4.

## **MEXICO**

Travelers should anticipate heightened security and associated disruption around 'Dia de Muertos' celebrations through at least November 2. The holiday is traditionally observed on November 1-2; however, related events are also being held ahead of the holiday in urban centers countrywide. In Mexico City, a parade is scheduled for 5:00 PM local time on October 29, starting from Puerta de Leones and ending at the Zocalo. Measures aimed at deterring crime and easing traffic congestion can be expected in and other cities amid an influx of visitors over the holiday period. These are likely to include increased police presence and traffic restrictions. Travelers should reconfirm routes before setting out and follow all official directives.

## **PANAMA**

Travelers should anticipate local disruption in Panama City on October 20 during a union-led protest to demand the resignation of Minister of Labor. Participants will gather at University of Panama at 3:00 PM local time and march to Ministry of Labor. The event is expected to be well attended and result in local traffic disruption.

## **TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

Travelers should plan journeys accounting for weather-related disruption through at least November 2. Heavy rainfall has caused floods in several areas, including Mason Hall/Moriah district in Scarborough. Floods and multiple landslides have been reported in Penal-Debe region. Further rainfall is forecast. Travelers should reconfirm the status of routes before setting out and exercise enhanced caution when undertaking road travel.

## **TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS**

Travelers should anticipate a heightened security presence in the Turks and Caicos Islands throughout October amid a surge in gang-related violence. At least 15 people have been killed in shootings within the territory since September. Local authorities have attributed the incidents to gang disputes over drug trafficking and territorial control. On October 11, the UK government announced the deployment of at least two dozen police elements and a patrolling vessel to help combat the violence. The UK said it would also be funding and training a unit within the local police department specialized in tackling gang activity. Travelers should exercise enhanced caution and follow all official directives.

# *Africa & the Middle East*

## **ISRAEL, PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES**

Travelers should continue to exercise increased caution in Israel and the West Bank throughout October. In recent weeks, there were multiple attempted and successful attacks by Palestinians and IDF raids in the West Bank. Several attacks in the West Bank were attributed to the emergence of the 'Lion's Den', a new Palestinian militant group. Heightened tensions have also led to protests and checkpoint closures.

## **ISRAEL, LEBANON**

On October 27, Israel and Lebanon officially signed an agreement regarding disputed gas-rich maritime areas in the Mediterranean Sea. The US-brokered deal follows several months of bilateral tensions. Both parties have made compromises and have described the agreement as satisfactory. Although conflict is unlikely, the delineation of maritime borders remains contentious and will drive domestic opposition in both countries. Monitor developments linked to the deal through at least November 4.

## **FIFA WORLD CUP**

Travelers should anticipate increased demand for transportation and accommodation options in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states ahead of and during the 2022 FIFA World Cup. The event will be hosted by Qatar between November 20 and December 18. Neighboring GCC countries, namely Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), will serve as secondary hubs for football fans and will experience an influx of visitors ahead and during the tournament. Travelers should anticipate increased congestion at and around international airports, as well as disruption in the vicinity of fan zones in major urban centers across GCC countries. Travelers flying to/from GCC member states should allow additional time to complete their journeys.

## **BENIN**

Additional cases of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) have been confirmed. Polio is a contagious viral illness that can cause paralysis and death. It is spread through contaminated food or water, or directly from an infected person. Travelers are advised to prevent infection by ensuring polio vaccination is up to date, including a booster, and by selecting safe food and water.

## **BURKINA FASO**

Non-essential travel should be deferred until November 1. This follows a ceremony on October 21 where Captain Ibrahim Traore was sworn in as interim President for the remainder of the ongoing transitional period. This period is due to end with Presidential elections in July 2024. Traore took power in a military coup on September 30, ousting the previous interim President, Lieutenant-Colonel Paul-Henri Damiba. He has received a degree of public support; however, challenges to his leadership from within the military remain possible and could trigger a sudden deterioration in the security environment. Should no challenge emerge before November 1, non-essential travel can resume.

## **CONGO (DRC)**

Fighting between the Congolese Army (FARDC) and the March 23 (M23) rebel movement continues in North Kivu province. Reports on October 29 indicated that M23 had seized Kiwanja and central Rutshuru. Meanwhile, there is a heavy M23 presence on the RN2 Motorway, connecting Goma to Rutshuru town. Following the unrest, the Congolese government on October 29 has ordered for the expulsion of the Rwandan Ambassador from the country. M23's resurgence and heightened tensions with neighboring Rwanda are driving insecurity in North Kivu, highlighting the need to avoid all travel outside Goma through at least November 4.

## **EGYPT**

Sharm El Sheikh will host the annual UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) between November 6 and November 18. A heightened security force presence and additional checkpoints will be deployed throughout the city ahead of the event. Logistical disruption, including increased demand for transportation and accommodation, can also be expected during this period. Travelers should allow additional time to complete journeys.

## **EQUATORIAL GUINEA**

Travelers should monitor developments linked to the upcoming November 20 Presidential Elections. The polls were originally scheduled for April 2023 but will now coincide with Legislative and Local Elections, which will be held on the same day. Authorities cited budgetary constraints as the reason behind the move. President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo will seek re-election after being nominated by the ruling Democratic Party of Equatorial Guinea (PDGE). While related gatherings are likely to be small in scale, they should be avoided as a precaution.

## **ERITREA**

Through at least mid-October, travelers should monitor developments in Eritrea after several diplomatic missions issued travel advisories for the country. International media reported on September 18 that Eritrean involvement in the conflict in Ethiopia is expected to increase amid increased mobilization efforts across the country. These

developments come amid allegations from the Tigray People's Liberation Front that the Eritrean security forces are increasingly fighting alongside the Ethiopian federal security forces in Tigray, Ethiopia. This points to a widening of the conflict zone and higher potential for spillover violence into Eritrea.

## **ETHIOPIA**

Travelers should continue to monitor developments and defer all travel to Tigray state and areas of Amhara and Afar states bordering Tigray. Fighting between federal government forces and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) is ongoing in several towns in these areas. Fighting continues to include both air and ground bombardments, and there continue to be reports of unconfirmed numbers of civilian casualties; however, the federal government recently announced that peace talks led by the African Union (AU) have been rescheduled for October 24 in South Africa. Despite this development, fighting will likely persist throughout October.

## **GUINEA**

Travelers should anticipate further protests throughout October following the cancellation of a planned anti-government demonstration on October 26. The opposition National Front for the Defense of the Constitution (FNDC) coalition was initially holding an event to denounce the deaths of those killed in previous protests. They also planned to raise the issue of alleged public discontent with an ongoing political transition. No new date has been provided for any fresh protests. Previous rallies have degenerated into unrest, with fatal clashes occurring between participants and security forces and prompted demonstrators to erect roadblocks.

## **IRAQ**

Travelers should continue to monitor developments throughout October linked to the protracted government-formation process. On October 4, reports emerged of supporters of influential Shia Muslim cleric Muqtada al-Sadr planning to renew protests in Baghdad, and the southern governorates. The exact times and locations are yet to be announced. Well-attended protests took place in Baghdad and southern governorates on September 28 and October 1 linked to public discontent with current political crisis. Developments associated with the government-formation process remain contentious and can trigger unrest. Travelers should avoid all gatherings due to the credible risk of unrest.

Through October, travelers should monitor developments in Basra and anticipate further fighting between rival militias. Early on October 4, several missiles were launched towards the Presidential Palace Compound, followed by armed clashes between rival militias. Security forces responded and were able to regain control of the area. The developments highlight the persistent risk of armed clashes within the city. Travelers should ensure that professional security support is utilized when undertaking business-critical travel to Basra.

Travelers should monitor developments in Basra throughout October and anticipate further fighting between rival Popular Mobilization Units (PMUs). Several missiles early on October 4 were launched towards the Presidential Palace Compound, followed by armed clashes between rival militias. Security forces responded and were able to regain control of the area. The developments highlight the persistent risk of armed clashes within the city.

## **LEBANON**

Travelers should anticipate anti-government demonstrations on October 20 in Beirut and avoid them due to the risk of unrest. Any such events will coincide with a Parliamentary session, with lawmakers making a third attempt to elect a new President at 11:00 AM local time. Previous sessions on October 13 and September 29 failed to secure the required quorum. Demonstrations ahead of and during the session are most likely to focus on the Parliament building. Travelers should expect heightened security and associated disruption in the vicinity.

## **NIGERIA**

Travelers should plan for disruption during a taxi drivers' strike from October 31 to November 6 in Lagos and avoid all related protests as a precaution. Participating drivers are protesting against alleged extortion by the transportation authorities. Travelers should expect demonstrations and significant disruption to transportation services if the walkout proceeds. Travelers should reconfirm transportation arrangements prior to setting out and allow additional time to complete journeys.

Through October, travelers should plan journeys accounting for flood-related disruption throughout Nigeria. According to authorities, the flooding has been exacerbated by heavy rainfall causing water to overflow from local

rivers. Additionally, the release of excess water from dams, including the Lagdo Dam in Cameroon, has contributed to the flooding. At least 20 people have been killed in the past week. Throughout 2022, more than 500,000 people have been affected in 27 states, and an over 300 people have been killed due to flood-related incidents. Further rainfall is forecast, which is liable to worsen flooding conditions in affected areas.

## **QATAR**

Travelers should anticipate significant business and travel disruption in Qatar between November 20 – December 18 during the 2022 FIFA World Cup. Qatar is the smallest country in history to host the tournament, which is expected to put significant pressure on the local logistical environment due to the large number of expected visitors. High demand on all available transportation and accommodation options, and disruption to normal business operations should be anticipated. Between November 1 – December 23, all foreign nationals, except citizens and residents, will require a Hayya Card to visit Qatar.

## **SENEGAL**

Travelers should plan journeys in Dakar bypassing protests on October 21 and October 28, as well as on November 4. Rallies will respectively be organized at Place de la Nation, UCAD Roundabout and Place de l'Independance. Participants will gather to demand the release of 'political prisoners'. Local disruption should be anticipated in the vicinity, and any unrest will pose incidental risk to bystanders.

## **SOMALIA**

An explosion was reported at KM4 Junction in Mogadishu on October 26. Eleven people were killed, and 47 others injured on October 23 in a car bombing and shooting at a hotel in Kismayo. Two separate explosions in Buulo Barde and Jalalaqsi towns on October 19 killed 21 people. Similarly, twin explosions in Mogadishu on October 17 at a police checkpoint in Ceel Qalow in Wadajir district and at a government building in Xamar Jajab district killed eight people and injured five others. These attacks underscore the persistent militant threats and the need to defer all travel through at least November 4.

## **SUDAN**

Travelers should continue to avoid protests related to the anniversary of the 2021 October military coup due to the credible risk of unrest. Thousands of protesters marched towards the Republican Palace in Khartoum on October 25. In Omdurman, people gathered at Al Arbaeen Hospital and proceeded to the People's Assembly and Republican Palace. Security forces forcibly dispersed protesters across Khartoum and Omdurman with tear gas. At least one person was killed. Nationwide disruption to internet services has been reported during the protests. All related events entail a risk of violence, as tough crowd dispersal measures may be used throughout October.

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.

At least 150 people were killed and 86 injured on October 19-20 during communal unrest in Blue Nile state between members of the ethnic-Hausa community and rival tribes. Local reports indicate the violence occurred in the Er Roseires and Wad al-Mahi areas. This followed a series of communal clashes between October 13 and 15 in which at least 18 people were killed, and 33 injured in Blue Nile and West Kordofan states. Blue Nile's governor declared a 30-day state of emergency (SoE) on October 21 in response to the recent unrest. Travel to Blue Nile and West Kordofan should be deferred throughout October.

Through October, travelers should monitor developments linked to ongoing negotiations over the roadmap for transitional rule. The activist Forces of Freedom and Change (FFC) group is organizing civil disobedience campaigns and a general strike, amid persistent disagreements. More than a hundred people have been injured during anti-military protests in Khartoum and Omdurman in September. Protests have also taken place in al-Qadarif, al-Jazirah, Northern, River Nile, and South Darfur states. Travelers should avoid pro- and anti-military demonstrations due to the credible risk of unrest and potential for security forces to use harsh dispersal measures.

## TUNISIA

Tunisia's Independent High Authority for Elections (ISIE) announced the start of campaigning for the December 17 Legislative Election on September 26. This comes after widely followed calls for a boycott of the elections by established political parties, who may organize gatherings opposing them. Protests related to shortages of key goods and economic issues are also likely throughout October. All gatherings should be avoided as a precaution.

## UGANDA

Non-essential travel to areas affected by the ongoing outbreak of the Ebola virus disease should be deferred. Movement has been suspended to and from Mubende and Kasanda districts until at least November 2. A curfew has been imposed on pedestrian movement and most vehicular traffic from 7:00 PM to 6:00 AM local time. Vehicles are allowed to transit through the districts following security clearance and without stopping. All public gatherings have been suspended, including seasonal markets and entertainment events. Travelers should closely monitor developments as the outbreak may spread.

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.

## YEMEN

Travelers should closely monitor developments following the collapse of the ceasefire between the Yemeni government and the Houthi rebel group. The UN's proposition to extend it was unsuccessful as warring sides could not reach an agreement before the October 2 deadline. The termination of the ceasefire is likely to reverse the easing of the blockade and cause resumption of air and ground offensives countrywide throughout October. These developments also heighten the risk of renewal of cross-border airstrikes towards Saudi Arabia following a lull in such incidents during the ceasefire.

# *Asia & the Pacific*

## NORTH & SOUTH KOREA

Travelers should monitor developments amid continued regional tensions around the Korean Peninsula through at least November 4. South Korea and the US recently announced that they will hold joint air force exercises between October 31 and November 4. Reports indicate that the exercises are likely to be the largest since 2017.

## ONGOING RAINY SEASON IN OCEANIA

Travelers should plan journeys accounting for weather-related disruption throughout Oceania due to the ongoing rainy season. This season is a result of the 'La Nina' weather phenomenon, which is related to oceanic and atmospheric temperature differentials. Bouts of heavy rain and associated flooding and landslides can be expected, especially in mountainous and low-lying areas. Heavy rains may prompt short-notice and intermittent flight disruption. Travelers should maintain flexible itineraries, avoid affected areas and reconfirm the feasibility of journeys before setting out through at least October 31.

## AFGHANISTAN

An outbreak of acute watery diarrhea (AWD) has been reported in multiple districts, including suspected cases of cholera. Cholera has been documented in the past in Afghanistan. AWD or cholera is spread via contaminated food and water. Symptoms include vomiting and profuse, watery diarrhea which can lead to severe dehydration. Travelers should ensure food and water for consumption are safe and consider vaccination if likely to encounter unsanitary conditions.



## AUSTRALIA

Travelers should anticipate disruption around the International Convention Center (ICC) in Sydney during environmental protests from November 2 to November 4. The events will begin at 9:00 AM local time and are expected to pass off peacefully; however, participants may erect roadblocks around the venue.

## BANGLADESH

Travelers should anticipate disruption across Bangladesh through December 10 as the main opposition party, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), will be holding several public rallies. The protest campaign started on October 8 in Chattogram and will end on December 10 with a rally in Dhaka. The rallies are being held over the recent price hike of fuel and daily essentials. Any associated gatherings are likely to be well-attended. Precedent suggests that unrest, potentially involving clashes between protesters and police and/or the ruling Awami League party's activists, are possible.

## 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 anticipate heightened security and associated disruption in Beijing during the Communist Party of China's (CPC) National Congress scheduled to begin October 16. This congress will be the CPC's 20th five-yearly meeting and a key event in the political calendar. Around 2,300 delegates from across the country will gather at the Great Hall of the People on Tiananmen Square. Travelers should maintain flexible itineraries to account for additional security checks and potential traffic delays through at least October 20.

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 expect heightened security and associated disruption ahead of and during upcoming Hindu religious festivals. The festivals of Diwali and Bhai Duj will be celebrated on October 24 and October 26, respectively, while Chhath Puja will be held from October 28 to October 31. Large crowds can be expected at transportation hubs and markets, increasing the risk of petty and opportunistic crime. Militancy and communal unrest also pose risks during the festival period.

Travelers should continue to avoid the vicinity of Julto Pul Bridge in Morbi on October 31 amid ongoing rescue operations. The suspension bridge collapsed at around 6:30 PM local time on October 30. Approximately 140 people have been killed. Security personnel and disaster response teams have rescued more than 170 people so far. Additionally, Morbi locals are observing a shutdown strike on October 31 to mourn the victims. Protests over the incident are possible in the coming days and may be held at the district collectorate, key roads and intersections in Morbi. These have the potential to be disruptive and should be avoided.

Through January 2023, travelers should continue to anticipate disruption during a nationwide protest march by the national opposition Indian National Congress (INC) that has been ongoing since September 7. The march has been passing through Kerala state since September 10 and is expected to enter Karnataka state on September 30. It is due to terminate in Srinagar in early 2023. Participants denounce the national ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s perceived mismanagement of issues related to increasing inflation and unemployment. Increased traffic congestion and security can be expected along the march route. Travelers should allow additional travel time and plan journeys bypassing the march to minimize inconvenience.

Travelers should monitor developments in Asom, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh following the extension of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) until March 30, 2023. The controversial anti-insurgency legislation grants special powers to security forces in 'disturbed areas' which are at comparatively high risk due to insurgency. Protests against the legislation may take place in urban centers. Additionally, AFSPA has been withdrawn from West Karbi Anglong district.

## **JAPAN**

Travelers should monitor developments and abide by official directives following intermittent eruptions at Mount Sakurajima, with the latest reported on October 12. A warning Level 3 (second highest on a five-tier scale) has been issued, restricting entry within 1.2 miles of the volcano. No flight disruption has been reported at Kirishima's Kagoshima Airport (KOJ). Falling rocks and poor visibility due to ash and smoke may disrupt road transportation. The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) has issued ash advisories and forecast further eruptions throughout October.

## **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.

## **MYANMAR**

Sustained fighting persists in conflict zones, with the military continuing to use escalated tactics, including airstrikes and artillery fire, to support operations. On October 27, four military soldiers were killed during fighting with a People's Defense Force (PDF) group near a bank in Myaung township. Earlier on October 23, at least 80 people were killed, and several injured in Hpakant township due to airstrikes by the military. The developments highlight that fighting persists between the ethnic armed organizations (EAO), PDF groups and the military continues. All travel to conflict-affected areas should be deferred through at least November 4.

## **NEPAL**

Travelers should avoid rallies ahead of Provincial and Federal Elections on November 20 and anticipate heightened security across the country. Several contentious issues, such as the proposed citizenship bill, price hikes, fuel shortages, power outages and US-led aid initiatives, have prompted protests in recent months. These issues are likely to retain traction amid heightened political activity. Heightened security measures, such as the deployment of additional security personnel, increased checkpoints, patrols and spot-checks, are likely to remain in place.

## **NEW ZEALAND**

Travelers should continue to anticipate protests in Wellington through at least November 10 by climate activists. The Restore Passenger Rail group has held protests disrupting major highways since October 10. Participants are calling for the government to implement more inter-regional rail projects and take a stronger stance in favor of the climate. Any confrontation between demonstrators and police would pose incidental risks to bystanders. A heightened security presence and associated traffic disruption should be expected around demonstrations.

## **PAKISTAN**

Travelers should anticipate disruption in urban centers until at least November 4 around an ongoing march to Islamabad, organized by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party. PTI leader and former Prime Minister Imran Khan is calling on supporters to demand early elections. The main march started on October 28 in Lahore, and participants

were expected to arrive in Islamabad on November 4; however, on October 30, Khan suspended the ongoing march for that day following the death of a journalist during the rally. A heightened security force presence and traffic diversions should be expected in urban centers along the planned route of the march.

## **PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

Travelers should exercise heightened vigilance in Tari following violent clashes on October 24 and 25. Local sources report that security forces used live ammunition against civilians on October 25. The number of casualties is unknown. The incident follows the abduction and killing of a police officer. While businesses have reopened and operations at Tari Airport (TIZ) have resumed, roads leading to the settlement remain blocked. Travelers should anticipate a heightened security force presence and further incidents of violence through at least November 2.

Travelers should expect additional police patrols and a heightened security force presence in Port Moresby amid an ongoing anti-crime initiative. The government has deployed at least 300 additional forces until at least November 24 to counter a rise in violent crime and armed clashes. Increased vehicle checkpoints can also be expected as part of the initiative. Confrontations between criminal elements and security forces may occur, posing incidental risks to bystanders.

## **PHILIPPINES**

Travelers should plan journeys accounting for residual disruption through at least November 2 following the passage of Severe Tropical Storm Nalgae. Nalgae is forecast to exit the Philippine Area of Responsibility on October 31. The weather system has caused major disruption and damage on Luzon Island, killing nearly 100 people. Over 1.9 million people have been affected across 17 regions. Three airports remain unoperational. Power and water disruption continues in several provinces. Moderate to heavy rainfall is likely in parts of Cagayan Valley and Central Luzon regions on October 31 and can cause further flooding and landslides.

Travelers should monitor developments and abide by official directives linked to increased volcanic activity at Mount Bulusan and Mount Mayon throughout October. An Alert Level 1 (lowest on a six-tier scale, indicating 'low-level unrest') for Mount Bulusan was issued on October 13. Mount Mayon remains at Alert Level 2 (second lowest, indicating 'increasing unrest') since October 7. Authorities have advised people to refrain from entering the designated Permanent Danger Zones (PDZ) due to the risk of sudden eruptions, rockfall and landslides. The Civil Aviation Authority has issued a notice restricting flight operations near both summits.

The Philippine government announced the implementation of the new electronic arrival (eArrival) card for all inbound travelers beginning November 1. The eArrival card replaces the One Health Pass currently required by the Bureau of Quarantine (BOQ). Under the new scheme, inbound travelers are required to register on the BOQ portal for an eArrival card within 72 hours prior to departure. This can also be done on arrival, though may result in airport delays. Other arrival protocols such as mask wearing, social distancing and vaccination requirements remain in place.

Travelers should anticipate significant travel and business disruption during the observance of All Saints and All Souls days on November 1 and November 2, respectively. Increased demand for accommodation and flights and other transportation is expected in the lead-up to these events. Traffic congestion is expected beginning October 29. Travelers should make bookings well in advance and plan journeys accounting for travel delays. Travelers should expect heightened security measures at transportation hubs, popular tourist destinations and cemeteries. Travelers should abide by all official directives, including COVID-19 related measures.

## **THAILAND**

Travelers should plan journeys bypassing protests by the hardline Thalugas group on October 31 in Bangkok to demand the release of detained anti-government activists. A protest will take place at 5:00 PM local time at the Bangkok Art and Culture Center intersection. Another demonstration from 8:00 PM local time will be held on Khao San Road. The events are likely to be well attended, causing local disruption. Previous Thalugas demonstrations have led to clashes with security forces. Authorities may use strong crowd-control measures, posing incidental risk to bystanders.

Travelers should continue to anticipate intermittent disruption and maintain flexible itineraries during the ongoing southwest monsoon season, which usually lasts until October. The Thai Meteorological Department (TMD) has

forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall in the southern part of Thailand over the coming days. Flooding and associated landslides can be expected countrywide during this period, intermittently disrupting transport and essential services, including electricity. Adverse weather conditions can affect routes to and operations at Bangkok's Don Mueang International Airport (DMK) and Suvarnabhumi International Airport (BKK). The central and southern provinces remain particularly vulnerable to flash floods and associated disruption.

## *Europe*

### **AIRPORT STAFF SHORTAGES & DELAYS**

Through at least mid-October, travelers should continue to anticipate disruption and delays across European airports. As many countries have dropped their COVID-19-related entry restrictions, facilities have struggled with a consistent influx of passengers and staff shortages over the summer. This has resulted in flight cancellations and delays, exacerbated by staff strikes, along with long queues for check-in procedures and security.

### **SECURITY FORCE CLASHES ALONG KYRGYZSTAN-TAJIKISTAN BORDER**

Renewed clashes in the shared border areas of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan underscore persistently high tensions and the need for enhanced precautions. On September 18, Kyrgyz officials said at least 59 people were killed, and more than 100 were injured, in clashes and cross-border attacks that occurred from September 14 to 18. Tajikistan has announced that at least 35 of its citizens were killed, and 139 others injured during the recent clashes. Additionally, local reports indicate several thousand civilians have been evacuated from affected areas, while officials from both sides engaged in talks.

### **CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS ALONG ARMENIA-AZERBAIJAN BORDER**

Reports of ceasefire violations in shared border regions and Nagorno-Karabakh will continue throughout October. These continue despite recent negotiations between Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev. On October 18, Armenian authorities accused Azerbaijani forces of firing on military positions in shared border areas. Similar violations were reported on October 14, 15 and 16. An estimated 155 people have been killed since the initial large-scale clashes on September 12. These incidents underscore the need to avoid all travel to the shared border areas and Nagorno-Karabakh.

### **FRANCE**

Travelers should continue to anticipate nationwide disruption due to ongoing fuel shortages linked to refinery and depot strikes organized by the CGT union. Participants are demanding increased wages due to rising inflation. The industrial action started on September 27 at five refinery sites. Employees at three sites subsequently reached an agreement with authorities and returned to work; however, strikes at a refinery in Feyzin and Gonfreville will continue until at least November 2. An estimated 20% of French petrol stations have recently reported shortages.

### **GERMANY**

Travelers should anticipate disruption in urban centers around protests against rising energy costs and inflation throughout October. Regular protests have been staged on Mondays. Related demonstrations were held on September 26 in Halle, Leipzig, Stuttgart and Wismar. While related events should pass off peacefully, traffic disruption in the vicinity of the protests is likely.

### **KOSOVO**

Travelers should continue to monitor developments and anticipate heightened tensions linked to a controversial mandate that came into effect on September 1. Authorities have ordered all vehicles with license plates issued in Serbia to obtain Kosovo-registered license plates, giving owners until October 31 to make the change. On September 20, the car of a Kosovo Serb police officer was reportedly set on fire after he changed his Serbian license plate to a Kosovo one. Additionally, although no unrest has been reported since September 1, tensions remain high and it cannot be ruled out. Travelers in the region should anticipate a heightened security force presence.

## **MOLDOVA**

Travelers should continue to plan journeys bypassing weekly anti-government demonstrations in Chisinau throughout October. Protesters are demanding the resignation of President Maia Sandu amid rising energy costs and inflation. The opposition Socio-Political Movement Equality (SOR) party has called for nationwide gatherings every Sunday until early Presidential and Parliamentary Elections are called. On October 23, thousands of demonstrators marched from the Chisinau Hotel to the Parliament building, where police cordons had been put in place. Participants clashed with police, leading to the arrest of several protesters.

Travelers should monitor developments throughout November linked to the implementation of a controversial mandate. Authorities have ordered all motorists with vehicle license plates issued in Serbia before 1999 to switch them out for ones registered in Kosovo. The deadline for this was previously October 31; however, in response to international pressure and protests by the domestic Serb minority, Kosovar Prime Minister Albin Kuri announced on October 28 a three-phased implementation of the rule from November 1 until April 21, 2023. Despite this development, tensions will remain high, potentially manifesting in further protests and unrest. Travelers should anticipate a heightened security presence and follow all official directives.

## **RUSSIA**

The US Department of State advises US citizens to defer travel to Russia due to the invasion of Ukraine by Russian military forces, the potential for harassment against US citizens by Russian government security officials, the singling out of US citizens in Russia by Russian government security officials including for detention, the arbitrary enforcement of local law, limited flights into and out of Russia, the Embassy's limited ability to assist US citizens in Russia, COVID-19-related restrictions, and terrorism. US citizens residing or traveling in Russia should depart immediately and exercise increased caution due to wrongful detentions. US credit and debit cards no longer work in Russia, and options to electronically transfer funds from the United States are extremely limited as a result of sanctions imposed on Russian banks. There are reports of cash shortages within Russia.