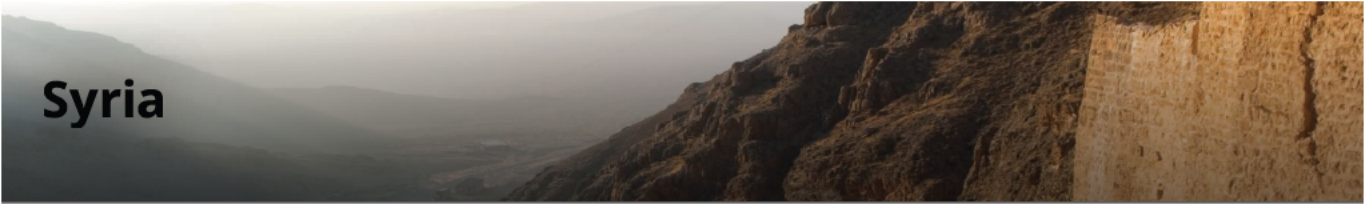


The Smartraveller logo, featuring the word "smartraveller" in white lowercase letters on a dark blue rounded rectangular background, with ".gov.au" in smaller green lowercase letters below it.A wide banner image showing a rugged, rocky mountain landscape under a hazy sky. The word "Syria" is overlaid in the top left corner.

Syria

[View](#)[Edit](#)[Delete](#)[Revisions](#)

Latest update

Still current at: 20 September 2025

Updated: 20 September 2025

Latest update: As of 20 September 2025, we are aware of reporting indicating an ongoing and persistent threat in northeastern Syria.

We continue to advise do not travel to Syria due to the dangerous security situation and the threat of armed conflict, air strikes, terrorism, arbitrary detention and kidnapping.

The security situation remains volatile. Armed clashes are ongoing in parts of Syria and have resulted in many civilian casualties. Israeli air strikes may continue to occur throughout the country, including in Damascus. If you're in Syria despite our advice, shelter in place and leave when it's safe to do so. Airports and airlines may suspend operations without notice (see 'Safety').

Demonstrations and protest activity may also occur, and local security situations could deteriorate with little notice. Avoid all demonstrations and protests. Monitor local media for updates and follow the advice of authorities.

Land border crossings between Syria and Lebanon have been the target of border clashes and bombings and could close without notice. If you're planning to cross a land border from Syria, contact the relevant authorities in your destination country for entry requirements. Entry and exit requirements for Syria may change without notice (see 'Travel').

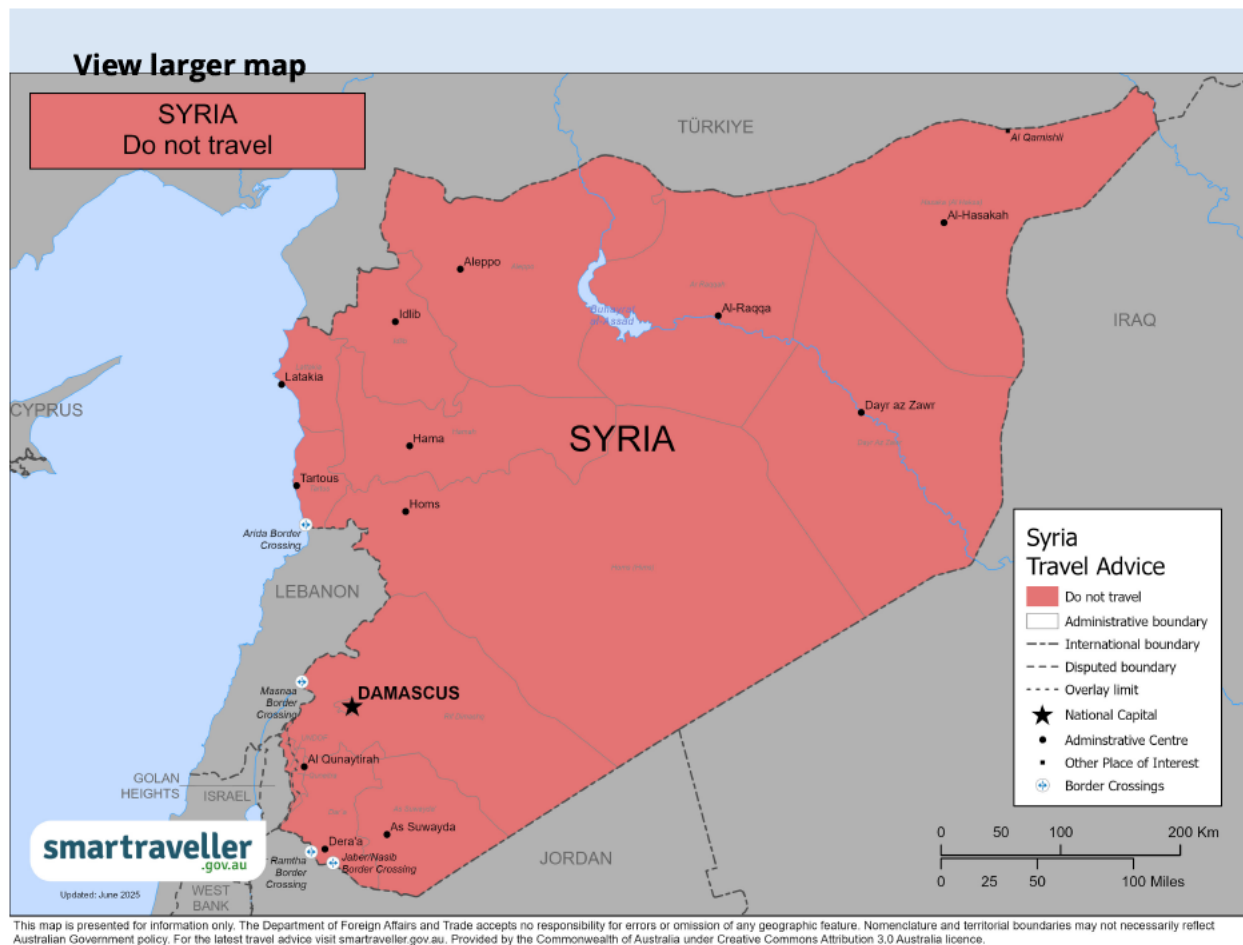


We advise:

Do not travel to Syria due to the extremely dangerous security situation and the threat of armed conflict, air strikes, terrorism, arbitrary detention and kidnapping.

Advice levels

What does this mean? ➤



[Do not travel](#) to Syria due to the extremely dangerous security situation and the threat of armed conflict, air strikes, terrorism, arbitrary detention and kidnapping.

See [Safety](#).

Overview



Safety

- As of 20 September 2025, we are aware of reporting indicating an ongoing and persistent threat in northeastern Syria.
- Armed clashes are ongoing in parts of Syria and have resulted in many civilian casualties. Israeli air strikes may continue to occur throughout the country, including in Damascus.
- The security situation in the Middle East is unpredictable and could deteriorate further with little warning. If the regional security situation deteriorates again this may result in airspace closures, flight cancellations

and other travel disruptions at short notice. There is a risk of reprisal attacks and further escalation across the region, as well as the potential for terrorist attacks.

- Australians should read our general advice about [terrorism risks](#) and protecting your safety during an [armed conflict](#).
- Demonstrations and protest activity may also occur, and local security situations could deteriorate with little notice. Avoid all demonstrations and protests. Monitor local media for updates and follow the advice of authorities.
- Land border crossings may be closed without notice. Additional road closures and checkpoints may be established. Airports and airlines may suspend operations without notice.
- Foreigners, especially aid workers and journalists, have been kidnapped. Vary your routines so your movements don't become obvious to others.
- Protests can turn violent. Authorities have arrested people near demonstrations, regardless of their citizenship. Avoid large public gatherings.
- Serious crime occurs, including violent robberies, kidnappings and carjackings. Keep your vehicle doors locked and windows up, even when moving. Carry only what you need.

Full travel advice: [Safety](#)



Health


- The Syrian health sector is seriously degraded due to conflict and lack of funding, and access to hospitals and medicines is very limited. If you're seriously ill or injured, you'll need medical evacuation. This is expensive and hard to organise. The Australian Government won't organise evacuation or pay for these costs.
- Insect-borne diseases, such as leishmaniasis, are common. Malaria occurs in the northern border region, particularly in Al Hasakah Province. Ensure your accommodation is insect-proof. Use insect repellent. Consider taking anti-malarial medication.
- Waterborne, foodborne, parasitic and other infectious diseases are common. These include brucellosis, typhoid and hepatitis. Drink only boiled or bottled water. Avoid raw or undercooked foods and unpasteurised dairy products.

Full travel advice: [Health](#)



Local laws

- Don't use or carry drugs. Penalties for drug offences include the death sentence.
- Get professional legal advice if you're involved in local legal matters, especially family or business law.
- Be careful when taking photos. It's illegal to photograph military and government buildings and other sensitive infrastructure.
- Using a drone is illegal and could result in a severe penalty.
- Always carry ID. It's required by law.

- Syria recognises dual nationality. However, if you're an Australian-Syrian dual national, Syrian authorities will treat you as Syrian. If you're a male dual national, you may have to do military service if you go to Syria. Contact your nearest [Syrian Embassy or consulate](#)  for details.
- Same-sex relations are illegal in Syria.

Full travel advice: [Local laws](#)




Travel

- Entry and exit conditions can change at short notice. If you travel to Syria despite our advice, and don't have Syrian identity documents, you'll need a visa. You should contact the nearest embassy or consulate of Syria for the latest requirements.
- Lebanese General Security have advised they will no longer allow dual Australian/Syrian nationals entry into Lebanon to renew expired Australian passports. Only holders of valid Australian passports can enter Lebanon.
- Contact local authorities for the latest information on travelling between Syria and bordering countries. Entry and exit measures may change without notice.
- Leave Syria as soon as you can. Most commercial airlines have stopped flying to Syria. Commercial air services and airports could be attacked or stop operating at any time. Roads and border crossings may be blocked without warning. Plan your exit carefully to minimise safety risks.
- Ongoing conflict in Syria may increase risks to civil aviation in the region. Civil aviation authorities in several countries do not allow their airlines to fly in Syrian airspace.
- The local currency is the Syrian Pound (SYP). The economy is primarily cash-based. Your credit cards and ATM cards may not work.
- The SYP continues to depreciate heavily, and high inflation can drastically affect the cost of everyday goods. Ensure you have enough cash for your stay,

Full travel advice: [Travel](#)



Local contacts

- The [Consular Services Charter](#) details what we can and can't do to help you overseas.
- Australia doesn't have an embassy or consulate in Syria. Our ability to provide consular services in Syria is severely limited. The Romanian Embassy in Damascus may be able to provide some emergency consular services to Australians in Syria. For further information, contact the [Australian Embassy in Beirut](#) .
- To stay up to date with local information, follow the Embassy's social media accounts.

Full travel advice: [Local contacts](#)

Full advice

Safety

Armed conflict and terrorism



Armed clashes are ongoing in parts of Syria and have resulted in many civilian casualties. Additional road closures and checkpoints may be established. Shelter in place and leave when it's safe to do so.

The security situation in Syria is dangerous due to:

- ongoing military conflict, including air strikes
- high levels of violence
- civil unrest and political tensions
- terrorist attacks
- kidnappings involving foreigners

Land border crossings may be closed without notice. Additional road closures and checkpoints may be established. Airports and airlines may suspend operations without notice.

Chemical weapons have been used during the conflict in Syria. These weapons could be used again.

Australians should read our general advice about [terrorism risks](#) and protecting your safety during an [armed conflict](#).

We continue to advise do not travel to Syria due to the extremely dangerous security situation and the threat of armed conflict, air strikes, terrorism, arbitrary detention and kidnapping. We have advised do not travel to Syria since 2011.

If you're in Syria despite this advice, prepare to leave as soon as possible.

While you're in Syria you should:

- seek professional security advice
- adopt effective personal security measures
- stay in a safe place and limit your movements
- always be alert
- keep a low profile
- vary your routines so your movements don't become obvious to others
- avoid possible targets for a terrorist or military attack
- have a clear exit plan in case there's a security incident

If there's an attack:

- leave the area as soon as it's safe
- avoid the affected area in case of secondary attacks
- monitor the media for any new or emerging threats

The security situation means access to food, water and fuel can be difficult. You should stockpile essential goods, including toiletries and prescription medication.

Terrorism is a threat worldwide.

More information:

- [Terrorism](#)
- [Armed conflict](#)

Kidnapping



There is a very serious threat of kidnapping throughout Syria. Kidnappings can occur for political or financial gain. Criminal and terrorist kidnappings are also a significant risk in Syria. There have been multiple cases of kidnappings in Syria, including of foreign nationals.

The situation in Syria remains volatile and there are numerous terrorist and militant groups operating throughout the country. Among the terrorist groups are Islamic State (IS) and Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS). These terrorist groups are known to use the kidnapping of foreigners as a tactic. This includes targeting aid workers, journalists and those working in the tourism and business sectors. Foreigners have been assassinated by these terrorist groups.

If despite our advice, you travel to an area with a high risk of kidnapping our ability to provide consular assistance in these destinations is limited.

To reduce the risk of kidnapping:

- always be alert to your personal security and surroundings
- get professional security advice for travel in locations with a heightened kidnap risk
- check your accommodation has appropriate security measures
- vary your movements so you don't set predictable patterns
- avoid isolated locations, particularly when travelling alone
- notify family or friends of planned travel and share your location
- avoid talking about your money or business affairs
- use ATMs in public places and during daylight hours
- avoid giving personal details to strangers online or over the phone

The Australian Government's longstanding policy is that it doesn't make payments or concessions to kidnappers.

Ransom payments to kidnappers have funded further terrorist attacks and criminal activity. Paying a ransom to terrorist groups will likely break Australian counter-terrorism financing laws.

More information:

- [Kidnapping](#)

Civil unrest and political tension



The security situation in the region remains unpredictable and could deteriorate with little or no warning.

Public protests and events with large groups of people can turn violent.

Syrian authorities have arrested people near demonstrations, regardless of their citizenship.

Civil unrest may limit your ability to travel by road.

If you're in Syria despite our advice:

- avoid rallies, demonstrations and crowds
- avoid funerals and mourning processions
- avoid areas where people congregate after Friday midday prayers
- monitor the media for new safety and security risks, including political events that could increase tensions

More information:

- [Demonstrations and civil unrest](#)

Crime



The breakdown in law and order has led to an increase in crime, including:

- [violent robberies](#)
- [kidnappings](#)
- carjackings

If you're in Syria despite our advice:

- avoid showing signs of wealth
- drive with your doors locked and windows up
- secure your accommodation
- stay alert to your surroundings

Cyber security

You may be at risk of cyber-based threats during overseas travel to any country. Digital identity theft is a growing concern. Your devices and personal data can be compromised, especially if you're connecting to Wi-Fi, using or connecting to shared or public computers, or to Bluetooth.

Social media can also be risky in destinations where there are social or political tensions, or laws that may seem unreasonable by Australian standards. Travellers have been arrested for things they have said on social media. Don't comment on local or political events on your social media.

More information:


[Cyber security when travelling overseas](#)

Climate and natural disasters



Syria is subject to [earthquakes](#). Dust storms and sandstorms also happen, especially during the summer months when there have been long periods of dry weather.

If there's a [natural disaster](#) or [severe weather](#):

- secure your passport in a safe, waterproof location
- monitor local media and other sources such as the [Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System](#) 
- follow the advice of local authorities
- keep in contact with friends and family

Health

Travel insurance



Get comprehensive [travel insurance](#) before you leave.

Your policy needs to cover all overseas medical costs, including medical evacuation. The Australian Government won't pay for these costs.

You'll probably need a special insurance policy that covers travel to high-risk destinations. Most Australian policies won't cover you for travel to Syria.

If you can't afford travel insurance, you can't afford to travel. This applies to everyone, no matter how healthy and fit you are.

If you're not insured, you may have to pay many thousands of dollars up-front for medical care.

Confirm:

- what activities and care your policy covers
- that your insurance covers you for the whole time you'll be away

Physical and mental health




Consider your physical and mental health before you travel, especially if you have an existing medical condition.


See your doctor or travel clinic to:

- have a basic health check-up
- ask if your travel plans may affect your health
- plan any vaccinations you need

Do this at least 8 weeks before you leave.

If you have immediate concerns for your welfare, or the welfare of another Australian, call the 24-hour Consular Emergency Centre on +61 2 6261 3305 or contact your [nearest Australian Embassy, High Commission or Consulate](#)  to discuss counselling hotlines and services available in your location.

More information:

- [General health advice](#)
- [Healthy holiday tips](#)  (Australian Government)

Medication



Not all medication available over the counter or by prescription in Australia is available in other countries. Some may even be considered illegal or a controlled substance, even if prescribed by an Australian doctor.

There is a shortage of medicine due to conflict and degradation of the healthcare system.

If you plan to bring medication, check if it's legal in Syria. Take enough legal medicine for your trip.

Carry a copy of your prescription or a letter from your doctor stating:

- what the medicine is
- your required dosage
- that it's for personal use

More information:

- [Medication](#)

Health risks



Polio

Syria is exposed to the international spread of [polio](#) .

Insect-borne diseases

Insect-borne diseases, such as [leishmaniasis](#) , are common.

[Malaria](#)  occurs in the northern border region, particularly in Al Hasakah Province.






To protect yourself from disease:

- make sure your accommodation is insect-proof
- use insect repellent
- wear long, loose, light-coloured clothing
- consider taking malaria prevention medication

Get medical advice if you have a fever, muscle pain, a rash or a severe headache.

Other health risks

Waterborne, foodborne, parasitic and other infectious diseases are common. These include:

- [brucellosis](#) 
- [typhoid](#) 
- [hepatitis](#) 
- [tuberculosis](#) 
- [cholera](#) 

Serious outbreaks could happen.

To protect yourself from illness:

- drink boiled water or bottled water with sealed lids
- avoid ice cubes
- avoid raw and undercooked food, such as salads
- avoid unpasteurised dairy products

Get medical advice if you have a fever or diarrhoea.

More information:

- [Infectious diseases](#)

Medical care



Medical facilities

Access to hospitals is limited due to Syria's seriously degraded healthcare system. The quality of healthcare in Syria is low.

If you become seriously ill or injured, you'll need to be evacuated to a place with suitable facilities. Medical evacuation is expensive and hard to organise. The Australian Government won't organise evacuation or pay for these costs.

Local laws

Local law



You're subject to all local laws and penalties, including those that may appear harsh by Australian standards. Research local laws before travelling.

If you're arrested or jailed, the Australian Government will do what it can to help you under our [Consular Services Charter](#). But we can't get you out of trouble or out of jail.

Drugs

Penalties for drug offences are severe and include the death penalty.

More information:

- [Carrying or using drugs](#)

Other laws

If you're involved in local legal matters, get professional advice. Know your rights and responsibilities, especially in family law matters like:

- divorce
- child custody
- child support

Serious crime such as murder have the death penalty.

These activities are illegal in Syria:

- same-sex relationships
- taking photos of military or government buildings or other sensitive infrastructure
- not carrying ID
- failing to have the right entry visa

If you wish to preach a religion other than Islam, get local advice. Restrictions can apply.

More information:

- [Advice for LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)

Australian laws



It's illegal under Australian law for Australian citizens, including dual citizens, to support any armed groups in Syria. This includes:

- joining the conflict
- funding, training or recruiting someone to fight
- supplying or funding weapons

Australia has [imposed sanctions on Syria](#), including restrictions on the export and supply of certain goods and services.

Some Australian criminal laws still apply when you're overseas. If you break these laws, you may face prosecution in Australia.

More information:

- [Staying within the law and respecting customs](#)

Dual citizenship



Syria recognises dual nationality.


If you're an Australian-Syrian dual national, Syrian authorities will treat you as Syrian. This limits the [consular services](#) we can give if you're arrested or detained.

Children of Syrian men obtain Syrian citizenship automatically at birth.

More information:

- [Dual nationals](#)

Military service



Syria has compulsory military service.

If you're a male dual national, you may have to do military service if you go to Syria. Having an Australian passport won't get you out of military service.

Local customs



Standards of dress and behaviour are conservative, particularly around religious sites.

If you're female, wear loose clothing that covers your arms and legs. Wear a headscarf.

Take care not to offend. If in doubt, seek local advice.

Ramadan

The Islamic holiday month of [Ramadan](#) is observed in Syria. Respect religious and cultural customs and laws at this time.

During Ramadan, eating, drinking and smoking may be illegal in public during the day. If you're not fasting, avoid these activities around people who are. Seek local advice to avoid offence.

Explore our [Ramadan](#) page to learn more, including dates for Ramadan.

Travel


Visas and border measures



Every country or territory decides who can enter or leave through its borders. For specific information about the evidence you'll need to enter a foreign destination, check with the nearest embassy, consulate or immigration department of the destination you're entering.

Visas

Entry and exit conditions can change at short notice. If you travel to Syria despite our advice and don't have Syrian identity documents, you'll need a visa.

You can apply for a Syrian [EVisa](#)  online.

You should contact the nearest embassy or consulate of Syria for the latest requirements before you go to Syria.

Parts of Syria are controlled by groups that may issue local travel permits. But you'll still need a visa issued by the Syrian Government if travelling to Syria.

Border measures

Land border crossings between Syria and Lebanon have been the target of border clashes and bombings and could close without notice.

For measures regarding travel between Syria and Lebanon, contact Syrian and Lebanese authorities.

Due to the ongoing unpredictable security situation, Lebanese General Security have advised they will no longer allow dual Australian/Syrian nationals entry into Lebanon to renew expired Australian passports. Only holders of valid Australian passports can enter Lebanon.

If you have a residence permit, check with Syrian Immigration regarding the 'exit and return' requirements.

Be aware that:

- children born in Syria must have their father's permission to leave Syria
- a Syrian husband can stop his wife from leaving the country, regardless of her nationality
- unmarried women can be prevented from leaving Syria due to strict family controls

Travel to Israel

If there's evidence that you've travelled to Israel, authorities will refuse your entry to Syria or deport you. Evidence includes:

- Israeli exit or entry stamps in your passport
- Egyptian or Jordanian stamps from border crossings with Israel
- travel itineraries or tickets that include Israel as a destination
- souvenirs from Israel
- airline tags on your bags
- SIM cards, literature, or other items with obvious links to Israel

Leaving Syria

Leave Syria immediately by commercial means.

Contact local authorities for the latest information on travelling between Syria and bordering countries. Entry and exit requirements may change without notice. Few commercial airlines fly to Syria. Other commercial air services and airports could stop operating without notice.

Civilian airports could come under attack at any time, including in Damascus and Aleppo.

Telecommunication and travel restrictions may limit your exit options:

- transport options to airports and seats on flights may be limited
- roads may close or be blocked without warning, affecting access to border crossings
- major highways may be blocked
- border crossings can be closed with little or no warning
- conflict can limit access to all border crossings

To minimise risks to your safety:

- seek local and expert advice
- make contingency plans
- check the status of routes to airports and borders
- always carry your passport and travel documents

Other formalities



Check with your nearest Syrian Embassy or Consulate for regulations regarding bringing in electronic devices such as standalone GPS, handheld radio equipment and drones to Syria.

Do not use mobile phones at check points.

The Syrian Government enforces restrictions on prior travel to Israel.

Authorities can hold anyone, regardless of their nationality, for questioning for several days and then deport them.

Passport



Validity

If you travel to Syria despite our advice, note that some countries won't let you enter unless your passport is valid for 6 months after you plan to leave that country. This can apply even if you're just transiting or stopping over.

Some foreign governments and airlines apply this rule inconsistently. Travellers can receive conflicting advice from different sources.

You may end up stranded if your passport is not valid for more than 6 months.



The Australian Government does not set these rules. Check your passport's expiry date before you travel. If you're not sure if it will be valid for long enough, consider getting a [new passport](#) .

Lost or stolen passport

Your passport is a valuable document. It's attractive to people who may try to use your identity to commit crimes.

Some people may try to trick you into giving them your passport. Always keep it in a safe place.

If your passport is lost or stolen, tell the Australian Government as soon as possible.

- In Australia, contact the [Australian Passport Information Service](#) .
- If you're overseas, contact the nearest [Australian Embassy or consulate](#) .

Passport with 'X' gender identifier

Although Australian passports comply with international standards for sex and gender, we can't guarantee that a passport showing 'X' in the sex field will be accepted for entry or transit by another country. Contact the [nearest embassy, high commission or consulate of your destination](#) before you arrive at the border to confirm if authorities will accept passports with 'X' gender markers.

More information:

- [LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)

Money



The local currency is the Syrian Pound (SYP).

You can change money in government banks or at recognised exchange bureaus.

It is not possible to make an international money transfer because of sanctions.

Credit cards may not be accepted in Syria. You may not be able to access your money via ATMs.

Local travel



Local restrictions

Travel within some parts of Syria can be particularly dangerous.

If you're in Syria despite our advice, consider the security environment before travelling within the country. See [Safety](#).

Road travel

Access to international border crossings may be limited due to roadblocks, road closures and fighting. This can happen with little to no warning.

Major highways may become or are already blocked, due to conflict. These include:

- Tartous-Latakia
- Tartous-Homs
- Latakia-Aleppo
- Homs-Hama
- Homs-Damascus
- Damascus-Jordan
- Damascus-Beirut

If you need to travel by road, first:

- get local information on possible routes
- seek professional security advice
- adopt effective personal security measures
- make contingency plans

More information:

- [Driving or riding](#)

Sea travel

Don't travel to Syria by sea due to the dangerous security situation.

Air travel

Ongoing conflict in Syria may increase risks to civil aviation in the region. Civil aviation authorities in a number of countries do not allow airlines from those countries to fly in Syrian airspace. If you travel to Syria despite our advice, refer to the Smartraveller page on [air travel](#) and check with airlines before booking. Flight paths are subject to change. Check with your airline for updates and departure options.

DFAT does not provide information on the safety of individual commercial airlines or flight paths.

More information:

- [Air travel](#)

Local contacts

Emergencies



Depending on what you need, contact your:

- family and friends
- travel agent
- insurance provider
- employer
- airline

Fire services

Call 113.

Medical emergencies

Call 110 or go direct to a hospital.

Police

Call 112 or visit the nearest police station.

Always get a police report when you report a crime.

Your insurer should have a 24-hour emergency number.

Consular contacts



Read the [Consular Services Charter](#) for what the Australian Government can and can't do to help you overseas.

Australia doesn't have an embassy or consulate in Syria. The ability of the Australian Government to provide consular help in Syria is severely limited.

The Romanian Embassy in Damascus may be able to provide limited emergency consular services to Australians in Syria. They provide these services under a consular assistance arrangement in conjunction with the Australian Embassy in Beirut.

Romanian Embassy, Damascus

8, Rue Ibrahim Hanano,
PO Box 4454, Damascus, Syria

Phone: (+963 11) 332 75 72

Email: damasc.consul@mae.ro or damasc@mae.ro

Australian Embassy, Beirut

Embassy Complex, Serail Hill
Downtown Beirut, Lebanon

Phone: +961 1 960 600

Email: consular.beirut@dfat.gov.au

Website: lebanon.embassy.gov.au 

Facebook: [Australian Embassy - Beirut, Lebanon](https://www.facebook.com/AustralianEmbassy-Beirut-Lebanon) 

X: [@SafirAustralia](https://twitter.com/SafirAustralia) 

Instagram: [@ausembly](https://www.instagram.com/ausembly) 

24-hour Consular Emergency Centre

In a consular emergency, if you can't contact an embassy, call the 24-hour Consular Emergency Centre on:

- +61 2 6261 3305 from overseas
- 1300 555 135 in Australia



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

From: [Claire Rochecouste](#)
To: [Global Watch Office](#)
Cc: [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) ; [Alan Copeland](#); [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) ; [Glenn Miles](#);
[s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) [Jadwat](#) [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) [Andrew Barnes](#); [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) [Ridwaan](#)
Subject: Re: For clearance: Travel advice update for Syria [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Sunday, 21 September 2025 11:52:34 PM

OFFICIAL

Many thanks [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) this is approved to go as an ad hoc change with no socials.

I will also message Mr Sam Brennan now noting we have made a change to the TA.

Kind regards,
 Claire
 AS CIB

From: "Global Watch Office" <GlobalWatchOffice@dfat.gov.au>
Date: Sunday, 21 September 2025 at 11:24:45 pm
To: "Claire Rochecouste" <Claire.Rochecouste@dfat.gov.au>
Cc: [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) [@dfat.gov.au](#), [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) [@dfat.gov.au](#), "Alan Copeland" <Alan.Copeland@dfat.gov.au>, [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) [@dfat.gov.au](#), [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) [@dfat.gov.au](#), [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) [@dfat.gov.au](#), "Glenn Miles" <Glenn.Miles@dfat.gov.au>, [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) [@dfat.gov.au](#), [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) [@dfat.gov.au](#), [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) [@dfat.gov.au](#), "Andrew Barnes" <Andrew.Barnes@dfat.gov.au>, [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) [@dfat.gov.au](#), "Ridwaan Jadwat" <Ridwaan.Jadwat@dfat.gov.au>, [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) [@dfat.gov.au](#)
Subject: RE: For clearance: Travel advice update for Syria [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Copying in Baghdad, Beirut and Abu Dhabi posts for visibility.

GWO

[s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)

From: Global Watch Office
Sent: 21 September 2025 23:22
To: Claire Rochecouste <Claire.Rochecouste@dfat.gov.au>
Cc: [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) [@dfat.gov.au](#); [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) [@dfat.gov.au](#); Alan Copeland <Alan.Copeland@dfat.gov.au>; [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) [@dfat.gov.au](#); [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) [@dfat.gov.au](#); Glenn Miles <Glenn.Miles@dfat.gov.au>; [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) [@dfat.gov.au](#); [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) [@dfat.gov.au](#); Global Watch Office <GlobalWatchOffice@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: For clearance: Travel advice update for Syria [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Claire

As discussed this evening, following the phone call s 22(1)(a)(ii) advising the 's 22(1)(a)(ii)' here is the proposed change to the TA for Syria to be undertaken by GWO this evening – removing the red line from the Overview and Safety section.

Grateful clearance. Grateful advice as to whether this is an 'ad hoc' or a 'technical-no date change' update. Grateful confirmation there is no need for social media.

Overview

~~As of 20 September 2025, we are aware of reporting indicating an ongoing and persistent threat in northeastern Syria.~~

We continue to advise do not travel to Syria due to the dangerous security situation and the threat of armed conflict, air strikes, terrorism, arbitrary detention and kidnapping ...

Safety

- ~~As of 20 September 2025, we are aware of reporting indicating an ongoing and persistent threat in northeastern Syria~~
- Armed clashes are ongoing in parts of Syria and have resulted in many civilian casualties. Israeli air strikes may continue to occur throughout the country, including in Damascus.

With best regards

GWO

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Australian Government Global Watch Office

Crisis Preparedness and Management Branch | Consular and Crisis Management Division

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Always notify the GWO in the first instance of a potential crisis event and include GWO in all subsequent messaging.

From: Global Watch Office <GlobalWatchOffice@dfat.gov.au>

Sent: 20 September 2025 05:25

To: Claire Rochecouste <Claire.Rochecouste@dfat.gov.au>

Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au;
Alan Copeland <Alan.Copeland@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au;

s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; Global Watch Office
<GlobalWatchOffice@dfat.gov.au>

Subject: For clearance: Travel advice update for Syria [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Claire

As discussed earlier this morning, please see below draft changes for the TA for Syria for your review/approval for an ad-hoc update. As discussed, we will not issue socials. **The proposed wording has been cleared by s 22(1)(a)(ii)**

EDRMS file: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Overview

As of 20 September 2025, we are aware of reporting indicating an ongoing and persistent threat in northeastern Syria.

We continue to advise do not travel to Syria due to the dangerous security situation and the threat of armed conflict, air strikes, terrorism, arbitrary detention and kidnapping...

Safety

- As of 20 September 2025, we are aware of reporting indicating an ongoing and persistent threat in northeastern Syria
- Armed clashes are ongoing in parts of Syria and have resulted in many civilian casualties. Israeli air strikes may continue to occur throughout the country, including in Damascus.

Kind regards

GWO

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Australian Government Global Watch Office
Crisis Preparedness and Management Branch | Consular and Crisis Management Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii)



Syria

Latest update

Still current at: 21 September 2025

Updated: 20 September 2025

Latest update: As of 20 September 2025, we are aware of reporting indicating an ongoing and persistent threat in northeastern Syria.

We continue to advise do not travel to Syria due to the dangerous security situation and the threat of armed conflict, air strikes, terrorism, arbitrary detention and kidnapping.

The security situation remains volatile. Armed clashes are ongoing in parts of Syria and have resulted in many civilian casualties. Israeli air strikes may continue to occur throughout the country, including in Damascus. If you're in Syria despite our advice, shelter in place and leave when it's safe to do so. Airports and airlines may suspend operations without notice (see 'Safety').

Demonstrations and protest activity may also occur, and local security situations could deteriorate with little notice. Avoid all demonstrations and protests. Monitor local media for updates and follow the advice of authorities.

Land border crossings between Syria and Lebanon have been the target of border clashes and bombings and could close without notice. If you're planning to cross a land border from Syria, contact the relevant authorities in your destination country for entry requirements. Entry and exit requirements for Syria may change without notice (see 'Travel').

[Jump to...](#)

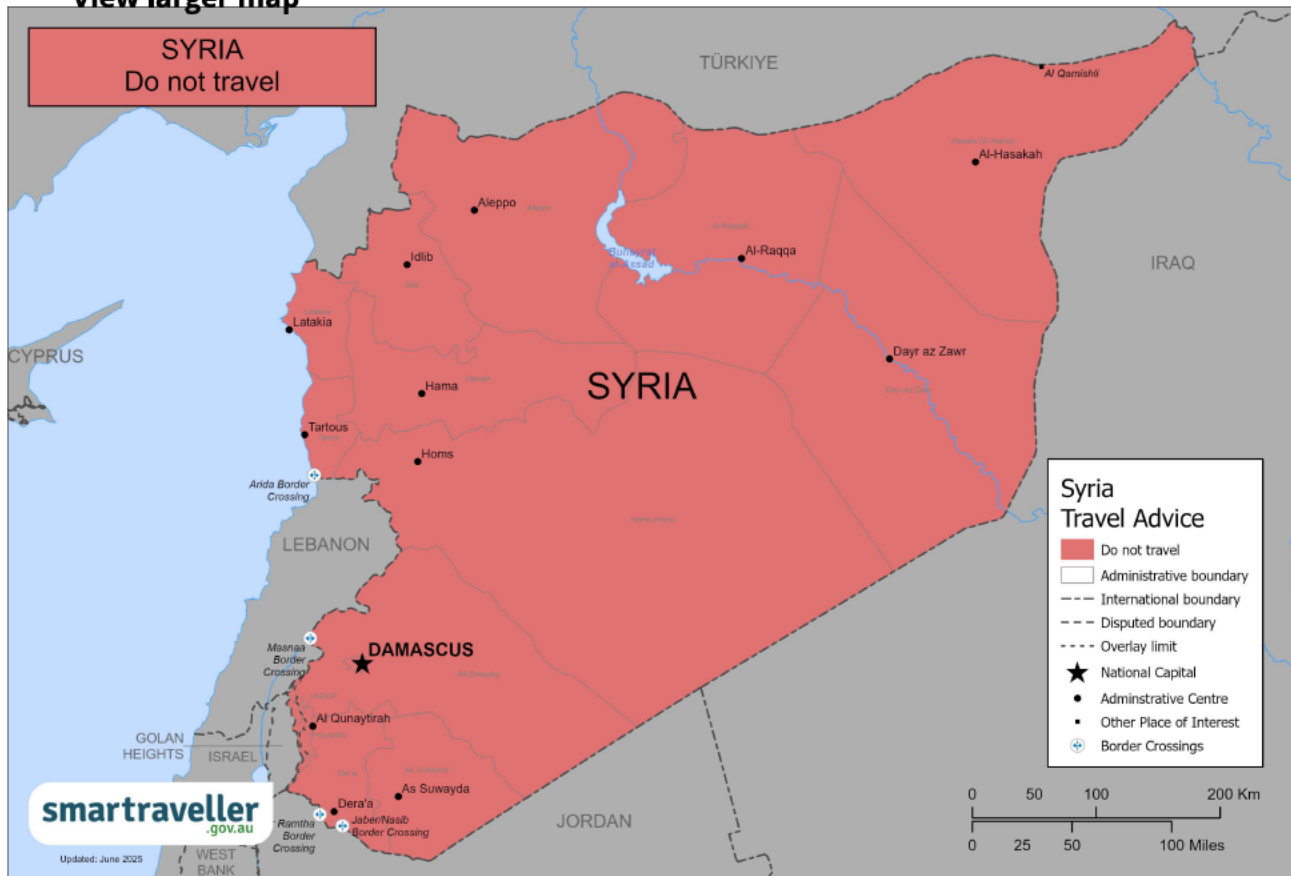


Do not travel to Syria due to the extremely dangerous security situation and the threat of armed conflict, air strikes, terrorism, arbitrary detention and kidnapping.

Advice levels

What does this mean? ➤

[View larger map](#)



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[Do not travel](#) to Syria due to the extremely dangerous security situation and the threat of armed conflict, air strikes, terrorism, arbitrary detention and kidnapping.

See [Safety](#).

Overview



Safety

- As of 20 September 2025, we are aware of reporting indicating an ongoing and persistent threat in northeastern Syria.
- Armed clashes are ongoing in parts of Syria and have resulted in many civilian casualties. Israeli air strikes may continue to occur throughout the country, including in Damascus.
- The security situation in the Middle East is unpredictable and could deteriorate further with little warning. If the regional security situation deteriorates again this may result in airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions at short notice. There is a risk of reprisal attacks and further escalation across the region, as well as the potential for terrorist attacks.
- Australians should read our general advice about [terrorism risks](#) and protecting your safety during an [armed conflict](#).
- Demonstrations and protest activity may also occur, and local security situations could deteriorate with little notice. Avoid all demonstrations and protests. Monitor local media for updates and follow the advice of authorities.
- Land border crossings may be closed without notice. Additional road closures and checkpoints may be established. Airports and airlines may suspend operations without notice.
- Foreigners, especially aid workers and journalists, have been kidnapped. Vary your routines so your movements don't become obvious to others.
- Protests can turn violent. Authorities have arrested people near demonstrations, regardless of their citizenship. Avoid large public gatherings.
- Serious crime occurs, including violent robberies, kidnappings and carjackings. Keep your vehicle doors locked and windows up, even when moving. Carry only what you need.

Full travel advice: [Safety](#)




Health

- The Syrian health sector is seriously degraded due to conflict and lack of funding, and access to hospitals and medicines is very limited. If you're seriously ill or injured, you'll need medical evacuation. This is expensive and hard to organise. The Australian Government won't organise evacuation or pay for these costs.
- Insect-borne diseases, such as leishmaniasis, are common. Malaria occurs in the northern border region, particularly in Al Hasakah Province. Ensure your accommodation is insect-proof. Use insect repellent. Consider taking anti-malarial medication.
- Waterborne, foodborne, parasitic and other infectious diseases are common. These include brucellosis, typhoid and hepatitis. Drink only boiled or bottled water. Avoid raw or undercooked foods and unpasteurised dairy products.

Full travel advice: [Health](#)



Local laws

- Don't use or carry drugs. Penalties for drug offences include the death sentence.
- Get professional legal advice if you're involved in local legal matters, especially family or business law.
- Be careful when taking photos. It's illegal to photograph military and government buildings and other sensitive infrastructure.
- Using a drone is illegal and could result in a severe penalty.
- Always carry ID. It's required by law.
- Syria recognises dual nationality. However, if you're an Australian-Syrian dual national, Syrian authorities will treat you as Syrian. If you're a male dual national, you may have to do military service if you go to Syria. Contact your nearest [Syrian Embassy or consulate](#)  for details.
- Same-sex relations are illegal in Syria.

Full travel advice: [Local laws](#)



Travel

- Entry and exit conditions can change at short notice. If you travel to Syria despite our advice, and don't have Syrian identity documents, you'll need a visa. You should contact the nearest embassy or consulate of Syria for the latest requirements.
- Lebanese General Security have advised they will no longer allow dual Australian/Syrian nationals entry into Lebanon to renew expired Australian passports. Only holders of valid Australian passports can enter Lebanon.
- Contact local authorities for the latest information on travelling between Syria and bordering countries. Entry and exit measures may change without notice.
- Leave Syria as soon as you can. Most commercial airlines have stopped flying to Syria. Commercial air services and airports could be attacked or stop operating at any time. Roads and border crossings may be blocked without warning. Plan your exit carefully to minimise safety risks.
- Ongoing conflict in Syria may increase risks to civil aviation in the region. Civil aviation authorities in several countries do not allow their airlines to fly in Syrian airspace.
- The local currency is the Syrian Pound (SYP). The economy is primarily cash-based. Your credit cards and ATM cards may not work.
- The SYP continues to depreciate heavily, and high inflation can drastically affect the cost of everyday goods. Ensure you have enough cash for your stay,

Full travel advice: [Travel](#)



Local contacts

- The [Consular Services Charter](#) details what we can and can't do to help you overseas.
- Australia doesn't have an embassy or consulate in Syria. Our ability to provide consular services in Syria is severely limited. The Romanian Embassy in Damascus may be able to provide some emergency consular services to Australians in Syria. For further information, contact the [Australian Embassy in Beirut](#) [🔗](#).
- To stay up to date with local information, follow the Embassy's social media accounts.

Full travel advice: Local contacts

Full advice

Safety

Armed conflict and terrorism

Armed clashes are ongoing in parts of Syria and have resulted in many civilian casualties. Additional road closures and checkpoints may be established. Shelter in place and leave when it's safe to do so.

The security situation in Syria is dangerous due to:

- ongoing military conflict, including air strikes
- high levels of violence
- civil unrest and political tensions
- terrorist attacks
- kidnappings involving foreigners

Land border crossings may be closed without notice. Additional road closures and checkpoints may be established. Airports and airlines may suspend operations without notice.

Chemical weapons have been used during the conflict in Syria. These weapons could be used again.

Australians should read our general advice about [terrorism risks](#) and protecting your safety during an [armed conflict](#).

We continue to advise do not travel to Syria due to the extremely dangerous security situation and the threat of armed conflict, air strikes, terrorism, arbitrary detention and kidnapping. We have advised do not travel to Syria since 2011.

If you're in Syria despite this advice, prepare to leave as soon as possible.

While you're in Syria you should:

- seek professional security advice
- adopt effective personal security measures
- stay in a safe place and limit your movements
- always be alert
- keep a low profile
- vary your routines so your movements don't become obvious to others
- avoid possible targets for a terrorist or military attack
- have a clear exit plan in case there's a security incident

If there's an attack:

- leave the area as soon as it's safe
- avoid the affected area in case of secondary attacks
- monitor the media for any new or emerging threats

The security situation means access to food, water and fuel can be difficult. You should stockpile essential goods, including toiletries and prescription medication.

Terrorism is a threat worldwide.

More information:

- [Terrorism](#)
- [Armed conflict](#)

Kidnapping

There is a very serious threat of kidnapping throughout Syria. Kidnappings can occur for political or financial gain. Criminal and terrorist kidnappings are also a significant risk in Syria. There have been multiple cases of kidnappings in Syria, including of foreign nationals.

The situation in Syria remains volatile and there are numerous terrorist and militant groups operating throughout the country. Among the terrorist groups are Islamic State (IS) and Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS). These terrorist groups are known to use the kidnapping of foreigners as a tactic. This includes targeting aid workers, journalists and those working in the tourism and business sectors. Foreigners have been assassinated by these terrorist groups.

If despite our advice, you travel to an area with a high risk of kidnapping our ability to provide consular assistance in these destinations is limited.

To reduce the risk of kidnapping:

- always be alert to your personal security and surroundings
- get professional security advice for travel in locations with a heightened kidnap risk
- check your accommodation has appropriate security measures
- vary your movements so you don't set predictable patterns
- avoid isolated locations, particularly when travelling alone
- notify family or friends of planned travel and share your location
- avoid talking about your money or business affairs
- use ATMs in public places and during daylight hours
- avoid giving personal details to strangers online or over the phone

The Australian Government's longstanding policy is that it doesn't make payments or concessions to kidnappers.

Ransom payments to kidnappers have funded further terrorist attacks and criminal activity. Paying a ransom to terrorist groups will likely break Australian counter-terrorism financing laws.

More information:

- [Kidnapping](#)

Civil unrest and political tension

The security situation in the region remains unpredictable and could deteriorate with little or no warning.

Public protests and events with large groups of people can turn violent.

Syrian authorities have arrested people near demonstrations, regardless of their citizenship.

Civil unrest may limit your ability to travel by road.

If you're in Syria despite our advice:

- avoid rallies, demonstrations and crowds
- avoid funerals and mourning processions
- avoid areas where people congregate after Friday midday prayers
- monitor the media for new safety and security risks, including political events that could increase tensions

More information:

- [Demonstrations and civil unrest](#)

Crime

The breakdown in law and order has led to an increase in crime, including:

- [violent robberies](#)
- [kidnappings](#)
- carjackings

If you're in Syria despite our advice:

- avoid showing signs of wealth
- drive with your doors locked and windows up
- secure your accommodation
- stay alert to your surroundings

Cyber security

You may be at risk of cyber-based threats during overseas travel to any country. Digital identity theft is a growing concern. Your devices and personal data can be compromised, especially if you're connecting to Wi-Fi, using or connecting to shared or public computers, or to Bluetooth.

Social media can also be risky in destinations where there are social or political tensions, or laws that may seem unreasonable by Australian standards. Travellers have been arrested for things they have said on social media. Don't comment on local or political events on your social media.


More information:

[Cyber security when travelling overseas](#)

Climate and natural disasters

Syria is subject to [earthquakes](#). Dust storms and sandstorms also happen, especially during the summer months when there have been long periods of dry weather.

If there's a [natural disaster](#) or [severe weather](#):

- secure your passport in a safe, waterproof location
- monitor local media and other sources such as the [Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System](#) 
- follow the advice of local authorities
- keep in contact with friends and family

Health

Travel insurance

Get comprehensive [travel insurance](#) before you leave.

Your policy needs to cover **all** overseas medical costs, including medical evacuation. The Australian Government won't pay for these costs.

You'll probably need a special insurance policy that covers travel to high-risk destinations. Most Australian policies won't cover you for travel to Syria.

If you can't afford travel insurance, you can't afford to travel. This applies to everyone, no matter how healthy and fit you are.

If you're not insured, you may have to pay many thousands of dollars up-front for medical care.

Confirm:

- what activities and care your policy covers
- that your insurance covers you for the **whole** time you'll be away


Physical and mental health

Consider your **physical** and **mental** health before you **travel**, especially if you have an existing medical condition.

See your doctor or travel clinic to:

- have a basic health check-up
- ask if your **travel plans** may affect your **health**
- plan any vaccinations you need

Do this at least 8 weeks before you leave.

If you have immediate concerns for your welfare, or the welfare of another Australian, call the 24-hour Consular Emergency Centre on +61 2 6261 3305 or contact your [nearest Australian Embassy, High Commission or Consulate](#)  to discuss counselling hotlines and services available in your location.

More information:

- [General health advice](#)
- [Healthy holiday tips](#)  (Australian Government)

Medication

Not all medication available over the counter or by prescription in Australia is available in other countries. Some may even be considered illegal or a controlled substance, even if prescribed by an Australian doctor.

There is a shortage of medicine due to conflict and degradation of the healthcare system.

If you plan to bring medication, check if it's legal in Syria. Take enough legal medicine for your trip.

Carry a copy of your prescription or a letter from your doctor stating:

- what the medicine is
- your required dosage
- that it's for personal use

More information:

- [Medication](#)

Health risks

Polio

Syria is exposed to the international spread of [polio](#) .

Insect-borne diseases

Insect-borne diseases, such as [leishmaniasis](#) , are common.

[Malaria](#)  occurs in the northern border region, particularly in Al Hasakah Province.

To protect yourself from disease:





- make sure your accommodation is insect-proof
- use insect repellent
- wear long, loose, light-coloured clothing
- consider taking malaria prevention medication

Get medical advice if you have a fever, muscle pain, a rash or a severe headache.

Other health risks

Waterborne, foodborne, parasitic and other infectious diseases are common. These include:

- [brucellosis](#) 

- [typhoid](#) 
- [hepatitis](#) 
- [tuberculosis](#) 
- [cholera](#) 

Serious outbreaks could happen.

To protect yourself from illness:

- drink boiled water or bottled water with sealed lids
- avoid ice cubes
- avoid raw and undercooked food, such as salads
- avoid unpasteurised dairy products

Get medical advice if you have a fever or diarrhoea.

More information:

- [Infectious diseases](#)

Medical care

Medical facilities

Access to hospitals is limited due to Syria's seriously degraded healthcare system. The quality of healthcare in Syria is low.

If you become seriously ill or injured, you'll need to be evacuated to a place with suitable facilities. Medical evacuation is expensive and hard to organise. The Australian Government won't organise evacuation or pay for these costs.

Local laws

Local law

You're subject to all local laws and penalties, including those that may appear harsh by Australian standards. Research local laws before travelling.

If you're arrested or jailed, the Australian Government will do what it can to help you under our [Consular Services Charter](#). But we can't get you out of trouble or out of jail.

Drugs

Penalties for drug offences are severe and include the death penalty.

More information:

- [Carrying or using drugs](#)

Other laws

If you're involved in local legal matters, get professional advice. Know your rights and responsibilities, especially in family law matters like:

- divorce
- child custody
- child support

Serious crime such as murder have the death penalty.

These activities are illegal in Syria:

- same-sex relationships
- taking photos of military or government buildings or other sensitive infrastructure
- not carrying ID
- failing to have the right entry visa

If you wish to preach a religion other than Islam, get local advice. Restrictions can apply.

More information:

- [Advice for LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)

Australian laws

It's illegal under Australian law for Australian citizens, including dual citizens, to support any armed groups in Syria. This includes:

- joining the conflict
- funding, training or recruiting someone to fight
- supplying or funding weapons

Australia has [imposed sanctions on Syria](#) , including restrictions on the export and supply of certain goods and services.

Some Australian criminal laws still apply when you're overseas. If you break these laws, you may face prosecution in Australia.

More information:

- [Staying within the law and respecting customs](#)

Dual citizenship

Syria recognises dual nationality.

If you're an Australian-Syrian dual national, Syrian authorities will treat you as Syrian. This limits the [consular services](#) we can give if you're arrested or detained.

Children of Syrian men obtain Syrian citizenship automatically at birth.

More information:

- [Dual nationals](#)

Military service

Syria has compulsory military service.

If you're a male dual national, you may have to do military service if you go to Syria. Having an Australian passport won't get you out of military service.

Local customs

Standards of dress and behaviour are conservative, particularly around religious sites.

If you're female, wear loose clothing that covers your arms and legs. Wear a headscarf.

Take care not to offend. If in doubt, seek local advice.

Ramadan

The Islamic holiday month of [Ramadan](#) is observed in Syria. Respect religious and cultural customs and laws at this time.

During Ramadan, eating, drinking and smoking may be illegal in public during the day. If you're not fasting, avoid these activities around people who are. Seek local advice to avoid offence.

Explore our [Ramadan](#) page to learn more, including dates for Ramadan.


Travel

Visas and border measures

Every country or territory decides who can enter or leave through its borders. For specific information about the evidence you'll need to enter a foreign destination, check with the nearest embassy, consulate or immigration department of the destination you're entering.

Visas

Entry and exit conditions can change at short notice. If you travel to Syria despite our advice and don't have Syrian identity documents, you'll need a visa.

You can apply for a Syrian [EVisa](#)  online.

You should contact the nearest embassy or consulate of Syria for the latest requirements before you go to Syria.

Parts of Syria are controlled by groups that may issue local travel permits. But you'll still need a visa issued by the Syrian Government if travelling to Syria.

Border measures

Land border crossings between Syria and Lebanon have been the target of border clashes and bombings and could close without notice.

For measures regarding travel between Syria and Lebanon, contact Syrian and Lebanese authorities.

Due to the ongoing unpredictable security situation, Lebanese General Security have advised they will no longer allow dual Australian/Syrian nationals entry into Lebanon to renew expired Australian passports. Only holders of valid Australian passports can enter Lebanon.

If you have a residence permit, check with Syrian Immigration regarding the 'exit and return' requirements.

Be aware that:

- children born in Syria must have their father's permission to leave Syria
- a Syrian husband can stop his wife from leaving the country, regardless of her nationality
- unmarried women can be prevented from leaving Syria due to strict family controls

Travel to Israel

If there's evidence that you've travelled to Israel, authorities will refuse your entry to Syria or deport you. Evidence includes:

- Israeli exit or entry stamps in your passport
- Egyptian or Jordanian stamps from border crossings with Israel
- travel itineraries or tickets that include Israel as a destination
- souvenirs from Israel
- airline tags on your bags
- SIM cards, literature, or other items with obvious links to Israel

Leaving Syria

Leave Syria immediately by commercial means.

Contact local authorities for the latest information on travelling between Syria and bordering countries. Entry and exit requirements may change without notice. Few commercial airlines fly to Syria. Other commercial air services and airports could stop operating without notice.

Civilian airports could come under attack at any time, including in Damascus and Aleppo.

Telecommunication and travel restrictions may limit your exit options:

- transport options to airports and seats on flights may be limited
- roads may close or be blocked without warning, affecting access to border crossings
- major highways may be blocked
- border crossings can be closed with little or no warning
- conflict can limit access to all border crossings

To minimise risks to your safety:

- seek local and expert advice
- make contingency plans

- check the status of routes to airports and borders
- always carry your passport and travel documents

Other formalities

Check with your nearest Syrian Embassy or Consulate for regulations regarding bringing in electronic devices such as standalone GPS, handheld radio equipment and drones to Syria.

Do not use mobile phones at check points.

The Syrian Government enforces restrictions on prior travel to Israel.

Authorities can hold anyone, regardless of their nationality, for questioning for several days and then deport them.


Passport

Validity

If you travel to Syria despite our advice, note that some countries won't let you enter unless your passport is valid for 6 months after you plan to leave that country. This can apply even if you're just transiting or stopping over.

Some foreign governments and airlines apply this rule inconsistently. Travellers can receive conflicting advice from different sources.

You may end up stranded if your passport is not valid for more than 6 months.



The Australian Government does not set these rules. Check your passport's expiry date before you travel. If you're not sure if it will be valid for long enough, consider getting [a new passport](#) .

Lost or stolen passport


Your passport is a valuable document. It's attractive to people who may try to use your identity to commit crimes.

Some people may try to trick you into giving them your passport. Always keep it in a safe place.

If your passport is lost or stolen, tell the Australian Government as soon as possible.

- In Australia, contact the [Australian Passport Information Service](#) .
- If you're overseas, contact the nearest [Australian Embassy or consulate](#) .

Passport with 'X' gender identifier

Although Australian passports comply with international standards for sex and gender, we can't guarantee that a passport showing 'X' in the sex field will be accepted for entry or transit by another country. Contact the [nearest embassy, high commission or consulate of your destination](#)  before you arrive at the border to confirm if authorities will accept passports with 'X' gender markers.

More information:

- [LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)

Money

The local currency is the Syrian Pound (SYP).

You can change money in government banks or at recognised exchange bureaus.

It is not possible to make an international money transfer because of sanctions.

Credit cards may not be accepted in Syria. You may not be able to access your money via ATMs.

Local travel

Local restrictions

Travel within some parts of Syria can be particularly dangerous.

If you're in Syria despite our advice, consider the security environment before travelling within the country. See [Safety](#).

Road travel

Access to international border crossings may be limited due to roadblocks, road closures and fighting. This can happen with little to no warning.

Major highways may become or are already blocked, due to conflict. These include:

- Tartous-Latakia
- Tartous-Homs
- Latakia-Aleppo
- Homs-Hama
- Homs-Damascus
- Damascus-Jordan
- Damascus-Beirut

If you need to travel by road, first:

- get local information on possible routes
- seek professional security advice
- adopt effective personal security measures
- make contingency plans

More information:

- [Driving or riding](#)

Sea travel

Don't travel to Syria by sea due to the dangerous security situation.

Air travel

Ongoing conflict in Syria may increase risks to civil aviation in the region. Civil aviation authorities in a number of countries do not allow airlines from those countries to fly in Syrian airspace. If you travel to Syria despite our advice, refer to the Smartraveller page on [air travel](#) and check with airlines before booking. Flight paths are subject to change. Check with your airline for updates and departure options.

DFAT does not provide information on the safety of individual commercial airlines or flight paths.

More information:

- [Air travel](#)

Local contacts

Emergencies

Depending on what you need, contact your:

- family and friends
- travel agent
- insurance provider
- employer
- airline

Fire services

Call 113.

Medical emergencies

Call 110 or go direct to a hospital.

Police

Call 112 or visit the nearest police station.

Always get a police report when you report a crime.

Your insurer should have a 24-hour emergency number.

Consular contacts

Read the [Consular Services Charter](#) for what the Australian Government can and can't do to help you overseas.

Australia doesn't have an embassy or consulate in Syria. The ability of the Australian Government to provide consular help in Syria is severely limited.

The Romanian Embassy in Damascus may be able to provide limited emergency consular services to Australians in Syria. They provide these services under a consular assistance arrangement in conjunction with the Australian Embassy in Beirut.

Romanian Embassy, Damascus

8, Rue Ibrahim Hanano,
PO Box 4454, Damascus, Syria

Phone: (+963 11) 332 75 72

Email: damasc.consul@mae.ro or damasc@mae.ro

Australian Embassy, Beirut

Embassy Complex, Serail Hill
Downtown Beirut, Lebanon

Phone: +961 1 960 600

Email: consular.beirut@dfat.gov.au

Website: lebanon.embassy.gov.au 

Facebook: [Australian Embassy - Beirut, Lebanon](https://www.facebook.com/AustralianEmbassy-Beirut-Lebanon) 

X: [@SafirAustralia](https://twitter.com/SafirAustralia) 

Instagram: [@ausemblb](https://www.instagram.com/ausemblb) 

24-hour Consular Emergency Centre

In a consular emergency, if you can't contact an embassy, call the 24-hour Consular Emergency Centre on:

- +61 2 6261 3305 from overseas
- 1300 555 135 in Australia



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Syria

[View](#)[Edit](#)[Delete](#)[Revisions](#)

Latest update

Still current at: 22 September 2025

Updated: 22 September 2025

Latest update: We continue to advise do not travel to Syria due to the dangerous security situation and the threat of armed conflict, air strikes, terrorism, arbitrary detention and kidnapping.

The security situation remains volatile. Armed clashes are ongoing in parts of Syria and have resulted in many civilian casualties. Israeli air strikes may continue to occur throughout the country, including in Damascus. If you're in Syria despite our advice, shelter in place and leave when it's safe to do so. Airports and airlines may suspend operations without notice (see 'Safety').

Demonstrations and protest activity may also occur, and local security situations could deteriorate with little notice. Avoid all demonstrations and protests. Monitor local media for updates and follow the advice of authorities.

Land border crossings between Syria and Lebanon have been the target of border clashes and bombings and could close without notice. If you're planning to cross a land border from Syria, contact the relevant authorities in your destination country for entry requirements. Entry and exit requirements for Syria may change without notice (see 'Travel').



We advise:

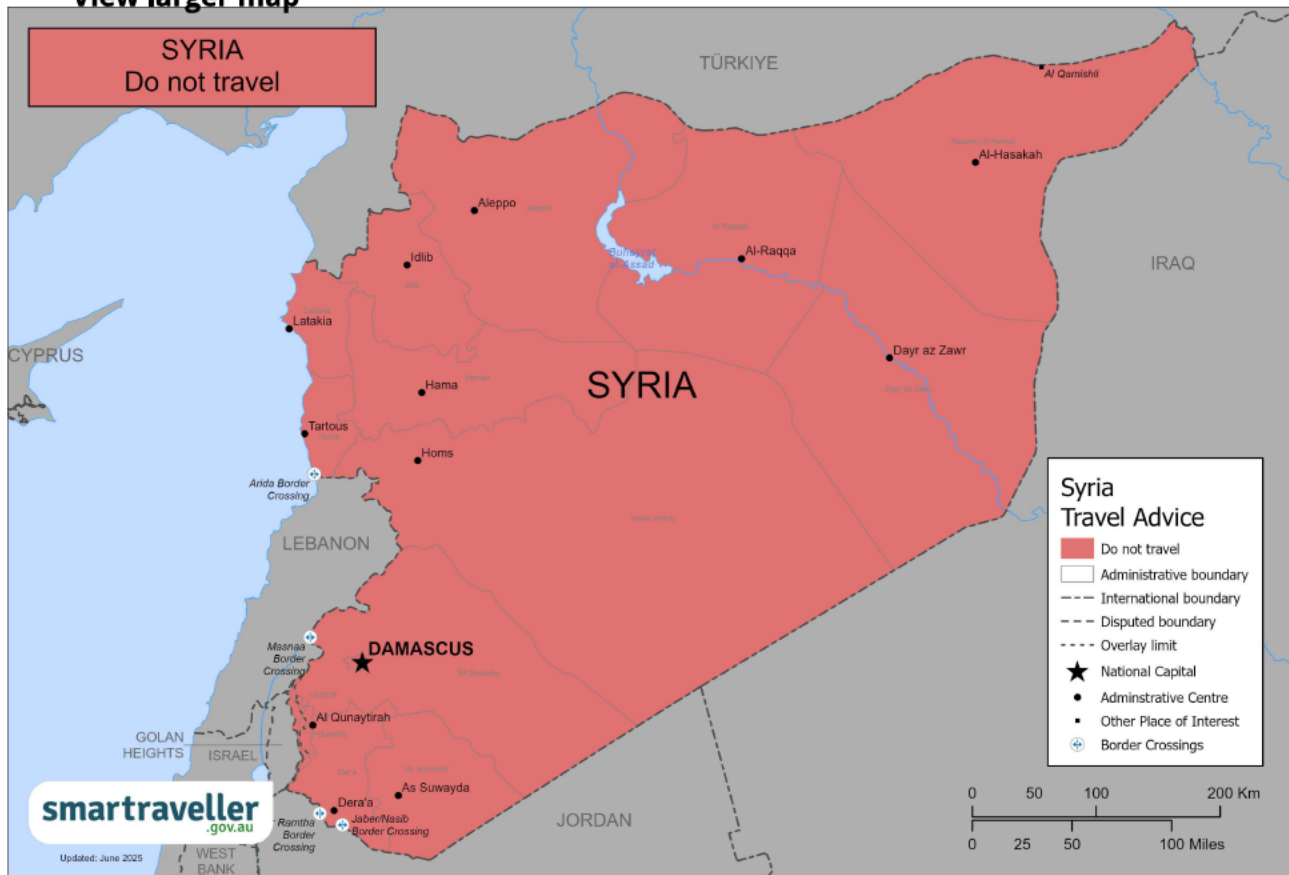
Do not travel to Syria due to the extremely dangerous security situation and the threat of armed conflict, air strikes, terrorism, arbitrary detention and kidnapping.

[Jump to...](#)

Advice levels

What does this mean? ➤

[View larger map](#)



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[Do not travel](#) to Syria due to the extremely dangerous security situation and the threat of armed conflict, air strikes, terrorism, arbitrary detention and kidnapping.

See [Safety](#).

Overview



Safety

- Armed clashes are ongoing in parts of Syria and have resulted in many civilian casualties. Israeli air strikes may continue to occur throughout the country, including in Damascus.

- The security situation in the Middle East is unpredictable and could deteriorate further with little warning. If the regional security situation deteriorates again this may result in airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions at short notice. There is a risk of reprisal attacks and further escalation across the region, as well as the potential for terrorist attacks.
- Australians should read our general advice about [terrorism risks](#) and protecting your safety during an [armed conflict](#).
- Demonstrations and protest activity may also occur, and local security situations could deteriorate with little notice. Avoid all demonstrations and protests. Monitor local media for updates and follow the advice of authorities.
- Land border crossings may be closed without notice. Additional road closures and checkpoints may be established. Airports and airlines may suspend operations without notice.
- Foreigners, especially aid workers and journalists, have been kidnapped. Vary your routines so your movements don't become obvious to others.
- Protests can turn violent. Authorities have arrested people near demonstrations, regardless of their citizenship. Avoid large public gatherings.
- Serious crime occurs, including violent robberies, kidnappings and carjackings. Keep your vehicle doors locked and windows up, even when moving. Carry only what you need.

Full travel advice: [Safety](#)



Health


- The Syrian health sector is seriously degraded due to conflict and lack of funding, and access to hospitals and medicines is very limited. If you're seriously ill or injured, you'll need medical evacuation. This is expensive and hard to organise. The Australian Government won't organise evacuation or pay for these costs.
- Insect-borne diseases, such as leishmaniasis, are common. Malaria occurs in the northern border region, particularly in Al Hasakah Province. Ensure your accommodation is insect-proof. Use insect repellent. Consider taking anti-malarial medication.
- Waterborne, foodborne, parasitic and other infectious diseases are common. These include brucellosis, typhoid and hepatitis. Drink only boiled or bottled water. Avoid raw or undercooked foods and unpasteurised dairy products.

Full travel advice: [Health](#)



Local laws

- Don't use or carry drugs. Penalties for drug offences include the death sentence.
- Get professional legal advice if you're involved in local legal matters, especially family or business law.

- Be careful when taking photos. It's illegal to photograph military and government buildings and other sensitive infrastructure.
- Using a drone is illegal and could result in a severe penalty.
- Always carry ID. It's required by law.
- Syria recognises dual nationality. However, if you're an Australian-Syrian dual national, Syrian authorities will treat you as Syrian. If you're a male dual national, you may have to do military service if you go to Syria. Contact your nearest [Syrian Embassy or consulate](#)  for details.
- Same-sex relations are illegal in Syria.

Full travel advice: [Local laws](#)




Travel

- Entry and exit conditions can change at short notice. If you travel to Syria despite our advice, and don't have Syrian identity documents, you'll need a visa. You should contact the nearest embassy or consulate of Syria for the latest requirements.
- Lebanese General Security have advised they will no longer allow dual Australian/Syrian nationals entry into Lebanon to renew expired Australian passports. Only holders of valid Australian passports can enter Lebanon.
- Contact local authorities for the latest information on travelling between Syria and bordering countries. Entry and exit measures may change without notice.
- Leave Syria as soon as you can. Most commercial airlines have stopped flying to Syria. Commercial air services and airports could be attacked or stop operating at any time. Roads and border crossings may be blocked without warning. Plan your exit carefully to minimise safety risks.
- Ongoing conflict in Syria may increase risks to civil aviation in the region. Civil aviation authorities in several countries do not allow their airlines to fly in Syrian airspace.
- The local currency is the Syrian Pound (SYP). The economy is primarily cash-based. Your credit cards and ATM cards may not work.
- The SYP continues to depreciate heavily, and high inflation can drastically affect the cost of everyday goods. Ensure you have enough cash for your stay,

Full travel advice: [Travel](#)



Local contacts

- The [Consular Services Charter](#) details what we can and can't do to help you overseas.
- Australia doesn't have an embassy or consulate in Syria. Our ability to provide consular services in Syria is severely limited. The Romanian Embassy in Damascus may be able to provide some emergency consular services to Australians in Syria. For further information, contact the [Australian Embassy in Beirut](#) .

- To stay up to date with local information, follow the Embassy's social media accounts.

Full travel advice: Local contacts

Full advice

Safety

Armed conflict and terrorism

Armed clashes are ongoing in parts of Syria and have resulted in many civilian casualties. Additional road closures and checkpoints may be established. Shelter in place and leave when it's safe to do so.

The security situation in Syria is dangerous due to:

- ongoing military conflict, including air strikes
- high levels of violence
- civil unrest and political tensions
- terrorist attacks
- kidnappings involving foreigners

Land border crossings may be closed without notice. Additional road closures and checkpoints may be established. Airports and airlines may suspend operations without notice.

Chemical weapons have been used during the conflict in Syria. These weapons could be used again.

Australians should read our general advice about [terrorism risks](#) and protecting your safety during an [armed conflict](#).

We continue to advise do not travel to Syria due to the extremely dangerous security situation and the threat of armed conflict, air strikes, terrorism, arbitrary detention and kidnapping. We have advised do not travel to Syria since 2011.

If you're in Syria despite this advice, prepare to leave as soon as possible.

While you're in Syria you should:

- seek professional security advice
- adopt effective personal security measures
- stay in a safe place and limit your movements
- always be alert
- keep a low profile
- vary your routines so your movements don't become obvious to others
- avoid possible targets for a terrorist or military attack
- have a clear exit plan in case there's a security incident

If there's an attack:

- leave the area as soon as it's safe
- avoid the affected area in case of secondary attacks
- monitor the media for any new or emerging threats

The security situation means access to food, water and fuel can be difficult. You should stockpile essential goods, including toiletries and prescription medication.

Terrorism is a threat worldwide.

More information:

- [Terrorism](#)
- [Armed conflict](#)

Kidnapping

There is a very serious threat of kidnapping throughout Syria. Kidnappings can occur for political or financial gain. Criminal and terrorist kidnappings are also a significant risk in Syria. There have been multiple cases of kidnappings in Syria, including of foreign nationals.

The situation in Syria remains volatile and there are numerous terrorist and militant groups operating throughout the country. Among the terrorist groups are Islamic State (IS) and Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS). These terrorist groups are known to use the kidnapping of foreigners as a tactic. This includes targeting aid workers, journalists and those working in the tourism and business sectors. Foreigners have been assassinated by these terrorist groups.

If despite our advice, you travel to an area with a high risk of kidnapping our ability to provide consular assistance in these destinations is limited.

To reduce the risk of kidnapping:

- always be alert to your personal security and surroundings
- get professional security advice for travel in locations with a heightened kidnap risk
- check your accommodation has appropriate security measures
- vary your movements so you don't set predictable patterns
- avoid isolated locations, particularly when travelling alone
- notify family or friends of planned travel and share your location
- avoid talking about your money or business affairs
- use ATMs in public places and during daylight hours
- avoid giving personal details to strangers online or over the phone

The Australian Government's longstanding policy is that it doesn't make payments or concessions to kidnappers.

Ransom payments to kidnappers have funded further terrorist attacks and criminal activity. Paying a ransom to terrorist groups will likely break Australian counter-terrorism financing laws.

More information:

- [Kidnapping](#)

Civil unrest and political tension

The security situation in the region remains unpredictable and could deteriorate with little or no warning.

Public protests and events with large groups of people can turn violent.

Syrian authorities have arrested people near demonstrations, regardless of their citizenship.

Civil unrest may limit your ability to travel by road.

If you're in Syria despite our advice:

- avoid rallies, demonstrations and crowds
- avoid funerals and mourning processions
- avoid areas where people congregate after Friday midday prayers
- monitor the media for new safety and security risks, including political events that could increase tensions

More information:

- [Demonstrations and civil unrest](#)

Crime

The breakdown in law and order has led to an increase in crime, including:

- [violent robberies](#)
- [kidnappings](#)
- carjackings

If you're in Syria despite our advice:

- avoid showing signs of wealth
- drive with your doors locked and windows up
- secure your accommodation
- stay alert to your surroundings

Cyber security

You may be at risk of cyber-based threats during overseas travel to any country. Digital identity theft is a growing concern. Your devices and personal data can be compromised, especially if you're connecting to Wi-Fi, using or connecting to shared or public computers, or to Bluetooth.

Social media can also be risky in destinations where there are social or political tensions, or laws that may seem unreasonable by Australian standards. Travellers have been arrested for things they have said on social media. Don't comment on local or political events on your social media.


More information:

[Cyber security when travelling overseas](#)

Climate and natural disasters

Syria is subject to [earthquakes](#). Dust storms and sandstorms also happen, especially during the summer months when there have been long periods of dry weather.

If there's a [natural disaster](#) or [severe weather](#):

- secure your passport in a safe, waterproof location
- monitor local media and other sources such as the [Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System](#) 
- follow the advice of local authorities
- keep in contact with friends and family

Health

Travel insurance

Get comprehensive [travel insurance](#) before you leave.

Your policy needs to cover **all** overseas medical costs, including medical evacuation. The Australian Government won't pay for these costs.

You'll probably need a special insurance policy that covers travel to high-risk destinations. Most Australian policies won't cover you for travel to Syria.

If you can't afford travel insurance, you can't afford to travel. This applies to everyone, no matter how healthy and fit you are.

If you're not insured, you may have to pay many thousands of dollars up-front for medical care.

Confirm:

- what activities and care your policy covers
- that your insurance covers you for the whole time you'll be away


Physical and mental health

Consider your physical and mental health before you travel, especially if you have an existing medical condition.

See your doctor or travel clinic to:

- have a basic health check-up
- ask if your travel plans may affect your health
- plan any vaccinations you need

Do this at least 8 weeks before you leave.

If you have immediate concerns for your welfare, or the welfare of another Australian, call the 24-hour Consular Emergency Centre on +61 2 6261 3305 or contact your [nearest Australian Embassy, High Commission or Consulate](#)  to discuss counselling hotlines and services available in your location.

More information:

- [General health advice](#)
- [Healthy holiday tips](#)  (Australian Government)

Medication

Not all medication available over the counter or by prescription in Australia is available in other countries. Some may even be considered illegal or a controlled substance, even if prescribed by an Australian doctor.

There is a shortage of medicine due to conflict and degradation of the healthcare system.

If you plan to bring medication, check if it's legal in Syria. Take enough legal medicine for your trip.

Carry a copy of your prescription or a letter from your doctor stating:

- what the medicine is
- your required dosage
- that it's for personal use

More information:

- [Medication](#)


Health risks

Polio

Syria is exposed to the international spread of [polio](#) .

Insect-borne diseases

Insect-borne diseases, such as [leishmaniasis](#) , are common.

[Malaria](#)  occurs in the northern border region, particularly in Al Hasakah Province.






To protect yourself from disease:

- make sure your accommodation is insect-proof
- use insect repellent
- wear long, loose, light-coloured clothing
- consider taking malaria prevention medication

Get medical advice if you have a fever, muscle pain, a rash or a severe headache.

Other health risks

Waterborne, foodborne, parasitic and other infectious diseases are common. These include:

- [brucellosis](#) 
- [typhoid](#) 
- [hepatitis](#) 
- [tuberculosis](#) 
- [cholera](#) 

Serious outbreaks could happen.

To protect yourself from illness:

- drink boiled water or bottled water with sealed lids

- avoid ice cubes
- avoid raw and undercooked food, such as salads
- avoid unpasteurised dairy products

Get medical advice if you have a fever or diarrhoea.

More information:

- [Infectious diseases](#)

Medical care

Medical facilities

Access to hospitals is limited due to Syria's seriously degraded healthcare system. The quality of healthcare in Syria is low.

If you become seriously ill or injured, you'll need to be evacuated to a place with suitable facilities. Medical evacuation is expensive and hard to organise. The Australian Government won't organise evacuation or pay for these costs.

Local laws

Local law

You're subject to all local laws and penalties, including those that may appear harsh by Australian standards. Research local laws before travelling.

If you're arrested or jailed, the Australian Government will do what it can to help you under our [Consular Services Charter](#). But we can't get you out of trouble or out of jail.

Drugs

Penalties for drug offences are severe and include the death penalty.

More information:

- [Carrying or using drugs](#)

Other laws

If you're involved in local legal matters, get professional advice. Know your rights and responsibilities, especially in family law matters like:

- divorce
- child custody
- child support

Serious crime such as murder have the death penalty.

These activities are illegal in Syria:

- same-sex relationships
- taking photos of military or government buildings or other sensitive infrastructure
- not carrying ID
- failing to have the right entry visa

If you wish to preach a religion other than Islam, get local advice. Restrictions can apply.

More information:

- [Advice for LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)

Australian laws

It's illegal under Australian law for Australian citizens, including dual citizens, to support any armed groups in Syria. This includes:

- joining the conflict
- funding, training or recruiting someone to fight
- supplying or funding weapons

Australia has [imposed sanctions on Syria](#) , including restrictions on the export and supply of certain goods and services.

Some Australian criminal laws still apply when you're overseas. If you break these laws, you may face prosecution in Australia.

More information:

- [Staying within the law and respecting customs](#)

Dual citizenship

Syria recognises dual nationality.

If you're an Australian-Syrian dual national, Syrian authorities will treat you as Syrian. This limits the [consular services](#) we can give if you're arrested or detained.

Children of Syrian men obtain Syrian citizenship automatically at birth.

More information:

- [Dual nationals](#)

Military service

Syria has compulsory military service.

If you're a male dual national, you may have to do military service if you go to Syria. Having an Australian passport won't get you out of military service.

Local customs

Standards of dress and behaviour are conservative, particularly around religious sites.

If you're female, wear loose clothing that covers your arms and legs. Wear a headscarf.

Take care not to offend. If in doubt, seek local advice.

Ramadan

The Islamic holiday month of [Ramadan](#) is observed in Syria. Respect religious and cultural customs and laws at this time.

During Ramadan, eating, drinking and smoking may be illegal in public during the day. If you're not fasting, avoid these activities around people who are. Seek local advice to avoid offence.

Explore our [Ramadan](#) page to learn more, including dates for Ramadan.


Travel

Visas and border measures

Every country or territory decides who can enter or leave through its borders. For specific information about the evidence you'll need to enter a foreign destination, check with the nearest embassy, consulate or immigration department of the destination you're entering.

Visas

Entry and exit conditions can change at short notice. If you travel to Syria despite our advice and don't have Syrian identity documents, you'll need a visa.

You can apply for a Syrian [EVisa](#)  online.

You should contact the nearest embassy or consulate of Syria for the latest requirements before you go to Syria.

Parts of Syria are controlled by groups that may issue local travel permits. But you'll still need a visa issued by the Syrian Government if travelling to Syria.

Border measures

Land border crossings between Syria and Lebanon have been the target of border clashes and bombings and could close without notice.

For measures regarding travel between Syria and Lebanon, contact Syrian and Lebanese authorities.

Due to the ongoing unpredictable security situation, Lebanese General Security have advised they will no longer allow dual Australian/Syrian nationals entry into Lebanon to renew expired Australian passports. Only holders of valid Australian passports can enter Lebanon.

If you have a residence permit, check with Syrian Immigration regarding the 'exit and return' requirements.

Be aware that:

- children born in Syria must have their father's permission to leave Syria
- a Syrian husband can stop his wife from leaving the country, regardless of her nationality
- unmarried women can be prevented from leaving Syria due to strict family controls

Travel to Israel

If there's evidence that you've travelled to Israel, authorities will refuse your entry to Syria or deport you. Evidence includes:

- Israeli exit or entry stamps in your passport
- Egyptian or Jordanian stamps from border crossings with Israel
- travel itineraries or tickets that include Israel as a destination
- souvenirs from Israel
- airline tags on your bags
- SIM cards, literature, or other items with obvious links to Israel

Leaving Syria

Leave Syria immediately by commercial means.

Contact local authorities for the latest information on travelling between Syria and bordering countries. Entry and exit requirements may change without notice. Few commercial airlines fly to Syria. Other commercial air services and airports could stop operating without notice.

Civilian airports could come under attack at any time, including in Damascus and Aleppo.

Telecommunication and travel restrictions may limit your exit options:

- transport options to airports and seats on flights may be limited
- roads may close or be blocked without warning, affecting access to border crossings
- major highways may be blocked
- border crossings can be closed with little or no warning
- conflict can limit access to all border crossings

To minimise risks to your safety:

- seek local and expert advice
- make contingency plans
- check the status of routes to airports and borders
- always carry your passport and travel documents

Other formalities

Check with your nearest Syrian Embassy or Consulate for regulations regarding bringing in electronic devices such as standalone GPS, handheld radio equipment and drones to Syria.

Do not use mobile phones at check points.

The Syrian Government enforces restrictions on prior travel to Israel.

Authorities can hold anyone, regardless of their nationality, for questioning for several days and then deport them.


Passport

Validity

If you travel to Syria despite our advice, note that some countries won't let you enter unless your passport is valid for 6 months after you plan to leave that country. This can apply even if you're just transiting or stopping over.

Some foreign governments and airlines apply this rule inconsistently. Travellers can receive conflicting advice from different sources.

You may end up stranded if your passport is not valid for more than 6 months.



The Australian Government does not set these rules. Check your passport's expiry date before you travel. If you're not sure if it will be valid for long enough, consider getting [a new passport](#) .

Lost or stolen passport


Your passport is a valuable document. It's attractive to people who may try to use your identity to commit crimes.

Some people may try to trick you into giving them your passport. Always keep it in a safe place.

If your passport is lost or stolen, tell the Australian Government as soon as possible.

- In Australia, contact the [Australian Passport Information Service](#) .
- If you're overseas, contact the nearest [Australian Embassy or consulate](#) .

Passport with 'X' gender identifier

Although Australian passports comply with international standards for sex and gender, we can't guarantee that a passport showing 'X' in the sex field will be accepted for entry or transit by another country. Contact the [nearest embassy, high commission or consulate of your destination](#)  before you arrive at the border to confirm if authorities will accept passports with 'X' gender markers.

More information:

- [LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)

Money

The local currency is the Syrian Pound (SYP).

You can change money in government banks or at recognised exchange bureaus.

It is not possible to make an international money transfer because of sanctions.

Credit cards may not be accepted in Syria. You may not be able to access your money via ATMs.

Local travel

Local restrictions

Travel within some parts of Syria can be particularly dangerous.

If you're in Syria despite our advice, consider the security environment before travelling within the country. See [Safety](#).

Road travel

Access to international border crossings may be limited due to roadblocks, road closures and fighting. This can happen with little to no warning.

Major highways may become or are already blocked, due to conflict. These include:

- Tartous-Latakia
- Tartous-Homs
- Latakia-Aleppo
- Homs-Hama
- Homs-Damascus
- Damascus-Jordan
- Damascus-Beirut

If you need to travel by road, first:

- get local information on possible routes
- seek professional security advice
- adopt effective personal security measures
- make contingency plans

More information:

- [Driving or riding](#)

Sea travel

Don't travel to Syria by sea due to the dangerous security situation.

Air travel

Ongoing conflict in Syria may increase risks to civil aviation in the region. Civil aviation authorities in a number of countries do not allow airlines from those countries to fly in Syrian airspace. If you travel to Syria despite our advice, refer to the Smartraveller page on [air travel](#) and check with airlines before booking. Flight paths are subject to change. Check with your airline for updates and departure options.

DFAT does not provide information on the safety of individual commercial airlines or flight paths.

More information:

- [Air travel](#)

Local contacts

Emergencies

Depending on what you need, contact your:

- family and friends
- travel agent
- insurance provider
- employer
- airline

Fire services

Call 113.

Medical emergencies

Call 110 or go direct to a hospital.

Police

Call 112 or visit the nearest police station.

Always get a police report when you report a crime.

Your insurer should have a 24-hour emergency number.

Consular contacts

Read the [Consular Services Charter](#) for what the Australian Government can and can't do to help you overseas.

Australia doesn't have an embassy or consulate in Syria. The ability of the Australian Government to provide consular help in Syria is severely limited.

The Romanian Embassy in Damascus may be able to provide limited emergency consular services to Australians in Syria. They provide these services under a consular assistance arrangement in conjunction with the Australian Embassy in Beirut.

Romanian Embassy, Damascus

8, Rue Ibrahim Hanano,
PO Box 4454, Damascus, Syria

Phone: (+963 11) 332 75 72

Email: damasc.consul@mae.ro or damasc@mae.ro

Australian Embassy, Beirut

Embassy Complex, Serail Hill
Downtown Beirut, Lebanon

Phone: +961 1 960 600

Email: consular.beirut@dfat.gov.au

Website: lebanon.embassy.gov.au 

Facebook: [Australian Embassy - Beirut, Lebanon](https://www.facebook.com/AustralianEmbassy-Beirut-Lebanon) 

X: [@SafirAustralia](https://twitter.com/SafirAustralia) 

Instagram: [@ausemblb](https://www.instagram.com/ausemblb) 

24-hour Consular Emergency Centre

In a consular emergency, if you can't contact an embassy, call the 24-hour Consular Emergency Centre on:

- +61 2 6261 3305 from overseas
- 1300 555 135 in Australia



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: [Catherine Dobbins](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Call from DFAT GWO (RE: Senator Shoebridge)
Date: Saturday, 20 September 2025 1:07:14 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender.

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Confirming my phone confirmation with you and Catherine. The GWO called again at 12.30am this morning (Saturday, 20 September 2025). They put me on speaker phone at their end. I was speaking with s 22(1)(a)(ii) They wanted further guidance on two options:

1. What wording could be used to update the DFAT Travel Advice?
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Claire said she is authorised to update the Travel Advice - she just requires the necessary wording from you. I have advised that you are on your way into RGC building. s 47E(d)

I'm about to call the DFAT Guard Desk to advise them that you are coming in s 47E(d)

Please let me know if you require any further assistance.

Kind Regards
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

On Sat, 20 Sep 2025 at 12:14 am s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Good Evening s 22(1)(a)(ii)

wrote:

At 11.19pm this evening (Friday, 19 September 2025), I received a called from DFAT's GWO. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Kind Regards,
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To:
Cc:
Subject: FW: For clearance: Travel advice update for Syria [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Monday, 22 September 2025 2:55:31 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) is coming to you now to discuss the below with you now that I'm aware of the country in question.

Cheers,
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 2:43 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Subject: FW: For clearance: Travel advice update for Syria [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Could you please find out what this one was?

Cheers

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 2:35 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>
Cc: Claire Rochecouste <Claire.Rochecouste@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: FW: For clearance: Travel advice update for Syria [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Here's an email with some of the background to TA updates over the weekend. There was an update on Saturday morning to advise of new threat, and then the removal of this information on Sunday night.

Claire spoke to Senator Shoebridge's office to advise of the update. Beyond that, you'll need to speak to Claire on the specifics of the information.

Cheers

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director | Travel Advice Section (TIN)
Communication & Policy Branch | Consular & Crisis Management Division

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

smartraveller.gov.au | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)



OFFICIAL

From: Global Watch Office <GlobalWatchOffice@dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Sunday, September 21, 2025 11:22 PM
To: Claire Rochecoste <Claire.Rochecoste@dfat.gov.au>
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au;
 Alan Copeland <Alan.Copeland@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au;
 s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au;
 Glenn Miles <Glenn.Miles@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au;
 Global Watch Office <GlobalWatchOffice@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: For clearance: Travel advice update for Syria [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Claire

As discussed this evening, following the phone call s 22(1)(a)(ii) here is the proposed change to the TA for Syria to be undertaken by GWO this evening – removing the red line from the Overview and Safety section.

Grateful clearance. Grateful advice as to whether this is an 'ad hoc' or a 'technical-no date change' update. Grateful confirmation there is no need for social media.

Overview

~~As of 20 September 2025, we are aware of reporting indicating an ongoing and persistent threat~~

~~in northeastern Syria.~~

We continue to advise do not travel to Syria due to the dangerous security situation and the threat of armed conflict, air strikes, terrorism, arbitrary detention and kidnapping ...

Safety

- ~~As of 20 September 2025, we are aware of reporting indicating an ongoing and persistent threat in northeastern Syria~~
- Armed clashes are ongoing in parts of Syria and have resulted in many civilian casualties. Israeli air strikes may continue to occur throughout the country, including in Damascus.

With best regards

GWO

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Australian Government Global Watch Office

Crisis Preparedness and Management Branch | Consular and Crisis Management Division

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Always notify the GWO in the first instance of a potential crisis event and include GWO in all subsequent messaging.

From: Global Watch Office <GlobalWatchOffice@dfat.gov.au>

Sent: 20 September 2025 05:25

To: Claire Rochecouste <Claire.Rochecouste@dfat.gov.au>

Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au;

Alan Copeland <Alan.Copeland@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au;

s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; Global Watch Office

<GlobalWatchOffice@dfat.gov.au>

Subject: For clearance: Travel advice update for Syria [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Claire

As discussed earlier this morning, please see below draft changes for the TA for Syria for your review/approval for an ad-hoc update. As discussed, we will not issue socials. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

EDRMS file: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Overview

As of 20 September 2025, we are aware of reporting indicating an ongoing and persistent threat in northeastern Syria.

We continue to advise do not travel to Syria due to the dangerous security situation and the threat of armed conflict, air strikes, terrorism, arbitrary detention and kidnapping...

Safety

- As of 20 September 2025, we are aware of reporting indicating an ongoing and persistent threat in northeastern Syria
- Armed clashes are ongoing in parts of Syria and have resulted in many civilian casualties. Israeli air strikes may continue to occur throughout the country, including in Damascus.

Kind regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Australian Government Global Watch Office
Crisis Preparedness and Management Branch | Consular and Crisis Management Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: [Global Watch Office](#)
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: GWO Shift Handover -s 22(1)(a)(ii) [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Date: Saturday, 20 September 2025 5:41:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Good morning team of the morning,

MAIN ISSUES/FOR ACTION

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- **TA FOR SYRIA: Reporting** s 47E(d)
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

. AS/CIB involved with updating TA and forwarding to relevant non-official delegation. Shift to msg/call Claire R and

GLOBAL WATCH OFFICE LOG AND HANDOVER SEPTEMBER 2025

Log Line	Date	Time	Detailed description
s 22(1)(a)(ii)			
1330	19/09/2025	2315	Call from s 22(1)(a)(ii) confirming DFAT aware of threat reporting s 47E(d) Confirmed. s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii)			
1341	19/09/2025	2345	Called AS CIB, Claire Rochecouste. Informed of developments. AS advised shift not to take further action, and she would be coming in to assess and decide on next steps.
s 22(1)(a)(ii)			
1345	20/09/2025	0048	A/S CIB (Rochecouste) attended floor. Shift brought her up to speed with s 47E(d) Shift assisting A/S with drafting potential TA update for Syria. s 22(1)(a)(ii)
1346	20/09/2025	0100	Call from ICE DO to answer some queries from A/S CIB re TA update and inclusion of certain information s 47E(d) advising they colleague s 22(1)(a)(ii) would be coming in to assist.
1347	20/09/2025	0113	s 22(1)(a)(ii) popped in and discussed with AS CIB decision to send TA wording to originator of product for clearance. Originators would then email GWO back with appropriate text for TA update. Shift will then update TA and advise AS/CIB by msg and phone call if msg not acknowledged.
1349	20/09/2025	0150	DSD s requested shift attend s 47E(d) Provided additional information and contact details for s 47E(d) and TA clearance request s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii)			
1355	20/09/2025	0418	s 22(1)(a)(ii)
1357	20/09/2025	0420	s 22(1)(a)(ii)
1362	20/09/2025	0633	AM shift updated the Smartraveller TA for Syria - as per handover instructions, and text cleared by AS CIB Claire Rochecouste. TA published. No social media issued.
1363	20/09/2025	0634	Sent an sms message to AS CIB Claire Rochecouste to advise Syria TA had now been published.
s 22(1)(a)(ii)			
1366	20/09/2025	0710	Emailed KRS re TA update and relevant report for information.
s 22(1)(a)(ii)			
1433	21/09/2025	2300	s 22(1)(a)(ii)
1434	21/09/2025	2305	Called Claire R to pass on reporting s 22(1)(a)(ii) Claire requested GWO undertake a TA update. Claire will make a phone call to the travelling party. Written confirmation coming from Claire by email. s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii)			
1439	22/09/2025	0023	Travel Advice 'ad hoc' update with 'no socials' as per line 1434 and AS CIB approval in sidebar 11.1

From: [Elizabeth McGregor](#)
To: [Harinder Sidhu](#); [Paul Griffiths](#); [Claire Elias](#)
Cc: [Claire Rochecouste](#); [Madeleine Casey](#); [Sarah deZoeten](#)
Subject: Fwd: URGENT: travel advice update for Syria // Attn Senator Shoebridge & Mr BrennN
[SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Personal-Privacy]
Date: Saturday, 20 September 2025 7:40:04 AM

OFFICIAL: Sensitive
Personal privacy

Harinder, Paul, Claire E - FYI below.

There has been some new classified reporting on a specific threat in NE Syria overnight.

Senator Shoebridge plans to depart Australia later today on non-official travel to go to the border region there (via Erbil).

With many thanks to Claire R. and ICE colleagues for working through a long night, Claire has also given relevant posts a heads up on the travel plans and latest reporting. We will loop in FMO too.

We will keep you posted on any reactions or changes to travel plans throughout the day.

Liz
FAS CCD
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: "Claire Rochecouste" <Claire.Rochecouste@dfat.gov.au>
Date: Saturday, 20 September 2025 at 6:33:13 am
To: "Kilty.O'Brien@aph.gov.au" <kilty.o'brien@aph.gov.au>, "Brennan, Sam (Sen D. Shoebridge)" <Sam.Brennan@aph.gov.au>
Subject: URGENT: travel advice update for Syria // Attn Senator Shoebridge & Mr BrennN [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Personal-Privacy]

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Personal privacy

Sam, Kylvie

I am writing to urgently communicate an update just published to our travel advice for Syria.

As of 20 September 2025, we are aware of reporting indicating an ongoing and persistent threat in northeastern Syria.

I urge you - Sam and Senator Shoebridge - do not travel to Syria at this time. I am aware you are scheduled to board a flight to Erbil later today (local time) in order to travel into northeastern Syria and again urge you not to do so.

I emphasise this is a new update in response to information we have become aware

of.

<https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/destinations/middle-east/syria>

I will shortly phone Kylvie to convey the same message and will also seek to phone Sam around the time you are scheduled to land in Dubai. You both have my direct number: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Kind regards,

Claire Rochecouste (she/her)

Assistant Secretary

Consular Communications and Policy Branch | Consular and Crisis Management
Division

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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- +61 2 6261 3305 (from overseas)

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