

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Ministerial Submission

MS26-000184

Cleared by: FAS CCD

Date sent to MO: PLE to select a date.

Action Requested By: 28 February 2026

Reason for Urgency: Air strikes in the Middle East

FOR: Senator the Hon Penny Wong  
 INFO: The Hon Matt Thistlethwaite MP

Travel Advice: Israel increase level to Do Not Travel

<p><b>Key Issues:</b> Following reported strikes by the United States and Israel on Iran on 28 February, we recommend an increase in the overall travel advice level for Israel from 'Reconsider your need to travel' (level 3 of 4) to 'do not travel' (level 4 of 4) due to the volatile security situation and the risk of the security situation deteriorating further. There is a heightened threat of military and terrorist reprisal attacks by Iran and its proxies against Israel. Airspace closures and flight disruptions are already occurring across Israel and the region. Attacks targeting Israel in 2024 and 2025 breached Israel's 'Iron Dome' missile defence in some instances and this remains a risk. The Israeli Australian community will have high levels of interest in this change and requests for assisted departure options are expected.</p>	
<p><b>Recommendation:</b>                  That you:</p> <p>a) Agree to increase Australia's overall travel advice level for Israel from Reconsider your need to travel (level 3 of 4) to <b>Do not travel</b> (level 4 of 4) due to the volatile security situation, armed conflict, civil unrest and terrorism.</p>	<p><b>Decision:</b></p> <p><u>Agreed</u> / Not Agreed</p>
<p><b>Domestic/Media Considerations:</b> There will be high media and community interest. We will update the talking points accordingly.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Penny Wong</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i>                  Penny Wong                  1/3/26</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Verbally agreed 28/2</i>  <i>[Signature]</i> 1/3</p>	
<p><b>Information:</b></p> <p>Matt Thistlethwaite</p> <p><i>/ /</i></p>	<p><b>Noted</b></p>
<p><b>From:</b> Elizabeth McGregor, ISG   CCD   CIB - Consular Communications and Policy Branch                  s 22(1)(a)(ii)</p>	<p><b>Contact:</b> Claire Rochecoste                  s 22(1)(a)(ii)</p>
<p>Can this proposal be funded from within your existing <u>divisional</u> allocation (departmental/aid)? Choose an item.                  If the proposal high risk/high value (over \$100m) concept has been approved by the Development Program Committee? Choose an item.</p>	
<p>Consultation: NIL</p>	
<p>Use of AI: N/A</p>	

**Background:**

1. You (Minister Wong) are the delegate for approving country-wide travel advice level increases under DFAT's travel advice policy framework (Administrative Circular AC071/25).
2. Following reported strikes by the United States and Israel on Iran on 28 February, we assess that the current security situation in Israel is deteriorating and may worsen quickly. There remains ongoing uncertainty in the region, with a potential for further escalation between Israel, Iran and its proxies and possible reprisal attacks. Israel has issued a nationwide state of emergency and advised to citizens to take shelter in protected areas.
3. Given the safety risks arising from such a rapid deterioration, and the likely diminishing options for Australians to leave, we recommended increasing our travel advice to 'do not travel' (level 4 of 4).
4. On 25 February, Australia directed the departures of all dependants of Australian officials posted to Israel.
5. Tel Aviv Post [s 47E\(d\)](#) recommends this change.
6. Our Israel travel advice was last raised to *Do Not Travel* in June 2025 during the Israel-Iran conflict.
7. Current key like-minded country travel advice is as set out below, but these could quickly change.
  - **Canada:** Level 3/4: Avoid non-essential travel to Israel due to the unpredictable security situation and ongoing tensions in the region. The Canadians have additional DNT regional advisories for Palestine and borders with Syria, Lebanon and the Gaza Strip.
  - **New Zealand:** Level 3/4: Avoid non-essential travel to Israel due to ongoing regional tensions and a volatile security situation.
  - **US:** Level 3/4: Reconsider travel to Israel and the West Bank due to terrorism and civil unrest. The US has do not travel to Gaza; the area of Northern Israel within 2.4 miles of the Lebanon and Syrian borders due to continued military presence and activity; and the Egyptian border within 2.4 miles, except the Taba crossing, which is open.
  - **UK:** Level 2/3: Advise against all but essential travel, to parts of Israel and Palestine. FCDO continues to advise against all travel to parts of Israel and Palestine.
8. We propose the following updated text of the travel advice (mirrored in social media) to read:

*We've reviewed our advice for Israel. Due to the deteriorating security situation, we've raised our level of advice and now advise, do not travel to Israel due to the volatile security situation, armed conflict, civil unrest and terrorism. The security situation could deteriorate rapidly throughout Israel with little or no notice. Flight disruptions are likely, including due to airport and airspace closures. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice.*



## Latest update

**Still current at:** 28 February 2026

**Updated:** 28 February 2026

**Latest update:** Due to the deteriorating regional security situation, we've raised our level of advice and now advise do not travel to Israel due to the volatile security situation, armed conflict, civil unrest and terrorism. Military strikes and reprisal attacks are occurring in Israel, and other locations in the Middle East. The Government of Israel has declared a state of emergency and advised citizens to shelter in a protected place. Further reprisal attacks by Iran and its proxies against Israel are likely.

Airspace closures and flight disruptions are occurring across Israel and the region. Ben Gurion International Airport may close with little or no notice. You may be unable to leave for an extended period. The Australian Government may not be able to assist you to leave. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice. See our general advice on protecting your safety during an armed conflict.

In an attack or other armed conflict, you should take shelter, follow the advice of local authorities and monitor local media and public safety information updates through the National Emergency Portal (accessible in Israel only – see 'Safety'). Try to get to an underground shelter if possible, or at minimum seek a shelter close to ground level. Confirm the location of your nearest fully enclosed emergency shelter – don't rely on online maps. Terror attacks can occur anywhere at any time, including by lone actors. Be alert to personal safety risks. There continues to be a very high threat of military and terrorist attacks against Israel, Israeli and Jewish interests across the region.

Israel has a naval blockade in place along the coast of Gaza (Palestine). Don't join others seeking to break the blockade. Previous attempts to break the blockade have resulted in death, injury, arrest or deportation of foreigners.

[Jump to...](#)

The Australian Government may not be able to assist you to leave. Subscribe to Smartraveller to receive email alerts (see 'Safety').

We continue to advise do not travel to border areas with Gaza (Palestine) or Lebanon. If you intend to travel by land into a neighbouring country, check the latest public information from local authorities on entry requirements and border arrangements, including opening times. Border crossing points may be closed without notice (see 'Travel').



**We now advise:**

**Do not travel to Israel overall due to the volatile security situation, armed conflict, civil unrest and terrorism.**

## Advice levels

What does this mean? >



[Do not travel](#) to Israel overall due to the volatile security situation, armed conflict, civil unrest and terrorism.

# Overview


The status of Jerusalem and borders are final status issues which remain subject to negotiations.

The West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza were occupied by Israel following the 1967 war and that occupation continues.

Jerusalem is also covered in our travel advice for Palestine.



## Safety

- We now advise do not travel to Israel due to the volatile security situation, armed conflict, civil unrest and terrorism. Military strikes and reprisal attacks are occurring in Israel, and other locations in the Middle East. The Government of Israel has declared a state of emergency and advised citizens to shelter in a protected place. Further reprisal attacks by Iran and its proxies against Israel may occur. Airspace closures and flight disruptions are occurring across Israel and the region. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice. See our general advice on [protecting your safety during an armed conflict](#).
- In an attack or other armed conflict, you should take shelter, check media for updates and follow the instructions of local authorities. Try to get to an underground shelter if possible, or at minimum seek a shelter close to ground level. You should physically confirm the location of your nearest fully enclosed emergency shelter – don't rely on online maps. Follow public safety information updates through the [National Emergency Portal](#)  (accessible in Israel only). Make sure you have enough essential supplies.
- On 25 February 2026, the Australian Government directed the departure of all dependants of Australian officials posted to Israel in response to the deteriorating security situation in the Middle East.
- Ben Gurion International Airport may close with little or no notice. You may be unable to leave for an extended period. The Australian Government may not be able to assist you to leave.
- If you intend to travel by land into a neighbouring country, check the latest public information from local authorities on entry requirements and border arrangements, including opening times. Border crossing points may be closed without notice.
- There continues to be a high threat of terrorist attacks against Israel and Israeli interests across the region. Terror attacks continue to be a threat to civilians and may be carried out by organised groups or lone actors, including using vehicles or makeshift weapons. Terrorist attacks could happen at any time or anywhere. Always be alert. Have an exit plan.
- Israel is a target for rocket and drone attacks and military confrontation. There are tensions and security risks close to Israel's borders with Palestine, Lebanon, Syria and Egypt. Authorities are monitoring security on Israel's northern border.
- Israel has a naval blockade in place along the coast of Gaza. Don't join others seeking to break the blockade. Previous attempts to break the blockade have resulted in death, injury, arrest or deportation of foreigners.
- Demonstrations and protest activity may also occur, and local security situations could deteriorate with little notice. Avoid all demonstrations and protests.

Full travel advice [Safety](#)



## Health

- Infectious diseases are a risk. Drink boiled or bottled water.
- West Nile virus can occur, and there is no vaccine to prevent it. Use insect repellent and make sure your accommodation is insect-proof.
- The standard of medical facilities in Israel is reasonable. If you become seriously ill or injured, you may need to be evacuated. Make sure your travel insurance covers this.

Full travel advice [Health](#)





## Local laws

- The Jewish Sabbath happens from sunset Friday until sunset Saturday. In Orthodox neighbourhoods, driving or using a mobile phone or digital camera on the Sabbath may offend people.
- Don't use or carry illegal drugs. Penalties are severe.

Full travel advice [Local laws](#)



## Travel

- All foreign nationals must have either an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA-IL) or a visa before arriving in Israel. To check your eligibility and to apply, visit the [ETA-IL website](#)  (see [Travel](#)).
- Flight cancellations and disruptions could occur with little or no notice, including due to airport and airspace closures. GPS signals may be blocked in parts of Israel, disrupting navigational apps and devices.
- Land border crossings to Jordan may open and close at short notice. Before you travel, check for regular opening times on [Jordanian Border Crossings](#)  and also check the latest public information from local authorities in Israel and Jordan to make sure border crossings are open. Visas on arrival are available but be prepared for delays when crossing into Jordan.
- Crossings between Israel and Palestine may be closed or have highly restricted access for long periods and are subject to change at short notice.
- By law, you're considered Israeli if one or both of your parents are Israeli. Israeli citizens must enter and leave on an Israeli passport. Authorities will consider you a Palestinian national if you currently hold, or used to hold, a Palestinian ID card. You may need to get a Palestinian travel document.

Full travel advice [Travel](#)





## Local contacts

- There are limits to what consular assistance we can provide in high-risk locations. Read the [consular Services Charter](#) to understand how we can assist you overseas.
- For consular help, contact the [Australian Embassy in Tel Aviv](#) or the [Australian Embassy in Jordan](#).
- To stay up to date with local information, follow the Embassy's social media accounts.

Full travel advice [Local contacts](#)

## Full advice

### Safety

#### Security situation



We now advise do not travel to Israel due to the volatile security situation, armed conflict, civil unrest and terrorism. Military strikes and reprisal attacks are occurring in Israel, and other locations in the Middle East. The Government of Israel has declared a state of emergency and advised citizens to shelter in a protected place. Further reprisal attacks by Iran and its proxies against Israel are likely.

Airspace closures and flight disruptions are occurring across Israel and the region. Ben Gurion International Airport may close with little or no notice. You may be unable to leave for an extended period. The Australian Government may not be able to assist you to leave.

Airspace closures and flight disruptions are occurring across Israel and the region. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice. See our general advice on [protecting your safety during an armed conflict](#)

The security situation in the Middle East is unpredictable. Conflicts in the Middle East could lead to an increase in tensions elsewhere in the region and may result in airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice.

Due to the risk of a deteriorating security environment, the Australian Government has directed the departures of all dependants of Australian officials posted to Israel.

We continue to advise do not travel to areas near the borders with Gaza (Palestine) or Lebanon.

#### Military operations

During military operations, the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) may declare an area a closed military zone. If authorities find civilians in this zone, they can arrest, detain or deport them.

In an attack or other armed conflict, you should take shelter, check media for updates and follow the instructions of local authorities. Try to get to an underground shelter if possible, or at minimum seek a shelter close to ground level. You should physically confirm the location of your nearest fully enclosed emergency shelter – don't rely on online maps. In Israel, local city government websites have lists of public bomb shelters and other emergency information.

Follow public safety information updates through the [National Emergency Portal](#) (accessible in Israel only). Make sure you have enough essential supplies.

The IDF Home Front Command is responsible for managing emergencies, including planning and advising on how to deal with rocket attacks. In an emergency, a message will be sent to all local mobile phones in the area with details of the event and safety instructions. You should download the Home Front Command mobile app to receive advice of alerts and when it is safe to resume normal activities. You can also contact the Home Front Command on 104 (the hotline has English-speaking operators, option 5). Authorities may also establish a National Emergency Portal website for specific events.

Read our general advice on protecting your safety during an [armed conflict](#).

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## Israel's borders with neighbouring states



Cross-border political tensions and unrest create security risks for regions of Israel close to its borders with Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine and Syria.

### Israel and the Palestinian border

*The status of Jerusalem and borders are final status issues which remain subject to negotiations. Without prejudging the outcome of those negotiations, this travel advice covers Jerusalem, which is also covered in the Palestine travel advice.*

The security situation is unpredictable, with continuing tensions and violence between Israelis and Palestinians.

### Gaza conflict

Since October 2023, the IDF has conducted major operations, including in and around Gaza. The risk of Israeli air strikes and land-based IDF operations remains, as does the threat of civil unrest, shooting, rocket and drone attacks. Rockets can land in both Gaza and Israel.

### Waters off Gaza

Israel has a naval blockade in place. The Israeli Navy patrols territorial waters and the shared water border zone.

We advise Australians to not participate in any humanitarian flotilla to deliver aid to Gaza. Don't join others seeking to break the naval blockade.

People have previously tried to break the naval blockade along the coast of Gaza. This has led to injury, death, arrest and deportation of foreigners, including Australians.

#### More information:

- [Travel advice for Palestine](#)

### Israel and Lebanon border

We continue to advise do not travel to border areas with Lebanon. Authorities are monitoring security on Israel's northern border. Some residents have been advised to evacuate by local authorities.

There's an ongoing threat of rocket attacks, infiltration attempts, revenge fire and other activity along the border between Israel and Lebanon. This area is known as the 'Blue Line'.

There's a significant military presence in the area. The security situation could get worse without notice.

Tensions have remained high between Hezbollah and Israel since the ceasefire of November 2024, and the security situation remains volatile and unpredictable. Further conflict is possible. A resumption of conflict between Israel and Hezbollah would significantly increase risks to your safety and security.

#### More information:

- [Travel advice for Lebanon](#)

## Israel and Egypt border

There have been security incidents in the southern city of Eilat and the surrounding area near the Gulf of Aqaba. This includes the border crossing with Egypt near Eilat. There have been deaths and injuries.

### More information:

- [Travel advice for Egypt](#)

## Israel and Syria border

We continue to advise against travel to border areas with Syria. Clashes between armed militant groups and the IDF have occurred along the Israeli-Syrian border, including rockets being fired towards Israeli-controlled territory. The risk of violence in this area remains high, and attacks could occur with little or no warning. Kidnapping has been known to happen near the border.

Parts of Route 98 have been closed in the past due to fighting on the Syrian side of the border.

The situation remains tense, and further violence is possible. We recommend avoiding all parts of the Golan Heights to the east of Route 98.

### More information:

- [Travel advice for Syria](#)

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## Demonstrations, protests and civil unrest



Public protests and events that gather large crowds can sometimes become violent. Check the media and other sources for information about planned and potential demonstrations.

Demonstrations can occur anywhere, especially near checkpoints to and from the West Bank and the Old City of Jerusalem. Violence can break out at checkpoints, and there may be limited options for leaving the area. Avoid traffic blockages at these checkpoints.

There are regular attacks on vehicles during the Sabbath, particularly in and around ultra-Orthodox neighbourhoods (see 'Local Laws'). Tensions can increase around religious and commemorative events and following political developments, especially in and around the Old City of Jerusalem. These tensions have resulted in demonstrations and violence in some cities.

To stay safe during unrest, avoid demonstrations, political rallies, and large public gatherings. Check local media for information on unrest or strikes, and plan your activities to avoid these areas. Be especially cautious during Jewish and Muslim religious holidays, including Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Pesach, and Ramadan.

Stay away from traffic congestion at checkpoints, and familiarise yourself with the emergency procedures in each location where you stay. Know what to do when air raid sirens sound and where to locate the nearest emergency shelters.

If you find yourself caught in military action or civil unrest, follow the advice of local authorities. Unless instructed otherwise, stay indoors and monitor the media. Be prepared to change your travel plans as necessary. If civil unrest affects transportation services, contact your airline, travel agent, or insurance provider for assistance.

### More information:

- [Protests and civil unrest](#)

## Terrorism



Terrorism is a threat worldwide. Terrorist attacks could occur anywhere and at any time. Be alert to possible threats, especially in public places.

Israel continues to be a target of terrorist attacks.

Local and international political developments and events may lead to terrorist attacks.

Terrorists have attacked buses, public transport hubs and tourist areas. These include Herzliya, Jaffa and Tel Aviv. Attacks have included shootings, stabbings, vehicle ramming and bombings.

Be alert to possible threats, especially:

- at tourist locations, religious sites and crowded public places
- near police checkpoints
- in regions bordering [Palestine](#), [Egypt](#), [Syria](#) and [Lebanon](#)

Australian Government officials are advised only to use public transport services in Israel which include security screening of passengers and luggage. This is because of safety and security concerns and doesn't apply to taxis.

Militant and terror groups operate in regions of Palestine, Egypt, Syria and Lebanon that are close to Israel, making travel close to borders with those regions dangerous.

When planning your activities, reconsider going to places known to be terrorist targets. Consider the level of security provided.

Take care when travelling to a region where there are terrorists or places that terrorists could target. Have an exit plan in case there's a security incident.

To stay safe:

- consider avoiding public transport other than taxis
- report any suspicious activity or items to the police
- regularly check local and international media for news about any new or emerging threats
- take official warnings seriously
- follow the advice of local authorities

If there's a terrorist incident, leave the area if it's safe to do so and follow the instructions of local authorities.

**More information:**

- [Terrorism](#)

## Kidnapping



Kidnapping occurs across the world with political, ideological, and criminal motives. Foreigners, including Australians have been kidnapped overseas whilst travelling. Kidnaps can happen anywhere, anytime, including destinations that are typically at lower risk.

Foreigners have been kidnapped in Israel. Tourists, aid workers and journalists may be seen as legitimate targets. Always be alert to your personal security and surroundings, particularly in the Gaza area and the border with Egypt.

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.

You are responsible for your own safety. To reduce the risk of kidnapping:

- always be alert to your personal security and surroundings – avoid distractions. Be prepared to stop or take evasive action if you sense danger

- get professional security advice for travel in locations with a heightened kidnap risk. It is essential to have a contingency plan
- check your accommodation has appropriate security measures
- vary your movements so you don't set predictable patterns
- keep a low profile – including online. Drawing attention to yourself in high-risk areas may signal to criminals that you have something worth taking
- avoid isolated locations, particularly when travelling alone. There is safety in numbers, and you should try to travel with someone else, especially at night
- notify family or friends of planned travel; share your location and emergency contacts that they can rely on if something happens
- 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. Criminals have been known to search social media for victims
- if you are confronted by armed criminals, it is best to surrender and cooperate – resistance tends to make the situation worse

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. Ransom payments to terrorist groups are likely to contravene Australian counter-terrorism financing laws.

**More information:**

- [Kidnapping](#)
- [Scams that affect travellers](#)
- [Reducing the risk of piracy](#)

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## Crime

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Violent crime, other than terrorism and politically motivated violence, is rare.

Purse snatching, pickpocketing and petty theft can happen.

### Cyber security

You could face cyber threats in any country, anyone is a target. Your devices and data can be stolen, especially when using public Wi-Fi, computers, or Bluetooth. Criminals can use stolen information to conduct scams or to resell your personal information.

The Australian Cyber Security Centre has advice on [how to protect yourself online](#)

Social media can also be risky in places with social or political tensions or strict laws. People have been arrested for what they posted online. Check the laws of the destination you're travelling to and think about what you post on social media. The Australian Government can't get you out of trouble if you're accused of breaking the law.

**More information:**

- [Cyber security when travelling overseas](#)

### Drink spiking

Drink spiking can happen anywhere. Be alert, don't leave your food or drinks alone. Watch when your drink is being mixed. If you [feel unwell](#), tell your friends immediately and get to a safe place. Keep an eye on your friends - if they feel unwell, stay with them. Get [medical help](#) if needed.

## Methanol poisoning

People have died or become very sick from poisoned drinks overseas. This includes Australians. Methanol is highly toxic. As little as one shot can be fatal. Methanol can be added or accidentally created during poor quality alcohol production. Only drink branded, sealed drinks. Get [urgent medical help](#) if you think you've been poisoned.

### More information:

- [Partying safely while overseas](#)

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## Tours and adventure activities

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Transport and tour operators don't always follow safety and maintenance standards. This includes adventure activities.

If you plan to do a tour or [adventure activity](#)

- check if it's covered by your travel insurance policy
- ask about and insist on minimum safety requirements
- always use available safety gear, such as life jackets or seatbelts

If proper safety equipment isn't available, use another provider.

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## Extreme weather and natural disasters

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Israel is in an active [earthquake](#) zone.

Flash floods can happen in the Negev desert in the winter months from November to March.

Sandstorms, dust storms and bushfires happen during the warmer months.

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

- secure your passport in a safe location
- stay in contact with friends and family
- follow the advice of local authorities
- register with the [Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System](#)  to receive alerts on major disasters.

## Health

### Travel Insurance



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

It must cover all medical costs overseas, including evacuation. The Australian Government will not pay for these costs.

If you can't afford travel insurance, you shouldn't travel. This is true for everyone, even if you are healthy and fit.

If you don't have insurance, you might have to pay thousands of dollars up front for medical care.

Before you travel, check your policy, make sure:

- you know what activities and medical care your insurance covers, including evacuations
- your insurance covers you for your whole trip, including any stopovers
- you know any exclusions – for example, you might need to pay extra for activities like motorcycling, snow sports or bungee jumping.

**More information:**

- [Travel insurance](#)

You need special [travel insurance](#) if you're going to a high-risk destination, which can be expensive.

We can't guarantee your safety and security in another country or pay for your medical expenses, including evacuation. If you don't have insurance, you shouldn't travel.

### Physical and mental health



Think about your health before you travel, especially if you have any medical conditions.

See your doctor or a travel clinic to:

- get a basic check-up
- ask if your travel plans might affect your health
- find out what vaccinations you need.

If you're concerned about your mental wellbeing, or someone else's, read more about [mental health support overseas](#)

**More information:**

- [General health advice](#)
- [Managing your mental health](#)

## Medication



Not all medications available in Australia are accessible in other countries. Some medicines may be illegal, even if prescribed by an Australian doctor.

Ensure your [medication](#) is legal overseas. Take enough for your whole trip.

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

- medication names
- your required dosage
- that the medications are for your personal use.

**More information:**

- [Medicines](#)

## Health risks



Waterborne, foodborne and other infectious diseases can occur. These include:

- [Brucellosis](#)
- [Leptospirosis](#)
- [Leishmaniasis](#)

Serious outbreaks sometimes occur.

To protect yourself from illness:

- drink boiled water or bottled water with sealed lids
- avoid ice cubes
- avoid uncooked and undercooked food, such as salads

Get medical advice if you have a fever or diarrhoea.

### Insect-borne diseases

Cases of [West Nile virus \(WNV\)](#) cases are reported throughout Israel. There's no vaccine to prevent it.

To protect yourself against illness:

- make sure your accommodation is insect-proof
- use insect repellent
- wear long, loose, light-coloured clothing

**More information:**

- [Infectious diseases](#)

### Polio

Polio is a risk in Israel. Before you travel, ensure your vaccinations are up-to-date, including booster doses.

**More information:**

- [Polio](#)

### Measles

Measles can occur routinely in Israel. Make sure your vaccinations are up-to-date before you travel.

Ask your doctor about health risks and vaccines before you go.

**More information:**

- [Measles immunisation service](#) 

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## Medical care

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There's no agreement between Australia and Israel for free healthcare. Tourists must pay for [medical care](#) even if they need to stay in hospital or be evacuated. This can be very expensive. Make sure your [travel insurance](#) covers you. The Australian Government won't pay for these costs.

The standard of medical facilities is reasonable in Israel.

Doctors may require up-front payment before they will treat you. Costs can be high.

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## Local laws

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### Local law

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When you travel to another country, you must follow their laws. Even if they seem strict compared to Australia's. Before you go, learn about the [local laws](#) in that country.

The Australian Government is limited in how and when we can help if you're [arrested overseas](#). We can't get you out of trouble or out of jail. Understand our limits. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#).

## Drugs

Penalties for drug offences include jail terms of up to 20 years and large fines.

**More information:**

- [Carrying or using drugs](#)

## Other laws

It's illegal to photograph police, the military, buildings or places considered 'security sensitive'. This includes military installations and some government offices. If in doubt, get local advice.

The import and use of religious material is strictly controlled. If authorities find this material, they may confiscate it.

**More information:**

- [Advice for LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)

## Australian laws



Some Australian laws still apply even if you're in another country. You could be charged in Australia if you break these laws overseas.

### More information:

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

## Dual nationality



Israel doesn't recognise dual nationality. Israeli citizens must enter and leave on an Israeli passport.

Under Israeli law, you're considered Israeli if at least one of your parents is Israeli.

Men and women may need to do military service. To check, consult the nearest [embassy or consulate of Israel](#) before you travel.

This law limits the [consular services](#) we can give if you're arrested or detained.

### More information:

- [Advice for dual nationals](#)
- [Embassy of Israel in Australia](#)

## Local customs



Get to know local and religious customs. Take care not to offend.

Public displays of affection aren't appropriate at religious sites in Israel.

Observe local standards of behaviour when visiting Orthodox Jewish neighbourhoods.

### Dress standards

Conservative standards of dress and behaviour apply at holy sites and Muslim or Orthodox Jewish areas.

Be respectful when photographing people in Muslim and Orthodox Jewish areas. Ask permission before taking photos of people.

### Shabbat

The Jewish Shabbat or Sabbath happens from sunset Friday until sunset Saturday. It's closely observed in Orthodox Jewish areas in Israel.

During this time of rest in Orthodox neighbourhoods, driving and using electricity is restricted. Using a mobile phone or camera on the Sabbath is likely to offend.

Public access to these neighbourhoods is usually restricted on the Sabbath. Don't drive in these areas.

## Ramadan

Respect religious and cultural customs and laws during [Ramadan](#). Avoid eating, drinking or smoking in public or in front of people who are fasting.

## LGBTQIA+ information

Same-sex relationships are legal, but some locals have conservative attitudes towards them. Open displays of affection could offend locals, particularly in rural areas.

Take care not to offend.

### More information:

- [Advice for LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)


## Travel

### Flight and road routes out of Israel



#### Land border crossings


If you intend to travel by land into a neighbouring country, check the latest public information from local authorities on entry requirements and border arrangements, including opening times.

Land border crossings to Jordan may open and close at short notice. Before you travel, check [Jordanian Border Crossings](#)  for regular opening times and also check the latest public information from local authorities in Israel and Jordan to make sure border crossings are open.

There are 2 land border crossings between Israel and Jordan: Sheikh Hussein/Jordan River near Irbid and Wadi Araba near Aqaba. Additionally, one land border crossing from Israel to Jordan goes through Palestine (the West Bank): Allenby Bridge/King Hussein near Amman. You'll need a visa to enter Jordan. See our [Jordan Travel Advice](#)

Israeli authorities may close crossings to the West Bank or impose strict security measures on local holidays or due to security incidents, including after terrorist attacks.

Land border crossing entering or exiting Gaza (Palestine) is extremely difficult. Israeli authorities control the Erez crossing into northern Gaza from Israel. The crossing has been closed since October 2023. See our [Palestine Travel Advice](#).

The land border crossing between Israel and Egypt: Taba border crossing (Menachem Begin Crossing) is open but may close without notice and for an unknown period of time. To avoid long wait times at the border, you should pay for the Israeli [crossing fee online](#)  before you arrive. You'll need to pay for a tourist visa and a land border entry fee for entry to Egypt. For the visa, you must have a non-Egyptian credit card or US dollars in cash. For the land border entry fee (payable in Egyptian pounds) an ATM is available in the terminal. See our [Egypt Travel Advice](#)

Transport routes may be disrupted. Roads may be crowded and exposed to military action or have damage, including to bridges and facilities. Use your judgement to decide the best time and safest means of exit.

Plan for delays at land border crossings. Expect disruption to travel and changes at short notice. Make sure you have an adequate supply of food, water, medication.

### More information:

- [Travel advice for Jordan](#)
- [Travel advice for Egypt](#)

- [Travel advice for Palestine](#)

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## Visas and border measures

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Each country or territory decides its own entry and exit rules, including health border screening measures. To find out what you need to enter a destination, ask their embassy, consulate or immigration office.

### Visas

All foreigners visiting Israel, including Australians, must obtain either an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA-IL) or a visa before arriving in Israel.

If you plan to visit Israel for less than 90 days, you may be eligible for the ETA-IL. Otherwise, you will need to get a visa before you travel.

ETA-ILs are valid for 2 years or until your current passport expires, whichever comes first. This means that if you receive an ETA-IL approval to travel, you should not have to reapply during the approval period.

To check your eligibility and to apply for the ETA-IL, visit the [ETA-IL website](#) .

Failing to obtain an entry permit may result in a refusal of entry by Israeli border authorities.

The Australian Government can't intervene on your behalf, and our ability to provide consular assistance in these circumstances may be limited.

Entry and exit conditions can change at short notice. For details about visas, security checks, currency, customs and quarantine regulations:

- check the [Israel Government Portal](#) 
- contact the nearest [embassy or consulate of Israel](#) 
- [Embassy of Israel in Australia](#) 

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## Other formalities

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Israeli authorities can subject you to a security and police record check if you're entering Israel.

Authorities may refuse you entry or exit without a reason.

Security officials may question you at length. They may also conduct an intensive search of your bags and person when you arrive and depart.

If you're travelling to protest against Israeli policies, authorities may refuse you entry. You'll be returned to the country where you boarded, including if you've arrive by boat.

Authorities can deny you entry if you have association with, or belong to, an organisation that has called for a boycott of Israel or Israeli settlements.

We can't intervene if you don't meet entry or exit requirements.

### Entry card

You'll get an entry card instead of an entry stamp on arrival in Israel.

Keep this card with your passport until you leave. The card is evidence of your legal entry into Israel. Authorities may ask for it during your stay.

If you plan to travel to other countries after Israel, read the [travel advice](#) for each country. Some countries may refuse you entry if:

- your passport shows you have travelled to Israel
- your luggage or possessions show you've been to Israel

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## Travel restrictions



Travel restrictions may apply to some visitors in Israel. There's no clear information about who may be restricted.

Anyone registered in the Palestinian Population Register, including Australian passport holders of Palestinian descent, is prohibited from entering Israel through Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion International Airport and must enter and exit Palestine through the Allenby border crossing.

Airport officials may ask you to sign a form that stops you entering Palestine.

In these situations, the Australian Embassy has limited ability to step in.

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## Passport



### Validity

Many countries require your passport to be valid for at least 6 months before entering or departing. This includes for transit.

If your passport expires too soon, you might not be able to travel.



The Australian Government doesn't make these rules. Check your passport's expiry date before you go. If you're not sure, it's a good idea to [get a new passport](#) .

### Lost or stolen passport


Your passport is valuable and can be used by others to commit crimes.

Don't let anyone trick you into giving it to them. Always keep it in a safe place.

If your passport is lost or stolen, tell the Australian Government:

- In Australia: contact the [Australian Passport Information Service](#) .
- Overseas: contact the nearest [Australian embassy or consulate](#) .

### Passport with 'X' gender identifier

Australian passports comply with international standards for sex and gender. If your passport has an 'X' in the sex field, we can't guarantee your entry or transit to other countries. Ask the [embassy or consulate of your destinations](#)  if they'll accept your passport with an 'X' gender marker. Check all transit destinations too.

**More information:**

- [LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)

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## Money

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Israel's currency is the Israeli Shekel (ILS).

You can change Australian dollars to shekels in major centres.

ATMs are widely available.

When arriving or leaving Israel, you must declare amounts of \$US10,000 or more, or the equivalent in another currency. This covers all forms of currency, not only cash.

If you don't declare your currency on entry or exit from Israel, authorities could arrest or fine you.

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## Local travel

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When deciding on travel around Israel consider the general security situation.

Also consider specific risks to your safety and security in different places.

### Driving permit

You can drive in Israel for up to one year with a valid Australian driver's licence (digital driver's licences may not be accepted).

### Road travel

Land border crossings may be closed with short notice and for an unknown period. Before travel, check Israeli government websites and the website of the country you're travelling to determine if border crossings are open.

Security checkpoints may be set up or closed at any time. This often happens without warning throughout Israel.

You could face delays or trouble passing through checkpoints.

GPS signals may be blocked in parts of Israel, disrupting navigational apps.

**More information:**

- [Land border crossings](#)  (United Nations)

Driving can be dangerous.

Hazards include:

- Aggressive drivers who ignore road rules
- Drivers driving while distracted
- Poor road conditions in some parts of the country

Road accidents occur often.

Israeli car insurance does not usually cover travel into Palestine including Bethlehem, Jericho and Ramallah.

Separate insurance can be arranged for travel to these places.

**More information:**

- [Driving or riding](#)

## Motorcycles

Check if your travel insurance policy covers you when travelling by motorbike.

Only ride a motorcycle if you're:

- properly licensed
- familiar and comfortable with local driving conditions

By law, you and your passenger must wear a helmet when riding a motorbike.

## Taxis

Taxis are generally safe and reliable in Israel.

## Public transport

Take care when using [public transport](#)

Due to safety and security concerns, Australian government officials and their families are advised to use public transport services in Israel that include security screening of passengers and luggage. This doesn't apply to taxis.

## Sea travel

Don't travel by sea to the coast of Gaza (see [Safety](#)).

## Air travel

DFAT doesn't give advice about how safe different airlines or flight paths are.

Safety risks and weather events may cause flight delays and cancellations. Contact your travel agent or airline to confirm your plans.

Airlines and airports can restrict what you can take in your luggage. Regulations may be different to those in Australia. Check with your airline before you travel.

Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion International Airport may pause operations due to heightened security concerns at any time and at short notice. This may cause flight delays or cancellations.

Check [Israel's air safety profile](#)  with the Aviation Safety Network.

**More information:**

- [Air travel](#)

## Local contacts

## Emergencies



Depending on what you need, contact your:

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

### Fire and rescue services

Call 102.

### Medical emergencies

Call 101.

### Police

For criminal issues, call 100.

Always get a police report when you report a crime.

Your insurer should have a 24-hour emergency number.

## Consular contacts



There are limits to what consular assistance we can provide in high-risk locations. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#) to understand how we can assist you overseas.

For consular assistance, contact:

### Australian Embassy, Tel Aviv

Level 28  
Discount Bank Tower  
23 Yehuda Halevi Street (corner Herzl Street)  
Tel Aviv 65136, Israel

Phone: +972 3 693 5000  
Website: [israel.embassy.gov.au](https://israel.embassy.gov.au)   
Facebook: [Australia in Israel](#)   
X: [AusAmbIsrael](#)

Check the Embassy website for details about opening hours and any temporary closures.

### 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

MS26-000183

Cleared by:

Date sent to MO: PLE to select a date.

Action Requested By: 28 February 2026

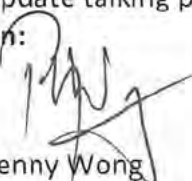
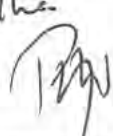
Reason for Urgency: Air strikes in the Middle East

### Ministerial Submission

FOR: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

INFO: The Hon Matt Thistlethwaite MP

#### Travel Advice: Lebanon increase to Do Not Travel

<p><b>Key Issues:</b> Following reported strikes by Israel and the US on Iran on 28 February, and Israeli strikes on southern Lebanon, we recommend an increase in the overall travel advice level for Lebanon from 'reconsider your need to travel' (level 3 of 4) to '<b>Do not travel</b>' due to the volatile security situation and the risk of the security situation deteriorating further (level 4 of 4). The regional security environment remains unpredictable, with increased tensions and the likelihood of reprisal attacks. There is a heightened threat of large-scale Israeli military airstrikes against Lebanon and this risk could escalate rapidly without notice including through retaliatory action by Hizballah as Iran's proxy. The Lebanese Australian community will take a high interest in this change and likely to trigger requests for assisted departure options</p>	
<p><b>Recommendation:</b> That you:</p> <p>a) Agree to increase Australia's overall travel advice level for Lebanon to do not travel (level 4 of 4) due to the volatile security situation, armed conflict, civil unrest and terrorism.</p>	<p><b>Decision:</b></p> <p><u>Agreed / Not Agreed</u></p>
<p><b>Domestic/Media Considerations:</b> There will be high levels of media and community interest. We will update talking points accordingly.</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="text-align: center;">               Penny Wong              1/3/26         </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><i>Verbally agreed 26/2</i></p> <p><i>The</i></p>               1/3         </div> </div>	
<p><b>Information:</b></p> <p>Matt Thistlethwaite</p> <p>/ /</p>	<p><u>Noted</u></p>
<p><b>From:</b> Harinder Sidhu   ISG   CCD   CIB - Consular Communications and Policy Branch s 22(1)(a)(ii)</p>	<p><b>Contact:</b> Claire Rochecouste s 22(1)(a)(ii)</p>
<p>Can this proposal be funded from within your existing <u>divisional</u> allocation (departmental/aid)? Choose an item. If the proposal high risk/high value (over \$100m) concept has been approved by the Development Program Committee? Choose an item.</p>	
<p>Consultation: MAD, DSD, Beirut Post</p>	
<p>Use of AI: N/A</p>	

## Background:

You (Minister Wong) are the delegate for approving country-wide travel advice level increases under DFAT's travel advice policy framework (Administrative Circular AC071/25).

2. Following reported strikes by Israel and the United States on Iran on 28 February, and strikes by Israel in southern Lebanon, we assess that the current security situation in Lebanon is deteriorating and may worsen quickly. There remains ongoing uncertainty in the region, with a potential for further escalation between Israel and Hizballah and possible reprisal attacks.

3. Given the safety risks that could arise from such a rapid deterioration, and the likely diminishing options for Australians to leave, we recommend increasing our travel advice to 'Do not travel' (level 4 of 4). Our Lebanon travel advice was raised to *Do Not Travel* in October 2023 and was subsequently lowered to reconsider your need to travel (level 3) in September 2025.

4. The regional security environment remains unpredictable. There is a heightened threat of large-scale Israeli military airstrikes against Lebanon and this risk could escalate rapidly without notice.

5. At level 4, our standard advice is: Do not travel to this location. If you're already in this location, you should consider leaving if it's safe to do so. Your travel insurance policy may be void. The Australian Government may not be able to help you. In most cases, our ability to provide consular assistance in Do not travel destinations is extremely limited.

6. On 25 February 2026 Australia directed the departure of all dependants of Australian officials posted to Lebanon. On 24 February, the US announced the draw-down of 50 officers from its Beirut embassy and suspended all consular services

7. Current like-minded overall country travel advice is as set out below.

- **Canada:** Level 3/4: Avoid non-essential travel to Lebanon due to ongoing tensions in the region, the unpredictable security situation, the continued risk of terrorist attacks and the conflict with Israel.

- **US:** Level 4/4: Do Not Travel to Lebanon due to crime, terrorism, civil unrest, kidnapping, unexploded landmines, and the risk of armed conflict. Some areas, especially near the borders, have increased risk.

- **UK:** Level 1/3: with higher regional levels advising against all travel, including areas in Beirut, Mount Lebanon, areas in the South and areas in Nabatiyeh, Beqaa, Baalbek-Hermel, north and Akkar Governorates, plus the Palestinian refugee camps.

- **New Zealand:** Level 4/4: Do not travel to Lebanon due to the volatile security situation and the risk of the security situation deteriorating further.

7. We propose the following updated text of the travel advice (mirrored in social media) will read:

*We've reviewed our advice for Lebanon. Due to the deteriorating regional security situation, we've raised our level of advice, and now advise do not travel to Lebanon due to the volatile security situation, armed conflict, civil unrest and terrorism. The security situation could deteriorate rapidly throughout Lebanon with little or no notice. Flight disruptions are likely, including due to airport and airspace closures. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice.*

The logo for Smartraveller.gov.au, 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.

## Lebanon

### Latest update

**Still current at:** 28 February 2026

**Updated:** 28 February 2026

**Latest update:** Due to the deteriorating regional security situation, we've raised our level of advice and now advise do not travel to Lebanon due to the volatile security situation, armed conflict, civil unrest and terrorism. The security situation could deteriorate rapidly throughout Lebanon with little or no notice.

There have been military strikes on Southern Lebanon and Iran. There is a risk of reprisal attacks and further escalation of military conflict across the region. See our general advice on protecting your safety during an armed conflict, see 'Safety'. The situation could deteriorate with no warning. More airstrikes could happen without warning.

Military conflict has caused airspace closures, flight cancellations and other disruptions. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow the advice of local authorities.

Be prepared to leave quickly or to shelter in place for an extended period. Make sure you have enough food, water and medication. Keep your passport handy. Make sure you have travel insurance with coverage for high-risk destinations.

Demonstrations and protest activity may also occur and local security situations could deteriorate with little notice. Avoid all demonstrations and protests.

The Australian Government has directed the departure of all dependants of Australian officials posted to Lebanon in response to the deteriorating security situation in the Middle East.

The Australian Government may not be able to assist you to leave. Subscribe to Smartraveller to receive email alerts (see

[Jump to...](#)



**We now advise:**

**Do not travel to Lebanon due to the volatile security situation, armed conflict, civil unrest and terrorism.**

## Advice levels

What does this mean? >



[Do not travel](#) to Lebanon due to the volatile security situation, armed conflict, civil unrest and terrorism.

## Overview



### Safety

- There have been military air strikes on Southern Lebanon and Iran. There is a risk of reprisal attacks & further escalation of military conflict across the region. Military conflict could lead to airspace closures, flight cancellations and other disruptions. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow the advice of local authorities. See our [general advice on protecting your safety during an armed conflict](#)

- On 25 February 2026, the Australian Government directed the departure of all dependants of Australian officials posted to Lebanon in response to the deteriorating security situation in the Middle East.
- Consider leaving Lebanon while commercial options to depart are still available. Airspace closures and flight cancellations could happen soon, making it impossible to leave later.
- The security situation in the Middle East is unpredictable. Conflicts in the Middle East could lead to an increase in tensions elsewhere in the region and may result in airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice.
- Demonstrations and protest activity may also occur, and local security situations could deteriorate with little notice. Large protests happen and can turn violent. Tear gas, water cannons and live ammunition may be used. Avoid large public gatherings. Avoid all demonstrations and protests.
- A ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hizballah was announced on 26 November 2024. However, Israeli military airstrikes continue to occur in certain areas and without warning.
- Beirut airport could close with no notice, and you may be unable to leave for an extended period. Make sure you have enough supplies, including food, water, medicine, a radio, torches, and batteries. Keep your identity documents, including your passport, handy. If the security situation deteriorates, the Australian Government may not be able to assist you to leave.
- Avoid areas where military activity is ongoing or may occur. GPS signals may be blocked in parts of Lebanon. See our advice on [armed conflict](#).
- Celebratory and warning gunfire sometimes occurs and has caused casualties. Stay inside during celebratory and warning gunfire or if you're caught in civil unrest.
- Terrorist attacks could occur anytime and anywhere, including in Beirut. Attacks involving improvised explosive devices (IEDs), small arms and kidnappings have occurred in Lebanon. Extremists may target foreigners. Take safety precautions. Always be alert to possible threats and avoid potential targets.
- There's a high threat of armed conflict in southern Lebanon. Israeli forces occupy parts of the southern border. Tensions remain high in the surrounding region. Avoid areas of military conflict.

Full travel advice [Safety](#)



## Health

- Shortages of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies could occur without notice. Make sure you have enough medication with you, including if you need to depart Lebanon.
- The public health care system is limited. Most reputable hospitals are private and expensive. You'll probably have to pay up front.
- Health risks include possible water contamination, waterborne illnesses and air pollution caused by burning waste and backup generators. Drink only boiled or bottled water from bottles with sealed lids.

Full travel advice [Health](#)



## Local laws

- Religious law and civil law are treated equally. All family law matters are based on local religious laws. Stop-orders that prevent you from leaving Lebanon may arise from family disputes. If you're involved in divorce, custody or other family disputes, speak to a lawyer before you leave Australia.
- Don't use or carry illegal drugs. Penalties are severe and include jail terms.
- Serious crimes like murder and treason may result in the death penalty.
- Lebanon recognises dual nationality. However, Lebanese authorities treat Lebanese dual nationals as Lebanese citizens. This may limit our ability to help you if you're arrested or detained.
- Standards of dress and behaviour are modest in parts of Lebanon, particularly at religious sites. Public displays of affection may cause offence.
- Be careful when taking photos. Photographing military personnel or sites, government buildings and major civil infrastructure, such as power stations and other installations is illegal.

Full travel advice: [Local laws](#)




## Travel

- Make sure you have insurance for your travel and that it includes coverage for high-risk destinations.
- You can get a tourist visa on arrival in Lebanon. Entry and exit conditions can change at short notice. Contact the nearest embassy or consulate of Lebanon for the latest details.
- Always carry ID. You'll need to show it at road checkpoints. Lebanese General Security (border control) will check your name against a database of people wanted for or convicted of an offence. If your name matches an entry, you may be detained. You'll have to prove that the record doesn't relate to you. Carry supporting documents, such as a copy of your birth certificate or other official documents.
- GPS signals may be blocked in parts of Lebanon. This can disrupt navigational apps and devices.

Full travel advice: [Travel](#)



## Local contacts

- There are limits to what consular assistance we can provide in high-risk locations. Read the [consular Services Charter](#) to understand how we can assist you overseas.
- For consular assistance, 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

#### Security situation

There have been air strikes on Southern Lebanon. There is a risk of reprisal attacks & further escalation across the region. Closure of airspace around transit hubs may impact flights globally, causing delays and cancellations. See our general advice on protecting your safety during an armed conflict.

Although a ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hizballah was announced on 26 November 2024, Israeli airstrikes continue to take place in southern Lebanon and in the Bekaa Valley without warning. Australians in Lebanon should avoid known or suspected areas of military activity.

On 25 February 2026, the Australian Government directed the departure of all dependants of Australian officials posted to Lebanon in response to the deteriorating security situation in the Middle East.

Consider leaving Lebanon while commercial options to depart are still available. Airspace closures and flight cancellations could happen soon, making it impossible to leave later. Beirut airport could close with no notice and you may be unable to leave for an extended period. The Australian Government may not be able to assist you to leave.

The conflict could escalate quickly or spread to other areas in Lebanon with little notice. This could affect your ability to move to safety. Australians in Lebanon should be prepared to shelter in place for an extended period. Make sure you have enough supplies, including food, water, medicine, radio, torches and batteries. Keep your identity documents, including your passport, handy. See our advice on [armed conflict](#).

Significant military action has taken place in Beirut, southern Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley, including rocket, missile and drone attacks, as well as airstrikes. The conflict could resume and escalate quickly. This could affect your ability to move to safety. Avoid areas where military activity may occur.

To be well prepared to leave quickly, make sure you have:

- up-to-date travel documentation
- passports for children born in Lebanon
- current passports for family members travelling with you
- resolved any visa overstay issues with General Security
- any visas your family may require for onwards travel
- any medications you may need while travelling

If violence increases, roads and highways could become blocked. This includes routes to airports and borders. Follow the advice of local authorities, including alerts to seek shelter. Monitor local media for updates.

Be extra cautious. The security situation is unpredictable and is affected by events including:

- clashes across the Lebanese/Israeli border
- clashes along the Lebanese/Syrian border
- the threat of terrorist attacks
- ongoing economic crisis, political and sectarian tensions

The ongoing crisis has reduced Lebanese law enforcement capacity.

## Civil unrest and political tension



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

Planned and spontaneous demonstrations can take place.

Protests can become large and escalate into violent confrontations between demonstrators and security forces. Public protests that attract large groups of people can turn violent, potentially involving the use of weapons. You could be caught in violence directed at others.

Authorities use various measures to break up crowds, including:

- water cannons
- tear gas
- live ammunition

During civil unrest and times of heightened tensions:

- avoid all crowds, protests and demonstrations
- pay close attention to your personal security
- monitor the media and other sources for news on planned and possible actions
- avoid areas where violence has occurred or is likely to occur
- plan your activities to avoid potential unrest on days of national significance
- be prepared to change your travel plans in case of disruptions

If you're in an area affected by clashes:

- stay indoors and away from windows and balconies
- follow the advice of local authorities

Stay indoors during celebratory gunfire, which has caused casualties and often happens during and after political speeches, weddings, funerals as well as religious and new year holidays.

If transport disruptions affect your travel plans, contact your airline, travel agent or insurer for help.

### More information:

- [Protests and civil unrest](#)

### Beirut

In times of civil unrest, avoid areas of Beirut where protests are known to occur.

In Beirut, protests sometimes close main highways. Burning of tyres to block main roads is common.

Civil unrest can affect the highways between central Beirut and the international airport. Armed clashes have occurred in some areas of Beirut.

### Southern suburbs (Dahiyeh region) of Beirut

Don't go to the Dahiyeh region.

This area does not include the main airport highway.

Security in the area is still unstable. You may be caught up in violent attacks between armed groups.

### Palestinian refugee camps

Don't visit Palestinian refugee camps in any part of Lebanon.

Extremist groups operate inside camps. The security situation could deteriorate without warning.

The Lebanese state has no formal security presence in the camps. Armed clashes between rival groups happen. Violent crime is common.

Also avoid areas around the camps when there's heightened tension or armed clashes. Stray ammunition has caused casualties.

## Tripoli

Don't go to Tripoli's Jabal Mohsen and Bab-al-Tabbaneh neighbourhoods. The risk of civil unrest remains high and can turn violent.

## Southern governorates of South Lebanon and Nabatieh

Do not travel to the southern governorates of South Lebanon and Nabatieh due to military activity across the area, especially near the border with Israel.

Military action could occur and escalate quickly. This could affect your ability to move to safety. There are also landmines and unexploded ordnance.

Avoid crowds and large gatherings. You could be caught up in violence directed at others. Although the Lebanese Armed Forces and United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) are present in southern Lebanon, the situation could change quickly.

Israeli forces occupy portions of the southern border. Tensions remain high in the surrounding region.

You could be caught up in violence directed at others.

Avoid areas where military activity may occur. Be ready to leave at short notice.

Don't visit the Palestinian refugee camp of Ein El-Hilweh. There are regular clashes between rival groups, including the use of heavy weapons and snipers. Many people have been killed or injured. Lebanese authorities have limited capacity to impose law and order.

Stray ammunition has caused casualties.

## Northern governorates of Akkar and Baalbek-Hermel

Do not travel to the northern governorates of Akkar and Baalbek- Hermel due to clashes between rival armed groups, military activity, such as air strikes, and the high risk of sporadic violence.

## Regions within 5km of the Syrian border

Don't travel within 5km of the border with Syria, including:

- north of the Halba-Qoubaiyat Road, northern Akkar
- Aarsal
- Hermel Wadi Khaled
- the Golan Heights
- Shebaa Farms

Border clashes and violent incidents between Lebanese security forces and Syria-based groups, as well as airstrikes, occur in these areas.

## Areas east of the Litani River in the governorate of Bekaa

Do not travel to the area east of the Litani River in the governorate of Bekaa due to clashes between rival armed groups, military activity, such as air strikes, and the high risk of sporadic violence.

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## Terrorism



Terrorism is a threat worldwide. Terrorist attacks could occur anywhere and at any time, including in Beirut, Tripoli and areas close to the Syrian border. Tactics used by terrorists can include car bombing, suicide bombing and rocket fire. Foreigners may be targeted. Be alert to possible threats, especially in public places.

Security services are on a high state of alert and continue to carry out operations to prevent attacks.

If you notice a security operation is underway, leave the area straight away if safe to do so.

Targets associated with the Lebanese Government include:

- government institutions, senior politicians, and officials
- the Lebanese Armed Forces
- infrastructure such as airports and public building

Terrorists may also target areas frequented by foreigners, such as:

- buildings associated with embassies, foreign companies, and international organisations
- schools and places of worship
- hotels, clubs, restaurants and bars
- shopping centres, markets and grocery stores
- public transport
- promenades, cinemas, outdoor recreation events and other tourist areas

Extremists have increased attacks in the lead-up to and on days of national and religious significance.

Report any suspicious items or activities to police.

To reduce your risks:

- take official warnings seriously
- consider the likely level of security at known terrorist targets when planning your activities
- monitor the media for threats.

If there's a terrorist incident, leave the area if it's safe to do so and follow the instructions of local authorities.

Don't gather in groups after an attack. This also applies if you're evacuated from a building for safety or security reasons.

**More information:**

- [Terrorism](#)

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## Kidnapping



Kidnapping occurs across the world with political, ideological, and criminal motives. Foreigners, including Australians, have been kidnapped overseas whilst travelling. Kidnaps can happen anywhere, anytime, including destinations that are typically at lower risk.

There's a threat of kidnapping in Lebanon. Foreigners have been kidnapped in Lebanon. Tourists, journalists and humanitarian workers are seen as legitimate targets.

You're responsible for your own safety.

The Australian Government's longstanding policy is that it doesn't make payments or concessions to kidnapers. Ransom payments to kidnapers have funded further terrorist attacks and criminal activity. Ransom payments to terrorist groups are likely to contravene Australian counter-terrorism financing laws.

**More information:**

- [Kidnapping](#)

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## Crime



Crime in Lebanon has increased due to the declining economic situation.

It could include:

- vehicle crime
- petty theft such as bag snatching (including by motorbike riders)
- home break-ins and armed [robberies](#) (especially at banks)
- physical and sexual assault


Always be aware of your surroundings.

**More information:**

- [Advice for women travellers](#)
- [If you're a victim of crime overseas](#)

## Cyber security

You could face cyber threats in any country, anyone is a target. Your devices and data can be stolen, especially when using public Wi-Fi, computers, or Bluetooth. Criminals can use stolen information to conduct scams or to resell your personal information.

The Australian Cyber Security Centre has advice on [how to protect yourself online](#) .

Social media can also be risky in places with social or political tensions or strict laws. People have been arrested for what they posted online. Check the laws of the destination you're travelling to and think about what you post on social media. The Australian Government can't get you out of trouble if you're accused of breaking the law.

**More information:**

- [Cyber security when travelling overseas](#)

## Drink spiking

Drink spiking can happen anywhere. Be alert, don't leave your food or drinks alone. Watch when your drink is being mixed. If you [feel unwell](#), tell your friends immediately and get to a safe place. Keep an eye on your friends - if they feel unwell, stay with them. Get [medical help](#) if needed.

## Methanol poisoning

People have died or become very sick from poisoned drinks overseas. This includes Australians. Methanol is highly toxic. As little as one shot can be fatal. Methanol can be added or accidentally created during poor quality alcohol production. Only drink branded, sealed drinks. Get [urgent medical help](#) if you think you've been poisoned.

**More information:**

- [Partying safely while overseas](#)

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## Extreme weather and natural disasters




Lebanon experiences [extreme weather and natural disasters](#)

Lebanon is in an active [earthquake](#) zone.

[Bush and forest fires](#) occur in the summer months (July to September), especially in heavily forested areas. Avoid fire-affected areas. Monitor the media for updates.

Sand and dust storms are common. They may pose health risks, especially to people with breathing problems.

Register with the [Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System](#)  to receive alerts on major disasters.

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## Health

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### Travel insurance

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

It must cover all medical costs overseas, including evacuation. The Australian Government will not pay for these costs.

If you can't afford travel insurance, you shouldn't travel. This is true for everyone, even if you are healthy and fit.

If you don't have insurance, you might have to pay thousands of dollars up front for medical care.

Before you travel, check your policy, make sure:

- you know what activities and medical care your insurance covers, including evacuations
- your insurance covers you for your whole trip, including any stopovers
- you know any exclusions – for example, you might need to pay extra for activities like motorcycling, snow sports or bungee jumping.

**More information:**

- [Travel insurance](#)

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### Physical and mental health

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Think about your health before you travel, especially if you have any medical conditions.

See your doctor or a travel clinic to:

- get a basic check-up
- ask if your travel plans might affect your health
- find out what vaccinations you need.

If you're concerned about your mental wellbeing, or someone else's, read more about [mental health support overseas](#)

**More information:**

- [General health advice](#)
- [Managing your mental health](#)

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## Medication

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Not all medications available in Australia are accessible in other countries. Some medicines may be illegal, even if prescribed by an Australian doctor.

Ensure your [medication](#) is legal overseas. Take enough for your whole trip.

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

- medication names
- your required dosage
- that the medications are for your personal use.

**More information:**

- [Medicines](#)

Shortages of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies can occur without notice.

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## Health risks

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Health risks include possible water contamination, waterborne illnesses and air pollution caused by burning waste and exhaust fumes from diesel generators. Drink only boiled or bottled water from bottles with sealed lids.

Ask your doctor about health risks and vaccines before you go.

**More information**

- [Infectious diseases](#)

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## Medical care

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There's no agreement between Australia and Lebanon for free healthcare. Tourists must pay for [medical care](#) even if they need to stay in hospital or be evacuated. This can be very expensive. Make sure your [travel insurance](#) covers you. The Australian Government won't pay for these costs.

The standard of medical facilities and care in many of Lebanon's large private hospitals is generally as good as in Australia. However, the public health system doesn't work in the same way. Most reputable hospitals are private and expensive.

The ability of some hospitals to provide medical care may be impacted by the economic situation, shortages of medical supplies and frequent power cuts.

Doctors usually accept upfront cash payment for services. Treatment can be expensive.

Before treating patients, hospitals usually require a guarantee of payment such as:

- confirmed travel insurance with medical cover
- an up-front deposit

## Local laws

### Local laws



When you travel to another country, you must follow their laws. Even if they seem strict compared to Australia's. Before you go, learn about the [local laws](#) in that country.

The Australian Government is limited in how and when we can help if you're [arrested overseas](#). We can't get you out of trouble or out of jail. Understand our limits. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#)

Crimes under Lebanese laws may not be considered offences in Australia. Religious law has the same standing as civil law, which incorporates family law, marriage, divorce and custody.

### Family law

All family law matters are based on local religious laws. This includes child custody and divorce decisions.

If you're involved in custody or other family disputes, speak to a lawyer before you leave Australia. Ask for advice on how religious law may affect your family circumstances.

Lebanon has not signed the [Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction](#). There may be significant delays in returning a child abducted by a parent to Lebanon back to Australia.

Australian citizens can be prevented from leaving Lebanon if there are pending family court matters.

Authorities have stopped Australians and Australian-Lebanese dual nationals, including mothers with children, from leaving Lebanon. Relatives have legally placed border alerts ('stop orders') where there are pending family court matters. Overturning stop orders can be a time consuming and complicated process.

The Australian Government can't prevent or overturn a stop order on an Australian citizen.

#### More information:

- [Australia-Lebanon Agreement information for parents](#)

### Drugs

Penalties for drug offences are severe and include mandatory jail terms.

#### More information:

- [Carrying or using drugs](#)

## Other laws

Serious crimes, such as murder and treason, may attract the death penalty.

Access to some areas of Lebanon is restricted.

Authorities may detain you and take your camera if you photograph or film:

- military personnel or facilities
- government buildings
- major civilian infrastructure (such as power stations)

## LGBTQIA+ information

Same-sex relations are illegal in Lebanon. Penalties include jail terms of up to one year.

There's been an increase in anti-LGBTQIA+ rhetoric in the community. Some incidents of targeted harassment have occurred.

### More information:

- [Advice for LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)

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## Australian laws



Some Australian laws still apply even if you're in another country. You could be charged in Australia if you break these laws overseas.

### More information:

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

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## Dual nationality



Lebanon recognises dual nationality. However, Lebanese citizenship takes precedence over the second nationality.

If you're a dual national, Lebanese authorities will treat you as a Lebanese citizen. This may significantly limit the [consular services](#) we can provide if you're arrested or detained.

If you're a dual citizen re-entering Lebanon on your Lebanese passport or identity document, make sure:

- your Lebanese documentation is up to date
- you meet all entry requirements

### More information:

- [Embassy or consulate of Lebanon](#) 
- [Advice for dual nationals](#)

## Local customs



Standards of dress and behaviour are modest in parts of Lebanon, particularly at religious sites.

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

Public displays of affection may cause offence in conservative and religious areas.

Some hotels ask for proof of marriage before renting rooms to couples. Hotels may refuse you accommodation if you can't provide proof.

### Ramadan

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

Avoid eating, drinking or smoking in public, or in front of people who are fasting.


## Travel

### Visas and border measures



Each country or territory decides its own entry and exit rules, including health border screening measures. To find out what you need to enter a destination, ask their embassy, consulate or immigration office.

### Visas

You can get a tourist visa on arrival. Entry and exit conditions can change at short notice. Contact the nearest [Lebanese embassy or consulate](#)  for details about visas, currency, customs and quarantine rules.

Make sure you meet all entry and exit conditions. If you don't, the Australian Government can't help you.

### Border measures

Land border crossings between Lebanon and Syria have witnessed clashes and violent incidents between Lebanese security forces and Syria-based groups, as well as airstrikes. Due to instability in Syria, land border crossings from Syria to Lebanon may close at short notice.

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

#### More information:

- [Lebanon - Ministry of Public Health](#) 

### Other formalities



## Travel to Israel

It's against Lebanese law to travel to Israel.

If there's evidence that you've travelled to Israel, or intend to, you will be refused entry to Lebanon and deported. You may be arrested and imprisoned. 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

Authorities can hold anyone for questioning for several days and then deport them.

## Border alerts

Lebanese General Security (border control) checks all traveller names on arrival and departure against a database of border alerts ('stop orders').

Border alerts are raised if there are pending court cases or warrants for people:

- who are wanted for an offence in Lebanon
- who have been convicted of an offence in Lebanon
- with pending family court matters (see [Local laws](#))

If your name matches an entry in the database, authorities may detain you. You'll have to prove the record doesn't relate to you.

Carry supporting identity documents.

Travellers have been detained due to cases of mistaken identity.

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## Passport



### Validity

Many countries require your passport to be valid for at least 6 months before entering or departing. This includes for transit.

If your passport expires too soon, you might not be able to travel.

The Australian Government doesn't make these rules. Check your passport's expiry date before you go. If you're not sure, it's a good idea to [get a new passport](#)

### Lost or stolen passport


Your passport is valuable and can be used by others to commit crimes.

Don't let anyone trick you into giving it to them. Always keep it in a safe place.

If your passport is lost or stolen, tell the Australian Government:

- In Australia: contact the [Australian Passport Information Service](#) 
- Overseas: contact the nearest [Australian embassy or consulate](#) 

## Passport with X gender identifier

Australian passports comply with international standards for sex and gender. If your passport has an 'X' in the sex field, we can't guarantee your entry or transit to other countries. Ask the [embassy or consulate of your destination](#)  if they'll accept your passport with an 'X' gender marker. Check all transit destinations too.

### More information:

- [LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)

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## Money

Both the USD and the Lebanese Pound (also known as the Lebanese Lira) are accepted throughout Lebanon.

Currency exchange facilities and ATMs are widely available in Beirut and other large cities. Daily withdrawal limits and high withdrawal fees may apply.

Make sure you have access to enough hard currency cash during your stay. Contact your bank and monitor media reports before you travel to Lebanon.

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## Local travel

### Shortages

Fuel and power shortages frequently occur, disrupting public water supply and telecommunication networks, including mobile and internet.

Expect delays and closures at service stations during fuel shortages. Violence and security incidents have occurred at fuel distribution and storage sites.

Public and private sector industrial strikes occur occasionally, which may affect essential services, including telecommunications and the banking sector.

Shortages of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies can occur without notice.

Monitor the media for updates on changes that may affect your access to essential services.

### Road travel

If you plan to drive in Lebanon, you should hold an International Drivers Permit.

Armed security is present throughout Lebanon, including at road checkpoints.

Always carry ID. Follow the advice of security personnel.

Driving can be dangerous due to:

- poorly maintained roads and vehicles
- snow and ice in winter
- traffic conditions
- poor local driving habits
- lack of streetlights and functioning traffic lights

There are many unexploded ordinances throughout Lebanon, especially south of the Litani River, including:

- cluster bombs
- landmines

Minefields aren't always clearly marked.

To protect yourself from landmines:

- ask local residents for advice
- stay on sealed roads
- avoid walking or driving cross-country

Roads may be blocked during demonstrations and civil unrest. This includes routes to and from the airport and border crossings.

GPS signals may be blocked in parts of Lebanon, disrupting navigational apps.

**More information:**

- [Road safety](#)

## Taxis

Don't use service (shared) taxis or taxis hailed on the street, especially late at night.

Australian Embassy staff in Beirut have been advised to use Allo Taxi.

## Air travel

DFAT doesn't give advice about how safe different airlines or flight paths are.

Safety risks and weather events may cause flight delays and cancellations. Contact your travel agent or airline to confirm your plans.

Airlines and airports can restrict what you can take in your luggage. Regulations may be different to those in Australia. Check with your airline before you travel.

The security situation in the Middle East is unpredictable. Conflicts in the Middle East could lead to an increase in tensions elsewhere in the region and may result in airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice.

**More information:**

- [Travelling by air](#)

## Adventure activities

Transport and tour operators don't always follow safety and maintenance standards. This includes for adventure activities.

If you plan to do an [adventure activity](#)

- check if your travel insurance policy covers it
- ask about and insist on minimum safety requirements

- always use available safety gear, such as life jackets or seatbelts

If proper safety equipment isn't available, use another provider.

## Local contacts

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### Emergencies

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Depending on what you need, contact your:

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

### Fire and rescue services

Call 175.

### Medical emergencies

Call 140 or 81715076.

### Police

Call 112.

Always get a police report when you report a crime.

Your insurer should have a 24-hour emergency number.

## Consular contacts

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There are limits to what consular assistance we can provide in high-risk locations. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#) to understand how we can assist you overseas.

For consular assistance, contact the [Australian Embassy in Beirut](#).

### Australian Embassy

Embassy Complex  
Serail Hill  
Downtown Beirut  
Lebanon

Phone: +961 1 960600

Consular email: [consular.beirut@dfat.gov.au](mailto:consular.beirut@dfat.gov.au)

Passport email: [birt.passports@dfat.gov.au](mailto:birt.passports@dfat.gov.au)

Website: [lebanon.embassy.gov.au](https://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 outside of the Embassy's business hours, or if you can't contact the Embassy, call the 24-hour Consular Emergency Centre (CEC) on:

- +961 1 960600 from Lebanon (and press 7 to speak to a CEC operator)
- +61 2 6261 3305 from overseas
- 1300 555 135 in Australia



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**



## Iran

### Latest update

**Still current at:** 01 March 2026

**Updated:** 28 February 2026

**Latest update:** There have been air strikes on Iran, including in Tehran and other locations. There is a risk of reprisal attacks and further escalation across the region. Closure of airspace around transit hubs may impact flights globally, causing delays and cancellations. See our general advice on protecting your safety during an armed conflict.

We continue to advise do not travel to Iran and leave Iran as soon as possible, if it's safe to do so. Regional tensions remain high and there continues to be a risk of military conflict. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice. Commercial flights are currently available but this could change quickly. There have been recent airspace closures and flight restrictions.

If you remain in Iran, be prepared to shelter in place for an extended period. Make sure you have supplies of water, food and medication.

The security situation in Iran is extremely volatile. Avoid public gatherings and protests. Australians, including dual nationals, are at a high risk of being detained.

The Australian Embassy's operations are suspended. Our ability to provide consular assistance in Iran is extremely limited. If you require urgent consular assistance, contact the Consular Emergency Centre on 1300 555 135 in Australia or +61 2 6261 3305 outside Australia.



**We continue to advise:**

**Do not travel to Iran due to the risk of arbitrary detention and the volatile regional security situation.**

### Advice levels

**What does this mean? >**

[View larger map](#)



[Do not travel](#) to Iran due to the risk of arbitrary detention and the volatile regional security situation.

## Overview



### Safety

- There have been air strikes on Iran, including in Tehran and other locations. There is a risk of reprisal attacks and further escalation across the region. Closure of airspace around transit hubs may impact flights globally, causing delays and cancellations. See our general advice on protecting your safety during an armed conflict.
- We continue to advise do not travel to Iran and leave Iran as soon as possible, if it's safe to do so. Commercial flights are currently available but this could change quickly. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice. There have been recent airspace closures and flight restrictions.
- The security situation in Iran is extremely volatile. If you remain in Iran, be prepared to shelter in place for an extended period. Make sure you have supplies of water, food and medication. There may be intermittent telecommunications outages, including internet blackouts.
- Security forces' response to protests has been severe and many protesters and bystanders have been injured, killed or detained. Large crowds can turn violent. Avoid large public gatherings, demonstrations and protests and follow the advice of local authorities.
- Foreigners in Iran, including Australians, and dual nationals, are at a high risk of arbitrary detention or arrest. Foreign and dual nationals have been detained without due process of law. Iran does not recognise dual nationality. We can't guarantee access to consular services or legal representation. The Australian Government may not be notified of your detention.
- Border areas can be volatile and remain extremely dangerous. You must consider the risks carefully before attempting to leave by any route. All travel options are at your own risk.
- Terrorist attacks could happen anywhere in Iran, including Tehran or other locations that foreigners and tourists visit. They could occur at any time with little or no warning. Possible targets for attacks include embassies, hotels, places of worship, tourist sites, government interests, military parades and locations, Western businesses and other interests. Take official warnings seriously.
- Kidnapping can occur in Iran. Foreign nationals have been the target of kidnapping.

Full travel advice: [Safety](#)



### Health

- Outbreaks of insect-borne diseases such as malaria, tick-borne encephalitis and leishmaniasis occur.
- HIV/AIDS is a risk.
- Waterborne, foodborne, parasitic and other infectious diseases occur. These include cholera, typhoid and hepatitis.
- Significant air pollution occurs in major cities. Sandstorms and dust storms happen often.

Full travel advice: Health

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## Local laws


- Punishments for using, carrying and importing drugs are severe. They include the death penalty.
- Get professional advice if you're involved in local legal proceedings. In particular, seek advice on matters of family law, such as divorce, child custody and child support.
- Same-sex relations are illegal for both men and women. Penalties include corporal punishment and death. Close contact between unmarried men and women is illegal, and so is being in a de facto relationship. This is particularly the case for interactions between Muslims and non-Muslims.
- Iran has strict codes of dress and behaviour. Women are required by law to wear a headscarf and loose-fitting clothing covering their arms and legs.
- It's illegal to photograph military or government sites, critical civil infrastructure and public protests. It's illegal to use drones without authorisation. Foreigners have been detained for taking pictures or using drones near government locations.

Full travel advice: Local laws

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## Travel

- You'll need a visa to enter and you'll need to get it before you travel. Contact your nearest [Iranian embassy](#)  for details. Most Australian travel insurance policies won't cover you for travel to Iran.
- If your passport contains Israeli stamps or visas, Iranian authorities will refuse your entry.
- If you overstay your visa in Iran for any reason, you'll incur a fine. The Australian Government cannot pay this fine for you. You must also apply for an exit visa. If you're a dual national, you must exit Iran on your Iranian passport.
- Be prepared to encounter checkpoints and questioning from Iranian authorities before departing Iran. Foreigners, including dual nationals, are at increased risk of questioning, arrest or detention in Iran. You can be detained without reason and held for a long time. See 'Safety'.

Full travel advice: Travel

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## Local contacts

- The Australian Embassy in Tehran has suspended operations. Our ability to provide consular support, especially to dual Australian-Iranian nationals, is extremely limited.
- Australians in need of consular assistance should call the Australian Government 24-hour Consular Emergency Centre on 1300 555 135 in Australia or +61 2 6261 3305 outside Australia.
- There are limits to what consular assistance we can provide in high-risk locations. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#) to understand how we can assist you overseas.

Full travel advice: Local contacts

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## Full advice

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## Safety

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### Risk of arbitrary detention or arrest

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Australians, including dual nationals, are at a high risk of arbitrary detention or arrest. Foreign nationals, including Australians, have been arrested or detained by Iran without due process of law.

You may be at greater risk of detention if authorities are suspicious of your activities or background, especially following a security incident or military conflict. Foreign journalists and other media workers in Iran may face high risks, including arrest and imprisonment. See our advice for [journalists](#).

You could also attract the attention of authorities if you:

- are affiliated with, or have links to Israel or Jewish communities
- behave or express views perceived as anti-Iranian, anti-Iranian Government, or that could cause religious offence, including on social media
- are affiliated with, or have links to Iranian opposition or other political groups
- have contact with Iranians who are of interest to authorities
- are employed at any level of government, law enforcement or similar role
- study or do other academic activity that would raise suspicion from authorities
- travel outside tourist areas
- are near crowds, demonstrations or sensitive sites
- take photos, except in major tourist sites.

Do not visit military or nuclear sites; these are not always clearly marked. You can get arrested for venturing close to or taking photos of sensitive sites.

Iran does not recognise dual nationality. If you're a dual Australian-Iranian national and are detained in Iran, our ability to provide consular support is extremely limited.

The Australian Government may not be notified if you're detained. We can't guarantee consular access to any Australian detained or arrested. We also can't guarantee access to legal representation.

#### More information:

- [Advice for dual nationals](#)
- [Advice for journalists](#)
- [Fact sheet: Arrested or jailed overseas](#)

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## Security situation

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There have been air strikes on Iran, including in Tehran and other locations. There is a risk of reprisal attacks & further escalation across the region. Closure of airspace around transit hubs may impact flights globally, causing delays and cancellations. See our general advice on protecting your safety during an armed conflict.

We continue to advise do not travel to Iran and to leave Iran as soon as possible, if it's safe to do so. Commercial flights are currently available but this could change quickly. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice. There have been recent airspace closures and flight cancellations. There may be intermittent telecommunications outages, including internet blackouts.

The security situation in Iran is extremely volatile. Be prepared to shelter in place for an extended period. If you remain in Iran, make sure you have supplies of water, food and medication.

The Australian Embassy's operations are suspended. Our ability to provide consular assistance in Iran is extremely limited. If you require urgent consular assistance, contact the Consular Emergency Centre on 1300 555 135 in Australia or +61 2 6261 3305 outside Australia.

Iranian authorities are active in and closely monitor border areas with Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan. The security situation within 10km of the Iran-Iraq border is extremely dangerous. Borders may close without notice.

Consider the risks carefully before attempting to leave by any land route. The Australian Government can't offer advice on the safety of travelling to any departure point. All travel options are at your own risk. You're responsible for your own safety and that of your family.

If you remain in Iran, read our general advice on protecting your safety during an [armed conflict](#).

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## Civil unrest and political tension

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Security forces' response to protests has been severe and many protesters and bystanders have been injured, killed or detained. Large crowds can turn violent. During past protest periods, there have been increases in the number of foreign nationals arrested.

Avoid large public gatherings, demonstrations, protests and vigils. Do not take photos. Be prepared to change your plans in case of disruptions. If civil unrest disrupts transport, ask your airline, travel agent or insurer for help. Check media for updates and follow the instructions of local authorities.

Political developments in the region and local political tensions can trigger protests, demonstrations and vigils with little notice. Public protests and events that draw large groups of people can turn violent.

**More information:**

- [Protests and civil unrest](#)

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## Terrorism

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A terrorist attack could happen anywhere in Iran at any time, including in Tehran.

A large suicide bomb attack occurred in January 2024 in Kerman, killing several and wounding hundreds.

If there's a terrorist incident, leave the area if it's safe to do so and follow instructions of local authorities.

For more information on common targets for terrorists and what to do if there's a terrorist attack, read our [terrorism](#) page.

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## Kidnapping

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Kidnapping occurs across the world with political, ideological, and criminal motives. Foreigners, including Australians, have been kidnapped overseas whilst travelling. Kidnapping can happen anywhere, even in places that seem safe.

Kidnapping is a risk in Iran, foreigners have been targeted, including in Tehran. Kidnappings in major centres are typically carried out by financially motivated criminals. The kidnapping risk is heightened in the border areas with Afghanistan and Pakistan where armed groups are active.

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 extremely limited.

You're responsible for your own safety.

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. Ransom payments to terrorist groups are likely to contravene Australian counter-terrorism financing laws.

**More information:**

- [Kidnapping](#)

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## Crime

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Petty crime occurs in Iran.

Terrorists, drug traffickers, smugglers and bandits are active in the border areas near Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Violent incidents often occur in these areas, such as:

- clashes between security forces and smugglers
- bombings
- shootings

Travel at night in these areas is particularly dangerous.

Be alert to your surroundings, especially at night. Don't draw unwanted attention to yourself.

### Petty crime

There have been increasing reports of thieves in passing vehicles and on motor bikes snatching bags and mobile phones from pedestrians, home break-ins and robberies.

Women can face unwanted attention and harassment. [Women](#) should take care when travelling alone, particularly at night.

### Scams and fraud

Men may approach foreigners and claim to be police in plain clothes. They say they're looking for foreign drug dealers and ask to see wallets and ID.

If this happens, it could be a [scam](#). Ask a uniformed police officer for help.

## Drink spiking

Drink spiking can happen anywhere. Be alert, don't leave your food or drinks alone. Watch when your drink is being mixed. If you [feel unwell](#), tell your friends immediately and get to a safe place. Keep an eye on your friends - if they feel unwell, stay with them. Get [medical help](#) if needed.

## Methanol poisoning

People have died or become very sick from poisoned drinks overseas. This includes Australians. Methanol is highly toxic. As little as one shot can be fatal. Methanol can be added or accidentally created during poor quality alcohol production. Only drink branded, sealed drinks. Get [urgent medical help](#) if you think you've been poisoned.

**More information:**

- [Partying safely while overseas](#)

## Cyber safety

You could face cyber threats in any country, anyone is a target. Your devices and data can be stolen, especially when using public Wi-Fi, computers, or Bluetooth. Criminals can use stolen information to conduct scams or to resell your personal information.

The Australian Cyber Security Centre has advice on [how to protect yourself online](#) [↗](#).

Social media can also be risky in places with social or political tensions or strict laws. People have been arrested for what they posted online. Check the laws of the destination you're travelling to and think about what you post on social media. The Australian Government can't get you out of trouble if you're accused of breaking the law.

**More information:**

- [Cyber security when travelling overseas](#)

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## Extreme weather and natural disasters

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Iran is in an active earthquake zone. There have been several major earthquakes in recent years.

Some regions have heavy snowfall during winter.

Sandstorms and dust storms occur regularly.

Flash flooding can occur, particularly in Spring.

Follow the instructions of local authorities.

**More information:**

- [Staying safe when there's a natural disaster](#)

## Health

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### Travel insurance

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You need special [travel insurance](#) if you're going to a high-risk destination, which can be expensive.

We can't guarantee your safety and security in another country or pay for your medical expenses, including evacuation. If you don't have insurance, you shouldn't travel.

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## Physical and mental health

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Think about your health before you travel, especially if you have any medical conditions.

See your doctor or a travel clinic to:

- get a basic check-up
- ask if your travel plans might affect your health
- find out what vaccinations you need.

If you're concerned about your mental wellbeing, or someone else's, read more about [mental health support overseas](#).

**More information:**

- [General health advice](#)
- [Managing your mental health](#)

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## Medications

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Not all medications available in Australia are accessible in other countries. Some medicines may be illegal, even if prescribed by an Australian doctor.

Ensure your [medication](#) is legal overseas. Take enough for your whole trip.

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

- medication names
- your required dosage
- that the medications are for your personal use.

**More information:**

- [Medicines](#)




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## Health risks

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### Insect-borne diseases

Insect-borne illnesses are common throughout Iran, including:

- [malaria](#) 
- [leishmaniasis](#) 
- [tick-borne encephalitis](#) 

To protect yourself from disease:

- ensure your accommodation is insect-proof
- use insect repellent
- wear long, loose, light-coloured clothing
- consider taking medicine to prevent malaria

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

### Other health risks

Waterborne, foodborne, parasitic and other infectious diseases occur, such as:

- [HIV/AIDS](#) 
- [cholera](#) 
- [typhoid](#) 
- [hepatitis](#) 
- [tuberculosis](#) 

Serious outbreaks sometimes occur.

To stay safe:

- boil drinking water or drink bottled water with sealed lids
- avoid ice cubes

- avoid contact with dogs and other mammals

If despite our advice you travel to Iran, ask your doctor about health risks and vaccines before you go.

**More information:**

- [Infectious diseases](#)

## Air pollution

Significant air pollution occurs in major cities.

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## Medical care

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There's no agreement between Australia and Iran for free healthcare.

The standard of medical facilities varies. Facilities in remote areas are extremely limited.

## Medical tourism

Medical tourism including for cosmetic operations is common in Iran. The standard of medical service providers can vary.

Serious post-surgery complications and deaths have occurred.

You'll need to be evacuated if you get seriously ill or injured. Medical evacuation may not be possible and can be very expensive. Most Australian travel insurance policies won't cover you for travel to Iran.

## Local laws

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### Local law

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When you travel to another country, you must follow their laws. Even if they seem strict compared to Australia's. Before you go, learn about the [local laws](#) in that country.

The Australian Government is limited in how and when we can help if you're [arrested overseas](#). We can't get you out of trouble or out of jail. Understand our limits. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#).

## Drugs

Penalties for importing and possessing drugs are severe and include the death penalty.

Authorities have executed foreigners for drug-related offences in recent years.

**More information:**

- [Carrying or using drugs](#)

## Other laws

Get professional advice if you're involved in local legal proceedings. In particular, seek legal advice on matters of family law, such as:

- divorce
- child custody
- child support

Local authorities consider domestic violence to be a private family matter. Iranian law does not prohibit domestic violence.

Authorities have stopped Australians and Australian-Iranian dual nationals, including mothers with children, from leaving Iran. Husbands can legally place border alerts ('stop orders') on their spouse and children where there are pending custodial disputes. Overturning stop orders can be a time consuming and complicated process.

The Australian Government cannot prevent or overturn a stop order on an Australian citizen.

Know your rights and responsibilities.

These activities are illegal in Iran:

- homosexual acts for both men and women
- close contact between unmarried men and women
- being in a de facto relationship
- failing to meet the legal dress code
- importing alcohol, pornography, pork products or short-wave radios
- importing printed or recorded Western material, including those with a religious theme
- manufacturing, selling or consuming alcoholic drinks

Penalties for serious offences, including security related offences, may result in death and corporal punishment. Same-sex relationships are considered serious offences.

**More information:**

- [Advice for LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)

## Dress and behaviour

Iran has strict Islamic codes of dress and behaviour.

It's illegal to behave in a way considered to offend Islam. If you convert or try to convert someone from Islam to another religion, you could face harsh punishment.

In public women are required by law to wear:

- loose-fitting clothing to cover arms and legs
- a long coat
- a headscarf

If you fail to follow these dress requirements, you may be detained, fined or denied access to government and other services.

Men should not wear shorts or sleeveless T-shirts in public.

## Photography

It's illegal to photograph sensitive sites or events and you're at high risk of arrest or detention. Do not photograph:

- military and nuclear sites
- government buildings and installations
- critical civil infrastructure
- public demonstrations

## Electronic equipment

Drones and electronic equipment are illegal without permission. If you carry or use these you may be arrested or detained:

- drones
- satellite phones
- GPS trackers
- walkie-talkies
- tracking software or tracking apps on mobile phones, tablets or other computer equipment.

Under Iranian law, dual nationals must enter and exit on their Iranian passport. Iranian immigration officials routinely confiscate the foreign and Iranian passports of dual nationals. Australians have been detained and had passports confiscated.

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## Australian laws

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Some Australian laws still apply even if you're in another country. You could be charged in Australia if you break these laws overseas.

**More information:**

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

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## Dual nationality

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Iran doesn't recognise dual nationality.

If you're a dual national, you may be at greater risk of arbitrary arrest or detention. It's unlikely Iran will notify the Australian Government you've been detained. Our ability to provide consular assistance is extremely limited and Iran will not allow us to provide consular services.

Under Iranian law, Iranian dual nationals must enter and exit Iran on their Iranian passport. Iranian immigration officials routinely confiscate the foreign and Iranian passports of dual nationals. Dual nationals won't be able to depart Iran without their Iranian passport.

If you're an Australian-Iranian dual national, authorities may not allow you to leave Iran if you're:

- male and you haven't completed military service
- female and you don't have permission from your husband or a senior male relative to leave Iran
- male and have not paid back the dowry to your wife after divorce

**More information:**

- [Dual nationals](#)

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## Local customs

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The Islamic holy month of [Ramadan](#) is observed in Iran. Respect religious and cultural customs and laws during 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

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### Border crossings from Iran

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Requirements for border crossings from Iran may change without notice. Check the latest public information from local authorities on entry requirements and border arrangements.

For further information on travelling across neighbouring borders, see our travel advice for [Azerbaijan](#), [Türkiye](#) and [Armenia](#). We continue to advise do not travel to Iraq or Afghanistan.

### Visas and border measures

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Each country or territory decides its own entry and exit rules, including health border screening measures. To find out what you need to enter a destination, ask their embassy, consulate or immigration office.

Each country or territory decides its own entry and exit rules. If, despite our advice you travel to Iran, ensure you meet all entry and exit conditions. If you don't meet the conditions, the Australian Government can't help you.

If despite our advice you decide to travel to Iran, you'll need a visa to enter. You must apply for a visa before you travel. Contact the [Iranian Embassy](#) [in Australia](#) to apply.

Entry and exit conditions can change at short notice. Contact the embassy of Iran for details about visas, currency, customs and other travel requirements.

If you overstay your visa in Iran for any reason, even one beyond your control, you'll incur a fine. The Australian Government cannot pay this fine for you. You must also apply for an exit visa. You can get more information on Iranian visa and exit permit requirements from the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) [in Australia](#) and the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrant Affairs.

**More information:**

- [Embassies and Consulates of Iran](#) [in Australia](#)

### Travel to Israel

It's against Iranian law to travel to Israel.

If there's evidence that you've travelled to Israel or intend to, you will be refused entry to Iran and deported. You may be arrested and imprisoned. 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
- 


## Passport

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### Validity

Many countries require your passport to be valid for at least 6 months before entering or departing. This includes for transit.

If your passport expires too soon, you might not be able to travel.

The Australian Government doesn't make these rules. Check your passport's expiry date before you go. If you're not sure, it's a good idea to [get a new passport](#) .

### Lost or stolen passport


Your passport is valuable and can be used by others to commit crimes.

Don't let anyone trick you into giving it to them. Always keep it in a safe place.

If your passport is lost or stolen, tell the Australian Government:

- In Australia: contact the [Australian Passport Information Service](#) .
- Overseas: contact the nearest [Australian embassy or consulate](#) .

### Passport with 'X' gender identifier

Australian passports comply with international standards for sex and gender. If your passport has an 'X' in the sex field, we can't guarantee your entry or transit to other countries. Ask the [embassy or consulate of your destinations](#)  if they'll accept your passport with an 'X' gender marker. Check all transit destinations too.

#### More information:

- [LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)
- 

## Money

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The local currency is the Iranian Rial (IRR).

Declare any foreign currency you have when you arrive in Iran. If you don't, authorities may confiscate it.

You can't use international credit or bank cards.

You can't transfer funds into Iran using:

- the commercial banking system
  - a money transfer company
- 

## Local travel

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### Road travel

Road accidents are a common cause of death and injury in Iran. Road conditions and safety standards vary across the country.

Armed groups are active in border regions with Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The Australian Government can't offer advice on the safety of travelling to departure points. All travel options are at your own risk. Consider the risks carefully before attempting to leave by any land route. You're responsible for your own safety and that of your family.

**More information:**

- [Driving or riding](#)

**Taxis**

Only use registered taxis and limousines. Book them through your hotel.

**Sea travel**

The Gulf has many areas with security issues and territorial disputes. Authorities may inspect, detain and arrest vessels. Foreigners navigating Iranian waters have been arrested and detained.

[Piracy](#) occurs in the Gulf.

Check the International Maritime Bureau's [piracy report](#) .

**Air travel**

DFAT doesn't give advice about how safe different airlines or flight paths are.

Safety risks and weather events may cause flight delays and cancellations. Contact your travel agent or airline to confirm your plans.

Airlines and airports can restrict what you can take in your luggage. Regulations may be different to those in Australia. Check with your airline before you travel.

**More information:**

- [Air travel](#)

**Local contacts**

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**Emergencies**

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Depending on what you need, contact your:

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

**Fire and rescue services**

Call 125.

**Medical emergencies**

Call 115 or go direct to the hospital.

**Police**

Call 110 or visit the nearest police station.

English speakers are generally not available.

Always get a police report when you report a crime.

Your insurer should have a 24-hour emergency number.

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**Consular contacts**

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## Australian Embassy

### The Australian Embassy in Tehran has suspended operations.

Our ability to provide consular assistance in Iran is extremely limited.

Website: [iran.embassy.gov.au](http://iran.embassy.gov.au) 

Facebook: [Australia in Iran](#) 

Instagram: [@AustraliaInIran](#) 

### 24-hour Consular Emergency Centre

If you have a consular emergency, 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

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Australian Government  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

## Ministerial Submission

MS26-000185

Cleared by: FAS CCD

Date sent to MO: 28 February 2026

Action Requested By: 28 February 2026

Reason for Urgency: Middle East situation.

FOR: Senator the Hon Penny Wong  
INFO: The Hon Matt Thistlethwaite MP

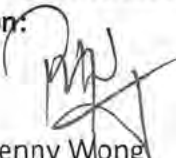
## Travel advice increases: Middle East and Armenia

**Key Issues:** We recommend an increase to the overall travel advice level for **Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and United Arab Emirates (UAE)**, to 'Do Not Travel' (level 4 of 4). On 28 February, there have been retaliatory air strikes in these destinations following US and Israeli military strikes on Iran. Retaliatory strikes are expected to continue for several days. We also recommend an increase to the overall travel advice level for **Jordan** to 'Reconsider your need to travel' (level 3 of 4). Airspace closures are occurring, the security situation is likely to deteriorate further, and widespread movement and transport disruptions are expected. We recommend a level increase for **Armenia**, which borders Iran, to 'Exercise a high degree of caution' (level 2 of 4).

Recommendation:	Decision:
<p>That you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Agree to increase the travel advice level for <b>Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and UAE</b> to 'Do Not Travel' (level 4 of 4) overall due to the security situation in these destinations, including ongoing reprisal strikes.</li> <li>b) Agree to increase the travel advice level for <b>Jordan</b> to 'Reconsider your need to travel' (level 3 of 4) overall due to the security situation in the region.</li> <li>c) Agree to increase the travel advice level for <b>Armenia</b> to 'Exercise a high degree of caution' (level 2 of 4) overall due to the security situation in Iran.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Agreed / Not Agreed</u></p> <p><u>Agreed / Not Agreed</u></p> <p><u>Agreed / Not Agreed</u></p>

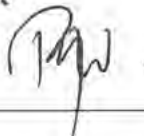
**Domestic/Media Considerations:** There will be media interest, including expectations of government departure assistance. Updated talking points are being provided.

Action:

  
Penny Wong

13/26

Verbally agreed 28/2  
Th.

 1/3

Information:

Noted

Matt Thistlethwaite

/ /

From: Claire Rochecouste, ISG | CCD | CIB - Consular Communications and Policy Branch  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Contact: s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
Mob number

Can this proposal be funded from within your existing divisional allocation (departmental/aid)? Not Applicable

If the proposal high risk/high value (over \$100m) concept has been approved by the Development Program Committee? Not Applicable

Consultation: FAS MAD, A/g FAS EUD, DSD, Middle East posts.

Use of AI: N/A

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**Background:**

You (Minister Wong) are the delegate for approving country-wide travel advice level increases under DFAT's travel advice policy framework (Administrative Circular AC071/25).

2. Following military strikes by the US and Israel on Iran, there have been reports of retaliatory missile attacks on targets in all of Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, United Arab Emirates (UAE). Australian officials and their families are sheltering in place at posts in these destinations. The situation is expected to deteriorate further across the Middle East. This poses a security risk across the broader region and could lead to disruptions in movement and transportation, including possible border closures, flight cancellations and airspace closures.

3. We recommend increasing travel advisories for **Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and UAE** from 'Exercise a high degree of caution' (level 2 of 4) to '**Do Not Travel**' (level 4 of 4). We recommend increasing travel advisories for Jordan to '**Reconsider your need to travel**' (level 3 of 4) due to its proximity to Israel and the broader regional security situation. Retaliatory strikes are expected to continue for some days, and there is high probability of collateral damage.

4. Given the safety risks to Australians in the Middle East following the outbreak of conflict and the strong likelihood of significant travel disruptions, we recommend it would be appropriate to increase our travel advice as set out above, commensurate with the volatile security environment in the region.

5. Like-minded countries are reviewing travel advice settings and we anticipate more changes in coming hours.

6. Our proposed updated text of the travel advice (mirrored in social media) would read:

*Due to the security situation in the region and military strikes in [destination], we've raised our level of advice for [Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, and UAE] to 'Do Not Travel' (level 4 of 4). Retaliatory strikes have been reported following military strikes on Iran. Australian officials and dependants are sheltering in place during strikes. Australians should shelter in place during strikes. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice. Military conflict in the region may result in widespread movement restrictions, airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions. Demonstrations and protest activity may also occur, and local security situations could deteriorate with little notice.*

*Due to the overall security situation in the region, we've raised our level of advice for Jordan to 'Reconsider your need to travel' (level 3 of 4). Retaliatory strikes have been reported in the Middle East region following military strikes on Iran. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice. Military conflict in the region may result in widespread movement restrictions, airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions. Demonstrations and protest activity may also occur, and local security situations could deteriorate with little notice.*

7. We also recommend increasing travel advisory for **Armenia** from 'Exercise normal safety precautions' (level 1 of 4) to 'Exercise a high degree of caution' (level 2 of 4), given it borders Iran. Other neighbouring countries are already at a higher level, including Türkiye (level 2 overall), Azerbaijan (level 3 overall),

8. We will keep travel advisories for Oman and Saudi Arabia under review. Iran, Iraq, Syria and Yemen are already set to 'Do Not Travel' (level 4 of 4), along with Israel and Lebanon which you agreed to raise to level 4 earlier today. **Palestine** was already at 'Do Not Travel' overall but we will update this advisory to reflect the move to Level 4 for **Jerusalem** (which is also included in our travel advice for Israel) – as an intra-country level change this can be approved by FAS CCD.

**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Saturday, 28 February 2026 10:59 PM  
**To:** Claire Rochecouste  
**Cc:** Anna Oldmeadow; s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
s 22(1)(a)(ii) Harinder Sidhu; Elizabeth McGregor; Paul Griffiths; s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: MinSub for approval: Further TA increases [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**OFFICIAL**

Thank you Claire. The Foreign Minister has reviewed this minsub and agrees to the recommended increases. We will process the paperwork as soon as possible. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** Claire Rochecouste <Claire.Rochecouste@dfat.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Saturday, 28 February 2026 10:51 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Anna Oldmeadow <Anna.Oldmeadow@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>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; Harinder Sidhu <Harinder.Sidhu@dfat.gov.au>; Elizabeth McGregor <Elizabeth.McGregor@dfat.gov.au>; Paul Griffiths <Paul.Griffiths@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; Travel Advice s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) dfat.gov.au>  
**Subject:** MinSub for approval: Further TA increases [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Minsub proposing TA increases for Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and UAE to DNT/level 4 - as well as Jordan to Reconsider/level 3 and Armenia to level 2.

Kind regards,  
Claire

**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)

**Executive Assistant:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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

**OFFICIAL**



## Bahrain

### Latest update

**Still current at:** 01 March 2026

**Updated:** 28 February 2026

**Latest update:** Due to military strikes in Bahrain and the volatile security situation in the region, we've raised our level of advice for Bahrain to do not travel. Retaliatory strikes are occurring following military strikes on Iran.

Military conflict in the region may result in widespread movement restrictions, airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions. Demonstrations and protest activity may also occur, and local security situations could deteriorate with little notice. Avoid all demonstrations and protests.

Australians should shelter in place during strikes. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice (see 'Safety').

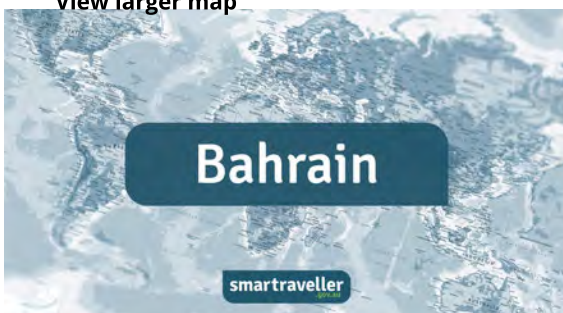
**! We advise:**

**Do not travel to Bahrain due to the volatile security situation in the region.**

### Advice levels

**What does this mean? >**

[View larger map](#)



[Do not travel](#) due to the volatile security situation in the region.

## Overview

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### Safety

- Due to military strikes in Bahrain and the volatile security situation in the region, we've raised our level of advice for Bahrain to do not travel. Retaliatory strikes are occurring following military strikes on Iran.
- Military conflict in the region may result in widespread movement restrictions, airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice.
- Demonstrations and protests may also occur, including those against foreign governments. Local security situations could deteriorate with little notice. Take care around Friday prayers due to the possibility of unrest. Avoid all demonstrations and protests.
- Ongoing hostilities pose serious security risks across the region. Bahrain is host to regional security infrastructure, including the Combined Maritime Forces.
- Be alert to possible terrorist threats, especially in public places. Terrorists may target tourist areas or other places frequented by foreigners and where large crowds gather. Take official warnings seriously.

Full travel advice: [Safety](#)

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### Health

- Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) is a risk. Other Middle Eastern countries have reported cases of MERS-CoV.
- The standard of medical care is high.
- You may have to pay up-front before doctors will treat you. Costs can be high. The government may ask you to repay the cost of emergency treatment. Ensure that your insurance can cover this.

Full travel advice: [Health](#)

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### Local laws


- The nearest Australian embassy is in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. It doesn't have direct access to police, jails, hospitals and other services in Bahrain. Our ability to provide consular assistance in Bahrain may be limited.
- Always carry photo ID. You could be fined if you don't.
- Behaviour that's offensive but not criminal in Australia can be illegal. Punishment may be severe. This applies even if you're transiting. Bahrain has the death penalty for murder and drug offences and corporal punishment for some offences such as stealing.
- Don't speak against government policy, even on social media. It's also illegal to swear or make rude gestures.
- Dress modestly. Make sure you cover your shoulders and knees.
- Same-sex relationships are not specifically prohibited but aren't socially accepted. Avoid public displays of affection.



Full travel advice: [Local laws](#)

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### Travel


- To enter Bahrain, you require a visa on arrival. You can also obtain a visa online through the [eVisa](#)  portal. For the latest details, contact the nearest embassy or consulate of Bahrain.

- There's no Bahraini embassy in Australia. For visas, you can apply [online](#)  or contact the nearest [embassy of Bahrain](#)  in Jakarta, Indonesia. Visitors who intend to stay in Bahrain can apply through the Visa portal to renew their visit visas.
- You might not be allowed to leave Bahrain if you were involved in a business dispute.
- The legal age of maturity in Bahrain is 21. A child of a Bahraini father does not need his permission to leave Bahrain unless there is a travel ban imposed on the child in connection with custody proceedings.

Full travel advice: [Travel](#)



## Local contacts

- The Australian Government aims to provide high quality consular assistance. There are limits to what we can do. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#) to understand how we can assist you overseas.
- Australia doesn't have an embassy or consulate in Bahrain. For consular help, contact the [Australian Embassy](#)  in Saudi Arabia.
- To stay up to date with local information, follow the Embassy's social media accounts.

Full travel advice: [Local contacts](#)

## Full advice

### Safety

#### Terrorism

Terrorism is a threat worldwide. Terrorist attacks could occur anywhere and at any time. Be alert to possible threats, especially in public places.

There have been several terrorist attacks in the Gulf region in recent years. Take official warnings seriously.

Attacks could occur at any time and could target:

- government and military sites, and security personnel
- police patrols
- critical infrastructure including oil refineries and storage sites
- public areas and parks
- places of worship
- places popular with foreigners, such as tourist sites, hotels, shops, restaurants, bars and cafes
- crowded areas, sporting and cultural events and other high-profile events
- foreign embassies and other symbols of western culture

If there's a terrorist incident, leave the area if it's safe to do so and follow the instructions of local authorities.

#### More information:

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

#### Civil unrest and political tension

Due to the security situation in the region and military strikes in Bahrain, we've raised our level of advice for Bahrain to 'Do Not Travel' (level 4 of 4). Retaliatory strikes have been reported following military strikes on Iran. Australians should shelter in place during strikes. Prioritise your safety,

monitor events and follow local advice. Military conflict in the region may result in widespread movement restrictions, airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions. Demonstrations and protest activity may also occur, and local security situations could deteriorate with little notice.

Read our general advice on protecting your safety during an [armed conflict](#).

## Demonstrations and protests

Demonstrations and protests can take place at any time and place. Even peaceful demonstrations and protests can turn violent without warning.

Conflict in the Middle East and Gulf region could affect Bahrain. Protests and clashes have occurred throughout Bahrain.

Security forces sometimes use force to disperse protesters. Demonstrations can result in blockages to roads, highways, and other routes, including to or from the airport, and the causeway with Saudi Arabia. Security checkpoints may be deployed in or around the areas of demonstrations and protests.

Public rallies and meetings of large groups without the permission of the authorities are illegal. You could face legal action if you join them. If you're caught up in unrest, authorities could arrest you.

Monitor the media for political and regional tensions, and any announcements or warnings by the local authorities.

Avoid:

- public gatherings and protests
- wearing clothing of a political nature that may be seen as a form of protest
- places where Bahraini Ministry of Interior forces gather
- potential unrest on days of national or commemorative importance
- travel outside the inner-city area at night

Take extra care around the time of Friday prayers periods of mourning and religious anniversaries and festivals.

If you're in an affected area:

- be prepared to change your travel plans
- leave the area as soon as it's safe, or stay indoors and away from windows
- follow the advice and instructions of local authorities

If unrest disrupts transport, contact your airline, travel agent or insurer for advice.

### More information:

- [Protests and civil unrest](#)

## Crime

The overall level of crime in Bahrain is low, however pickpocketing and bag snatching occurs. Criminals target the old market areas (souks).

To protect yourself against petty theft:

- be aware of your surroundings
- keep a close eye on your belongings
- leave valuables in a safe place and carry only what you need
- keep your passport and other travel documents safe
- keep vehicle doors locked, windows up and valuables out of sight, even when moving
- monitor local sources for information about possible safety or security risks

Where possible, avoid travelling alone or at night in isolated places.

## Kidnapping

Kidnapping can happen anywhere, anytime, including in destinations that are typically at lower risk.


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

### More information:

- [Kidnapping](#)

## Cyber security

You could face cyber threats in any country, anyone is a target. Your devices and data can be stolen, especially when using public Wi-Fi, computers, or Bluetooth. Criminals can use stolen information to conduct scams or to resell your personal information.

The Australian Cyber Security Centre has advice on [how to protect yourself online](#) .

Social media can also be risky in places with social or political tensions or strict laws. People have been arrested for what they posted online. Check the laws of the destination you're travelling to and think about what you post on social media. The Australian Government can't get you out of trouble if you're accused of breaking the law.

**More information:**

- [Cyber security when travelling overseas](#)

## Drink spiking

Drink spiking can happen anywhere. Be alert, don't leave your food or drinks alone. Watch when your drink is being mixed. If you [feel unwell](#), tell your friends immediately and get to a safe place. Keep an eye on your friends - if they feel unwell, stay with them. Get [medical help](#) if needed.

## Methanol poisoning

People have died or become very sick from poisoned drinks overseas. This includes Australians. Methanol is highly toxic. As little as one shot can be fatal. Methanol can be added or accidentally created during poor quality alcohol production. Only drink branded, sealed drinks. Get [urgent medical help](#) if you think you've been poisoned.

**More information:**

- [Partying safely while overseas](#)

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## Extreme weather and natural disasters

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Bahrain often has extremely high temperatures. The hottest months of the year are June to September. The temperature can exceed 50°C.

To avoid heat stroke and dehydration:

- drink plenty of water
- avoid long periods in the heat

Sand and dust storms are common.

If a [natural disaster](#) or [severe weather](#) occurs:

- follow the advice of local authorities
- monitor local media for updates
- check the [Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System](#) 

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## Swimming safety

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At the beach, be aware of strong currents and obey warning signs. There may be no safety information displayed at some beaches.

To protect yourself at the beach:

- get local advice before swimming
- be alert to changes in sea conditions, including rips
- swim within your ability and in areas designated for swimming.

## Tours and adventure activities

Transport and tour operators don't always follow safety and maintenance standards. This includes adventure activities.

If you plan to do a tour or [adventure activity](#):

- check if your travel insurance policy covers it

- ask about and insist on minimum safety requirements
- always use available safety gear, such as life jackets or seatbelts

If proper safety equipment isn't available, use another certified provider.

## Health

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### Travel insurance

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

It must cover all medical costs overseas, including evacuation. The Australian Government will not pay for these costs.

If you can't afford travel insurance, you shouldn't travel. This is true for everyone, even if you are healthy and fit.

If you don't have insurance, you might have to pay thousands of dollars up front for medical care.

Before you travel, check your policy, make sure:

- you know what activities and medical care your insurance covers, including evacuations
- your insurance covers you for your whole trip, including any stopovers
- you know any exclusions – for example, you might need to pay extra for activities like motorcycling, snow sports or bungee jumping.

**More information:**

- [Travel insurance](#)

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### Physical and mental health

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Think about your health before you travel, especially if you have any medical conditions.

See your doctor or a travel clinic to:

- get a basic check-up
- ask if your travel plans might affect your health
- find out what vaccinations you need.

If you're concerned about your mental wellbeing, or someone else's, read more about [mental health support overseas](#).

**More information:**

- [General health advice](#)
- [Managing your mental health](#)

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### Medications

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Not all medications available in Australia are accessible in other countries. Some medicines may be illegal, even if prescribed by an Australian doctor.

Ensure your [medication](#) is legal overseas. Take enough for your whole trip.

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

- medication names
- your required dosage
- that the medications are for your personal use.

**More information:**

- [Medicines](#)

Some skincare products and e-cigarette refills may contain ingredients that are illegal in Bahrain such as Cannabidiol (CBD) oil. CBD oil or products are illegal in Bahrain even if they are for medical or recreational purposes. It is considered a serious crime to carry illegal drugs or CBD oil or products in Bahrain, even if you are transiting through the airport Bahrain from another country. Punishment can result in imprisonment and deportation.

For more information, including if you plan to take medication, check if it's legal in Bahrain by contacting the nearest Bahraini [Embassy or Consulate](#) or [Bahraini Customs](#) prior to your departure to Bahrain.

Take enough legal medicine for your trip. Carry your medicine in its original packaging and a copy of your prescription or a dated letter from your doctor that states:

- your name
- the medicine's brand and scientific (chemical) name
- the prescribed dosage and the duration of treatment, and
- that it's for your personal use

If required, have your medical documents legalised before you leave. Visit [Notarial services \(legalising documents\) in Australia](#) for further information.

Bahraini authorities may detain or deport travellers for:

- carrying medication to treat HIV/AIDS or hepatitis
- testing positive for HIV/AIDS or hepatitis.

Health facilities and pharmacies are required to report HIV-positive foreigners to the Ministry of Health, which could lead to detention and deportation.

## Health risks

### Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS)

You may be at risk of [Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus \(MERS-CoV\)](#). Cases have been reported in several Middle Eastern countries. Other countries have had cases from returned travellers.

Avoid contact with camels. Don't consume raw camel milk, undercooked camel meat, or anything contaminated with camel secretions.

Get medical advice if you have a fever, cough, breathing difficulties or diarrhoea.

### Other health risks

You're at risk of waterborne, foodborne and other infectious diseases.

To protect yourself from illness:

- stay well hydrated and drink boiled or bottled water with a sealed lid
- avoid ice cubes
- avoid raw and undercooked food, such as salads

Get medical advice if you have a fever or diarrhoea.

Ask your doctor about health risks and vaccines before you go.

### More information:

- [Infectious diseases](#)

## Medical care

### Medical facilities

There's no agreement between Australia and Bahrain for free healthcare. Tourists must pay for all [medical care](#), even if they need to stay in hospital or be evacuated. This can be very expensive. Make sure your [travel insurance](#) covers you. The Australian Government won't pay for these costs.

The Bahraini Government may ask you to repay all costs of emergency treatment.

If you did not pay or can't afford to pay your medical bill and you didn't get travel insurance:

- you could be arrested or jailed
- you could be sued by the hospital
- you may not be able to leave the country until you pay

## Local laws

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## Local laws

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When you travel to another country, you must follow their laws. Even if they seem strict compared to Australia's. Before you go, learn about the [local laws](#) in that country.

The Australian Government is limited in how and when we can help if you're [arrested overseas](#). We can't get you out of trouble or out of jail. Understand our limits. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#).

The nearest Australian Embassy is in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. It doesn't have direct access to police, jails, hospitals and other services. Our ability to provide consular assistance in Bahrain may be limited.

The Australian Embassy has to formally ask for access through the Bahraini Embassy in Riyadh. Authorities approve this on a case-by-case basis, so there may be a delay.

Behaviour in Australia that you might consider offensive or anti-social, but not criminal, could be illegal in Bahrain. Anyone breaking Bahraini law, even without knowing, may be subject to severe punishment. Using offensive language, body or hand gestures can lead to criminal charges and/or heavy fines.

Bahraini law applies to you even if you're transiting and don't leave the airport.

## Drugs

Penalties for drug offences, including buying, selling, and possession, even when transiting through Bahrain, are severe and may include a life sentence or the death penalty.

Some cosmetic products and e-cigarette refills may contain ingredients that are illegal in Bahrain, such as Cannabidiol (CBD) oil. For more information, check with your medical provider and the nearest Bahraini Embassy or consulate prior to your departure to Bahrain.

You can be charged with possession if trace amounts of drugs are found on your body, clothing, or luggage.

Police may detain you if you're accompanied by someone who is involved in drug cases, including trafficking, possessing, or using drugs. You may remain in detention until investigations of all parties are concluded.

### More information:

- [Carrying or using drugs](#)

## Commercial and family law

Bahrain's laws differ from Australia's in several areas, including:

- commercial and employment matters
- family law and divorce
- child custody
- child support

If you have family, employment or commercial interests in Bahrain, get professional legal advice from a lawyer in Bahrain on your legal rights and responsibilities.

Authorities might stop you from leaving Bahrain if you have a commercial or labour dispute, legal proceedings, or unpaid debts. Check with your local lawyer for full details and advice. (see 'Travel').

It is illegal to give birth out of wedlock. Bahrain does not recognise children born outside marriage and does not issue birth certificates for children born outside marriage.

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

## Media activity

You must obtain permission in advance from the Bahraini authorities to undertake media activity relating to the production, transmission or distribution of printed, digital, audio, video or visual information. If you fail to do this, you could be arrested, fined, and deported from Bahrain. Local authorities may also ban you from re-entering the country in the future.

Contact your nearest Bahraini Embassy/Consulate and the [Bahraini Ministry of Information](#) [🔗](#) for more information on obtaining the necessary permits to carry out media activity in Bahrain and bringing media equipment into Bahrain.

## Domestic and child violence services

If you're in danger, or you/your children have been a victim of domestic violence in Bahrain, call:

- local Bahraini police on 999
- the Protection Centre & Helpline on 998
- [Ministry of Social Development](#) [🔗](#) - (Family Counselling Center) on 80008001

Children and minors who may be victims of cybercrimes, cyberbullying, grooming, potential sexual or physical assault, and other forms of harm can contact the [General Directorate of Anti-Corruption and Economic & Electronic Security](#) [🔗](#) on 992 from a local Bahraini mobile or landline number.

When reporting domestic violence:

- get a case reference number
- document any injuries and get a copy of any medical reports.

If you file a police report or use any Bahraini victim services, authorities may inform your sponsor or guardian.

## Custody disputes

Sharia (Islamic) courts have jurisdiction over custody cases involving Muslim parents. The Embassy of Australia cannot intervene in court proceedings, private and/or legal matters including family and custody disputes. Seek advice from a competent local lawyer.

Custody orders and judgments issued by foreign courts may not be enforceable in Bahrain.

Bahraini Civil courts also adjudicate cases related to divorce and child custody for non-Muslims. When a custody case arises between parents and one of the parents is Muslim, custody decisions may be based on Islamic law.

When custody disputes arise and a custody case is before the local court, the local court may impose a travel ban on the child/children and the parent/s. You will not be allowed to leave Bahrain until the issue is resolved.

### More information:

- [Travelling with children](#)
- [Advice for women travellers](#)
- [Reducing the risk of assault](#)

## Other laws

You may face severe penalties, including the death penalty for serious crimes, including murder. Other offences, including theft, can result in imprisonment, deportation, fines, and future bans on re-entering the country.

Always carry a valid photo ID with you, failing to do so may result in fines from authorities.

You must obtain a valid work permit from the relevant Bahraini authority for any type of employment. It is illegal to work in Bahrain on a tourist or non-work visa. Engaging in any form of work (paid or unpaid) without the necessary work permit can lead to detention, fines, and deportation.

You may be arrested or jailed for criticising or mocking government policies or officials in Bahrain. This includes comments made on social media before your arrival in the country. Authorities have previously arrested people for social media posts related to Islam. It is illegal to mock any of Bahrain's recognised religious texts, which includes texts from non-Muslim religions.

Non-Muslim residents in Bahrain may marry in civil or religious ceremonies, but all marriages must be registered with a Bahraini civil court. Civil courts also handle divorce and child custody matters for non-Muslims. It is advisable to seek local legal advice for more details.

It is illegal to:

- attempt to convert a Muslim to another religion
- make offensive remarks about or insult Bahrain, the royal family, Islam, other religious beliefs, or local authorities
- use offensive language, swear, abuse others, or make rude gestures in public or on social media
- drink excessively while in transit through the airport
- participate in protests or demonstrations
- possess pornography
- engage in premarital sex or give birth outside of marriage
- possess or sell homemade wine or alcohol
- disobey police instructions
- support any group deemed by Bahraini authorities to engage in violence
- import, possess, or trade weapons
- earn income from social media or other platforms without a licence from local authorities
- participate in charity or fundraising activities without prior approval from local authorities.

These actions can be considered illegal even if they occurred outside of Bahrain or years before your visit.

Always ask for permission before photographing individuals. Be especially cautious when taking pictures of locals, particularly women and children. In some cases, it is illegal to photograph government buildings, military sites, official motorcades, and sensitive infrastructure, including oil fields.

Women reporting sexual assault may be taken into custody and may need to prove that the encounter was non-consensual to avoid being charged under extramarital sex laws. For more details, please check the local laws and seek legal advice from a local lawyer.

If you are associated with groups considered anti-Bahrain government, you may be refused entry or face arrest and detention.

The use of drones in Bahrain is regulated by local laws. The [Civil Aviation Affairs](#) (CAA) states that drone operations are permitted under specific regulations. Contact the CAA and the [Ministry of Interior Customs Affairs](#) for information and requirements for obtaining approval to bring or use a drone in Bahrain.

### More information:

- [Drones - unmanned aerial vehicles \(UAVs\)](#)

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## Australian laws

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Some Australian laws still apply even if you're in another country. You could be charged in Australia if you break these laws overseas.

**More information:**

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

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## Dual nationality

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Bahrain doesn't recognise dual nationality. Authorities may seize extra passports if they find them, and charges may be laid, including imprisonment if you hold a second nationality without permission from the relevant Bahraini authorities.

If you're a dual national and you enter Bahrain on your non-Australian passport, this may limit the [consular services](#) we can provide you.

If you're a dual national of another country (for example, an Australian-UK citizen) you can only exit Bahrain with the passport that you used to enter.

**More information:**

- [Dual nationals](#)

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## Local customs

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The Bahraini weekend is Friday and Saturday.

Respect religious and cultural sensitivities, rules and customs. Be aware of sensitivity around Ramadan and other religious festivals.

### Ramadan

Respect religious and cultural customs and laws during the Islamic holiday month of [Ramadan](#).

Avoid dressing inappropriately, eating, drinking or smoking in public or around people who are fasting.

### Dress and behaviour standards

Standards of dress and behaviour are generally more conservative than in Australia. Dress modestly. Make sure you cover your shoulders and knees.

Women travelling alone may be subject to some forms of harassment and verbal abuse.

If you disrespect Islam, you'll cause great offence, and locals may report you to the local police.

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

### Travelling as a couple

Hotels may refuse couples who can't prove they're married.

Avoid public displays of affection which may cause offence and dress appropriately.

### LGBTQIA+ information

Same-sex relationships between consenting adults aged over 21 years are not criminalised. However, LGBTQIA+ activity isn't socially accepted. It's likely to attract the attention of Bahraini authorities under broader morality and public order laws.

Some LGBTQIA+ travellers have reported difficulties entering Bahrain on a passport bearing a name and photo that do not correspond to their gender identity. For more information, please contact your nearest Bahraini Embassy or Consulate prior to your departure to Bahrain.

**More information:**

- [LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)

## Travel

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### Visas and border measures

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Each country or territory decides its own entry and exit rules, including health border screening measures. To find out what you need to enter a destination, ask their embassy, consulate or immigration office.

#### Visas

Entry and exit rules can change at short notice. Contact your nearest Bahraini Embassy or Consulate for details about visas, currency, customs and quarantine rules.

Bahrain has resumed visas on arrival for Australian passport holders. Visas to enter Bahrain can also be obtained online through their [eVisa](#) portal. Contact the nearest Bahraini Embassy or Consulate for the latest details.

If you need information on Bahraini visas while in the country, you can contact the Ministry of Interior's office of [Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs](#) (NPRA).

If you've had a travel ban placed against you in the past to prevent you from re-entering Bahrain, you should check the duration of the ban prior to your arrival, or you may be denied entry.

You may be arrested when you arrive if you have a previous unresolved legal case in Bahrain. This is regardless of the passport you use to re-enter the country.

Tourists under 18 may not be allowed to enter Bahrain unless accompanied by a guardian.

If you overstay your visa, you may face:

- a significant fine
- detention while waiting to be deported
- a ban from re-entering the country.

Deportation processes may take time to resolve.

There's no Bahraini Embassy in Australia. The nearest [Embassy of Bahrain](#) is in Jakarta, Indonesia.

#### Border areas

Bahrain's only land exit is into Saudi Arabia. The King Fahd causeway land crossing border is open. If you're exiting Bahrain to Saudi Arabia, read the travel advice for Saudi Arabia. If exiting by vehicle, your vehicle will likely be searched.

#### More information:

- [Travel advice for Saudi Arabia](#)

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### Other formalities

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Authorities may ask detailed questions about why you're visiting. They sometimes refuse entry to Australians based on their answers.

They may not let you enter or exit Bahrain:

- if you're travelling on an emergency passport
- if your passport shows 'X' for indeterminate, intersex or unspecified in the sex field
- if the name and/or photo in your passport are different from how you present

The legal age of maturity in Bahrain is 21. A child of a Bahraini father does not need his permission to leave Bahrain unless there's a travel ban imposed on the child in connection with custody proceedings.

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### Passport

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#### Validity

Many countries require your passport to be valid for at least 6 months before entering or departing. This includes for transit.

If your passport expires too soon, you might not be able to travel.

The Australian Government doesn't make these rules. Check your passport's expiry date before you go. If you're not sure, it's a good idea to [get a new passport](#).

If you travel to Bahrain on an Australian travel-related document issued to non-Australian citizens, you may not be able to enter Bahrain with an electronic visa (even if you obtained the visa online before your arrival). You'll need to contact your nearest Bahraini Embassy/Consulate for up-to-date advice and information on accepting your travel document and to seek options and confirmation on the appropriate visa that will be accepted to enter the country.

If your entry into Bahrain is denied despite you having a valid Bahraini visa, the Australian Embassy in Riyadh won't be able to assist you in facilitating your entry.

Airlines may not allow holders of Australian travel-related documents issued to non-Australian citizens to board flights to Australia. Check your eligibility to re-enter Australia with the Department of Home Affairs and confirm with your airlines before your departure.

## Lost or stolen passport

Your passport is valuable and can be used by others to commit crimes.

Don't let anyone trick you into giving it to them. Always keep it in a safe place.

If your passport is lost or stolen, tell the Australian Government:

- In Australia: contact the [Australian Passport Information Service](#).
- Overseas: contact the nearest [Australian embassy or consulate](#).

## Passport with 'X' gender identifier

Australian passports comply with international standards for sex and gender. If your passport has an 'X' in the sex field, we can't guarantee your entry or transit to other countries. Ask the [embassy or consulate of your destinations](#) if they'll accept your passport with an 'X' gender marker. Check all transit destinations too.

### More information:

- [LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)

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## Money

Bahrain has rules about the amount of currency you can bring in and take out. Currency limits can change. Check details with your nearest [Bahraini Embassy](#) or [Bahrain Customs](#) before your departure to Bahrain.

The local currency is the Bahraini Dinar (BHD).

Credit card facilities and ATMs are widely available.

Ask your bank if your cards will work in Bahrain.

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## Local travel

### Road travel

Road travel can be dangerous. Unsafe driving is common, especially speeding. Public transport buses in Bahrain are very limited.

Visitors to Bahrain can only drive hire cars and not privately owned vehicles.

If you have a non-Bahraini driving licence, you may only be allowed to use that licence and/or International Driving Permit (IDP) for up to three months from your arrival in the country. Check with the local Traffic Police and your rental company for up-to-date information.

The international licence must be endorsed by an office of the Bahraini traffic department or at any car rental office (available at the airport).

If you have a residency permit in Bahrain, you must obtain a Bahraini driver's licence through Bahrain's traffic department.

You must carry your driver's licence and vehicle registration cards when driving. If you're involved in an accident, notify the traffic police and ask for their instructions.

If an accident has led to legal proceedings, both drivers may be banned from leaving Bahrain until the issue is resolved.

If you drive under the influence of alcohol, authorities will detain, fine and ban you from driving.

Off-road driving can be dangerous. Ensure vehicles are suitably equipped and maintained.

If you plan to drive:

- check your insurance covers you
- check local traffic laws and practices
- know what to do in case of an incident or accident
- always keep your car windows up and doors locked, even when moving

The minimum driving age is 18 years old.

**More information:**

- [Driving or riding](#)

## Motorcycles

Check with your travel insurer if your policy covers you when using a motorbike, quad bike or similar vehicle.

Always wear a helmet.

## Taxis

Only use licensed taxis, ride-hailing service providers, and limousines, preferably arranged through your accommodation or licensed rideshare services.

If you choose to use official public marked taxis, ensure that the driver turns the meter on before you start the journey.

Don't share taxis with unknown passengers and refuse offers from drivers who approach you.

**More information:**

- [Driving or riding](#)

## Sea travel

Many areas of the Gulf are sensitive to security issues and territorial disputes.


Disputes about sea boundaries can occur. There are disagreements about the sea boundaries and control of Abu Musa and Tunbs islands in the Southern Gulf.

Authorities can inspect your vessel, detain you and arrest you. There can be government curfews on the waters.

Ships and boats might not meet the safety standards you'd expect in Australia.

Always use available safety equipment, such as life jackets, even if others don't.

If the right safety equipment isn't available, use another provider.

You may be at risk of [piracy](#) in the Gulf. Read the International Maritime Bureau's [piracy reports](#) .

Current regional tensions pose an increased threat to maritime security, including the Gulf of Oman and the Strait of Hormuz. Monitor the local and international media for up-to-date information.

**More information:**

- [Travelling by boat](#)

## Air travel

DFAT doesn't give advice about how safe different airlines or flight paths are.

Safety risks and weather events may cause flight delays and cancellations. Contact your travel agent or airline to confirm your plans.

Airlines and airports can restrict what you can take in your luggage. Regulations may be different to those in Australia. Check with your airline before you travel.


Check [Bahrain's air safety profile](#)  with the Aviation Safety Network.

Check the website of [Bahrain International Airport](#)  for any relevant and up to date information.

**More information:**

- [Air travel](#)

## Travelling with pets

The [Bahraini Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture](#)  must approve all pets imported into the Kingdom of Bahrain. You must obtain a permit from them before you bring your pet to Bahrain.

Contact your airline or travel agent for information before you travel. Also check the information available on the Bahraini [Customs Affairs](#) and the [Contact Us | Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture](#) for more information and requirements.

**More information:**

- [Travelling with pets](#)

## Local contacts

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### Emergencies

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Depending on what you need, contact your:

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

**Fire, ambulance, medical rescue services and police**

Call 999.

**Traffic police and reporting car accidents**

Call 199.

**Reporting cybercrimes**

Call 992

**Coastguard**

Call 177 000 00

Always get a police report when reporting a crime.

Make sure you know your travel insurer's 24-hour emergency number.

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## Consular contacts

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The Australian Government aims to provide high quality consular assistance. There are limits to what we can do. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#) to understand how we can assist you overseas.

Australia doesn't have an embassy or consulate in Bahrain. The Embassy of Australia in Saudi Arabia can give consular help to Australians in Bahrain though our ability to provide consular assistance may be limited.

**Embassy of Australia, Riyadh**

Abdullah Bin Hozafa Al-Shami Avenue  
Diplomatic Quarter  
Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Phone: +966 11 250 0900

Website: [saudiarabia.embassy.gov.au](http://saudiarabia.embassy.gov.au)

Email: [consular.riyadh@dfat.gov.au](mailto:consular.riyadh@dfat.gov.au)

X: [@AusAmbKSA](#)

Facebook: [@AusEmbKSA](#)

The Embassy in Riyadh is open Sunday to Thursday.

Check the Embassy website for opening hours and temporary closures.

**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**



## Qatar

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### Latest update

**Still current at:** 01 March 2026

**Updated:** 28 February 2026

**Latest update:** Due to the volatile security situation in the region and military strikes in Qatar, we've raised our level of advice for Qatar to do not travel. Retaliatory strikes are occurring following military strikes on Iran. Military conflict in the region may result in widespread movement restrictions, airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions.

Australian officials and dependants are sheltering in place during strikes. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice, including instructions to shelter in place.

Demonstrations and protest activity may also occur, and local security situations could deteriorate with little notice. Avoid all demonstrations and protests (see 'Safety').



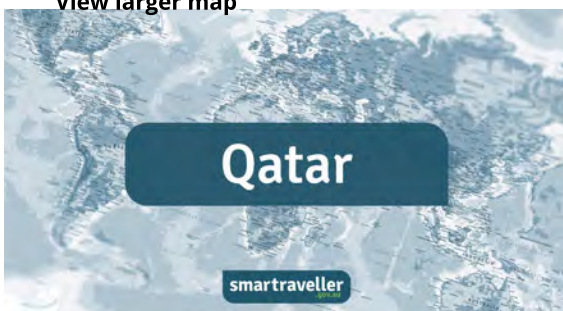
**We now advise:**

**Do not travel to Qatar.**

### Advice levels

**What does this mean?** >

[View larger map](#)



[Do not travel](#) to Qatar due to the volatile security situation in the region.

## Overview

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### Safety

- Due to the volatile security situation in the region and military strikes in Qatar, we've raised our level of advice for Qatar to do not travel. Retaliatory strikes are occurring following military strikes on Iran. Military conflict in the region may result in widespread movement restrictions, airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions.
- Australian officials and dependants are sheltering in place during strikes. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice, including instructions to shelter in place.
- See our general advice on protecting your safety during an [armed conflict](#).
- Several terrorist attacks have happened in the wider Gulf region in recent years. Terrorists may target tourist areas and attractions. More attacks could occur. If there's a security incident, follow the advice of local authorities.
- Qatar has a low crime rate. Pickpocketing, bag snatching and other petty crimes are rare but can happen. Keep an eye on your belongings, especially in crowded places.
- Bank and credit card fraud can occur. Always keep your credit card in sight when shopping.
- Be prepared for extreme weather. From June to September, temperatures can reach over 50°C. Flash flooding can sometimes happen. Follow the advice of local officials.
- On 25 February, the Australian Government offered voluntary departures for all dependants of Australian officials posted to Qatar in response to the deteriorating security situation in the Middle East.

Full travel advice: [Safety](#)

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### Health

- Cases of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus have been reported in Qatar. Avoid contact with camels and products contaminated with camel secretions.
- Qatar can experience periods of high air pollution. Sand and dust storms can also worsen breathing issues. Talk to your doctor before you travel if you have concerns.
- Get comprehensive [travel insurance](#) before you leave. If you're staying longer than 30 days in Qatar, you must purchase health insurance from companies approved by the Qatari Ministry of Public Health at a standard cost of 50 Qatari Riyals per month.

Full travel advice: [Health](#)

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### Local laws

- Qatari laws and customs are very different to those in Australia. If you're detained or arrested, ask police or prison officials to inform the Australian Embassy in Doha.
- If you receive a traffic violation, you cannot leave Qatar until you have paid all relevant fines.
- Don't use or carry illegal drugs. Penalties for drug offences include long jail terms. Authorities can detain and deport you if you carry medication to treat HIV and hepatitis. This can also happen if you test positive for either illness.
- Sex outside of marriage is illegal. If you're the victim of a sexual assault, authorities may arrest, detain or prosecute you for adultery. If you're sexually assaulted in Qatar, ask us for consular help and advice on available support services immediately. Hamad General Hospital provides a [Sexual Assault Service](#). [🔗](#)

- Qatar has conservative codes of dress and behaviour. Visitors are expected to cover their shoulders and knees when visiting public places, including museums and other government buildings. If you're at tourist attractions, shopping malls and other public places, check the specific dress codes at the venue or online.
- Avoid commenting on Qatari culture, government policy or services, and commercial enterprises online while in Qatar. This includes reviewing hotel or restaurant experiences on social media. These activities could be considered cybercrime offences in Qatar.

Full travel advice: [Local laws](#)

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## Travel

- If you're staying longer than 30 days in Qatar, you must purchase health insurance either prior to or when you arrive in Qatar. You must purchase this from companies approved by the [Qatari Ministry of Public Health](#) . This mandatory insurance only covers medical treatment in Qatar, not other common issues relating to travel, for example, lost luggage (see 'Full advice/Travel' section).
- You may be asked to show proof of your accommodation for the duration of your stay in Qatar on arrival at Hamad International Airport.
- Entry and exit conditions can change at short notice. Contact the nearest embassy or consulate of Qatar for the latest details.
- Driving in Qatar can be difficult and dangerous. Make sure you understand local laws and practices. It's illegal to use obscene language or hand gestures in traffic. It's also illegal to drive after drinking any amount of alcohol.
- Many areas of the Gulf are sensitive to security issues and territorial disputes. There's also a risk of [piracy](#). If you're planning sea travel, refer to the International Maritime Bureau's [piracy reports](#) .
- You may be placed under a travel ban if you're involved in a dispute about (but not limited to) business, labour, employment, fines or civil legal proceedings. This can apply to tourists, visitors, or resident identity card (QID) holders. Travel bans are strictly enforced and can take months or years to resolve.

Full travel advice: [Travel](#)

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## Local contacts

- The Australian Government aims to provide high quality consular assistance. There are limits to what we can do. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#) to understand how we can assist you overseas.
- For consular assistance, contact the [Australian Embassy in Doha](#) . The working week is Sunday to Thursday.
- To stay up to date with local information, follow the Embassy's social media accounts.

Full travel advice: [Local contacts](#)

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## Full advice

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## Safety

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### Terrorism

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Terrorism is a threat worldwide. Terrorist attacks could occur anywhere and at any time. Be alert to possible threats, especially in public places.

There have been several terrorist attacks in the Gulf region in recent years. These have occurred at places visited by foreigners. Take official warnings seriously.

Attacks could target:

- places of worship
- hotels, restaurants, and bars
- sporting venues
- military sites
- transport hubs
- crowded public places
- other locations foreigners may visit

Read our general advice on protecting your safety during an [armed conflict](#).

If there's an attack, leave the affected area straight away if it's safe to.

**More information:**

- [Terrorist threats](#)

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## Civil unrest and domestic political tension

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Public protests and events that attract large groups of people can occur with little notice.

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

To stay safe:

- avoid protests, demonstrations and other large public gatherings as they could turn violent
- be aware of local concerns about regional affairs
- check the news and other sources for details on planned and possible unrest or strikes
- plan your activities to avoid potential unrest
- change your travel plans if needed
- follow the advice of local authorities

If civil unrest disrupts your travel, contact your airline, travel agent or insurer for help.

**More information:**

- [Protests and civil unrest](#)

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## Crime

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Qatar has a low crime rate.

Pickpocketing, bag snatching and other petty crime is rare but can happen. Keep an eye on your belongings, especially in crowded places.

Banking and credit card fraud can occur. Always keep your credit card in sight.

### Kidnapping

Kidnapping can happen anywhere, anytime, including in destinations that are typically at lower risk.

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

**More information:**

- [Kidnapping](#)

### Sexual assault

In Qatar, sex outside marriage is illegal. Police may prosecute you with criminal charges rather than treat you as a victim/survivor if you seek medical help after a sexual assault. Qatari law places a high burden of proof on the victim to demonstrate that sexual relations were not consensual. If the court determines sex was consensual, the victim or attacker may still face prosecution for the offence of sex outside of marriage.

If you choose not to report the sexual assault but seek medical assistance, all medical facilities are legally obliged to report cases of rape and sexual assault, and the results from any examinations to the local police. So even if you choose not to report the crime, the police will be notified.

It is your choice on whether to report to police. If you don't report it, your case will not be investigated.

If you're sexually assaulted in Qatar, contact the Australian Embassy in Doha on (+974) 4007 8500 or after hours the 24-hour Consular Emergency Centre in Canberra on:


- +61 2 6261 3305 from overseas

- 1300 555 135 from within Australia

Ask for guidance and information on support services, if needed we can help you contact your family and friends.

Consular officers can't provide legal or medical advice. However, they can provide lists of English-speaking service providers who may be able to help you.

**More information:**

- [Sexual Assault Overseas](#)
- [Reducing the risk of sexual assault and harassment](#)
- [Hamad General Hospital Medical Assistance Sexual Assault Service](#) 

## Drink spiking

Drink spiking can happen anywhere. Be alert, don't leave your food or drinks alone. Watch when your drink is being mixed. If you [feel unwell](#), tell your friends immediately and get to a safe place. Keep an eye on your friends - if they feel unwell, stay with them. Get [medical help](#) if needed.

## Methanol poisoning


People have died or become very sick from poisoned drinks overseas. This includes Australians. Methanol is highly toxic. As little as one shot can be fatal. Methanol can be added or accidentally created during poor quality alcohol production. Only drink branded, sealed drinks. Get [urgent medical help](#) if you think you've been poisoned.

**More information:**

- [Partying safely while overseas](#)

## Cyber security

You could face cyber threats in any country, anyone is a target. Your devices and data can be stolen, especially when using public Wi-Fi, computers, or Bluetooth. Criminals can use stolen information to conduct scams or to resell your personal information.

The Australian Cyber Security Centre has advice on [how to protect yourself online](#) .

Social media can also be risky in places with social or political tensions or strict laws. People have been arrested for what they posted online. Check the laws of the destination you're travelling to and think about what you post on social media. The Australian Government can't get you out of trouble if you're accused of breaking the law.

**More information:**

- [Cyber security when travelling overseas](#)

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## Tours and adventure activities

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Transport and tour operators don't always follow safety and maintenance standards. This includes 4WD adventure activities in the desert.

If you plan to do a tour or [adventure activity](#):

- check if it's covered by your travel insurance policy
- check that vehicles are well-equipped for the desert
- check that there's enough water, fuel, food provisions and a mobile phone
- ask about, and insist on, minimum safety requirements
- always use available safety gear, such as life jackets or seatbelts

If proper safety equipment isn't available, use another provider.

Always:

- leave a copy of your travel itinerary with friends or relatives
- adjust your plans if the weather makes conditions unsafe
- seek advice from local authorities

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## Extreme weather and natural disasters

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Qatar often experiences extremely high temperatures. From June to September, the temperature can be higher than 50°C.

To avoid heat stroke and dehydration:

- drink plenty of water
- avoid long periods in the heat

Sandstorms and dust storms occur often.

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

- keep your passport in a safe, waterproof place
- register with the [Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System](#) [↗](#) to receive alerts on major disasters.
- follow the advice of local authorities
- keep in contact with friends and family

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## Health

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### Travel insurance

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

It must cover all medical costs overseas, including evacuation. The Australian Government will not pay for these costs.

If you can't afford travel insurance, you shouldn't travel. This is true for everyone, even if you are healthy and fit.

If you don't have insurance, you might have to pay thousands of dollars up front for medical care.

Before you travel, check your policy, make sure:

- you know what activities and medical care your insurance covers, including evacuations
- your insurance covers you for your whole trip, including any stopovers
- you know any exclusions – for example, you might need to pay extra for activities like motorcycling, snow sports or bungee jumping.

**More information:**

- [Travel insurance](#)

If you're staying longer than 30 days in Qatar, you must purchase health insurance from companies approved by the Qatari Ministry of Public Health. This will cost 50 Qatari Riyals per month. Health insurance policies purchased outside Qatar may not meet Qatari entry requirements. For more information see: [Mandatory Health Insurance Scheme](#) [↗](#).

The mandatory medical insurance required by all visitors to Qatar only covers medical treatment in Qatar, not other common issues relating to travel, for example, lost luggage.

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### Physical and mental health

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Think about your health before you travel, especially if you have any medical conditions.

See your doctor or a travel clinic to:

- get a basic check-up
- ask if your travel plans might affect your health
- find out what vaccinations you need.

If you're concerned about your mental wellbeing, or someone else's, read more about [mental health support overseas](#).

**More information:**

- [General health advice](#)
- [Managing your mental health](#)

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## Medications

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Not all medications available in Australia are accessible in other countries. Some medicines may be illegal, even if prescribed by an Australian doctor.

Ensure your [medication](#) is legal overseas. Take enough for your whole trip.

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

- medication names
- your required dosage
- that the medications are for your personal use.

**More information:**

- [Medicines](#)

If you plan to bring medication, check if it's legal in Qatar. Take enough legal medicine for your trip. For more information check the Ministry of Public Health [Guideline of controlled drugs for travellers \[PDF 614KB\]](#) [↗](#) or contact the Qatari Embassy in Canberra [Embassy of Qatar in Australia](#) [↗](#).

Get medical documents [authenticated](#) by DFAT in Australia if needed.

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## Health risks

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### Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus

Cases of [Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus](#) [↗](#) have been reported in Qatar.

There may be a small risk of contracting MERS via ongoing physical contact with camels. To minimise this risk, avoid consuming raw camel milk, undercooked camel meat, or anything contaminated with camel secretions.

Get medical advice if you have a fever, cough, breathing difficulties or diarrhoea.

**More information:**

- [MERS information card](#) [↗](#) (Department of Health and Aged Care)

### Air pollution

The level of air pollution in Qatar is high by global standards. Dust storms and sandstorms happen often, which can worsen breathing issues.

If you're concerned about the effects of pollution, or dust and sandstorms, speak to your doctor before leaving Australia.

Ask your doctor about health risks and vaccines before you go.

**More information**

- [Infectious diseases](#)
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## Medical care

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There's no agreement between Australia and Qatar for free healthcare. Tourists must pay for all [medical care](#), even if they need to stay in hospital or be evacuated. This can be very expensive. Make sure your [travel insurance](#) covers you. The Australian Government won't pay for these costs.

Public medical facilities in Qatar are comparable to those in Australia.

You may need to be evacuated if you become seriously ill or injured. Medical evacuation can be very expensive.

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## Local laws

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### Local law

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When you travel to another country, you must follow their laws. Even if they seem strict compared to Australia's. Before you go, learn about the [local laws](#) in that country.

The Australian Government is limited in how and when we can help if you're [arrested overseas](#). We can't get you out of trouble or out of jail. Understand our limits. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#).

There are major differences between laws in Australia and Qatar. Behaviour that could be considered offensive or anti-social, but not criminal, in Australia could violate Qatari law.

If you're detained or arrested, ask police or prison officials to inform the Australian Embassy in Doha.

To meet Qatari requirements, your Australian documents may need extra legal approval before you can use them overseas. Check the rules with the nearest [embassy or consulate of Qatar](#) [🔗](#).

### Traffic offences

If you receive a traffic violation, you cannot leave Qatar through any state border (land, air, and sea) until you have paid all relevant fines through:

- [Metrash2 application](#) [🔗](#),
- [Ministry of Interior website](#) [🔗](#),
- traffic sections, or
- unified service centres.

### Drugs

Penalties for drug offences include long jail terms. Authorities could charge you with possession if they can detect illegal drugs in your body.

Medications that are available over the counter or by prescription in Australia may be illegal in Qatar.

Authorities can detain and deport you if you carry medication to treat HIV and hepatitis. This can also happen if you test positive to either illness.

Check the status of your medicines with an [embassy or consulate of Qatar](#) [🔗](#). See [Health](#)

#### More information:

- [Carrying or using drugs](#)

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## Commercial, civil, family and employment law

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There are significant differences between Australia's and Qatar's laws on commercial, civil, family and employment matters.

If you become involved in local family law matters such as divorce, child custody and child support:

- get professional legal advice
- understand your rights and responsibilities under Qatari law

### Commercial law

If you're involved in a commercial civil dispute, local firms or courts may take your passport.

Authorities can stop you leaving Qatar until the dispute is resolved.

If you owe money, you may be jailed until you settle your debts.

### Fraud

Authorities can arrest and jail you for fraud if you:

- present a cheque that bounces
- fail to pay bills or fines
- have an overdue personal loan or local credit card or similar

Authorities may detain you when you arrive if you have debts or criminal charges in Qatar. This can happen even if you're only transiting through Qatar.

If you're not a resident of Qatar, you may not get bail for crimes involving fraud.

### Family law

Child custody laws are based on Islamic law.

### Employment matters

If you have a job in Qatar, you may require an exit permit from your employer to leave the country.

Recognition of your Australian educational qualifications for use in Qatar may require you to legalise these documents.

You should always confirm exact requirements with the intended authority (i.e. the person or organisation the legalised document will be presented to) as to what are the exact requirements needed. The intended authority may require the Australian educational qualification to be attested.

In Qatar, the intended authority can include the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or both.

The legalisation or attestation process may include:

1. Document to be notarised by an Australian Notary Public in Australia
2. Attestation by Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Australia
3. Attestation by the Qatar Embassy in Canberra, Australia
4. Attestation by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Qatar
5. Submit the document to the intended authority in Qatar

**More information:**

- [Living or working overseas](#)
- [Legalising documents](#)

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## Other laws

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### Eating and drinking laws

It's illegal to:

- eat, drink or smoke in public between sunrise and sunset during [Ramadan](#)
- drink alcohol, if you're Muslim
- drink alcohol or be drunk in public
- drink alcohol outside licensed premises

Expats living in Qatar can buy alcohol on a permit system.

Alcohol is currently only available to visitors at licenced hotel restaurants and bars. The legal drinking age in Qatar is 21. It is an offence to drink alcohol or be drunk in a public place.

The importation of alcohol into the State of Qatar is illegal. You will not be able to purchase alcohol from duty free in airports.

### Sex and intimacy laws

It's illegal to:

- have sex outside marriage
- be sexually intimate or overly affectionate in public
- engage in same-sex relationships
- stalk or harass women verbally, physically or online

**More information:**

- [Advice for LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)

### Other illegal activities

It's illegal to:

- bring pornography, pork products, alcohol, firearms or religious books or materials other than those relating to Islam into Qatar
- photograph government buildings or military sites
- photograph local people, particularly women, without permission

### Australian laws

Some Australian laws still apply even if you're in another country. You could be charged in Australia if you break these laws overseas.

**More information:**

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

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## Dual nationality

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Qatar doesn't recognise dual nationality.

If you're a dual national and authorities arrest or detain you, our ability to deliver [consular services](#) may be limited.

Always travel on your [Australian passport](#).

The children of Qatari fathers automatically receive Qatari citizenship at birth. Qatari fathers can stop their children from leaving Qatar.

**More information:**

- [Advice for dual nationals](#)

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## Local customs

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There are conservative codes of dress and behaviour in Qatar. Visitors must cover their shoulders and knees when visiting public places like museums and other government buildings. If you plan to visit tourist attractions, shopping malls and other public places, check the specific dress codes. Look for details on display at the venues or on their websites. Take care not to offend. If in doubt, seek local advice.

Avoid commenting on Qatari culture, government policy or services, and commercial enterprises online while in Qatar. This includes reviewing hotel or restaurant experiences on social media. These activities could be considered slanderous or cyber-crime offences in Qatar.

### Offensive behaviour

Swearing and making rude gestures are considered obscene acts and you can be fined, jailed and/or deported. Take particular care when dealing with the police and other officials.

### Ramadan

The Islamic holy month of [Ramadan](#) is observed in Qatar. Respect religious and cultural customs and laws during 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

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### Visas and border measures

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Each country or territory decides its own entry and exit rules, including health border screening measures. To find out what you need to enter a destination, ask their embassy, consulate or immigration office.

### Visas

Australian passport holders are entitled to apply for a visa on arrival. The type of visa you need will depend on your country of residence and the purpose of your travel.



You may be asked to show proof of your accommodation for the duration of your stay in Qatar on arrival at Hamad International Airport.


Entry and exit rules can change at short notice. For details about visas, currency, customs and quarantine regulations, contact:

- [Visas & Immigration \(Hamad International Airport\)](#) 
- the [Embassy of the State of Qatar](#) 
- the official State of Qatar [Government website](#)  (in English)

Qatari authorities won't issue visas in an Australian emergency passport. You can only use an emergency passport to leave or travel through Qatar.

### Border measures

Transiting through Qatar is permitted if you meet the requirements of your final destination country. There are no additional requirements for transiting passengers, even if you choose to use the transit hotel within the airport. Further information about transiting through Qatar can be found on the webpage for [Hamad International Airport](#)  and [Visit Qatar](#) .

For more information, call 109 from inside Qatar or +974 44069999 from outside Qatar, or contact the nearest [Qatari embassy or consulate](#) .

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## Other formalities

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### Travel bans

You may be placed under a travel ban if you're involved in a dispute about (but not limited to):

- business
- labour
- employment
- fines

You won't be able to leave the country if you're a tourist, visitor, or resident identity card (QID) holder.

Travel bans are strictly enforced. They can take months or even years to resolve.

Only Qatari authorities, and in very limited cases your sponsor, can remove travel bans.

Private Qatari citizens may also initiate travel bans against foreigners.

The government may issue travel bans on people who:

- are charged with criminal offences
- are under investigation
- are involved in financial or labour disputes
- have unpaid debts or who have passed bad cheques
- have unresolved civil legal proceedings

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## Passport

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### Validity

Many countries require your passport to be valid for at least 6 months before entering or departing. This includes for transit.

If your passport expires too soon, you might not be able to travel.

The Australian Government doesn't make these rules. Check your passport's expiry date before you go. If you're not sure, it's a good idea to [get a new passport](#) .

### Lost or stolen passport

Your passport is valuable and can be used by others to commit crimes.

Don't let anyone trick you into giving it to them. Always keep it in a safe place.


If your passport is lost or stolen, tell the Australian Government:

- In Australia: contact the [Australian Passport Information Service](#) .
- Overseas: contact the nearest [Australian embassy or consulate](#) .

If you are holding an Australian emergency passport, you can only use this to depart or transit through Qatar. It cannot be used to enter Qatar.

Qatari authorities will not issue a visa in an emergency passport.

### Passport with 'X' gender identifier

Australian passports comply with international standards for sex and gender. If your passport has an 'X' in the sex field, we can't guarantee your entry or transit to other countries. Ask the [embassy or consulate of your destinations](#)  if they'll accept your passport with an 'X' gender marker. Check all transit destinations too.

#### More information:

- [LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)

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## Money

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The local currency is the Qatari Riyal (QAR).

Change currency only at commercial banks and official exchange bureaus.

Most businesses that deal with tourists accept international credit cards. ATMs are widely available.

Ask your bank if your cards will work in Qatar.

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## Local travel

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### Driving permit

You can drive in Qatar with:

- a valid Australian driver's licence
- an International Driving Permit (IDP)

Get your IDP before leaving home.

If you hold a residence permit, you'll need a Qatari driver's licence.

#### More information:

- [General Directorate of Traffic](#)  (Qatar Ministry of Interior)

### Road travel

Traffic accidents are a leading cause of death in Qatar. It's challenging and dangerous to drive due to road construction and high speeds. Sandstorms and dust storms occur. This can significantly reduce visibility and lead to road accidents. Rain can cause dangerous road conditions and flash flooding.

Visitors or business visa holders with a driver's licence from their home country can drive for up to 15 days from the date of entry into Qatar. You'll need to apply for a temporary Qatar driving licence to extend this.

If you have an international licence, you can drive for up to 6 months from your date of entry into Qatar.

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) residents with a GCC driver's licence can drive for up to 3 months from their date of entry into Qatar.

If you have a non-Qatari licence, you can only rent a car if you are 25 years or older and have held a valid driving licence for at least 12 months.

It's illegal to:

- drive with any alcohol in your system
- use obscene language and hand gestures in traffic.

If you have an accident, contact the police and stay with your vehicle if it's safe to do so. It's illegal to leave the scene of an accident as a driver until the police tell you to do so. You can only move your vehicle off the road if there are no injuries from the accident.

If you plan to drive:

- check you have enough insurance coverage before driving
- check local traffic laws and practices before driving
- drive carefully and legally
- avoid arguments over traffic incidents

#### More information:

- [Driving or riding](#)

### Motorcycles

Check if your travel insurance policy covers you when using a motorbike, quad bike or similar vehicle.


Always wear a helmet.

### Taxis

Avoid touts and only use registered taxis and limousines. Arrange these through your accommodation. Avoid shared taxis.

Ride-sharing applications such as Uber are used extensively by the community, particularly in Doha.

### Public transport

Qatar has a well-developed bus transport network and metro system. Information and timetables can be found online at [Mowasalat](#) 

Taxis and ride share vehicles are widely available in Doha.

**More information:**

- [Transport and getting around safely](#)

**Sea travel**

Many areas of the Gulf are sensitive to security issues and territorial disputes.

Disputes about sea boundaries can occur. There are disagreements about the sea boundaries and control of Abu Musa and Tunbs islands in the Southern Gulf.

Authorities can inspect your vessel and detain or arrest you if you're in sensitive waters.

[Piracy](#) happens in the Gulf. The [International Maritime Bureau issues piracy reports](#)  on its website.

**More information:**

- [Travelling by boat](#)

**Air travel**

DFAT doesn't give advice about how safe different airlines or flight paths are.

Safety risks and weather events may cause flight delays and cancellations. Contact your travel agent or airline to confirm your plans.

Airlines and airports can restrict what you can take in your luggage. Regulations may be different to those in Australia. Check with your airline before you travel.

Check [Qatar's air safety profile](#)  with the Aviation Safety Network.

**More information:**

- [Air travel](#)

**Local contacts**

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**Emergencies**

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Depending on what you need, contact your:

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

**Fire and rescue services**

Call 999.

**Medical emergencies**

Call 999, or go directly to the hospital.

**Police**

Call 999, 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.

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**Consular contacts**

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The Australian Government aims to provide high quality consular assistance. There are limits to what we can do. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#) to understand how we can assist you overseas.

For consular assistance, contact the Australian Embassy in Doha.

The working week is Sunday to Thursday.

The public counter is open from 8:30am - 12:00pm from Sunday to Wednesday. For passport and notarial services, you need to book an appointment. Check the [Embassy website](#)  for details about opening hours and any temporary closures including Embassy Public Holidays.

### **Australian Embassy, Doha**

Tornado Tower  
Majlis Al Taawon Street  
Doha, Qatar

Phone: +974 4007 8500

Website: [qatar.embassy.gov.au](http://qatar.embassy.gov.au) 

General enquiries email: [embassy.doha@dfat.gov.au](mailto:embassy.doha@dfat.gov.au)

Consular assistance email: [consular.doha@dfat.gov.au](mailto:consular.doha@dfat.gov.au)

Passport assistance email: [passports.doha@dfat.gov.au](mailto:passports.doha@dfat.gov.au)

### **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**



## Kuwait

### Latest update

**Still current at:** 01 March 2026

**Updated:** 28 February 2026

**Latest update:** Due to the security situation in the region and military strikes in Kuwait, we've raised our level of advice for Kuwait to do not travel'. Retaliatory strikes are occurring following military strikes on Iran. Military conflict in the region may result in widespread movement restrictions, airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice, including shelter in place instructions.

Demonstrations and protest activity may also occur, and local security situations could deteriorate with little notice (see 'Safety').



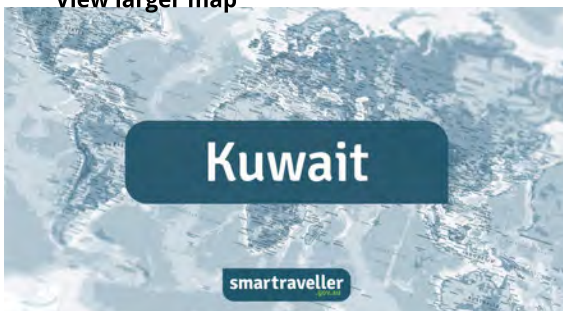
**We advise:**

**Do not travel to Kuwait due to the volatile security situation in the region.**

### Advice levels

**What does this mean? >**

[View larger map](#)



[Do not travel](#) to Kuwait due to the volatile security situation in the region.

## Overview

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### Safety

- Due to the security situation in the region and military strikes in Kuwait, we've raised our level of advice for Kuwait to do not travel. Retaliatory strikes are occurring following military strikes on Iran. Military conflict in the region may result in widespread movement restrictions, airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice, including shelter in place instructions.
- On 25 February 2026, the Australian Government offered voluntary departures for all dependants of Australian officials posted to Kuwait in response to the deteriorating security situation in the Middle East.
- Demonstrations and protest activity may also occur, and local security situations could deteriorate with little notice. Avoid all demonstrations and protests.
- There's a risk of terrorism in Kuwait, including threats against military bases. Maintain a high level of security awareness and be aware of your surroundings. Follow the advice of local authorities.
- Kuwait's crime rate is low. Armed robberies have been reported, notably in Jahra and Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh.
- Driving can be dangerous due to high speeds and reckless driving, especially at night. Avoid driving on unmarked roads.
- Be prepared for extreme weather conditions. Sand and dust storms occur regularly. In the hottest months, between June and September, the temperatures are often above 50°C. Flooding can occur between December and January. Follow the advice of local authorities.

Full travel advice: [Safety](#)

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### Health

- Some medical facilities offer high-quality services, but others don't. Some public hospitals don't accept foreign nationals. If you're seriously ill or injured, you may need to be medically evacuated. Ensure your travel insurance covers this. Medical evacuation can be expensive and hard to organise.

Full travel advice: [Health](#)

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### Local laws

- Kuwaiti authorities may not notify the Australian Embassy if they detain or arrest Australians. Ask a family member, friend or colleague to inform the Embassy as soon as possible.
- It's illegal to buy, sell, import, carry and consume alcohol. Penalties range from fines to imprisonment and deportation. It's also illegal to possess, consume, produce or traffic drugs in Kuwait. Penalties are severe and can include large fines, imprisonment or the death sentence.
- Get professional, local, legal advice for any business or family law matters. Some offences that aren't serious in Australia are very serious in Kuwait.
- Kuwait has strict laws regarding its head of state, the Amir, the Crown Prince and the Prime Minister. It's illegal to challenge or insult the Kuwait leadership any way. It's also illegal to use social media to criticise regional political matters and figures, including the Amir, Crown Prince and the Prime Minister.
- Kuwait has strict laws on relationships and LGBTQIA+ issues. Same-sex relations and impersonating the opposite sex are illegal. Kuwait doesn't recognise diverse gender identities. It's against the law for unmarried couples to live or stay together in hotel rooms. Public displays of affection between men and women are also illegal.
- Standards of dress and behaviour are conservative. Cover your shoulders and knees and avoid wearing shorts or tight clothing. Take particular care in areas like Jahra and Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh.

Full travel advice: [Local laws](#)



## Travel

- You'll need a visa to enter Kuwait. Visas on arrival and e-visas are available for Australian citizens. Entry and exit conditions can change at short notice. You should contact the nearest Kuwaiti embassy or consulate of Kuwait for the latest details. You may be refused entry into Kuwait if you have an Israeli stamp in your passport.
- The local currency is the Kuwaiti Dinar (KWD). ATMs and electronic payment facilities are widely used. Some banks and shops don't accept foreign cards.
- Kuwait has unexploded weapons, including landmines, in desert areas and on some beaches. Stay on well-travelled roads. Don't pick up strange objects on beaches.
- Traveling near the Iraq and Saudi Arabia borders is illegal and dangerous without authorisation. Armed guards patrol border areas. Don't travel to Iraq. If you go there despite our advice, make sure you have the correct documents authorising your movements. Only use official border crossings.
- Authorities may prevent you from departing Kuwait if you have unpaid debts or fines.
- Children travelling without a male guardian must present a signed letter of approval from their father before being allowed to leave Kuwait.

Full travel advice: [Travel](#)



## Local contacts

- The Australian Government aims to provide high quality consular assistance. There are limits to what we can do. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#) to understand how we can assist you overseas.
- For consular assistance, contact the [Australian Embassy in Kuwait City](#). The working week is Sunday to Thursday.
- To stay up to date with local information, follow the Embassy's social media accounts.

Full travel advice: [Local contacts](#)

## Full advice

### Safety

#### Terrorism

Terrorism is a threat worldwide. Terrorist attacks could occur anywhere and at any time. Be alert to possible threats, especially in public places.

There's a risk of terrorism in Kuwait, including threats against military bases. Maintain a high level of security awareness and be aware of your surroundings.

There have been several terrorist attacks in the Gulf region in recent years, including at places visited by foreigners. Take official warnings seriously.

Attacks could occur at any time and targets could include:

- places of worship
- hotels and restaurants
- sporting venues
- military sites
- transport hubs
- crowded public places

- shopping malls and markets
- other locations foreigners may visit

Maintain a high level of security awareness. If there's a terrorist incident, leave the area if it's safe to do so and follow the instructions of local authorities.

**More information:**

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

## Kidnapping

Kidnapping can happen anywhere, anytime, including in destinations that are typically at lower risk. The Australian Government's longstanding policy is that it doesn't make payments or concessions to kidnappers.

**More information:**

- [Kidnapping](#)

## Civil unrest and political tension

Due to the security situation in the region and military strikes in Kuwait, we've raised our level of advice for Kuwait to 'Do Not Travel' (level 4 of 4). Retaliatory strikes have been reported following military strikes on Iran. Australian officials and dependants are sheltering in place during strikes. Australians should shelter in place during strikes. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice. Military conflict in the region may result in widespread movement restrictions, airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions. Demonstrations and protest activity may also occur, and local security situations could deteriorate with little notice.

### Demonstrations and protests

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

It's illegal for non-Kuwait nationals to protest in Kuwait.

Organisers of demonstrations or public gatherings must obtain approval in advance from the Ministry of Interior (MOI).

Protesters and security forces have clashed previously. Security forces have used water cannons and tear gas to break up protests.

Avoid all protests, demonstrations and large public gatherings.

Be especially alert for protest activity in:

- Areas surrounding Irada Square
- Jahra

During a period of unrest:

- monitor the media and local sources for new threats
- plan your activities to avoid days of national or commemorative significance
- follow the advice of local authorities
- be prepared to change your travel plans

Contact your airline, travel agent or insurer if your travel is disrupted.

**More information:**

- [Protests and civil unrest](#)

## Crime

The overall crime rate in Kuwait is low but it is higher in some areas.

Some travellers have reported being physically and verbally harassed. Some foreigners have reported being followed at night.

Take care if you intend to travel to Jahra, where attackers have used firearms in confrontations. [Robberies](#) have occurred in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh.

To protect yourself from crime:

- be alert to petty thieves while in crowded places

- carry only what you need – leave other valuables in a secure place
- watch your belongings on buses and taxis, especially at night
- don't go out alone after dark or to isolated places, especially on foot
- always keep your vehicle and accommodation locked
- be alert to suspicious behaviour

## Sexual Assault

Victims of sexual assault in Kuwait may face arrest, detention or criminal prosecution for having sex outside of marriage and/or adultery.

If you are sexually assaulted in Kuwait, contact the Australian Embassy in Kuwait or the Consular Emergency Centre in Canberra immediately.


While consular officers can't provide legal or medical advice, they can provide a list of English-speaking service providers, such as lawyers and translators, who may be able to help.

### More information:

- [Sexual assault](#)

## Cyber security

You could face cyber threats in any country, anyone is a target. Your devices and data can be stolen, especially when using public Wi-Fi, computers, or Bluetooth. Criminals can use stolen information to conduct scams or to resell your personal information.

The Australian Cyber Security Centre has advice on [how to protect yourself online](#) .

Social media can also be risky in places with social or political tensions or strict laws. People have been arrested for what they posted online. Check the laws of the destination you're travelling to and think about what you post on social media. The Australian Government can't get you out of trouble if you're accused of breaking the law.

### More information:

- [Cyber security when travelling overseas](#)

## Drink spiking

Drink spiking can happen anywhere. Be alert, don't leave your food or drinks alone. Watch when your drink is being mixed. If you [feel unwell](#), tell your friends immediately and get to a safe place. Keep an eye on your friends - if they feel unwell, stay with them. Get [medical help](#) if needed.

## Methanol poisoning

People have died or become very sick from poisoned drinks overseas. This includes Australians. Methanol is highly toxic. As little as one shot can be fatal. Methanol can be added or accidentally created during poor quality alcohol production. Only drink branded, sealed drinks. Get [urgent medical help](#) if you think you've been poisoned.

### More information:

- [Partying safely while overseas](#)

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## Extreme weather and natural disasters


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Sand and dust storms occur regularly.

It's often very hot and dry in Kuwait, where the hottest months are June, July and August. Temperatures are often above 50°C and rarely drop below 30°C, even at night. High humidity can be expected in August.

Flooding can happen, usually between December and March.

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

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

## Health

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### Travel insurance

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

It must cover all medical costs overseas, including evacuation. The Australian Government will not pay for these costs.

If you can't afford travel insurance, you shouldn't travel. This is true for everyone, even if you are healthy and fit.

If you don't have insurance, you might have to pay thousands of dollars up front for medical care.

Before you travel, check your policy, make sure:

- you know what activities and medical care your insurance covers, including evacuations
- your insurance covers you for your whole trip, including any stopovers
- you know any exclusions – for example, you might need to pay extra for activities like motorcycling, snow sports or bungee jumping.

**More information:**

- [Travel insurance](#)

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### Physical and mental health

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Think about your health before you travel, especially if you have any medical conditions.

See your doctor or a travel clinic to:

- get a basic check-up
- ask if your travel plans might affect your health
- find out what vaccinations you need.

If you're concerned about your mental wellbeing, or someone else's, read more about [mental health support overseas](#).

**More information:**

- [General health advice](#)
- [Managing your mental health](#)

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### Medication

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Not all medications available in Australia are accessible in other countries. Some medicines may be illegal, even if prescribed by an Australian doctor.

Ensure your [medication](#) is legal overseas. Take enough for your whole trip.

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

- medication names
- your required dosage
- that the medications are for your personal use.

**More information:**

- [Medicines](#)

Some medications require approval from Kuwait's Ministry of Health.

If you plan to bring medication, check if it's legal in Kuwait by contacting the Kuwaiti Embassy in Australia. Take enough legal medicine for your trip.

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### Health risks

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## Air quality

Air pollution levels in Kuwait are often at dangerous levels, increasing the risk of breathing problems.

Dust and sandstorms can be severe and occur throughout the year.



Poor air quality can cause:

- traffic delays and accidents
- flight delays

People who have pre-existing medical conditions, particularly heart and lung conditions, may be especially affected. If you're concerned:

- seek medical advice
- follow advice from local authorities about methods to reduce exposure
- monitor an air quality index
- reduce your exposure

### More information:

- [Kuwait Air Quality Index \(AQI\) and Air Pollution Information](#) 
- [Air Pollution](#)  (WHO)

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## Medical care

There's no agreement between Australia and Kuwait for free healthcare. Tourists must pay for all [medical care](#), even if they need to stay in hospital or be evacuated. This can be very expensive. Make sure your [travel insurance](#) covers you. The Australian Government won't pay for these costs.

The standard of medical facilities in Kuwait varies in government-run and private institutions. You'll be expected to pay in advance for all services. Some hospitals only accept citizens, and some treatments and medicines may not be available to foreigners. Government facilities offer more specialty care services, though wait times are often long and can be difficult to access for non-nationals.

Married women may be required to obtain their husband's permission before some medical procedures.

Psychological and psychiatric services are limited, with hospital-based care only available through government institutions.

If you need a complex procedure or become seriously ill, you may need to be evacuated. Medical evacuation can be very expensive.

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## Local laws

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### Local law

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When you travel to another country, you must follow their laws. Even if they seem strict compared to Australia's. Before you go, learn about the [local laws](#) in that country.

The Australian Government is limited in how and when we can help if you're [arrested overseas](#). We can't get you out of trouble or out of jail. Understand our limits. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#).

Kuwaiti authorities don't normally notify the Australian Embassy if they detain or arrest Australians.

If you are detained, ask the authorities, your family, friend or colleague to inform the Embassy as soon as possible.

### More information:

- [Arrested or jailed](#)

## Drugs and alcohol

Possession of illicit drugs and alcohol is illegal. Penalties are severe.

Convictions for possession and trafficking of drugs may result in heavy fines, lengthy jail sentences, deportation or the death penalty.

It is illegal to bring alcohol into Kuwait and possess or consume it in the country.

Public intoxication or driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs is punishable by fines, imprisonment, deportation and confiscation of your driving licence.

### More information:

- [Carrying or using drugs](#)

## Commercial, civil, family and employment law

Australian and Kuwaiti laws are very different. This includes laws about:

- commercial arrangements
- civil matters
- family matters
- employment.

Seemingly minor incidents can result in lengthy legal proceedings. If you have an open case, you may be prevented from leaving the country until it's resolved.

Some offences that aren't serious in Australia are extremely serious in Kuwait. This includes:

- writing a cheque without enough funds in your account
- not paying your bills.

We can't interfere in commercial and family disputes.

If you're involved in local legal matters:

- seek professional advice
- understand your rights and what you must do under Kuwaiti law.

This is particularly the case for family law matters, including:

- divorce
- child custody
- child support.

Kuwaiti authorities require that documents issued in Australia are both:

- authenticated by DFAT before you leave Australia
- authenticated by officials at the Australian Embassy in Kuwait.

Types of documents you'll need to authenticate include:

- academic (university and secondary school) records
- Police clearance (AFP National Police Check)
- a marriage or birth certificate for a residency permit.

### More information:

- [Legalising documents](#)
- [Living or working overseas](#)

## Other laws

Always carry ID, such as your passport or a Kuwaiti civil identity card.

Authorities conduct regular checks for illegal workers.

It's illegal to:

- challenge or criticise regional political matters and figures, the Kuwait leadership including the Amir, Crown Prince and Prime Minister in any way, including in speech, writing or drawing, or using social media platforms
- import alcohol (also see Drugs and alcohol section above), pork products or pornography
- drive without a valid licence
- drink and drive
- take photos or videos of Government buildings or military sites, oil fields, and people (particularly local women) without permission.

## Traffic incidents

If you receive a traffic violation or are involved in an accident, you cannot leave Kuwait until the matter is resolved and relevant fines are paid.

## Sex and intimacy laws

It's illegal to:

- have sex outside of marriage
- cohabit with someone of the opposite sex if unmarried. It's illegal to stay in a hotel room with someone of the opposite sex unless you're married to them. The hotel staff may ask you for a marriage certificate
- engage in intimate public displays of affection.
- de-facto relationships are not recognised in Kuwait

## LGBTQIA+ laws

Same-sex relationships and impersonating the opposite sex are illegal. Kuwait doesn't recognise or allow same-sex marriages and rights. Punishments can include fines, imprisonment and deportation.

Rainbow and LGBTQIA+ products are banned in Kuwait. Increased scrutiny and searches of personal belongings have been reported at ports of entry, including confiscation of items bearing these colours.

**More information:**

- [Advice for LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)
- 

**Australian laws**

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Some Australian laws still apply even if you're in another country. You could be charged in Australia if you break these laws overseas.

**More information:**

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

**Dual nationals**

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Kuwait doesn't recognise dual nationality. Authorities have revoked people's Kuwaiti citizenship for reasons including dual nationality.

If you're a dual national and authorities arrest or detain you, our ability to deliver consular services may be limited.

Kuwaiti authorities have confiscated the [Australian passports](#) of dual citizens. This doesn't deprive you of your Australian citizenship.

If this happens, contact the Australian Embassy. See [Local contacts](#)

**More information:**

- [Dual nationals](#)
- 

**Local customs**

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Kuwait is a Muslim country. Respect local traditions, customs and religious beliefs. Cover your shoulders and knees, avoid wearing shorts or tight clothing and behave modestly in public, government buildings and places of worship.

The Islamic holy month of [Ramadan](#) is strictly observed in Kuwait. Take care not to offend others.

During Ramadan, it is illegal to eat, drink or smoke in public during the day. If you are not fasting, avoid these activities around people who are.

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**Travel**

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**Visas and border measures**

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Each country or territory decides its own entry and exit rules, including health border screening measures. To find out what you need to enter a destination, ask their embassy, consulate or immigration office.

Make sure you meet all entry and exit conditions. If you don't, the Australian Government can't help you.

**Visas**


You'll need a visa to enter Kuwait.

Visas on arrival and e-visas are available for Australian citizens. To obtain a tourist visa on arrival, you must:

- pay the fee when you arrive at Kuwait International Airport
- have a return ticket

- provide the address of your accommodation in Kuwait
- have a passport valid for at least 6 months
- not have any security restrictions that prevent entry into Kuwait

You can apply for an e-visa at the Ministry of Interior's Kuwait Visa website.

To apply for employment or residency visas, contact your nearest [Embassy of Kuwait](#) .




Entry and exit conditions can change at short notice. Contact your nearest Embassy of Kuwait for details about visas, currency and customs rules.

If you overstay your visa, you'll face a large fine or travel ban. Check the expiry date on your visa.

You may be refused entry into Kuwait if you have an Israeli stamp in your passport.

Kuwaiti authorities won't issue visas in an Australian emergency passport. You can only use an emergency passport to exit Kuwait.

**More information:**

- [Ministry of Interior](#) 
- [Ministry of Information](#) 
- [Directorate General for Civil Aviation](#) 

## Other formalities

Authorities may prevent you from departing Kuwait if:

- you have unpaid debts or fines, including traffic or parking fines, utility or telecommunications bills
- you're in a financial dispute
- you're charged with a criminal offence or are under investigation

If you're employed in the private sector in Kuwait, you must obtain an exit permit before leaving the country. Without the permit you may be prevented from departing.

Authorities enforce travel bans. They can take months to resolve. Seek the advice of a local lawyer.

If you're applying for an employment or residency visa, you'll need to get supporting documents verified before you arrive. See [Local laws](#)


Customs officials use strict screening procedures to detect illegal imports. See [Local laws](#)

## Passport

### Validity

Many countries require your passport to be valid for at least 6 months before entering or departing. This includes for transit.

If your passport expires too soon, you might not be able to travel.

The Australian Government doesn't make these rules. Check your passport's expiry date before you go. If you're not sure, it's a good idea to [get a new passport](#) .

### Lost or stolen passport


Your passport is valuable and can be used by others to commit crimes.

Don't let anyone trick you into giving it to them. Always keep it in a safe place.

If your passport is lost or stolen, tell the Australian Government:

- In Australia: contact the [Australian Passport Information Service](#) .
- Overseas: contact the nearest [Australian embassy or consulate](#) .

### Passport with 'X' gender identifier

Australian passports comply with international standards for sex and gender. If your passport has an 'X' in the sex field, we can't guarantee your entry or transit to other countries. Ask the [embassy or consulate of your destinations](#)  if they'll accept your passport with an 'X' gender marker. Check all transit destinations too.

**More information:**

- [LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)

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## Money

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The local currency is the Kuwaiti Dinar (KWD).

Declare all local and foreign currency equivalent to or over KWD3000 when you arrive. This covers all forms of currency, not only cash.

ATMs are widely available. Credit cards are widely accepted.

Some banks and shops won't accept foreign cards. Ask your bank if your cards will work in Kuwait.

Change currency only at commercial banks and official exchange bureau.

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## Local travel

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### Road travel

Driving in Kuwait is dangerous. Road conditions vary.

Driving speeds are very high in Kuwait compared to Australia. Most drivers pay little attention to other road users. Drivers generally ignore road safety rules.


Local authorities are increasingly using speed and radar cameras to monitor drivers and enforce traffic rules. Penalties can include deportation and imprisonment for some offences.

It's illegal to leave the scene of an accident before police arrive. If you have an accident:

- stay with the vehicle and don't move it
- call the police on 112

If you don't pay traffic or parking fines on time, authorities may:

- seize your vehicle
- impose a travel ban that prevents you from leaving Kuwait

Pay any traffic or parking fines as soon as possible. Residents of Kuwait can check for and pay traffic fines via the Sahel application or Ministry of Interior [website](#) .

If you must drive in Kuwait:

- check you have adequate insurance
- find out about local traffic laws and practices

**More information:**

- [Driving or riding](#)


### Driving permit


Kuwait has strict requirements for driver's licences.

If you drive without a valid licence, you could be jailed or deported.

If you're a visitor, you can use a valid International Driving Permit (IDP).

Get your IDP before leaving Australia.

If you're a resident in Kuwait, you'll need to obtain a [Kuwaiti driver's licence](#) .

If you plan to drive, get advice from a Kuwaiti [embassy or consulate](#) .

### Taxis

Only use official taxis and limousines. Book transport from a reliable company. Rideshare apps are common.

Some taxis don't use meters, which can result in disputes over the fare. Some taxis only accept cash.

Agree on the fare and form of payment before setting off.

## Public transport

Public transport exists in Kuwait but is limited to residential areas rather than tourist destinations.

### More information:

- [Transport and getting around safely](#)

## Motorcycles

Check if your travel insurance covers you when using a motorbike, quad bike or similar vehicle.

Always wear a helmet.

## Air travel

DFAT doesn't give advice about how safe different airlines or flight paths are.

Safety risks and weather events may cause flight delays and cancellations. Contact your travel agent or airline to confirm your plans.

Airlines and airports can restrict what you can take in your luggage. Regulations may be different to those in Australia. Check with your airline before you travel.

Check [Kuwait's air safety profile](#)  with the Aviation Safety Network.

### More information:

- [Air travel](#)

## Sea travel

Many sea areas in the Gulf region are under territorial dispute.

There are reports of vessel inspections, detentions and personnel arrests.

[Piracy](#) happens in the Gulf. Read the [International Maritime Bureau's piracy reports](#) .

### More information:

- [Travelling by boat](#)

## Border crossings

It's illegal and dangerous to travel near the borders with Iraq and Saudi Arabia without authorisation.

Armed guards patrol border areas.

All travel to Iraq is dangerous. Don't go there.

If you travel to Iraq despite our advice, ensure you have the correct documents authorising your movements.

Only use authorised road border crossing points into Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

### More information:

- [Travel advice for Iraq](#)

## Unexploded weapons

Kuwait has unexploded remnants of war, including landmines, in desert areas and on some beaches.

People have been injured after picking up strange metal or plastic objects.

Don't stray from well-travelled roads.

## Local contacts

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### Emergencies

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Depending on what you need, contact your:

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

### Fire and rescue services

Call 112.

### Medical emergencies

Call 112 or go directly to the hospital.

### Police

Call 112 or visit the nearest police station.

Always get a police report when you report a crime.

Few police officers speak English. If you don't speak Arabic, you may need to find an Arabic speaker to help.

Your insurer should have a 24-hour emergency number.

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## Consular contacts

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The Australian Government aims to provide high quality consular assistance. There are limits to what we can do. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#) to understand how we can assist you overseas.

For consular assistance, contact the Australian Embassy in Kuwait City.

The working week is Sunday to Thursday.

### Australian Embassy, Kuwait City

Dar Al-Awadi Building (12th floor)  
Ahmed Al-Jaber Street,  
Sharq, Kuwait


Phone: (+965) 2232 2422

Email: [consular.kuwaitcity@dfat.gov.au](mailto:consular.kuwaitcity@dfat.gov.au)

Website: [kuwait.embassy.gov.au](http://kuwait.embassy.gov.au) 

X: [@AusAmbKuwait](#) 

Facebook: [Australian Embassy, Kuwait](#) 

Instagram: [@AusEmbKuwait](#) 

The working week is from Sunday to Thursday.

Check the Embassy website for details about opening hours and any temporary closures.

### 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



## United Arab Emirates

### Latest update

**Still current at:** 01 March 2026

**Updated:** 28 February 2026

**Latest update:** Due to the volatile security situation in the region and military strikes in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), we've raised our level of advice for the UAE to do not travel. Retaliatory strikes are occurring following military strikes on Iran. Military conflict in the region may result in widespread movement restrictions, airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions. Australian officials and dependants are sheltering in place during strikes. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice, including instructions to shelter in place.

Demonstrations and protest activity may also occur, and local security situations could deteriorate with little notice.



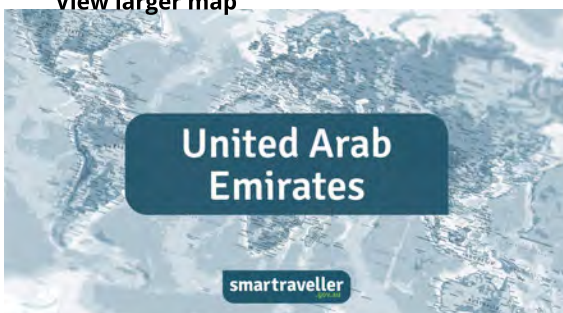
**We now advise:**

**Do not travel to the UAE due to the volatile security situation in the region.**

### Advice levels

**What does this mean? >**

[View larger map](#)



[Do not travel](#) to the United Arab Emirates due to the volatile security situation in the region.

## Overview

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### Safety

- Due to the volatile security situation in the region and military strikes in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), we've raised our level of advice for the UAE to do not travel. Retaliatory strikes are occurring following military strikes on Iran. Military conflict in the region may result in widespread movement restrictions, airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions.
- Australian officials and dependants are sheltering in place during strikes. Australians should shelter in place during strikes. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice. Demonstrations and protest activity may also occur, and local security situations could deteriorate with little notice.
- The US Embassy in the UAE have instructed their staff to shelter in place, and have recommended that American citizens do the same.
- Terrorism is a global threat, including in the UAE. Maintain a high level of security awareness. If there's a security incident, follow the advice of local officials.
- Personal crime is considered low. Pickpocketing and bag snatching are rare but do occur. Drink spiking sometimes happens. Physical and verbal harassment may occur.
- Many areas of the Gulf are sensitive to security issues and territorial disputes. There's also a risk of piracy. If you're planning sea travel, refer to the International Maritime Bureau's piracy reports.
- On 25 February, the Australian Government offered voluntary departures for all dependants of Australian officials posted to the UAE.

Full travel advice: [Safety](#)

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### Health

- Be prepared for extreme weather conditions. From June to September, temperatures can exceed 50°C, and sand and dust storms are common. During periods of extreme heat, it is important to stay out of the sun and drink plenty of water.
- Intense storms can occur between December and May and may lead to flash flooding. Monitor local media and follow the advice of local authorities.
- Cases of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) have been reported. To reduce your risk, avoid contact with camels and any products contaminated with camel secretions.
- Waterborne, foodborne, parasitic and other infectious diseases sometimes occur. Get medical advice if you develop a fever or diarrhoea.
- Red algae or 'red tide' may sometimes affect beaches. This can cause skin and eye irritations, as well as breathing problems. Don't swim in affected water.
- The standard of public medical facilities in major cities is adequate. However, services might not be available in remote areas. You may have to pay upfront before treatment.

Full travel advice: [Health](#)

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### Local laws

- Many things that are acceptable in Australia are illegal in the UAE. It's illegal to insult an ethnic or religious group, the UAE, the royal families/government officials or the UAE flag. Same-sex relationships are illegal and same-sex marriage is not recognised. Familiarise yourself with local rules before you go.
- The UAE has conservative dress and behaviour codes. Dress modestly, especially in the Emirates of Sharjah and Ajman, where Islamic law is enforced.

- There's a zero tolerance for illegal drugs and drug-related offences. Penalties for drug offences include the death penalty or life imprisonment.
- It's illegal to be drunk in public, including at airports across the UAE. It's illegal to consume alcohol in the Emirate of Sharjah (see 'Alcohol' section for more information).
- Be careful when taking photos. It's illegal to photograph airports and transport infrastructure, bridges, government buildings, embassies and palaces. It's also illegal to photograph anyone or post photos of people or their personal belongings (including vehicles) on social media without their consent. This includes people in the background of photos.
- If you have any unresolved criminal charges in the UAE, including unpaid debts, authorities may detain you on arrival, even if you're in transit.
- You'll need a permit from the UAE before undertaking media activity or bringing media equipment into the UAE.
- The UAE doesn't recognise dual nationality. We can't provide consular help if you enter the UAE on a non-Australian passport.

Full travel advice: [Local laws](#)



## Travel

- You won't be allowed to enter the UAE if you have 'XX' in your birthdate or gender in your Australian passport. It must show a day, month and year. Your Australian passport must also include both your first name and last name. If your passport shows only one name you won't be permitted entry.
- Tourist visas are issued on arrival in Abu Dhabi and Dubai for Australian passports holders with more than six months' validity Visit the [UAE Federal E-Governmental Portal](#) [↗](#) for information regarding visas to the UAE.
- If you're travelling on a Diplomatic or official passport, you must obtain a visa before travelling.
- See the latest information for travelling to, from or connecting through [Dubai](#) [↗](#) and [Abu Dhabi](#) [↗](#).
- Emergency passports are not accepted for entry to the UAE.
- Entry and exit conditions can change at short notice. You should contact the nearest embassy or consulate of the UAE for the latest details.

Full travel advice: [Travel](#)



## Local contacts

- The Australian Government aims to provide high quality consular assistance. There are limits to what we can do. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#) to understand how we can assist you overseas.
- For consular help, contact the [Australian Embassy in Abu Dhabi](#) [↗](#) or the [Australian Consulate-General in Dubai](#) [↗](#).
- To stay up to date with local information, follow the Embassy's social media accounts.

Full travel advice: [Local contacts](#)

## Full advice

### Safety

#### Civil unrest and political tension

Due to the security situation in the region and military strikes in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), we've raised our level of advice for the UAE to 'Do Not Travel' (level 4 of 4). Retaliatory strikes have been reported following military strikes on Iran. Australian officials and dependants are sheltering in place during strikes.

Australians should shelter in place during strikes. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice. Military conflict in the region may result in widespread movement restrictions, airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions. Demonstrations and protest activity may also occur, and local security situations could deteriorate with little notice.

Demonstrations in the UAE are rare and must be authorised by the government. Wearing clothing reminiscent of a political cause may be seen as a form of protest. Australians have been detained for wearing the Palestinian Keffiyeh (head scarf) and rainbow colours.

To protect yourself in case of unrest:

- avoid all rallies and protests
- monitor the media for news of possible demonstrations or protests
- be prepared to change your travel plans

**More information:**

- [Protests and civil unrest](#)

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## Terrorism

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Terrorism is a threat worldwide. Terrorist attacks could occur anywhere and at any time. Be alert to possible threats, especially in public places.

The ongoing conflict in the Middle East could lead to an increased threat of attacks against Israeli and Jewish communities in the region.

Several terrorist attacks have happened in the wider Gulf region in recent years. Authorities have in the past arrested several alleged terrorists for possibly planning attacks in the UAE.

Attacks could occur at any time and could target:

- places of worship and religious holidays
- military sites
- transport hubs, including airports
- hotels, clubs, restaurants and malls
- souks (traditional markets)
- outdoor recreation events, including festivals, concerts, and sporting venues

Maintain a high level of security awareness. Follow the advice of local authorities and monitor local media.

If there's a terrorist incident, leave the area if it's safe to do so and follow the instructions of local authorities. Read our general advice on protecting your safety during an [armed conflict](#).

**More information:**

- [Terrorism](#)

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## Crime

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The UAE has a low crime rate. Petty crime, such as pickpocketing and bag snatching, occurs but is rare. Physical and verbal harassment and sexual assaults can also occur.

### Cyber security

You could face cyber threats in any country, anyone is a target. Your devices and data can be stolen, especially when using public Wi-Fi, computers, or Bluetooth. Criminals can use stolen information to conduct scams or to resell your personal information.

The Australian Cyber Security Centre has advice on [how to protect yourself online](#) .

Social media can also be risky in places with social or political tensions or strict laws. People have been arrested for what they posted online. Check the laws of the destination you're travelling to and think about what you post on social media. The Australian Government can't get you out of trouble if you're accused of breaking the law.

**More information:**

- [Cyber security when travelling overseas](#)

Cybercrime and online financial scams are common in the UAE. Criminals can target devices to steal personal and credit card data if you're connected to public/shared Wi-Fi or Bluetooth.

Common Scams include:

- money transfers
- work permits/job offers
- gold purchase
- romance/online dating

The UAE has specific social media laws and regulations. It is important to familiarise yourself with the relevant guidelines for usage within the UAE. Exercise caution when sharing online content and avoid spreading defamatory, misleading, or false information.

## Sexual assault

If you're a victim of sexual assault, find out about support services as quickly as possible from the:

- [Australian Embassy and Consulate-General in the UAE](#) 
- Consular Emergency Centre in Canberra

Consular officers can't provide legal or medical advice. However, they can provide lists of English-speaking service providers who may be able to help.

UAE law places a high burden of proof on the victim. Victims of sexual assault will need to demonstrate that the sexual relations were not consensual, especially when the victim had consumed alcohol or where the alleged attacker was known to the victim.

## Kidnapping

Kidnapping can happen anywhere, even in places that seem safe.

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

### More information:

- [Kidnapping](#)

## Drink spiking

Drink spiking can happen anywhere. Be alert, don't leave your food or drinks alone. Watch when your drink is being mixed. If you [feel unwell](#), tell your friends immediately and get to a safe place. Keep an eye on your friends - if they feel unwell, stay with them. Get [medical help](#) if needed.

## Methanol poisoning

People have died or become very sick from poisoned drinks overseas. This includes Australians. Methanol is highly toxic. As little as one shot can be fatal. Methanol can be added or accidentally created during poor quality alcohol production. Only drink branded, sealed drinks. Get [urgent medical help](#) if you think you've been poisoned.

### More information:

- [Partying safely while overseas](#)

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## Swimming safety

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At the beach, be aware of strong currents and obey warning signs.

Red algae or 'red tide' may sometimes affect beaches. This can cause:

- skin irritations
- eye irritations
- breathing problems

Don't swim in affected water. Check with local authorities about outbreaks.

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## Tours and adventure activities

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Transport and tour operators don't always follow safety and maintenance standards. This includes adventure activities.

If you plan to do a tour or [adventure activity](#):

- check if your travel insurance policy covers it
- ask about and insist on minimum safety requirements
- always use available safety gear, such as life jackets or seatbelts

If proper safety equipment isn't available, use another provider.

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## Extreme weather and natural disasters

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The UAE experiences extremely high temperatures. The hottest months of the year are June to September. The temperature can exceed 50°C.

In extreme heat, stay out of the sun and drink water to avoid dehydration.

Sandstorms and dust storms often happen.

In winter months, morning fog can significantly reduce visibility. This can cause flight delays and road hazards.

Take extra care if you're driving. Plan your travel in advance and follow the advice of local authorities.

### Severe weather

Although they're rare, the UAE can experience severe thunderstorms, strong winds and heavy rain, particularly during spring and autumn.

Flash flooding can cause dangerous driving conditions.

Flash flooding in river canyons (wadis) has caused some deaths in recent years.

In [severe weather](#), stay indoors and avoid driving if possible.


Monitor the media and local government websites, such as:

- the [National Emergency Crisis and Disaster Management Authority](#) 
- the [National Center for Meteorology and Seismology](#) 

The [NCEMA Facebook page](#)  and [NCEMA website](#)  will be updated during a crisis.

### Natural disasters

Earth tremors occur in the UAE, particularly following a major [earthquake](#) elsewhere in the region.

Access more information about natural disasters from the [Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System](#) .

If a [natural disaster](#) happens, follow the advice of local authorities.

## Health

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### Travel insurance

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

It must cover all medical costs overseas, including evacuation. The Australian Government will not pay for these costs.

If you can't afford travel insurance, you shouldn't travel. This is true for everyone, even if you are healthy and fit.

If you don't have insurance, you might have to pay thousands of dollars up front for medical care.

Before you travel, check your policy, make sure:

- you know what activities and medical care your insurance covers, including evacuations
- your insurance covers you for your whole trip, including any stopovers
- you know any exclusions – for example, you might need to pay extra for activities like motorcycling, snow sports or bungee jumping.

#### More information:

- [Travel insurance](#)

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## Physical and mental health

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Think about your health before you travel, especially if you have any medical conditions.

See your doctor or a travel clinic to:

- get a basic check-up
- ask if your travel plans might affect your health
- find out what vaccinations you need.

If you're concerned about your mental wellbeing, or someone else's, read more about [mental health support overseas](#).

**More information:**

- [General health advice](#)
- [Managing your mental health](#)

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## Medications

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Not all medications available in Australia are accessible in other countries. Some medicines may be illegal, even if prescribed by an Australian doctor.

Ensure your [medication](#) is legal overseas. Take enough for your whole trip.

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

- medication names
- your required dosage
- that the medications are for your personal use.

**More information:**

- [Medicines](#)

You can only bring a 3-month supply of medication, whether entering or transiting the UAE.

Authorities have detained or deported travellers for:

- carrying medication to treat HIV/AIDS or hepatitis
- testing positive for HIV/AIDS or hepatitis

Before you leave Australia:

- check if your medication is legal in the UAE by visiting the [Issue of Permit to Import Medicines for Personal Use - Emirates Drug Establishment - EDE Portal](#) [↗](#) and scroll down to 'Resources' for semi-controlled medicine list
- some medications require a permit, you can apply for a permit through the Emirates Drug Establishment website page [Issue of Permit to Import Medicines for Personal Use - Emirates Drug Establishment - EDE Portal](#) [↗](#)
- contact the Emirates Drug Establishment by emailing: [info@ede.gov.ae](mailto:info@ede.gov.ae) or calling +971 800 33784. You may also contact the UAE embassy in the country you are in.
- if needed, have DFAT [authenticate](#) your medical documents

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## Health risks

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### Dengue

Cases of dengue have been reported in the United Arab Emirates.

Dengue is transmitted to humans through mosquito bites. The mosquitoes that spread dengue are active during the day. To protect yourself from disease:

- make sure your accommodation is insect-proof
- always use insect repellent
- wear long, loose, light-coloured clothing

**More information:**

- [Dengue](#) [↗](#)

### Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus

Cases of [Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus \(MERS-CoV\)](#)  have been reported in:

- Saudi Arabia
- Jordan
- Qatar
- Kuwait
- Oman
- the United Arab Emirates


Other countries have reported imported cases from returned travellers.

Avoid contact with camels. Don't consume raw camel milk, undercooked camel meat, or anything contaminated with camel secretions.

Get medical advice if you have a fever, cough, breathing difficulties or diarrhoea.

Ask your doctor about health risks and vaccines before you go.

**More information:**

- [MERS information](#) 
- [Infectious diseases](#)

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## Other health risks

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Waterborne, foodborne, parasitic and other infectious diseases sometimes occur. Get medical advice if you develop a fever or diarrhoea.

Dust storms and sandstorms can make breathing issues worse.

If there's a red algae or red tide alert, follow local warnings. This algal bloom can cause paralytic shellfish poisoning. Avoid shellfish and seafood because they may be affected.

**More information:**

- [Infectious diseases](#)

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## Medical care

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There's no agreement between Australia and UAE for free healthcare. Tourists must pay for all [medical care](#), even if they need to stay in hospital or be evacuated. This can be very expensive. Make sure your [travel insurance](#) covers you. The Australian Government won't pay for these costs.

The standard of public medical facilities in major cities is adequate. However, services might not be available in remote areas.

Several private facilities meet international standards. You can find these in:

- Abu Dhabi
- Al Ain
- Dubai
- Sharjah

Before treating patients, hospitals often ask for:

- guarantee of payment
- proof of medical insurance
- an upfront deposit

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## Local laws

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### Local law

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When you travel to another country, you must follow their laws. Even if they seem strict compared to Australia's. Before you go, learn about the [local laws](#) in that country.

The Australian Government is limited in how and when we can help if you're [arrested overseas](#). We can't get you out of trouble or out of jail. Understand our limits. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#).

Behaviour that could be considered offensive or antisocial, but not criminal, in Australia could violate UAE law. Anyone breaking UAE laws, even without knowing, may face severe punishments.

UAE law applies to you even if you're only transiting and don't leave the airport.

The UAE is a mostly Muslim country. Local laws closely reflect Islamic practices and beliefs.

Sharia or Islamic courts work alongside the civil and criminal courts in the UAE. This can make legal issues and systems complicated.

Even simple legal issues can be complex and take time to be resolved. Custodial sentences are served in local jails.

If you have unresolved criminal charges in the UAE, including unpaid debts, authorities may detain you on arrival, even if you're in transit.

You can enquire about your legal status through the [Abu Dhabi Judicial Department](#) [online enquiry service](#) or through the Government of Dubai Public Prosecutor online enquiry service.

Your UAE Unified Identity Number can be retrieved through the online [Unified Number Enquiry Service](#) [link](#).

## Legal process

If you come to the attention of UAE authorities, your case will be dealt with by the local legal and judicial system. This differs significantly from Australia's legal system.

If you're arrested, authorities may hold you for an unspecified length of time before your case goes to trial. UAE authorities can hold your passport and stop you from leaving the country. Even simple legal issues can take a long time to resolve. Custodial sentences are served in local jails.

If you're going to be deported, you'll be in immigration detention for at least 24 hours before being allowed to leave the UAE.

To get a list of lawyers who can represent you, either:

- download from [Consular Assistance](#) [link](#)
- call the Consular Emergency Centre in Canberra

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

### More information:

- [Arrested or in prison](#)

## Laws in individual emirates

The UAE is made up of 7 emirates, each with its own justice system. Laws, legal procedures and penalties vary between systems.

There's a federal court system with a final court of appeal in Abu Dhabi. This is called the Federal Supreme Court. Dubai and Ras Al Khaimah aren't part of this system.

## Commercial, civil and family law disputes

Australians are often involved in disputes where local firms or courts have taken their passport. This prevents them from leaving the UAE until the dispute is settled.

You can be jailed or stopped from leaving the UAE for offences including:

- having a cheque dishonoured
- not paying bills, including court fines, hotel bills, personal loans and local credit cards

Immigration authorities can refuse you entry if you have a criminal record. It won't matter how long ago the offence took place.

If you travel to the UAE with an active case against you, including an unpaid UAE debt, authorities are likely to detain you on arrival. This applies even if you're only in transit and don't plan to leave the airport. Speak to a lawyer before you travel if you think you might have an unsettled case against you.

Bail is generally not available to non-residents arrested for fraud. You can be jailed until debts are settled.

If you take part in activities involving local legal matters, get professional legal advice. This is particularly relevant for family law matters including:

- divorce
- child custody
- child support

Ask a legal professional about your rights and responsibilities.

If you have children or assets in the UAE, get local legal advice about preparing a local will or registering a foreign will. Information is also available through the [Abu Dhabi Judicial Department Foreign Communities Awareness](#) [link](#).

## Drugs

The UAE has a zero-tolerance policy towards drugs, including for travellers transiting through the country.

Penalties for drug trafficking may include the death penalty, or a sentence up to life imprisonment.

Penalties for having or using illegal drugs include lengthy jail terms and heavy fines. These laws also apply if you're transiting through the UAE.

If illegal drugs are found in blood or urine tests, this is considered possession. It won't matter where or how long ago you consumed the drugs.


You can be charged with possession if trace amounts of drugs are found on your body, clothing or luggage. You can be convicted for 0.05g or less.

Avoid carrying substances that could be mistaken for drugs or drug equipment. This can include, for example, marijuana-flavoured or branded:

- liquor
- tea
- chewing gum
- lollies


Lab testing on suspicious substances could take days or weeks. During this time, authorities could detain you without bail.

**More information:**

- [Carrying or using drugs](#)
- [UAE Government](#) 

**Media activity**

You must obtain permission in advance from the Emirati authorities to undertake media activity relating to the production, transmission or distribution of printed, digital, audio, video or visual information. If you fail to do this, you could be arrested and deported from the UAE.

You can get more information on obtaining the necessary permits to carry out media activity in the UAE and bringing media equipment into the UAE by registering online at the [Media Regulatory Office website](#) .

**Personal conduct**

**Criminal acts**

You can be fined, jailed or deported for:

- insulting other people, the UAE, the royal families, the local government or local officials
- disrespecting the UAE flag
- discriminating against or insulting a racial, ethnic or religious group
- making rude gestures
- making inappropriate or offensive comments on social media
- swearing
- touching another person without their permission

It's illegal to harass women in the UAE. Behaviour that may offend or be considered illegal includes:

- glaring
- ogling or long stares
- unwanted conversation
- stalking
- touching any part of the body

Taking photographs of people, particularly women, without permission can lead to arrest or fines. This also applies to people you've just met.

Posting photos of people or their personal belongings on social media without their consent can be illegal. This includes people in the background of photos.

**Public displays of affection**

You can be arrested for intimate public displays of affection, including kissing. This behaviour can attract the attention of local authorities. See Local customs below.

**Unauthorised preaching**

If you engage in unauthorised preaching or distribute non-Islamic religious material to Muslims, you can be jailed and deported.

If you make offensive comments about Islam either in writing or verbally, you could be jailed or subject to other penalties.

**Social media and behaviour online**

The UAE has strict laws about online behaviour, including comments.

Online behaviour that may be considered a crime includes:

- spreading rumours or gossip
- defamation of an individual or business
- swearing and insulting others
- extortion and making threats or accusations
- posting photos of local incidents, such as building fires or storm damage
- using a fake IP address, such as a Virtual Private Network (VPN), to commit or cover up a crime

Punishments for these crimes include:

- fines
- jail terms
- deportation

Charity and fundraising activities are closely regulated, including when conducted online and via social media. Make sure charity or volunteer organisations are registered with the UAE Government before you take part.

**More information:**

- [Advice for volunteers](#)

**Sex outside of marriage**

Heterosexual sex and cohabitation outside of marriage for individuals over 18 years old have been decriminalised in all Emirates except for Sharjah.

Extra-marital sexual relationships (adultery) is illegal in the UAE. If either person's spouse or parent/guardian files a criminal complaint, then both parties of an extra-marital consensual relationship shall be liable to a jail sentence.

**LGBTQIA+ information**

Same-sex relationships are illegal and may lead to severe punishment, including prison and fines.

Cross-dressing is also illegal.

If you're transgender or intersex, or your gender on your passport doesn't match your appearance, you may:

- be questioned at immigration
- be denied entry into the UAE

If you're travelling on an Australian passport showing 'X' or 'U' (indeterminate, intersex or unspecified) in the gender field, you won't be able to enter or transit the UAE.

**More information:**

- [Advice for LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)

**Prostitution**

Prostitution is illegal in the UAE.

Severe penalties apply to:

- people providing prostitution services
- customers of prostitution services

**Registering births of children born to unmarried parents**

If you're unmarried and fall pregnant or give birth in the UAE and wish to obtain a local birth certificate, both you and your partner will need to either get married or you and/or your partner must singly or jointly acknowledge the child and provide documentation in accordance with the laws of your country.

**Alcohol**

Although a Federal law has decriminalised the use of alcohol, every Emirate has its own guidelines.

The Emirate of Sharjah is 'dry' which means the sale or consumption of alcohol is illegal. You can't carry alcohol in your car if you're:

- driving through Sharjah
- crossing the border from Oman into Sharjah

There are limits on how much duty-free alcohol you can bring in. These limits are strictly enforced.

**Liquor licences**

Liquor licences are still required for residents in Dubai but are no longer required for residents in Abu Dhabi and other Emirates (except for Sharjah) to purchase alcohol for personal consumption.

A liquor licence is only valid in the Emirate that issues it. For example, a liquor licence issued in Ras Al Khaimah isn't valid in Dubai.

**Legal drinking age**

The legal drinking age in Abu Dhabi is 18 years. However, the Ministry of Tourism by-law means hotels can only serve alcohol to people aged over 21 years.

The legal drinking age in Dubai and the northern Emirates, except for Sharjah, is 21 years.

**Drinking in public**

It's illegal to be intoxicated in public outside of licenced venues. You can be arrested. Authorities have arrested travellers at the airport for becoming intoxicated on a flight or while in transit.

Be careful if you're using a taxi when intoxicated. If you have a dispute with a driver or vomit in a taxi, you may be:

- taken directly to a police station
- charged with public intoxication

If you commit a crime after drinking alcohol, you'll probably be charged with both that offence and with intoxication.

Penalties for alcohol-related offences include fines, jail or deportation.

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## Employment

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You must have a valid work permit from the [UAE Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation](#)  for any type of employment.

If you plan to work, sort out terms and conditions or sponsorship before starting. This will minimise the risk of a dispute.

If you get into a dispute, a special department of the UAE Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation can review and help settle your claim.

Your UAE employer may ask to hold your passport as a condition of employment. This is illegal, but not unusual.

An employer can hold your passport for a short time when arranging, renewing or cancelling your visa or work permit. If your passport is held for a longer period, either:

- make a complaint to the [UAE Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation](#) 
- get legal advice

If you've been a resident in the UAE, make sure you cancel your work visa before leaving the country permanently. If you don't, it may seem like you're running away. In this case, you could be arrested if you return to or even transit through the UAE.

You have to take a full medical exam to get a work or residence permit. This includes an HIV/AIDS test. HIV certificates issued by foreign medical authorities aren't accepted.

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## Other legal issues

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### Serious crimes and other types of illegal activities

Serious crimes can attract the death penalty. Serious crimes include:

- murder
- spying
- [terrorism](#)
- treason
- [rape](#)

The [UAE Government](#)  has a list of groups it considers to be terrorist organisations.

If you're associated with such groups, you could be refused entry or arrested and detained.

In the UAE it's illegal to:

- carry weapons, including pocketknives and capsicum or pepper spray
- discriminate through speech, written word or online media
- vandalise religious symbols, rituals or holy rites

Penalties for discriminating and vandalising can include:

- jail terms of 6 months to more than 10 years
- fines of up to AED2 million

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## Law enforcement and military equipment

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You must have written approval from the UAE Ministry of Defence to transport law enforcement or military equipment into or through the UAE.

This equipment includes:

- ammunition
- body armour
- handcuffs
- military equipment
- police equipment
- weapons
- weapon parts and tools

Australians, including those transiting through UAE airports, have been punished for transporting this equipment without written approval. Some have been jailed or deported.

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## Photography and other hobbies

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It's illegal to photograph:

- people without permission
- airports and related transport infrastructure
- bridges
- government buildings, including embassies
- palaces

Taking part in some hobbies, particularly around these sites, can break the law. These include:

- bird-watching
- flying remote-controlled helicopters or planes
- plane-spotting

Register drones with the Civil Aviation Authority of the relevant Emirate before you use them.

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## Driving laws

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It's illegal for residents to drive without a UAE driver's licence once they have residency. Non-residents and travellers must have an International Driving Permit (IDP).

Although common in the UAE, it's illegal to use a mobile phone, eat or drink while driving.

Other illegal activities include:

- jaywalking
- walking on highways
- hitchhiking

It's illegal to drive after drinking alcohol. You may be jailed or fined if you have any alcohol in your blood when driving. These laws are strictly enforced in the UAE.

Police must be called to all road accidents, including single vehicle accidents. It's illegal to leave the scene of a traffic accident.

If you have an accident, don't take photos of the other car without the driver's permission.

## Australian laws

Some Australian laws still apply even if you're in another country. You could be charged in Australia if you break these laws overseas.

**More information:**

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

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## Dual nationality

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The UAE doesn't recognise dual nationality.

Children born in the UAE to Emirati fathers automatically become UAE citizens. They must enter and leave the UAE on UAE passports.

We can't provide consular help if you enter the UAE on a non-Australian passport.

Sharia law may be applied in child custody disputes. Speak to a lawyer about custody disputes and find out if your children could be prevented from leaving the country.

**More information:**

- [Advice for dual nationals](#)

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## Local customs

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### Ramadan

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

Avoid eating, drinking or smoking in public or in front of people who are fasting. Seek local advice to avoid offence.

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

### Dress and behaviour

The UAE is a mostly Muslim country with conservative standards of dress and behaviour. Take care not to offend.

Get familiar with local customs, culture and attitudes before leaving Australia.

Research dress codes for tourist attractions, shopping malls, beaches and other public places. These are often displayed onsite or available on websites.

Dress modestly, especially in Sharjah and Ajman where Islamic law is enforced. Consider clothing that covers your shoulders and knees.

Get local advice if in doubt about appropriate dress.

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## Travel

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### Visas and border measures




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Each country or territory decides its own entry and exit rules, including health border screening measures. To find out what you need to enter a destination, ask their embassy, consulate or immigration office.

### Visas

Australian passport holders are eligible for tourist visa on arrival.

Diplomatic and official passport holders must obtain a visa before travelling.

For visa information, visit the [UAE Federal E-Government Portal](#)  or the [Emirates](#)  or [Etihad Airlines](#)  website before booking your flight.

Entry and exit conditions can change at short notice. Contact your nearest [UAE Embassy or Consulate-General](#)  or the local authorities to confirm your visa and/or residency status and for details about entry permits, currency, customs and quarantine rules.

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### Other formalities

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### Criminal activity

If you have unresolved criminal charges, including unpaid debts in the UAE, authorities may detain you when you arrive. Immigration officials may then transfer you to police custody. This can be the case even if you only plan to transit through the airport.

Immigration authorities can refuse you entry if you have a criminal record. It won't matter how long ago the offence took place.

If you're worried about authorities denying you entry, contact an [UAE embassy or Consulate-General](#)  before you leave Australia.

You may also inquire about your legal status through the Abu Dhabi Judicial Department's online enquiry service or the Government of Dubai Public Prosecutor's online enquiry service.

Your UAE Unified Identity Number can be retrieved through the online Unified Number Enquiry Service.

### Restricted items

It's illegal to import:

- poppy seeds
- pornographic material

Importing pork products requires special approvals.


Authorities may examine and censor or confiscate videos, books and magazines.

It's illegal to carry weapons or replica weapons, including used bullet cartridges, into the UAE.

## Passport

Many countries require your passport to be valid for at least 6 months before entering or departing. This includes for transit.

If your passport expires too soon, you might not be able to travel.

The Australian Government doesn't make these rules. Check your passport's expiry date before you go. If you're not sure, it's a good idea to [get a new passport](#) .

Emergency passports are not accepted for entry to the UAE.

If your Australian passport has 'XX' anywhere in your date of birth, for example, 'XX FEB 1980', you will be refused entry or transit to the UAE. Your passport must have a numerical date of birth, for example, '14 FEB 1980'.

Australian passports which have only one name will be refused entry to the UAE. You must have a name in the both the first and last name fields to enter the UAE.

### Lost or stolen passport

Your passport is valuable and can be used by others to commit crimes.

Don't let anyone trick you into giving it to them. Always keep it in a safe place.

If your passport is lost or stolen, tell the Australian Government:

- In Australia: contact the [Australian Passport Information Service](#) .
- Overseas: contact the nearest [Australian embassy or consulate](#) .

If you're a UAE resident and lose your Australian passport while overseas, contact your nearest UAE embassy. They can give advice on re-entering. Do this before applying for an emergency passport.


If you lose your passport before passing through UAE immigration, you must return to Australia on the next available flight.

Once you're in Australia, you can apply for a full passport. The Australian Embassy can't issue you a new passport if you haven't cleared UAE immigration.

Foreigners must provide their passports for scanning when checking in to a hotel.

If UAE law enforcement take your passport for any reason, make sure they give you a receipt. You'll need the receipt to collect it later and when checking into accommodation.

### Passport with 'X' gender identifier

Australian passports comply with international standards for sex and gender. If your passport has an 'X' in the sex field, we can't guarantee your entry or transit to other countries. Ask the [embassy or consulate of your destinations](#)  if they'll accept your passport with an 'X' gender marker. Check all transit destinations too.

#### More information:

- [LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)

If you're travelling on an Australian passport showing 'X' or (non-binary, indeterminate, intersex, or unspecified) in the sex field, you won't be able to enter or transit through the UAE. You can only enter or transit through the UAE if you carry a passport that shows the sex specified as 'F' (female) or 'M' (male).

## Money

The local currency is the United Arab Emirates Dirham (AED).

Currency exchange outlets and ATMs are readily available throughout the UAE. Credit cards are widely accepted.

You must declare cash above AED60,000 or the equivalent in other currencies. This covers all forms of currency, not only cash.

**More information:**

- [Dubai Customs Services](#) 
- [Abu Dhabi Airport Customs](#) 

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## Local travel

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### Driving permit

If you're on a tourist visa and want to drive, you must get an International Driving Permit before leaving Australia.

### Road travel

When driving, be aware of other dangers, including:

- roaming animals
- drifting sand
- dust storms

Off-road driving can be dangerous. Ensure vehicles are well equipped and properly maintained.

If you're driving in desert areas, travel with at least one other vehicle. Use a GPS and take enough petrol and water.

Land border crossing points may close without notice. If you plan to leave the UAE by road, check the border crossing is open before you depart.

**More information:**

- [Driving or riding](#)

### Sea travel

If you're entering the Gulf area by sea, be aware that many areas are sensitive about security and territory.

Maritime boundaries and the islands of Abu Musa and the Tunbs in the southern Gulf are under dispute between Iran and the UAE.

Relevant authorities have inspected vessels and detained and arrested people. Make enquiries before entering these waters.

**More information:**

- [Going on a cruise](#)
- [Travelling by boat](#)

### Air travel

DFAT doesn't give advice about how safe different airlines or flight paths are.

Safety risks and weather events may cause flight delays and cancellations. Contact your travel agent or airline to confirm your plans.

Airlines and airports can restrict what you can take in your luggage. Regulations may be different to those in Australia. Check with your airline before you travel.

Check the [UAE's air safety profile](#)  with the Aviation Safety Network.

**More information:**

- [Air travel](#)

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## Local contacts

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### Emergencies

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Depending on what you need, contact your:

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

### Fire and rescue services

Call 999.

### Medical emergencies

Call 999.

### Police

Call 999.

Always get a police report when you report a crime.

Your insurer should have a 24-hour emergency number.

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## Consular contacts

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The Australian Government aims to provide high quality consular assistance. There are limits to what we can do. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#) to understand how we can assist you overseas.

For consular assistance, contact:

### Australian Embassy, Abu Dhabi

16th Floor, Nayel & Bin Harmal Tower  
Zayed the First Street  
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Phone: +971 2 401 7500

Email: [abudhabi.embassy@dfat.gov.au](mailto:abudhabi.embassy@dfat.gov.au)

Website: [uae.embassy.gov.au](http://uae.embassy.gov.au) 

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


### Australian Consulate-General, Dubai

25th Floor, Burjuman Centre Office Tower  
Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Road (Trade Centre Road)  
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Phone: +971 4 508 7100

Email: [consular.dubai@ustrade.gov.au](mailto:consular.dubai@ustrade.gov.au)

The working week of the Embassy in Abu Dhabi and the Consulate-General in Dubai is Monday to Friday. This is in line with local practice.

All visitors to the Australian Embassy (Abu Dhabi) and Consulate-General (Dubai) must have an appointment. Check the [Embassy website](#)  for more information, including details about opening hours and any temporary closures.

### 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**



## Latest update

**Still current at:** 28 February 2026

**Updated:** 28 February 2026

**Latest update:** Due to the overall security situation in the region, we've raised our level of advice for Jordan to reconsider your need to travel.

Retaliatory strikes have been reported in the Middle East region following military strikes on Iran. Military conflict in the region may result in widespread movement restrictions, airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice.

Demonstrations and protest activity may also occur, and local security situations could deteriorate with little notice.



**We now advise:**

**Reconsider your need to travel to Jordan overall due to the volatile security situation in the region.**



[View larger map](#)

[Reconsider your need to travel](#) in Jordan overall due to the volatile security situation in the region.

[Reconsider your need to travel](#) to the Syrian and Iraqi border regions due to the unstable security situation.

## Overview



### Safety


- Due to the overall security situation in the region, we've raised our level of advice for Jordan to reconsider your need to travel.
- Retaliatory strikes have been reported in the Middle East region following military strikes on Iran. Military conflict in the region may result in widespread movement restrictions, airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice.
- On 25 February, the Australian Government offered voluntary departures for all dependants of Australian officials posted to Jordan in response to the deteriorating security situation in the Middle East.
- In the event of regional conflict, missiles and drones from outside of Jordan may fail in flight over the Kingdom leading to falling debris. If there are reports of missile or drone attacks, remain indoors until alerted otherwise and avoid contact with any debris.

- Demonstrations and protest activity may occur and local security situations could deteriorate with little notice. Avoid all demonstrations and protests.
- Security is unstable in [Syria](#) and [Iraq](#). Land border crossings could close without notice. Reconsider your need to travel to Jordan's borders with Iraq and Syria, which can be subject to cross-border criminal and politically motivated attacks on security forces and military installations inside Jordan.
- Women may be verbally, sexually and physically harassed or sexually assaulted. Don't make eye contact with or talk to men you don't know. Don't walk or travel alone, especially after dark. Always ride in the back seat of rideshares or taxis.
- Shooting guns to celebrate is illegal but common. It sometimes causes death and injury. Stay indoors and away from windows if people are celebrating with gunfire.

Full travel advice: [Safety](#)



## Health

- There are reports of cases of Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus ([MERS-CoV](#) ) . Avoid consuming products contaminated with camel secretions. Wash hands regularly before and after touching animals.
- Waterborne, foodborne, insect-borne and other infectious diseases are prevalent. They include hepatitis, typhoid, measles and sandfly fever. Drink only boiled or bottled water. Avoid raw or undercooked foods. Ensure your accommodation is insect-proof. Use insect repellent.
- Amman has high-quality private medical services. Outside major cities, health services are basic. Paramedic and ambulance services are basic compared with Australia. You may have to pay up-front. If you're seriously ill or injured, you might need medical evacuation. Ensure your travel insurance covers this.

Full travel advice: [Health](#)



## Local laws



- Many laws differ from laws in Australia, including sex outside marriage, photos of embassies, military or security sites and religious activities. Familiarise yourself before you go. Get professional advice for local legal matters. You may be prevented from leaving the country until issues are resolved.
- Don't use or carry illegal drugs. Penalties for drug offences include life imprisonment. You may face jail terms for possessing small amounts of drugs. Serious crimes attract the death penalty. These include terrorism, murder, treason and rape of a minor. Some offences, such as causing personal injury or property damage, are punishable by hard labour.
- Drones are not allowed to be brought into Jordan without prior approval from the Jordanian authorities. Unapproved items will be confiscated and held at the airport. The authorities will provide advice on the collection process.
- Respect the Islamic holy month of Ramadan. During Ramadan, it's illegal to eat, drink and smoke in public during daylight hours.

- If you're a dual national, authorities will consider you Jordanian. Men aged between 18 and 40 may need to register for military service.

Full travel advice: [Local laws](#)





## Travel

- You'll need a visa to visit Jordan. Multiple visa options are available on the [Ministry of Interior](#)  webpage, depending on your travel requirements.
- If you're visiting Jordan on a 30-day e-Visa and intend to stay for more than 14 days, you must register with the nearest police station within 14 days of arrival. If you're visiting for tourism and staying for at least 3 nights, you can purchase a Jordan Pass before you arrive.
- Entry and exit conditions can change at short notice. Contact the nearest Embassy of Jordan for the latest details. For entry into Jordan, a passport with a validity of at least 6 months and a visa are required. Visa fees must be paid in cash at land border crossings.
- If you're travelling with an Australian Emergency passport, entry into Jordan is not permitted. You're only allowed to transit through Jordan on an Australian Emergency passport.
- Australian-Jordanian dual nationals are treated as Jordanian. This will limit your access to consular assistance.
- If you're departing Israel for Jordan, check the latest public information from local authorities in both countries to determine if land border crossings are open. Land border crossings may close without notice and for an unknown period of time. Be prepared for delays when crossing into Jordan.
- Australians who were previously in Jordan under a refugee status determination should check with the Jordanian [Public Security Directorate](#)  on whether they can legally re-enter Jordan.

Full travel advice: [Travel](#)



## Local contacts

- The Australian Government aims to provide high quality consular assistance. There are limits to what we can do. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#) to understand how we can assist you overseas.
- For consular help, contact the [Australian Embassy in Amman](#) .
- To stay up to date with local information follow the [Australian Embassy Jordan](#)  on social media.

Full travel advice: [Local contacts](#)

## Full advice

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### Safety

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#### Civil unrest and political tension

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The security situation in the Middle East is unpredictable. Conflicts in the Middle East could lead to an increase in tensions elsewhere in the region and may result in airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice.

#### Demonstrations and protests

Demonstrations and protests occur frequently, including in Amman and regional centres.

They're prompted by:

- domestic, regional and international events
- political or economic issues
- politically significant anniversaries

Most have been peaceful. However, public protests and events that draw large groups of people can turn violent.

Demonstrations often occur after Friday noon prayers but can happen at any time. These often result in road closures.

They're likely to occur:

- near large mosques, government ministries and diplomatic missions
- at major intersections
- in downtown areas of Amman

To stay safe:

- avoid all demonstrations, protests and large public gatherings
- check local media for updates and traffic advisories
- avoid possible unrest on national days or commemorations
- change your plans if there are disruptions
- follow the advice of local authorities

Contact your airline, travel agent or insurer for help if there are disruptions.

#### More information:

- [Protests and civil unrest](#)

#### Border regions

Security is unstable in [Syria](#) and [Iraq](#). Land border crossings could close without notice.

There's frequent military activity near Jordan's borders with these countries. This includes shelling, gunfire and drone attacks from smugglers and militias in Syria and Iraq.

People have died or been injured on the Jordanian side of the border with Syria. Jordan has deployed extra security forces to the area.

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## Terrorism



Terrorism is a threat worldwide. Terrorist attacks could occur anywhere and at any time. Be alert to possible threats, especially in public places.

Jordanian authorities have stopped terrorist plots in recent years.

Possible targets include:

- places of worship or religious holidays
- hotels, clubs, restaurants and cafes
- markets and shopping malls
- outdoor recreation events, including festivals, concerts, and sporting venues
- public transport, airports and railway hubs

Foreigners living have been targeted at:

- embassies
- expatriate housing areas and schools
- outdoor events

To stay safe:

- be aware while in places known to be possible targets
- report suspicious activities or items to the police
- take official warnings seriously
- monitor local media for breaking events and adjust your plans based on new information
- follow the instructions of local authorities

If there's a terrorist incident, leave the area if it's safe to do so and follow the instructions of local authorities.

**More information:**

- [Terrorist threats](#)
- [Armed conflict](#)

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## Crime



Petty crime includes robbery with violence, bag snatching, theft from hotels and vehicles, and assault. Be alert in tourist areas, especially to pickpocketing, bag snatching and assault by unlicensed guides. Scammers operate in tourist areas. They often target single women. They promise companionship, marriage or offer joint business ideas.

People have reported [robbery with violence](#) and aggressive begging practices by organised criminal groups.

### Kidnapping

Kidnapping can happen anywhere, anytime, including in destinations that are typically at lower risk.

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

**More information:**

- [Kidnapping](#)

### Scams and fraud

Scammers work in tourist areas. They often target single women. They promise companionship or marriage.

Some scammers offer joint business ideas. Their aim is to take large sums of money from their target. Jordanian laws can make legal action difficult. Scams involving sex outside of marriage may not be investigated by local authorities due to local laws and cultural differences. See [Local laws](#).

Authorities report credit card fraud. This includes the use of card-skimming machines.

To avoid being scammed:

- keep your credit card in sight during transactions
- check for card-skimming devices before you use an ATM
- be wary of friendly strangers, especially if the person mentions marriage or business ventures

## Firearms

Firearms are more common than in Australia. Criminals sometimes use firearms. Shooting guns to celebrate is illegal but still occurs. It sometimes causes death and injury.

Stay indoors and away from windows if people are celebrating with gunfire.

## Female travellers

While all travellers may encounter risks abroad, women travelling alone or in female-only groups may face additional challenges and safety concerns in certain countries or cultural contexts.

Women are often subject to harassment. This includes leering, unwanted physical contact and stalking.

Incidents of sexual assault against foreign women are reported. Friendliness can be misinterpreted.

If you're a woman:


- avoid eye contact and talking to men you don't know
- avoid walking or travelling alone, particularly after dark or in lonely places
- always ride in the back seat of rideshares or taxis, especially when travelling alone
- pay attention to your surroundings, and leave if you feel uncomfortable
- report sexual assault incidents to the police

### More information:

- [Women travellers](#)

## Cyber security

You could face cyber threats in any country, anyone is a target. Your devices and data can be stolen, especially when using public Wi-Fi, computers, or Bluetooth. Criminals can use stolen information to conduct scams or to resell your personal information.

The Australian Cyber Security Centre has advice on [how to protect yourself online](#) .

Social media can also be risky in places with social or political tensions or strict laws. People have been arrested for what they posted online. Check the laws of the destination you're travelling to and think about what you post on social media. The Australian Government can't get you out of trouble if you're accused of breaking the law.

### More information:

- [Cyber security when travelling overseas](#)

## Drink spiking

Drink spiking can happen anywhere. Be alert, don't leave your food or drinks alone. Watch when your drink is being mixed. If you [feel unwell](#), tell your friends immediately and get to a safe place. Keep an eye on your friends - if they feel unwell, stay with them. Get [medical help](#) if needed.

## Methanol poisoning

People have died or become very sick from poisoned drinks overseas. This includes Australians. Methanol is highly toxic. As little as one shot can be fatal. Methanol can be added or accidentally created during poor quality alcohol production. Only drink branded, sealed drinks. Get [urgent medical help](#) if you think you've been poisoned.

### More information:

- [Partying safely while overseas](#)

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## Tours and safety



Transport and tour operators don't always follow safety and maintenance standards. This includes adventure activities.

If you plan to do an [adventure activity](#):

- check if your travel insurance policy covers it
- ask about and insist on minimum safety requirements
- always use available safety gear, such as life jackets or seatbelts

If proper safety equipment isn't available, use another provider.

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## Extreme weather and natural disasters



Jordan is in an active [earthquake](#) area.

Rock falls and landslides can occur, especially in valleys.

There can be sand or dust storms, especially in desert areas. Snowstorms can happen at higher elevations, including in Amman.


The rainy season runs from November to March and can cause flash [flooding](#) . Valleys (wadis) are most at risk. Recent flooding has closed roads, including major highways. Monitor weather conditions before commencing road travel. Follow the advice of local authorities and avoid flood waters.

There have been instances of flash flooding outside of the rainy season. In May, an estimated 1,785 tourists were evacuated due to flash flooding in Petra.

Dust storms can also occur at short notice. The decreased visibility can be dangerous while driving, and the storms can also aggravate pre-existing allergies or respiratory conditions.

If a [natural disaster](#) or [severe weather](#) happens:

- keep your passport in a safe place

- closely monitor local media and other sources such as the [Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System](#) 
- follow the advice of local authorities
- stay in contact with friends and family

## Health

### Travel Insurance

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

It must cover all medical costs overseas, including evacuation. The Australian Government will not pay for these costs.

If you can't afford travel insurance, you shouldn't travel. This is true for everyone, even if you are healthy and fit.

If you don't have insurance, you might have to pay thousands of dollars up front for medical care.

Before you travel, check your policy, make sure:

- you know what activities and medical care your insurance covers, including evacuations
- your insurance covers you for your whole trip, including any stopovers
- you know any exclusions – for example, you might need to pay extra for activities like motorcycling, snow sports or bungee jumping.

**More information:**

- [Travel insurance](#)

### Physical and mental health

Think about your health before you travel, especially if you have any medical conditions.

See your doctor or a travel clinic to:

- get a basic check-up
- ask if your travel plans might affect your health
- find out what vaccinations you need.

If you're concerned about your mental wellbeing, or someone else's, read more about [mental health support overseas](#).

**More information:**

- [General health advice](#)
- [Managing your mental health](#)

## Medication



Not all medications available in Australia are accessible in other countries. Some medicines may be illegal, even if prescribed by an Australian doctor.

Ensure your [medication](#) is legal overseas. Take enough for your whole trip.

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

- medication names
- your required dosage
- that the medications are for your personal use.

**More information:**

- [Medicines](#)

If you plan to bring medication, check if it's legal in Jordan by contacting the [Jordan Food and Drug Administration](#) . Take enough legal medicine for your trip.

## Health risks



### Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus

Cases of [Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus \(MERS-CoV\)](#) have been reported in:

- Jordan
- Saudi Arabia
- Qatar
- Kuwait
- Oman
- the United Arab Emirates

Other countries have reported cases from returned travellers.

Avoid consuming raw camel milk, undercooked camel meat, or anything contaminated with camel secretions.

Wash your hands regularly with soap and water, including before and after touching animals. Maintain good personal hygiene.

Get medical advice if you have a fever, cough, breathing difficulties or diarrhoea.

**More information:**

- [MERS information card](#)

### Other health risks

Waterborne, foodborne, insect-borne and other infectious diseases are widespread. These include:

- [hepatitis](#)
- [typhoid](#)
- [measles](#)
- [brucellosis](#)
- [leishmaniasis \(sandfly fever\)](#)
- [rabies](#)
- [schistosomiasis](#)

Serious outbreaks sometimes occur.

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
- make sure your accommodation is insect-proof
- use insect repellent
- wear long, loose, light-coloured clothing

Get medical advice if you have a fever or diarrhoea.

Ask your doctor about health risks and vaccines before you go.

**More information:**

- [Infectious diseases](#)

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## Medical care



There's no agreement between Australia and Jordan for free healthcare. Tourists must pay for all [medical care](#), even if they need to stay in hospital or be evacuated. This can be very expensive. Make sure your [travel insurance](#) covers you. The Australian Government won't pay for these costs.

Amman has high-quality private medical services. Outside major cities, Jordan's health services are basic.

Paramedic and ambulance services are basic compared with Australia.

If you need treatment, healthcare providers may ask you to pay upfront. This may happen even if you have travel insurance.

If you become seriously ill or injured, you may need to be evacuated to a place with better facilities.

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## Local laws

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### Local law



When you travel to another country, you must follow their laws. Even if they seem strict compared to Australia's. Before you go, learn about the [local laws](#) in that country.

The Australian Government is limited in how and when we can help if you're [arrested overseas](#). We can't get you out of trouble or out of jail. Understand our limits. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#).

### Drugs

Penalties for drug offences are severe and include life in jail.

Penalties for possessing even a small amount of drugs include mandatory jail terms.


**More information:**

- [Carrying or using drugs](#)

## Family and business law

Jordan's family laws are different from Australia's. These include laws about divorce, child custody and child support.

If you're involved in family and business issues, get professional legal advice. Know your rights and responsibilities under local laws.

If you want to [get married](#) in Jordan, check the legal requirements before you travel. Contact the [Jordanian Embassy in Canberra](#)  for advice.

## Criminal law

If you commit a crime, punishments can be harsh by Australian standards. For certain crimes, authorities can sentence you to death though there is currently a moratorium on the death penalty in place. These include terrorism, murder, treason and rape of a minor.

You may face hard labour for some offences, such as causing personal injury or property damage.

Authorities may detain you if you do any of the following:

- have consensual sex outside of marriage, particularly with Jordanian nationals, even if in a de-facto relationship or civil union recognised in Australia
- take photos of embassies, military or security sites
- injure a pedestrian while driving a car
- take part in missionary work, preaching or other religious activities that are against local rules
- procure or traffic prohibited drugs

Research local laws before you travel.

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## Australian laws



Some Australian laws still apply even if you're in another country. You could be charged in Australia if you break these laws overseas.

**More information:**

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

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## Dual nationality



If you're a dual national, you'll be considered Jordanian by law while.

The government has reactivated compulsory military service. All males aged 18 to 40, including dual nationals, need to register for military service. You need to then postpone your service each year.

If you're eligible and don't register, authorities may stop you from leaving Jordan.

**More information:**

- [Dual nationals](#)

## Local customs



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

It's illegal to eat, drink and smoke in public during daylight hours in Ramadan. If you're not fasting, avoid eating, drinking or smoking in front of people who are.

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

### Other local customs

Local customs are conservative.

These activities are not socially acceptable and may offend:

- public affection between couples
- unmarried couples living together or sharing accommodation
- same-sex relationships
- taking photos of people without their consent

Other cultural and social rules can vary between regions of Jordan. Take care not to offend. If in doubt, seek local advice.

#### More information:

- [Advice for LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)

## Travel


### Visas and border measures




Each country or territory decides its own entry and exit rules, including health border screening measures. To find out what you need to enter a destination, ask their embassy, consulate or immigration office.

#### Tourist Visas

If you're visiting Jordan on a 30-day e-Visa and intend to stay for more than 14 days, you must register with the nearest police station within 14 days of arriving in the country. If you don't, you will be fined JOD 200, which must be paid at the border or airport before you depart.

If you're visiting for tourism and staying for at least 3 nights, you can purchase a Jordan Pass before you arrive. The Jordan Pass provides a one-month tourist visa. More details are available on the [Jordan Tourism Board](#)  website. If you have a Jordan Pass, you don't need to register with the police even if you are staying for more than 14 days.

For more information on visa options, visit the [Ministry of Interior](#)  webpage.

Single-entry visas valid for 30 days can be obtained at Amman's Queen Alia International Airport or at any border crossing. The visa fee must be paid for in cash at land border crossings. Exchange services and card facilities are only available at the airport, not at the land crossings.


## Long term visas

Travellers entering Jordan on long-term or multiple-entry visas issued by the Ministry of the Interior must register their residency within 14 days of arrival.

You need to arrange a visa in advance if:

- you plan to stay for more than 30 days
- you're going to Jordan for a purpose other than tourism, such as work or study.


## Border measures

Entry and exit conditions can change at short notice. Contact the nearest [Embassy of Jordan](#)  for details about visas, currency, customs and entry rules.

Jordan's international airports are open to commercial flights. Land and sea crossings are also open.

Monitor government announcements and media sources and follow the advice of local authorities.

## Border with Israel

Some land border crossings from Israel into Jordan (Sheikh Hussein, Allenby Bridge, and Aqaba) are scheduled to be opened daily, but crossings may close without notice and for an unknown period of time. Be prepared for delays when crossing into Jordan. If you're departing Israel to Jordan, check [Jordanian Border Crossings](#)  for regular opening times and also check the latest public information from local authorities in both Israel and Jordan to determine if border crossings are open before travel.

For details about travel to the West Bank, read the travel advice for [Israel](#).

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

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## Other formalities

You must comply with additional rules for travellers if you stay more than 30 days. You must register with the police. You may also need to have medical and HIV tests.

Under Jordanian law, a husband can prevent his wife and children from leaving Jordan. This is the case even if they're Australian citizens. See [Local laws](#).

You need to pay an exit tax at all border crossings except airports, if you overstay your 30 day visa.

Some countries in the region may refuse you entry if you've been to Israel. Authorities may stop you from entering if you have entry and exit stamps from border crossings. They may also stop you if your luggage has baggage tags showing you've been to Israel.

## Yellow fever vaccination

You need a valid yellow fever vaccination certificate to enter Jordan if you've travelled through or from an area with a risk or transmission. Some airlines may want to see the certificate when you leave.

Find out about returning to Australia after [exposure to yellow fever](#) .

### More information:

- [Countries with a risk of yellow fever](#)  (PDF 253KB)

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## Passport

## Validity

Many countries require your passport to be valid for at least 6 months before entering or departing. This includes for transit.

If your passport expires too soon, you might not be able to travel.

The Australian Government doesn't make these rules. Check your passport's expiry date before you go. If you're not sure, it's a good idea to [get a new passport](#) .

If you travel with an Australian Emergency passport, you may be allowed to transit through and exit from Jordan. You must confirm this with your airline or your closest [Embassy of Jordan](#) . Entry into Jordan with an Australian Emergency passport is not permitted.

## Lost or stolen passport


Your passport is valuable and can be used by others to commit crimes.

Don't let anyone trick you into giving it to them. Always keep it in a safe place.

If your passport is lost or stolen, tell the Australian Government:

- In Australia: contact the [Australian Passport Information Service](#) .
- Overseas: contact the nearest [Australian embassy or consulate](#) .

## Passport with 'X' gender identifier

Australian passports comply with international standards for sex and gender. If your passport has an 'X' in the sex field, we can't guarantee your entry or transit to other countries. Ask the [embassy or consulate of your destinations](#)  if they'll accept your passport with an 'X' gender marker. Check all transit destinations too.

### More information:

- [LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)

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## Money



The local currency is the Jordanian Dinar (JOD). Declare all amounts over JOD10,000 or equivalent on arrival. This covers all forms of currency, not only cash.

ATMs are available throughout Amman and in other major cities. It's harder to find ATMs in rural areas. Most petrol stations on major roads offer ATMs.

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## Local travel



There's a danger of unexploded ordnance, including landmines, along Jordan's borders. Known minefields are usually fenced and marked. These warnings may not be obvious.

Reconsider travel to areas near the borders with Syria and Iraq due to the unstable security situation.

Seek local advice if travelling near Jordan's borders. See more information in 'Land borders' above.

## Driving permit

To drive you need both:

- a valid Australian driver's licence (digital driver's licences may not be accepted)
- an International Driving Permit (IDP)

Get your IDP before you leave Australia.

### More information:

- [Driving or riding](#)

## Road travel

Road accidents are common.

Roads are dangerous at night. In rural areas, stray livestock and unlit vehicles are common.

Incidents of road rage occur. They can escalate quickly, particularly if someone is injured.

Road travel in remote desert areas is very risky. Isolation, distance from towns and lack of phone service can make it difficult to obtain assistance. Even routine vehicle breakdowns can be dangerous.

By law:

- vehicles must carry an extinguisher and a warning triangle
- drivers involved in a motor vehicle accident, no matter how minor, must remain at the scene until traffic police have attended

Call police on 911. You can ask for an English-speaking operator.

If you travel in remote desert areas, take enough food and water in case your vehicle breaks down. Crime has been known to occur in isolated areas; be careful when speaking to others.

### More information:

- [Driving or riding](#)

## Motorcycles

Avoid using motorbikes. It's dangerous due to poor driving and road standards.

Check with your travel insurer if you're covered to ride a motorcycle.

Always wear a helmet.

## Taxis

Use only licensed taxis or reputable ride-sharing or limousine services. Arrange these through your hotel.

Avoid taxis that tout for business outside airports, hotels and tourist attractions. They often try to charge high prices.

Authorities report taxi drivers have seriously assaulted lone female passengers. If you're a woman, always sit in the back.

## Public transport

Buses can be crowded. It's worse on holidays and during peak times. Safety standards are not the same as in Australia.

### More information:

- [Transport and getting around safely](#)

## Sea travel

International cruise ships visit the port of Aqaba on the Red Sea.

### More information:

- [Going on a cruise](#)

## Air travel

DFAT doesn't give advice about how safe different airlines or flight paths are.

Safety risks and weather events may cause flight delays and cancellations. Contact your travel agent or airline to confirm your plans.

Airlines and airports can restrict what you can take in your luggage. Regulations may be different to those in Australia. Check with your airline before you travel.

Flights to and from Jordan may fly over Syria, where ongoing conflict could increase risks to civil aviation. Civil aviation authorities in a number of countries do not allow airlines from those countries to fly in Syrian airspace. For more information, see [air travel](#) and check with airlines before booking. Flight paths are subject to change. Check with your airline or travel agent for updates and flight options.

### More information:

- [Air travel](#)

## Local contacts

### Emergencies

Depending on what you need, contact your:

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

### Fire and rescue services

Call 911. You can ask for an English-speaking operator.

### Medical emergencies

Call 911. You can ask for an English-speaking operator.

### Police

Call 911. You can ask for an English-speaking operator.

Always get a police report when reporting a crime.

Your travel insurer should have a 24-hour emergency number.

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## Consular contacts

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The Australian Government aims to provide high quality consular assistance. There are limits to what we can do. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#) to understand how we can assist you overseas.

For consular assistance, contact:

### Australian Embassy

41 Kayed Al Armouti Street  
Abdoun Al Janoubi  
Amman, Jordan

Phone: +962 6 580 7000

Email: [consular.amman@dfat.gov.au](mailto:consular.amman@dfat.gov.au)

Website: [jordan.embassy.gov.au](http://jordan.embassy.gov.au)

Facebook: [Australian Embassy in Jordan](#)

X: [@AusAmbJO](#)

Opening hours are 8:30am until 4:00pm Sunday to Thursday.

Check the Embassy website for details about opening hours and any temporary closures.

### 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:** [Claire Rochecouste](#)  
**Cc:** [Anna Oldmeadow](#); s 22(1)(a)(ii); [Harinder Sidhu](#); [Elizabeth McGregor](#); [Paul Griffiths](#); s 22(1)(a)(ii); [Miles Armitage](#)  
**Subject:** Re: MinSub for approval: Saudi Arabia TA increase [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Sunday, 1 March 2026 4:33:44 PM

**OFFICIAL**

Dear Claire

Thank you. I can confirm the Foreign Minister has reviewed this submission and agreed with the Department's recommendation regarding the travel advice for Saudi Arabia. The paperwork will follow when possible.

Kind regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** Claire Rochecouste <Claire.Rochecouste@dfat.gov.au>  
**Sent:** 01 March 2026 16:13  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au  
**Cc:** Anna Oldmeadow <Anna.Oldmeadow@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; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; Harinder Sidhu <Harinder.Sidhu@dfat.gov.au>; Elizabeth McGregor <Elizabeth.McGregor@dfat.gov.au>; Paul Griffiths <Paul.Griffiths@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; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; Miles Armitage <Miles.Armitage@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au  
**Subject:** MinSub for approval: Saudi Arabia TA increase [SEC=OFFICIAL] (ii)

**OFFICIAL**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

MinSub proposing TA increase for Saudi Arabia to level 3, cleared by FAS CCD in consultation with FAS MAD, HOM Riyadh and DSD.

HOM is in copy and will keep Saudi counterparts informed.

Kind regards,  
 Claire

**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)

**Executive Assistant** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
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OFFICIAL



## Saudi Arabia

### Latest update

**Still current at:** 01 March 2026

**Updated:** 01 March 2026

**Latest update:** Due to the overall security situation in the region, we've raised our level of advice for Saudi Arabia to reconsider your need to travel. Retaliatory strikes are occurring across the Middle East region following military strikes on Iran. Airspace closures and flight disruptions are occurring across the region and may impact flights globally, causing delays and cancellations. Contact your airline to confirm your flights.

Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice. See our general advice on protecting your safety during an armed conflict (see 'Safety').

**! We now advise:**

**Reconsider your need to travel to Saudi Arabia overall due to the volatile security situation in the region.**

**Higher levels apply in some areas.**

### Advice levels

**What does this mean? >**

[View larger map](#)



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[Reconsider your need to travel](#) to Saudi Arabia overall due to the volatile security situation in the region.

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[Do not travel](#) to areas within 30km of the border with Yemen due to ongoing conflict in Yemen.

## Overview

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### Safety

- Due to the overall security situation in the region, we've raised our level of advice for Saudi Arabia to reconsider your need to travel. Retaliatory strikes are occurring across the Middle East region following military strikes on Iran. Airspace closures and flight disruptions are occurring across the region and may impact flights globally, causing delays and cancellations. Contact your airline to confirm your flights.
- Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice. See our general advice on [protecting your safety during an armed conflict](#).
- The US Embassy in Saudi Arabia has advised its personnel and American citizens in the Kingdom to exercise increased caution and limit any non-essential travel to military installations in the region.
- Demonstrations and protests are illegal in Saudi Arabia and there may be severe penalties for participation. Avoid all demonstrations and protests should they occur.
- Terrorist attacks could occur anywhere and at any time. Avoid possible targets such as energy infrastructure. Be alert at places frequented by foreigners and at large-scale entertainment events. Take official warnings seriously.
- Crime rates are low, but theft can happen, especially in crowded places and from vehicles. Physical, verbal and sexual harassment can also occur.
- Be prepared for extreme weather during the hottest months, between June and September when temperatures can exceed 50°C. Sand and dust storms occur regularly. Follow advice of local authorities.
- Driving can be dangerous due to high speeds and reckless behaviour on the road. The annual road death toll is high.

Full travel advice: [Safety](#)

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### Health

- Cases of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) have been reported. Avoid contact with camels or products contaminated with camel secretions.
- Sandstorms and dust storms can cause allergies and breathing problems. Discuss your travel plans with a doctor if you have an existing condition.

Full travel advice: [Health](#)

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### Local laws

- Many laws in Saudi Arabia are different to those in Australia. If you're detained or arrested, ask the Saudi authorities to inform the Australian Embassy in Riyadh.
- It's illegal to mock, provoke or question public order, religious values or public morals. Criticising Saudi Arabia, the royal family, the leadership or Islam is also against the law. These laws extend to social media posts, even if posted many years ago and outside Saudi Arabia. Foreigners have been sentenced to decades in prison for offensive tweets made outside Saudi Arabia years before their visit to the country.

- Saudi Arabia has strict laws on relationships and LGBTQIA+ issues. It's against the law for unmarried couples to live together or to have sex outside marriage. Public displays of affection between men and women or people of the same sex are also illegal. Punishment may include fines and/or imprisonment and the death penalty. Get professional advice for local legal matters. You may be prevented from leaving the country until issues are resolved.
- It's illegal to possess, consume, produce or traffic drugs in Saudi Arabia. Penalties for drug offences are severe and can include imprisonment or the death penalty. It's also illegal to buy, sell, import, carry and consume alcohol. The penalties are also severe and can include imprisonment.
- In Saudi Arabia, men and women should dress modestly in public. Cover your shoulders and knees and avoid tight-fitting clothes or clothes with profane language or images.

Full travel advice: [Local laws](#)



## Travel

- You can apply for a tourist visa online or on arrival. Check the [Saudi eVisa](#) website for current information on tourist visas. A visa does not guarantee your entry to Saudi Arabia. Check visa conditions before your arrival.
- All Saudi visa holders of Muslim faith are permitted to perform Umrah at any time throughout the year, except around Hajj time, when only Hajj visa/permit holders can enter Makkah. Monitor the media for information about the dates the Hajj time starts.
- Saudi Hajj and Umrah Ministry have launched the 'Nusuk' platform to register and facilitate pilgrim procedures for both Umrah and Hajj. A permit must be obtained to perform Hajj, Umrah and to visit the Rawda Al Sharifa. The permit is obtained via the [Nusuk Hajj](#) and [Nusuk Umrah](#) portals.

Full travel advice: [Travel](#)



## Local contacts

- The Australian Government aims to provide high quality consular assistance. There are limits to what we can do. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#) to understand how we can assist you overseas.
- For consular help, contact the [Australian Embassy in Riyadh](#).
- Follow the Embassy's social media channels for local information (see 'Local contacts').

Full travel advice: [Local contacts](#)

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## Full advice

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## Safety

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### Terrorism

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Terrorism is a threat worldwide. Terrorist attacks could occur anywhere and at any time. Be alert to possible threats, especially in public places.

There have been several terrorist attacks in the Gulf region in recent years. These have occurred at places visited by foreigners. Take official warnings seriously. In case of an attack, follow the advice of local authorities.

Maintain a high level of security awareness.

Attacks could occur at any time and could target:

- public places, including shopping malls, markets, restaurants, hotels, recreational facilities and mosques
- military sites
- tourist sites, entertainment events and crowded public places
- embassies and consulates
- locations foreigners may visit

If there's a terrorist incident, leave the area if it's safe to do so and follow the instructions of local authorities.

Read our general advice on protecting your safety during an [armed conflict](#).

**More information:**

- [Terrorism](#)

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## Civil unrest and political tension

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The political situation within Saudi Arabia is currently stable.

Retaliatory strikes are occurring in several countries across the Middle East region, following military strikes on Iran. Airspace closures and flight disruptions are occurring across the region and may impact flights globally, causing delays and cancellations. Contact your airline to confirm your flights.

Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice. See our general advice on [protecting your safety during an armed conflict](#) [↗](#).

Ongoing hostilities pose serious security risks across the region. There are reports of military debris falling in various locations.

Military tensions remain in neighbouring Yemen. Missiles, explosive-laden drones and explosive-laden boats have targeted civilian infrastructure in Saudi Arabia, including ports and airports. Most attacks have been intercepted by the Saudi military.

Some of these attacks occur close to the Yemen border, especially in the provinces of Jazan, Najran and Aseer (including Abha). Urban centres in the Eastern Province have been targeted, in addition to oil infrastructure in that province. The capital Riyadh, and cities on the Red Sea, such as Jeddah and Yanbu, have also been targeted in the past. Other areas may be targeted from time to time.

Targets have included:

- urban areas
- oil infrastructure
- military bases
- government facilities
- ports
- public facilities, such as airports

Such attacks may continue. The frequency of attacks vary and not all individual attacks are always widely publicised.

To stay safe in the event of an attack:

- if you hear a loud explosion or if sirens are activated, immediately seek cover
- stay away from windows or openings.
- seek shelter in the centre of the building at the lowest level possible
- be aware that if an incoming missile or drone is intercepted, falling debris can pose a risk
- after an attack, stay away from any debris
- follow the advice of local authorities and monitor the media for emerging threats

## Demonstrations and protests

Demonstrations are illegal, and any large spontaneous gatherings are unusual. You should avoid any demonstration or protest activity if it occurs. Penalties for participating in demonstrations or protests may be severe.

**More information:**

- [Protests and civil unrest](#)

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## Kidnapping

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Kidnapping can happen anywhere, anytime, including in destinations that are typically at lower risk.

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

**More information:**

- [Kidnapping](#)

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## Crime

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The overall crime rate in Saudi Arabia is low. Petty crime can occur, including in crowded places, shopping malls and from vehicles.


Protect yourself from crime:

- be alert to petty thieves while in crowded places
- carry only what you need – leave other valuables in a secure place
- keep your vehicle doors and accommodation locked
- take care when travelling outside major cities
- be alert to suspicious behaviour

**Sexual assault**

If you are [sexually assaulted](#), you may face detention, arrest or criminal prosecution for reporting the incident to local police or when seeking medical help.

If you're a victim of sexual assault, contact the Australian Embassy in Riyadh on +966 11 2500 970, after hours calls will be redirected to the 24-hour Consular Emergency Centre in Canberra:

- +61 2 6261 3305 (if calling from overseas)
- 1300 555 135 (if calling within Australia)
- [Australian Embassy in Riyadh](#) 

Consular officers can't provide legal or medical advice. However, they can provide lists of English-speaking service providers who may be able to help. See 'Local contacts'.

If you're attending major entertainment events such as the MDLBEAST Music Festival, you may need to take extra precautions, particularly as a woman.

Risks include:

- unwanted attention, groping and verbal sexual harassment
- sexual assault
- unsolicited invitations from strangers

Protect yourself:

- dress conservatively in line with the Public Decency Laws, avoiding clothing that is tight-fitting or revealing
- be aware of your surroundings
- be cautious of unsolicited invitations from strangers
- only use licenced taxis or approved ride-share services, such as Uber, Bolt, or Jeeny and avoid drivers who approach you.

**More information:**

- [Sexual Assault Overseas](#)
- [Reducing the risk of sexual assault and harassment](#)

**Piracy**

[Piracy](#) occurs in the southern Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

Pirates target all forms of shipping, including:

- commercial vessels
- pleasure craft
- luxury cruise liners
- naval vessels


The [International Maritime Bureau issues piracy reports](#) 

If you travel by boat to or near Saudi Arabia despite the risks:

- monitor piracy reports for the region
- exercise extreme caution
- be alert to possible threats
- avoid confrontation

**Cyber security**

You could face cyber threats in any country, anyone is a target. Your devices and data can be stolen, especially when using public Wi-Fi, computers, or Bluetooth. Criminals can use stolen information to conduct scams or to resell your personal information.

The Australian Cyber Security Centre has advice on [how to protect yourself online](#) .

Social media can also be risky in places with social or political tensions or strict laws. People have been arrested for what they posted online. Check the laws of the destination you're travelling to and think about what you post on social media. The Australian Government can't get you out of trouble if you're accused of breaking the law.

**More information:**

- [Cyber security when travelling overseas](#)

Foreign residents in Saudi Arabia have also been the targets of an identity theft scam. Individuals impersonate a call from the Ministry of Interior to discuss a problem with your Absher account and request one-time passwords (OTPs) or identifying information that gives access to your Absher account. It is unlikely that the Ministry of Interior will contact you this way. Treat any calls of this nature as a scam.

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, even for comments published many years earlier. Don't comment on local or political events on your social media.

Punishments for activities on social media, such as commenting, posting, reposting, and liking content deemed illegal or offensive to the royal family, can lead to lengthy prison sentences.

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## Extreme weather and natural disasters

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It's very hot in Saudi Arabia. June to August are the hottest months of the year, and the temperature can reach over 50°C. Consume adequate liquids and avoid extended periods in direct sunlight during summer.

Sandstorms and dust storms are common.

If a [natural disaster](#) or [severe weather](#) occurs:

- secure your passport in a safe, waterproof location
- monitor the media and local sources
- follow the advice of local authorities
- keep in contact with your friends and family

Register with the [Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System](#)  to receive alerts on major disasters.

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## Tours and adventure activities

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Transport and tour operators don't always follow safety and maintenance standards. This includes adventure activities.

If you plan to do a tour or [adventure activity](#):

- check if your travel insurance policy covers it
- ask about and insist on minimum safety requirements
- always use available safety gear, such as life jackets or seatbelts

### Swimming safety

If proper safety equipment isn't available, use another provider.

- regularly check weather reports before engaging in water activities and take all warnings seriously
- stay informed by checking media and local sources for any potential dangers
- speak with your travel provider about safety equipment before continuing with your planned activities
- take a friend or family member along when swimming or participating in water activities
- ensure you have travel insurance that covers all planned activities
- be aware of any dress requirements and gender segregation rules. You may need to cover your arms and legs, or use different areas designated for men and women.

## Health

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## Travel insurance

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

It must cover all medical costs overseas, including evacuation. The Australian Government will not pay for these costs.

If you can't afford travel insurance, you shouldn't travel. This is true for everyone, even if you are healthy and fit.

If you don't have insurance, you might have to pay thousands of dollars up front for medical care.

Before you travel, check your policy, make sure:

- you know what activities and medical care your insurance covers, including evacuations
- your insurance covers you for your whole trip, including any stopovers
- you know any exclusions – for example, you might need to pay extra for activities like motorcycling, snow sports or bungee jumping.

**More information:**

- [Travel insurance](#)

If you hold an eVisa for Saudi Arabia, check the health policy linked to your visa, as coverage may be limited. You should confirm the scope of your health insurance policy and any exclusions before you travel. For further information, check the [Visit Saudi Official Website](#) [🔗](#).

If you hold a resident identity card (Iqama), your employer must provide medical insurance. Check your insurance policy to confirm what is and isn't covered.

Your Saudi medical insurance will not cover pregnancy or maternity unless you're married and it's in your insurance policy.

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## Physical and mental health

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Think about your health before you travel, especially if you have any medical conditions.

See your doctor or a travel clinic to:

- get a basic check-up
- ask if your travel plans might affect your health
- find out what vaccinations you need.

If you're concerned about your mental wellbeing, or someone else's, read more about [mental health support overseas](#).

**More information:**

- [General health advice](#)
  - [Managing your mental health](#)
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## Medications

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Not all medications available in Australia are accessible in other countries. Some medicines may be illegal, even if prescribed by an Australian doctor.

Ensure your [medication](#) is legal overseas. Take enough for your whole trip.

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

- medication names
- your required dosage
- that the medications are for your personal use.

**More information:**

- [Medicines](#)

Before you travel:

- check if your medication is a controlled substance by visiting the [Saudi Food and Drug Authority \(SFDA\)](#) [🔗](#) website.
- some medications require a permit, for information check the [SFDA Permit Guidelines](#) [🔗](#). Failure to obtain a permit may result in arrest and prosecution.

Saudi authorities may detain or deport travellers for:

- carrying medication to treat HIV/AIDS or hepatitis
- testing positive for HIV/AIDS or hepatitis.

**More information:**

- [Saudi Food & Drug Authority](#) 

## Health risks

### Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus

Cases of [Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus](#)  (MERS-CoV) have been reported.

Other Middle-Eastern countries have reported imported cases from returned travellers.

Avoid contact with camels. Don't consume raw camel milk, undercooked camel meat, or anything contaminated with camel secretions.

Get medical advice if you have a fever, cough, breathing difficulties or diarrhoea.

**More information:**

- [MERS information card](#) 

### Air pollution

Air quality in Saudi Arabia, particularly in major cities, can reach high pollution levels.

Dust and sandstorms are severe and common.


The poor air quality can cause:

- allergies and breathing problems
- traffic delays and accidents

If you have pre-existing medical conditions, you may be affected. If you're concerned:

- seek medical advice before leaving Australia
- monitor the air quality index
- reduce your exposure.

### Insect-borne diseases

[Malaria](#)  is present in the Asir and Jizan areas, bordering Yemen. Cases of chloroquine-resistant strains of malaria have been reported.

Other infectious diseases, including waterborne and foodborne diseases, are present in Saudi Arabia. Get medical advice if you have a fever, muscle pain, rash or severe headache.

- [typhoid](#) 
- [hepatitis](#) 
- [brucellosis](#) 
- [rabies](#) 
- [dengue](#) 
- [leishmaniasis](#) 
- [bilharzia \(schistosomiasis\)](#) 

Ask your doctor about health risks and vaccines before you go.

**More information:**

- [Infectious diseases](#)

## Medical care

### Medical facilities

There's no agreement between Australia and Saudi Arabia for free healthcare. Tourists must pay for all [medical care](#), even if they need to stay in hospital or be evacuated. This can be very expensive. Make sure your [travel insurance](#) covers you. The Australian Government won't pay for these costs.

Most facilities in major cities offer high to very high-quality services.

Facilities in minor towns and small cities can only do routine procedures.

If you're treated at a private facility, you may be expected to pay in advance before doctors will treat you.

If you become seriously ill or injured, you may need to be evacuated to a place with better facilities. Medical evacuation can be very expensive.

Facilities for travellers with a disability are different to Australia.

## Local laws

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### Local law

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There are major differences between the laws in Australia and Saudi Arabia. Behaviour that could be considered offensive or anti-social, but not criminal, in Australia could violate Saudi law.

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

Saudi authorities have detained Australians and haven't always notified the [Australian Embassy in Riyadh](#). [🔗](#)

If you're detained, it may take several months for the local authorities to grant approval for Embassy staff to visit you.

The Australian Government is limited in how and when we can help if you're [arrested overseas](#). We can't get you out of trouble or out of jail. Understand our limits. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#).

Ensure that you read carefully the information on our [Consular Services Charter](#) to find out what we can and cannot do.

If you are detained, ask the authorities, your family, friends or colleagues to inform the Embassy as soon as possible.

#### More information:

- [Arrested or detained overseas](#)

### Drugs

Possession of illicit drugs and alcohol is illegal. Penalties are severe.

Convictions for possession and trafficking of drugs may result in heavy fines, lengthy jail sentences, deportation or the death penalty.

If you're in the company of someone who is involved in drug cases, including trafficking, possessing or using drugs, you may be detained and remain in detention until investigations of all parties are concluded.

It is illegal to bring alcohol into Saudi Arabia and to possess or consume it in the country.

Public intoxication or driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol is punishable by fines, imprisonment, deportation and confiscation of your driving licence.

#### More information:

- [Carrying or using drugs](#)

### Commercial, civil, family and employment law

There are significant differences in the commercial, civil, family and employment laws between Australia and Saudi Arabia.

If you're involved in local legal matters:

- seek professional legal advice
- understand your rights and what you must do under Saudi law.

We can't interfere in commercial and family disputes.

If you become involved in a commercial or employment dispute, your sponsor or employer may prevent you from leaving the country until the dispute is resolved. Commercial or labour dispute cases may take years to resolve.

If you're a dependent sponsored by a primary visa holder and you're involved in a custody or domestic violence dispute with the primary visa holder, you may be unable to leave Saudi Arabia for an extended period if the primary visa holder/sponsor refuses to issue an exit visa to allow you to leave the country.

### Marriage

If you wish to [marry](#) a Saudi national, your partner will first need a letter of approval from the Ministry of Interior. Check current requirements and timeframes directly with the relevant local authorities.

### Resident identity card

If you're a resident, you must always carry your resident identity card (Iqama).

If you travel on a visa, you should always carry your passport. Saudi authorities have the right to check ID. There are security checkpoints, both in cities and on roads between cities.

## Serious offences

It's illegal to:

- Insult, criticise, provoke, or question public order, religious values or public morals or act in a way that is offensive toward the royal family government leadership or Islam. Saudi authorities can detain you without charges if you're suspected of committing an offence and keep you detained while they investigate.
- not comply with police instructions.
- support any group or organisation considered by Saudi authorities to practice violence. These actions are also illegal in social media posts, even if they were made outside Saudi Arabia and years prior to your visit. Foreigners have received lengthy prison sentences for offensive tweets made in the past.

You may have to wait months for legal help or for a court appearance while authorities investigate.

Penalties for some offences are severe and can include the death penalty. These offences include:

- murder
- serious physical assault
- adultery
- rape
- same-sex relations
- abandoning the Islamic religion
- offences perceived to undermine the state.

## Illegal items

It's illegal to import, possess or trade in weapons and items held to be 'contrary to the beliefs of Islam'. Illegal items include:

- alcohol
- pork products
- pornography – including images of scantily clad people, particularly women
- political and religious books, comics and materials
- drones, without prior approval

Authorities scan passenger luggage on arrival.

### More information:

- [Saudi Customs](#) 

## Other illegal activities

In Saudi Arabia, it's illegal to:

- preach or publicly practice a religion other than Islam
- produce or distribute printed or electronic material, without the Ministry of Culture and Information's authorisation
- publicly display or wear non-Islamic religious symbols or text that has symbols or slogans that could be viewed as political or clothes with profane language or image
- carrying flags or banners, especially when performing Hajj and Umrah
- be involved in charity and fundraising activities, including online or via social media without prior approval from local authorities
- post advertisements that result in an income on social media without a licence from the relevant local Saudi authorities. Violators could face a five-year prison sentence and fines of up to five million Saudi riyals
- offend the reputation of tourism in the Kingdom, which may include posting negative reviews online about tourist destinations and activities
- say anything blasphemous
- take photos or videos of Government buildings or military sites, palaces, some religious sites and people (particularly children and women) without permission
- get pregnant or give birth outside of marriage

## LGBTQIA+ laws

Same-sex relationships and impersonating the opposite sex are illegal. Saudi Arabia doesn't recognise or allow same-sex marriages and rights. Authorities can impose fines and severe punishment, including deportation.

### More information:

- [Advice for LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)

## Passports with 'X' gender identifier

You will not be able to enter Saudi Arabia if your passport shows 'X' in the gender field.

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## Australian laws

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Some Australian laws still apply even if you're in another country. You could be charged in Australia if you break these laws overseas.

**More information:**

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

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## Dual nationality

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The Saudi Government doesn't recognise dual nationality for its citizens.

If you are a dual national, authorities may seize extra passports if they find them, and charges, including imprisonment, may be laid if you hold a second nationality without prior permission from the relevant Saudi authorities. This doesn't deprive you of your Australian citizenship.

If you're a dual national (e.g Australian/UK nationals), and you're travelling with both passports, you can only leave Saudi Arabia with the passport you used to enter.

If you're a dual citizen and entered the country on a non-Australian passport, this limits the [consular services](#) we can provide, including if you're arrested or detained.

**More information:**

- [Dual nationals](#)

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## Local customs

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Always respect religious and cultural sensitivities, rules and customs.

### Ramadan

The Islamic holy month of Ramadan is strictly observed in Saudi Arabia. Take care not to offend others and cultural customs during this time.

It is illegal to eat, drink or smoke in public between sunrise and sunset during [Ramadan](#). Authorities can detain and even deport you for doing so.

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

### Segregation

Segregation in public places is now less strict than in previous years, particularly in major urban centres. However, some facilities, including the Riyadh Metro, gyms, pools, restaurants and shops, may continue to designate areas by gender or families.

### Accommodation

Individual travellers seeking to share accommodation have sometimes been refused joint occupancy. The situation is changing as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia transforms. You should contact your accommodation provider to seek clarification on the requirements. It is important to respect local customs and act in a culturally appropriate manner.

Further information can be found on the [Visit Saudi Official Website](#) [🔗](#).

### Behaviour

Saudi Arabia has strict codes of behaviour. You can be fined for violating Saudi Arabia's Public Decency Regulations.

Locals may be offended if you don't respect these codes. They may interpret this as religious or cultural disrespect.

### Dress

Get advice on what is acceptable clothing before you arrive.

Both men and women are asked to dress modestly in public in line with Public Decency Laws. Avoid tight fitting clothing or clothes with profane language or images.

Men and women visiting Saudi Arabia should cover their shoulders and knees in public. If you don't comply with these requirements, you may face penalties. If approached by authorities, be respectful and remain calm.

**More information:**

- [Public decorum](#) [🔗](#)
- [Advice for women](#)

## Travel

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### Visas and border measures

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Each country or territory decides its own entry and exit rules, including health border screening measures. To find out what you need to enter a destination, ask their embassy, consulate or immigration office.

#### Entry visa

You need a valid visa to enter Saudi Arabia. You can apply for an e-visa at the [Visit Saudi](#) website. Be cautious of fraudulent visa links. Requirements and policies can change at short notice. Visit the [Saudi eVisa](#) website for current information on tourist visas. A visa does not guarantee your entry to Saudi Arabia. Check visa conditions prior to your arrival.

If you've had a travel ban placed against you in the past to prevent you from re-entering Saudi Arabia, you should check the duration of the ban prior to your arrival, or you may be denied entry to Saudi Arabia.

If you have a previous unresolved legal case in Saudi Arabia, you may be arrested when you arrive. This is regardless of the passport you use to re-enter Saudi Arabia (whether you use an Australian or other passport).

If you hold a tourist visa, it is valid for 12 months and allows multiple entries. You may stay up to 90 days during that period, and the visa cannot be extended or used for any form of work. For further information [Visit Saudi Official Website](#).

If you overstay your visa, you may face:

- a significant fine
- detention while waiting to be deported
- a ban from re-entering Saudi Arabia

You won't be permitted to leave the country until the fine is paid in full. The Australian Embassy cannot waive or reduce fines or request the local authorities to do so.

Tourists under the age of 18 may not be allowed to enter Saudi Arabia unless accompanied by a guardian.

If you're visiting Saudi Arabia for purposes other than tourism, you must obtain a separate and special visa from visa agencies accredited to the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia. Contact your nearest [Saudi Embassy or Consulate](#).

If you're transiting through Saudi Arabia, you may need a transit visa. Check with your airline, travel agency and your nearest Saudi Embassy/Consulate if you need a transit visa. Information is available on the [Visit Saudi](#) website.

Only Muslims are allowed to enter Makkah (Mecca) and Madinah.

You may not be allowed to enter through a land crossing if you hold a business/visit visa that is annotated 'via air'. Note that this may be written in Arabic. Carefully read and understand the restrictions of your Saudi business/visit visa.

The [Nusuk](#) platform has been launched to facilitate registration and visa processing for Hajj and Umrah pilgrims. This is the only approved platform from the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah for Hajj visas and services.

During the Hajj period, Saudi authorities may restrict entry to and exit from certain airports. Access to airports in Jeddah, Madinah, Yanbu and Taif for Hajj may be limited to travellers with a valid Hajj visa only. Pilgrims on Hajj visas are not permitted to travel around Saudi Arabia as tourists outside of their pilgrimage itinerary. Check with your airline, travel agency, and your nearest Saudi Embassy/Consulate for up-to-date information on entry and exit requirements during Hajj season.

Entry and exit conditions can change at short notice. Contact the nearest [Embassy or consulate of Saudi Arabia](#) for details about visas, currency, customs, vaccination and quarantine rules.

#### Exit visas

If you hold a resident identity card (Iqama), you'll need to get an exit/re-entry or final exit permit from the Saudi Ministry of Interior. You must do this through your sponsor.

You may not be eligible for an exit re-entry visa to leave Saudi Arabia if your passport has less than six months validity.

If you're the main visa holder, make sure that all your dependents have valid passports, as you may not be allowed to obtain an exit re-entry visa.

Visitors holding a single-entry or multiple-entry business, work or tourist visa don't need an exit permit to leave Saudi Arabia.

If you're a dual national (e.g Australian/UK nationals), and you're travelling with both passports, you can only leave Saudi Arabia with the passport you used to enter.

#### Work visa

It's illegal to work for anyone other than the sponsor or employer officially registered as your employer/sponsor on your residence permit in the Saudi Passports Office's system.

If you do, you may be punished with:

- fines
- detention
- deportation
- a ban from entering Saudi Arabia

Holders of any type of visa other than a work visa or a resident identity card (Iqama) are not allowed to work in Saudi Arabia.

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## Other formalities

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### Yellow fever vaccination

You need a valid yellow fever vaccination certificate to enter Saudi Arabia if you're travelling from an area with a risk of yellow fever.

#### More information:

- [Countries with a risk of yellow fever](#)  (PDF)

### Polio outbreaks

Travellers under the age of 15 arriving from countries with polio outbreaks must provide proof of up-to-date polio vaccination.

More information:

- [Embassy or consulate of Saudi Arabia](#) 

### Travel bans

Authorities may place you under a travel ban if you're a tourist, visitor or resident identity card (Iqama) holder and you're involved in a dispute about, but not limited to:

- business
- labour
- employment
- fines.

Travel bans are strictly enforced, and they can take months or even years to resolve.

Only Saudi Arabian authorities, and in very limited cases, your sponsor, can remove travel bans.

Private Saudi citizens may also initiate travel bans against expats.

The government may issue travel bans on people who:

- are charged with criminal offences
- are under investigation
- are involved in financial or labour disputes
- have unpaid debts or who have passed bad cheques

### Travel restrictions on dependents

Dependents up to the age of 21 of a Saudi Arabian parent need permission to leave Saudi Arabia. More information, visit the [Absher platform](#) .

If you're an expat with unpaid dependent fees, you may have to pay the fees before you can:

- apply for an exit or re-entry visa
- renew your Iqama
- leave on your final exit.

### Hajj

If you're a non-resident, authorities may restrict your entry via air or land to Jeddah, Madinah, Yanbu and Taif during Hajj time. The restrictions may start from one month prior to the Hajj time.

Prior to your visit to Saudi Arabia, check the health requirements available on Nusuk Hajj and [Nusuk Umrah](#)  portals

Pilgrims on Hajj visas are not permitted to travel around Saudi Arabia as tourists outside of their pilgrimage itinerary.

#### More information:

- [Hajj](#)
  - [Ministry of Health](#) 
- 


## Passport

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## Validity

Many countries require your passport to be valid for at least 6 months before entering or departing. This includes for transit.

If your passport expires too soon, you might not be able to travel.

The Australian Government doesn't make these rules. Check your passport's expiry date before you go. If you're not sure, it's a good idea to [get a new passport](#) .


## Other passport conditions

Saudi authorities will not allow you to enter Saudi Arabia on an Australian emergency passport. You can only use an Australian emergency passport to exit and you may be required to provide a police report and/or letter from the Embassy to explain why your passport is different to the passport on which you entered the country.

If you obtain a new passport, including an emergency passport, while in Saudi Arabia to replace your old, lost or stolen passport, you must register the new passport number with the Saudi passport office prior to your departure. Check with your employer/sponsor or the Ministry of Tourism (depending on your visa type) for information on where to complete this process.

Australian travel-related documents issued to non-Australian citizens will not be accepted for entry to Saudi Arabia with an electronic visa (even if you obtained the visa online prior to your arrival). You'll need to contact your nearest Saudi Embassy/Consulate for up-to-date advice and information on the acceptance of your travel document. If your entry into Saudi Arabia is denied despite holding a valid Saudi visa, the Embassy won't be able to assist to facilitate your entry.

## Passport with 'X' gender identifier

Australian passports comply with international standards for sex and gender. If your passport has an 'X' in the sex field, we can't guarantee your entry or transit to other countries. Ask the [embassy or consulate of your destinations](#)  if they'll accept your passport with an 'X' gender marker. Check all transit destinations too.

### More information:

- [LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)

## Lost or stolen passport

Your passport is valuable and can be used by others to commit crimes.

Don't let anyone trick you into giving it to them. Always keep it in a safe place.

If your passport is lost or stolen, tell the Australian Government:

- In Australia: contact the [Australian Passport Information Service](#) .
- Overseas: contact the nearest [Australian embassy or consulate](#) .

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## Money

The local currency is the Saudi Arabian Riyal (SAR).

Declare amounts of more than SAR60,000 or equivalent per family or group when you arrive or on departure. This covers all forms of currency, not only cash.

Declare any precious metals worth more than SAR60,000 per family or group.

You can change currency at commercial banks and exchange bureaus.

ATMs are widely available. Ask your bank if your cards will work in Saudi Arabia.

### More information:

- [Saudi Customs](#) 

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## Local travel

## Driving permit

Saudi Arabia has strict requirements for driver's licences. If you're a resident in Saudi Arabia, you'll need to get a Saudi driver's licence.

To drive in Saudi Arabia, you'll need:

- a valid Australian driver's licence (digital driver's licences may not be accepted)
- an International Driving Permit (IDP)

You must get your IDP before departing Australia.

Visitors to Saudi Arabia can only drive hire cars and not privately owned vehicles. You may only be allowed to use your Australian driving licence and IDP for up to 3 months from arrival in the country. Check with the local Traffic Police and your rental company for up-to-date information.

You must carry your driver's licence and vehicle registration when driving. If you're involved in an accident, notify the traffic police (NAJM) and ask for their instructions.

## Road travel

The annual death toll on Saudi roads is extremely high. Exercise extreme caution when driving and always wear a seat belt.

Safety hazards include camels straying onto roads.

There are checkpoints where you may be required to present identification.

Some Saudi cities have an automated traffic ticketing system. If you're fined, you must pay the fine through this system before leaving the country.

### More information:

- [Driving or riding](#)

## Motorcycles

Check with your travel insurer whether your policy covers you when using a motorbike, quad bike or similar vehicle.

Always wear a helmet.

## Taxis and rideshare services

Only use registered rideshare services, taxis and limousines. Book transport from reliable a company.

Registered public taxis can be in poor condition, often without meters and without seatbelts.

## Public transport

Saudi Arabia has inter-city bus and limited rail services throughout the country. Riyadh also has a metro system.

Travellers often use limousine services for long-distance travel.

### More information:

- [Transport and getting around safely](#)

## Boat travel

Many waters near Saudi Arabia are sensitive because of territorial disputes and security issues.

Military operations are occurring in Yemen and the Red Sea in response to attacks by Houthi militants on ships transiting the Red Sea and surrounding waters, including the Gulf of Aden.

Due to the current conflict and tensions in Yemen and the region, ships and boats sailing in or around Yemen and the Red Sea could be at high risk of being targeted by missiles, projectile, or waterborne explosive devices.

There are ongoing disputes about who has jurisdiction over the islands of Abu Musa and the Tunbs in the southern Gulf.

People have reported vessels being inspected and crews detained.

[Piracy](#) can occur in the southern Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

### More information:

- [Travelling by boat](#)

## Air travel

Due to military activity in Yemen, flights in the south of Saudi Arabia can be cancelled or rescheduled at short notice. Affected airports include:

- Jazan
- Abha
- Wadi Aldwasir
- Bisha
- Sharurah
- Najran
- Baha

Check with your travel provider for updates on flights.

DFAT doesn't give advice about how safe different airlines or flight paths are.

Safety risks and weather events may cause flight delays and cancellations. Contact your travel agent or airline to confirm your plans.

Airlines and airports can restrict what you can take in your luggage. Regulations may be different to those in Australia. Check with your airline before you travel.

**More information:**

- [Air travel](#)

**Travelling with pets**

The Saudi Ministry of Environment, Water, and Agriculture must approve all pets imported into Saudi Arabia. Prior permit/approval to bring the pet/s must be obtained. Please contact your airline or visit the [Saudia](#) website and the [Saudi Ministry of Environment, Water, and Agriculture](#) for more information and requirements.

**Tourism Call Centre**

Call 930 (from inside Saudi).

Call +966 92 000 0890 (from outside Saudi).

**Local contacts**

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**Emergencies**

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Depending on what you need, contact your:

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

**Emergency services**

Call 911.

**Fire and rescue services**

Call 998.

**Medical emergencies**

Call 997 or go to the hospital.

**Traffic accidents**

Call 993.

**Highway Patrol**

Call 996.

**Police**

Call 999 or go to the nearest police station.

Always get a police report when you report a crime.

Your insurer should have a 24-hour emergency number.

**General Directorate of Passports**

Call 992.

## Emergency medical consultation

Call 937.

## Domestic and child violence services

If you're in danger, or you/your children have been a victim of domestic violence in Saudi Arabia, consider calling:

- local Saudi police on 999
- the Saudi National Domestic Violence Hotline on 1919

Call 116 111 for the Child Help Line. The Saudi National Family Safety Program runs this service. They help children access Saudi social services.

When reporting domestic violence:

- get a case reference number – all Saudi social and legal help is tied to this case number
- document any injuries and get a copy of any medical reports

If you file a police report or use any Saudi victim services, authorities may inform your sponsor or guardian.

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## Consular contacts

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The Australian Government aims to provide high quality consular assistance. There are limits to what we can do. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#) to understand how we can assist you overseas.


Contact the Australian Embassy in Riyadh for consular help.

### Australian Embassy, Riyadh

Diplomatic Quarter  
Riyadh  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Phone: +966 11 250 0900

Website: [saudiarabia.embassy.gov.au/ryad/home](http://saudiarabia.embassy.gov.au/ryad/home) 

X: [@AusAmbKSA](#) 

Facebook: [@AusEmbKSA](#) 

The working week is Sunday to Thursday.

Check the Embassy website for details about opening hours and any temporary closures.

### 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)  
**Sent:** Sunday, 1 March 2026 8:36 PM  
**To:** Claire Rochecouste  
**Cc:** Anna Oldmeadow; s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
Harinder Sidhu; Elizabeth McGregor; Paul Griffiths; s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
Miles Armitage; s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: MinSub for approval: Oman TA increase [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Categories:** A. Middle East

**OFFICIAL**

Dear Claire

Thank you for this advice. I can confirm the Foreign Minister has reviewed the submission and agrees with the recommended change in travel advice level for Oman.

We will provide the paperwork when possible.

Many thanks  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** Claire Rochecouste <Claire.Rochecouste@dfat.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Sunday, 1 March 2026 8:13 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au  
**Cc:** Anna Oldmeadow <Anna.Oldmeadow@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; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; Harinder Sidhu <Harinder.Sidhu@dfat.gov.au>; Elizabeth McGregor <Elizabeth.McGregor@dfat.gov.au>; Paul Griffiths <Paul.Griffiths@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; Miles Armitage <Miles.Armitage@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au  
**Subject:** MinSub for approval: Oman TA increase [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Minsub proposing TA increase for Oman to level 3, cleared by FAS CCD in consultation with FAS MAD, HOM Riyadh and DSD.

HOM is in copy and can keep counterparts in Oman informed.

Kind regards,  
Claire

**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)

**Executive Assistant:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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

OFFICIAL



## Oman

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### Latest update

**Still current at:** 01 March 2026

**Updated:** 01 March 2026

**Latest update:** Due to the overall security situation in the region, we've raised our level of advice for Oman to reconsider your need to travel. Retaliatory strikes are occurring across the Middle East region following military strikes on Iran. Airspace closures and flight disruptions are occurring across the region and may impact flights globally, causing delays and cancellations. Contact your airline to confirm your flights.

Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice, including shelter in place instructions. Demonstrations and protest activity may also occur, and local security situations could deteriorate with little notice. Avoid all demonstrations and protests. See our general advice on protecting your safety during an armed conflict (see 'Safety').

 **We now advise:**

**Reconsider your need to travel to Oman due to the volatile security situation in the region.**

### Advice levels

**What does this mean? >**

[View larger map](#)



[Reconsider your need to travel](#) in Oman due to the volatile security situation in the region.

## Overview



### Safety

- Due to the overall security situation in the region, we've raised our level of advice for Oman to reconsider your need to travel. Retaliatory strikes are occurring across the Middle East region following military strikes on Iran. Airspace closures and flight disruptions are occurring across the region and may impact flights globally, causing delays and cancellations. Contact your airline to confirm your flights.
- Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice, including shelter in place instructions. See our general advice on protecting your safety during an [armed conflict](#).
- Armed conflict is ongoing in neighbouring Yemen. If you travel to border areas, be alert to possible threats. Seek local advice on safe routes.
- Terrorist groups are active in the Arabian Peninsula and attacks against targets in Oman may happen. Terrorist attacks can occur anywhere. Take official warnings seriously.
- Demonstrations and protest activity may also occur, and local security situations could deteriorate with little notice. Protests can turn violent. Avoid all demonstrations and large gatherings. Take care around the time of Friday prayers. Monitor local media for updates and follow the advice of authorities.
- The crime rate in Oman is low. Tourists are sometimes targets for burglaries and theft especially in crowded places and from vehicles. Physical, verbal and sexual harassment can occur.
- Risks increase at night. Secure your accommodation. Don't camp in remote areas. Some women and travellers camping in isolated areas have been assaulted.
- Be prepared for extreme weather conditions. The monsoon season is from June to September. Temperatures can reach 50°C. Flooding and cyclones can happen during this time. Sand and dust storms can occur during the drier months from October to May. Follow the advice of local officials.
- Adventure tourism activities, including hiking and swimming, can be dangerous. Always look out for potential hazards and avoid possible risks. Follow instructions of local authorities. When hiking, follow marked hiking trails and other safety instructions. Make sure your travel insurance policy covers such activities.

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## Health

- You'll need health insurance for the full duration of your stay in Oman.
- Malaria, dengue, leishmaniasis and other insect-borne diseases occur in Oman, especially on the Musandam Peninsula. Ensure your accommodation is insect-proof. Use insect repellent. Consider taking anti-malarial medication.
- Dehydration and heat stroke are a risk during summer. Drink plenty of water. Avoid long periods in the heat.

Full travel advice: [Health](#)

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## Local laws





- Oman is an Islamic country. Respect local traditions, customs, laws and religions at all times. Dress modestly in public areas like shopping malls – cover upper arms and knees and avoid wearing shorts and sleeveless shirts. Penalties, including fines and jail terms, apply to violations of Oman's public decency laws.
- Don't use or carry illegal drugs. Severe penalties for drug offences include the death sentence. Possessing even a small amount attracts a minimum 12 month jail sentence.
- If you come to the attention of the local authorities, they may require you to take a blood test, particularly if they suspect you have used drugs or alcohol. If you refuse, you could be arrested for your failure to comply.
- Get professional legal advice if you're involved in legal matters, especially family or business law. You may not be allowed to leave Oman if you're involved in a dispute, have legal proceedings underway or unpaid debts, bills or traffic fines.
- Same-sex relationships, sex outside of marriage and pornography are illegal. Hotels may refuse accommodation to couples who can't prove they're married. You should contact your accommodation provider to seek clarification on the requirements. It is important to respect local customs and act in a culturally appropriate manner.
- Oman has strict dress codes. It's illegal to wear military or similar clothing and accessories.
- Oman has strict laws on public speech, including on social media. It also has a strict code of behaviour. Don't disrespect Islam or any other religion. Take care during Ramadan and Shia festivals. Avoid eating, drinking or smoking in public during Ramadan.
- Fundraising and charity activities are strictly regulated in Oman. It is illegal to raise funds or organise a crowdfunding campaign without Omani government approval.
- It is illegal to fly drones or any other remote-controlled flying device without a valid licence or in a restricted space.

Full travel advice: [Local laws](#)

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## Travel


- Entry and exit conditions in Oman can change at short notice. You should contact the [nearest Embassy or Consulate of Oman](#)  for the latest details.
- Australian citizens visiting Oman for up to 14 days for the purpose of tourism may be eligible for a free of charge entry visa. This is subject to certain conditions and requirements. See 'Travel'.
- A visa does not guarantee your entry to Oman. Check visa conditions prior to your arrival.
- You can travel to Oman if you're an Omani citizen or a foreign national who is a resident or a visa holder. This includes those eligible for a visa on arrival. You must also meet additional conditions (see [Travel](#)).
- You may not be allowed to enter Oman from Yemen without prior approval. Crossing the border into Yemen can be dangerous. If you decide to cross the border from either Oman or Yemen, prior approval may be required. Visit the [Royal Oman Police portal](#)  or contact the [nearest Embassy or Consulate of the Sultanate of Oman](#)  for advice. Read our [Travel Advice for Yemen](#).
- If you need to renew your Omani visa while in Oman, apply for a visa extension through the [Royal Oman Police](#)  website. Penalties may apply if you overstay your visa.

Full travel advice: [Travel](#)

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## Local contacts

- The Australian Government aims to provide high quality consular assistance. There are limits to what we can do. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#) to understand how we can assist you overseas.
- The [Embassy of Australia in Riyadh](#)  is accredited to Oman and can help with consular, passport and notarial enquiries. However, it doesn't have direct access to police, jails, hospitals and other services in Oman.
- We have an Australian Honorary Consulate in Muscat who provides limited consular help.
- To stay up to date with local information, follow the Embassy's social media accounts.

Full travel advice: [Local contacts](#)

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## Full advice

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### Safety

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#### Terrorism

International terrorist groups are active in the Arabian Peninsula. Attacks against targets in Oman may happen.

Terrorism is a threat worldwide. Terrorist attacks could occur anywhere and at any time. Be alert to possible threats, especially in public places. Terrorists may target tourist areas or other places frequented by foreigners and where large crowds may gather.

Possible targets include:

- places of worship or religious holidays
- hotels, clubs, restaurants and cafes
- markets and shopping malls
- outdoor recreation events, including festivals, concerts, and sporting venues
- public transport, airports and railway hubs

To stay safe:

- report suspicious activities or items to the police
- check the media for new threats
- take official warnings seriously
- follow the instructions of local authorities

If there's a terrorist incident, leave the area if it's safe to do so and follow the instructions of local authorities.

**More information:**

- [Terrorism](#)

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#### Civil unrest and political tension

The security situation in the region remains unpredictable and could deteriorate with little or no warning. Read our general advice on protecting your safety during an [armed conflict](#).

#### Demonstrations and protests

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

- Avoid all protests, demonstrations and large public gatherings.
- Monitor media and other sources for advice on possible unrest. Avoid affected areas.
- Take extra care around the time of Friday prayers.
- Plan your activities to avoid potential unrest on national or commemorative days.
- Be prepared to change your travel plans in case civil unrest disrupts them.
- If transport disruptions affect you, contact your airline, travel agent or insurer for help.

**More information:**

- [Demonstrations and civil unrest](#)

**Armed conflict in Yemen**

Military tensions remain in neighbouring Yemen.

If you decide, against our advice, to travel to border areas, be alert to possible threats.

Seek local advice on routes to minimise security threats.

There is a military response to Houthi militants' attacks on international shipping in the Red Sea. Although military activity is currently limited to the Red Sea and Yemen, Oman's travel advice could change quickly. You should monitor the travel advice and follow instructions from local authorities.

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**Crime**

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Oman has a low crime rate.

Petty criminals sometimes target tourists for burglaries and theft, especially in crowded places and from vehicles.

Physical, verbal and sexual harassment can occur. Risks increase at night. Secure your accommodation. Don't camp in remote areas. Take care when travelling outside towns and cities and in crowded places.

Reported cases of sexual assault and rape against foreign nationals are low, but they do happen. Take care when travelling alone particularly at night.

Women have been detained when reporting sexual assault, as they must prove that the sex was not consensual to avoid being charged. It is illegal to have extramarital sex. Some travellers camping in small groups in remote areas have been assaulted.

To stay safe:

- secure all doors and windows at your accommodation
- avoid camping in remote areas alone or in small groups

**Drink spiking**

Drink spiking can happen anywhere. Be alert, don't leave your food or drinks alone. Watch when your drink is being mixed. If you [feel unwell](#), tell your friends immediately and get to a safe place. Keep an eye on your friends - if they feel unwell, stay with them. Get [medical help](#) if needed.

**Methanol poisoning**


People have died or become very sick from poisoned drinks overseas. This includes Australians. Methanol is highly toxic. As little as one shot can be fatal. Methanol can be added or accidentally created during poor quality alcohol production. Only drink branded, sealed drinks. Get [urgent medical help](#) if you think you've been poisoned.

**More information:**

- [Partying safely while overseas](#)

**Cyber security**

You could face cyber threats in any country, anyone is a target. Your devices and data can be stolen, especially when using public Wi-Fi, computers, or Bluetooth. Criminals can use stolen information to conduct scams or to resell your personal information.

The Australian Cyber Security Centre has advice on [how to protect yourself online](#) .

Social media can also be risky in places with social or political tensions or strict laws. People have been arrested for what they posted online. Check the laws of the destination you're travelling to and think about what you post on social media. The Australian Government can't get you out of trouble if you're accused of breaking the law.

**More information:**

- [Cyber security when travelling overseas](#)

## Kidnapping

Kidnapping can happen anywhere, anytime, including in destinations that are typically at lower risk.

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

**More information, including advice on how to reduce your risk of kidnapping:**

[Kidnapping](#)

## Tours and adventure activities

Transport and tour operators don't always follow safety and maintenance standards. This includes operators of adventure activities.

If you plan to do an [adventure activity](#), including hiking and swimming:

- check if your travel insurance policy covers it
- ask about and insist on minimum safety requirements
- always use available safety gear, such as life jackets or seatbelts
- follow the advice of local authorities
- follow marked hiking trails and other safety instructions.

If proper safety equipment isn't available, use another provider.

## Extreme weather and natural disasters

Oman often experiences extremely high temperatures. From June to September, the temperature can reach 50°C.

Dehydration is common in summer. To avoid heat stroke and dehydration:

- drink plenty of water
- avoid long periods in the heat.


Flooding may occur during the monsoon season, from June to September.

Oman may experience [cyclones](#), especially during the monsoon season.

Rain can cause flooded roads, including in mountain areas and river valleys.

Sand and dust storms can occur during the drier months from October to May.

If a [natural disaster](#) or [severe weather](#) occurs:

- secure your passport in a safe location
- Register with the [Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System](#)  to receive alerts on major disasters.
- monitor local media and follow the advice of local authorities
- keep in contact with friends and family

## Health

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## Travel insurance

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

It must cover all medical costs overseas, including evacuation. The Australian Government will not pay for these costs.

If you can't afford travel insurance, you shouldn't travel. This is true for everyone, even if you are healthy and fit.

If you don't have insurance, you might have to pay thousands of dollars up front for medical care.

Before you travel, check your policy, make sure:

- you know what activities and medical care your insurance covers, including evacuations
- your insurance covers you for your whole trip, including any stopovers
- you know any exclusions – for example, you might need to pay extra for activities like motorcycling, snow sports or bungee jumping.

**More information:**

- [Travel insurance](#)
- 

## Physical and mental health

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Think about your health before you travel, especially if you have any medical conditions.

See your doctor or a travel clinic to:

- get a basic check-up
- ask if your travel plans might affect your health
- find out what vaccinations you need.

If you're concerned about your mental wellbeing, or someone else's, read more about [mental health support overseas](#).

**More information:**

- [General health advice](#)
  - [Managing your mental health](#)
- 

## Medications

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Not all medications available in Australia are accessible in other countries. Some medicines may be illegal, even if prescribed by an Australian doctor.

Ensure your [medication](#) is legal overseas. Take enough for your whole trip.

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

- medication names
- your required dosage
- that the medications are for your personal use.



**More information:**

- [Medicines](#)
- 

## Health risks

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### Insect-borne diseases

[Dengue](#) , [leishmaniasis](#)  and other insect-borne diseases occur, especially on the Musandam Peninsula.

[Malaria](#)  is a low ongoing risk due to Oman's high temperature and humidity.

To protect yourself from illness:

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

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

### Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus

Cases of [Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus \(MERS-CoV\)](#)  have been reported in Oman.

Avoid contact with camels. Don't consume raw camel milk, undercooked camel meat, or anything contaminated with camel secretions.

Get medical advice if you have a fever, cough, breathing difficulties or diarrhoea.

#### More information:

- [MERS information card](#) 

### Other health risks

There's a risk of [Hepatitis A](#)  and [typhoid](#)  through contaminated food or water.

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

Get medical advice if you have a fever or diarrhoea.

#### More information:

- [Infectious diseases](#)

## Medical care

Health care is generally good but can vary from region to region.

Hospitals and clinics in larger cities are better equipped.

There's no agreement between Australia and Oman for free healthcare. Tourists must pay for all [medical care](#), even if they need to stay in hospital or be evacuated. This can be very expensive. Make sure your [travel insurance](#) covers you. The Australian Government won't pay for these costs. Before treating patients, hospitals often ask for:

- guarantee of payment
- proof of medical insurance
- an upfront deposit

## Local laws

### Local law

When you travel to another country, you must follow their laws. Even if they seem strict compared to Australia's. Before you go, learn about the [local laws](#) in that country.

The Australian Government is limited in how and when we can help if you're [arrested overseas](#). We can't get you out of trouble or out of jail. Understand our limits. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#).

Omani law applies to you even if you're transiting and don't leave the airport.

You may be detained and fined if you drink alcohol or are intoxicated in public. The legal age of drinking alcohol in licensed venues is 21.

If you come to the attention of the local authorities, they may require you to take a blood test, particularly if they suspect you have used drugs or alcohol. If you refuse, you could be arrested for your failure to comply.

Behaviour that may be considered offensive or antisocial, but not criminal, in Australia could break Omani law. See 'Other laws' below.

**More information:**

- [Arrested or jailed](#)

The Embassy of Australia in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, is accredited to Oman. The Embassy in Riyadh doesn't have direct access to Omani Government institutions such as police stations, jails and hospitals. The Australian Government must formally seek access via the Omani Embassy in Riyadh. This can cause delays if you need consular help.

**Drugs**

Penalties for drug offences are severe and include the death penalty. Possessing even a small amount of drugs can result in lengthy jail terms and heavy fines. These laws also apply if you're transiting through Oman.

Police may detain you if you are accompanied by a person who is involved in drug cases, including trafficking, possessing or using drugs. You may remain in detention until investigations are concluded for all parties.

If you come to the attention of the local authorities, they may require you to take a blood test, particularly if they suspect you have used drugs or alcohol. If you refuse, you could be arrested for your failure to comply.

**More information:**

- [Carrying or using drugs](#)

**Other laws**

If you're involved in legal matters, get professional legal advice. This especially includes family law regarding divorce, child custody and child support.

Know your rights and responsibilities.

Authorities may not let you leave Oman if you:

- are involved in business or labour disputes
- have unpaid debts, and bills. Unpaid bills include:
  - giving somebody a cheque which bounces (including post-dated and 'security' cheques)
  - non-payment of bills (for example property rent, hotel bills or car hire).
- have unpaid traffic fines. You can check if you have outstanding traffic fines via the ROP app or online service: [Royal Oman Police Website - Online Services - Traffic Offense Payment](#). [↗](#)
- have legal proceedings underway

Serious offences, such as murder, may attract the death penalty.

The following activities are illegal:

- same-sex sexual acts or having sex outside marriage
- using aggressive, obscene or abusive language or gestures in public, including on social media
- insulting Oman, Islam, the royal family, the local government and its policies or local officials
- taking photos near, or at, government buildings or other sensitive infrastructure, including oilfields
- possessing pornographic material
- wearing military or similar clothing and accessories
- using or importing e-cigarettes or vape products

Always ask people for permission if you want to take their photo.

**LGBTQIA+ information**

Same-sex relationships are illegal and may lead to severe punishment, including prison and fines.

Cross-dressing is also illegal.

If you're transgender or intersex, or your gender on your passport doesn't match your appearance, you may:

- be questioned at immigration
- be denied entry into Oman

**More information:**

- [Advice for LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)

**Australian laws**

Some Australian laws still apply even if you're in another country. You could be charged in Australia if you break these laws overseas.

**More information:**

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

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## Dual nationality

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Oman doesn't recognise dual nationality.

If you're a dual citizen, and entered Oman using your non Australian passport, this limits the [consular services](#) we may be able to provide including if you are arrested or detained.

### More information:

- [Dual nationals](#)
- 

## Local customs

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Oman has strict Islamic dress and behaviour codes.

Hotels may refuse accommodation to couples who can't prove they're married. You should contact your accommodation provider to seek clarification on the requirements. It is important to respect local customs and act in a culturally appropriate manner.

Take extra care during [Ramadan](#) and Shia religious festivals.

The Omani weekend is Friday and Saturday.

To ensure you don't offend:

- avoid disrespecting Islam or any other religion
- avoid bad language, rude gestures and public displays of affection
- respect restrictions on alcohol and pork products.

If in doubt, seek local advice.

To observe dress codes:

- dress modestly in public when not at tourist beaches, hotels or resorts
- avoid wearing tight clothes, shorts or low-cut tops
- cover your upper arms and knees.

Penalties including fines and jail terms apply to violations of Oman's public decency laws

## Ramadan

The Islamic holy month of Ramadan is observed in Oman. Respect religious and cultural customs and laws at this time.

During Ramadan, eating, drinking (including water) 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.

### More information

- [Ramadan](#)
- 

## Travel

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### Visas and border measures

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Each country or territory decides its own entry and exit rules, including health border screening measures. To find out what you need to enter a destination, ask their embassy, consulate or immigration office.


## Visas

Australian citizens visiting Oman for up to 14 days for the purpose of tourism may be eligible for a free-of-charge entry visa. This is subject to the following conditions/requirements:


- evidence of your confirmed accommodation booking


- evidence of health insurance to cover your stay
- evidence of your return ticket
- your passport is valid for more than six months

The Omani 14-day free entry visa may not be extendable. You'll need to leave Oman before the end of 14 days to avoid visa violation penalties. See [Royal Oman Police](#)  for up-to-date information.




If you're staying in Oman for more than 14 days, you'll need to get a valid visa, and fees will apply. Oman is issuing visas on arrival and accepting applications for work and tourist visas. Please check the requirements with [Royal Oman Police](#) .

You'll need travel insurance for the duration of your stay.


If you need to renew your Omani visa while in Oman, apply for a visa extension through the [Royal Oman Police](#)  website. Penalties may apply if you overstay your visa.

Entry and exit conditions can change at short notice. You should contact the [nearest Embassy or Consulate of the Sultanate of Oman](#)  for the latest details.

## Entry to Oman



You need a valid visa to enter Oman if you're planning to stay for more than 14 days. Visit visas are available on arrival at the airport. However, it's recommended you apply for a visa before you travel. You can apply for an e-visa through the [Royal Oman Police portal](#) . When applying for a visa, make sure you choose the right type of visa. The type of visa you need will depend on your country of residence and the purpose of your travel. Visit the [Royal Oman Police portal](#)  or contact the [nearest Embassy or Consulate of the Sultanate of Oman](#)  for advice.

Your airline may have rules in addition to those set out by the Omani authorities.

Visit the [Oman Airports portal](#)  for information on Security and Customs requirements.

## Other formalities

If your passport contains evidence of entry to Israel, or another country's border crossing points with Israel, authorities will deny you entry to Oman.

Omani authorities may not allow you to enter Oman from Yemen without prior approval. Crossing the border into Yemen can be dangerous due to the threat of armed conflict and violence. If you decide to cross the border from either Oman or Yemen, prior approval may be required. For advice, visit the [Royal Oman Police portal](#)  or contact the [nearest Embassy or Consulate of the Sultanate of Oman](#) .

## Yellow fever vaccination

You need a valid yellow fever vaccination certificate to enter Oman if you're arriving from a country where it's a risk.

### More information:

- [Countries with a risk of yellow fever \(PDF\)](#) 

## Travel with children

In some cases, children with an Omani father need their father's permission to leave Oman.

Check with the Royal Oman Police and the airlines whether the father's permission is require to travel.

### More information:


- [Embassy or Consulate of the Sultanate of Oman](#) 

## Passport


### Validity

Many countries require your passport to be valid for at least 6 months before entering or departing. This includes for transit.

If your passport expires too soon, you might not be able to travel.

The Australian Government doesn't make these rules. Check your passport's expiry date before you go. If you're not sure, it's a good idea to [get a new passport](#) .

Oman may require a minimum validity of 6 months on passports to be able to renew your Omani Residence Permit.

Authorities may not allow you to exit or enter Oman if you're travelling on an emergency passport. Contact the nearest [Embassy or Consulate of the Sultanate of Oman](#)  for advice.

### Lost or stolen passport


Your passport is valuable and can be used by others to commit crimes.

Don't let anyone trick you into giving it to them. Always keep it in a safe place.

If your passport is lost or stolen, tell the Australian Government:



- In Australia: contact the [Australian Passport Information Service](#) .
- Overseas: contact the nearest [Australian embassy or consulate](#) .

## Passport with 'X' gender identifier

Australian passports comply with international standards for sex and gender. If your passport has an 'X' in the sex field, we can't guarantee your entry or transit to other countries. Ask the [embassy or consulate of your destinations](#)  if they'll accept your passport with an 'X' gender marker. Check all transit destinations too.

### More information:

- [LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)

If your passport shows 'X' in the gender field, Omani authorities may refuse you entry. 'X' refers to those who are indeterminate, intersex or unspecified sex. Contact the [Royal Oman Police](#)  or contact the [nearest Embassy or Consulate of Oman](#)  before you arrive at the border to confirm if authorities will accept passports with 'X' gender markers.


### More information:

- [LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)

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## Money

The local currency is the Omani Rial (OMR).

Declare all precious metals, local and foreign currency valued OMR6000 or more when you arrive and depart. This covers all forms of currency, not only cash. More information is available here: [Traveller Services](#) .

You can easily exchange US dollars and euros at commercial banks and currency bureaus.

Credit card facilities and ATMs are widely available.

Ask your bank if your cards will work in Oman.

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## Local travel

### Driving permit

If you hold an Omani residence permit you'll need to obtain an Omani driver's licence to be able to drive in Oman.

If you're in Oman on a visit visa, you should hold an International Driving Permit (IDP). Your IDP should be endorsed by the Oman road authorities. This is usually done at the rental car company at the airport.

### Road travel

The annual death toll on Omani roads is high. You're more likely to die in a motor vehicle accident in Oman than in Australia.

Safety hazards include:

- drivers ignoring road rules
- bad weather limiting visibility
- poor road conditions in some parts of the country
- camels straying onto roads

Dangers are higher if you drive outside major cities, especially after dark, and on unsealed roads.

Oman restricts travel to some areas, including the Yemeni borders. You'll need authorisation from Omani authorities to travel to restricted areas.

You may be detained and fined if you drink alcohol in public, or if you drive under the influence of alcohol.

If you plan to drive:

- check your travel insurance policy covers you
- learn local traffic laws and practices

**More information:**

- [Driving or riding](#)

**Motorcycles**

Check your travel insurance covers you for riding motorbikes, quad bikes or similar.

Always wear a helmet.

**Taxis**

Only use registered taxis and limousines. Arrange these through your accommodation if you can.

Use a meter taxi or agree on the fare with the driver before getting in a taxi.

**Public transport**


Long-distance shared taxis and minibuses operate between major centres.

These services aren't networked or scheduled.

**More information:**

- [Transport and getting around safely](#)

**Sea travel**

Territorial disputes and security issues in many of the waters near Oman make sea travel in these areas risky, especially around the islands of Abu Musa and Tunbs in the southern Gulf. [Piracy](#) occurs in the waters around Oman, Yemen and Saudi Arabia. If you travel by sea, monitor the [International Maritime Bureau](#)  piracy reports.

If you travel by sea to or near Oman:

- monitor piracy reports for the region
- be cautious and alert to possible threats
- avoid confrontation

**More information:**

- [Travelling by boat](#)

**Air travel**

DFAT doesn't give advice about how safe different airlines or flight paths are.

Safety risks and weather events may cause flight delays and cancellations. Contact your travel agent or airline to confirm your plans.

Airlines and airports can restrict what you can take in your luggage. Regulations may be different to those in Australia. Check with your airline before you travel.

Check [Oman's air safety profile](#)  with the Aviation Safety Network.

**More information:**

- [Air travel](#)

**Local contacts**

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**Emergencies**

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Depending on what you need, contact your:

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

**Fire and rescue services**

Call 9999.

### Medical emergencies

Call 9999.

### Police

Call 9999.

Always get a police report when you report a crime.

Your insurer should have a 24-hour emergency number.

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## Consular contacts

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The Australian Government aims to provide high quality consular assistance. There are limits to what we can do. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#) to understand how we can assist you overseas.

For consular, passport and notarial enquiries, contact the Embassy of Australia in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

### Australian Honorary Consul, Muscat

Behind Centara Hotel  
United Towers Building  
Way no.5007  
Compound no.250  
Ghala, Muscat  
Sultanate of Oman

Phone: +968 24763350


Email: [ausconsul-oman@usoman.com](mailto:ausconsul-oman@usoman.com)

The working week is Sunday to Thursday.

### Embassy of Australia, Riyadh

Abdullah Bin Hozafa Al-Sahmi Avenue  
Diplomatic Quarter  
Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Phone: (+966) 11 250 0900

Website: [www.saudiarabia.embassy.gov.au](http://www.saudiarabia.embassy.gov.au) 

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AusEmbKSA> 

The working week is Sunday to Thursday.

Check the Embassy website for detail about opening hours and any temporary closures.

### 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**

## Middle East Regional Conflict (2026) – Timeline for directed and voluntary departures

Date	Time	Action
25 February	12.22pm (AEDT)	<b>Decision:</b> COO/Secretary agreed to offer DDP and VDPs to selected Middle East Posts
	2.19pm (AEDT)	PPD emailed HOMs re: directed departures (Beirut and Tel Aviv)
	2.37pm (AEDT)	PPD emailed HOMs re: voluntary departures (Abu Dhabi, Amman, Dubai, Doha)
	3.43 pm (AEDT)	PPD emailed attached agencies (in Canberra) with presence at relevant posts.
	Between 6.23pm – 9.51pm (AEST)	<b>Consultation:</b> All HOMs above confirmed they had engaged A-based staff with their respective offers.
	8:20pm (AEDT)	<p><b>Travel advice update (Israel and Lebanon):</b> to advise dependants of Australian officials had been directed to depart.</p> <p>Message on respective Smartraveller pages, Facebook and X:  <i>The Australian Government has directed the departure of dependants of Australian officials posted to Israel/Lebanon in response to the deteriorating security situation in the Middle East. If you're in Israel/Lebanon, we continue to advise you consider leaving while commercial options to depart are still available.</i></p> <p><i>The security situation in the Middle East is unpredictable. Regional tensions remain high and there continues to be a risk of military conflict. Conflicts in the Middle East could result in airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions. Read our travel advisory for more information.</i></p>
	8:21pm (AEDT)	<p><b>Travel advice update (Jordan, Qatar, and the UAE):</b> to advise dependants of Australian officials had been offered voluntary departures.</p> <p>Message on respective Smartraveller pages, Facebook and X:  <i>The Australian Government has offered voluntary departures to dependants of Australian officials posted in Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE. We continue to advise exercise a high degree of caution in these destinations.</i></p>

		<p><i>The security situation in the Middle East is unpredictable. Regional tensions remain high and there continues to be a risk of military conflict. Conflicts in the Middle East could result in airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions.</i></p> <p><i>Read our travel advisories for more information:</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/middle-east">www.smartraveller.gov.au/middle-east</a></p>
<b>26 February</b>	5:15pm (AEDT)	<p><b>Travel advice update (Kuwait):</b> to advise dependants of Australian officials had been offered voluntary departures.</p> <p>Message on respective Smartraveller pages, Facebook and X:  <i>The Australian Government has offered voluntary departures for all dependants of Australian officials posted to Kuwait in response to the deteriorating security situation in the Middle East.</i></p>
<b>3 March</b>	9:16pm (AEDT)	<p><b>Travel advice update (Saudi Arabia):</b> to advise dependants of Australian officials had been offered voluntary departures.</p> <p>Message on respective Smartraveller pages, Facebook and X:  <i>[in the 'Safety' (overview) section] ... On 3 March, the Australian Government offered voluntary departures for all dependants of Australian officials posted to Riyadh – when it is safe, airspace is open and commercial flights are available.</i></p>

The logo for Smartraveller.gov.au, 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 coastal cityscape of Israel. On the left, modern skyscrapers are visible against a clear sky. On the right, traditional multi-story buildings with balconies are built on a hillside overlooking the water. The word "Israel" is overlaid in large, bold, black text on the left side of the image.

# Israel

## Latest update

**Still current at:** 25 February 2026

**Updated:** 25 February 2026

**Latest update:** The Australian Government has directed the departure of all dependants of Australian officials posted to Israel in response to the deteriorating security situation in the Middle East.

You should reconsider your need to travel to Israel due to the volatile security situation, armed conflict, civil unrest and terrorism. If you're in Israel, consider leaving while commercial options to depart are still available. The security situation in the Middle East is unpredictable. Regional tensions remain high and there continues to be a risk of military conflict. Conflicts in the Middle East could lead to an increase in tensions elsewhere in the region, including in Israel, and may result in airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions.

We continue to advise do not travel to border areas with Gaza (Palestine) or Lebanon. If you intend to travel by land into a neighbouring country, check the latest public information from local authorities on entry requirements and border arrangements, including opening times. Border crossing points may be closed without notice (see 'Travel').

In an attack or other armed conflict, you should take shelter, follow the advice of local authorities and monitor local media and public safety information updates through the National Emergency Portal (accessible in Israel only – see 'Safety'). Try to get to an underground shelter if possible, or at minimum seek a shelter close to ground level. Confirm the location of your nearest fully enclosed emergency shelter – don't rely on online maps. Terror attacks can occur anywhere at any time, including by lone actors. Be alert to personal safety risks. There continues to be a very high threat of military and terrorist attacks against Israel, Israeli and Jewish interests across the region. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice.

[Jump to...](#)

The Australian Government may not be able to assist you to leave. Subscribe to Smartraveller to receive email alerts (see 'Safety').



**We advise:**

**Reconsider your need to travel to Israel overall due to the volatile security situation, armed conflict, civil unrest and terrorism.**

**Higher levels apply in some areas.**

## Advice levels

What does this mean? >

[View larger map](#)



[Reconsider your need to travel](#) to Israel due to the volatile security situation, armed conflict, civil unrest and terrorism.

[Do not travel](#) to border areas with Gaza (Palestine) due to armed conflict.


[Do not travel](#) to border areas with Lebanon due to the volatile security situation.

## Overview

The status of Jerusalem and borders are final status issues which remain subject to negotiations. The West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza were occupied by Israel following the 1967 war and that occupation continues. Jerusalem is also covered in our travel advice for Palestine.



### Safety

- On 25 February 2026, the Australian Government directed the departure of all dependants of Australian officials posted to Israel in response to the deteriorating security situation in the Middle East.
- You should consider leaving Israel while commercial options to depart are still available. Airspace closures and flight cancellations could happen soon, making it impossible to leave later.
- The security situation in the Middle East is unpredictable. Conflicts in the Middle East could lead to an increase in tensions elsewhere in the region, including Israel, and may result in airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice.
- Ben Gurion International Airport could close with no notice, and you may be unable to leave for an extended period. If the security situation deteriorates, the Australian Government may not be able to assist you to leave.
- If you intend to travel by land into a neighbouring country, check the latest public information from local authorities on entry requirements and border arrangements, including opening times. Border crossing points may be closed without notice.
- In an attack or other armed conflict, you should take shelter, check media for updates and follow the instructions of local authorities. Try to get to an underground shelter if possible, or at minimum seek a shelter close to ground level. You should physically confirm the location of your nearest fully enclosed emergency shelter – don't rely on online maps. Follow public safety information updates through the [National Emergency Portal](#)  (accessible in Israel only). Make sure you have enough essential supplies.
- There continues to be a high threat of terrorist attacks against Israel and Israeli interests across the region. Terror attacks continue to be a threat to civilians and may be carried out by organised groups or lone actors, including using vehicles or makeshift weapons. Terrorist attacks could happen at any time or anywhere. Always be alert. Have an exit plan.
- Israel is a target for rocket and drone attacks and military confrontation. There are tensions and security risks close to Israel's borders with Palestine, Lebanon, Syria and Egypt. Authorities are monitoring security on Israel's northern border.
- Israel has a naval blockade in place along the coast of Gaza. Don't join others seeking to break the blockade. Previous attempts to break the blockade have resulted in death, injury, arrest or deportation of foreigners.

- Demonstrations and protest activity may also occur, and local security situations could deteriorate with little notice. Avoid all demonstrations and protests.

Full travel advice: [Safety](#)



## Health

- Infectious diseases are a risk. Drink boiled or bottled water.
- West Nile virus can occur, and there is no vaccine to prevent it. Use insect repellent and make sure your accommodation is insect-proof.
- The standard of medical facilities in Israel is reasonable. If you become seriously ill or injured, you may need to be evacuated. Make sure your travel insurance covers this.

Full travel advice: [Health](#)





## Local laws

- The Jewish Sabbath happens from sunset Friday until sunset Saturday. In Orthodox neighbourhoods, driving or using a mobile phone or digital camera on the Sabbath may offend people.
- Don't use or carry illegal drugs. Penalties are severe.

Full travel advice: [Local laws](#)



## Travel



- All foreign nationals must have either an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA-IL) or a visa before arriving in Israel. To check your eligibility and to apply, visit the [ETA-IL website](#)  (see 'Travel').
- Flight cancellations and disruptions could occur with little or no notice, including due to airport and airspace closures. GPS signals may be blocked in parts of Israel, disrupting navigational apps and devices.
- Land border crossings to Jordan may open and close at short notice. Before you travel, check for regular opening times on [Jordanian Border Crossings](#)  and also check the latest public information from local authorities in Israel and Jordan to make sure border crossings are open. Visas on arrival are available but be prepared for delays when crossing into Jordan.
- Crossings between Israel and Palestine may be closed or have highly restricted access for long periods and are subject to change at short notice.
- By law, you're considered Israeli if one or both of your parents are Israeli. Israeli citizens must enter and leave on an Israeli passport. Authorities will consider you a Palestinian national if you currently hold, or

used to hold, a Palestinian ID card. You may need to get a Palestinian travel document.

Full travel advice: [Travel](#)



## Local contacts

- There are limits to what consular assistance we can provide in high-risk locations. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#) to understand how we can assist you overseas.
- For consular help, contact the [Australian Embassy in Tel Aviv](#)  or the [Australian Embassy in Jordan](#) .
- To stay up to date with local information, follow the Embassy's social media accounts.

Full travel advice: [Local contacts](#)

## Full advice

### Safety

#### Security situation

Due to the risk of a deteriorating security environment, the Australian Government has directed the departures of all dependants of Australian officials posted to Israel.


You should consider leaving Israel while commercial options to depart are still available. Airspace closures and flight cancellations could happen soon, making it impossible to leave later. Ben Gurion International airport could close without notice and you may be unable to leave for an extended period. The Australian Government may not be able to assist you to leave.

The security situation in the Middle East is unpredictable. Conflicts in the Middle East could lead to an increase in tensions elsewhere in the region and may result in airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice.

We continue to advise do not travel to areas near the borders with Gaza (Palestine) or Lebanon.

#### Military operations

During military operations, the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) may declare an area a closed military zone. If authorities find civilians in this zone, they can arrest, detain or deport them.

In an attack or other armed conflict, you should take shelter, check media for updates and follow the instructions of local authorities. Try to get to an underground shelter if possible, or at minimum seek a shelter close to ground level. You should physically confirm the location of your nearest fully enclosed emergency shelter – don't rely on online maps. In Israel, local city government websites have lists of public bomb shelters and other emergency information. Follow public safety information updates through the [National Emergency Portal](#)  (accessible in Israel only). Make sure you have enough essential supplies.

The IDF Home Front Command is responsible for managing emergencies, including planning and advising on how to deal with rocket attacks. In an emergency, a message will be sent to all local mobile phones in the area with details of the event and safety instructions. You should download the Home Front Command mobile app to receive advice of alerts and when it is safe to resume normal activities. You can also contact the Home Front Command on 104 (the hotline has English-speaking operators, option 5). Authorities may also establish a National Emergency Portal website for specific events.

Read our general advice on protecting your safety during an [armed conflict](#).

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## Israel's borders with neighbouring states

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Cross-border political tensions and unrest create security risks for regions of Israel close to its borders with Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine and Syria.

### Israel and the Palestinian border

*The status of Jerusalem and borders are final status issues which remain subject to negotiations. Without prejudging the outcome of those negotiations, this travel advice covers Jerusalem, which is also covered in the Palestine travel advice.*

The security situation is unpredictable, with continuing tensions and violence between Israelis and Palestinians.

### Gaza conflict

Since October 2023, the IDF has conducted major operations, including in and around Gaza. The risk of Israeli air strikes and land-based IDF operations remains, as does the threat of civil unrest, shooting, rocket and drone attacks. Rockets can land in both Gaza and Israel.

### Waters off Gaza

Israel has a naval blockade in place. The Israeli Navy patrols territorial waters and the shared water border zone.

We advise Australians to not participate in any humanitarian flotilla to deliver aid to Gaza. Don't join others seeking to break the naval blockade.

People have previously tried to break the naval blockade along the coast of Gaza. This has led to injury, death, arrest and deportation of foreigners, including Australians.

#### More information:

- [Travel advice for Palestine](#)

### Israel and Lebanon border

We continue to advise do not travel to border areas with Lebanon. Authorities are monitoring security on Israel's northern border. Some residents have been advised to evacuate by local authorities.

There's an ongoing threat of rocket attacks, infiltration attempts, revenge fire and other activity along the border between Israel and Lebanon. This area is known as the 'Blue Line'.

There's a significant military presence in the area. The security situation could get worse without notice.

Tensions have remained high between Hezbollah and Israel since the ceasefire of November 2024, and the security situation remains volatile and unpredictable. Further conflict is possible. A resumption of conflict between Israel and Hezbollah would significantly increase risks to your safety and security.

**More information:**

- [Travel advice for Lebanon](#)

### Israel and Egypt border

There have been security incidents in the southern city of Eilat and the surrounding area near the Gulf of Aqaba. This includes the border crossing with Egypt near Eilat. There have been deaths and injuries.

**More information:**

- [Travel advice for Egypt](#)

### Israel and Syria border

We continue to advise against travel to border areas with Syria. Clashes between armed militant groups and the IDF have occurred along the Israeli-Syrian border, including rockets being fired towards Israeli-controlled territory. The risk of violence in this area remains high, and attacks could occur with little or no warning. Kidnapping has been known to happen near the border.

Parts of Route 98 have been closed in the past due to fighting on the Syrian side of the border.

The situation remains tense, and further violence is possible. We recommend avoiding all parts of the Golan Heights to the east of Route 98.

**More information:**

- [Travel advice for Syria](#)

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## Demonstrations, protests and civil unrest



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Public protests and events that gather large crowds can sometimes become violent. Check the media and other sources for information about planned and potential demonstrations.

Demonstrations can occur anywhere, especially near checkpoints to and from the West Bank and the Old City of Jerusalem. Violence can break out at checkpoints, and there may be limited options for leaving the area. Avoid traffic blockages at these checkpoints.

There are regular attacks on vehicles during the Sabbath, particularly in and around ultra-Orthodox neighbourhoods (see 'Local Laws'). Tensions can increase around religious and commemorative events and following political developments, especially in and around the Old City of Jerusalem. These tensions have resulted in demonstrations and violence in some cities.

To stay safe during unrest, avoid demonstrations, political rallies, and large public gatherings. Check local media for information on unrest or strikes, and plan your activities to avoid these areas. Be especially cautious during Jewish and Muslim religious holidays, including Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Pesach, and Ramadan.

Stay away from traffic congestion at checkpoints, and familiarise yourself with the emergency procedures in each location where you stay. Know what to do when air raid sirens sound and where to locate the nearest emergency shelters.

If you find yourself caught in military action or civil unrest, follow the advice of local authorities. Unless instructed otherwise, stay indoors and monitor the media. Be prepared to change your travel plans as necessary. If civil unrest affects transportation services, contact your airline, travel agent, or insurance provider for assistance.

**More information:**

- [Protests and civil unrest](#)

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## Terrorism



Terrorism is a threat worldwide. Terrorist attacks could occur anywhere and at any time. Be alert to possible threats, especially in public places.

Israel continues to be a target of terrorist attacks.

Local and international political developments and events may lead to terrorist attacks.

Terrorists have attacked buses, public transport hubs and tourist areas. These include Herzliya, Jaffa and Tel Aviv. Attacks have included shootings, stabbings, vehicle ramming and bombings.

Be alert to possible threats, especially:

- at tourist locations, religious sites and crowded public places
- near police checkpoints
- in regions bordering [Palestine](#), [Egypt](#), [Syria](#) and [Lebanon](#)

Australian Government officials are advised only to use public transport services in Israel which include security screening of passengers and luggage. This is because of safety and security concerns and doesn't apply to taxis.

Militant and terror groups operate in regions of Palestine, Egypt, Syria and Lebanon that are close to Israel, making travel close to borders with those regions dangerous.

When planning your activities, reconsider going to places known to be terrorist targets. Consider the level of security provided.

Take care when travelling to a region where there are terrorists or places that terrorists could target. Have an exit plan in case there's a security incident.

To stay safe:

- consider avoiding public transport other than taxis
- report any suspicious activity or items to the police
- regularly check local and international media for news about any new or emerging threats
- take official warnings seriously
- follow the advice of local authorities

If there's a terrorist incident, leave the area if it's safe to do so and follow the instructions of local authorities.

### More information:

- [Terrorism](#)

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## Kidnapping



Kidnapping occurs across the world with political, ideological, and criminal motives. Foreigners, including Australians have been kidnapped overseas whilst travelling. Kidnaps can happen anywhere, anytime, including destinations that are typically at lower risk.

Foreigners have been kidnapped in Israel. Tourists, aid workers and journalists may be seen as legitimate targets. Always be alert to your personal security and surroundings, particularly in the Gaza area and the border with Egypt.

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.

You are responsible for your own safety. To reduce the risk of kidnapping:

- always be alert to your personal security and surroundings – avoid distractions. Be prepared to stop or take evasive action if you sense danger
- get professional security advice for travel in locations with a heightened kidnap risk. It is essential to have a contingency plan
- check your accommodation has appropriate security measures
- vary your movements so you don't set predictable patterns
- keep a low profile – including online. Drawing attention to yourself in high-risk areas may signal to criminals that you have something worth taking
- avoid isolated locations, particularly when travelling alone. There is safety in numbers, and you should try to travel with someone else, especially at night
- notify family or friends of planned travel; share your location and emergency contacts that they can rely on if something happens
- 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. Criminals have been known to search social media for victims
- if you are confronted by armed criminals, it is best to surrender and cooperate – resistance tends to make the situation worse

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. Ransom payments to terrorist groups are likely to contravene Australian counter-terrorism financing laws.

**More information:**

- [Kidnapping](#)
- [Scams that affect travellers](#)
- [Reducing the risk of piracy](#)

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## Crime

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Violent crime, other than terrorism and politically motivated violence, is rare.

Purse snatching, pickpocketing and petty theft can happen.

## Cyber security

You could face cyber threats in any country, anyone is a target. Your devices and data can be stolen, especially when using public Wi-Fi, computers, or Bluetooth. Criminals can use stolen information to conduct scams or to resell your personal information.

The Australian Cyber Security Centre has advice on [how to protect yourself online](#) .

Social media can also be risky in places with social or political tensions or strict laws. People have been arrested for what they posted online. Check the laws of the destination you're travelling to and think about what you post on social media. The Australian Government can't get you out of trouble if you're accused of breaking the law.

**More information:**

- [Cyber security when travelling overseas](#)

## Drink spiking

Drink spiking can happen anywhere. Be alert, don't leave your food or drinks alone. Watch when your drink is being mixed. If you [feel unwell](#), tell your friends immediately and get to a safe place. Keep an eye on your friends - if they feel unwell, stay with them. Get [medical help](#) if needed.

## Methanol poisoning

People have died or become very sick from poisoned drinks overseas. This includes Australians. Methanol is highly toxic. As little as one shot can be fatal. Methanol can be added or accidentally created during poor quality alcohol production. Only drink branded, sealed drinks. Get [urgent medical help](#) if you think you've been poisoned.

### More information:

- [Partying safely while overseas](#)

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## Tours and adventure activities

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Transport and tour operators don't always follow safety and maintenance standards. This includes adventure activities.

If you plan to do a tour or [adventure activity](#):

- check if it's covered by your travel insurance policy
- ask about and insist on minimum safety requirements
- always use available safety gear, such as life jackets or seatbelts

If proper safety equipment isn't available, use another provider.

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## Extreme weather and natural disasters

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Israel is in an active [earthquake](#) zone.

Flash floods can happen in the Negev desert in the winter months from November to March.

Sandstorms, dust storms and bushfires happen during the warmer months.

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

- secure your passport in a safe location
- stay in contact with friends and family
- follow the advice of local authorities
- register with the [Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System](#)  to receive alerts on major disasters.

## Health

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### Travel Insurance

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

It must cover all medical costs overseas, including evacuation. The Australian Government will not pay for these costs.

If you can't afford travel insurance, you shouldn't travel. This is true for everyone, even if you are healthy and fit.

If you don't have insurance, you might have to pay thousands of dollars up front for medical care.

Before you travel, check your policy, make sure:

- you know what activities and medical care your insurance covers, including evacuations
- your insurance covers you for your whole trip, including any stopovers
- you know any exclusions – for example, you might need to pay extra for activities like motorcycling, snow sports or bungee jumping.

**More information:**

- [Travel insurance](#)

You need special [travel insurance](#) if you're going to a high-risk destination, which can be expensive.

We can't guarantee your safety and security in another country or pay for your medical expenses, including evacuation. If you don't have insurance, you shouldn't travel.

### Physical and mental health

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Think about your health before you travel, especially if you have any medical conditions.

See your doctor or a travel clinic to:

- get a basic check-up
- ask if your travel plans might affect your health
- find out what vaccinations you need.

If you're concerned about your mental wellbeing, or someone else's, read more about [mental health support overseas](#).

**More information:**

- [General health advice](#)
- [Managing your mental health](#)

## Medication



Not all medications available in Australia are accessible in other countries. Some medicines may be illegal, even if prescribed by an Australian doctor.

Ensure your [medication](#) is legal overseas. Take enough for your whole trip.

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

- medication names
- your required dosage
- that the medications are for your personal use.

**More information:**

- [Medicines](#)

## Health risks



Waterborne, foodborne and other infectious diseases can occur. These include:

- [Brucellosis](#)
- [Leptospirosis](#)
- [Leishmaniasis](#)

Serious outbreaks sometimes occur.

To protect yourself from illness:

- drink boiled water or bottled water with sealed lids
- avoid ice cubes
- avoid uncooked and undercooked food, such as salads

Get medical advice if you have a fever or diarrhoea.

### Insect-borne diseases

Cases of [West Nile virus \(WNV\)](#) cases are reported throughout Israel. There's no vaccine to prevent it.

To protect yourself against illness:

- make sure your accommodation is insect-proof
- use insect repellent
- wear long, loose, light-coloured clothing

**More information:**

- [Infectious diseases](#)

### Polio

Polio is a risk in Israel. Before you travel, ensure your vaccinations are up-to-date, including booster doses.

**More information:**

- [Polio](#)

### Measles

Measles can occur routinely in Israel. Make sure your vaccinations are up-to-date before you travel.

Ask your doctor about health risks and vaccines before you go.

**More information:**

- [Measles immunisation service](#) 

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## Medical care

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There's no agreement between Australia and Israel for free healthcare. Tourists must pay for all [medical care](#), even if they need to stay in hospital or be evacuated. This can be very expensive. Make sure your [travel insurance](#) covers you. The Australian Government won't pay for these costs.

The standard of medical facilities is reasonable in Israel.

Doctors may require up-front payment before they will treat you. Costs can be high.

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## Local laws

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### Local law

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When you travel to another country, you must follow their laws. Even if they seem strict compared to Australia's. Before you go, learn about the [local laws](#) in that country.

The Australian Government is limited in how and when we can help if you're [arrested overseas](#). We can't get you out of trouble or out of jail. Understand our limits. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#).

## Drugs

Penalties for drug offences include jail terms of up to 20 years and large fines.

**More information:**

- [Carrying or using drugs](#)

## Other laws

It's illegal to photograph police, the military, buildings or places considered 'security sensitive'. This includes military installations and some government offices. If in doubt, get local advice.

The import and use of religious material is strictly controlled. If authorities find this material, they may confiscate it.

**More information:**

- [Advice for LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)

## Australian laws



Some Australian laws still apply even if you're in another country. You could be charged in Australia if you break these laws overseas.

**More information:**


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

## Dual nationality




Israel doesn't recognise dual nationality. Israeli citizens must enter and leave on an Israeli passport.

Under Israeli law, you're considered Israeli if at least one of your parents is Israeli.

Men and women may need to do military service. To check, consult the nearest [embassy or consulate of Israel](#)  before you travel.

This law limits the [consular services](#) we can give if you're arrested or detained.

**More information:**

- [Advice for dual nationals](#)
- [Embassy of Israel in Australia](#) 

## Local customs



Get to know local and religious customs. Take care not to offend.

Public displays of affection aren't appropriate at religious sites in Israel.

Observe local standards of behaviour when visiting Orthodox Jewish neighbourhoods.

### Dress standards

Conservative standards of dress and behaviour apply at holy sites and Muslim or Orthodox Jewish areas.

Be respectful when photographing people in Muslim and Orthodox Jewish areas. Ask permission before taking photos of people.

### Shabbat

The Jewish Shabbat or Sabbath happens from sunset Friday until sunset Saturday. It's closely observed in Orthodox Jewish areas in Israel.

During this time of rest in Orthodox neighbourhoods, driving and using electricity is restricted. Using a mobile phone or camera on the Sabbath is likely to offend.

Public access to these neighbourhoods is usually restricted on the Sabbath. Don't drive in these areas.

## Ramadan

Respect religious and cultural customs and laws during [Ramadan](#). Avoid eating, drinking or smoking in public or in front of people who are fasting.

## LGBTQIA+ information

Same-sex relationships are legal, but some locals have conservative attitudes towards them. Open displays of affection could offend locals, particularly in rural areas.

Take care not to offend.

### More information:


- [Advice for LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)

## Travel

### Flight and road routes out of Israel

#### Land border crossings


If you intend to travel by land into a neighbouring country, check the latest public information from local authorities on entry requirements and border arrangements, including opening times.

Land border crossings to Jordan may open and close at short notice. Before you travel, check [Jordanian Border Crossings](#)  for regular opening times and also check the latest public information from local authorities in Israel and Jordan to make sure border crossings are open.

There are 2 land border crossings between Israel and Jordan: Sheikh Hussein/Jordan River near Irbid and Wadi Araba near Aqaba. Additionally, one land border crossing from Israel to Jordan goes through Palestine (the West Bank): Allenby Bridge/King Hussein near Amman. You'll need a visa to enter Jordan. See our [Jordan Travel Advice](#).

Israeli authorities may close crossings to the West Bank or impose strict security measures on local holidays or due to security incidents, including after terrorist attacks.

Land border crossing entering or exiting Gaza (Palestine) is extremely difficult. Israeli authorities control the Erez crossing into northern Gaza from Israel. The crossing has been closed since October 2023. See our [Palestine Travel Advice](#).

The land border crossing between Israel and Egypt: Taba border crossing (Menachem Begin Crossing) is open but may close without notice and for an unknown period of time. To avoid long wait times at the border, you should pay for the Israeli [crossing fee online](#)  before you arrive. You'll need to pay for a tourist visa and a land border entry fee for entry to Egypt. For the visa, you must have a non-Egyptian credit card or US dollars in cash. For the land border entry fee (payable in Egyptian pounds) an ATM is available in the terminal. See our [Egypt Travel Advice](#).

Transport routes may be disrupted. Roads may be crowded and exposed to military action or have damage, including to bridges and facilities. Use your judgement to decide the best time and safest means of exit.

Plan for delays at land border crossings. Expect disruption to travel and changes at short notice. Make sure you have an adequate supply of food, water, medication.

### More information:

- [Travel advice for Jordan](#)
- [Travel advice for Egypt](#)

- [Travel advice for Palestine](#)

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## Visas and border measures

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Each country or territory decides its own entry and exit rules, including health border screening measures. To find out what you need to enter a destination, ask their embassy, consulate or immigration office.

### Visas

All foreigners visiting Israel, including Australians, must obtain either an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA-IL) or a visa before arriving in Israel.

If you plan to visit Israel for less than 90 days, you may be eligible for the ETA-IL. Otherwise, you will need to get a visa before you travel.

ETA-ILs are valid for 2 years or until your current passport expires, whichever comes first. This means that if you receive an ETA-IL approval to travel, you should not have to reapply during the approval period.

To check your eligibility and to apply for the ETA-IL, visit the [ETA-IL website](#) .

Failing to obtain an entry permit may result in a refusal of entry by Israeli border authorities.

The Australian Government can't intervene on your behalf, and our ability to provide consular assistance in these circumstances may be limited.

Entry and exit conditions can change at short notice. For details about visas, security checks, currency, customs and quarantine regulations:

- check the [Israel Government Portal](#) 
- contact the nearest [embassy or consulate of Israel](#) 
- [Embassy of Israel in Australia](#) 

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## Other formalities

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Israeli authorities can subject you to a security and police record check if you're entering Israel.

Authorities may refuse you entry or exit without a reason.

Security officials may question you at length. They may also conduct an intensive search of your bags and person when you arrive and depart.

If you're travelling to protest against Israeli policies, authorities may refuse you entry. You'll be returned to the country where you boarded, including if you've arrive by boat.

Authorities can deny you entry if you have association with, or belong to, an organisation that has called for a boycott of Israel or Israeli settlements.

We can't intervene if you don't meet entry or exit requirements.

### Entry card

You'll get an entry card instead of an entry stamp on arrival in Israel.

Keep this card with your passport until you leave. The card is evidence of your legal entry into Israel. Authorities may ask for it during your stay.

If you plan to travel to other countries after Israel, read the [travel advice](#) for each country. Some countries may refuse you entry if:

- your passport shows you have travelled to Israel
- your luggage or possessions show you've been to Israel

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## Travel restrictions



Travel restrictions may apply to some visitors in Israel. There's no clear information about who may be restricted.

Anyone registered in the Palestinian Population Register, including Australian passport holders of Palestinian descent, is prohibited from entering Israel through Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion International Airport and must enter and exit Palestine through the Allenby border crossing.

Airport officials may ask you to sign a form that stops you entering Palestine.

In these situations, the Australian Embassy has limited ability to step in.

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## Passport



### Validity

Many countries require your passport to be valid for at least 6 months before entering or departing. This includes for transit.

If your passport expires too soon, you might not be able to travel.

The Australian Government doesn't make these rules. Check your passport's expiry date before you go. If you're not sure, it's a good idea to [get a new passport](#) .

### Lost or stolen passport


Your passport is valuable and can be used by others to commit crimes.

Don't let anyone trick you into giving it to them. Always keep it in a safe place.

If your passport is lost or stolen, tell the Australian Government:

- In Australia: contact the [Australian Passport Information Service](#) .
- Overseas: contact the nearest [Australian embassy or consulate](#) .

### Passport with 'X' gender identifier

Australian passports comply with international standards for sex and gender. If your passport has an 'X' in the sex field, we can't guarantee your entry or transit to other countries. Ask the [embassy or consulate of your destinations](#)  if they'll accept your passport with an 'X' gender marker. Check all transit destinations too.

**More information:**

- [LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)

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## Money

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Israel's currency is the Israeli Shekel (ILS).

You can change Australian dollars to shekels in major centres.

ATMs are widely available.

When arriving or leaving Israel, you must declare amounts of \$US10,000 or more, or the equivalent in another currency. This covers all forms of currency, not only cash.

If you don't declare your currency on entry or exit from Israel, authorities could arrest or fine you.

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## Local travel

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When deciding on travel around Israel consider the general security situation.

Also consider specific risks to your safety and security in different places.

### Driving permit

You can drive in Israel for up to one year with a valid Australian driver's licence (digital driver's licences may not be accepted).

### Road travel

Land border crossings may be closed with short notice and for an unknown period. Before travel, check Israeli government websites and the website of the country you're travelling to determine if border crossings are open.

Security checkpoints may be set up or closed at any time. This often happens without warning throughout Israel.

You could face delays or trouble passing through checkpoints.

GPS signals may be blocked in parts of Israel, disrupting navigational apps.

**More information:**

- [Land border crossings](#)  (United Nations)

Driving can be dangerous.

Hazards include:

- Aggressive drivers who ignore road rules
- Drivers driving while distracted
- Poor road conditions in some parts of the country

Road accidents occur often.

Israeli car insurance does not usually cover travel into Palestine including Bethlehem, Jericho and Ramallah.

Separate insurance can be arranged for travel to these places.

**More information:**

- [Driving or riding](#)

## Motorcycles

Check if your travel insurance policy covers you when travelling by motorbike.

Only ride a motorcycle if you're:

- properly licensed
- familiar and comfortable with local driving conditions

By law, you and your passenger must wear a helmet when riding a motorbike.

## Taxis

Taxis are generally safe and reliable in Israel.

## Public transport

Take care when using [public transport](#).

Due to safety and security concerns, Australian government officials and their families are advised to use public transport services in Israel that include security screening of passengers and luggage. This doesn't apply to taxis.

## Sea travel

Don't travel by sea to the coast of Gaza (see '[Safety](#)').

## Air travel

DFAT doesn't give advice about how safe different airlines or flight paths are.

Safety risks and weather events may cause flight delays and cancellations. Contact your travel agent or airline to confirm your plans.

Airlines and airports can restrict what you can take in your luggage. Regulations may be different to those in Australia. Check with your airline before you travel.

Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion International Airport may pause operations due to heightened security concerns at any time and at short notice. This may cause flight delays or cancellations.

Check [Israel's air safety profile](#) [↗](#) with the Aviation Safety Network.

**More information:**

- [Air travel](#)

## Local contacts

## Emergencies



Depending on what you need, contact your:

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

### Fire and rescue services

Call 102.

### Medical emergencies

Call 101.

### Police

For criminal issues, call 100.

Always get a police report when you report a crime.

Your insurer should have a 24-hour emergency number.

## Consular contacts



There are limits to what consular assistance we can provide in high-risk locations. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#) to understand how we can assist you overseas.

For consular assistance, contact:

### Australian Embassy, Tel Aviv

Level 28  
Discount Bank Tower  
23 Yehuda Halevi Street (corner Herzl Street)  
Tel Aviv 65136, Israel

Phone: +972 3 693 5000

Website: [israel.embassy.gov.au](https://israel.embassy.gov.au)

Facebook: [Australia in Israel](#)

X: [AusAmbIsrael](#)

Check the Embassy website for details about opening hours and any temporary closures.

### 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



## Kuwait

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### Latest update

**Still current at:** 26 February 2026

**Updated:** 26 February 2026

**Latest update:** The security situation in the Middle East is unpredictable. Conflicts in the Middle East could lead to an increase in tensions elsewhere in the region and may result in airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice.

The Australian Government has offered voluntary departures for all dependants of Australian officials posted to Kuwait in response to the deteriorating security situation in the Middle East.

Demonstrations and protest activity may also occur, and local security situations could deteriorate with little notice. Avoid all demonstrations and protests. Subscribe to Smartraveller to receive email alerts (see 'Safety').



**We advise:**

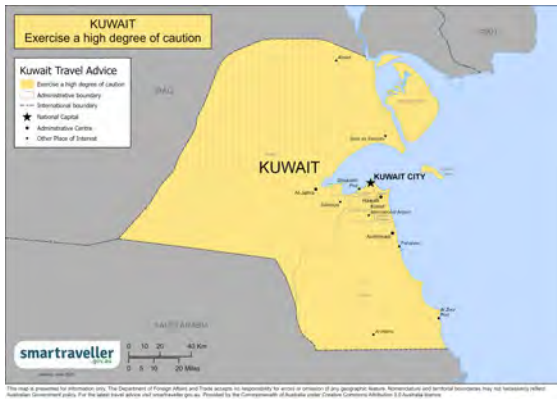
**Exercise a high degree of caution in Kuwait due to the threat of terrorism.**

### Advice levels

**What does this mean? >**

[View larger map](#)

[Jump to...](#)



[Exercise a high degree of caution](#) in Kuwait due to the threat of terrorism.

## Overview



### Safety

- The security situation in the Middle East is unpredictable. Conflicts in the Middle East could lead to an increase in tensions elsewhere in the region and may result in airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice.
- The Australian Government has offered voluntary departures for all dependants of Australian officials posted to Kuwait in response to the deteriorating security situation in the Middle East.
- Demonstrations and protest activity may also occur, and local security situations could deteriorate with little notice. Avoid all demonstrations and protests.
- There's a risk of terrorism in Kuwait, including threats against military bases. Maintain a high level of security awareness and be aware of your surroundings. Follow the advice of local authorities.
- Kuwait's crime rate is low. Armed robberies have been reported, notably in Jahra and Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh.
- Driving can be dangerous due to high speeds and reckless driving, especially at night. Avoid driving on unmarked roads.
- Be prepared for extreme weather conditions. Sand and dust storms occur regularly. In the hottest months, between June and September, the temperatures are often above 50°C. Flooding can occur between December and January. Follow the advice of local authorities.

Full travel advice: [Safety](#)



### Health

- Some medical facilities offer high-quality services, but others don't. Some public hospitals don't accept foreign nationals. If you're seriously ill or injured, you may need to be medically evacuated. Ensure your travel insurance covers this. Medical evacuation can be expensive and hard to organise.

Full travel advice: Health

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## Local laws

- Kuwaiti authorities may not notify the Australian Embassy if they detain or arrest Australians. Ask a family member, friend or colleague to inform the Embassy as soon as possible.
- It's illegal to buy, sell, import, carry and consume alcohol. Penalties range from fines to imprisonment and deportation. It's also illegal to possess, consume, produce or traffic drugs in Kuwait. Penalties are severe and can include large fines, imprisonment or the death sentence.
- Get professional, local, legal advice for any business or family law matters. Some offences that aren't serious in Australia are very serious in Kuwait.
- Kuwait has strict laws regarding its head of state, the Amir, the Crown Prince and the Prime Minister. It's illegal to challenge or insult the Kuwait leadership any way. It's also illegal to use social media to criticise regional political matters and figures, including the Amir, Crown Prince and the Prime Minister.
- Kuwait has strict laws on relationships and LGBTQIA+ issues. Same-sex relations and impersonating the opposite sex are illegal. Kuwait doesn't recognise diverse gender identities. It's against the law for unmarried couples to live or stay together in hotel rooms. Public displays of affection between men and women are also illegal.
- Standards of dress and behaviour are conservative. Cover your shoulders and knees and avoid wearing shorts or tight clothing. Take particular care in areas like Jahra and Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh.

Full travel advice: Local laws

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## Travel


- You'll need a visa to enter Kuwait. Visas on arrival and e-visas are available for Australian citizens. Entry and exit conditions can change at short notice. You should contact the nearest Kuwaiti embassy or consulate of Kuwait for the latest details. You may be refused entry into Kuwait if you have an Israeli stamp in your passport.
- The local currency is the Kuwaiti Dinar (KWD). ATMs and electronic payment facilities are widely used. Some banks and shops don't accept foreign cards.
- Kuwait has unexploded weapons, including landmines, in desert areas and on some beaches. Stay on well-travelled roads. Don't pick up strange objects on beaches.
- Traveling near the Iraq and Saudi Arabia borders is illegal and dangerous without authorisation. Armed guards patrol border areas. Don't travel to Iraq. If you go there despite our advice, make sure you have the correct documents authorising your movements. Only use official border crossings.
- Authorities may prevent you from departing Kuwait if you have unpaid debts or fines.
- Children travelling without a male guardian must present a signed letter of approval from their father before being allowed to leave Kuwait.

Full travel advice: Travel

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## Local contacts

- The Australian Government aims to provide high quality consular assistance. There are limits to what we can do. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#) to understand how we can assist you overseas.
- For consular assistance, contact the [Australian Embassy in Kuwait City](#) . The working week is Sunday to Thursday.
- To stay up to date with local information, follow the Embassy's social media accounts.

Full travel advice: Local contacts

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## Full advice

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### Safety

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#### Terrorism

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Terrorism is a threat worldwide. Terrorist attacks could occur anywhere and at any time. Be alert to possible threats, especially in public places.

There's a risk of terrorism in Kuwait, including threats against military bases. Maintain a high level of security awareness and be aware of your surroundings.

There have been several terrorist attacks in the Gulf region in recent years, including at places visited by foreigners. Take official warnings seriously.

Attacks could occur at any time and targets could include:

- places of worship
- hotels and restaurants
- sporting venues
- military sites
- transport hubs
- crowded public places
- shopping malls and markets
- other locations foreigners may visit

Maintain a high level of security awareness. If there's a terrorist incident, leave the area if it's safe to do so and follow the instructions of local authorities.

**More information:**

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

#### Kidnapping

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Kidnapping can happen anywhere, anytime, including in destinations that are typically at lower risk. The Australian Government's longstanding policy is that it doesn't make payments or concessions to kidnappers.

**More information:**

- [Kidnapping](#)

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## Civil unrest and political tension

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

Monitor local and international media and follow the instructions of local authorities.

### Demonstrations and protests

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

It's illegal for non-Kuwait nationals to protest in Kuwait.

Organisers of demonstrations or public gatherings must obtain approval in advance from the Ministry of Interior (MOI).

Protesters and security forces have clashed previously. Security forces have used water cannons and tear gas to break up protests.

Avoid all protests, demonstrations and large public gatherings.

Be especially alert for protest activity in:

- Areas surrounding Irada Square
- Jahra

During a period of unrest:

- monitor the media and local sources for new threats
- plan your activities to avoid days of national or commemorative significance
- follow the advice of local authorities
- be prepared to change your travel plans

Contact your airline, travel agent or insurer if your travel is disrupted.

### More information:

- [Protests and civil unrest](#)

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## Crime

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The overall crime rate in Kuwait is low but it is higher in some areas.

Some travellers have reported being physically and verbally harassed. Some foreigners have reported being followed at night.

Take care if you intend to travel to Jahra, where attackers have used firearms in confrontations. [Robberies](#) have occurred in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh.

To protect yourself from crime:

- be alert to petty thieves while in crowded places
- carry only what you need – leave other valuables in a secure place
- watch your belongings on buses and taxis, especially at night
- don't go out alone after dark or to isolated places, especially on foot
- always keep your vehicle and accommodation locked
- be alert to suspicious behaviour

### Sexual Assault

Victims of sexual assault in Kuwait may face arrest, detention or criminal prosecution for having sex outside of marriage and/or adultery.

If you are sexually assaulted in Kuwait, contact the Australian Embassy in Kuwait or the Consular Emergency Centre in Canberra immediately.


While consular officers can't provide legal or medical advice, they can provide a list of English-speaking service providers, such as lawyers and translators, who may be able to help.

**More information:**

- [Sexual assault](#)

## Cyber security

You could face cyber threats in any country, anyone is a target. Your devices and data can be stolen, especially when using public Wi-Fi, computers, or Bluetooth. Criminals can use stolen information to conduct scams or to resell your personal information.

The Australian Cyber Security Centre has advice on [how to protect yourself online](#) .

Social media can also be risky in places with social or political tensions or strict laws. People have been arrested for what they posted online. Check the laws of the destination you're travelling to and think about what you post on social media. The Australian Government can't get you out of trouble if you're accused of breaking the law.

**More information:**

- [Cyber security when travelling overseas](#)

## Drink spiking

Drink spiking can happen anywhere. Be alert, don't leave your food or drinks alone. Watch when your drink is being mixed. If you [feel unwell](#), tell your friends immediately and get to a safe place. Keep an eye on your friends - if they feel unwell, stay with them. Get [medical help](#) if needed.

## Methanol poisoning

People have died or become very sick from poisoned drinks overseas. This includes Australians. Methanol is highly toxic. As little as one shot can be fatal. Methanol can be added or accidentally created during poor quality alcohol production. Only drink branded, sealed drinks. Get [urgent medical help](#) if you think you've been poisoned.

**More information:**

- [Partying safely while overseas](#)

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## Extreme weather and natural disasters


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Sand and dust storms occur regularly.

It's often very hot and dry in Kuwait, where the hottest months are June, July and August. Temperatures are often above 50°C and rarely drop below 30°C, even at night. High humidity can be expected in August.

Flooding can happen, usually between December and March.

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

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

## Health

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### Travel insurance

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

It must cover all medical costs overseas, including evacuation. The Australian Government will not pay for these costs.

If you can't afford travel insurance, you shouldn't travel. This is true for everyone, even if you are healthy and fit.

If you don't have insurance, you might have to pay thousands of dollars up front for medical care.

Before you travel, check your policy, make sure:

- you know what activities and medical care your insurance covers, including evacuations
- your insurance covers you for your whole trip, including any stopovers
- you know any exclusions – for example, you might need to pay extra for activities like motorcycling, snow sports or bungee jumping.

**More information:**

- [Travel insurance](#)

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### Physical and mental health

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Think about your health before you travel, especially if you have any medical conditions.

See your doctor or a travel clinic to:

- get a basic check-up
- ask if your travel plans might affect your health
- find out what vaccinations you need.

If you're concerned about your mental wellbeing, or someone else's, read more about [mental health support overseas](#).

**More information:**

- [General health advice](#)
- [Managing your mental health](#)

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### Medication

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Not all medications available in Australia are accessible in other countries. Some medicines may be illegal, even if prescribed by an Australian doctor.

Ensure your [medication](#) is legal overseas. Take enough for your whole trip.

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

- medication names
- your required dosage
- that the medications are for your personal use.

**More information:**

- [Medicines](#)

Some medications require approval from Kuwait's Ministry of Health.

If you plan to bring medication, check if it's legal in Kuwait by contacting the Kuwaiti Embassy in Australia. Take enough legal medicine for your trip.

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## Health risks

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### Air quality

Air pollution levels in Kuwait are often at dangerous levels, increasing the risk of breathing problems.

Dust and sandstorms can be severe and occur throughout the year.



Poor air quality can cause:

- traffic delays and accidents
- flight delays

People who have pre-existing medical conditions, particularly heart and lung conditions, may be especially affected. If you're concerned:

- seek medical advice
- follow advice from local authorities about methods to reduce exposure
- monitor an air quality index
- reduce your exposure

**More information:**

- [Kuwait Air Quality Index \(AQI\) and Air Pollution Information](#) 
- [Air Pollution](#)  (WHO)

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## Medical care

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There's no agreement between Australia and Kuwait for free healthcare. Tourists must pay for all [medical care](#), even if they need to stay in hospital or be evacuated. This can be very expensive. Make sure your [travel insurance](#) covers you. The Australian Government won't pay for these costs.

The standard of medical facilities in Kuwait varies in government-run and private institutions. You'll be expected to pay in advance for all services. Some hospitals only accept citizens, and some treatments and medicines may not be available to foreigners. Government facilities offer more specialty care services, though wait times are often long and can be difficult to access for non-nationals.

Married women may be required to obtain their husband's permission before some medical procedures.

Psychological and psychiatric services are limited, with hospital-based care only available through government institutions.

If you need a complex procedure or become seriously ill, you may need to be evacuated. Medical evacuation can be very expensive.

## Local laws

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### Local law

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When you travel to another country, you must follow their laws. Even if they seem strict compared to Australia's. Before you go, learn about the [local laws](#) in that country.

The Australian Government is limited in how and when we can help if you're [arrested overseas](#). We can't get you out of trouble or out of jail. Understand our limits. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#).

Kuwaiti authorities don't normally notify the Australian Embassy if they detain or arrest Australians.

If you are detained, ask the authorities, your family, friend or colleague to inform the Embassy as soon as possible.

#### More information:

- [Arrested or jailed](#)

### Drugs and alcohol

Possession of illicit drugs and alcohol is illegal. Penalties are severe.

Convictions for possession and trafficking of drugs may result in heavy fines, lengthy jail sentences, deportation or the death penalty.

It is illegal to bring alcohol into Kuwait and possess or consume it in the country.

Public intoxication or driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs is punishable by fines, imprisonment, deportation and confiscation of your driving licence.

#### More information:

- [Carrying or using drugs](#)

### Commercial, civil, family and employment law

Australian and Kuwaiti laws are very different. This includes laws about:

- commercial arrangements
- civil matters
- family matters
- employment.

Seemingly minor incidents can result in lengthy legal proceedings. If you have an open case, you may be prevented from leaving the country until it's resolved.

Some offences that aren't serious in Australia are extremely serious in Kuwait. This includes:

- writing a cheque without enough funds in your account
- not paying your bills.

We can't interfere in commercial and family disputes.

If you're involved in local legal matters:

- seek professional advice
- understand your rights and what you must do under Kuwaiti law.

This is particularly the case for family law matters, including:

- divorce
- child custody
- child support.

Kuwaiti authorities require that documents issued in Australia are both:

- authenticated by DFAT before you leave Australia

- authenticated by officials at the Australian Embassy in Kuwait.

Types of documents you'll need to authenticate include:

- academic (university and secondary school) records
- Police clearance (AFP National Police Check)
- a marriage or birth certificate for a residency permit.

**More information:**

- [Legalising documents](#)
- [Living or working overseas](#)

## Other laws

Always carry ID, such as your passport or a Kuwaiti civil identity card.

Authorities conduct regular checks for illegal workers.

It's illegal to:

- challenge or criticise regional political matters and figures, the Kuwait leadership including the Amir, Crown Prince and Prime Minister in any way, including in speech, writing or drawing, or using social media platforms
- import alcohol (also see Drugs and alcohol section above), pork products or pornography
- drive without a valid licence
- drink and drive
- take photos or videos of Government buildings or military sites, oil fields, and people (particularly local women) without permission.

## Traffic incidents

If you receive a traffic violation or are involved in an accident, you cannot leave Kuwait until the matter is resolved and relevant fines are paid.

## Sex and intimacy laws

It's illegal to:

- have sex outside of marriage
- cohabit with someone of the opposite sex if unmarried. It's illegal to stay in a hotel room with someone of the opposite sex unless you're married to them. The hotel staff may ask you for a marriage certificate
- engage in intimate public displays of affection.
- de-facto relationships are not recognised in Kuwait

## LGBTQIA+ laws

Same-sex relationships and impersonating the opposite sex are illegal. Kuwait doesn't recognise or allow same-sex marriages and rights. Punishments can include fines, imprisonment and deportation.

Rainbow and LGBTQIA+ products are banned in Kuwait. Increased scrutiny and searches of personal belongings have been reported at ports of entry, including confiscation of items bearing these colours.

**More information:**

- [Advice for LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)

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## Australian laws

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Some Australian laws still apply even if you're in another country. You could be charged in Australia if you break these laws overseas.

**More information:**

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

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## Dual nationals

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Kuwait doesn't recognise dual nationality. Authorities have revoked people's Kuwaiti citizenship for reasons including dual nationality.

If you're a dual national and authorities arrest or detain you, our ability to deliver consular services may be limited.

Kuwaiti authorities have confiscated the [Australian passports](#) of dual citizens. This doesn't deprive you of your Australian citizenship.

If this happens, contact the Australian Embassy. See [Local contacts](#)

### More information:

- [Dual nationals](#)

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## Local customs

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Kuwait is a Muslim country. Respect local traditions, customs and religious beliefs. Cover your shoulders and knees, avoid wearing shorts or tight clothing and behave modestly in public, government buildings and places of worship.

The Islamic holy month of [Ramadan](#) is strictly observed in Kuwait. Take care not to offend others.

During Ramadan, it is illegal to eat, drink or smoke in public during the day. If you are not fasting, avoid these activities around people who are.

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## Travel

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### Visas and border measures

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Each country or territory decides its own entry and exit rules, including health border screening measures. To find out what you need to enter a destination, ask their embassy, consulate or immigration office.

Make sure you meet all entry and exit conditions. If you don't, the Australian Government can't help you.


### Visas

You'll need a visa to enter Kuwait.

Visas on arrival and e-visas are available for Australian citizens. To obtain a tourist visa on arrival, you must:

- pay the fee when you arrive at Kuwait International Airport
- have a return ticket
- provide the address of your accommodation in Kuwait
- have a passport valid for at least 6 months
- not have any security restrictions that prevent entry into Kuwait

You can apply for an e-visa at the Ministry of Interior's Kuwait Visa website.

To apply for employment or residency visas, contact your nearest [Embassy of Kuwait](#) .




Entry and exit conditions can change at short notice. Contact your nearest Embassy of Kuwait for details about visas, currency and customs rules.

If you overstay your visa, you'll face a large fine or travel ban. Check the expiry date on your visa.

You may be refused entry into Kuwait if you have an Israeli stamp in your passport.

Kuwaiti authorities won't issue visas in an Australian emergency passport. You can only use an emergency passport to exit Kuwait.

**More information:**

- [Ministry of Interior](#) 
- [Ministry of Information](#) 
- [Directorate General for Civil Aviation](#) 

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## Other formalities

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Authorities may prevent you from departing Kuwait if:

- you have unpaid debts or fines, including traffic or parking fines, utility or telecommunications bills
- you're in a financial dispute
- you're charged with a criminal offence or are under investigation

If you're employed in the private sector in Kuwait, you must obtain an exit permit before leaving the country. Without the permit you may be prevented from departing.

Authorities enforce travel bans. They can take months to resolve. Seek the advice of a local lawyer.

If you're applying for an employment or residency visa, you'll need to get supporting documents verified before you arrive. See [Local laws](#)

Customs officials use strict screening procedures to detect illegal imports. See [Local laws](#)

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## Passport

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### Validity

Many countries require your passport to be valid for at least 6 months before entering or departing. This includes for transit.

If your passport expires too soon, you might not be able to travel.

The Australian Government doesn't make these rules. Check your passport's expiry date before you go. If you're not sure, it's a good idea to [get a new passport](#) .

### Lost or stolen passport


Your passport is valuable and can be used by others to commit crimes.

Don't let anyone trick you into giving it to them. Always keep it in a safe place.

If your passport is lost or stolen, tell the Australian Government:

- In Australia: contact the [Australian Passport Information Service](#) .
- Overseas: contact the nearest [Australian embassy or consulate](#) .

### Passport with 'X' gender identifier

Australian passports comply with international standards for sex and gender. If your passport has an 'X' in the sex field, we can't guarantee your entry or transit to other countries. Ask the [embassy or consulate of your destinations](#)  if they'll accept your passport with an 'X' gender marker. Check all transit destinations too.

**More information:**

- [LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)

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## Money

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The local currency is the Kuwaiti Dinar (KWD).

Declare all local and foreign currency equivalent to or over KWD3000 when you arrive. This covers all forms of currency, not only cash.

ATMs are widely available. Credit cards are widely accepted.

Some banks and shops won't accept foreign cards. Ask your bank if your cards will work in Kuwait.

Change currency only at commercial banks and official exchange bureau.

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## Local travel

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### Road travel

Driving in Kuwait is dangerous. Road conditions vary.

Driving speeds are very high in Kuwait compared to Australia. Most drivers pay little attention to other road users. Drivers generally ignore road safety rules.


Local authorities are increasingly using speed and radar cameras to monitor drivers and enforce traffic rules. Penalties can include deportation and imprisonment for some offences.

It's illegal to leave the scene of an accident before police arrive. If you have an accident:

- stay with the vehicle and don't move it
- call the police on 112

If you don't pay traffic or parking fines on time, authorities may:

- seize your vehicle
- impose a travel ban that prevents you from leaving Kuwait

Pay any traffic or parking fines as soon as possible. Residents of Kuwait can check for and pay traffic fines via the Sahel application or Ministry of Interior [website](#) .

If you must drive in Kuwait:

- check you have adequate insurance
- find out about local traffic laws and practices

**More information:**

- [Driving or riding](#)


### Driving permit


Kuwait has strict requirements for driver's licences.

If you drive without a valid licence, you could be jailed or deported.

If you're a visitor, you can use a valid International Driving Permit (IDP).

Get your IDP before leaving Australia.

If you're a resident in Kuwait, you'll need to obtain a [Kuwaiti driver's licence](#) .

If you plan to drive, get advice from a Kuwaiti [embassy or consulate](#) .

## Taxis

Only use official taxis and limousines. Book transport from a reliable company. Rideshare apps are common.

Some taxis don't use meters, which can result in disputes over the fare. Some taxis only accept cash.

Agree on the fare and form of payment before setting off.

## Public transport

Public transport exists in Kuwait but is limited to residential areas rather than tourist destinations.

### More information:

- [Transport and getting around safely](#)

## Motorcycles

Check if your travel insurance covers you when using a motorbike, quad bike or similar vehicle.

Always wear a helmet.

## Air travel

DFAT doesn't give advice about how safe different airlines or flight paths are.

Safety risks and weather events may cause flight delays and cancellations. Contact your travel agent or airline to confirm your plans.

Airlines and airports can restrict what you can take in your luggage. Regulations may be different to those in Australia. Check with your airline before you travel.

Check [Kuwait's air safety profile](#)  with the Aviation Safety Network.

### More information:

- [Air travel](#)

## Sea travel

Many sea areas in the Gulf region are under territorial dispute.

There are reports of vessel inspections, detentions and personnel arrests.

[Piracy](#) happens in the Gulf. Read the [International Maritime Bureau's piracy reports](#) .

### More information:

- [Travelling by boat](#)

## Border crossings

It's illegal and dangerous to travel near the borders with Iraq and Saudi Arabia without authorisation.

Armed guards patrol border areas.

All travel to Iraq is dangerous. Don't go there.

If you travel to Iraq despite our advice, ensure you have the correct documents authorising your movements.

Only use authorised road border crossing points into Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

### More information:

- [Travel advice for Iraq](#) 

## Unexploded weapons

Kuwait has unexploded remnants of war, including landmines, in desert areas and on some beaches.

People have been injured after picking up strange metal or plastic objects.

Don't stray from well-travelled roads.

## Local contacts

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### Emergencies

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Depending on what you need, contact your:

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

### Fire and rescue services

Call 112.

### Medical emergencies

Call 112 or go directly to the hospital.

### Police

Call 112 or visit the nearest police station.

Always get a police report when you report a crime.

Few police officers speak English. If you don't speak Arabic, you may need to find an Arabic speaker to help.

Your insurer should have a 24-hour emergency number.

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## Consular contacts

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The Australian Government aims to provide high quality consular assistance. There are limits to what we can do. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#) to understand how we can assist you overseas.

For consular assistance, contact the Australian Embassy in Kuwait City.

The working week is Sunday to Thursday.

### Australian Embassy, Kuwait City

Dar Al-Awadi Building (12th floor)  
Ahmed Al-Jaber Street,  
Sharq, Kuwait


Phone: (+965) 2232 2422

Email: [consular.kuwaitcity@dfat.gov.au](mailto:consular.kuwaitcity@dfat.gov.au)

Website: [kuwait.embassy.gov.au](http://kuwait.embassy.gov.au) 

X: [@AusAmbKuwait](#) 

Facebook: [Australian Embassy, Kuwait](#) 

Instagram: [@AusEmbKuwait](#) 

The working week is from Sunday to Thursday.

Check the Embassy website for details about opening hours and any temporary closures.

### **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**

The logo for Smartraveller.gov.au, 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.

## Lebanon

### Latest update

**Still current at:** 25 February 2026

**Updated:** 25 February 2026

**Latest update:** The Australian Government has directed the departure of all dependants of Australian officials posted to Lebanon in response to the deteriorating security situation in the Middle East.

You should reconsider your need to travel to Lebanon due to the uncertain security environment. If you're in Lebanon, consider leaving while commercial options to depart are still available. The security situation in the Middle East is unpredictable. Regional tensions remain high and there continues to be a risk of military conflict. Conflicts in the Middle East could lead to an increase in tensions elsewhere in the region, including in Lebanon, and may result in airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions. Beirut airport could close with no notice.

Demonstrations and protest activity may also occur and local security situations could deteriorate with little notice. Avoid all demonstrations and protests. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice.

We also continue to advise, do not travel to several areas of Lebanon due to security risks. The situation could deteriorate with no warning. More airstrikes could happen without warning.

Be prepared to leave quickly or to shelter in place for an extended period. Make sure you have enough food, water and medication. Keep your passport handy. Make sure you have travel insurance with coverage for high-risk destinations.

The Australian Government may not be able to assist you to leave. Subscribe to Smartraveller to receive email alerts (see 'Safety').

[Jump to...](#)

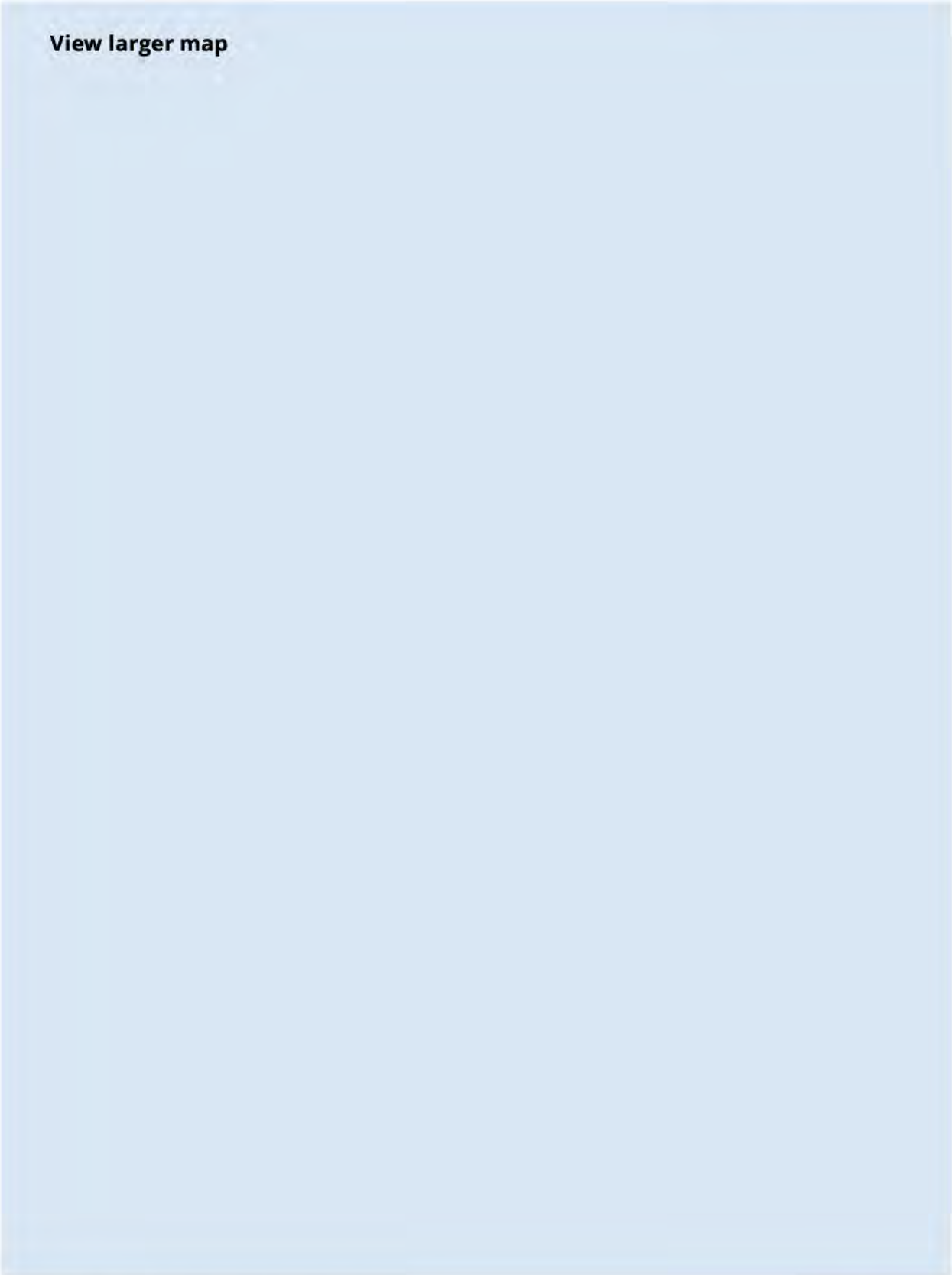
**Reconsider your need to travel overall due to the uncertain security environment.**

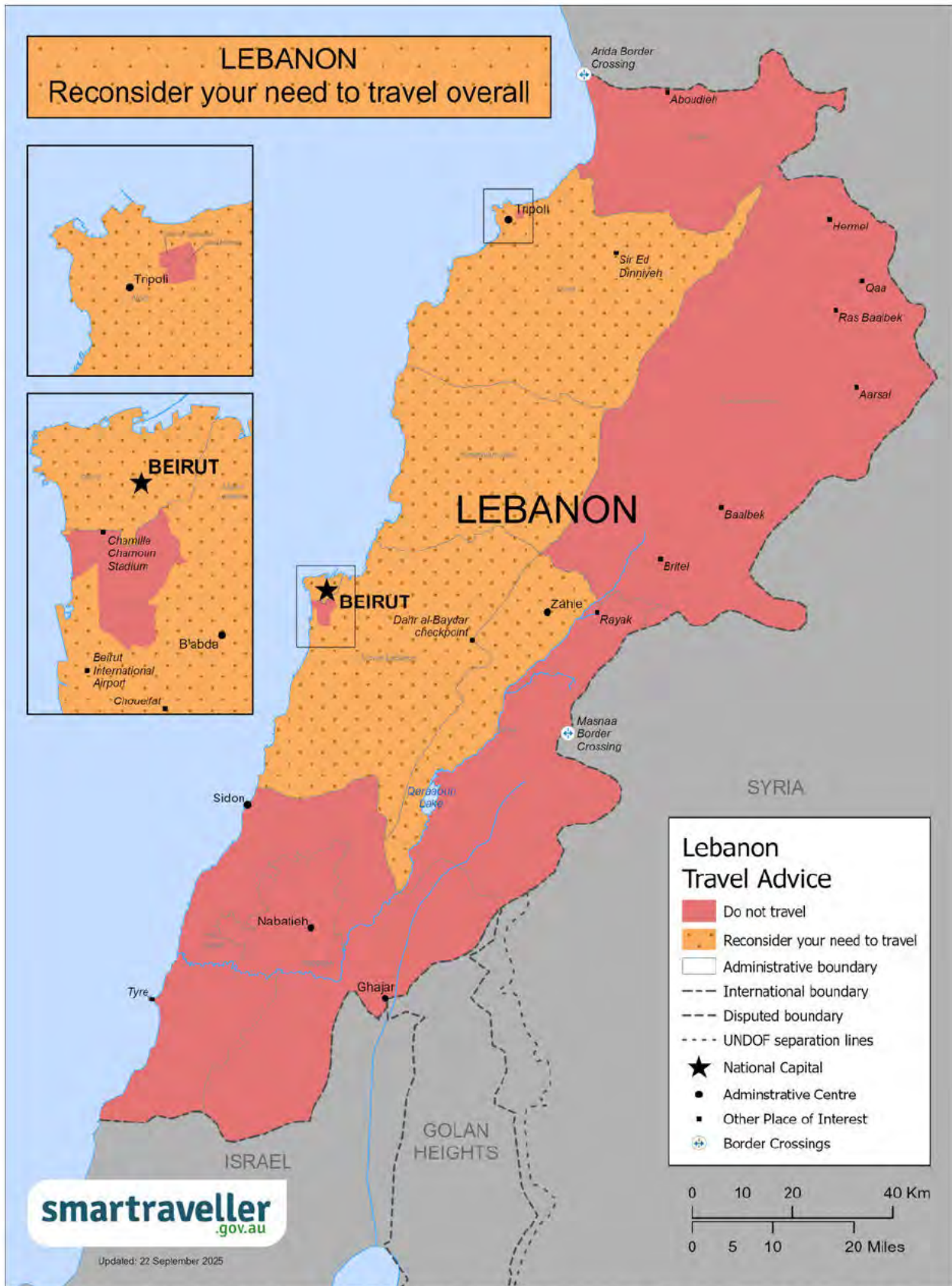
**Higher levels apply in some areas.**

## Advice levels

**What does this mean? >**

**View larger map**





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[Reconsider your need to travel](#) to Lebanon due to the uncertain security environment.

**Do not travel** to:

- the southern Governorates of South Lebanon and Nabatieh due to military activity across the area, especially near the border with Israel.
- the Governorates of Akkar and Baalbek-Hermel due to clashes between rival armed groups, military activity, such as air strikes, and the high risk of sporadic violence.
- the area east of the Litani River in the Governorate of Bekaa due to clashes between rival armed groups, military activity, such as air strikes, and the high risk of sporadic violence.
- Palestinian refugee camps as extremist groups operate there and the Lebanese state has no formal security presence.
- Tripoli's Jabal Mohsen and Bab-al-Tabbaneh neighbourhood due to the risk of unrest and violence in these areas.
- the Dahiyeh region due to the security situation remaining unstable, including:
  - the area south of the Camille Chamoun Sports Stadium to the airport (south from Adnon El Hakim Road to Abbas El Mousawi Road). This includes the suburbs of Chiyah, Ghobeire, Haret Hreik, Bir el Abed, Borj el Barajne, Mraije, Roueiss, Lailake, Hay el Sellom, Tahouitit el Ghadir and Bir Hassan
  - east of the airport highway
  - west of the airport highway to El Akhtal El Saghir Road.
  - this area does not include the airport highway (Ziad Rahbani, formerly Hafez El Assad).
- within 5km of the border with Syria due to likely unrest and cross-border clashes

## Overview



### Safety

- On 25 February 2026, the Australian Government directed the departure of all dependants of Australian officials posted to Lebanon in response to the deteriorating security situation in the Middle East.
- Consider leaving Lebanon while commercial options to depart are still available. Airspace closures and flight cancellations could happen soon, making it impossible to leave later.
- The security situation in the Middle East is unpredictable. Conflicts in the Middle East could lead to an increase in tensions elsewhere in the region and may result in airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice.
- Demonstrations and protest activity may also occur, and local security situations could deteriorate with little notice. Large protests happen and can turn violent. Tear gas, water cannons and live ammunition may be used. Avoid large public gatherings. Avoid all demonstrations and protests.
- A ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hizballah was announced on 26 November 2024. However, Israeli military airstrikes continue to occur in certain areas and without warning.
- Beirut airport could close with no notice, and you may be unable to leave for an extended period. Make sure you have enough supplies, including food, water, medicine, a radio, torches, and batteries. Keep your identity documents, including your passport, handy. If the security situation deteriorates, the Australian Government may not be able to assist you to leave.

- Avoid areas where military activity is ongoing or may occur. GPS signals may be blocked in parts of Lebanon. See our advice on [armed conflict](#).
- Celebratory and warning gunfire sometimes occurs and has caused casualties. Stay inside during celebratory and warning gunfire or if you're caught in civil unrest.
- Terrorist attacks could occur anytime and anywhere, including in Beirut. Attacks involving improvised explosive devices (IEDs), small arms and kidnappings have occurred in Lebanon. Extremists may target foreigners. Take safety precautions. Always be alert to possible threats and avoid potential targets.
- There's a high threat of armed conflict in southern Lebanon. Israeli forces occupy parts of the southern border. Tensions remain high in the surrounding region. Avoid areas of military conflict.

Full travel advice [Safety](#)



## Health

- Shortages of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies could occur without notice. Make sure you have enough medication with you, including if you need to depart Lebanon.
- The public health care system is limited. Most reputable hospitals are private and expensive. You'll probably have to pay up front.
- Health risks include possible water contamination, waterborne illnesses and air pollution caused by burning waste and backup generators. Drink only boiled or bottled water from bottles with sealed lids.

Full travel advice [Health](#)



## Local laws

- Religious law and civil law are treated equally. All family law matters are based on local religious laws. Stop-orders that prevent you from leaving Lebanon may arise from family disputes. If you're involved in divorce, custody or other family disputes, speak to a lawyer before you leave Australia.
- Don't use or carry illegal drugs. Penalties are severe and include jail terms.
- Serious crimes like murder and treason may result in the death penalty.
- Lebanon recognises dual nationality. However, Lebanese authorities treat Lebanese dual nationals as Lebanese citizens. This may limit our ability to help you if you're arrested or detained.
- Standards of dress and behaviour are modest in parts of Lebanon, particularly at religious sites. Public displays of affection may cause offence.
- Be careful when taking photos. Photographing military personnel or sites, government buildings and major civil infrastructure, such as power stations and other installations is illegal.

Full travel advice [Local laws](#)



## Travel

- Make sure you have insurance for your travel and that it includes coverage for high-risk destinations.
- You can get a tourist visa on arrival in Lebanon. Entry and exit conditions can change at short notice. Contact the nearest embassy or consulate of Lebanon for the latest details.
- Always carry ID. You'll need to show it at road checkpoints. Lebanese General Security (border control) will check your name against a database of people wanted for or convicted of an offence. If your name matches an entry, you may be detained. You'll have to prove that the record doesn't relate to you. Carry supporting documents, such as a copy of your birth certificate or other official documents.
- GPS signals may be blocked in parts of Lebanon. This can disrupt navigational apps and devices.

Full travel advice: [Travel](#)



## Local contacts

- There are limits to what consular assistance we can provide in high-risk locations. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#) to understand how we can assist you overseas.
- For consular assistance, 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

#### Security situation

Although a ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hizballah was announced on 26 November 2024, Israeli airstrikes continue to take place in southern Lebanon and in the Bekaa Valley without warning. Australians in Lebanon should avoid known or suspected areas of military activity.

On 25 February 2026, the Australian Government directed the departure of all dependants of Australian officials posted to Lebanon in response to the deteriorating security situation in the Middle East.

Consider leaving Lebanon while commercial options to depart are still available. Airspace closures and flight cancellations could happen soon, making it impossible to leave later. Beirut airport could close with no notice and you may be unable to leave for an extended period. The Australian Government may not be able to assist you to leave.

The conflict could escalate quickly or spread to other areas in Lebanon with little notice. This could affect your ability to move to safety. Australians in Lebanon should be prepared to shelter in place for an extended period. Make sure you have enough supplies, including food, water, medicine, radio, torches and batteries. Keep your identity documents, including your passport, handy. See our advice on [armed conflict](#).

Significant military action has taken place in Beirut, southern Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley, including rocket, missile and drone attacks, as well as airstrikes. The conflict could resume and escalate quickly. This could affect your ability to move to safety. Avoid areas where military activity may occur.

To be well prepared to leave quickly, make sure you have:

- up-to-date travel documentation
- passports for children born in Lebanon
- current passports for family members travelling with you
- resolved any visa overstay issues with General Security
- any visas your family may require for onwards travel
- any medications you may need while travelling

If violence increases, roads and highways could become blocked. This includes routes to airports and borders. Follow the advice of local authorities, including alerts to seek shelter. Monitor local media for updates.

Be extra cautious. The security situation is unpredictable and is affected by events including:

- clashes across the Lebanese/Israeli border
- clashes along the Lebanese/Syrian border
- the threat of terrorist attacks
- ongoing economic crisis, political and sectarian tensions

The ongoing crisis has reduced Lebanese law enforcement capacity.

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## Civil unrest and political tension



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

Planned and spontaneous demonstrations can take place.

Protests can become large and escalate into violent confrontations between demonstrators and security forces. Public protests that attract large groups of people can turn violent, potentially involving the use of weapons. You could be caught in violence directed at others.

Authorities use various measures to break up crowds, including:

- water cannons
- tear gas
- live ammunition

During civil unrest and times of heightened tensions:

- avoid all crowds, protests and demonstrations
- pay close attention to your personal security
- monitor the media and other sources for news on planned and possible actions
- avoid areas where violence has occurred or is likely to occur
- plan your activities to avoid potential unrest on days of national significance
- be prepared to change your travel plans in case of disruptions

If you're in an area affected by clashes:

- stay indoors and away from windows and balconies
- follow the advice of local authorities

Stay indoors during celebratory gunfire, which has caused casualties and often happens during and after political speeches, weddings, funerals as well as religious and new year holidays.

If transport disruptions affect your travel plans, contact your airline, travel agent or insurer for help.

#### **More information:**

- [Protests and civil unrest](#)

### **Beirut**

In times of civil unrest, avoid areas of Beirut where protests are known to occur.

In Beirut, protests sometimes close main highways. Burning of tyres to block main roads is common.

Civil unrest can affect the highways between central Beirut and the international airport. Armed clashes have occurred in some areas of Beirut.

### **Southern suburbs (Dahiyeh region) of Beirut**

Don't go to the Dahiyeh region.

This area does not include the main airport highway.

Security in the area is still unstable. You may be caught up in violent attacks between armed groups.

### **Palestinian refugee camps**

Don't visit Palestinian refugee camps in any part of Lebanon.

Extremist groups operate inside camps. The security situation could deteriorate without warning.

The Lebanese state has no formal security presence in the camps. Armed clashes between rival groups happen. Violent crime is common.

Also avoid areas around the camps when there's heightened tension or armed clashes. Stray ammunition has caused casualties.

### **Tripoli**

Don't go to Tripoli's Jabal Mohsen and Bab-al-Tabbaneh neighbourhoods. The risk of civil unrest remains high and can turn violent.

### **Southern governorates of South Lebanon and Nabatieh**

Do not travel to the southern governorates of South Lebanon and Nabatieh due to military activity across the area, especially near the border with Israel.

Military action could occur and escalate quickly. This could affect your ability to move to safety. There are also landmines and unexploded ordnance.

Avoid crowds and large gatherings. You could be caught up in violence directed at others.

Although the Lebanese Armed Forces and United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) are present in southern Lebanon, the situation could change quickly.

Israeli forces occupy portions of the southern border. Tensions remain high in the surrounding region.

You could be caught up in violence directed at others.

Avoid areas where military activity may occur. Be ready to leave at short notice.

Don't visit the Palestinian refugee camp of Ein El-Hilweh. There are regular clashes between rival groups, including the use of heavy weapons and snipers. Many people have been killed or injured. Lebanese authorities have limited capacity to impose law and order.

Stray ammunition has caused casualties.

### **Northern governorates of Akkar and Baalbek-Hermel**

Do not travel to the northern governorates of Akkar and Baalbek- Hermel due to clashes between rival armed groups, military activity, such as air strikes, and the high risk of sporadic violence.

### **Regions within 5km of the Syrian border**

Don't travel within 5km of the border with Syria, including:

- north of the Halba-Qoubaiyat Road, northern Akkar
- Aرسال
- Hermel Wadi Khaled
- the Golan Heights
- Shebaa Farms

Border clashes and violent incidents between Lebanese security forces and Syria-based groups, as well as airstrikes, occur in these areas.

### **Areas east of the Litani River in the governorate of Bekaa**

Do not travel to the area east of the Litani River in the governorate of Bekaa due to clashes between rival armed groups, military activity, such as air strikes, and the high risk of sporadic violence.

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## **Terrorism**



Terrorism is a threat worldwide. Terrorist attacks could occur anywhere and at any time, including in Beirut, Tripoli and areas close to the Syrian border. Tactics used by terrorists can include car bombing, suicide bombing and rocket fire. Foreigners may be targeted. Be alert to possible threats, especially in public places.

Security services are on a high state of alert and continue to carry out operations to prevent attacks.

If you notice a security operation is underway, leave the area straight away if safe to do so.

Targets associated with the Lebanese Government include:

- government institutions, senior politicians, and officials
- the Lebanese Armed Forces
- infrastructure such as airports and public building

Terrorists may also target areas frequented by foreigners, such as:

- buildings associated with embassies, foreign companies, and international organisations
- schools and places of worship
- hotels, clubs, restaurants and bars
- shopping centres, markets and grocery stores
- public transport
- promenades, cinemas, outdoor recreation events and other tourist areas

Extremists have increased attacks in the lead-up to and on days of national and religious significance.

Report any suspicious items or activities to police.

To reduce your risks:

- take official warnings seriously
- consider the likely level of security at known terrorist targets when planning your activities
- monitor the media for threats.

If there's a terrorist incident, leave the area if it's safe to do so and follow the instructions of local authorities.


Don't gather in groups after an attack. This also applies if you're evacuated from a building for safety or security reasons.

**More information:**

- [Terrorism](#)

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## Kidnapping



Kidnapping occurs across the world with political, ideological, and criminal motives. Foreigners, including Australians, have been kidnapped overseas whilst travelling. Kidnaps can happen anywhere, anytime, including destinations that are typically at lower risk.

There's a threat of kidnapping in Lebanon. Foreigners have been kidnapped in Lebanon. Tourists, journalists and humanitarian workers are seen as legitimate targets.

You're responsible for your own safety.

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. Ransom payments to terrorist groups are likely to contravene Australian counter-terrorism financing laws.

**More information:**

- [Kidnapping](#)

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## Crime



Crime in Lebanon has increased due to the declining economic situation.

It could include:

- vehicle crime
- petty theft such as bag snatching (including by motorbike riders)
- home break-ins and armed [robberies](#) (especially at banks)
- physical and sexual assault


Always be aware of your surroundings.

**More information:**

- [Advice for women travellers](#)
- [If you're a victim of crime overseas](#)

## Cyber security

You could face cyber threats in any country, anyone is a target. Your devices and data can be stolen, especially when using public Wi-Fi, computers, or Bluetooth. Criminals can use stolen information to conduct scams or to resell your personal information.

The Australian Cyber Security Centre has advice on [how to protect yourself online](#) .

Social media can also be risky in places with social or political tensions or strict laws. People have been arrested for what they posted online. Check the laws of the destination you're travelling to and think about what you post on social media. The Australian Government can't get you out of trouble if you're accused of breaking the law.

**More information:**

- [Cyber security when travelling overseas](#)

## Drink spiking

Drink spiking can happen anywhere. Be alert, don't leave your food or drinks alone. Watch when your drink is being mixed. If you [feel unwell](#), tell your friends immediately and get to a safe place. Keep an eye on your friends - if they feel unwell, stay with them. Get [medical help](#) if needed.

## Methanol poisoning

People have died or become very sick from poisoned drinks overseas. This includes Australians. Methanol is highly toxic. As little as one shot can be fatal. Methanol can be added or accidentally created during poor quality alcohol production. Only drink branded, sealed drinks. Get [urgent medical help](#) if you think you've been poisoned.

**More information:**

- [Partying safely while overseas](#)

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## Extreme weather and natural disasters



Lebanon experiences [extreme weather and natural disasters](#)

Lebanon is in an active [earthquake](#) zone.

[Bush and forest fires](#) occur in the summer months (July to September), especially in heavily forested areas. Avoid fire-affected areas. Monitor the media for updates.

Sand and dust storms are common. They may pose health risks, especially to people with breathing problems.

Register with the [Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System](#)  to receive alerts on major disasters.

## Health

### Travel insurance

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

It must cover all medical costs overseas, including evacuation. The Australian Government will not pay for these costs.

If you can't afford travel insurance, you shouldn't travel. This is true for everyone, even if you are healthy and fit.

If you don't have insurance, you might have to pay thousands of dollars up front for medical care.

Before you travel, check your policy, make sure:

- you know what activities and medical care your insurance covers, including evacuations
- your insurance covers you for your whole trip, including any stopovers
- you know any exclusions – for example, you might need to pay extra for activities like motorcycling, snow sports or bungee jumping.

**More information:**

- [Travel insurance](#)

### Physical and mental health

Think about your health before you travel, especially if you have any medical conditions.

See your doctor or a travel clinic to:

- get a basic check-up
- ask if your travel plans might affect your health
- find out what vaccinations you need.

If you're concerned about your mental wellbeing, or someone else's, read more about [mental health support overseas](#)

**More information:**

- [General health advice](#)
- [Managing your mental health](#)

### Medication

Not all medications available in Australia are accessible in other countries. Some medicines may be illegal, even if prescribed by an Australian doctor.

Ensure your [medication](#) is legal overseas. Take enough for your whole trip.

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

- medication names
- your required dosage
- that the medications are for your personal use.

**More information:**

- [Medicines](#)

Shortages of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies can occur without notice.

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## Health risks

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Health risks include possible water contamination, waterborne illnesses and air pollution caused by burning waste and exhaust fumes from diesel generators. Drink only boiled or bottled water from bottles with sealed lids.

Ask your doctor about health risks and vaccines before you go.

**More information**

- [Infectious diseases](#)

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## Medical care

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There's no agreement between Australia and Lebanon for free healthcare. Tourists must pay for [all medical care](#) even if they need to stay in hospital or be evacuated. This can be very expensive. Make sure your [travel insurance](#) covers you. The Australian Government won't pay for these costs.

The standard of medical facilities and care in many of Lebanon's large private hospitals is generally as good as in Australia. However, the public health system doesn't work in the same way. Most reputable hospitals are private and expensive.

The ability of some hospitals to provide medical care may be impacted by the economic situation, shortages of medical supplies and frequent power cuts.

Doctors usually accept upfront cash payment for services. Treatment can be expensive.

Before treating patients, hospitals usually require a guarantee of payment such as:

- confirmed travel insurance with medical cover
- an up-front deposit

## Local laws

## Local laws



When you travel to another country, you must follow their laws. Even if they seem strict compared to Australia's. Before you go, learn about the [local laws](#) in that country.

The Australian Government is limited in how and when we can help if you're [arrested overseas](#). We can't get you out of trouble or out of jail. Understand our limits. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#)

Crimes under Lebanese laws may not be considered offences in Australia. Religious law has the same standing as civil law, which incorporates family law, marriage, divorce and custody.

### Family law

All family law matters are based on local religious laws. This includes child custody and divorce decisions.

If you're involved in custody or other family disputes, speak to a lawyer before you leave Australia. Ask for advice on how religious law may affect your family circumstances.

Lebanon has not signed the [Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction](#). There may be significant delays in returning a child abducted by a parent to Lebanon back to Australia.

Australian citizens can be prevented from leaving Lebanon if there are pending family court matters.

Authorities have stopped Australians and Australian-Lebanese dual nationals, including mothers with children, from leaving Lebanon. Relatives have legally placed border alerts ('stop orders') where there are pending family court matters. Overturning stop orders can be a time consuming and complicated process.

The Australian Government can't prevent or overturn a stop order on an Australian citizen.

#### More information:

- [Australia-Lebanon Agreement information for parents](#)

### Drugs

Penalties for drug offences are severe and include mandatory jail terms.

#### More information:

- [Carrying or using drugs](#)

### Other laws

Serious crimes, such as murder and treason, may attract the death penalty.

Access to some areas of Lebanon is restricted.

Authorities may detain you and take your camera if you photograph or film:

- military personnel or facilities
- government buildings
- major civilian infrastructure (such as power stations)

### LGBTQIA+ information

Same-sex relations are illegal in Lebanon. Penalties include jail terms of up to one year.

There's been an increase in anti-LGBTQIA+ rhetoric in the community. Some incidents of targeted harassment have occurred.

#### More information:

- [Advice for LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)

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## Australian laws

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Some Australian laws still apply even if you're in another country. You could be charged in Australia if you break these laws overseas.

**More information:**

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

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## Dual nationality

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Lebanon recognises dual nationality. However, Lebanese citizenship takes precedence over the second nationality.

If you're a dual national, Lebanese authorities will treat you as a Lebanese citizen. This may significantly limit the [consular services](#) we can provide if you're arrested or detained.

If you're a dual citizen re-entering Lebanon on your Lebanese passport or identity document, make sure:

- your Lebanese documentation is up to date
- you meet all entry requirements

**More information:**

- [Embassy or consulate of Lebanon](#) 
- [Advice for dual nationals](#)

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## Local customs

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Standards of dress and behaviour are modest in parts of Lebanon, particularly at religious sites.

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

Public displays of affection may cause offence in conservative and religious areas.

Some hotels ask for proof of marriage before renting rooms to couples. Hotels may refuse you accommodation if you can't provide proof.

### Ramadan

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

Avoid eating, drinking or smoking in public, or in front of people who are fasting.

## Travel


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### Visas and border measures

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Each country or territory decides its own entry and exit rules, including health border screening measures. To find out what you need to enter a destination, ask their embassy, consulate or immigration office.

#### Visas

You can get a tourist visa on arrival. Entry and exit conditions can change at short notice. Contact the nearest [Lebanese embassy or consulate](#)  for details about visas, currency, customs and quarantine rules.

Make sure you meet all entry and exit conditions. If you don't, the Australian Government can't help you.

#### Border measures

Land border crossings between Lebanon and Syria have witnessed clashes and violent incidents between Lebanese security forces and Syria-based groups, as well as airstrikes. Due to instability in Syria, land border crossings from Syria to Lebanon may close at short notice.

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

#### More information:

- [Lebanon - Ministry of Public Health](#) 

### Other formalities

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#### Travel to Israel

It's against Lebanese law to travel to Israel.

If there's evidence that you've travelled to Israel, or intend to, you will be refused entry to Lebanon and deported. You may be arrested and imprisoned. 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

Authorities can hold anyone for questioning for several days and then deport them.

#### Border alerts

Lebanese General Security (border control) checks all traveller names on arrival and departure against a database of border alerts ('stop orders').

Border alerts are raised if there are pending court cases or warrants for people:

- who are wanted for an offence in Lebanon
- who have been convicted of an offence in Lebanon
- with pending family court matters (see [Local laws](#))

If your name matches an entry in the database, authorities may detain you. You'll have to prove the record doesn't relate to you.

Carry supporting identity documents.

Travellers have been detained due to cases of mistaken identity.

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## Passport

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### Validity

Many countries require your passport to be valid for at least 6 months before entering or departing. This includes for transit.

If your passport expires too soon, you might not be able to travel.

The Australian Government doesn't make these rules. Check your passport's expiry date before you go. If you're not sure, it's a good idea to [get a new passport](#) .

### Lost or stolen passport


Your passport is valuable and can be used by others to commit crimes.

Don't let anyone trick you into giving it to them. Always keep it in a safe place.

If your passport is lost or stolen, tell the Australian Government:

- In Australia: contact the [Australian Passport Information Service](#) .
- Overseas: contact the nearest [Australian embassy or consulate](#) .

### Passport with X gender identifier

Australian passports comply with international standards for sex and gender. If your passport has an 'X' in the sex field, we can't guarantee your entry or transit to other countries. Ask the [embassy or consulate of your destinations](#)  if they'll accept your passport with an 'X' gender marker. Check all transit destinations too.

**More information:**

- [LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)

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## Money

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Both the USD and the Lebanese Pound (also known as the Lebanese Lira) are accepted throughout Lebanon.

Currency exchange facilities and ATMs are widely available in Beirut and other large cities. Daily withdrawal limits and high withdrawal fees may apply.

Make sure you have access to enough hard currency cash during your stay. Contact your bank and monitor media reports before you travel to Lebanon.

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## Local travel

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### Shortages

Fuel and power shortages frequently occur, disrupting public water supply and telecommunication networks, including mobile and internet.

Expect delays and closures at service stations during fuel shortages. Violence and security incidents have occurred at fuel distribution and storage sites.

Public and private sector industrial strikes occur occasionally, which may affect essential services, including telecommunications and the banking sector.

Shortages of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies can occur without notice.

Monitor the media for updates on changes that may affect your access to essential services.

### Road travel

If you plan to drive in Lebanon, you should hold an International Drivers Permit.

Armed security is present throughout Lebanon, including at road checkpoints.

Always carry ID. Follow the advice of security personnel.

Driving can be dangerous due to:

- poorly maintained roads and vehicles
- snow and ice in winter
- traffic conditions
- poor local driving habits
- lack of streetlights and functioning traffic lights

There are many unexploded ordinances throughout Lebanon, especially south of the Litani River, including:

- cluster bombs
- landmines

Minefields aren't always clearly marked.

To protect yourself from landmines:

- ask local residents for advice
- stay on sealed roads
- avoid walking or driving cross-country

Roads may be blocked during demonstrations and civil unrest. This includes routes to and from the airport and border crossings.

GPS signals may be blocked in parts of Lebanon, disrupting navigational apps.

### More information:

- [Road safety](#)

### Taxis

Don't use service (shared) taxis or taxis hailed on the street, especially late at night.

Australian Embassy staff in Beirut have been advised to use Allo Taxi.

## Air travel

DFAT doesn't give advice about how safe different airlines or flight paths are.

Safety risks and weather events may cause flight delays and cancellations. Contact your travel agent or airline to confirm your plans.

Airlines and airports can restrict what you can take in your luggage. Regulations may be different to those in Australia. Check with your airline before you travel.

The security situation in the Middle East is unpredictable. Conflicts in the Middle East could lead to an increase in tensions elsewhere in the region and may result in airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice.

### More information:

- [Travelling by air](#)

## Adventure activities

Transport and tour operators don't always follow safety and maintenance standards. This includes for adventure activities.

If you plan to do an [adventure activity](#)

- check if your travel insurance policy covers it
- ask about and insist on minimum safety requirements
- always use available safety gear, such as life jackets or seatbelts

If proper safety equipment isn't available, use another provider.

## Local contacts

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### Emergencies

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Depending on what you need, contact your:

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

### Fire and rescue services

Call 175.

### Medical emergencies

Call 140 or 81715076.

## Police

Call 112.

Always get a police report when you report a crime.


Your insurer should have a 24-hour emergency number.

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## Consular contacts

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There are limits to what consular assistance we can provide in high-risk locations. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#) to understand how we can assist you overseas.

For consular assistance, contact the [Australian Embassy in Beirut](#) .

### Australian Embassy


Embassy Complex  
Serail Hill  
Downtown Beirut  
Lebanon

Phone: +961 1 960600

Consular email: [consular.beirut@dfat.gov.au](mailto:consular.beirut@dfat.gov.au)

Passport email: [birt.passports@dfat.gov.au](mailto:birt.passports@dfat.gov.au)

Website: [lebanon.embassy.gov.au](http://lebanon.embassy.gov.au) 

Facebook: [Australian Embassy - Beirut, Lebanon](#) 

X: [@SafirAustralia](#) 

Instagram: [@ausembllb](#) 

### 24-hour Consular Emergency Centre

In a consular emergency outside of the Embassy's business hours, or if you can't contact the Embassy, call the 24-hour Consular Emergency Centre (CEC) on:

- +961 1 960600 from Lebanon (and press 7 to speak to a CEC operator)
- +61 2 6261 3305 from overseas
- 1300 555 135 in Australia



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



## Latest update

**Still current at:** 25 February 2026

**Updated:** 25 February 2026

**Latest update:** We continue to advise exercise a high degree of caution in Qatar due to the security situation in the region.

The security situation in the Middle East is unpredictable. Conflicts in the Middle East could lead to an increase in tensions elsewhere in the region and may result in airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice.

The Australian Government has offered voluntary departures for all dependants of Australian officials posted to Qatar in response to the deteriorating security situation in the Middle East.

Demonstrations and protest activity may also occur, and local security situations could deteriorate with little notice. Avoid all demonstrations and protests (see 'Safety').



**We now advise:**

**Exercise a high degree of caution in Qatar.**

[Jump to...](#)

[View larger map](#)

**QATAR**  
Exercise a high degree of caution

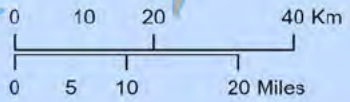
**Qatar Travel Advice**

- Exercise a high degree of caution
- Administrative boundary
- International boundary
- National Capital
- Other Place of Interest



**smartraveller**  
.gov.au

Updated: 15 January 2026



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[Exercise a high degree of caution](#) in Qatar due to the security situation in the region.

## Overview



### Safety

- The security situation in the Middle East is unpredictable. Conflicts in the Middle East could lead to an increase in tensions elsewhere in the region and may result in airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice.
- The Australian Government has offered voluntary departures for all dependants of Australian officials posted to Qatar in response to the deteriorating security situation in the Middle East.
- Demonstrations and protest activity may also occur, and local security situations could deteriorate with little notice. Avoid all demonstrations and protests
- Several terrorist attacks have happened in the wider Gulf region in recent years. Terrorists may target tourist areas and attractions. More attacks could occur. If there's a security incident, follow the advice of local authorities.
- Qatar has a low crime rate. Pickpocketing, bag snatching and other petty crimes are rare but can happen. Keep an eye on your belongings, especially in crowded places.
- Bank and credit card fraud can occur. Always keep your credit card in sight when shopping.
- Be prepared for extreme weather. From June to September, temperatures can reach over 50°C. Flash flooding can sometimes happen. Follow the advice of local officials.

Full travel advice: [Safety](#)



### Health

- Cases of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus have been reported in Qatar. Avoid contact with camels and products contaminated with camel secretions.
- Qatar can experience periods of high air pollution. Sand and dust storms can also worsen breathing issues. Talk to your doctor before you travel if you have concerns.
- Get comprehensive [travel insurance](#) before you leave. If you're staying longer than 30 days in Qatar, you must purchase health insurance from companies approved by the Qatari Ministry of Public Health at a standard cost of 50 Qatari Riyals per month.

Full travel advice: [Health](#)



### Local laws

- Qatari laws and customs are very different to those in Australia. If you're detained or arrested, ask police or prison officials to inform the Australian Embassy in Doha.
- If you receive a traffic violation, you cannot leave Qatar until you have paid all relevant fines.
- Don't use or carry illegal drugs. Penalties for drug offences include long jail terms. Authorities can detain and deport you if you carry medication to treat HIV and hepatitis. This can also happen if you test positive for either illness.
- Sex outside of marriage is illegal. If you're the victim of a sexual assault, authorities may arrest, detain or prosecute you for adultery. If you're sexually assaulted in Qatar, ask us for consular help and advice on available support services immediately. Hamad General Hospital provides [Sexual Assault Service](#).
- Qatar has conservative codes of dress and behaviour. Visitors are expected to cover their shoulders and knees when visiting public places, including museums and other government buildings. If you're at tourist attractions, shopping malls and other public places, check the specific dress codes at the venue or online.
- Avoid commenting on Qatari culture, government policy or services, and commercial enterprises online while in Qatar. This includes reviewing hotel or restaurant experiences on social media. These activities could be considered cybercrime offences in Qatar.

Full travel advice: [Local laws](#)




## Travel

- If you're staying longer than 30 days in Qatar, you must purchase health insurance either prior to or when you arrive in Qatar. You must purchase this from companies approved by the [Qatari Ministry of Public Health](#). This mandatory insurance only covers medical treatment in Qatar, not other common issues relating to travel, for example, lost luggage (see 'Full advice/Travel' section).
- You may be asked to show proof of your accommodation for the duration of your stay in Qatar on arrival at Hamad International Airport.
- Entry and exit conditions can change at short notice. Contact the nearest embassy or consulate of Qatar for the latest details.
- Driving in Qatar can be difficult and dangerous. Make sure you understand local laws and practices. It's illegal to use obscene language or hand gestures in traffic. It's also illegal to drive after drinking any amount of alcohol.
- Many areas of the Gulf are sensitive to security issues and territorial disputes. There's also a risk of [piracy](#). If you're planning sea travel, refer to the International Maritime Bureau's [piracy reports](#).
- You may be placed under a travel ban if you're involved in a dispute about (but not limited to) business, labour, employment, fines or civil legal proceedings. This can apply to tourists, visitors, or resident identity card (QID) holders. Travel bans are strictly enforced and can take months or years to resolve.

Full travel advice: [Travel](#)



## Local contacts

- The Australian Government aims to provide high quality consular assistance. There are limits to what we can do. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#) to understand how we can assist you overseas.
- For consular assistance, contact the [Australian Embassy in Doha](#) . The working week is Sunday to Thursday.
- To stay up to date with local information, follow the Embassy's social media accounts.

Full travel advice: [Local contacts](#)

## Full advice

### Safety

#### Terrorism

Terrorism is a threat worldwide. Terrorist attacks could occur anywhere and at any time. Be alert to possible threats, especially in public places.

There have been several terrorist attacks in the Gulf region in recent years. These have occurred at places visited by foreigners. Take official warnings seriously.

Attacks could target:

- places of worship
- hotels, restaurants, and bars
- sporting venues
- military sites
- transport hubs
- crowded public places
- other locations foreigners may visit

Read our general advice on protecting your safety during an [armed conflict](#).

If there's an attack, leave the affected area straight away if it's safe to.

**More information:**

- [Terrorist threats](#)

#### Civil unrest and domestic political tension

Public protests and events that attract large groups of people can occur with little notice.

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

To stay safe:

- avoid protests, demonstrations and other large public gatherings as they could turn violent
- be aware of local concerns about regional affairs
- check the news and other sources for details on planned and possible unrest or strikes
- plan your activities to avoid potential unrest
- change your travel plans if needed
- follow the advice of local authorities

If civil unrest disrupts your travel, contact your airline, travel agent or insurer for help.

**More information:**

- [Protests and civil unrest](#)

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## Crime



Qatar has a low crime rate.

Pickpocketing, bag snatching and other petty crime is rare but can happen. Keep an eye on your belongings, especially in crowded places.

Banking and credit card fraud can occur. Always keep your credit card in sight.

### Kidnapping

Kidnapping can happen anywhere, anytime, including in destinations that are typically at lower risk.

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

**More information:**

- [Kidnapping](#)

### Sexual assault

In Qatar, sex outside marriage is illegal. Police may prosecute you with criminal charges rather than treat you as a victim/survivor if you seek medical help after a sexual assault. Qatari law places a high burden of proof on the victim to demonstrate that sexual relations were not consensual. If the court determines sex was consensual, the victim or attacker may still face prosecution for the offence of sex outside of marriage.

If you choose not to report the sexual assault but seek medical assistance, all medical facilities are legally obliged to report cases of rape and sexual assault, and the results from any examinations to the local police. So even if you choose not to report the crime, the police will be notified.

It is your choice on whether to report to police. If you don't report it, your case will not be investigated.

If you're sexually assaulted in Qatar, contact the Australian Embassy in Doha on (+974) 4007 8500 or after hours the 24-hour Consular Emergency Centre in Canberra on:

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

Ask for guidance and information on support services, if needed we can help you contact your family and friends.

Consular officers can't provide legal or medical advice. However, they can provide lists of English-speaking service providers who may be able to help you.

**More information:**

- [Sexual Assault Overseas](#)
- [Reducing the risk of sexual assault and harassment](#)
- [Hamad General Hospital Medical Assistance Sexual Assault Service](#)

## Drink spiking

Drink spiking can happen anywhere. Be alert, don't leave your food or drinks alone. Watch when your drink is being mixed. If you [feel unwell](#), tell your friends immediately and get to a safe place. Keep an eye on your friends - if they feel unwell, stay with them. Get [medical help](#) if needed.

## Methanol poisoning

People have died or become very sick from poisoned drinks overseas. This includes Australians. Methanol is highly toxic. As little as one shot can be fatal. Methanol can be added or accidentally created during poor quality alcohol production. Only drink branded, sealed drinks. Get [urgent medical help](#) if you think you've been poisoned.

### More information:

- [Partying safely while overseas](#)

## Cyber security

You could face cyber threats in any country, anyone is a target. Your devices and data can be stolen, especially when using public Wi-Fi, computers, or Bluetooth. Criminals can use stolen information to conduct scams or to resell your personal information.

The Australian Cyber Security Centre has advice on [how to protect yourself online](#).

Social media can also be risky in places with social or political tensions or strict laws. People have been arrested for what they posted online. Check the laws of the destination you're travelling to and think about what you post on social media. The Australian Government can't get you out of trouble if you're accused of breaking the law.

### More information:

- [Cyber security when travelling overseas](#)

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## Tours and adventure activities



Transport and tour operators don't always follow safety and maintenance standards. This includes 4WD adventure activities in the desert.

If you plan to do a tour or [adventure activity](#)

- check if it's covered by your travel insurance policy
- check that vehicles are well-equipped for the desert
- check that there's enough water, fuel, food provisions and a mobile phone
- ask about, and insist on, minimum safety requirements
- always use available safety gear, such as life jackets or seatbelts

If proper safety equipment isn't available, use another provider.

Always:

- leave a copy of your travel itinerary with friends or relatives
- adjust your plans if the weather makes conditions unsafe
- seek advice from local authorities

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## Extreme weather and natural disasters

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Qatar often experiences extremely high temperatures. From June to September, the temperature can be higher than 50°C.

To avoid heat stroke and dehydration:

- drink plenty of water
- avoid long periods in the heat

Sandstorms and dust storms occur often.

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

- keep your passport in a safe, waterproof place
- register with the [Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System](#)  to receive alerts on major disasters.
- follow the advice of local authorities
- keep in contact with friends and family

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## Health

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### Travel insurance

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

It must cover all medical costs overseas, including evacuation. The Australian Government will not pay for these costs.

If you can't afford travel insurance, you shouldn't travel. This is true for everyone, even if you are healthy and fit.

If you don't have insurance, you might have to pay thousands of dollars up front for medical care.

Before you travel, check your policy, make sure:

- you know what activities and medical care your insurance covers, including evacuations
- your insurance covers you for your whole trip, including any stopovers
- you know any exclusions – for example, you might need to pay extra for activities like motorcycling, snow sports or bungee jumping.

**More information:**


- [Travel insurance](#)

If you're staying longer than 30 days in Qatar, you must purchase health insurance from companies approved by the Qatari Ministry of Public Health. This will cost 50 Qatari Riyals per month. Health insurance policies purchased outside Qatar may not meet Qatari entry requirements. For more information see [Mandatory Health Insurance Scheme](#).

The mandatory medical insurance required by all visitors to Qatar only covers medical treatment in Qatar, not other common issues relating to travel, for example, lost luggage.

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## Physical and mental health



Think about your health before you travel, especially if you have any medical conditions.

See your doctor or a travel clinic to:

- get a basic check-up
- ask if your travel plans might affect your health
- find out what vaccinations you need.

If you're concerned about your mental wellbeing, or someone else's, read more about [mental health support overseas](#)

**More information:**

- [General health advice](#)
- [Managing your mental health](#)

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## Medications



Not all medications available in Australia are accessible in other countries. Some medicines may be illegal, even if prescribed by an Australian doctor.

Ensure your [medication](#) is legal overseas. Take enough for your whole trip.

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

- medication names
- your required dosage
- that the medications are for your personal use.

**More information:**

- [Medicines](#)

If you plan to bring medication, check if it's legal in Qatar. Take enough legal medicine for your trip. For more information check the Ministry of Public Health [Guideline of controlled drugs for travellers \[PDF 614KB\]](#) or contact the Qatari Embassy in Canberra [Embassy of Qatar in Australia](#).

Get medical documents [authenticated](#) by DFAT in Australia if needed.

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## Health risks



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### Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus

Cases of [Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus](#) have been reported in Qatar.

There may be a small risk of contracting MERS via ongoing physical contact with camels. To minimise this risk, avoid consuming raw camel milk, undercooked camel meat, or anything contaminated with camel secretions.

Get medical advice if you have a fever, cough, breathing difficulties or diarrhoea.

#### More information:

- [MERS information card](#) (Department of Health and Aged Care)

### Air pollution

The level of air pollution in Qatar is high by global standards. Dust storms and sandstorms happen often, which can worsen breathing issues.

If you're concerned about the effects of pollution, or dust and sandstorms, speak to your doctor before leaving Australia.

Ask your doctor about health risks and vaccines before you go.

#### More information

- [Infectious diseases](#)

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## Medical care



There's no agreement between Australia and Qatar for free healthcare. Tourists must pay for [medical care](#) even if they need to stay in hospital or be evacuated. This can be very expensive. Make sure your [travel insurance](#) covers you. The Australian Government won't pay for these costs.

Public medical facilities in Qatar are comparable to those in Australia.

You may need to be evacuated if you become seriously ill or injured. Medical evacuation can be very expensive.

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## Local laws

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### Local law




When you travel to another country, you must follow their laws. Even if they seem strict compared to Australia's. Before you go, learn about the [local laws](#) in that country.

The Australian Government is limited in how and when we can help if you're [arrested overseas](#). We can't get you out of trouble or out of jail. Understand our limits. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#).



There are major differences between laws in Australia and Qatar. Behaviour that could be considered offensive or anti-social, but not criminal, in Australia could violate Qatari law.

If you're detained or arrested, ask police or prison officials to inform the Australian Embassy in Doha.

To meet Qatari requirements, your Australian documents may need extra legal approval before you can use them overseas. Check the rules with the nearest [embassy or consulate of Qatar](#) .

## Traffic offences

If you receive a traffic violation, you cannot leave Qatar through any state border (land, air, and sea) until you have paid all relevant fines through:

- [Metrash2 application](#) ,
- [Ministry of Interior website](#) ,
- traffic sections, or
- unified service centres.

## Drugs

Penalties for drug offences include long jail terms. Authorities could charge you with possession if they can detect illegal drugs in your body.

Medications that are available over the counter or by prescription in Australia may be illegal in Qatar.

Authorities can detain and deport you if you carry medication to treat HIV and hepatitis. This can also happen if you test positive to either illness.

Check the status of your medicines with an [embassy or consulate of Qatar](#) . See [Health](#)

### More information:

- [Carrying or using drugs](#)

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## Commercial, civil, family and employment law

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There are significant differences between Australia's and Qatar's laws on commercial, civil, family and employment matters.

If you become involved in local family law matters such as divorce, child custody and child support:

- get professional legal advice
- understand your rights and responsibilities under Qatari law

## Commercial law

If you're involved in a commercial civil dispute, local firms or courts may take your passport.

Authorities can stop you leaving Qatar until the dispute is resolved.

If you owe money, you may be jailed until you settle your debts.

## Fraud

Authorities can arrest and jail you for fraud if you:

- present a cheque that bounces
- fail to pay bills or fines
- have an overdue personal loan or local credit card or similar

Authorities may detain you when you arrive if you have debts or criminal charges in Qatar. This can happen even if you're only transiting through Qatar.

If you're not a resident of Qatar, you may not get bail for crimes involving fraud.

## Family law

Child custody laws are based on Islamic law.

## Employment matters

If you have a job in Qatar, you may require an exit permit from your employer to leave the country.

Recognition of your Australian educational qualifications for use in Qatar may require you to legalise these documents.

You should always confirm exact requirements with the intended authority (i.e. the person or organisation the legalised document will be presented to) as to what are the exact requirements needed. The intended authority may require the Australian educational qualification to be attested.

In Qatar, the intended authority can include the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or both.

The legalisation or attestation process may include:

1. Document to be notarised by an Australian Notary Public in Australia
2. Attestation by Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Australia
3. Attestation by the Qatar Embassy in Canberra, Australia
4. Attestation by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Qatar
5. Submit the document to the intended authority in Qatar

### More information:

- [Living or working overseas](#)
- [Legalising documents](#)

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## Other laws



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### Eating and drinking laws

It's illegal to:

- eat, drink or smoke in public between sunrise and sunset during [Ramadan](#)
- drink alcohol, if you're Muslim
- drink alcohol or be drunk in public
- drink alcohol outside licensed premises

Expats living in Qatar can buy alcohol on a permit system.

Alcohol is currently only available to visitors at licenced hotel restaurants and bars. The legal drinking age in Qatar is 21. It is an offence to drink alcohol or be drunk in a public place.

The importation of alcohol into the State of Qatar is illegal. You will not be able to purchase alcohol from duty free in airports.

### Sex and intimacy laws

It's illegal to:

- have sex outside marriage
- be sexually intimate or overly affectionate in public
- engage in same-sex relationships
- stalk or harass women verbally, physically or online

### More information:

- [Advice for LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)

## Other illegal activities

It's illegal to:

- bring pornography, pork products, alcohol, firearms or religious books or materials other than those relating to Islam into Qatar
- photograph government buildings or military sites
- photograph local people, particularly women, without permission

## Australian laws


Some Australian laws still apply even if you're in another country. You could be charged in Australia if you break these laws overseas.

**More information:**

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

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## Dual nationality



Qatar doesn't recognise dual nationality.

If you're a dual national and authorities arrest or detain you, ~~or~~ ability to deliver [consular services](#) may be limited.

Always travel on your [Australian passport](#)


The children of Qatari fathers automatically receive Qatari citizenship at birth. Qatari fathers can stop their children from leaving Qatar.

**More information:**

- [Advice for dual nationals](#)

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## Local customs



There are conservative codes of dress and behaviour in Qatar. Visitors must cover their shoulders and knees when visiting public places like museums and other government buildings. If you plan to visit tourist attractions, shopping malls and other public places, check the specific dress codes. Look for details on display at the venues or on their websites. Take care not to offend. If in doubt, seek local advice.

Avoid commenting on Qatari culture, government policy or services, and commercial enterprises online while in Qatar. This includes reviewing hotel or restaurant experiences on social media. These activities could be considered slanderous or cyber-crime offences in Qatar.

## Offensive behaviour

Swearing and making rude gestures are considered obscene acts and you can be fined, jailed and/or deported. Take particular care when dealing with the police and other officials.

## Ramadan

The Islamic holy month of [Ramadan](#) is observed in Qatar. Respect religious and cultural customs and laws during 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



Each country or territory decides its own entry and exit rules, including health border screening measures. To find out what you need to enter a destination, ask their embassy, consulate or immigration office.

#### Visas

Australian passport holders are entitled to apply for a visa on arrival. The type of visa you need will depend on your country of residence and the purpose of your travel.

You may be asked to show proof of your accommodation for the duration of your stay in Qatar on arrival at Hamad International Airport.

Entry and exit rules can change at short notice. For details about visas, currency, customs and quarantine regulations, contact:

- [Visas & Immigration \(Hamad International Airport\)](#)
- the [Embassy of the State of Qatar](#)
- the official State of Qatar [Government website](#) (in English)

Qatari authorities won't issue visas in an Australian emergency passport. You can only use an emergency passport to leave or travel through Qatar.

#### Border measures

Transiting through Qatar is permitted if you meet the requirements of your final destination country. There are no additional requirements for transiting passengers, even if you choose to use the transit hotel within the airport. Further information about transiting through Qatar can be found on the webpage for [Hamad International Airport](#) and [Visit Qatar](#) .

For more information, call 109 from inside Qatar or +974 44069999 from outside Qatar, or contact the nearest [Qatari embassy or consulate](#) .

### Other formalities



#### Travel bans

You may be placed under a travel ban if you're involved in a dispute about (but not limited to):

- business
- labour
- employment
- fines

You won't be able to leave the country if you're a tourist, visitor, or resident identity card (QID) holder.

Travel bans are strictly enforced. They can take months or even years to resolve.

Only Qatari authorities, and in very limited cases your sponsor, can remove travel bans.

Private Qatari citizens may also initiate travel bans against foreigners.

The government may issue travel bans on people who:

- are charged with criminal offences
- are under investigation
- are involved in financial or labour disputes
- have unpaid debts or who have passed bad cheques
- have unresolved civil legal proceedings

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## Passport



### Validity

Many countries require your passport to be valid for at least 6 months before entering or departing. This includes for transit.

If your passport expires too soon, you might not be able to travel.

The Australian Government doesn't make these rules. Check your passport's expiry date before you go. If you're not sure, it's a good idea to [get a new passport](#) .

### Lost or stolen passport

Your passport is valuable and can be used by others to commit crimes.

Don't let anyone trick you into giving it to them. Always keep it in a safe place.


If your passport is lost or stolen, tell the Australian Government:

- In Australia: contact the [Australian Passport Information Service](#) .
- Overseas: contact the nearest [Australian embassy or consulate](#) .

If you are holding an Australian emergency passport, you can only use this to depart or transit through Qatar. It cannot be used to enter Qatar.

Qatari authorities will not issue a visa in an emergency passport.

### Passport with 'X' gender identifier

Australian passports comply with international standards for sex and gender. If your passport has an 'X' in the sex field, we can't guarantee your entry or transit to other countries. Ask the [embassy or consulate of your destinations](#)  if they'll accept your passport with an 'X' gender marker. Check all transit destinations too.

**More information:**

- [LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)

## Money

The local currency is the Qatari Riyal (QAR).

Change currency only at commercial banks and official exchange bureaus.

Most businesses that deal with tourists accept international credit cards. ATMs are widely available.

Ask your bank if your cards will work in Qatar.

## Local travel

### Driving permit

You can drive in Qatar with:

- a valid Australian driver's licence
- an International Driving Permit (IDP)

Get your IDP before leaving home.

If you hold a residence permit, you'll need a Qatari driver's licence.

**More information:**

- [General Directorate of Traffic](#)  (Qatar Ministry of Interior)

### Road travel

Traffic accidents are a leading cause of death in Qatar. It's challenging and dangerous to drive due to road construction and high speeds. Sandstorms and dust storms occur. This can significantly reduce visibility and lead to road accidents. Rain can cause dangerous road conditions and flash flooding.

Visitors or business visa holders with a driver's licence from their home country can drive for up to 15 days from the date of entry into Qatar. You'll need to apply for a temporary Qatar driving licence to extend this.

If you have an international licence, you can drive for up to 6 months from your date of entry into Qatar.

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) residents with a GCC driver's licence can drive for up to 3 months from their date of entry into Qatar.

If you have a non-Qatari licence, you can only rent a car if you are 25 years or older and have held a valid driving licence for at least 12 months.

It's illegal to:

- drive with any alcohol in your system
- use obscene language and hand gestures in traffic.

If you have an accident, contact the police and stay with your vehicle if it's safe to do so. It's illegal to leave the scene of an accident as a driver until the police tell you to do so. You can only move your vehicle off the road if there are no injuries from the accident.

If you plan to drive:

- check you have enough insurance coverage before driving
- check local traffic laws and practices before driving
- drive carefully and legally
- avoid arguments over traffic incidents

**More information:**

- [Driving or riding](#)

## Motorcycles

Check if your travel insurance policy covers you when using a motorbike, quad bike or similar vehicle.


Always wear a helmet.

## Taxis

Avoid touts and only use registered taxis and limousines. Arrange these through your accommodation. Avoid shared taxis.

Ride-sharing applications such as Uber are used extensively by the community, particularly in Doha.

## Public transport

Qatar has a well-developed bus transport network and metro system. Information and timetables can be found online at [Mowasalat](#) 

Taxis and ride share vehicles are widely available in Doha.

**More information:**

- [Transport and getting around safely](#)

## Sea travel

Many areas of the Gulf are sensitive to security issues and territorial disputes.

Disputes about sea boundaries can occur. There are disagreements about the sea boundaries and control of Abu Musa and Tunbs islands in the Southern Gulf.

Authorities can inspect your vessel and detain or arrest you if you're in sensitive waters.

[Piracy](#) happens in the Gulf. The [International Maritime Bureau issues piracy reports](#)  on its website.

**More information:**

- [Travelling by boat](#)

## Air travel

DFAT doesn't give advice about how safe different airlines or flight paths are.

Safety risks and weather events may cause flight delays and cancellations. Contact your travel agent or airline to confirm your plans.

Airlines and airports can restrict what you can take in your luggage. Regulations may be different to those in Australia. Check with your airline before you travel.

Check [Qatar's air safety profile](#)  with the Aviation Safety Network.

**More information:**

- [Air travel](#)

## Local contacts

### Emergencies

Depending on what you need, contact your:

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

#### Fire and rescue services

Call 999.

#### Medical emergencies

Call 999, or go directly to the hospital.

#### Police

Call 999, 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

The Australian Government aims to provide high quality consular assistance. There are limits to what we can do. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#) to understand how we can assist you overseas.

For consular assistance, contact the Australian Embassy in Doha.


The working week is Sunday to Thursday.

The public counter is open from 8:30am - 12:00pm from Sunday to Wednesday. For passport and notarial services, you need to book an appointment. Check the [Embassy website](#)  for details about opening hours and any temporary closures including Embassy Public Holidays.

#### Australian Embassy, Doha

Tornado Tower  
Majlis Al Taawon Street  
Doha, Qatar

Phone: +974 4007 8500

Website: [qatar.embassy.gov.au](https://qatar.embassy.gov.au) 

General enquiries email: [embassy.doha@dfat.gov.au](mailto:embassy.doha@dfat.gov.au)

Consular assistance email: [consular.doha@dfat.gov.au](mailto:consular.doha@dfat.gov.au)

Passport assistance email: [passports.doha@dfat.gov.au](mailto:passports.doha@dfat.gov.au)

## 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**



## Latest update

**Still current at:** 25 February 2026

**Updated:** 25 February 2026

**Latest update:** The security situation in the Middle East is unpredictable. Conflicts in the Middle East could lead to an increase in tensions elsewhere in the region and may result in airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice.

The Australian Government has offered voluntary departures for dependants of Australian officials posted to UAE in response to the deteriorating security situation in the Middle East. Subscribe to Smartraveller to receive email alerts (see 'Safety').



**We advise:**

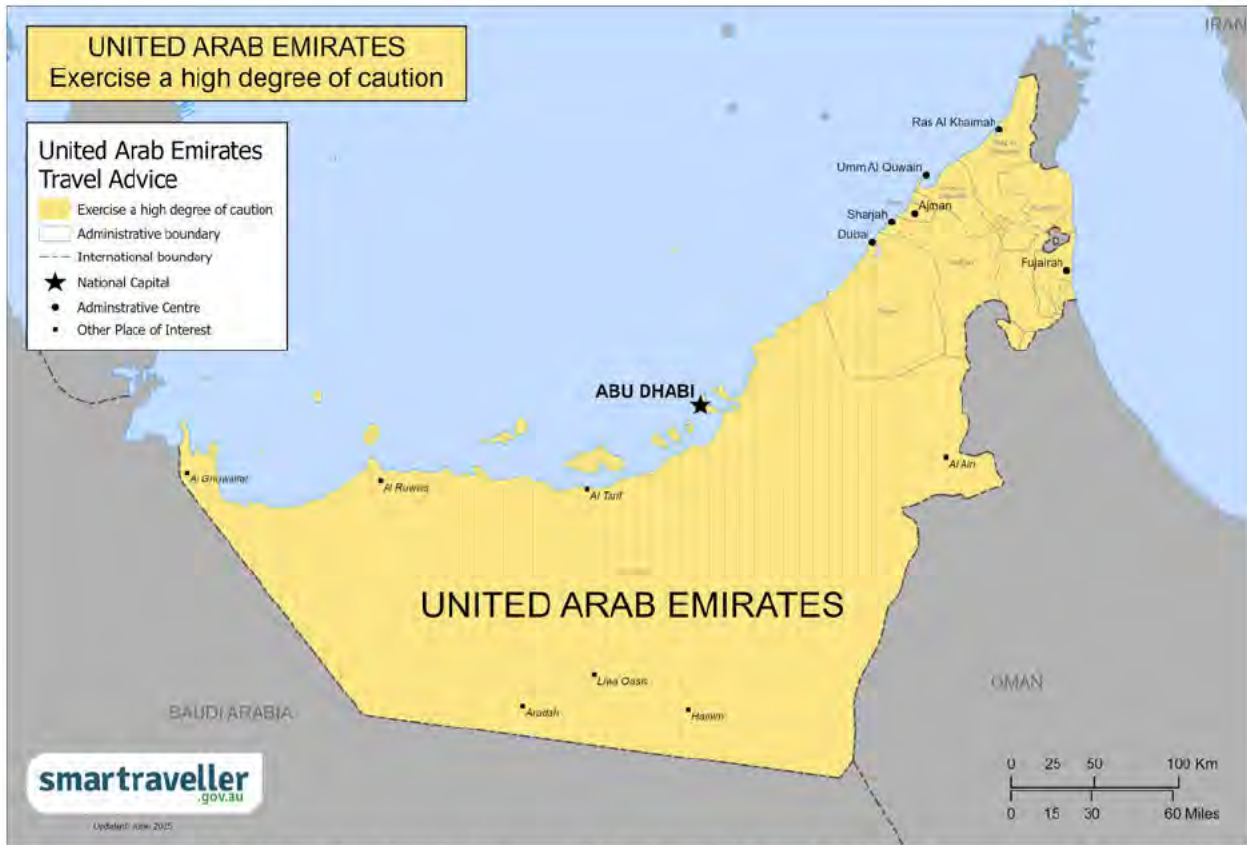
**Exercise a high degree of caution in the UAE due to the threat of terrorism.**

## Advice levels

[What does this mean? >](#)

[View larger map](#)

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This map is presented for information only. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade accepts no responsibility for errors or omission of any geographic feature. Nomenclature and territorial boundaries may not necessarily reflect Australian Government policy. For the latest travel advice visit [smartraveller.gov.au](https://smartraveller.gov.au). Provided by the Commonwealth of Australia under Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia license.

[Exercise a high degree of caution](#) in the United Arab Emirates due to the threat of terrorism.

## Overview



### Safety

- The security situation in the Middle East is unpredictable. Conflicts in the Middle East could lead to an increase in tensions elsewhere in the region and may result in airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice.
- The Australian Government has offered voluntary departures for dependants of Australian officials posted to UAE in response to the deteriorating security situation in the Middle East.
- Terrorism is a global threat, including in the UAE. Maintain a high level of security awareness. If there's a security incident, follow the advice of local officials.
- Personal crime is considered low. Pickpocketing and bag snatching are rare but do occur. Drink spiking sometimes happens. Physical and verbal harassment may occur.
- Many areas of the Gulf are sensitive to security issues and territorial disputes. There's also a risk of piracy. If you're planning sea travel, refer to the International Maritime Bureau's piracy reports.

Full travel advice: [Safety](#)



## Health

- Be prepared for extreme weather conditions. From June to September, temperatures can exceed 50°C, and sand and dust storms are common. During periods of extreme heat, it is important to stay out of the sun and drink plenty of water.
- Intense storms can occur between December and May and may lead to flash flooding. Monitor local media and follow the advice of local authorities.
- Cases of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) have been reported. To reduce your risk, avoid contact with camels and any products contaminated with camel secretions.
- Waterborne, foodborne, parasitic and other infectious diseases sometimes occur. Get medical advice if you develop a fever or diarrhoea.
- Red algae or 'red tide' may sometimes affect beaches. This can cause skin and eye irritations, as well as breathing problems. Don't swim in affected water.
- The standard of public medical facilities in major cities is adequate. However, services might not be available in remote areas. You may have to pay upfront before treatment.

Full travel advice: [Health](#)



## Local laws

- Many things that are acceptable in Australia are illegal in the UAE. It's illegal to insult an ethnic or religious group, the UAE, the royal families/government officials or the UAE flag. Same-sex relationships are illegal and same-sex marriage is not recognised. Familiarise yourself with local rules before you go.
- The UAE has conservative dress and behaviour codes. Dress modestly, especially in the Emirates of Sharjah and Ajman, where Islamic law is enforced.
- There's a zero tolerance for illegal drugs and drug-related offences. Penalties for drug offences include the death penalty or life imprisonment.
- It's illegal to be drunk in public, including at airports across the UAE. It's illegal to consume alcohol in the Emirate of Sharjah (see 'Alcohol' section for more information).
- Be careful when taking photos. It's illegal to photograph airports and transport infrastructure, bridges, government buildings, embassies and palaces. It's also illegal to photograph anyone or post photos of people or their personal belongings (including vehicles) on social media without their consent. This includes people in the background of photos.
- If you have any unresolved criminal charges in the UAE, including unpaid debts, authorities may detain you on arrival, even if you're in transit.
- You'll need a permit from the UAE before undertaking media activity or bringing media equipment into the UAE.

- The UAE doesn't recognise dual nationality. We can't provide consular help if you enter the UAE on a non-Australian passport.

Full travel advice: [Local laws](#)



## Travel

- You won't be allowed to enter the UAE if you have 'XX' in your birthdate or gender in your Australian passport. It must show a day, month and year. Your Australian passport must also include both your first name and last name. If your passport shows only one name you won't be permitted entry.
- Tourist visas are issued on arrival in Abu Dhabi and Dubai for Australian passports holders with more than six months' validity. Visit the [UAE Federal E-Governmental Portal](#) for information regarding visas to the UAE.
- If you're travelling on a Diplomatic or official passport, you must obtain a visa before travelling.
- See the latest information for travelling to, from or connecting through [Dubai](#) and [Abu Dhabi](#).
- Emergency passports are not accepted for entry to the UAE.
- Entry and exit conditions can change at short notice. You should contact the nearest embassy or consulate of the UAE for the latest details.

Full travel advice: [Travel](#)



## Local contacts

- The Australian Government aims to provide high quality consular assistance. There are limits to what we can do. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#) to understand how we can assist you overseas.
- For consular help, contact the [Australian Embassy in Abu Dhabi](#) or the [Australian Consulate-General in Dubai](#).
- To stay up to date with local information, follow the Embassy's social media accounts.

Full travel advice: [Local contacts](#)

## Full advice

## Safety

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### Civil unrest and political tension

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The security situation in the Middle East is unpredictable. Conflicts in the Middle East could lead to an increase in tensions elsewhere in the region and may result in airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice.

Demonstrations in the UAE are rare and must be authorised by the government. Wearing clothing reminiscent of a political cause may be seen as a form of protest. Australians have been detained for wearing the Palestinian Keffiyeh (head scarf) and rainbow colours.

To protect yourself in case of unrest:

- avoid all rallies and protests
- monitor the media for news of possible demonstrations or protests
- be prepared to change your travel plans

**More information:**

- [Protests and civil unrest](#)

### Terrorism

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Terrorism is a threat worldwide. Terrorist attacks could occur anywhere and at any time. Be alert to possible threats, especially in public places.

The ongoing conflict in the Middle East could lead to an increased threat of attacks against Israeli and Jewish communities in the region.

Several terrorist attacks have happened in the wider Gulf region in recent years. Authorities have in the past arrested several alleged terrorists for possibly planning attacks in the UAE.

Attacks could occur at any time and could target:

- places of worship and religious holidays
- military sites
- transport hubs, including airports
- hotels, clubs, restaurants and malls
- souks (traditional markets)
- outdoor recreation events, including festivals, concerts, and sporting venues

Maintain a high level of security awareness. Follow the advice of local authorities and monitor local media.

If there's a terrorist incident, leave the area if it's safe to do so and follow the instructions of local authorities. [Read our general advice on protecting your safety during an armed conflict.](#)

**More information:**

- [Terrorism](#)

## Crime



The UAE has a low crime rate. Petty crime, such as pickpocketing and bag snatching, occurs but is rare. Physical and verbal harassment and sexual assaults can also occur.

### Cyber security

You could face cyber threats in any country, anyone is a target. Your devices and data can be stolen, especially when using public Wi-Fi, computers, or Bluetooth. Criminals can use stolen information to conduct scams or to resell your personal information.

The Australian Cyber Security Centre has advice on [how to protect yourself online](#)

Social media can also be risky in places with social or political tensions or strict laws. People have been arrested for what they posted online. Check the laws of the destination you're travelling to and think about what you post on social media. The Australian Government can't get you out of trouble if you're accused of breaking the law.

#### More information:

- [Cyber security when travelling overseas](#)

Cybercrime and online financial scams are common in the UAE. Criminals can target devices to steal personal and credit card data if you're connected to public/shared Wi-Fi or Bluetooth.

Common Scams include:

- money transfers
- work permits/job offers
- gold purchase
- romance/online dating

The UAE has specific social media laws and regulations. It is important to familiarise yourself with the relevant guidelines for usage within the UAE. Exercise caution when sharing online content and avoid spreading defamatory, misleading, or false information.

### Sexual assault

If you're a victim of sexual assault, find out about support services as quickly as possible from the:

- [Australian Embassy and Consulate-General in the UAE](#)
- Consular Emergency Centre in Canberra

Consular officers can't provide legal or medical advice. However, they can provide lists of English-speaking service providers who may be able to help.

UAE law places a high burden of proof on the victim. Victims of sexual assault will need to demonstrate that the sexual relations were not consensual, especially when the victim had consumed alcohol or where the alleged attacker was known to the victim.

### Kidnapping

Kidnapping can happen anywhere, even in places that seem safe.

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

#### More information:

- [Kidnapping](#)

## Drink spiking

Drink spiking can happen anywhere. Be alert, don't leave your food or drinks alone. Watch when your drink is being mixed. If you [feel unwell](#), tell your friends immediately and get to a safe place. Keep an eye on your friends - if they feel unwell, stay with them. Get [medical help](#) if needed.

## Methanol poisoning

People have died or become very sick from poisoned drinks overseas. This includes Australians. Methanol is highly toxic. As little as one shot can be fatal. Methanol can be added or accidentally created during poor quality alcohol production. Only drink branded, sealed drinks. Get [urgent medical help](#) if you think you've been poisoned.

### More information:

- [Partying safely while overseas](#)

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## Swimming safety



At the beach, be aware of strong currents and obey warning signs.

Red algae or 'red tide' may sometimes affect beaches. This can cause:

- skin irritations
- eye irritations
- breathing problems

Don't swim in affected water. Check with local authorities about outbreaks.

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## Tours and adventure activities



Transport and tour operators don't always follow safety and maintenance standards. This includes adventure activities.

If you plan to do a tour or [adventure activity](#)

- check if your travel insurance policy covers it
- ask about and insist on minimum safety requirements
- always use available safety gear, such as life jackets or seatbelts

If proper safety equipment isn't available, use another provider.

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## Extreme weather and natural disasters



The UAE experiences extremely high temperatures. The hottest months of the year are June to September. The temperature can exceed 50°C.

In extreme heat, stay out of the sun and drink water to avoid dehydration.

Sandstorms and dust storms often happen.

In winter months, morning fog can significantly reduce visibility. This can cause flight delays and road hazards.

Take extra care if you're driving. Plan your travel in advance and follow the advice of local authorities.

### Severe weather

Although they're rare, the UAE can experience severe thunderstorms, strong winds and heavy rain, particularly during spring and autumn.

Flash flooding can cause dangerous driving conditions.

Flash flooding in river canyons (wadis) has caused some deaths in recent years.

In [severe weather](#), stay indoors and avoid driving if possible.

Monitor the media and local government websites, such as:

- the [National Emergency Crisis and Disaster Management Authority](#)
- the [National Center for Meteorology and Seismology](#)

The [NCEMA Facebook page](#) and [NCEMA website](#) will be updated during a crisis.

### Natural disasters

Earth tremors occur in the UAE, particularly following a major [earthquake](#) elsewhere in the region.

Access more information about natural disasters from the [Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System](#).

If a [natural disaster](#) happens, follow the advice of local authorities.

## Health

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### Travel insurance

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

It must cover all medical costs overseas, including evacuation. The Australian Government will not pay for these costs.

If you can't afford travel insurance, you shouldn't travel. This is true for everyone, even if you are healthy and fit.

If you don't have insurance, you might have to pay thousands of dollars up front for medical care.

Before you travel, check your policy, make sure:


- you know what activities and medical care your insurance covers, including evacuations
- your insurance covers you for your whole trip, including any stopovers
- you know any exclusions – for example, you might need to pay extra for activities like motorcycling, snow sports or bungee jumping.

**More information:**

- [Travel insurance](#)

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## Physical and mental health



Think about your health before you travel, especially if you have any medical conditions.

See your doctor or a travel clinic to:

- get a basic check-up
- ask if your travel plans might affect your health
- find out what vaccinations you need.

If you're concerned about your mental wellbeing, or someone else's, read more about [mental health support overseas](#)

**More information:**

- [General health advice](#)
- [Managing your mental health](#)

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## Medications



Not all medications available in Australia are accessible in other countries. Some medicines may be illegal, even if prescribed by an Australian doctor.

Ensure your [medication](#) is legal overseas. Take enough for your whole trip.

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

- medication names
- your required dosage
- that the medications are for your personal use.

**More information:**

- [Medicines](#)

You can only bring a 3-month supply of medication, whether entering or transiting the UAE.

Authorities have detained or deported travellers for:

- carrying medication to treat HIV/AIDS or hepatitis
- testing positive for HIV/AIDS or hepatitis

Before you leave Australia:

- check if your medication is legal in the UAE by visiting the [Issue of Permit to Import Medicines for Personal Use - Emirates Drug Establishment - EDE Portal](#) and scroll down to 'Resources' for semi-controlled medicine list
- some medications require a permit, you can apply for a permit through the Emirates Drug Establishment website page [Issue of Permit to Import Medicines for Personal Use - Emirates Drug Establishment - EDE Portal](#)
- contact the Emirates Drug Establishment by emailing [info@ede.gov.ae](mailto:info@ede.gov.ae) or calling +971 800 33784. You may also contact the UAE embassy in the country you are in.
- if needed, have DFAT [authenticate](#) your medical documents

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## Health risks



### Dengue

Cases of dengue have been reported in the United Arab Emirates.

Dengue is transmitted to humans through mosquito bites. The mosquitoes that spread dengue are active during the day. To protect yourself from disease:

- make sure your accommodation is insect-proof
- always use insect repellent
- wear long, loose, light-coloured clothing

**More information:**

- [Dengue](#)

### Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus

Cases of [Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus \(MERS-CoV\)](#) have been reported in:

- Saudi Arabia
- Jordan
- Qatar
- Kuwait
- Oman
- the United Arab Emirates

Other countries have reported imported cases from returned travellers.

Avoid contact with camels. Don't consume raw camel milk, undercooked camel meat, or anything contaminated with camel secretions.

Get medical advice if you have a fever, cough, breathing difficulties or diarrhoea.

Ask your doctor about health risks and vaccines before you go.

**More information:**

- [MERS information](#)
- [Infectious diseases](#)

## Other health risks



Waterborne, foodborne, parasitic and other infectious diseases sometimes occur. Get medical advice if you develop a fever or diarrhoea.

Dust storms and sandstorms can make breathing issues worse.

If there's a red algae or red tide alert, follow local warnings. This algal bloom can cause paralytic shellfish poisoning. Avoid shellfish and seafood because they may be affected.

### More information:

- [Infectious diseases](#)

## Medical care



There's no agreement between Australia and UAE for free healthcare. Tourists must pay for [medical care](#), even if they need to stay in hospital or be evacuated. This can be very expensive. Make sure your [travel insurance](#) covers you. The Australian Government won't pay for these costs.

The standard of public medical facilities in major cities is adequate. However, services might not be available in remote areas.

Several private facilities meet international standards. You can find these in:

- Abu Dhabi
- Al Ain
- Dubai
- Sharjah

Before treating patients, hospitals often ask for:

- guarantee of payment
- proof of medical insurance
- an upfront deposit

## Local laws

### Local law



When you travel to another country, you must follow their laws. Even if they seem strict compared to Australia's. Before you go, learn about the [local laws](#) in that country.

The Australian Government is limited in how and when we can help if you're [arrested overseas](#). We can't get you out of trouble or out of jail. Understand our limits. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#)

Behaviour that could be considered offensive or antisocial, but not criminal, in Australia could violate UAE law. Anyone breaking UAE laws, even without knowing, may face severe punishments.

UAE law applies to you even if you're only transiting and don't leave the airport.

The UAE is a mostly Muslim country. Local laws closely reflect Islamic practices and beliefs.

Sharia or Islamic courts work alongside the civil and criminal courts in the UAE. This can make legal issues and systems complicated.

Even simple legal issues can be complex and take time to be resolved. Custodial sentences are served in local jails.

If you have unresolved criminal charges in the UAE, including unpaid debts, authorities may detain you on arrival, even if you're in transit.

You can enquire about your legal status through the [Abu Dhabi Judicial Department](#) online enquiry service or through the Government of Dubai Public Prosecutor online enquiry service.

Your UAE Unified Identity Number can be retrieved through the online [Unified Number Enquiry Service](#).

## Legal process

If you come to the attention of UAE authorities, your case will be dealt with by the local legal and judicial system. This differs significantly from Australia's legal system.

If you're arrested, authorities may hold you for an unspecified length of time before your case goes to trial. UAE authorities can hold your passport and stop you from leaving the country. Even simple legal issues can take a long time to resolve. Custodial sentences are served in local jails.

If you're going to be deported, you'll be in immigration detention for at least 24 hours before being allowed to leave the UAE.

To get a list of lawyers who can represent you, either:

- download from [Consular Assistance](#)
- call the Consular Emergency Centre in Canberra

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

### More information:

- [Arrested or in prison](#)

## Laws in individual emirates

The UAE is made up of 7 emirates, each with its own justice system. Laws, legal procedures and penalties vary between systems.

There's a federal court system with a final court of appeal in Abu Dhabi. This is called the Federal Supreme Court. Dubai and Ras Al Khaimah aren't part of this system.

## Commercial, civil and family law disputes

Australians are often involved in disputes where local firms or courts have taken their passport. This prevents them from leaving the UAE until the dispute is settled.

You can be jailed or stopped from leaving the UAE for offences including:

- having a cheque dishonoured
- not paying bills, including court fines, hotel bills, personal loans and local credit cards

Immigration authorities can refuse you entry if you have a criminal record. It won't matter how long ago the offence took place.

If you travel to the UAE with an active case against you, including an unpaid UAE debt, authorities are likely to detain you on arrival. This applies even if you're only in transit and don't plan to leave the airport. Speak to a lawyer before you travel if you think you might have an unsettled case against you.

Bail is generally not available to non-residents arrested for fraud. You can be jailed until debts are settled.

If you take part in activities involving local legal matters, get professional legal advice. This is particularly relevant for family law matters including:

- divorce
- child custody
- child support

Ask a legal professional about your rights and responsibilities.

If you have children or assets in the UAE, get local legal advice about preparing a local will or registering a foreign will. Information is also available through the [Abu Dhabi Judicial Department Foreign Communities Awareness](#) 

## Drugs

The UAE has a zero-tolerance policy towards drugs, including for travellers transiting through the country.

Penalties for drug trafficking may include the death penalty, or a sentence up to life imprisonment.

Penalties for having or using illegal drugs include lengthy jail terms and heavy fines. These laws also apply if you're transiting through the UAE.

If illegal drugs are found in blood or urine tests, this is considered possession. It won't matter where or how long ago you consumed the drugs.


You can be charged with possession if trace amounts of drugs are found on your body, clothing or luggage. You can be convicted for 0.05g or less.

Avoid carrying substances that could be mistaken for drugs or drug equipment. This can include, for example, marijuana-flavoured or branded:

- liquor
- tea
- chewing gum
- lollies


Lab testing on suspicious substances could take days or weeks. During this time, authorities could detain you without bail.

### More information:

- [Carrying or using drugs](#)
- [UAE Government](#) 

## Media activity

You must obtain permission in advance from the Emirati authorities to undertake media activity relating to the production, transmission or distribution of printed, digital, audio, video or visual information. If you fail to do this, you could be arrested and deported from the UAE.

You can get more information on obtaining the necessary permits to carry out media activity in the UAE and bringing media equipment into the UAE by registering online at the [Media Regulatory Office website](#) 

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## Personal conduct




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## Criminal acts

You can be fined, jailed or deported for:

- insulting other people, the UAE, the royal families, the local government or local officials
- disrespecting the UAE flag

- discriminating against or insulting a racial, ethnic or religious group
- making rude gestures
- making inappropriate or offensive comments on social media
- swearing
- touching another person without their permission

It's illegal to harass women in the UAE. Behaviour that may offend or be considered illegal includes:

- glaring
- ogling or long stares
- unwanted conversation
- stalking
- touching any part of the body

Taking photographs of people, particularly women, without permission can lead to arrest or fines. This also applies to people you've just met.

Posting photos of people or their personal belongings on social media without their consent can be illegal. This includes people in the background of photos.

### **Public displays of affection**

You can be arrested for intimate public displays of affection, including kissing. This behaviour can attract the attention of local authorities. See Local customs below.

### **Unauthorised preaching**

If you engage in unauthorised preaching or distribute non-Islamic religious material to Muslims, you can be jailed and deported.

If you make offensive comments about Islam either in writing or verbally, you could be jailed or subject to other penalties.

### **Social media and behaviour online**

The UAE has strict laws about online behaviour, including comments.

Online behaviour that may be considered a crime includes:

- spreading rumours or gossip
- defamation of an individual or business
- swearing and insulting others
- extortion and making threats or accusations
- posting photos of local incidents, such as building fires or storm damage
- using a fake IP address, such as a Virtual Private Network (VPN), to commit or cover up a crime

Punishments for these crimes include:

- fines
- jail terms
- deportation

Charity and fundraising activities are closely regulated, including when conducted online and via social media. Make sure charity or volunteer organisations are registered with the UAE Government before you take part.

#### **More information:**

- [Advice for volunteers](#)

### **Sex outside of marriage**

Heterosexual sex and cohabitation outside of marriage for individuals over 18 years old have been decriminalised in all Emirates except for Sharjah.

Extra-marital sexual relationships (adultery) is illegal in the UAE. If either person's spouse or parent/guardian files a criminal complaint, then both parties of an extra-marital consensual relationship shall be liable to a jail sentence.

## LGBTQIA+ information

Same-sex relationships are illegal and may lead to severe punishment, including prison and fines.

Cross-dressing is also illegal.

If you're transgender or intersex, or your gender on your passport doesn't match your appearance, you may:

- be questioned at immigration
- be denied entry into the UAE

If you're travelling on an Australian passport showing 'X' or 'U' (indeterminate, intersex or unspecified) in the gender field, you won't be able to enter or transit the UAE.

### More information:

- [Advice for LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)

## Prostitution

Prostitution is illegal in the UAE.

Severe penalties apply to:

- people providing prostitution services
- customers of prostitution services

## Registering births of children born to unmarried parents

If you're unmarried and fall pregnant or give birth in the UAE and wish to obtain a local birth certificate, both you and your partner will need to either get married or you and/or your partner must singly or jointly acknowledge the child and provide documentation in accordance with the laws of your country.

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## Alcohol



Although a Federal law has decriminalised the use of alcohol, every Emirate has its own guidelines.

The Emirate of Sharjah is 'dry' which means the sale or consumption of alcohol is illegal. You can't carry alcohol in your car if you're:

- driving through Sharjah
- crossing the border from Oman into Sharjah

There are limits on how much duty-free alcohol you can bring in. These limits are strictly enforced.

## Liquor licences

Liquor licences are still required for residents in Dubai but are no longer required for residents in Abu Dhabi and other Emirates (except for Sharjah) to purchase alcohol for personal consumption.

A liquor licence is only valid in the Emirate that issues it. For example, a liquor licence issued in Ras Al Khaimah isn't valid in Dubai.

## Legal drinking age

The legal drinking age in Abu Dhabi is 18 years. However, the Ministry of Tourism by-law means hotels can only serve alcohol to people aged over 21 years.

The legal drinking age in Dubai and the northern Emirates, except for Sharjah, is 21 years.

## Drinking in public

It's illegal to be intoxicated in public outside of licenced venues. You can be arrested. Authorities have arrested travellers at the airport for becoming intoxicated on a flight or while in transit.

Be careful if you're using a taxi when intoxicated. If you have a dispute with a driver or vomit in a taxi, you may be:


- taken directly to a police station
- charged with public intoxication

If you commit a crime after drinking alcohol, you'll probably be charged with both that offence and with intoxication.

Penalties for alcohol-related offences include fines, jail or deportation.

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## Employment



You must have a valid work permit from the [UAE Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation](#) for any type of employment.

If you plan to work, sort out terms and conditions or sponsorship before starting. This will minimise the risk of a dispute.

If you get into a dispute, a special department of the UAE Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation can review and help settle your claim.

Your UAE employer may ask to hold your passport as a condition of employment. This is illegal, but not unusual.

An employer can hold your passport for a short time when arranging, renewing or cancelling your visa or work permit. If your passport is held for a longer period, either:

- make a complaint to the [UAE Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation](#)
- get legal advice

If you've been a resident in the UAE, make sure you cancel your work visa before leaving the country permanently. If you don't, it may seem like you're running away. In this case, you could be arrested if you return to or even transit through the UAE.

You have to take a full medical exam to get a work or residence permit. This includes an HIV/AIDS test. HIV certificates issued by foreign medical authorities aren't accepted.

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## Other legal issues



### Serious crimes and other types of illegal activities

Serious crimes can attract the death penalty. Serious crimes include:

- murder
- spying
- [terrorism](#)
- treason
- [rape](#)

The [UAE Government](#) has a list of groups it considers to be terrorist organisations.

If you're associated with such groups, you could be refused entry or arrested and detained.

In the UAE it's illegal to:

- carry weapons, including pocketknives and capsicum or pepper spray

- discriminate through speech, written word or online media
- vandalise religious symbols, rituals or holy rites

Penalties for discriminating and vandalising can include:

- jail terms of 6 months to more than 10 years
- fines of up to AED2 million

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## Law enforcement and military equipment



You must have written approval from the UAE Ministry of Defence to transport law enforcement or military equipment into or through the UAE.

This equipment includes:

- ammunition
- body armour
- handcuffs
- military equipment
- police equipment
- weapons
- weapon parts and tools

Australians, including those transiting through UAE airports, have been punished for transporting this equipment without written approval. Some have been jailed or deported.

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## Photography and other hobbies



It's illegal to photograph:

- people without permission
- airports and related transport infrastructure
- bridges
- government buildings, including embassies
- palaces

Taking part in some hobbies, particularly around these sites, can break the law. These include:

- bird-watching
- flying remote-controlled helicopters or planes
- plane-spotting

Register drones with the Civil Aviation Authority of the relevant Emirate before you use them.

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## Driving laws



It's illegal for residents to drive without a UAE driver's licence once they have residency. Non-residents and travellers must have an International Driving Permit (IDP).

Although common in the UAE, it's illegal to use a mobile phone, eat or drink while driving.

Other illegal activities include:

- jaywalking
- walking on highways
- hitchhiking

It's illegal to drive after drinking alcohol. You may be jailed or fined if you have any alcohol in your blood when driving. These laws are strictly enforced in the UAE.

Police must be called to all road accidents, including single vehicle accidents. It's illegal to leave the scene of a traffic accident.

If you have an accident, don't take photos of the other car without the driver's permission.

## Australian laws

Some Australian laws still apply even if you're in another country. You could be charged in Australia if you break these laws overseas.

**More information:**

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

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## Dual nationality



The UAE doesn't recognise dual nationality.

Children born in the UAE to Emirati fathers automatically become UAE citizens. They must enter and leave the UAE on UAE passports.

We can't provide consular help if you enter the UAE on a non-Australian passport.

Sharia law may be applied in child custody disputes. Speak to a lawyer about custody disputes and find out if your children could be prevented from leaving the country.

**More information:**

- [Advice for dual nationals](#)

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## Local customs



### Ramadan

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

Avoid eating, drinking or smoking in public or in front of people who are fasting. Seek local advice to avoid offence.

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

### Dress and behaviour

The UAE is a mostly Muslim country with conservative standards of dress and behaviour. Take care not to offend.

Get familiar with local customs, culture and attitudes before leaving Australia.

Research dress codes for tourist attractions, shopping malls, beaches and other public places. These are often displayed onsite or available on websites.

Dress modestly, especially in Sharjah and Ajman where Islamic law is enforced. Consider clothing that covers your shoulders and knees.

Get local advice if in doubt about appropriate dress.

## Travel

### Visas and border measures

Each country or territory decides its own entry and exit rules, including health border screening measures. To find out what you need to enter a destination, ask their embassy, consulate or immigration office.

#### Visas

Australian passport holders are eligible for tourist visa on arrival.

Diplomatic and official passport holders must obtain a visa before travelling.

For visa information, visit the [UAE Federal E-Government Portal](#) or the [Emirates](#) or [Etihad Airlines](#) website before booking your flight.

Entry and exit conditions can change at short notice. Contact your nearest [UAE Embassy or Consulate-General](#) or the local authorities to confirm your visa and/or residency status and for details about entry permits, currency, customs and quarantine rules.

### Other formalities

#### Criminal activity

If you have unresolved criminal charges, including unpaid debts in the UAE, authorities may detain you when you arrive. Immigration officials may then transfer you to police custody. This can be the case even if you only plan to transit through the airport.

Immigration authorities can refuse you entry if you have a criminal record. It won't matter how long ago the offence took place.

If you're worried about authorities denying you entry, contact a [UAE embassy or Consulate-General](#) before you leave Australia.

You may also inquire about your legal status through the Abu Dhabi Judicial Department's online enquiry service or the Government of Dubai Public Prosecutor's online enquiry service.

Your UAE Unified Identity Number can be retrieved through the online Unified Number Enquiry Service.

## Restricted items

It's illegal to import:

- poppy seeds
- pornographic material

Importing pork products requires special approvals.

Authorities may examine and censor or confiscate videos, books and magazines.

It's illegal to carry weapons or replica weapons, including used bullet cartridges, into the UAE.

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## Passport



Many countries require your passport to be valid for at least 6 months before entering or departing. This includes for transit.

If your passport expires too soon, you might not be able to travel.

The Australian Government doesn't make these rules. Check your passport's expiry date before you go. If you're not sure, it's a good idea to [get a new passport](#).

Emergency passports are not accepted for entry to the UAE.

If your Australian passport has 'XX' anywhere in your date of birth, for example, 'XX FEB 1980', you will be refused entry or transit to the UAE. Your passport must have a numerical date of birth, for example, '14 FEB 1980'.

Australian passports which have only one name will be refused entry to the UAE. You must have a name in the both the first and last name fields to enter the UAE.

## Lost or stolen passport

Your passport is valuable and can be used by others to commit crimes.

Don't let anyone trick you into giving it to them. Always keep it in a safe place.

If your passport is lost or stolen, tell the Australian Government:

- In Australia: contact the [Australian Passport Information Service](#).
- Overseas: contact the nearest [Australian embassy or consulate](#).

If you're a UAE resident and lose your Australian passport while overseas, contact your nearest UAE embassy. They can give advice on re-entering. Do this before applying for an emergency passport.


If you lose your passport before passing through UAE immigration, you must return to Australia on the next available flight.

Once you're in Australia, you can apply for a full passport. The Australian Embassy can't issue you a new passport if you haven't cleared UAE immigration.

Foreigners must provide their passports for scanning when checking in to a hotel.

If UAE law enforcement take your passport for any reason, make sure they give you a receipt. You'll need the receipt to collect it later and when checking into accommodation.

## Passport with 'X' gender identifier

Australian passports comply with international standards for sex and gender. If your passport has an 'X' in the sex field, we can't guarantee your entry or transit to other countries. Ask the [embassy or consulate of your destinations](#)  if they'll accept your passport with an 'X' gender marker. Check all transit destinations too.

**More information:**

- [LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)

If you're travelling on an Australian passport showing 'X' or (non-binary, indeterminate, intersex, or unspecified) in the sex field, you won't be able to enter or transit through the UAE. You can only enter or transit through the UAE if you carry a passport that shows the sex specified as 'F' (female) or 'M' (male).

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## Money

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The local currency is the United Arab Emirates Dirham (AED).

Currency exchange outlets and ATMs are readily available throughout the UAE. Credit cards are widely accepted.

You must declare cash above AED60,000 or the equivalent in other currencies. This covers all forms of currency, not only cash.

**More information:**

- [Dubai Customs Services](#) 
- [Abu Dhabi Airport Customs](#) 

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## Local travel

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### Driving permit

If you're on a tourist visa and want to drive, you must get an International Driving Permit before leaving Australia.

### Road travel

When driving, be aware of other dangers, including:

- roaming animals
- drifting sand
- dust storms

Off-road driving can be dangerous. Ensure vehicles are well equipped and properly maintained.

If you're driving in desert areas, travel with at least one other vehicle. Use a GPS and take enough petrol and water.

Land border crossing points may close without notice. If you plan to leave the UAE by road, check the border crossing is open before you depart.

**More information:**

- [Driving or riding](#)

### Sea travel

If you're entering the Gulf area by sea, be aware that many areas are sensitive about security and territory.

Maritime boundaries and the islands of Abu Musa and the Tunbs in the southern Gulf are under dispute between Iran and the UAE.

Relevant authorities have inspected vessels and detained and arrested people. Make enquiries before entering these waters.

**More information:**

- [Going on a cruise](#)
- [Travelling by boat](#)

**Air travel**

DFAT doesn't give advice about how safe different airlines or flight paths are.

Safety risks and weather events may cause flight delays and cancellations. Contact your travel agent or airline to confirm your plans.

Airlines and airports can restrict what you can take in your luggage. Regulations may be different to those in Australia. Check with your airline before you travel.

Check the [UAE's air safety profile](#)  with the Aviation Safety Network.

**More information:**

- [Air travel](#)

**Local contacts**

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**Emergencies**

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Depending on what you need, contact your:

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

**Fire and rescue services**

Call 999.

**Medical emergencies**

Call 999.

**Police**

Call 999.

Always get a police report when you report a crime.

Your insurer should have a 24-hour emergency number.

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## Consular contacts

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The Australian Government aims to provide high quality consular assistance. There are limits to what we can do. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#) to understand how we can assist you overseas.

For consular assistance, contact:

### Australian Embassy, Abu Dhabi

16th Floor, Nayel & Bin Harmal Tower  
Zayed the First Street  
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Phone: +971 2 401 7500

Email: [abudhabi.embassy@dfat.gov.au](mailto:abudhabi.embassy@dfat.gov.au)

Website: [uae.embassy.gov.au](http://uae.embassy.gov.au)

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

### Australian Consulate-General, Dubai

25th Floor, Burjuman Centre Office Tower  
Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Road (Trade Centre Road)  
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Phone: +971 4 508 7100

Email: [consular.dubai@austrade.gov.au](mailto:consular.dubai@austrade.gov.au)

The working week of the Embassy in Abu Dhabi and the Consulate-General in Dubai is Monday to Friday. This is in line with local practice.

All visitors to the Australian Embassy (Abu Dhabi) and Consulate-General (Dubai) must have an appointment. Check the [Embassy website](#) for more information, including details about opening hours and any temporary closures.

### 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**



## Latest update

**Still current at:** 25 February 2026

**Updated:** 25 February 2026

**Latest update:** The security situation in the Middle East is unpredictable. Conflicts in the Middle East could lead to an increase in tensions elsewhere in the region and may result in airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice.

The Australian Government has offered voluntary departures for all dependants of Australian officials posted in Jordan in response to the deteriorating security situation in the Middle East.

In the event of regional conflict, missiles and drones from outside Jordan may fail in flight over the Kingdom leading to falling debris. If there are reports of missile or drone attacks, remain indoors until alerted otherwise and avoid contact with any debris.

Demonstrations and protest activity may also occur, and local security situations could deteriorate with little notice. Avoid all demonstrations and protests (see 'Safety').



**We advise:**

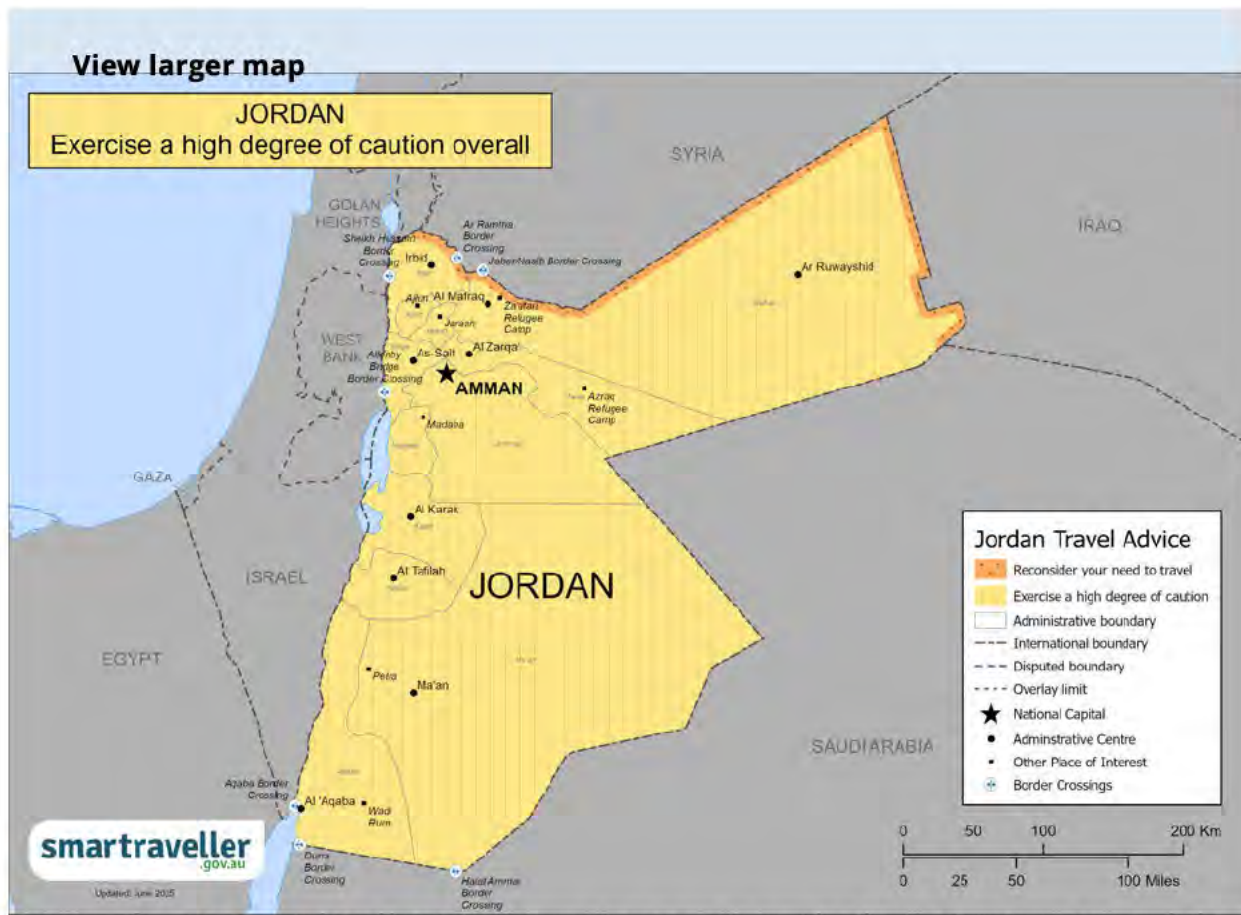
**Exercise a high degree of caution in Jordan overall due to the threat of terrorism.**

**Higher levels apply in some areas.**

[Jump to...](#)

# Advice levels

What does this mean? ➔



This map is presented for information only. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade accepts no responsibility for errors or omission of any geographic feature. Nomenclature and territorial boundaries may not necessarily reflect Australian Government policy. For the latest travel advice visit smartraveller.gov.au. Provided by the Commonwealth of Australia under Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia licence.

[Exercise a high degree of caution](#) in Jordan overall due to the threat of terrorism.

[Reconsider your need to travel](#) to the Syrian and Iraqi border regions due to the unstable security situation.

## Overview



### Safety

- The security situation in the Middle East is unpredictable. Conflicts in the Middle East could lead to an increase in tensions elsewhere in the region and may result in airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice.

- The Australian Government has offered voluntary departures for all dependants of Australian officials posted to Jordan in response to the deteriorating security situation in the Middle East.
- In the event of regional conflict, missiles and drones from outside of Jordan may fail in flight over the Kingdom leading to falling debris. If there are reports of missile or drone attacks, remain indoors until alerted otherwise and avoid contact with any debris.
- Demonstrations and protest activity may occur and local security situations could deteriorate with little notice. Avoid all demonstrations and protests.
- Security is unstable in [Syria](#) and [Iraq](#). Land border crossings could close without notice. Reconsider your need to travel to Jordan's borders with Iraq and Syria, which can be subject to cross-border criminal and politically motivated attacks on security forces and military installations inside Jordan.
- Women may be verbally, sexually and physically harassed or sexually assaulted. Don't make eye contact with or talk to men you don't know. Don't walk or travel alone, especially after dark. Always ride in the back seat of rideshares or taxis.
- Shooting guns to celebrate is illegal but common. It sometimes causes death and injury. Stay indoors and away from windows if people are celebrating with gunfire.

Full travel advice [Safety](#)



## Health

- There are reports of cases of Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus [\(MERS-CoV\)](#). Avoid consuming products contaminated with camel secretions. Wash hands regularly before and after touching animals.
- Waterborne, foodborne, insect-borne and other infectious diseases are prevalent. They include hepatitis, typhoid, measles and sandfly fever. Drink only boiled or bottled water. Avoid raw or undercooked foods. Ensure your accommodation is insect-proof. Use insect repellent.
- Amman has high-quality private medical services. Outside major cities, health services are basic. Paramedic and ambulance services are basic compared with Australia. You may have to pay up-front. If you're seriously ill or injured, you might need medical evacuation. Ensure your travel insurance covers this.

Full travel advice [Health](#)



## Local laws

- Many laws differ from laws in Australia, including sex outside marriage, photos of embassies, military or security sites and religious activities. Familiarise yourself before you go. Get professional advice for local legal matters. You may be prevented from leaving the country until issues are resolved.
- Don't use or carry illegal drugs. Penalties for drug offences include life imprisonment. You may face jail terms for possessing small amounts of drugs. Serious crimes attract the death penalty. These include terrorism, murder, treason and rape of a minor. Some offences, such as causing personal injury or property damage, are punishable by hard labour.

- Drones are not allowed to be brought into Jordan without prior approval from the Jordanian authorities. Unapproved items will be confiscated and held at the airport. The authorities will provide advice on the collection process.
- Respect the Islamic holy month of Ramadan. During Ramadan, it's illegal to eat, drink and smoke in public during daylight hours.
- If you're a dual national, authorities will consider you Jordanian. Men aged between 18 and 40 may need to register for military service.

Full travel advice [Local laws](#)



## Travel

- You'll need a visa to visit Jordan. Multiple visa options are available on the [Ministry of Interior](#) webpage, depending on your travel requirements.
- If you're visiting Jordan on a 30-day e-Visa and intend to stay for more than 14 days, you must register with the nearest police station within 14 days of arrival. If you're visiting for tourism and staying for at least 3 nights, you can purchase a Jordan Pass before you arrive.
- Entry and exit conditions can change at short notice. Contact the nearest Embassy of Jordan for the latest details. For entry into Jordan, a passport with a validity of at least 6 months and a visa are required. Visa fees must be paid in cash at land border crossings.
- If you're travelling with an Australian Emergency passport, entry into Jordan is not permitted. You're only allowed to transit through Jordan on an Australian Emergency passport.
- Australian-Jordanian dual nationals are treated as Jordanian. This will limit your access to consular assistance.
- If you're departing Israel for Jordan, check the latest public information from local authorities in both countries to determine if land border crossings are open. Land border crossings may close without notice and for an unknown period of time. Be prepared for delays when crossing into Jordan.
- Australians who were previously in Jordan under a refugee status determination should check with the Jordanian [Public Security Directorate](#) on whether they can legally re-enter Jordan.

Full travel advice [Travel](#)



## Local contacts

- The Australian Government aims to provide high quality consular assistance. There are limits to what we can do. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#) to understand how we can assist you overseas.
- For consular help, contact the [Australian Embassy in Amman](#).
- To stay up to date with local information follow the [Australian Embassy Jordan](#) on social media.

[Full travel advice](#) [Local contacts](#)

## Full advice

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### Safety

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#### Civil unrest and political tension

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The security situation in the Middle East is unpredictable. Conflicts in the Middle East could lead to an increase in tensions elsewhere in the region and may result in airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice.

#### Demonstrations and protests

Demonstrations and protests occur frequently, including in Amman and regional centres.

They're prompted by:

- domestic, regional and international events
- political or economic issues
- politically significant anniversaries

Most have been peaceful. However, public protests and events that draw large groups of people can turn violent.

Demonstrations often occur after Friday noon prayers but can happen at any time. These often result in road closures.

They're likely to occur:

- near large mosques, government ministries and diplomatic missions
- at major intersections
- in downtown areas of Amman

To stay safe:

- avoid all demonstrations, protests and large public gatherings
- check local media for updates and traffic advisories
- avoid possible unrest on national days or commemorations
- change your plans if there are disruptions
- follow the advice of local authorities

Contact your airline, travel agent or insurer for help if there are disruptions.

#### More information:

- [Protests and civil unrest](#)

#### Border regions

Security is unstable in [Syria](#) and [Iraq](#). Land border crossings could close without notice.

There's frequent military activity near Jordan's borders with these countries. This includes shelling, gunfire and drone attacks from smugglers and militias in Syria and Iraq.

People have died or been injured on the Jordanian side of the border with Syria. Jordan has deployed extra security forces to the area.

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## Terrorism



Terrorism is a threat worldwide. Terrorist attacks could occur anywhere and at any time. Be alert to possible threats, especially in public places.

Jordanian authorities have stopped terrorist plots in recent years.

Possible targets include:

- places of worship or religious holidays
- hotels, clubs, restaurants and cafes
- markets and shopping malls
- outdoor recreation events, including festivals, concerts, and sporting venues
- public transport, airports and railway hubs

Foreigners living have been targeted at:

- embassies
- expatriate housing areas and schools
- outdoor events

To stay safe:

- be aware while in places known to be possible targets
- report suspicious activities or items to the police
- take official warnings seriously
- monitor local media for breaking events and adjust your plans based on new information
- follow the instructions of local authorities

If there's a terrorist incident, leave the area if it's safe to do so and follow the instructions of local authorities.

**More information:**

- [Terrorist threats](#)
- [Armed conflict](#)

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## Crime



Petty crime includes robbery with violence, bag snatching, theft from hotels and vehicles, and assault. Be alert in tourist areas, especially to pickpocketing, bag snatching and assault by unlicensed guides. Scammers operate in tourist areas. They often target single women. They promise companionship, marriage or offer joint business ideas.

People have reported [robbery with violence](#) and aggressive begging practices by organised criminal groups.

### Kidnapping

Kidnapping can happen anywhere, anytime, including in destinations that are typically at lower risk.

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

**More information:**

- [Kidnapping](#)

## Scams and fraud

Scammers work in tourist areas. They often target single women. They promise companionship or marriage.

Some scammers offer joint business ideas. Their aim is to take large sums of money from their target. Jordanian laws can make legal action difficult. Scams involving sex outside of marriage may not be investigated by local authorities due to local laws and cultural differences. See [local laws](#)

Authorities report credit card fraud. This includes the use of card-skimming machines.

To avoid being scammed:

- keep your credit card in sight during transactions
- check for card-skimming devices before you use an ATM
- be wary of friendly strangers, especially if the person mentions marriage or business ventures

## Firearms

Firearms are more common than in Australia. Criminals sometimes use firearms. Shooting guns to celebrate is illegal but still occurs. It sometimes causes death and injury.

Stay indoors and away from windows if people are celebrating with gunfire.

## Female travellers

While all travellers may encounter risks abroad, women travelling alone or in female-only groups may face additional challenges and safety concerns in certain countries or cultural contexts.

Women are often subject to harassment. This includes leering, unwanted physical contact and stalking.

Incidents of sexual assault against foreign women are reported. Friendliness can be misinterpreted.

If you're a woman:


- avoid eye contact and talking to men you don't know
- avoid walking or travelling alone, particularly after dark or in lonely places
- always ride in the back seat of rideshares or taxis, especially when travelling alone
- pay attention to your surroundings, and leave if you feel uncomfortable
- report sexual assault incidents to the police

**More information:**

- [Women travellers](#)

## Cyber security

You could face cyber threats in any country, anyone is a target. Your devices and data can be stolen, especially when using public Wi-Fi, computers, or Bluetooth. Criminals can use stolen information to conduct scams or to resell your personal information.

The Australian Cyber Security Centre has advice on [how to protect yourself online](#) .

Social media can also be risky in places with social or political tensions or strict laws. People have been arrested for what they posted online. Check the laws of the destination you're travelling to and think about what you post on social media. The Australian Government can't get you out of trouble if you're accused of breaking the law.

**More information:**

- [Cyber security when travelling overseas](#)

## Drink spiking

Drink spiking can happen anywhere. Be alert, don't leave your food or drinks alone. Watch when your drink is being mixed. If you [feel unwell](#), tell your friends immediately and get to a safe place. Keep an eye on your friends - if they feel unwell, stay with them. Get [medical help](#) if needed.

## Methanol poisoning

People have died or become very sick from poisoned drinks overseas. This includes Australians. Methanol is highly toxic. As little as one shot can be fatal. Methanol can be added or accidentally created during poor quality alcohol production. Only drink branded, sealed drinks. Get [urgent medical help](#) if you think you've been poisoned.

**More information:**

- [Partying safely while overseas](#)

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## Tours and safety

Transport and tour operators don't always follow safety and maintenance standards. This includes adventure activities.

If you plan to do an [adventure activity](#)

- check if your travel insurance policy covers it
- ask about and insist on minimum safety requirements
- always use available safety gear, such as life jackets or seatbelts

If proper safety equipment isn't available, use another provider.


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## Extreme weather and natural disasters

Jordan is in an active [earthquake](#) area.

Rock falls and landslides can occur, especially in valleys.


There can be sand or dust storms, especially in desert areas. Snowstorms can happen at higher elevations, including in Amman.

The rainy season runs from November to March and can cause flash [flooding](#) . Valleys (wadis) are most at risk. Recent flooding has closed roads, including major highways. Monitor weather conditions before commencing road travel. Follow the advice of local authorities and avoid flood waters.

There have been instances of flash flooding outside of the rainy season. In May, an estimated 1,785 tourists were evacuated due to flash flooding in Petra.

Dust storms can also occur at short notice. The decreased visibility can be dangerous while driving, and the storms can also aggravate pre-existing allergies or respiratory conditions.

If a [natural disaster](#) or [severe weather](#) happens:

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

## Health

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### Travel Insurance

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

It must cover all medical costs overseas, including evacuation. The Australian Government will not pay for these costs.

If you can't afford travel insurance, you shouldn't travel. This is true for everyone, even if you are healthy and fit.

If you don't have insurance, you might have to pay thousands of dollars up front for medical care.

Before you travel, check your policy, make sure:

- you know what activities and medical care your insurance covers, including evacuations
- your insurance covers you for your whole trip, including any stopovers
- you know any exclusions – for example, you might need to pay extra for activities like motorcycling, snow sports or bungee jumping.

**More information:**

- [Travel insurance](#)

### Physical and mental health

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Think about your health before you travel, especially if you have any medical conditions.

See your doctor or a travel clinic to:

- get a basic check-up
- ask if your travel plans might affect your health
- find out what vaccinations you need.

If you're concerned about your mental wellbeing, or someone else's, read more about [mental health support overseas](#)

**More information:**

- [General health advice](#)
- [Managing your mental health](#)

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## Medication



Not all medications available in Australia are accessible in other countries. Some medicines may be illegal, even if prescribed by an Australian doctor.


Ensure your [medication](#) is legal overseas. Take enough for your whole trip.

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

- medication names
- your required dosage
- that the medications are for your personal use.

**More information:**

- [Medicines](#)

If you plan to bring medication, check if it's legal in Jordan by contacting the [Jordan Food and Drug Administration](#) . Take enough legal medicine for your trip.

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## Health risks



### Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus

Cases of [Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus \(MERS-CoV\)](#)  have been reported in:

- Jordan
- Saudi Arabia
- Qatar
- Kuwait
- Oman
- the United Arab Emirates

Other countries have reported cases from returned travellers.

Avoid consuming raw camel milk, undercooked camel meat, or anything contaminated with camel secretions.

Wash your hands regularly with soap and water, including before and after touching animals. Maintain good personal hygiene.








Get medical advice if you have a fever, cough, breathing difficulties or diarrhoea.

**More information:**

- [MERS information card](#) 

**Other health risks**

Waterborne, foodborne, insect-borne and other infectious diseases are widespread. These include:

- [hepatitis](#) 
- [typhoid](#) 
- [measles](#) 
- [brucellosis](#) 
- [leishmaniasis \(sandfly fever\)](#) 
- [rabies](#) 
- [schistosomiasis](#) 

Serious outbreaks sometimes occur.

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
- make sure your accommodation is insect-proof
- use insect repellent
- wear long, loose, light-coloured clothing

Get medical advice if you have a fever or diarrhoea.

Ask your doctor about health risks and vaccines before you go.

**More information:**

- [Infectious diseases](#)

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## Medical care



There's no agreement between Australia and Jordan for free healthcare. Tourists must pay for [all medical care](#), even if they need to stay in hospital or be evacuated. This can be very expensive. Make sure your [travel insurance](#) covers you. The Australian Government won't pay for these costs.

Amman has high-quality private medical services. Outside major cities, Jordan's health services are basic.

Paramedic and ambulance services are basic compared with Australia.

If you need treatment, healthcare providers may ask you to pay upfront. This may happen even if you have travel insurance.

If you become seriously ill or injured, you may need to be evacuated to a place with better facilities.

## Local laws

## Local law



When you travel to another country, you must follow their laws. Even if they seem strict compared to Australia's. Before you go, learn about the [local laws](#) in that country.

The Australian Government is limited in how and when we can help if you're [arrested overseas](#). We can't get you out of trouble or out of jail. Understand our limits. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#)

### Drugs

Penalties for drug offences are severe and include life in jail.

Penalties for possessing even a small amount of drugs include mandatory jail terms.


#### More information:

- [Carrying or using drugs](#)

### Family and business law

Jordan's family laws are different from Australia's. These include laws about divorce, child custody and child support.

If you're involved in family and business issues, get professional legal advice. Know your rights and responsibilities under local laws.

If you want to [get married](#) in Jordan, check the legal requirements before you travel. Contact the [Jordanian Embassy in Canberra](#)  for advice.

### Criminal law

If you commit a crime, punishments can be harsh by Australian standards. For certain crimes, authorities can sentence you to death though there is currently a moratorium on the death penalty in place. These include terrorism, murder, treason and rape of a minor.

You may face hard labour for some offences, such as causing personal injury or property damage.

Authorities may detain you if you do any of the following:

- have consensual sex outside of marriage, particularly with Jordanian nationals, even if in a de-facto relationship or civil union recognised in Australia
- take photos of embassies, military or security sites
- injure a pedestrian while driving a car
- take part in missionary work, preaching or other religious activities that are against local rules
- procure or traffic prohibited drugs

Research local laws before you travel.

## Australian laws




Some Australian laws still apply even if you're in another country. You could be charged in Australia if you break these laws overseas.

#### More information:

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

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## Dual nationality



If you're a dual national, you'll be considered Jordanian by law while.

The government has reactivated compulsory military service. All males aged 18 to 40, including dual nationals, need to register for military service. You need to then postpone your service each year.

If you're eligible and don't register, authorities may stop you from leaving Jordan.

### More information:

- [Dual nationals](#)

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## Local customs



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

It's illegal to eat, drink and smoke in public during daylight hours in Ramadan. If you're not fasting, avoid eating, drinking or smoking in front of people who are.

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

### Other local customs

Local customs are conservative.

These activities are not socially acceptable and may offend:

- public affection between couples
- unmarried couples living together or sharing accommodation
- same-sex relationships
- taking photos of people without their consent

Other cultural and social rules can vary between regions of Jordan. Take care not to offend. If in doubt, seek local advice.

### More information:

- [Advice for LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)

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## Travel

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### Visas and border measures



Each country or territory decides its own entry and exit rules, including health border screening measures. To find out what you need to enter a destination, ask their embassy, consulate or immigration office.

## Tourist Visas

If you're visiting Jordan on a 30-day e-Visa and intend to stay for more than 14 days, you must register with the nearest police station within 14 days of arriving in the country. If you don't, you will be fined JOD 200, which must be paid at the border or airport before you depart.

If you're visiting for tourism and staying for at least 3 nights, you can purchase a Jordan Pass before you arrive. The Jordan Pass provides a one-month tourist visa. More details are available on the [Jordan Tourism Board](#) website. If you have a Jordan Pass, you don't need to register with the police even if you are staying for more than 14 days.

For more information on visa options, visit the [Ministry of Interior](#) webpage.

Single-entry visas valid for 30 days can be obtained at Amman's Queen Alia International Airport or at any border crossing. The visa fee must be paid for in cash at land border crossings. Exchange services and card facilities are only available at the airport, not at the land crossings.

## Long term visas

Travellers entering Jordan on long-term or multiple-entry visas issued by the Ministry of the Interior must register their residency within 14 days of arrival.

You need to arrange a visa in advance if:

- you plan to stay for more than 30 days
- you're going to Jordan for a purpose other than tourism, such as work or study.

## Border measures

Entry and exit conditions can change at short notice. Contact the nearest [Embassy of Jordan](#) for details about visas, currency, customs and entry rules.

Jordan's international airports are open to commercial flights. Land and sea crossings are also open.

Monitor government announcements and media sources and follow the advice of local authorities.

## Border with Israel

Some land border crossings from Israel into Jordan (Sheikh Hussein, Allenby Bridge, and Aqaba) are scheduled to be opened daily, but crossings may close without notice and for an unknown period of time. Be prepared for delays when crossing into Jordan. If you're departing Israel to Jordan, check [Jordanian Border Crossings](#) for regular opening times and also check the latest public information from local authorities in both Israel and Jordan to determine if border crossings are open before travel.

For details about travel to the West Bank, read the travel advice for [Israel](#).

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

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## Other formalities



You must comply with additional rules for travellers if you stay more than 30 days. You must register with the police. You may also need to have medical and HIV tests.


Under Jordanian law, a husband can prevent his wife and children from leaving Jordan. This is the case even if they're Australian citizens. See [Local laws](#).

You need to pay an exit tax at all border crossings except airports, if you overstay your 30 day visa.

Some countries in the region may refuse you entry if you've been to Israel. Authorities may stop you from entering if you have entry and exit stamps from border crossings. They may also stop you if your luggage has baggage tags showing you've been to Israel.

## Yellow fever vaccination

You need a valid yellow fever vaccination certificate to enter Jordan if you've travelled through or from an area with a risk or transmission. Some airlines may want to see the certificate when you leave.

Find out about returning to Australia after [exposure to yellow fever](#) .

### More information:

- [Countries with a risk of yellow fever](#)  (PDF 253KB)

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## Passport




### Validity

Many countries require your passport to be valid for at least 6 months before entering or departing. This includes for transit.

If your passport expires too soon, you might not be able to travel.

The Australian Government doesn't make these rules. Check your passport's expiry date before you go. If you're not sure, it's a good idea to [get a new passport](#) .

If you travel with an Australian Emergency passport, you may be allowed to transit through and exit from Jordan. You must confirm this with your airline or your closest [Embassy of Jordan](#) . Entry into Jordan with an Australian Emergency passport is not permitted.

### Lost or stolen passport


Your passport is valuable and can be used by others to commit crimes.

Don't let anyone trick you into giving it to them. Always keep it in a safe place.

If your passport is lost or stolen, tell the Australian Government:

- In Australia: contact the [Australian Passport Information Service](#) .
- Overseas: contact the nearest [Australian embassy or consulate](#) .

### Passport with 'X' gender identifier

Australian passports comply with international standards for sex and gender. If your passport has an 'X' in the sex field, we can't guarantee your entry or transit to other countries. Ask the [embassy or consulate of your destinations](#)  if they'll accept your passport with an 'X' gender marker. Check all transit destinations too.

### More information:

- [LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)

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## Money

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The local currency is the Jordanian Dinar (JOD). Declare all amounts over JOD10,000 or equivalent on arrival. This covers all forms of currency, not only cash.

ATMs are available throughout Amman and in other major cities. It's harder to find ATMs in rural areas. Most petrol stations on major roads offer ATMs.

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## Local travel

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There's a danger of unexploded ordnance, including landmines, along Jordan's borders. Known minefields are usually fenced and marked. These warnings may not be obvious.

Reconsider travel to areas near the borders with Syria and Iraq due to the unstable security situation.

Seek local advice if travelling near Jordan's borders. See more information in 'Land borders' above.

### Driving permit

To drive you need both:

- a valid Australian driver's licence (digital driver's licences may not be accepted)
- an International Driving Permit (IDP)

Get your IDP before you leave Australia.

#### More information:

- [Driving or riding](#)

### Road travel

Road accidents are common.

Roads are dangerous at night. In rural areas, stray livestock and unlit vehicles are common.

Incidents of road rage occur. They can escalate quickly, particularly if someone is injured.

Road travel in remote desert areas is very risky. Isolation, distance from towns and lack of phone service can make it difficult to obtain assistance. Even routine vehicle breakdowns can be dangerous.

By law:

- vehicles must carry an extinguisher and a warning triangle
- drivers involved in a motor vehicle accident, no matter how minor, must remain at the scene until traffic police have attended

Call police on 911. You can ask for an English-speaking operator.

If you travel in remote desert areas, take enough food and water in case your vehicle breaks down. Crime has been known to occur in isolated areas; be careful when speaking to others.

#### More information:

- [Driving or riding](#)

### Motorcycles

Avoid using motorbikes. It's dangerous due to poor driving and road standards.

Check with your travel insurer if you're covered to ride a motorcycle.

Always wear a helmet.

## Taxis

Use only licensed taxis or reputable ride-sharing or limousine services. Arrange these through your hotel.

Avoid taxis that tout for business outside airports, hotels and tourist attractions. They often try to charge high prices.

Authorities report taxi drivers have seriously assaulted lone female passengers. If you're a woman, always sit in the back.

## Public transport

Buses can be crowded. It's worse on holidays and during peak times. Safety standards are not the same as in Australia.

### More information:

- [Transport and getting around safely](#)

## Sea travel

International cruise ships visit the port of Aqaba on the Red Sea.

### More information:

- [Going on a cruise](#)

## Air travel

DFAT doesn't give advice about how safe different airlines or flight paths are.

Safety risks and weather events may cause flight delays and cancellations. Contact your travel agent or airline to confirm your plans.

Airlines and airports can restrict what you can take in your luggage. Regulations may be different to those in Australia. Check with your airline before you travel.

Flights to and from Jordan may fly over Syria, where ongoing conflict could increase risks to civil aviation. Civil aviation authorities in a number of countries do not allow airlines from those countries to fly in Syrian airspace. For more information, see [air travel](#) and check with airlines before booking. Flight paths are subject to change. Check with your airline or travel agent for updates and flight options.

### More information:

- [Air travel](#)

## Local contacts

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## Emergencies

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Depending on what you need, contact your:

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

### **Fire and rescue services**

Call 911. You can ask for an English-speaking operator.

### **Medical emergencies**

Call 911. You can ask for an English-speaking operator.

### **Police**

Call 911. You can ask for an English-speaking operator.

Always get a police report when reporting a crime.

Your travel insurer should have a 24-hour emergency number.

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## **Consular contacts**



The Australian Government aims to provide high quality consular assistance. There are limits to what we can do. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#) to understand how we can assist you overseas.

For consular assistance, contact:

### **Australian Embassy**

41 Kayed Al Armouti Street  
Abdoun Al Janoubi  
Amman, Jordan

Phone: +962 6 580 7000

Email: [consular.amman@dfat.gov.au](mailto:consular.amman@dfat.gov.au)

Website: [jordan.embassy.gov.au](http://jordan.embassy.gov.au) 

Facebook: [Australian Embassy in Jordan](#) 

X: [@AusAmbJO](#) 

Opening hours are 8:30am until 4:00pm Sunday to Thursday.

Check the Embassy website for details about opening hours and any temporary closures.

### **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

## Saudi Arabia

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

### Latest update

**Still current at:** 03 March 2026

**Updated:** 03 March 2026

**Latest update:** Due to the overall volatile security situation in the region, we've raised our level of advice for Saudi Arabia to reconsider your need to travel. Retaliatory strikes are occurring across the Middle East region following military strikes on Iran. Avoid military installations and critical infrastructure, as they could be a target for attacks.

Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice, including shelter in place instructions. Australians in Riyadh, Jeddah and Dharan should shelter in place. Sheltering in place remains your safest option at this time. Sheltering in place means stay indoors as far as possible. Be aware of your environment and avoid government, military or energy infrastructure, including oil production facilities, and US diplomatic locations. Monitor local warning systems and if warned of an imminent attack move to an enclosed hardened shelter, ideally underground or close to ground level if available. If these are not available seek an inner room without windows.

Consider a commercial option to depart if you can secure one and it is safe to do so. You should consider recent attacks in your area and that airports and aircraft are more vulnerable to these strikes. You should verify the status of any border crossing before you travel by air, land or sea. Make sure you have access to food, water and essential medicines. Consider that airlines may cease operating at short notice and you may need to find accommodation. Availability of accommodation may be limited.

US Embassies in the Middle East are issuing local security alerts. We encourage you to monitor US security alerts in your location and follow this advice.

Having trouble getting in touch? See 'Local contacts' for phone and email contacts for our Embassy in Saudi Arabia, and follow them on social media.

#### Jump to...

6261 3305 (if you're overseas) or 1300 555 135 (in Australia).



**We now advise:**

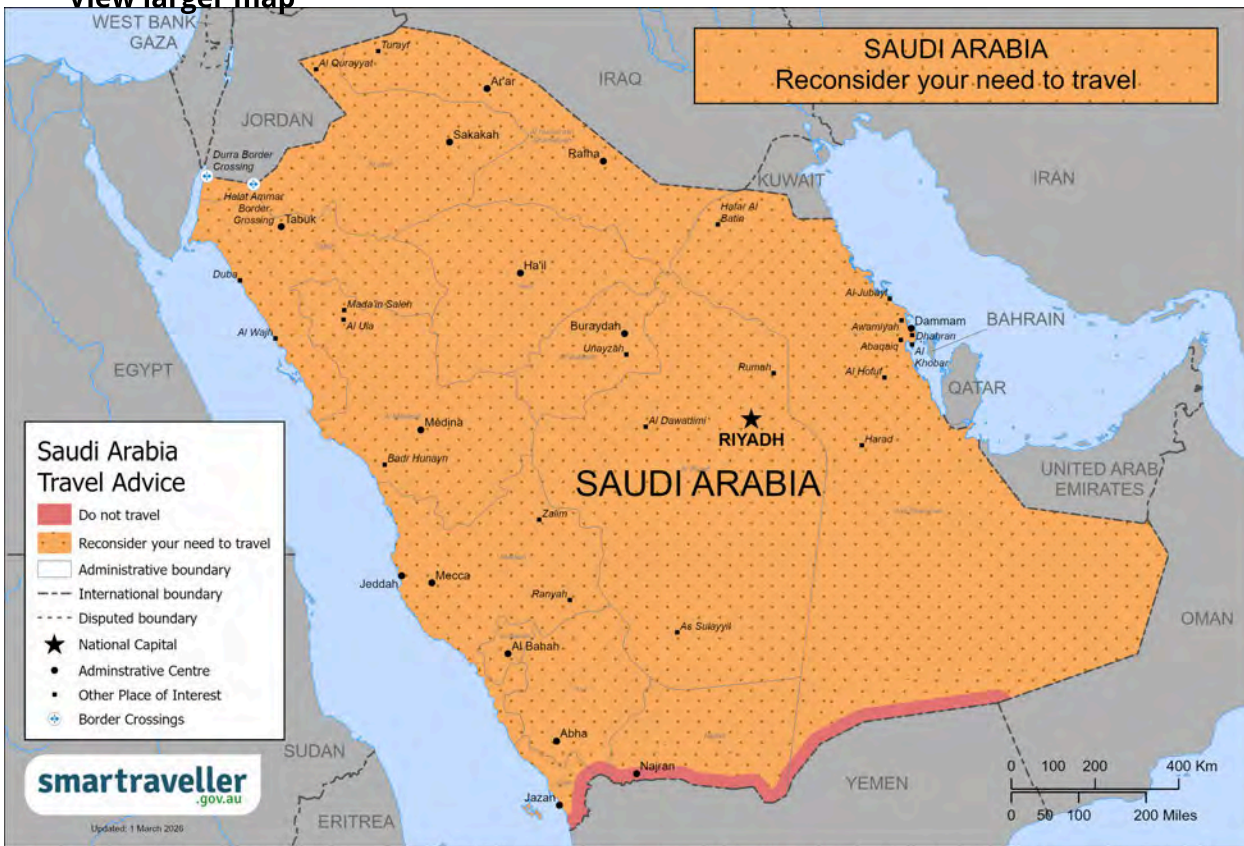
**Reconsider your need to travel to Saudi Arabia overall due to the volatile security situation in the region.**

**Higher levels apply in some areas.**

## Advice levels

What does this mean? ➔

[View larger map](#)



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[Reconsider your need to travel](#) to Saudi Arabia overall due to the volatile security situation in the region.


[Do not travel](#) to areas within 30km of the border with Yemen due to ongoing conflict in Yemen.

# Overview

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## Safety

- Due to the overall volatile security situation in the region, we've raised our level of advice for Saudi Arabia to reconsider your need to travel. Avoid military installations and critical infrastructure, as they could be a target for attacks. Australians in Riyadh, Jeddah and Dharan should shelter in place.
- Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice, including shelter in place instructions. Sheltering in place remains your safest option at this time. Sheltering in place means stay indoors as far as possible. Be aware of your environment and avoid government, military or energy infrastructure, including oil production facilities, and US diplomatic locations. Monitor local warning systems and if warned of an imminent attack move to an enclosed hardened shelter, ideally underground or close to ground level if available. If these are not available seek an inner room without windows.
- Consider a commercial option to depart if you can secure one and it is safe to do so. You should consider recent attacks in your area and that airports and aircraft are more vulnerable to these strikes. You should verify the status of any border crossing before you travel by air, land or sea. Make sure you have access to food, water and essential medicines. Consider that airlines may cease operating at short notice and you may need to find accommodation. Availability of accommodation may be limited.
- Australians in the Middle East should monitor local security alerts issued by the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate and follow their advice. Australian embassies and consulates across the region are monitoring these alerts and advising Australian officials to follow their advice. We encourage you to actively monitor and follow [US alerts](#)  for your location. Australian embassies and consulates will also share these alerts on their social media as the security situation permits.
- Demonstrations and protests are illegal in Saudi Arabia and there may be severe penalties for participation. Avoid all demonstrations and protests should they occur.
- Terrorist attacks could occur anywhere and at any time. Avoid possible targets such as energy infrastructure. Be alert at places frequented by foreigners and at large-scale entertainment events. Take official warnings seriously.
- Crime rates are low, but theft can happen, especially in crowded places and from vehicles. Physical, verbal and sexual harassment can also occur.
- Be prepared for extreme weather during the hottest months, between June and September when temperatures can exceed 50°C. Sand and dust storms occur regularly. Follow advice of local authorities.
- Driving can be dangerous due to high speeds and reckless behaviour on the road. The annual road death toll is high.

Full travel advice: [Safety](#)



## Health

- Cases of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) have been reported. Avoid contact with camels or products contaminated with camel secretions.
- Sandstorms and dust storms can cause allergies and breathing problems. Discuss your travel plans with a doctor if you have an existing condition.

Full travel advice: Health

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## Local laws





- Many laws in Saudi Arabia are different to those in Australia. If you're detained or arrested, ask the Saudi authorities to inform the Australian Embassy in Riyadh.
- It's illegal to mock, provoke or question public order, religious values or public morals. Criticising Saudi Arabia, the royal family, the leadership or Islam is also against the law. These laws extend to social media posts, even if posted many years ago and outside Saudi Arabia. Foreigners have been sentenced to decades in prison for offensive tweets made outside Saudi Arabia years before their visit to the country.
- Saudi Arabia has strict laws on relationships and LGBTQIA+ issues. It's against the law for unmarried couples to live together or to have sex outside marriage. Public displays of affection between men and women or people of the same sex are also illegal. Punishment may include fines and/or imprisonment and the death penalty. Get professional advice for local legal matters. You may be prevented from leaving the country until issues are resolved.
- It's illegal to possess, consume, produce or traffic drugs in Saudi Arabia. Penalties for drug offences are severe and can include imprisonment or the death penalty. It's also illegal to buy, sell, import, carry and consume alcohol. The penalties are also severe and can include imprisonment.
- In Saudi Arabia, men and women should dress modestly in public. Cover your shoulders and knees and avoid tight-fitting clothes or clothes with profane language or images.

Full travel advice: Local laws

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## Travel

- You can apply for a tourist visa online or on arrival. Check the [Saudi eVisa](#)  website for current information on tourist visas. A visa does not guarantee your entry to Saudi Arabia. Check visa conditions before your arrival.
- All Saudi visa holders of Muslim faith are permitted to perform Umrah at any time throughout the year, except around Hajj time, when only Hajj visa/permit holders can enter Makkah. Monitor the media for information about the dates the Hajj time starts.
- Saudi Hajj and Umrah Ministry have launched the '[Nusuk](#)'  platform to register and facilitate pilgrim procedures for both Umrah and Hajj. A permit must be obtained to perform Hajj, Umrah and to visit the Rawda Al Sharifa. The permit is obtained via the [Nusuk Hajj](#)  and [Nusuk Umrah](#)  portals.

Full travel advice: Travel

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## Local contacts

- The Australian Government aims to provide high quality consular assistance. There are limits to what we can do. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#) to understand how we can assist you overseas.
- For consular help, contact the [Australian Embassy in Riyadh](#). [🔗](#)
- Follow the Embassy's social media channels for local information (see 'Local contacts').

[Full travel advice](#) [Local contacts](#)

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## Full advice

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## Safety

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### Terrorism

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Terrorism is a threat worldwide. Terrorist attacks could occur anywhere and at any time. Be alert to possible threats, especially in public places.

There have been several terrorist attacks in the Gulf region in recent years. These have occurred at places visited by foreigners. Take official warnings seriously. In case of an attack, follow the advice of local authorities.

Maintain a high level of security awareness.

Attacks could occur at any time and could target:

- public places, including shopping malls, markets, restaurants, hotels, recreational facilities and mosques
- military sites
- tourist sites, entertainment events and crowded public places
- embassies and consulates
- locations foreigners may visit

If there's a terrorist incident, leave the area if it's safe to do so and follow the instructions of local authorities.

Read our general advice on protecting your safety during an [armed conflict](#).

#### More information:


- [Terrorism](#)
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## Civil unrest and political tension

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The political situation within Saudi Arabia is currently stable.

Retaliatory strikes are occurring in several countries across the Middle East region, following military strikes on Iran. Airspace closures and flight disruptions are occurring across the region and may impact flights globally, causing delays and cancellations. Contact your airline to confirm your flights.

Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice. See our general advice on [protecting your safety during an armed conflict](#) .

Ongoing hostilities pose serious security risks across the region. There are reports of military debris falling in various locations.

Military tensions remain in neighbouring Yemen. Missiles, explosive-laden drones and explosive-laden boats have targeted civilian infrastructure in Saudi Arabia, including ports and airports. Most attacks have been intercepted by the Saudi military.

Some of these attacks occur close to the Yemen border, especially in the provinces of Jazan, Najran and Aseer (including Abha). Urban centres in the Eastern Province have been targeted, in addition to oil infrastructure in that province. The capital Riyadh, and cities on the Red Sea, such as Jeddah and Yanbu, have also been targeted in the past. Other areas may be targeted from time to time.

Targets have included:

- urban areas
- oil infrastructure
- military bases
- government facilities
- ports
- public facilities, such as airports

Such attacks may continue. The frequency of attacks vary and not all individual attacks are always widely publicised.

To stay safe in the event of an attack:

- if you hear a loud explosion or if sirens are activated, immediately seek cover
- stay away from windows or openings.
- seek shelter in the centre of the building at the lowest level possible
- be aware that if an incoming missile or drone is intercepted, falling debris can pose a risk
- after an attack, stay away from any debris
- follow the advice of local authorities and monitor the media for emerging threats

## Demonstrations and protests

Demonstrations are illegal, and any large spontaneous gatherings are unusual. You should avoid any demonstration or protest activity if it occurs. Penalties for participating in demonstrations or protests may be severe.

**More information:**

- [Protests and civil unrest](#)

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## Kidnapping

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Kidnapping can happen anywhere, anytime, including in destinations that are typically at lower risk.

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

**More information:**

- [Kidnapping](#)

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## Crime

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The overall crime rate in Saudi Arabia is low. Petty crime can occur, including in crowded places, shopping malls and from vehicles.


Protect yourself from crime:

- be alert to petty thieves while in crowded places
- carry only what you need – leave other valuables in a secure place
- keep your vehicle doors and accommodation locked
- take care when travelling outside major cities
- be alert to suspicious behaviour

### Sexual assault

If you are [sexually assaulted](#), you may face detention, arrest or criminal prosecution for reporting the incident to local police or when seeking medical help.

If you're a victim of sexual assault, contact the Australian Embassy in Riyadh on +966 11 2500 970, after hours calls will be redirected to the 24-hour Consular Emergency Centre in Canberra:

- +61 2 6261 3305 (if calling from overseas)
- 1300 555 135 (if calling within Australia)
- [Australian Embassy in Riyadh](#) 

Consular officers can't provide legal or medical advice. However, they can provide lists of English-speaking service providers who may be able to help. See 'Local contacts'.

If you're attending major entertainment events such as the MDLBEAST Music Festival, you may need to take extra precautions, particularly as a woman.

Risks include:

- unwanted attention, groping and verbal sexual harassment
- sexual assault
- unsolicited invitations from strangers

Protect yourself:

- dress conservatively in line with the Public Decency Laws, avoiding clothing that is tight-fitting or revealing
- be aware of your surroundings
- be cautious of unsolicited invitations from strangers
- only use licenced taxis or approved ride-share services, such as Uber, Bolt, or Jeeny and avoid drivers who approach you.

### More information:

- [Sexual Assault Overseas](#)
- [Reducing the risk of sexual assault and harassment](#)

## Piracy

[Piracy](#) occurs in the southern Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

Pirates target all forms of shipping, including:

- commercial vessels
- pleasure craft
- luxury cruise liners
- naval vessels


The [International Maritime Bureau issues piracy reports](#) .

If you travel by boat to or near Saudi Arabia despite the risks:

- monitor piracy reports for the region
- exercise extreme caution
- be alert to possible threats
- avoid confrontation

## Cyber security

You could face cyber threats in any country, anyone is a target. Your devices and data can be stolen, especially when using public Wi-Fi, computers, or Bluetooth. Criminals can use stolen information to conduct scams or to resell your personal information.

The Australian Cyber Security Centre has advice on [how to protect yourself online](#) .

Social media can also be risky in places with social or political tensions or strict laws. People have been arrested for what they posted online. Check the laws of the destination you're travelling to and think about what you post on social media. The Australian Government can't get you out of trouble if you're accused of breaking the law.

### More information:

- [Cyber security when travelling overseas](#)

Foreign residents in Saudi Arabia have also been the targets of an identity theft scam. Individuals impersonate a call from the Ministry of Interior to discuss a problem with your Absher account and request one-time passwords (OTPs) or identifying information that gives access to your Absher account. It is unlikely that the Ministry of Interior will contact you this way. Treat any calls of this nature as a scam.

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, even for comments published many years earlier. Don't comment on local or political events on your social media.

Punishments for activities on social media, such as commenting, posting, reposting, and liking content deemed illegal or offensive to the royal family, can lead to lengthy prison sentences.

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## Extreme weather and natural disasters

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It's very hot in Saudi Arabia. June to August are the hottest months of the year, and the temperature can reach over 50°C. Consume adequate liquids and avoid extended periods in direct sunlight during summer.

Sandstorms and dust storms are common.

If a [natural disaster](#) or [severe weather](#) occurs:

- secure your passport in a safe, waterproof location
- monitor the media and local sources
- follow the advice of local authorities
- keep in contact with your friends and family

Register with the [Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System](#)  to receive alerts on major disasters.

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## Tours and adventure activities

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Transport and tour operators don't always follow safety and maintenance standards. This includes adventure activities.

If you plan to do a tour or [adventure activity](#):

- check if your travel insurance policy covers it
- ask about and insist on minimum safety requirements
- always use available safety gear, such as life jackets or seatbelts

## Swimming safety

If proper safety equipment isn't available, use another provider.

- regularly check weather reports before engaging in water activities and take all warnings seriously
- stay informed by checking media and local sources for any potential dangers
- speak with your travel provider about safety equipment before continuing with your planned activities
- take a friend or family member along when swimming or participating in water activities
- ensure you have travel insurance that covers all planned activities
- be aware of any dress requirements and gender segregation rules. You may need to cover your arms and legs, or use different areas designated for men and women.

## Health

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### Travel insurance

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

It must cover all medical costs overseas, including evacuation. The Australian Government will not pay for these costs.

If you can't afford travel insurance, you shouldn't travel. This is true for everyone, even if you are healthy and fit.


If you don't have insurance, you might have to pay thousands of dollars up front for medical care.

Before you travel, check your policy, make sure:

- you know what activities and medical care your insurance covers, including evacuations
- your insurance covers you for your whole trip, including any stopovers
- you know any exclusions – for example, you might need to pay extra for activities like motorcycling, snow sports or bungee jumping.

#### More information:

- [Travel insurance](#)

If you hold an eVisa for Saudi Arabia, check the health policy linked to your visa, as coverage may be limited. You should confirm the scope of your health insurance policy and any exclusions before you travel. For further information, check the [Visit Saudi Official Website](#) .

If you hold a resident identity card (Iqama), your employer must provide medical insurance. Check your insurance policy to confirm what is and isn't covered.

Your Saudi medical insurance will not cover pregnancy or maternity unless you're married and it's in your insurance policy.

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## Physical and mental health

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Think about your health before you travel, especially if you have any medical conditions.

See your doctor or a travel clinic to:

- get a basic check-up
- ask if your travel plans might affect your health
- find out what vaccinations you need.

If you're concerned about your mental wellbeing, or someone else's, read more about [mental health support overseas](#).

**More information:**

- [General health advice](#)
- [Managing your mental health](#)

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## Medications

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Not all medications available in Australia are accessible in other countries. Some medicines may be illegal, even if prescribed by an Australian doctor.

Ensure your [medication](#) is legal overseas. Take enough for your whole trip.



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

- medication names
- your required dosage
- that the medications are for your personal use.

**More information:**

- [Medicines](#)

Before you travel:

- check if your medication is a controlled substance by visiting the [Saudi Food and Drug Authority \(SFDA\)](#)  website.
- some medications require a permit, for information check the [SFDA Permit Guidelines](#) . Failure to obtain a permit may result in arrest and prosecution.

Saudi authorities may detain or deport travellers for:

- carrying medication to treat HIV/AIDS or hepatitis
- testing positive for HIV/AIDS or hepatitis.

**More information:**

- [Saudi Food & Drug Authority](#) 

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## Health risks

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## Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus

Cases of [Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus](#)  (MERS-CoV) have been reported.

Other Middle-Eastern countries have reported imported cases from returned travellers.

Avoid contact with camels. Don't consume raw camel milk, undercooked camel meat, or anything contaminated with camel secretions.

Get medical advice if you have a fever, cough, breathing difficulties or diarrhoea.

### More information:

- [MERS information card](#) 

## Air pollution

Air quality in Saudi Arabia, particularly in major cities, can reach high pollution levels.

Dust and sandstorms are severe and common.


The poor air quality can cause:

- allergies and breathing problems
- traffic delays and accidents


If you have pre-existing medical conditions, you may be affected. If you're concerned:

- seek medical advice before leaving Australia
- monitor the air quality index
- reduce your exposure.

## Insect-borne diseases

[Malaria](#)  is present in the Asir and Jizan areas, bordering Yemen. Cases of chloroquine-resistant strains of malaria have been reported.

Other infectious diseases, including waterborne and foodborne diseases, are present in Saudi Arabia. Get medical advice if you have a fever, muscle pain, rash or severe headache.

- [typhoid](#) 
- [hepatitis](#) 
- [brucellosis](#) 
- [rabies](#) 
- [dengue](#) 
- [leishmaniasis](#) 
- [bilharzia \(schistosomiasis\)](#) 

Ask your doctor about health risks and vaccines before you go.

### More information:

- [Infectious diseases](#)

## Medical care

### Medical facilities

There's no agreement between Australia and Saudi Arabia for free healthcare. Tourists must pay for all [medical care](#), even if they need to stay in hospital or be evacuated. This can be very expensive. Make sure your [travel insurance](#) covers you. The Australian Government won't pay for these costs.

Most facilities in major cities offer high to very high-quality services.

Facilities in minor towns and small cities can only do routine procedures.

If you're treated at a private facility, you may be expected to pay in advance before doctors will treat you.

If you become seriously ill or injured, you may need to be evacuated to a place with better facilities. Medical evacuation can be very expensive.

Facilities for travellers with a disability are different to Australia.

## Local laws


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### Local law

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There are major differences between the laws in Australia and Saudi Arabia. Behaviour that could be considered offensive or anti-social, but not criminal, in Australia could violate Saudi law.

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

Saudi authorities have detained Australians and haven't always notified the [Australian Embassy in Riyadh](#). 

If you're detained, it may take several months for the local authorities to grant approval for Embassy staff to visit you.

The Australian Government is limited in how and when we can help if you're [arrested overseas](#). We can't get you out of trouble or out of jail. Understand our limits. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#).

Ensure that you read carefully the information on our [Consular Services Charter](#) to find out what we can and cannot do.

If you are detained, ask the authorities, your family, friends or colleagues to inform the Embassy as soon as possible.

#### More information:

- [Arrested or detained overseas](#)

### Drugs

Possession of illicit drugs and alcohol is illegal. Penalties are severe.

Convictions for possession and trafficking of drugs may result in heavy fines, lengthy jail sentences, deportation or the death penalty.

If you're in the company of someone who is involved in drug cases, including trafficking, possessing or using drugs, you may be detained and remain in detention until investigations of all parties are concluded.

It is illegal to bring alcohol into Saudi Arabia and to possess or consume it in the country.

Public intoxication or driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol is punishable by fines, imprisonment, deportation and confiscation of your driving licence.

#### More information:

- [Carrying or using drugs](#)

### Commercial, civil, family and employment law

There are significant differences in the commercial, civil, family and employment laws between Australia and Saudi Arabia.

If you're involved in local legal matters:

- seek professional legal advice
- understand your rights and what you must do under Saudi law.

We can't interfere in commercial and family disputes.

If you become involved in a commercial or employment dispute, your sponsor or employer may prevent you from leaving the country until the dispute is resolved. Commercial or labour dispute cases may take years to resolve.

If you're a dependent sponsored by a primary visa holder and you're involved in a custody or domestic violence dispute with the primary visa holder, you may be unable to leave Saudi Arabia for an extended period if the primary visa holder/sponsor refuses to issue an exit visa to allow you to leave the country.

## Marriage

If you wish to [marry](#) a Saudi national, your partner will first need a letter of approval from the Ministry of Interior. Check current requirements and timeframes directly with the relevant local authorities.

## Resident identity card

If you're a resident, you must always carry your resident identity card (Iqama).

If you travel on a visa, you should always carry your passport. Saudi authorities have the right to check ID. There are security checkpoints, both in cities and on roads between cities.

## Serious offences

It's illegal to:

- Insult, criticise, provoke, or question public order, religious values or public morals or act in a way that is offensive toward the royal family government leadership or Islam. Saudi authorities can detain you without charges if you're suspected of committing an offence and keep you detained while they investigate.
- not comply with police instructions.
- support any group or organisation considered by Saudi authorities to practice violence. These actions are also illegal in social media posts, even if they were made outside Saudi Arabia and years prior to your visit. Foreigners have received lengthy prison sentences for offensive tweets made in the past.

You may have to wait months for legal help or for a court appearance while authorities investigate.

Penalties for some offences are severe and can include the death penalty. These offences include:

- murder
- serious physical assault
- adultery
- rape
- same-sex relations
- abandoning the Islamic religion
- offences perceived to undermine the state.

## Illegal items

It's illegal to import, possess or trade in weapons and items held to be 'contrary to the beliefs of Islam'. Illegal items include:

- alcohol
- pork products
- pornography – including images of scantily clad people, particularly women
- political and religious books, comics and materials
- drones, without prior approval

Authorities scan passenger luggage on arrival.

### More information:

- [Saudi Customs](#) 

## Other illegal activities

In Saudi Arabia, it's illegal to:

- preach or publicly practice a religion other than Islam
- produce or distribute printed or electronic material, without the Ministry of Culture and Information's authorisation
- publicly display or wear non-Islamic religious symbols or text that has symbols or slogans that could be viewed as political or clothes with profane language or image
- carrying flags or banners, especially when performing Hajj and Umrah
- be involved in charity and fundraising activities, including online or via social media without prior approval from local authorities
- post advertisements that result in an income on social media without a licence from the relevant local Saudi authorities. Violators could face a five-year prison sentence and fines of up five million Saudi riyals
- offend the reputation of tourism in the Kingdom, which may include posting negative reviews online about tourist destinations and activities
- say anything blasphemous
- take photos or videos of Government buildings or military sites, palaces, some religious sites and people (particularly children and women) without permission
- get pregnant or give birth outside of marriage

## LGBTQIA+ laws

Same-sex relationships and impersonating the opposite sex are illegal. Saudi Arabia doesn't recognise or allow same-sex marriages and rights. Authorities can impose fines and severe punishment, including deportation.

### More information:

- [Advice for LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)

## Passports with 'X' gender identifier

You will not be able to enter Saudi Arabia if your passport shows 'X' in the gender field.

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## Australian laws

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Some Australian laws still apply even if you're in another country. You could be charged in Australia if you break these laws overseas.

### More information:

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

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## Dual nationality

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The Saudi Government doesn't recognise dual nationality for its citizens.

If you are a dual national, authorities may seize extra passports if they find them, and charges, including imprisonment, may be laid if you hold a second nationality without prior permission from the relevant Saudi authorities. This doesn't deprive you of your Australian citizenship.

If you're a dual national (e.g Australian/UK nationals), and you're travelling with both passports, you can only leave Saudi Arabia with the passport you used to enter.

If you're a dual citizen and entered the country on a non-Australian passport, this limits the [consular services](#) we can provide, including if you're arrested or detained.

**More information:**

- [Dual nationals](#)

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## Local customs

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Always respect religious and cultural sensitivities, rules and customs.

### Ramadan

The Islamic holy month of Ramadan is strictly observed in Saudi Arabia. Take care not to offend others and cultural customs during this time.

It is illegal to eat, drink or smoke in public between sunrise and sunset during [Ramadan](#). Authorities can detain and even deport you for doing so.


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

### Segregation

Segregation in public places is now less strict than in previous years, particularly in major urban centres. However, some facilities, including the Riyadh Metro, gyms, pools, restaurants and shops, may continue to designate areas by gender or families.

### Accommodation

Individual travellers seeking to share accommodation have sometimes been refused joint occupancy. The situation is changing as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia transforms. You should contact your accommodation provider to seek clarification on the requirements. It is important to respect local customs and act in a culturally appropriate manner.

Further information can be found on the [Visit Saudi Official Website](#) .

### Behaviour

Saudi Arabia has strict codes of behaviour. You can be fined for violating Saudi Arabia's Public Decency Regulations.

Locals may be offended if you don't respect these codes. They may interpret this as religious or cultural disrespect.


### Dress

Get advice on what is acceptable clothing before you arrive.

Both men and women are asked to dress modestly in public in line with Public Decency Laws. Avoid tight fitting clothing or clothes with profane language or images.

Men and women visiting Saudi Arabia should cover their shoulders and knees in public. If you don't comply with these requirements, you may face penalties. If approached by authorities, be respectful and remain calm.

**More information:**

- [Public decorum](#) 
- [Advice for women](#)

## Travel



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### Visas and border measures

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Each country or territory decides its own entry and exit rules, including health border screening measures. To find out what you need to enter a destination, ask their embassy, consulate or immigration office.

#### Entry visa

You need a valid visa to enter Saudi Arabia. You can apply for an e-visa at the [Visit Saudi](#)  website. Be cautious of fraudulent visa links. Requirements and policies can change at short notice. Visit the [Saudi eVisa](#)  website for current information on tourist visas. A visa does not guarantee your entry to Saudi Arabia. Check visa conditions prior to your arrival.

If you've had a travel ban placed against you in the past to prevent you from re-entering Saudi Arabia, you should check the duration of the ban prior to your arrival, or you may be denied entry to Saudi Arabia.

If you have a previous unresolved legal case in Saudi Arabia, you may be arrested when you arrive. This is regardless of the passport you use to re-enter Saudi Arabia (whether you use an Australian or other passport).


If you hold a tourist visa, it is valid for 12 months and allows multiple entries. You may stay up to 90 days during that period, and the visa cannot be extended or used for any form of work. For further information [Visit Saudi Official Website](#) .


If you overstay your visa, you may face:

- a significant fine
- detention while waiting to be deported
- a ban from re-entering Saudi Arabia

You won't be permitted to leave the country until the fine is paid in full. The Australian Embassy cannot waive or reduce fines or request the local authorities to do so.


Tourists under the age of 18 may not be allowed to enter Saudi Arabia unless accompanied by a guardian.

If you're visiting Saudi Arabia for purposes other than tourism, you must obtain a separate and special visa from visa agencies accredited to the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia. Contact your nearest [Saudi Embassy or Consulate](#) .


If you're transiting through Saudi Arabia, you may need a transit visa. Check with your airline, travel agency and your nearest Saudi Embassy/Consulate if you need a transit visa. Information is available on the [Visit Saudi](#)  website.

Only Muslims are allowed to enter Makkah (Mecca) and Madinah.

You may not be allowed to enter through a land crossing if you hold a business/visit visa that is annotated 'via air'. Note that this may be written in Arabic. Carefully read and understand the restrictions of your Saudi business/visit visa.

The [Nusuk](#)  platform has been launched to facilitate registration and visa processing for Hajj and Umrah pilgrims. This is the only approved platform from the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah for Hajj visas and services.

During the Hajj period, Saudi authorities may restrict entry to and exit from certain airports. Access to airports in Jeddah, Madinah, Yanbu and Taif for Hajj may be limited to travellers with a valid Hajj visa only. Pilgrims on Hajj visas are not permitted to travel around Saudi Arabia as tourists outside of their pilgrimage itinerary. Check with your airline, travel agency, and your nearest Saudi Embassy/Consulate for up-to-date information on entry and exit requirements during Hajj season.

Entry and exit conditions can change at short notice. Contact the nearest [Embassy or consulate of Saudi Arabia](#)  for details about visas, currency, customs, vaccination and quarantine rules.

## Exit visas

If you hold a resident identity card (Iqama), you'll need to get an exit/re-entry or final exit permit from the Saudi Ministry of Interior. You must do this through your sponsor.

You may not be eligible for an exit re-entry visa to leave Saudi Arabia if your passport has less than six months validity.

If you're the main visa holder, make sure that all your dependents have valid passports, as you may not be allowed to obtain an exit re-entry visa.

Visitors holding a single-entry or multiple-entry business, work or tourist visa don't need an exit permit to leave Saudi Arabia.

If you're a dual national (e.g Australian/UK nationals), and you're travelling with both passports, you can only leave Saudi Arabia with the passport you used to enter.

## Work visa

It's illegal to work for anyone other than the sponsor or employer officially registered as your employer/sponsor on your residence permit in the Saudi Passports Office's system.

If you do, you may be punished with:

- fines
- detention
- deportation
- a ban from entering Saudi Arabia

Holders of any type of visa other than a work visa or a resident identity card (Iqama) are not allowed to work in Saudi Arabia.

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## Other formalities

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### Yellow fever vaccination

You need a valid yellow fever vaccination certificate to enter Saudi Arabia if you're travelling from an area with a risk of yellow fever.

#### More information:

- [Countries with a risk of yellow fever](#)  (PDF)

### Polio outbreaks

Travellers under the age of 15 arriving from countries with polio outbreaks must provide proof of up-to-date polio vaccination.

More information:

- [Embassy or consulate of Saudi Arabia](#) 

### Travel bans

Authorities may place you under a travel ban if you're a tourist, visitor or resident identity card (Iqama) holder and you're involved in a dispute about, but not limited to:

- business
- labour
- employment

- fines.

Travel bans are strictly enforced, and they can take months or even years to resolve.


Only Saudi Arabian authorities, and in very limited cases, your sponsor, can remove travel bans.

Private Saudi citizens may also initiate travel bans against expats.

The government may issue travel bans on people who:

- are charged with criminal offences
- are under investigation
- are involved in financial or labour disputes
- have unpaid debts or who have passed bad cheques

## Travel restrictions on dependents


Dependents up to the age of 21 of a Saudi Arabian parent need permission to leave Saudi Arabia. More information, visit the [Absher platform](#) .

If you're an expat with unpaid dependent fees, you may have to pay the fees before you can:

- apply for an exit or re-entry visa
- renew your Iqama
- leave on your final exit.

## Hajj

If you're a non-resident, authorities may restrict your entry via air or land to Jeddah, Madinah, Yanbu and Taif during Hajj time. The restrictions may start from one month prior to the Hajj time.

Prior to your visit to Saudi Arabia, check the health requirements available on Nusuk Hajj and [Nusuk Umrah](#)  portals

Pilgrims on Hajj visas are not permitted to travel around Saudi Arabia as tourists outside of their pilgrimage itinerary.

### More information:

- [Hajj](#)
- [Ministry of Health](#) 

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## Passport

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### Validity

Many countries require your passport to be valid for at least 6 months before entering or departing. This includes for transit.

If your passport expires too soon, you might not be able to travel.

The Australian Government doesn't make these rules. Check your passport's expiry date before you go. If you're not sure, it's a good idea to [get a new passport](#) .


### Other passport conditions

Saudi authorities will not allow you to enter Saudi Arabia on an Australian emergency passport. You can only use an Australian emergency passport to exit and you may be required to provide a police report and/or letter from the Embassy to explain why your passport is different to the passport on which you entered the country.

If you obtain a new passport, including an emergency passport, while in Saudi Arabia to replace your old, lost or stolen passport, you must register the new passport number with the Saudi passport office prior to your departure. Check with your employer/sponsor or the Ministry of Tourism (depending on your visa type) for information on where to complete this process.

Australian travel-related documents issued to non-Australian citizens will not be accepted for entry to Saudi Arabia with an electronic visa (even if you obtained the visa online prior to your arrival). You'll need to contact your nearest Saudi Embassy/Consulate for up-to-date advice and information on the acceptance of your travel document. If your entry into Saudi Arabia is denied despite holding a valid Saudi visa, the Embassy won't be able to assist to facilitate your entry.

## Passport with 'X' gender identifier

Australian passports comply with international standards for sex and gender. If your passport has an 'X' in the sex field, we can't guarantee your entry or transit to other countries. Ask the [embassy or consulate of your destinations](#)  if they'll accept your passport with an 'X' gender marker. Check all transit destinations too.

### More information:

- [LGBTQIA+ travellers](#)

## Lost or stolen passport

Your passport is valuable and can be used by others to commit crimes.

Don't let anyone trick you into giving it to them. Always keep it in a safe place.

If your passport is lost or stolen, tell the Australian Government:

- In Australia: contact the [Australian Passport Information Service](#) .
- Overseas: contact the nearest [Australian embassy or consulate](#) .

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## Money

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The local currency is the Saudi Arabian Riyal (SAR).

Declare amounts of more than SAR60,000 or equivalent per family or group when you arrive or on departure. This covers all forms of currency, not only cash.

Declare any precious metals worth more than SAR60,000 per family or group.

You can change currency at commercial banks and exchange bureaus.

ATMs are widely available. Ask your bank if your cards will work in Saudi Arabia.

### More information:

- [Saudi Customs](#) 

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## Local travel

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## Driving permit

Saudi Arabia has strict requirements for driver's licences. If you're a resident in Saudi Arabia, you'll need to get a Saudi driver's licence.

To drive in Saudi Arabia, you'll need:

- a valid Australian driver's licence (digital driver's licences may not be accepted)
- an International Driving Permit (IDP)

You must get your IDP before departing Australia.

Visitors to Saudi Arabia can only drive hire cars and not privately owned vehicles. You may only be allowed to use your Australian driving licence and IDP for up to 3 months from arrival in the country. Check with the local Traffic Police and your rental company for up-to-date information.

You must carry your driver's licence and vehicle registration when driving. If you're involved in an accident, notify the traffic police (NAJM) and ask for their instructions.

## Road travel

The annual death toll on Saudi roads is extremely high. Exercise extreme caution when driving and always wear a seat belt.

Safety hazards include camels straying onto roads.

There are checkpoints where you may be required to present identification.

Some Saudi cities have an automated traffic ticketing system. If you're fined, you must pay the fine through this system before leaving the country.

### More information:

- [Driving or riding](#)

## Motorcycles

Check with your travel insurer whether your policy covers you when using a motorbike, quad bike or similar vehicle.

Always wear a helmet.

## Taxis and rideshare services

Only use registered rideshare services, taxis and limousines. Book transport from reliable a company.

Registered public taxis can be in poor condition, often without meters and without seatbelts.

## Public transport

Saudi Arabia has inter-city bus and limited rail services throughout the country. Riyadh also has a metro system.

Travellers often use limousine services for long-distance travel.

### More information:

- [Transport and getting around safely](#)

## Boat travel

Many waters near Saudi Arabia are sensitive because of territorial disputes and security issues.

Military operations are occurring in Yemen and the Red Sea in response to attacks by Houthi militants on ships transiting the Red Sea and surrounding waters, including the Gulf of Aden.

Due to the current conflict and tensions in Yemen and the region, ships and boats sailing in or around Yemen and the Red Sea could be at high risk of being targeted by missiles, projectile, or waterborne explosive devices.

There are ongoing disputes about who has jurisdiction over the islands of Abu Musa and the Tunbs in the southern Gulf.

People have reported vessels being inspected and crews detained.

[Piracy](#) can occur in the southern Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

**More information:**

- [Travelling by boat](#)

## Air travel

Due to military activity in Yemen, flights in the south of Saudi Arabia can be cancelled or rescheduled at short notice. Affected airports include:

- Jazan
- Abha
- Wadi Aldwasir
- Bisha
- Sharurah
- Najran
- Baha

Check with your travel provider for updates on flights.

DFAT doesn't give advice about how safe different airlines or flight paths are.



Safety risks and weather events may cause flight delays and cancellations. Contact your travel agent or airline to confirm your plans.

Airlines and airports can restrict what you can take in your luggage. Regulations may be different to those in Australia. Check with your airline before you travel.

**More information:**

- [Air travel](#)

## Travelling with pets

The Saudi Ministry of Environment, Water, and Agriculture must approve all pets imported into Saudi Arabia. Prior permit/approval to bring the pet/s must be obtained. Please contact your airline or visit the [Saudia](#)  website and the [Saudi Ministry of Environment, Water, and Agriculture](#)  for more information and requirements.

## Tourism Call Centre

Call 930 (from inside Saudi).

Call +966 92 000 0890 (from outside Saudi).

## Local contacts

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### Emergencies

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Depending on what you need, contact your:

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

### **Emergency services**

Call 911.

### **Fire and rescue services**

Call 998.

### **Medical emergencies**

Call 997 or go to the hospital.

### **Traffic accidents**

Call 993.

### **Highway Patrol**

Call 996.

### **Police**

Call 999 or go to the nearest police station.

Always get a police report when you report a crime.

Your insurer should have a 24-hour emergency number.

### **General Directorate of Passports**

Call 992.

### **Emergency medical consultation**

Call 937.

### **Domestic and child violence services**

If you're in danger, or you/your children have been a victim of domestic violence in Saudi Arabia, consider calling:

- local Saudi police on 999
- the Saudi National Domestic Violence Hotline on 1919

Call 116 111 for the Child Help Line. The Saudi National Family Safety Program runs this service. They help children access Saudi social services.

When reporting domestic violence:

- get a case reference number – all Saudi social and legal help is tied to this case number
- document any injuries and get a copy of any medical reports

If you file a police report or use any Saudi victim services, authorities may inform your sponsor or guardian.

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## Consular contacts

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The Australian Government aims to provide high quality consular assistance. There are limits to what we can do. Read the [Consular Services Charter](#) to understand how we can assist you overseas.

Contact the Australian Embassy in Riyadh for consular help.

### Australian Embassy, Riyadh

Diplomatic Quarter  
Riyadh  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Phone: +966 11 250 0900

Website: [saudi-arabia.embassy.gov.au/ryad/home](https://saudi-arabia.embassy.gov.au/ryad/home) 

X: [@AusAmbKSA](#) 

Facebook: [@AusEmbKSA](#) 

The working week is Sunday to Thursday.

Check the Embassy website for details about opening hours and any temporary closures.

### 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**

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**MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT: Travel Advice – 1 February to 3 March 2026: TA updates and social media:**

28.	25 February 2026  Ad hoc	<p><b>Israel</b></p> <p>The Australian Government has directed the departure of dependants X of Australian officials posted to Israel in response to the deteriorating security situation in the Middle East. If you're in Israel, we continue to advise you consider leaving while commercial options to depart are still available.</p> <p>The security situation in the Middle East is unpredictable. Regional tensions remain high and there continues to be a risk of military conflict. Conflicts in the Middle East could result in airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions.</p> <p>Read our travel advisory for more information: <a href="https://smartraveller.gov.au/Israel">smartraveller.gov.au/Israel</a></p>	Facebook
29.	25 February 2026  Ad hoc	<p><b>Lebanon</b></p> <p>The Australian Government has directed the departure of dependants X of Australian officials posted to Lebanon in response to the deteriorating security situation in the Middle East. If you're in Lebanon, we continue to advise you consider leaving while commercial options to depart are still available.</p> <p>The security situation in the Middle East is unpredictable. Regional tensions remain high and there continues to be a risk of military</p>	Facebook

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		<p>conflict. Conflicts in the Middle East could result in airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions.</p> <p>Read our travel advisory for more information: <a href="https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/Lebanon">smartraveller.gov.au/Lebanon</a></p>	
30.	<p>25 February 2026</p> <p>Ad hoc</p>	<p><b>Jordan, Qatar and UAE</b></p> <p>The Australian Government has offered voluntary departures to dependants of Australian officials posted in Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE. We continue to advise exercise a high degree of caution in these destinations.</p> <p>The security situation in the Middle East is unpredictable. Regional tensions remain high and there continues to be a risk of military conflict. Conflicts in the Middle East could result in airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions.</p> <p>Read our travel advisories for more information: <a href="https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/middle-east">www.smartraveller.gov.au/middle-east</a></p>	<p>Facebook</p> <p>X</p>
31.	<p>25 February 2026</p> <p>Ad hoc</p>	<p><b>Kuwait</b></p> <p>The Australian Government has offered voluntary departures for all dependants of Australian officials posted to Kuwait in response to the deteriorating security situation in the Middle East.</p>	<p>No – added to previous</p>

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32.	28 February 2026  Socials only	<p>Regional tensions remain high and there continues to be a risk of military conflict in the Middle East.</p> <p>If you're in Israel or Lebanon, consider leaving while commercial options to depart are still available.</p> <p>If you're in Iran, leave as soon as possible, if it's safe to do so.</p> <p>Conflict could lead to airspace closures, flight cancellations and other disruptions. The situation could deteriorate with no warning. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice.</p> <p>Read our advice for destinations across the Middle East and subscribe for updates: <a href="https://www.smartraveller.gov.au">Smartraveller.gov.au</a>.</p>	Facebook  X  Instagram
33.	28 February 2026	<p><b>Yellow Alert Banner</b></p> <p>ALERT: Middle East tensions &amp; travel impacts</p> <p><a href="#">Read more:</a></p> <p>Links to: Global impacts of conflict in the Middle East page</p>	
34.	28 February	<p><b>Red Alert Banner</b></p> <p>ALERT: Middle East conflict</p> <p><a href="#">Read more</a></p> <p>Links to: Global impacts of conflict in the Middle East page</p>	
35.	28 February	<b>Social media post</b>	Facebook

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		<p>Military strikes have occurred in <a href="#">#Iran</a>, including in Tehran and other locations. There is a risk of reprisal attacks and further escalation across the region. Conflict could lead to airspace closures, flight cancellations and other disruptions. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow the advice of local authorities.</p> <p>See our general advice on protecting your safety during an armed conflict <a href="https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/armed-conflict">https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/armed-conflict</a></p> <p>Read and subscribe: <a href="https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/Middle-East">Smartraveller.gov.au/Middle-East</a></p> 	X
36.	28 February 2026  Ad hoc	<p><b>Iran</b></p> <p>Reissue ad hoc (already at level 4)</p> <p><b>Still current at:</b>28 February 2026</p> <p><b>Updated:</b>28 February 2026</p> <p><b>Latest update:</b> There have been air strikes on Iran, including in Tehran and other locations. There is a risk of reprisal attacks and further escalation across the region. Closure of airspace around transit hubs may impact flights globally, causing delays and cancellations. See</p>	No

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		our general advice on protecting your safety during an armed conflict.	
37.	28 February 2026 Reissue ad hoc	<p><b>Lebanon</b> (text only, no level change)</p> <p>Still current at:28 February 2026</p> <p>Updated:28 February 2026</p> <p>Latest update: There have been military air strikes on Southern Lebanon and Iran. There is a risk of reprisal attacks and further escalation of military conflict across the region. Military conflict could lead to airspace closures, flight cancellations and other disruptions. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow the advice of local authorities. See our general advice on protecting your safety during an armed conflict.</p> <p>You should reconsider your need to travel to Lebanon due to the uncertain security environment. If you're in Lebanon, consider leaving while commercial options to depart are still available. The security situation in the Middle East is unpredictable.</p> <p>Demonstrations and protest activity may also occur and local security situations could deteriorate with little notice. Avoid all demonstrations and protests. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice.</p>	No

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38.	28 February 2026 Reissue ad hoc	<b>Israel</b> (text only, no level change)  There have been air strikes on Iran, including in Tehran. There is a risk of reprisal attacks and further escalation of military conflict across the region. The security situation could deteriorate rapidly throughout Israel. There are reports that Israeli airspace is closed. Flight cancellations and disruptions could continue with little or no notice including due airport and airspace closures.	No
39.	28 February 2026 Reissue ad hoc	<b>Qatar</b> (text only, no level change)  There have been US and Israeli military strikes on Iran. There is a risk of reprisal attacks against US and Israeli interests in the Middle East, with further escalation of military conflict across the region. The security situation could deteriorate rapidly throughout the region.  The US Embassy in Qatar has issued a stay-in-place order for US personnel in Qatar, and have recommended American citizens do the same.	No
40.	28 February 2026 Reissue ad hoc	<b>Lebanon</b> (level change)  <b>Level 4 do not travel</b>	Facebook  X
41.	28 February 2026	<b>Israel</b> (level change)	Facebook

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	Reissue ad hoc	<b>Level 4 do not travel</b>	X
42.	28 February 2026 Reissue ad hoc	<b>Kuwait</b> (level change) <b>Level 4 do not travel</b>	Facebook X
43.	28 February 2026 Reissue ad hoc	<b>Bahrain</b> (level change) <b>Level 4 do not travel</b>	Facebook X
44.	28 February 2026 Reissue ad hoc	<b>UAE</b> (level change) <b>Level 4 do not travel</b>	Facebook X
44.	28 February 2026 Reissue ad hoc	<b>Qatar</b> (level change) <b>Level 4 do not travel</b>	
45.	28 February 2026 Socials	Posted on Facebook and X: We now advise do not travel to Israel, Lebanon, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait and Bahrain. We continue to advise do not travel to Iran, Iraq, Syria and Yemen. Reconsider your need to travel to	

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		<p>Jordan. Military strikes and reprisal attacks have occurred in a number of locations in the Middle East. There is a risk of further reprisal attacks and escalation across the region. Local security situations could deteriorate. Airspace closures and flight disruptions are already occurring across the region and may impact flights globally, causing delays and cancellations. Contact your airline to confirm your flights.</p> <p>Subscribe to Smartraveller news for updates:  <a href="http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/.../travel-impacts-if...">http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/.../travel-impacts-if...</a></p> <p>Subscribe to travel advice for Middle East countries:  <a href="http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/Middle-East">www.smartraveller.gov.au/Middle-East</a></p> <p>See our general advice on protecting your safety during an armed conflict  <a href="http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/armed-conflict">www.smartraveller.gov.au/armed-conflict</a></p> <p>If you need emergency consular assistance, contact the Australian Government's 24-hour Consular Emergency Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• +61 2 6261 3305 from overseas</li> <li>• 1300 555 135 in Australia</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/news.../middle-east-conflict">http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/news.../middle-east-conflict</a></p>	
46.	1 March 2026  Ad hoc + level increase to DNT	<p><b>Palestine</b></p> <p>Do not travel to Palestine overall due to the volatile security situation, ongoing military activity, armed conflict, civil unrest and terrorism</p>	No

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47.	1 March 2026	<b>Israel</b>	Facebook
	Ad hoc	Australian citizens, permanent residents and their immediate family members in Israel can register on <a href="#">DFAT's registration portal</a> to receive direct updates from DFAT. We will communicate important updates directly to registered Australians. Keep your registration details up to date so we can contact you.	X
48.	1 March 2026	<b>Iran</b>	Facebook
	Ad hoc	Australian citizens, permanent residents and their immediate family members in Iran can register on <a href="#">DFAT's registration portal</a> to receive direct updates from DFAT. See our <a href="#">general advice on protecting your safety during an armed conflict</a> .	X
49.	1 March 2026	<b>Qatar</b>	No
	Ad hoc	Qatar has closed its airspace, and Qatar Airways has suspended flights to and from Doha. Military conflict in the region may result in widespread movement restrictions and other travel disruptions.	
50.	1 March 2026	<b>UAE</b>	No
	Ad hoc	The UAE has closed its airspace, and Dubai and Abu Dhabi airports are closed.	

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		Due to military action, there was a temporary loss of services for mobile networks in the UAE and other destinations in the region. Phone lines for affected Embassies and Consulates are being diverted to the Consular Emergency Centre in Canberra.	
51.	1 March 2026 TUDC	<b>UAE</b>	Facebook X
52.	1 March 2026 TUDC	<b>Lebanon</b> There was a temporary loss of services for mobile networks in Lebanon and other destinations in the region. Phone lines for the Embassy are being diverted to the Consular Emergency Centre in Canberra. If you need emergency consular assistance, contact the Australian Government's Consular Emergency Centre on +61 2 6261 3305 (if you're overseas) and 1300 555 135 (in Australia).	Facebook X
	1 March 2026	<b>Red Alert Banner</b> <b>ALERT: Middle East conflict – registration portal now open for Israel and Iran</b> <b><u>Read more</u></b> Links to: Global impacts of conflict in the Middle East page	
53.	1 March 2026	<b>Saudi Arabia</b> (level change) <b>Level 3 Reconsider your need to travel</b>	Facebook X

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	Ad hoc + level increase RYNTT	Due to the overall security situation in the region, we've raised our level of advice for Saudi Arabia to reconsider your need to travel. Retaliatory strikes are occurring across the Middle East region following military strikes on Iran. Airspace closures and flight disruptions are occurring across the region and may impact flights globally, causing delays and cancellations. Contact your airline to confirm your flights.	
54.	1 March 2026  Ad hoc + level increase RYNTT	<b>Oman (level change)</b>  <b>Level 3 Reconsider your need to travel</b>  Due to the overall security situation in the region, we've raised our level of advice for Oman to reconsider your need to travel. Retaliatory strikes are occurring across the Middle East region following military strikes on Iran. Airspace closures and flight disruptions are occurring across the region and may impact flights globally, causing delays and cancellations. Contact your airline to confirm your flights.	Yes
55.	2 March 2026	<b>YELLOW ALERT: Global travel impacts of conflict in the Middle East</b>	Facebook  X  Instagram

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		Links to: <a href="#">Global travel impacts of conflict in the Middle East</a>	
56.	2 March 2026  Socials only		
57.	2 March 2026  Ad hoc	<p><b>UAE</b></p> <p>Australian citizens, permanent residents and their immediate family members in the UAE can register on <a href="#">DFAT's registration portal</a> to receive direct updates from DFAT. Keep your registration details up to date so we can contact you with important updates.</p> <p>We will communicate important updates directly to registered Australians. Keep your registration details up to date so we can</p>	Facebook  X

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		<p>contact you. Refresh your browser or clear your cache if you experience website issues.</p> <p>If you need emergency consular assistance, contact the Australian Government's Consular Emergency Centre on +61 2 6261 3305 (if you're overseas) or 1300 555 135 (in Australia).</p>	
58.	2 March 2026  Ad hoc	<p><b>Qatar</b></p> <p>Australian citizens, permanent residents and their immediate family members in Qatar can register on <a href="#">DFAT's registration portal</a> to receive direct updates from DFAT. Keep your registration details up to date so we can contact you with important updates.</p> <p>We will communicate important updates directly to registered Australians. Keep your registration details up to date so we can contact you. Refresh your browser or clear your cache if you experience website issues.</p> <p>If you need emergency consular assistance, contact the Australian Government's Consular Emergency Centre on +61 2 6261 3305 (if you're overseas) or 1300 555 135 (in Australia).</p>	Facebook  X
59.	2 March 2026  Periodic	<p><b>Cyprus</b></p> <p>There was a drone attack on the UK's Royal Air Force base in Akrotiri on 2 March. The security situation in the Middle East is unpredictable. Conflicts in the Middle East could lead to an increase in tensions</p>	No

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		elsewhere in the region and may result in airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice, including shelter in place instructions. We continue to advise exercise a high degree of caution in Cyprus.	
60.	2 March 2026 Social only	<p>Conflict in the Middle East continues to impact flights globally. Do not cancel your travel plans until you get advice from your travel agent, airline or other professional. Cancelling can impact your right to a refund or rebooking. Your travel insurance may not cover voluntary cancellations.</p> <p>Airline and travel agency call centres are currently overwhelmed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you're not due to travel in the next 48 hours, wait to be contacted by your airline.</li> <li>• If you are travelling in the next 48 hours and have not been contacted, call your airline or travel agent to confirm your flights.</li> </ul>	Facebook X
61.	2 March 2026 Ad hoc	<p><b>Jordan</b></p> <p>Due to the overall security situation in the region, we've raised our level of advice for Jordan to reconsider your need to travel. The US Embassy in Jordan has issued a security alert advising US citizens</p>	No

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		that the US Embassy compound may be a target for future attacks and has encouraged US citizens to avoid the vicinity of the US Embassy. In response, the Australian Embassy in Jordan has advised Australian officials to avoid the vicinity of the US Embassy (see 'Safety').	
62.	3 March 2026  Ad hoc	<b>Jordan</b>  The US Embassy in Jordan has issued a security alert advising US citizens that the US Embassy compound may be a target for future attacks and has encouraged US citizens to avoid the vicinity of the US Embassy. In response, the Australian Embassy has advised Australian officials to avoid the US Embassy area and follow US alerts (see 'Safety').	Facebook  X
63.	3 March 2026  Ad hoc	<b>Israel</b>  Airspace closures and flight disruptions are occurring across Israel and the region. Ben Gurion International Airport may close with little or no notice. You may be unable to leave for an extended period. The Australian Government may not be able to assist you to leave. Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice. See our general advice on protecting your safety during an armed conflict.  Australian citizens, permanent residents and their immediate family members in Israel can register on DFAT's registration portal to receive direct updates from DFAT. See the Safety overview section for details on how to register. Keep your registration details up to date so we can	No


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		contact you with important updates. US Embassies in the Middle East are issuing local security alerts. We encourage you to monitor US alerts in your location and follow this guidance (see 'Safety').	
64.	3 March 2026  Ad hoc	<p><b>Bahrain</b></p> <p>Due to military strikes in Bahrain and the volatile security situation in the region, we've raised our level of advice for Bahrain to do not travel. Retaliatory strikes are occurring across the Middle East region following military strikes on Iran. Military conflict in the region is causing widespread movement restrictions, airspace closures, flight cancellations and other travel disruptions.</p> <p>US Embassies in the Middle East are issuing local security alerts. We encourage you to monitor US alerts in your location and follow this guidance (see 'Safety').</p> <p>Demonstrations and protest activity may also occur, and local security situations could deteriorate with little notice. Avoid all demonstrations and protests. Avoid military installations and the surrounding areas. Avoid critical infrastructure, hotels and high-rise buildings as they could be a target for attacks. Terrorists may attack with little or no warning.</p> <p>Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice. Sheltering in place may be your safest option. If you do not have a safe location to shelter in place, or the situation deteriorates further,</p>	No


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		<p>you may wish to consider leaving via commercial means if it is safe to do so (see 'Safety').</p> <p>Having trouble getting in touch? See 'Local contacts' for phone and email contacts for our Embassy in Saudi Arabia and follow them on social media.</p> <p>If you need emergency consular assistance, contact the Australian Government's Consular Emergency Centre on +61 2 6261 3305 (if you're overseas) or 1300 555 135 (in Australia).</p>	
65.	3 March 2026 Ad hoc	<p><b>Yemen</b></p> <p>US Embassies in the Middle East are issuing local security alerts. We encourage you to monitor US alerts in your location and follow this guidance (see 'Safety').</p>	No
66.	3 March 2026 Ad hoc Socials at 16:30	<p><b>Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, UAE, Yemen &amp; Cyprus</b></p> <p>Prioritise your safety, monitor events and follow local advice, including shelter in place instructions. Sheltering in place remains your safest option at this time. Sheltering in place means stay indoors as far as possible. Be aware of your environment and avoid government, military or energy infrastructure, including oil production facilities, and US diplomatic locations. Monitor local warning systems and if warned of an imminent attack move to an enclosed hardened shelter, ideally underground or close to ground</p>	<p>Facebook</p> <p>X</p> 

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		<p>level if available. If these are not available seek an inner room without windows.</p> <p>Consider a commercial option to depart if you can secure one and it is safe to do so. Don't rely on Australian government assistance to depart. You should consider recent attacks in your area and that airports and aircraft are more vulnerable to these strikes. You should verify the status of any border crossing before you travel by air, land or sea. Make sure you have access to food, water and essential medicines. Consider that airlines may cease operating at short notice and you may need to find accommodation. Availability of accommodation may be limited.</p> <p>US Embassies in the Middle East are issuing local security alerts. We encourage you to monitor US security alerts in your location and follow this advice.</p>	
67.	<p>3 March 2026</p> <p>Socials only</p>	<p>Subscribe to Smartraveller to receive travel advice updates for the Middle East.</p> <p>The subscription service is free with updates sent via email.</p> <p>You can subscribe to:</p>	 <p>A graphic showing a smartphone screen with a blue overlay that says 'Subscribe for the latest Middle East updates' and the Smartraveller logo.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• specific destination/s to get an email when the travel advisory is updated</li> <li>• news updates</li> <li>• a daily update email with all travel advice updates and news items from the previous 24 hours.</li> </ul> <p>You can change your preferences at any time. Subscribe here: <a href="https://www.smarttraveller.gov.au/subscribe">https://www.smarttraveller.gov.au/subscribe</a></p>	
68.	3 March 2026 Tech update (date change)	[in the 'Safety' (overview) section] ... On 3 March, the Australian Government offered voluntary departures for all dependants of Australian officials posted to Riyadh – when it is safe, airspace is open and commercial flights are available.	No

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**From:** Elizabeth McGregor  
**Sent:** Monday, 2 March 2026 6:44 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
Brett Mason3; Anna Oldmeadow;  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: FOR CLEARANCE: Israel and Iran ROP Message due to FMO at 2pm  
[SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Categories:** \*Crisis

**OFFICIAL**

Thanks<sup>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup>. We'll action.

Chase team, grateful for your assistance.

Liz McGregor

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First Assistant Secretary  
Consular and Crisis Management Division  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 2 March 2026 6:41 PM  
**To:** Elizabeth McGregor <Elizabeth.McGregor@dfat.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Brett Mason3 <Brett.Mason3@dfat.gov.au>; Anna Oldmeadow  
<Anna.Oldmeadow@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Subject:** RE: FOR CLEARANCE: Israel and Iran ROP Message due to FMO at 2pm [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Thanks, Liz. Suggested edits in blue highlights.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** Elizabeth McGregor <Elizabeth.McGregor@dfat.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 2 March 2026 3:12 PM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Brett Mason3 <Brett.Mason3@dfat.gov.au>; Anna Oldmeadow

<Anna.Oldmeadow@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Subject:** FOR CLEARANCE: Israel and Iran ROP Message due to FMO at 2pm [SEC=OFFICIAL]

## OFFICIAL

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

With thanks to s 22(1)(a)(ii) below is our proposed ROP message to go out this afternoon to Australians registered in Israel and Iran. We would aim for sometime after our s 47E(d) if needed, we could discuss at the sync later today.

We've run it by s 22(1)(a)(ii) proposing not to include Qatar and UAE in this update – registrants in those locations would have received the default message today upon registering. But we can discuss later on.

\\

**TO:** ROP – Israel, Iran

**DATE:** 02 March 2026

**SUBJECT:** Latest Update – 02 March 2026

**BODY:**

You're receiving this because you have registered with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

We understand this is a distressing and challenging time for you and your loved ones.

Military strikes and reprisal attacks are continuing across the Middle East.

We urge you to prioritise your safety, monitor events closely and follow local advice including shelter in place instructions.

Airspace remains closed across most of the Middle East and unfortunately we expect travel disruptions to continue. This limits the assistance DFAT can provide to those wanting to depart. We are working with airlines and travel agents to assist Australians to leave once airports reopen and commercial flights resume.

If you have commercial flight bookings, include the flight details in the Additional Information section in your registration and upload the itinerary. Do not cancel your commercial flight bookings.

If you need emergency consular assistance, contact the Australian Government's Consular Emergency Centre on

- +61 2 6261 3305 (if you're overseas)
- 1300 555 135 (in Australia).

Please update or close your registration if you:

- have already left [Israel, Iran], or
- no longer want updates.

For more information go to [www.smartraveller.gov.au/news-and-updates/middle-east-conflict](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/news-and-updates/middle-east-conflict)

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Liz McGregor

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First Assistant Secretary  
Consular and Crisis Management Division  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)



s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au;  
 @dfat.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au;  
 Brett Mason3 <Brett.Mason3@dfat.gov.au>; Anna Oldmeadow  
 <Anna.Oldmeadow@dfat.gov.au>; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au; s  
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 @dfat.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au;  
**Subject:** FOR CLEARANCE: Bulk ROP message for Israel, Iran, Qatar, UAE [SEC=OFFICIAL]

## OFFICIAL

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Please see proposed ROP language below.

We will send the message to all active registrations in the Israel, Iran, Qatar and UAE ROPs. This includes those who have not been assessed and may not be eligible for Australian crisis assistance. It will also include those not in Israel, Iran, UAE or Qatar but who have registered with us.

As noted earlier, we're working to maintain an active, forward-leaning and compassionate tone across Smartraveller, ROP and Post's local social media. We'll also work with posts and Brett's team to start issuing live updates regarding developments on the ground relating to border opening/closures, flights, status of bus routes and other departure options.

Liz

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**TO:** ROP – Israel, Iran, UAE, Qatar

**DATE:** 03 March 2026

**SUBJECT:** Latest Update – 03 March 2026

You're receiving this message because you registered with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

We understand this is a distressing and challenging time for you and your loved ones.

Military strikes and reprisal attacks are continuing across the Middle East.

~~We urge you to~~ Prioritise your safety, monitor events closely and follow local advice, including shelter in place instructions.

**Shelter in place**

Sheltering in place (staying indoors as much as possible) remains your safest option at this time. Be aware of your environment and avoid government buildings, military sites or energy infrastructure, including oil production facilities, and US diplomatic locations.

Monitor local warning systems. If warned of an imminent attack, move to an enclosed, hardened shelter, ideally underground or close to ground level. If that isn't possible, seek an inner room without windows.

### **Leaving the area by commercial transport**

We know flights and other transport options remain limited. If you can secure a commercial flight or other transport, consider doing so.

Before travelling:

- Stay up-to-date on which land, sea and air border crossings are open.
- Follow the social media of your nearest Australian embassy and consulate. Where possible, they will be posting updates on the status of land border crossings and commercial flights as these resume. Go to: [www.dfat.gov.au/news/social-media#overseas](https://www.dfat.gov.au/news/social-media#overseas)
- Make sure you have your passport, travel documents, food, water and essential medicines. If you are running out of essential medication, contact the nearest embassy or consulate. They may be able to help advise you on where you can get more. Local contact details are listed in each destination travel advisory.
- Consider where recent attacks have happened before travelling. Remember that airports and aircraft can be more vulnerable. Airlines may cancel flights at short notice, and places to stay could be limited.

We are working with airlines and the travel industry to find commercial flight options once the airspace re-opens. The quickest way to help large numbers of Australians return home will be on commercial flights, once they resume.

If you already have a commercial flight booking, include the flight details in the 'Additional Information' section of your registration and upload the itinerary. Do not cancel your commercial flight booking.

If you are an Australian citizen and need emergency consular assistance, contact the Australian Government's Consular Emergency Centre on

- +61 2 6261 3305 (if you're overseas)
- 1300 555 135 (in Australia).

Please update or close your registration if you:

- have left the Middle East region
- no longer want updates.

We encourage you to subscribe to Smartraveller to receive the latest updates to travel advice for your destination: [www.smartraveller.gov.au/subscribe](https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/subscribe)

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Liz McGregor

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First Assistant Secretary  
Consular and Crisis Management Division  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)




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**DFAT Talking Points - Strikes on Iran - v1 [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]**


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From s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>  
 Date Sat 28/02/2026 21:58  
 To s 22(1)(a)(ii) @dfat.gov.au>

OFFICIAL:Sensitive


**Australian Government**
**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**
**MEDIA TALKING  
POINTS**
**DISTRIBUTION: CRISIS**

**Topic: CRISIS MANAGEMENT**  
**Subject: Strikes on Iran**

**Originating Division: MAD**

**Version Date:** 28/2/2026  
**Version:** 1

**Reason for Update:** New talking points  
**Expiry:** 28/03/2026

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**Talking Points**
**Key messages**

- The Australian Government is aware of Israeli and US strikes on Iran and reprisal attacks by Iran.
- We are closely monitoring this evolving situation
  - and have activated the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Crisis Centre.
- Australians in the region should follow Smartraveller for the latest advice, which has been updated today, and subscribe for updates
  - we note there is already a substantial impact on commercial air traffic in the region.
- Australians in need of emergency consular assistance should contact the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's 24-hour Consular Emergency Centre on 1300 555 135, or +61 2 6261 3305 (if calling from overseas).
- For decades, the Iranian regime has posed a threat to its own people, the region, and international peace and security
  - through its ballistic missile and nuclear programs, support for armed proxies, and brutal acts of violence and intimidation inside and outside Iran.
- It has long been recognised that Iran's nuclear program is a threat to global peace and security
  - and the Iranian regime can never be allowed to develop a nuclear weapon.
- We support the United States acting to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and from continuing to threaten international peace and security.

**Consular**

- We continue to urge all Australians in Iran to leave as soon as possible
  - be prepared to shelter in place for an extended period - make sure you have supplies of food, water and medication.
- Our ability to provide consular services in Iran is extremely limited
  - the Australian Embassy's operations are suspended.
- We now advise Australians do not travel to Israel or Lebanon
  - if you are in Israel or Lebanon, prioritise your safety, monitor events, follow local advice and leave when it is safe to do so.
- We urge Australians across the Middle East region to be alert to developments, including retaliatory action
  - as reflected in travel advice, conflict will affect airport operations and airspace
  - expect flight cancellations and disruption to travel.
- The closure of transport hubs in the Middle East will likely lead to flight disruptions and cancellations beyond the Middle East.
- Travellers should prioritise their safety, monitor events and follow local advice.
- Australians in need of urgent consular assistance should contact the Consular Emergency Centre on 1300 555 135 or +61 2 6261 3306 outside Australia.

### **Has Israel/the US requested any Australian military support for its strikes?**

- We do not discuss the details of operational discussions with partners.

### **Will Australia provide any military support for Israeli/US strikes if asked?**

- We won't go into hypotheticals.

### **Are Israeli/US strikes against Iran consistent with international law?**

- Australia has a longstanding position of support and respect for international law and is firmly committed to its obligations.
- It is for Israel and the US to explain the legal basis of their actions.

### **Does Australia support US President Trump's call for regime change in Iran?**

- The Prime Minister has made clear that we stand with the brave people of Iran in their struggle against oppression
  - a regime that relies on the repression and murder of its own people to retain power is without legitimacy.
- For decades, the Iranian regime has been a destabilising force
  - through its ballistic missile and nuclear programs, support for armed proxies, and brutal acts of violence and intimidation inside and outside Iran.
- Australia has directly experienced the Iranian regime's campaign of violence and intimidation
  - Iran has directed at least two attacks on Australian soil
  - these appalling acts targeting Australia's Jewish community were intended to create fear, divide our society and challenge our sovereignty.
- In response, Australia took the unprecedented steps of expelling Iran's Ambassador, suspending operations at our embassy in Tehran, and listing the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a state sponsor of terrorism.
- We have consistently taken strong action to hold Iran to account for its domestic and international abuses
  - we bolstered Australia's autonomous sanctions framework to target those involved in oppressing people in Iran and threatening or undermining the sovereignty or territorial integrity of another country
  - since the death of Mahsa Amini in 2022, we have sanctioned over 200 Iranian individuals and entities, including more than 100 with links to the IRGC.

## **Will Australia impose further sanctions on Iran?**

- Australia imposed sanctions on a further 20 Iranian individuals and 3 Iranian entities on 3 February 2026 in response to Iran's brutal repression of protests.
- We do not speculate on potential sanctions.

**Any use or disclosure of personal information about individuals and the incidents contained in this background should not be made public. To do so may constitute a breach of the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth).**

## **Background**

On 28 February 2026, US President Trump confirmed the US and Israel had launched an attack on Iran. Trump stated in a press conference that: "the United States military has undertaken a massive and ongoing operation to prevent this wicked, radical dictatorship from threatening America and our core national security interests. We are going to destroy their missiles and raise their missile industry to the ground. It will be totally...obliterated. We're going to annihilate their Navy. We're going to ensure that the region's terrorist proxies can no longer destabilise the region or the world and attack our forces...And we will ensure that Iran does not obtain a nuclear weapon...To the members of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the armed forces, and all of the police...lay down your weapons...You will be treated fairly with total immunity, or you will face certain death...to the great proud people of Iran...the hour of your freedom is at hand. Stay sheltered. Don't leave your home. It's very dangerous outside. Bombs will be dropping everywhere. When we are finished, take over your government. It will be yours to take...Now is the time to seize control of your destiny and to unleash the prosperous and glorious future that is close within your reach. This is the moment for action. Do not let it pass."

Iran has retaliated by launching ballistic missiles at various locations across the region. Explosions have been reported in Israel, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, and the UAE.

## **Australian Government Response**

Prime Minister Albanese issued a statement saying "we support the US acting to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and to prevent Iran continuing to threaten international peace and security".

DFAT's Crisis Centre and Emergency Call Unit have been activated.

We have updated travel advice for Israel and Lebanon to "Do Not Travel".

Smartertraveller travel advice across the region has been updated.

Foreign Minister Wong has re-tweeted updated Smartertraveller travel advice.

## **Handling Notes**

### **Media Interest**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)




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**DFAT Talking Points - Middle East Regional Conflict 2026 - v2 [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]**


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From **s 22(1)(a)(ii)** @dfat.gov.au>  
 Date Sun 1/03/2026 06:57  
 To **s 22(1)(a)(ii)** @dfat.gov.au>

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

**Australian Government****Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade****MEDIA TALKING  
POINTS****DISTRIBUTION: CRISIS**

**Topic: CONSULAR**  
**Subject: Middle East Regional Conflict 2026**

**Originating Division: CCD**

**Version Date: 1/3/2026**  
**Version: 2**

**Reason for Update:**  
**Expiry: 1/04/2026**

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**Talking Points****Key messages**

- The Australian Government is aware of Israeli and US strikes on Iran and reprisal attacks by Iran.
- We are closely monitoring this evolving situation
  - and have activated the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Crisis Centre.
- Australians in the region should follow Smartraveller for the latest advice, which has been updated overnight, and subscribe for updates
  - we note there is already a substantial impact on commercial air and sea traffic in the region.
- Australians in need of emergency consular assistance should contact the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's 24-hour Consular Emergency Centre on 1300 555 135, or +61 2 6261 3305 (if calling from overseas).
- We condemn unreservedly Iran's attacks on several countries in the region.
  - and call on Iran to refrain from indiscriminate military strikes against civilians and civilian infrastructure.
- For decades, the Iranian regime has posed a threat to its own people, the region, and international peace and security
  - through its ballistic missile and nuclear programs, support for armed proxies, and brutal acts of violence and intimidation inside and outside Iran.
- It has long been recognised that Iran's nuclear program is a threat to global peace and security
  - and the Iranian regime can never be allowed to develop a nuclear weapon.

- We support the United States acting to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and from continuing to threaten international peace and security.

## **Consular**

- We continue to urge all Australians in Iran to leave as soon as possible
  - be prepared to shelter in place for an extended period - make sure you have supplies of food, water and medication.
- Our ability to provide consular services in Iran is extremely limited
  - the Australian Embassy's operations are suspended.
- We now advise Australians do not travel to Israel, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Palestine or Lebanon
  - if you are in any of these countries, prioritise your safety, monitor events, follow local advice and leave when it is safe to do so.
- We urge Australians across the Middle East region to be alert to developments, including retaliatory action
  - as reflected in travel advice, conflict will affect airport operations and airspace
  - monitor Smartraveller for updates and travel advice has been updated for several countries in the region
  - expect flight cancellations and disruption to travel.
- The closure of transport hubs in the Middle East will likely lead to flight disruptions and cancellations beyond the Middle East.
- Travellers should prioritise their safety, monitor events and follow local advice.
- Australians in need of urgent consular assistance should contact the Consular Emergency Centre on 1300 555 135 or +61 2 6261 3306 outside Australia.

## **Is Australia considering assisted departures for Australians?**

- Australia is not facilitating assisted departures at this stage
  - we will continue to monitor the evolving situation.

## **Has Israel/the US requested any Australian military support for its strikes?**

- We do not discuss the details of operational discussions with partners.

## **Will Australia provide any military support for Israeli/US strikes if asked?**

- We won't go into hypotheticals.

## **Are Israeli/US strikes against Iran consistent with international law?**

- Australia has a longstanding position of support and respect for international law and is firmly committed to its obligations.
- It is for Israel and the US to explain the legal basis of their actions.

## **Does Australia support US President Trump's call for regime change in Iran?**

- The Prime Minister has made clear that we stand with the brave people of Iran in their struggle against oppression
  - a regime that relies on the repression and murder of its own people to retain power is without legitimacy.
- For decades, the Iranian regime has been a destabilising force
  - through its ballistic missile and nuclear programs, support for armed proxies, and brutal acts of violence and intimidation inside and outside Iran.
- Australia has directly experienced the Iranian regime's campaign of violence and intimidation

- Iran has directed at least two attacks on Australian soil
- these appalling acts targeting Australia's Jewish community were intended to create fear, divide our society and challenge our sovereignty.
- In response, Australia took the unprecedented steps of expelling Iran's Ambassador, suspending operations at our embassy in Tehran, and listing the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a state sponsor of terrorism.
- We have consistently taken strong action to hold Iran to account for its domestic and international abuses
  - we bolstered Australia's autonomous sanctions framework to target those involved in oppressing people in Iran and threatening or undermining the sovereignty or territorial integrity of another country
  - since the death of Mahsa Amini in 2022, we have sanctioned over 200 Iranian individuals and entities, including more than 100 with links to the IRGC.

### **Is the Government aware of Iranian disruptions to international shipping?**

- We are aware of reports of the Iranian regime seeking to block international shipping routes
  - we are monitoring the situation closely.
- We urge the Iranian regime to avoid actions that will escalate tensions further and impact regional stability.

### **Will Australia impose further sanctions on Iran?**

- Australia imposed sanctions on a further 20 Iranian individuals and 3 Iranian entities on 3 February 2026 in response to Iran's brutal repression of protests.
- We do not speculate on potential sanctions.

**Any use or disclosure of personal information about individuals and the incidents contained in this background should not be made public. To do so may constitute a breach of the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth).**

### **Background**

On 28 February 2026, US President Trump confirmed the US and Israel had launched an attack on Iran.

Trump stated in a press conference that: "the United States military has undertaken a massive and ongoing operation to prevent this wicked, radical dictatorship from threatening America and our core national security interests. We are going to destroy their missiles and raise their missile industry to the ground. It will be totally...obliterated. We're going to annihilate their Navy. We're going to ensure that the region's terrorist proxies can no longer destabilise the region or the world and attack our forces...And we will ensure that Iran does not obtain a nuclear weapon...To the members of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the armed forces, and all of the police...lay down your weapons...You will be treated fairly with total immunity, or you will face certain death...to the great proud people of Iran...the hour of your freedom is at hand. Stay sheltered. Don't leave your home. It's very dangerous outside. Bombs will be dropping everywhere. When we are finished, take over your government. It will be yours to take...Now is the time to seize control of your destiny and to unleash the prosperous and glorious future that is close within your reach. This is the moment for action. Do not let it pass."

Iran has retaliated by launching ballistic missiles at various locations across the region. Explosions have been reported in Israel, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Jordan, Iraq Saudi Arabia and the UAE. The UK, France, and Germany have issued a statement condemning Iranian attacks on countries in the region and calling for a resumption of negotiations.

There are also reports that the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps is attempting to close the Strait of Hormuz, with international shipping authorities have also reported significant military activity in the

Strait of Hormuz, the Gulf of Oman, and the Arabian Sea.

Airlines including Qatar Airways, Lufthansa, AirFrance and British Airways, have suspended flights to the region. Israel, UAE, Kuwait, and Qatar, have halted all air traffic.

At least four flights from Australia bound for the Middle East were turned back to Australia following the closure of airspaces and suspension of flights to the Middle East.

### **Australian Government Response**

Prime Minister Albanese issued a statement saying "we support the US acting to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and to prevent Iran continuing to threaten international peace and security".

DFAT's Crisis Centre and Emergency Call Unit have been activated. The ECU has so far received 288 calls (as at 0400, 1 March). The majority seeking general travel/safety advice or seeking assistance in response to travel disruptions.

Contingency planning figures indicate there are up to 130,000 Australians in the broader Middle East region. These are approximate numbers only.

The Smartraveller travel advice for Israel, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain and Lebanon has been updated to "Do Not Travel". Advice for Jordan has been updated to reconsider your need to travel (RYNTT). Advice has been updated for Armenia to exercise a high degree of caution.

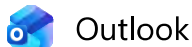
Foreign Minister Wong has re-tweeted updated Smartraveller travel advice.

### **Handling Notes**

### **Media Interest**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



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**DFAT Talking Points - Middle East Regional Conflict 2026 - v3 [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]**

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From **s 22(1)(a)(ii)** @dfat.gov.au>  
Date Sun 1/03/2026 14:09  
To **s 22(1)(a)(ii)** @dfat.gov.au>

OFFICIAL:Sensitive



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

**MEDIA TALKING  
POINTS  
DISTRIBUTION: CRISIS**

**Topic: CONSULAR**  
**Subject: Middle East Regional Conflict 2026**

**Originating Division: CCD**

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**Version Date:** 1/3/2026

**Version:** 3

**Reason for Update:** Developments in the region

**Expiry:** 1/04/2026

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## Talking Points

### Key messages

- We are closely monitoring *the evolving situation in the Middle East*
  - and have activated the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Crisis Centre.
- *The Middle East region is volatile and DFAT understands this is a difficult time for Australians impacted by these events*
- *Across the Middle East region, we advise Australians to prioritise their safety, monitor events, and follow local advice including shelter in place instructions.*
- Australians in the region should follow Smartraveller for the latest advice, which is *being regularly updated*, and subscribe for updates
  - we note there is already a substantial impact on commercial air and sea traffic in the region.
- *The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has opened a portal for registration of Australians in Israel and Iran [at approximately 1130 1 March]*

- *the registration portal is for Australian citizens, permanent residents and their immediate family members who have right of entry into Australia*
- *immediate family members include:*
  - *the partner of an Australian citizen or permanent resident*
  - *children (under 18 years old) of an Australian citizen or permanent resident*
  - *the parent/legal guardian or an Australian citizen or permanent resident child (under 18 years old)*
- *registering your details in this portal allows the Australian Government to provide you directly with latest advice, relevant to your location.*
- Australians in need of emergency consular assistance should contact the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's 24-hour Consular Emergency Centre on 1300 555 135, or +61 2 6261 3305 (if calling from overseas).
- *We call on Iran to cease its indiscriminate attacks against other countries in the region, many of which are not party to this conflict*
  - *and call on Iran to refrain from indiscriminate military strikes against civilians and civilian infrastructure*
  - *we want to avoid escalation into a broader regional conflict with consequences for the people of the region.*
- For decades, the Iranian regime has posed a threat to its own people, the region, and international peace and security
  - *through its ballistic missile and nuclear programs, support for armed proxies, and brutal acts of violence and intimidation inside and outside Iran.*
- It has long been recognised that Iran's nuclear program is a threat to global peace and security
  - *and the Iranian regime can never be allowed to develop a nuclear weapon.*
- We support the United States acting to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and from continuing to threaten international peace and security.
- *We join our partners in calling on all parties to adhere to international humanitarian law. Civilians must be protected*
  - *we urge a return to dialogue and diplomacy.*
- *Recognise this is a distressing time for so many in the Australian-Iranian community*
  - *compounded by the communications blackout and an inability to reach friends and family in Iran*
  - *we reiterate the Iranian people must be allowed to determine their own future for their country.*

## Consular

- We continue to urge all Australians in Iran to leave as soon as possible
  - be prepared to shelter in place for an extended period - make sure you have supplies of food, water and medication.
- Our ability to provide consular services in Iran is extremely limited
  - the Australian Embassy's operations are suspended.
- We now advise Australians do not travel to Israel, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Palestine or Lebanon
  - if you are in any of these countries, prioritise your safety, monitor events, follow local advice and leave when it is safe to do so.
- We urge Australians across the Middle East region to be alert to developments, including retaliatory action
  - as reflected in travel advice, conflict will affect airport operations and airspace
  - monitor Smartraveller for updates and travel advice has been updated for several countries in the region
  - expect flight cancellations and disruption to travel.
- The closure of transport hubs in the Middle East *is causing* flight disruptions and cancellations beyond the Middle East.

#### **Is Australia considering assisted departures for Australians?**

- *Our first priority is doing all we can to ensure the safety of Australians in the region*
- *The airspace is closed; Australia is not facilitating assisted departures at this stage*
  - *we advise Australians to prioritise their safety, and shelter in place*
  - *we will continue to monitor the evolving situation.*

#### ***Did Australia receive any advance warning of the strikes?***

- *Australia was not told in advance and would not expect to be.*
- *Australia is not at the centre of issues in the Middle East, but we play a role in the international community.*

#### **Has Israel/the US requested any Australian military support for its strikes?**

- *Australia did not participate in these strikes on Iran and would not expect to participate.*

#### **Will Australia provide any military support for Israeli/US strikes if asked?**

- *Australia would not expect to participate.*

#### **Are Israeli/US strikes against Iran consistent with international law?**

- *It is for Israel and the US to explain the legal basis of their actions.*

- *Iran has been a destabilising force in the region for decades*
  - *including orchestrated attacks on Australia.*

### **Does Australia support US President Trump's call for regime change in Iran?**

- *Ultimately, Iran's future must be determined by the people of Iran.* The Prime Minister has made clear that we stand with the brave people of Iran in their struggle against oppression
  - a regime that relies on the repression and murder of its own people to retain power is without legitimacy.
- For decades, the Iranian regime has been a destabilising force
  - through its ballistic missile and nuclear programs, support for armed proxies, and brutal acts of violence and intimidation inside and outside Iran.
- Australia has directly experienced the Iranian regime's campaign of violence and intimidation
  - Iran has directed at least two attacks on Australian soil
  - these appalling acts targeting Australia's Jewish community were intended to create fear, divide our society and challenge our sovereignty.
- In response, Australia took the unprecedented steps of expelling Iran's Ambassador, suspending operations at our embassy in Tehran, and listing the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a state sponsor of terrorism.
- We have consistently taken strong action to hold Iran to account for its domestic and international abuses
  - we bolstered Australia's autonomous sanctions framework to target those involved in oppressing people in Iran and threatening or undermining the sovereignty or territorial integrity of another country
  - since the death of Mahsa Amini in 2022, we have sanctioned over 200 Iranian individuals and entities, including more than 100 with links to the IRGC.

### **Is the Government aware of Iranian disruptions to international shipping?**

- We are aware of reports of the Iranian regime seeking to block international shipping routes
  - we are monitoring the situation closely.
- We urge the Iranian regime to avoid actions that will escalate tensions further and impact regional stability.

### **Will Australia impose further sanctions on Iran?**

- Australia imposed sanctions on a further 20 Iranian individuals and 3 Iranian entities on 3 February 2026 in response to Iran's brutal repression of protests.
- We do not speculate on potential sanctions.

### ***Issues with phone connectivity in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Beirut***

- *Aware that due to the situation on the ground there are reported phone connectivity issues in certain locations in the Middle East*
- *We have diverted our Abu Dhabi Embassy, Dubai Consulate-General and Beirut Embassy telephones to the Consular Emergency Centre in Canberra.*

**Any use or disclosure of personal information about individuals and the incidents contained in this background should not be made public. To do so may constitute a breach of the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth).**

## **Background**

On 28 February 2026, US President Trump confirmed the US and Israel had launched an attack on Iran. Trump stated in a press conference that: “the United States military has undertaken a massive and ongoing operation to prevent this wicked, radical dictatorship from threatening America and our core national security interests”. *He said the US “will ensure that Iran does not obtain a nuclear weapon”. To the Iranian people, President Trump said: “When we are finished, take over your government. It will be yours to take”.*

Iran has retaliated by launching ballistic missiles at various locations across the region. Explosions have been reported in Israel, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

The UK, France, and Germany have issued a statement condemning Iranian attacks on countries in the region and calling for a resumption of negotiations.

*On 1 March 2026 (AEDT), US President Trump and Israeli officials claimed Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei had been killed. After Iran initially denied these claims, at approximately 1230 AEDT, Iran state TV reported that Ayatollah Khamenei was dead.*

*At the request of French President Emmanuel Macron, the United Nations Security Council held an emergency meeting on Iran in New York at 1600 28 February EST (0800 1 March AEDT). The UN Secretary General condemned the “massive” military strikes by US and Israel on Iran, and subsequent strikes by Iran on Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE as violating their sovereignty and territorial integrity.*

*EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Kaja Kallas will convene an extraordinary Foreign Affairs Council on 1 March local time. She called the latest developments across the Middle East as ‘perilous’ and stated that ‘protection of civilians and international humanitarian law is a priority.’*

*The UK has confirmed reports that the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps is attempting to close the Strait of Hormuz. International shipping authorities have also reported significant military activity in the Strait of Hormuz, the Gulf of Oman, and the Arabian Sea.*

Airlines including Qatar Airways, Lufthansa, Air France, and British Airways, have suspended flights to the region. Israel, UAE, Kuwait, and Qatar, have halted all air traffic.

At least four flights from Australia bound for the Middle East were turned back to Australia following the closure of airspaces and suspension of flights to the Middle East.

## **Australian Government Response**

*On 28 February 2026, Prime Minister Albanese issued a statement with Deputy Prime Minister Marles and Foreign Minister Wong saying "we support the US acting to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and to prevent Iran continuing to threaten international peace and security".*

*Following NSC [0830 1 March], Foreign Minister Wong said in a press conference, said 'any regime change must be supported by the people of Iran'. Urging 'the protection of civilian life' and 'the resumption of dialogue and diplomacy'. Further calling on all parties to 'adhere to international humanitarian law'. Confirming we want to avoid any 'escalation in a wider regional conflict' and anticipate difficult days ahead.*

*Prime Minister Albanese said in a press conference at 1130 on 1 March Australia 'stands with the brave people of Iran in their struggle against what is an oppressive regime'. We 'support the United States acting to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and to prevent Iran from continuing to threaten international peace and security'.*

DFAT's Crisis Centre and Emergency Call Unit have been activated. The ECU has so far received 463 calls (as at 1200, 1 March, *inclusive of 38 calls received by the Consular Emergency Centre before ECU was activated*). The majority of callers are seeking assistance in response to travel disruptions.

*At approximately 1130 1 March, DFAT opened the Registration Online Portal (ROP) for Australians in Iran and Israel only.*

Contingency planning figures indicate there are up to 115,000 Australians in the broader Middle East region. These are approximate numbers only.

The Smartraveller travel advice for Israel, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, *Palestine*, and Lebanon has been updated to 'Do not travel'. Advice for Jordan has been updated to 'Reconsider your need to travel'. Advice has been updated for Armenia to 'Exercise a high degree of caution'.

Foreign Minister Wong has re-tweeted updated Smartraveller travel advice.

## **Handling Notes**

## **Media Interest**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)




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**DFAT Talking Points - Middle East Regional Conflict 2026 - v4 [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]**


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From **s 22(1)(a)(ii)** @dfat.gov.au>  
 Date Mon 2/03/2026 05:38  
 To **s 22(1)(a)(ii)** @dfat.gov.au>

OFFICIAL:Sensitive



**Australian Government**  
 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

**MEDIA TALKING  
 POINTS  
 DISTRIBUTION: CRISIS**

**Topic: CONSULAR**  
**Subject: Middle East Regional Conflict 2026**

**Originating Division: CCD**

**Version Date: 2/3/2026**

**Version: 4**

**Reason for Update:** Developments in the region

**Expiry:** 1/04/2026

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## Talking Points

### Key messages

- We are closely monitoring the evolving situation in the Middle East
  - and have activated the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Crisis Centre.
- The Middle East region is volatile and *we* understand this is a difficult time for Australians impacted by these events.
- *We extend our sympathies to families that have lost loved ones.*
- *We now advise Australians 'do not travel' to most destinations in the Middle East*
  - Australians should follow Smartraveller for the latest advice, which is being regularly updated, and subscribe for updates.
- *Australians in the region should* prioritise their safety, monitor events, and follow local advice, including shelter in place instructions.
- *Australians overseas should* prepare for serious travel disruptions in the days ahead due to the conflict.

- Even if you are not travelling in or through the Middle East, your plans may still be affected.
- The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has opened a portal for registration of Australians in Israel and Iran [at approximately 1130 1 March]
  - the registration portal is for Australian citizens, permanent residents and their immediate family members who have right of entry into Australia
  - immediate family members include:
    - the partner of an Australian citizen or permanent resident
    - children (under 18 years old) of an Australian citizen or permanent resident
    - the parent/legal guardian of an Australian citizen or permanent resident child (under 18 years old)
  - registering your details in this portal allows the Australian Government to provide you directly with latest advice, relevant to your location.
- Australians in need of emergency consular assistance should contact the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's 24-hour Consular Emergency Centre on 1300 555 135, or +61 2 6261 3305 (if calling from overseas).
- We call on Iran to cease its indiscriminate attacks against other countries in the region, many of which are not party to this conflict
  - and to refrain from indiscriminate military strikes against civilians and civilian infrastructure
  - we want to avoid escalation into a broader regional conflict with consequences for the people of the region.
- For decades, the Iranian regime has posed a threat to its own people, the region, and international peace and security
  - through its ballistic missile and nuclear programs, support for armed proxies, and brutal acts of violence and intimidation inside and outside Iran.
- It has long been recognised that Iran's nuclear program is a threat to global peace and security
  - and the Iranian regime can never be allowed to develop a nuclear weapon.
- We support the United States acting to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and from continuing to threaten international peace and security.
- We join our partners in calling on all parties to adhere to international humanitarian law.
- Civilians must be protected
  - we urge a return to dialogue and diplomacy.
- Recognise this is a distressing time for so many in the Australian-Iranian community
  - compounded by the communications blackout and an inability to reach friends and family in Iran

- we reiterate the Iranian people must be allowed to determine their own future for their country.

## Consular

- The government's priority is the safety and security of Australians.
- We will continue to support Australians to navigate the disruption ahead, providing regular travel advice updates and consular assistance where we can
  - noting there are limits to what any government can do in a fast-moving and uncertain environment
  - there will be flight delays and cancellations, both in the region and globally – including on routes to Europe
  - scheduled flights can change at short notice.
- *We now advise Australians 'do not travel' to most destinations in the Middle East*
  - *this includes Israel, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Palestine Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, and Iraq*
  - if you are in any of these countries, prioritise your safety, monitor events, follow local advice and leave when it is safe to do so.
- We continue to urge all Australians in Iran to leave as soon as possible
  - be prepared to shelter in place for an extended period - make sure you have supplies of food, water and medication.
- Our ability to provide consular services in Iran is extremely limited
  - the Australian Embassy's operations are suspended.
- *We now advise Australians in Oman, Jordan and Saudi Arabia to 'reconsider your need to travel'.*
- We urge Australians across the Middle East region to be alert to developments, including retaliatory action
  - Closely monitor events and local media
  - Check directly with your travel agent or airlines to confirm your plans
  - Review travel insurance to understand what is covered in the event of cancellations
  - monitor Smartraveller for updates and the latest travel advice

## Is Australia considering assisted departures for Australians?

- Our first priority is doing all we can to ensure the safety of Australians in the region.
- The airspace is closed; Australia is not facilitating assisted departures at this stage
  - we advise Australians to prioritise their safety, and shelter in place
  - we will continue to monitor the evolving situation.

**Did Australia receive any advance warning of the strikes?**

- Australia was not told in advance and would not expect to be.
- Australia is not at the centre of issues in the Middle East, but we play a role in the international community.

**Has Israel/the US requested any Australian military support for its strikes?**

- Australia did not participate in these strikes on Iran and would not expect to participate.

**Will Australia provide any military support for Israeli/US strikes if asked?**

- Australia would not expect to participate.

**Are Israeli/US strikes against Iran consistent with international law?**

- It is for Israel and the US to explain the legal basis of their actions.

**Does Australia support US President Trump's call for regime change in Iran?**

- Ultimately, Iran's future must be determined by the people of Iran. The Prime Minister has made clear that we stand with the brave people of Iran in their struggle against oppression
  - a regime that relies on the repression and murder of its own people to retain power is without legitimacy.
- For decades, the Iranian regime has been a destabilising force
  - through its ballistic missile and nuclear programs, support for armed proxies, and brutal acts of violence and intimidation inside and outside Iran.
- Australia has directly experienced the Iranian regime's campaign of violence and intimidation
  - Iran has directed at least two attacks on Australian soil
  - these appalling acts targeting Australia's Jewish community were intended to create fear, divide our society and challenge our sovereignty.
- In response, Australia took the unprecedented steps of expelling Iran's Ambassador, suspending operations at our embassy in Tehran, and listing the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a state sponsor of terrorism.
- We have consistently taken strong action to hold Iran to account for its domestic and international abuses
  - we bolstered Australia's autonomous sanctions framework to target those involved in oppressing people in Iran and threatening or undermining the sovereignty or territorial integrity of another country
  - since the death of Mahsa Amini in 2022, we have sanctioned over 200 Iranian individuals and entities, including more than 100 with links to the IRGC.

**Is the Government aware of Iranian disruptions to international shipping?**

- We are aware of reports of the Iranian regime seeking to block international shipping routes

- we are monitoring the situation closely.
- We urge the Iranian regime to avoid actions that will escalate tensions further and impact regional stability.

### **Will Australia impose further sanctions on Iran?**

- Australia imposed sanctions on a further 20 Iranian individuals and 3 Iranian entities on 3 February 2026 in response to Iran's brutal repression of protests.
- We do not speculate on potential sanctions.

### **Issues with phone connectivity in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Beirut**

- Aware that due to the situation on the ground there are reported phone connectivity issues in certain locations in the Middle East.
- We have diverted our Abu Dhabi Embassy, Dubai Consulate-General and Beirut Embassy telephones to the Consular Emergency Centre in Canberra.

### **Are Australian Embassies and consulates open in the region?**

- Embassies and consulates remain open but operations may be impacted by local shelter-in-place requirements.

**Any use or disclosure of personal information about individuals and the incidents contained in this background should not be made public. To do so may constitute a breach of the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth).**

### **Background**

On 28 February 2026, US President Trump confirmed the US and Israel had launched an attack on Iran. Trump stated in a press conference that: “the United States military has undertaken a massive and ongoing operation to prevent this wicked, radical dictatorship from threatening America and our core national security interests”. He said the US “will ensure that Iran does not obtain a nuclear weapon”. To the Iranian people, President Trump said: “When we are finished, take over your government. It will be yours to take”.

Iran has retaliated by launching ballistic missiles at various locations across the region. Explosions have been reported in Israel, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

The UK, France, and Germany have issued a statement condemning Iranian attacks on countries in the region and calling for a resumption of negotiations.

On 1 March 2026 (AEDT), US President Trump and Israeli officials claimed Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei had been killed. After Iran initially denied these claims, at approximately 1230 AEDT, Iran state TV reported that Ayatollah Khamenei was dead. *Iran state media has reported Alireza Arafti as Iran’s temporary Supreme Leader.*

At the request of French President Emmanuel Macron, the United Nations Security Council held an emergency meeting on Iran in New York at 1600 28 February EST (0800 1 March AEDT). The UN Secretary General condemned the “massive” military strikes by US and Israel on Iran, and subsequent strikes by Iran on Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE as violating their sovereignty and territorial integrity.

*European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said there was 'renewed hope for the people of Iran' following the death of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.*

*An extraordinary board meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors has been called for 9am Monday 2 March (Vienna time).*

The UK has confirmed reports that the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps is attempting to close the Strait of Hormuz. International shipping authorities have also reported significant military activity in the Strait of Hormuz, the Gulf of Oman, and the Arabian Sea.

*Airspace across the Middle East is mostly closed, with flights operating only from a few countries, including Oman, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Jordan. However, the availability of flights is restricted.*

## **Australian Government Response**

On 28 February 2026, Prime Minister Albanese issued a statement with Deputy Prime Minister Marles and Foreign Minister Wong saying "we support the US acting to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and to prevent Iran continuing to threaten international peace and security".

Following NSC [0830 1 March], Foreign Minister Wong said in a press conference, said 'any regime change must be supported by the people of Iran'. Urging 'the protection of civilian life' and 'the resumption of dialogue and diplomacy'. Further calling on all parties to 'adhere to international humanitarian law'. Confirming we want to avoid any 'escalation in a wider regional conflict' and anticipate difficult days ahead.

Prime Minister Albanese said in a press conference at 1130 on 1 March Australia 'stands with the brave people of Iran in their struggle against what is an oppressive regime'. We 'support the United States acting to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and to prevent Iran from continuing to threaten international peace and security'.

DFAT's Crisis Centre and Emergency Call Unit have been activated. The ECU has so far received *1,451 calls (as at 0400, 2 March, inclusive of 38 calls received by the Consular Emergency Centre before ECU was activated)*. The majority of callers are seeking assistance in response to travel disruptions.

At approximately 1130 1 March, DFAT opened the Registration Online Portal (ROP) for Australians in Iran and Israel only.

Contingency planning figures indicate there are up to 115,000 Australians in the broader Middle East region. These are approximate numbers only.

## **Handling Notes**

## **Media Interest**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)




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**DFAT Talking Points - Middle East Regional Conflict 2026 - v5 [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]**


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From **s 22(1)(a)(ii)** @dfat.gov.au>  
 Date Mon 2/03/2026 15:38  
 To **s 22(1)(a)(ii)** @dfat.gov.au>

OFFICIAL:Sensitive



**Australian Government**  
 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

**MEDIA TALKING  
 POINTS  
 DISTRIBUTION: CRISIS**

**Topic: CONSULAR**  
**Subject: Middle East Regional Conflict 2026**

**Originating Division: CCD**

**Version Date:** 2/3/2026

**Reason for Update:** Developments in the region

**Version:** 5

**Expiry:** 1/04/2026

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## Talking Points

### Key messages

- We are closely monitoring the evolving situation in the Middle East
- *The Government's priority is the safety and security of Australians*
  - we have activated DFAT's 24/7 Crisis Centre *to support affected Australians*
- The Middle East region is volatile and *we* understand this is a difficult time for Australians impacted by these events.
- We extend our sympathies to families that have lost loved ones.
- We now advise Australians 'do not travel' to most destinations in the Middle East
  - Australians should follow Smartraveller for the latest advice, which is being regularly updated, and subscribe for updates.
- Australians in the region should prioritise their safety, monitor events, and follow local advice, including shelter in place instructions.

- Australians overseas should prepare for serious travel disruptions in the days ahead due to the conflict.
  - even if you are not travelling in or through the Middle East, your plans may still be affected.
- DFAT has opened a portal for registration of Australians in *Iran, Israel, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar* [1 March for Iran and Israel, 2 March for UAE and Qatar]
  - the registration portal is for Australian citizens, permanent residents and their immediate family members who have right of entry into Australia
  - immediate family members include:
    - the partner of an Australian citizen or permanent resident
    - children (under 18 years old) of an Australian citizen or permanent resident
    - the parent/legal guardian of an Australian citizen or permanent resident child (under 18 years old)
  - registering your details in this portal allows the Australian Government to provide you directly with latest advice, relevant to your location.
- Australians in need of emergency consular assistance should contact the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's 24-hour Consular Emergency Centre on 1300 555 135, or +61 2 6261 3305 (if calling from overseas).
- We call on Iran *and its proxies* to cease *their* indiscriminate attacks against other countries in the region, many of which are not party to this conflict
  - and to refrain from indiscriminate military strikes against civilians and civilian infrastructure
  - we want to avoid escalation into a broader regional conflict with consequences for the people of the region.
- For decades, the Iranian regime has posed a threat to its own people, the region, and international peace and security
  - through its ballistic missile and nuclear programs, support for armed proxies, and brutal acts of violence and intimidation inside and outside Iran.
- It has long been recognised that Iran's nuclear program is a threat to global peace and security
  - and the Iranian regime can never be allowed to develop a nuclear weapon.
- We support the United States acting to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and from continuing to threaten international peace and security.
- We join our partners in calling on all parties to adhere to international humanitarian law.
- Civilians must be protected
  - we urge a return to dialogue and diplomacy.
- Recognise this is a distressing time for so many in the Australian-Iranian community

- compounded by the communications blackout and an inability to reach friends and family in Iran
- we reiterate the Iranian people must be allowed to determine their own future for their country.

## Consular

- The government's priority is the safety and security of Australians.
- We will continue to support Australians to navigate the disruption ahead, providing regular travel advice updates and consular assistance where we can
  - noting there are limits to what any government can do in a fast-moving and uncertain environment
  - there will be flight delays and cancellations, both in the region and globally – including on routes to Europe
  - scheduled flights can change at short notice.
- We now advise Australians 'do not travel' to most destinations in the Middle East
  - this includes *Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestine, Qatar, Syria, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen*.
  - if you are in any of these countries, prioritise your safety, monitor events, follow local advice and leave when it is safe to do so.
- We continue to urge all Australians in Iran to leave as soon as possible
  - be prepared to shelter in place for an extended period - make sure you have supplies of food, water and medication.
- Our ability to provide consular services in Iran is extremely limited
  - the Australian Embassy's operations are suspended.
- We now advise Australians in Oman, Jordan and Saudi Arabia to 'reconsider your need to travel'.
- We urge Australians across the Middle East region to be alert to developments, including retaliatory action
  - closely monitor events and local media
  - check directly with your travel agent or airlines to confirm your plans
  - review travel insurance to understand what is covered in the event of cancellations
  - monitor Smartraveller for updates and the latest travel advice

## Is Australia considering assisted departures for Australians?

- Our first priority is doing all we can to ensure the safety of Australians in the region.
- The airspace is closed; Australia is not facilitating assisted departures at this stage

- we advise Australians to prioritise their safety, and shelter in place.

### **Did Australia receive any advance warning of the strikes?**

- Australia was not told in advance and would not expect to be.
- Australia is not at the centre of issues in the Middle East, but we play a role in the international community.

### **Has Israel/the US requested any Australian military support for its strikes?**

- Australia did not participate in these strikes on Iran and would not expect to participate.

### **Will Australia provide any military support for Israeli/US strikes if asked?**

- Australia would not expect to participate.

### **Are Israeli/US strikes against Iran consistent with international law?**

- It is for Israel and the US to explain the legal basis of their actions.

### **Does Australia support US President Trump's call for regime change in Iran?**

- Ultimately, Iran's future must be determined by the people of Iran. The Prime Minister has made clear that we stand with the brave people of Iran in their struggle against oppression
  - a regime that relies on the repression and murder of its own people to retain power is without legitimacy.
- For decades, the Iranian regime has been a destabilising force
  - through its ballistic missile and nuclear programs, support for armed proxies, and brutal acts of violence and intimidation inside and outside Iran.
- Australia has directly experienced the Iranian regime's campaign of violence and intimidation
  - Iran has directed at least two attacks on Australian soil
  - these appalling acts targeting Australia's Jewish community were intended to create fear, divide our society and challenge our sovereignty.
- In response, Australia took the unprecedented steps of expelling Iran's Ambassador, suspending operations at our embassy in Tehran, and listing the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a state sponsor of terrorism.
- We have consistently taken strong action to hold Iran to account for its domestic and international abuses
  - we bolstered Australia's autonomous sanctions framework to target those involved in oppressing people in Iran and threatening or undermining the sovereignty or territorial integrity of another country
  - since the death of Mahsa Amini in 2022, we have sanctioned over 200 Iranian individuals and entities, including more than 100 with links to the IRGC.

### **Is the Government aware of Iranian disruptions to international shipping?**

- We are aware of reports of the Iranian regime seeking to block international shipping routes
  - we are monitoring the situation closely.
- We urge the Iranian regime to avoid actions that will escalate tensions further and impact regional stability.

### **Will Australia impose further sanctions on Iran?**

- Australia imposed sanctions on a further 20 Iranian individuals and 3 Iranian entities on 3 February 2026 in response to Iran's brutal repression of protests.
- We do not speculate on potential sanctions.

### **Issues with phone connectivity in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Beirut**

- Aware that due to the situation on the ground there are reported phone connectivity issues in certain locations in the Middle East.
- We have diverted our Abu Dhabi Embassy, Dubai Consulate-General and Beirut Embassy telephones to the Consular Emergency Centre in Canberra.

### **Are Australian Embassies and consulates open in the region?**

- Embassies and consulates remain open but operations may be impacted by local shelter-in-place requirements.

### ***Iran's participation in the AFC Women's Asian Cup***

- *Australia stands with the Iranian people against a regime that has used oppression and violence to retain power.*
- *we hope the Iranian team's participation in the AFC Women's Asian Cup will inspire future generations of young Iranians to continue to promote women's rights and participation in sport.*

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**Any use or disclosure of personal information about individuals and the incidents contained in this background should not be made public. To do so may constitute a breach of the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth).**

### **Background**

On 28 February 2026, US President Trump confirmed the US and Israel had launched an attack on Iran. Trump stated in a press conference that: "the United States military has undertaken a massive and ongoing operation to prevent this wicked, radical dictatorship from threatening America and our core national security interests". He said the US "will ensure that Iran does not obtain a nuclear weapon". To the Iranian people, President Trump said: "When we are finished, take over your government. It will be yours to take".

Iran and its proxies have retaliated by *striking* various locations across the region. Explosions have been reported in *Bahrain, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia* and the UAE.

The UK, France, and Germany have issued a statement condemning Iranian attacks on countries in the region and calling for a resumption of negotiations.

On 1 March 2026 (AEDT), US President Trump and Israeli officials claimed Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei had been killed. After Iran initially denied these claims, at approximately 1230 AEDT, Iran state TV reported that Ayatollah Khamenei was dead. Iran state media has reported Alireza Arafai as Iran's temporary Supreme Leader.

At the request of French President Emmanuel Macron, the United Nations Security Council held an emergency meeting on Iran in New York at 1600 28 February EST (0800 1 March AEDT). The UN Secretary General condemned the "massive" military strikes by US and Israel on Iran, and subsequent strikes by Iran on Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE as violating their sovereignty and territorial integrity.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said there was 'renewed hope for the people of Iran' following the death of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

An extraordinary board meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors has been called for 9am Monday 2 March (Vienna time).

The UK has confirmed reports that the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps is attempting to close the Strait of Hormuz. International shipping authorities have also reported significant military activity in the Strait of Hormuz, the Gulf of Oman, and the Arabian Sea.

Airspace across the Middle East is mostly closed, with flights operating only from a few countries, *including Oman, Saudi Arabia, and Lebanon*. However, the availability of flights is restricted.

### **Australian Government Response**

On 28 February 2026, Prime Minister Albanese issued a statement with Deputy Prime Minister Marles and Foreign Minister Wong saying "we support the US acting to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and to prevent Iran continuing to threaten international peace and security".

Following NSC [0830 1 March], Foreign Minister Wong said in a press conference, said 'any regime change must be supported by the people of Iran'. Urging 'the protection of civilian life' and 'the resumption of dialogue and diplomacy'. Further calling on all parties to 'adhere to international humanitarian law'. Confirming we want to avoid any 'escalation in a wider regional conflict' and anticipate difficult days ahead.

Prime Minister Albanese said in a press conference at 1130 on 1 March Australia 'stands with the brave people of Iran in their struggle against what is an oppressive regime'. We 'support the United States acting to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and to prevent Iran from continuing to threaten international peace and security'.

*On 2 March Foreign Minister Wong issued a press release, advising all Australians overseas to prepare for serious travel disruptions in the days ahead due to the conflict in the Middle East.*

DFAT's Crisis Centre and Emergency Call Unit have been activated. The ECU has so far received *1,714 calls (as at 1400, 2 March, inclusive of 38 calls received by the Consular Emergency Centre before ECU was activated)*. The majority of callers are seeking assistance in response to travel disruptions.

*On 1 March, DFAT opened the Registration Online Portal (ROP) for Australians in Iran and Israel. On 2 March, DFAT opened the ROP for Australians in UAE and Qatar.*

Contingency planning figures indicate there are up to 115,000 Australians in the broader Middle East region. These are approximate numbers only.

**Handling Notes**

**Media Interest**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)




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**DFAT Talking Points - Middle East Regional Conflict 2026 V6 - v7 [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]**


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From **s 22(1)(a)(ii)** @dfat.gov.au>  
 Date Tue 3/03/2026 06:01  
 To **s 22(1)(a)(ii)** @dfat.gov.au>

OFFICIAL:Sensitive



**Australian Government**  
 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

**MEDIA TALKING  
 POINTS  
 DISTRIBUTION: CRISIS**

**Topic: CONSULAR**  
**Subject: Middle East Regional Conflict 2026 V6**

**Originating Division: CCD**

**Version Date: 3/3/2026**

**Reason for Update:** Developments in the region

**Version: 7**

**Expiry: 1/04/2026**

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**Talking Points**
**Key messages**

- We are closely monitoring the evolving situation in the Middle East
- The Government's priority is the safety and security of Australians
  - we have activated DFAT's 24/7 Crisis Centre to support affected Australians
- The Middle East region is volatile and we understand this is a difficult time for Australians impacted by these events.
- We extend our sympathies to families that have lost loved ones.
- We now advise Australians 'do not travel' to most destinations in the Middle East
  - Australians should follow Smartraveller for the latest advice, which is being regularly updated, and subscribe for updates.
- Australians in the region should prioritise their safety, monitor events, and follow local advice, including shelter in place instructions.

- Australians overseas should prepare for serious travel disruptions in the days ahead due to the conflict.
  - even if you are not travelling in or through the Middle East, your plans may still be affected.
- DFAT has opened a portal for registration of Australians in Iran, Israel, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar [1 March for Iran and Israel, 2 March for UAE and Qatar]
- *the registration portal can be accessed through the Smartraveller website*
- the registration portal is for Australian citizens, permanent residents and their immediate family members who have right of entry into Australia
- immediate family members include:
  - the partner of an Australian citizen or permanent resident
  - children (under 18 years old) of an Australian citizen or permanent resident
  - the parent/legal guardian of an Australian citizen or permanent resident child (under 18 years old)
- registering your details in this portal allows the Australian Government to provide you directly with latest advice, relevant to your location.
- Australians in need of emergency consular assistance should contact the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's 24-hour Consular Emergency Centre on 1300 555 135, or +61 2 6261 3305 (if calling from overseas).
- We call on Iran and its proxies to cease their indiscriminate attacks against other countries in the region, many of which are not party to this conflict
  - and to refrain from indiscriminate military strikes against civilians and civilian infrastructure
  - we want to avoid escalation into a broader regional conflict with consequences for the people of the region.
- For decades, the Iranian regime has posed a threat to its own people, the region, and international peace and security
  - through its ballistic missile and nuclear programs, support for armed proxies, and brutal acts of violence and intimidation inside and outside Iran.
- It has long been recognised that Iran's nuclear program is a threat to global peace and security
  - and the Iranian regime can never be allowed to develop a nuclear weapon.
- We support the United States acting to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and from continuing to threaten international peace and security.
- We join our partners in calling on all parties to adhere to international humanitarian law.
- Civilians must be protected
  - we urge a return to dialogue and diplomacy.

- Recognise this is a distressing time for so many in the Australian-Iranian community
  - compounded by the communications blackout and an inability to reach friends and family in Iran
  - we reiterate the Iranian people must be allowed to determine their own future for their country.

## Consular

- The government's priority is the safety and security of Australians.
- We will continue to support Australians to navigate the disruption ahead, providing regular travel advice updates and consular assistance where we can
  - noting there are limits to what any government can do in a fast-moving and uncertain environment
  - there will be flight delays and cancellations, both in the region and globally – including on routes to Europe
  - scheduled flights can change at short notice.
- We now advise Australians 'do not travel' to most destinations in the Middle East
  - this includes *Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestine, Qatar, Syria, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen*.
  - if you are in any of these countries, prioritise your safety, monitor events, follow local advice and leave when it is safe to do so.
- We continue to urge all Australians in Iran to leave as soon as possible
  - be prepared to shelter in place for an extended period - make sure you have supplies of food, water and medication.
- Our ability to provide consular services in Iran is extremely limited
  - the Australian Embassy's operations are suspended.
- We now advise Australians in Oman, Jordan and Saudi Arabia to 'reconsider your need to travel'.
- We urge Australians across the Middle East region to be alert to developments, including retaliatory action
  - closely monitor events and local media
  - check directly with your travel agent or airlines to confirm your plans
  - review travel insurance to understand what is covered in the event of cancellations
  - monitor Smartraveller for updates and the latest travel advice

## Is Australia considering assisted departures for Australians?

- Our first priority is doing all we can to ensure the safety of Australians in the region.

- The airspace is closed; Australia is not facilitating assisted departures at this stage
  - we advise Australians to prioritise their safety, and shelter in place.

#### **Did Australia receive any advance warning of the strikes?**

- Australia was not told in advance and would not expect to be.
- Australia is not at the centre of issues in the Middle East, but we play a role in the international community.

#### **Has Israel/the US requested any Australian military support for its strikes?**

- *We do not discuss the details of operational discussions with partners.*

#### **Will Australia provide any military support for Israeli/US strikes if asked?**

- *We won't go into hypotheticals.*

#### **Are Israeli/US strikes against Iran consistent with international law?**

- *Australia has a longstanding position of support and respect for international law and is firmly committed to its obligations.*
- It is for Israel and the US to explain the legal basis of their actions.

#### **Does Australia support US President Trump's call for regime change in Iran?**

- *The Prime Minister has made clear that we stand with the brave people of Iran in their struggle against oppression*
  - a regime that relies on the repression and murder of its own people to retain power is without legitimacy
- *The Iranian people must be allowed to determine their own future for their country.*
- For decades, the Iranian regime has been a destabilising force *through its ballistic missile and nuclear programs, support for armed proxies, and brutal acts of violence and intimidation inside and outside Iran.*
- Australia has directly experienced the Iranian regime's campaign of violence and intimidation
  - Iran has directed at least two attacks on Australian soil
  - these appalling acts targeting Australia's Jewish community were intended to create fear, divide our society and challenge our sovereignty.
- In response, Australia took the unprecedented steps of expelling Iran's Ambassador, suspending operations at our embassy in Tehran, and listing the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a state sponsor of terrorism.
- We have consistently taken strong action to hold Iran to account for its domestic and international abuses
  - we bolstered Australia's autonomous sanctions framework to target those involved in oppressing people in Iran and threatening or undermining the sovereignty or territorial integrity of another country

- since the death of Mahsa Amini in 2022, we have sanctioned over 200 Iranian individuals and entities, including more than 100 with links to the IRGC.

***What is the Government's position on the reported strike on a school in southern Iran?***

- *We are aware of reports of a strike hitting a school in southern Iran [multiple outlets, 2 March].*
- *We are not in a position to verify these reports.*
- *US Central Command (CENTCOM) has told media outlets that it is taking these reports seriously and that protection of civilians is of the utmost importance.*

**Is the Government aware of Iranian disruptions to international shipping?**

- We are aware of reports of the Iranian regime seeking to block international shipping routes
  - we are monitoring the situation closely.
- We urge the Iranian regime to avoid actions that will escalate tensions further and impact regional stability.

***Will there be any impact on oil prices for Australians?***

- *While we are prepared for any impact to the Australian economy from disrupted oil supply, much will depend on what happens in the Persian Gulf in coming weeks.*
  - *a shorter trade disruption is less likely to feed through to Australian pump prices*
  - *trade disruption is likely to lead to higher oil prices if sustained, which could impact the global economy.*

**Will Australia impose further sanctions on Iran?**

- Australia imposed sanctions on a further 20 Iranian individuals and 3 Iranian entities on 3 February 2026 in response to Iran's brutal repression of protests.
- We do not speculate on potential sanctions.

**Issues with phone connectivity in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Beirut**

- Aware that due to the situation on the ground there are reported phone connectivity issues in certain locations in the Middle East.
- We have diverted our Abu Dhabi Embassy, Dubai Consulate-General and Beirut Embassy telephones to the Consular Emergency Centre in Canberra.

**Are Australian Embassies and consulates open in the region?**

- Embassies and consulates remain open but operations may be impacted by local shelter-in-place requirements.

**Iran's participation in the AFC Women's Asian Cup**

- Australia stands with the Iranian people against a regime that has used oppression and violence to retain power.

- *we hope the Iranian team's participation in the AFC Women's Asian Cup will inspire future generations of young Iranians to continue to promote women's rights and participation in sport.*

**Any use or disclosure of personal information about individuals and the incidents contained in this background should not be made public. To do so may constitute a breach of the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth).**

**Any use or disclosure of personal information about individuals and the incidents contained in this background should not be made public. To do so may constitute a breach of the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth).**

## **Background**

On 28 February 2026, US President Trump confirmed the US and Israel had launched an attack on Iran. Trump stated in a press conference that: "the United States military has undertaken a massive and ongoing operation to prevent this wicked, radical dictatorship from threatening America and our core national security interests". He said the US "will ensure that Iran does not obtain a nuclear weapon". To the Iranian people, President Trump said: "When we are finished, take over your government. It will be yours to take".

Iran and its proxies have retaliated by striking various locations across the region. Explosions have been reported in Bahrain, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

The UK, France, and Germany have issued a statement condemning Iranian attacks on countries in the region and calling for a resumption of negotiations.

On 1 March 2026 (AEDT), US President Trump and Israeli officials claimed Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei had been killed. After Iran initially denied these claims, at approximately 1230 AEDT, Iran state TV reported that Ayatollah Khamenei was dead. Iran state media has reported Alireza Arafai as Iran's temporary Supreme Leader.

At the request of French President Emmanuel Macron, the United Nations Security Council held an emergency meeting on Iran in New York at 1600 28 February EST (0800 1 March AEDT). The UN Secretary General condemned the "massive" military strikes by US and Israel on Iran, and subsequent strikes by Iran on Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE as violating their sovereignty and territorial integrity.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said there was 'renewed hope for the people of Iran' following the death of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

An extraordinary board meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors was held on Monday 2 March (Vienna time). *Director-General Grossi said that "we have no indication that any of the nuclear installations... have been damaged or hit."*

The UK has confirmed reports that the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps is attempting to close the Strait of Hormuz.

*Hizballah has claimed responsibility for strikes in northern Israel in retaliation for the killing of Supreme Leader Khamenei. The Lebanese Government has banned Hizballah's armed activities throughout Lebanon.*

*On 2 March, Cyprus intercepted two Iranian drones heading towards RAF Akrotiri. The UK has evacuated families from the air base.*

*Qatar has paused production of liquified natural gas after Iranian attacks on the Ras Laffan and Mesaieed facilities. Saudi Arabia has also shut its Ras Tanura oil refinery after it was hit by debris from an intercepted Iranian drone.*

*Germany is preparing assisted departure flights from Muscat and Riyadh. Canada has deployed surge consular support to assist Canadians including in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Israel, Jordan, Turkmenistan and Türkiye. Japan has evacuated five citizens from Israel to Amman via bus. The UK has evacuated British families from its RAF base in Cyprus. Airspace across the Middle East is mostly closed, with flights operating only from a few countries, including Oman, Saudi Arabia, and Lebanon. However, the availability of flights is restricted. Etihad, Emirates and FlyDubai have announced a limited number of outbound flights from Abu Dhabi and Dubai will resume.*

## **Australian Government Response**

On 28 February 2026, Prime Minister Albanese issued a statement with Deputy Prime Minister Marles and Foreign Minister Wong saying "we support the US acting to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and to prevent Iran continuing to threaten international peace and security".

Following NSC [0830 1 March], Foreign Minister Wong said in a press conference, said 'any regime change must be supported by the people of Iran'. Urging 'the protection of civilian life' and 'the resumption of dialogue and diplomacy'. Further calling on all parties to 'adhere to international humanitarian law'. Confirming we want to avoid any 'escalation in a wider regional conflict' and anticipate difficult days ahead.

Prime Minister Albanese said in a press conference on 1 March Australia 'stands with the brave people of Iran in their struggle against what is an oppressive regime'. We 'support the United States acting to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and to prevent Iran from continuing to threaten international peace and security'.

*Prime Minister Albanese said [ABC 2 March 2026] that the public mourning of Ayatollah Ali Khomeini is inappropriate and that 'Australia does not have access to the intelligence that the US had prior to the attacks'.*

*On 2 March Foreign Minister Wong issued a press release, advising all Australians overseas to prepare for serious travel disruptions in the days ahead due to the conflict in the Middle East.*

DFAT's Crisis Centre and Emergency Call Unit have been activated. The ECU has so far received 2,223 calls (as at 0400, 3 March, inclusive of 38 calls received by the Consular Emergency Centre before ECU was activated). The majority of callers are seeking assistance in response to travel disruptions.

*On 1 March, DFAT opened the Registration Online Portal (ROP) for Australians in Iran and Israel. On 2 March, DFAT opened the ROP for Australians in UAE and Qatar. As at 0245, 2 March, 513 Australians and family members are registered on the ROP (49 from Iran; 119 from Israel; 218 from Qatar; 127 from UAE).*

Contingency planning figures indicate there are up to 115,000 Australians in the broader Middle East region. These are approximate numbers only.

## **Handling Notes**

**Media Interest**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)




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**DFAT Talking Points - Middle East Regional Conflict 2026 V7 - v8 [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]**


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From **s 22(1)(a)(ii)** @dfat.gov.au>  
 Date Tue 3/03/2026 14:08  
 To **s 22(1)(a)(ii)** @dfat.gov.au>

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

**Australian Government****Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade****MEDIA TALKING POINTS****DISTRIBUTION: CRISIS**

**Topic: CONSULAR**  
**Subject: Middle East Regional Conflict 2026 V7**

**Originating Division: CCD****Version Date: 3/3/2026****Version: 8****Reason for Update:** Developments in the region**Expiry:** 1/04/2026**Talking Points****Key messages**

- *The Middle East region remains unpredictable and the situation on the ground is rapidly changing*
  - we understand this is a difficult time for Australians impacted by these events
  - the Government's priority is the safety and security of Australians - we have activated DFAT's 24/7 Crisis Centre to support affected Australians
  - Australians in the region should prioritise their safety, monitor events, and follow local advice, including shelter in place instructions
  - Australians should prepare for serious travel disruptions in the days ahead due to the conflict in the Middle East.
- The conflict continues to escalate and expand
  - Iran fired missiles or drones at *ten* regional countries [*UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Cyprus, Oman, Israel, Iraq, Jordan*]

- it has broadened its retaliatory strikes against energy infrastructure and civilian areas – airports, roads, and other transport infrastructure could become targets.
- We call on Iran and its proxies to cease their indiscriminate attacks against other countries in the region, many of which are not party to this conflict
  - and to refrain from indiscriminate military strikes against civilians and civilian infrastructure
  - we want to avoid escalation into a broader regional conflict with consequences for the people of the region.
- For decades, the Iranian regime has posed a threat to its own people, the region, and international peace and security
  - through its ballistic missile and nuclear programs, support for armed proxies, and brutal acts of violence and intimidation inside and outside Iran.
- It has long been recognised that Iran's nuclear program is a threat to global peace and security
  - and the Iranian regime can never be allowed to develop a nuclear weapon.
- We support the United States acting to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and from continuing to threaten international peace and security.
- We join our partners in calling on all parties to adhere to international humanitarian law.
- Civilians must be protected
  - we urge a return to dialogue and diplomacy.
- Recognise this is a distressing time for so many in the Australian-Iranian community
  - compounded by the communications blackout and an inability to reach friends and family in Iran
  - we reiterate the Iranian people must be allowed to determine their own future for their country.

## Consular

- We will continue to support Australians to navigate the disruption ahead, providing regular travel advice updates and consular assistance where we can
  - noting there are limits to what any government can do in a fast-moving and uncertain environment
  - there will be flight delays and cancellations, both in the region and globally – including on routes to Europe
  - scheduled flights can change at short notice.
- *We are currently prioritising Australian non-resident travellers in major transit hubs who are unable to leave due to airspace closures.*
- DFAT has opened a portal for registration of Australians in Iran, Israel, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar [1 March for Iran and Israel, 2 March for UAE and Qatar]

- a registration portal can be accessed through the Smartraveller website
- the registration portal is for Australian citizens, permanent residents and their immediate family members who have right of entry into Australia
- immediate family members include:
  - the partner of an Australian citizen or permanent resident
  - children (under 18 years old) of an Australian citizen or permanent resident
  - the parent/legal guardian of an Australian citizen or permanent resident child (under 18 years old)
- registering your details in this portal allows the Australian Government to provide you directly with latest advice, relevant to your location.
- We now advise Australians ‘do not travel’ to most destinations in the Middle East
  - this includes Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestine, Qatar, Syria, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen
  - if you are in any of these countries, prioritise your safety, monitor events, follow local advice and leave when it is safe to do so
  - Australians should follow Smartraveller for the latest advice, which is being regularly updated, and subscribe for updates
  - *we advise Australians in Oman, Jordan and Saudi Arabia to ‘reconsider your need to travel’.*
- We continue to urge all Australians in Iran to leave as soon as possible
  - be prepared to shelter in place for an extended period - make sure you have supplies of food, water and medication
  - *The Australian Embassy’s operations are suspended and our ability to provide consular services in Iran is extremely limited.*
- Urge Australians across the Middle East region to be alert to developments, including retaliatory action
  - closely monitor events and local media
  - check directly with your travel agent or airlines to confirm your plans
  - review travel insurance to understand what is covered in the event of cancellations
  - monitor Smartraveller for updates and the latest travel advice.
- *Australians in need of emergency consular assistance should contact the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade’s 24-hour Consular Emergency Centre on 1300 555 135, or +61 2 6261 3305 (if calling from overseas).*

### **Is Australia considering assisted departures for Australians?**

- Our first priority is doing all we can to ensure the safety of Australians in the region.
- The airspace is closed; Australia is not facilitating assisted departures at this stage
  - we advise Australians to prioritise their safety, and shelter in place.

**Did Australia receive any advance warning of the strikes?**

- Australia was not told in advance and would not expect to be.
- Australia is not at the centre of issues in the Middle East, but we play a role in the international community.

***Why didn't Australia update travel advice to warn Australians of the risk?***

- *Since the beginning of the year, there have been 41 travel advice updates issued by the Australian government for the region, and 26 social media posts.*
- *On 15 January the Foreign Minister gave a media conference where she warned that the airspace could close in the coming weeks in the region.*
- *On 19 January, Smartraveller was updated again, advising travellers to exercise a high degree of caution if considering travel to the Middle East.*

**Has Israel/the US requested any Australian military support for its strikes?**

- We do not discuss the details of operational discussions with partners.

**Will Australia provide any military support for Israeli/US strikes if asked?**

- *We are not expecting any requests for Australian military assets to be involved.*

**Are Israeli/US strikes against Iran consistent with international law?**

- It is for Israel and the US to explain the legal basis of their actions.
- *Australia does not have access to the intelligence that Israel and the US had prior to the launch of these attacks.*

**Does Australia support US President Trump's call for regime change in Iran?**

- The Prime Minister has made clear that we stand with the brave people of Iran in their struggle against oppression
  - a regime that relies on the repression and murder of its own people to retain power is without legitimacy.
- The Iranian people must be allowed to determine their own future for their country.
- For decades, the Iranian regime has been a destabilising force through its ballistic missile and nuclear programs, support for armed proxies, and brutal acts of violence and intimidation inside and outside Iran.
- Australia has directly experienced the Iranian regime's campaign of violence and intimidation
  - Iran has directed at least two attacks on Australian soil

- these appalling acts targeting Australia's Jewish community were intended to create fear, divide our society and challenge our sovereignty.
- In response, Australia took the unprecedented steps of expelling Iran's Ambassador, suspending operations at our embassy in Tehran, and listing the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a state sponsor of terrorism.
- We have consistently taken strong action to hold Iran to account for its domestic and international abuses
  - we bolstered Australia's autonomous sanctions framework to target those involved in oppressing people in Iran and threatening or undermining the sovereignty or territorial integrity of another country
  - since the death of Mahsa Amini in 2022, we have sanctioned over 200 Iranian individuals and entities, including more than 100 with links to the IRGC.

### **What is the Government's position on the reported strike on a school in southern Iran?**

- We are aware of reports of a strike hitting a school in southern Iran [multiple outlets, 2 March].
- We are not in a position to verify these reports.
- US Central Command (CENTCOM) has told media outlets that it is taking these reports seriously and that protection of civilians is of the utmost importance.
- *We join with our partners in calling for all parties to adhere to international humanitarian law.*

### **Is the Government aware of Iranian disruptions to international shipping?**

- We are aware of reports of the Iranian regime seeking to block international shipping routes
  - we are monitoring the situation closely.
- We urge the Iranian regime to avoid actions that will escalate tensions further and impact regional stability.

### **Will there be any impact on oil prices for Australians?**

- While we are prepared for any impact to the Australian economy from disrupted oil supply, much will depend on what happens in the Persian Gulf in coming weeks
  - a shorter trade disruption is less likely to feed through to Australian pump prices
  - trade disruption is likely to lead to higher oil prices if sustained, which could impact the global economy.

### **Will Australia impose further sanctions on Iran?**

- Australia imposed sanctions on a further 20 Iranian individuals and 3 Iranian entities on 3 February 2026 in response to Iran's brutal repression of protests.
- We do not speculate *publicly* on potential sanctions.

**Any use or disclosure of personal information about individuals and the incidents contained in this background should not be made public. To do so may constitute a breach of the Privacy Act 1988**

**(Cth).**

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## **Background**

On 28 February 2026, US President Trump confirmed the US and Israel had launched an attack on Iran. The death of Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei was confirmed on 1 March.

Iran and its proxies have retaliated by striking various locations across the region. Explosions have been reported in Bahrain, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, *Oman*, Saudi Arabia and the UAE *including civilian airports in Dubai, Kuwait and Bahrain.*

*International shipping authorities have also reported significant military activity in the Strait of Hormuz, the Gulf of Oman, and the Arabian Sea. Media reporting indicates the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps is attempting to block shipping lanes critical for international oil trade.*

*Qatar has paused production of liquified natural gas after Iranian attacks on the Ras Laffan and Mesaieed facilities. Saudi Arabia has also shut its Ras Tanura oil refinery after it was hit by debris from an intercepted Iranian drone.*

*Japan, Italy, India, the Philippines and Austria have assisted departures from the region, and other countries including Canada and Germany are planning assisted departures.*

## **Australian Government Consular Response**

DFAT's Crisis Centre and Emergency Call Unit have been activated. The ECU has so far received 2,340 calls (as at 1200, 3 March, inclusive of 38 calls received by the Consular Emergency Centre before ECU was activated). The majority of callers are seeking assistance in response to travel disruptions *and persons in Lebanon who wish to register online for assistance.*

On 1 March, DFAT opened the Registration Online Portal (ROP) for Australians in Iran and Israel. On 2 March, DFAT opened the ROP for Australians in UAE and Qatar. As at 0245, 3 March, 513 Australians and family members are registered on the ROP (49 from Iran; 119 from Israel; 218 from Qatar; 127 from UAE).

*As at 1100, 3 March, 9,071 registrations had been received in the ROP. 7,851 registrations are waiting to be assessed for eligibility. 911 registrations have been confirmed as eligible for assistance. Out of these, 821 (90%) want to depart. An additional 309 Afghan foreign citizens have registered from Iran and UAE (who appear to have no right of entry).*

Contingency planning figures indicate there are up to 115,000 Australians in the broader Middle East region. These are approximate numbers only.

## **Handling Notes**

### **Media Interest**

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 Outlook

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**SITREP 1 : Strikes on Iran [SEC=OFFICIAL]**


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**OFFICIAL**

## Strikes on Iran

### Key Developments

- US President Donald Trump confirmed the US and Israel had launched an attack on Iran.
  - A US official told media that the joint air strikes aim to dismantle Iran's security apparatus.
- Iran's local media reported explosions were heard in Tehran, Qom, Kermanshah, Isfahan and Karaj.
- Trump [issued](#) a call to the people of Iran saying 'the hour of your freedom is at hand. Stay sheltered, don't leave your home. It's very dangerous outside. Bombs will be dropping everywhere. When we are finished, take over your government. It will be yours to take. This will be, probably, your only chance for generations'.

### Australian Government Response

- The Crisis Centre has been activated.
- Foreign Minister Penny Wong re-tweeted Smartraveller travel advice for Middle east posts.
   
s 47E(d)
- There have been eight calls to the Consular Emergency Centre in relation to this event.
- Smartraveller travel advice for [Iran](#) and [Israel](#) as well as social media for the [Middle East](#) has been updated.

### Local Government Response

- Israel's government has [warned](#) of an incoming missile attack and issued a state of emergency.
- Israel's defence forces [undertook](#) a situational assessment and determined immediate changes to the Home Front Command Guidelines were needed.
  - All areas of the country were shifted from 'Full Activity to Essential Activity'.

- Israel’s Ministry of Tourism issued an official notice to tourists informing them Israel was operating in accordance with ‘established and predefines emergency procedures’.
- Israel’s airports authority said government suspended civilian flights to and from the country.
- Local media reported Iran had closed its airspace.

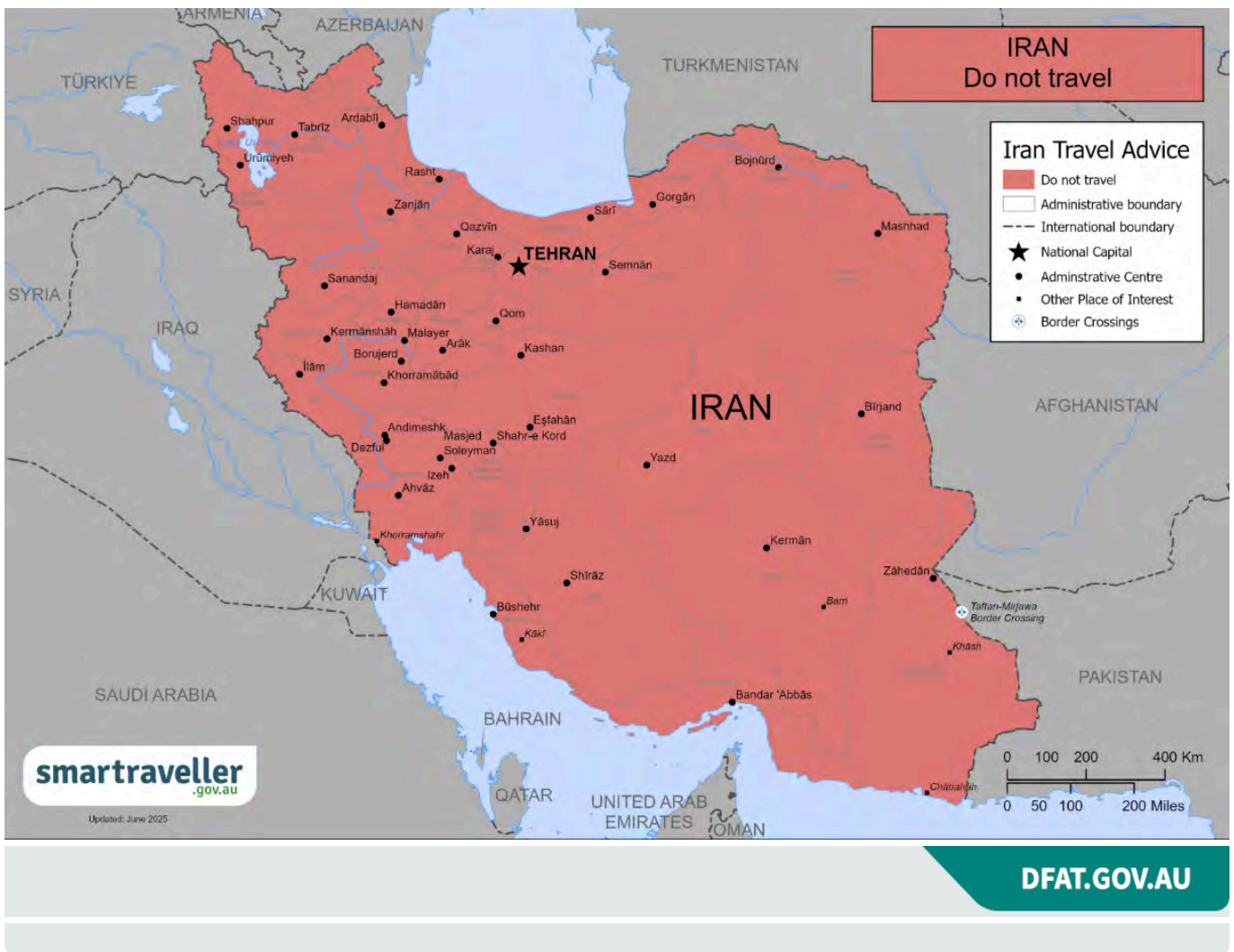
**International Responses**

- The US issued a Security Alerts warning citizens in [Qatar](#) and [Bahrain](#) to shelter in place.
- Iraq’s Transportation Ministry said it had closed the country’s airspace.

**Media**

Live: [Al Jazeera](#), [Reuters](#), [NYT](#), [Times of Israel](#)

Image source: [Smartraveller](#)



**Australian Government Global Watch Office**  
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Outlook

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## SITREP 2 : Strikes on Iran [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Date Sat 28/02/2026 21:35

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

**OFFICIAL**

## Strikes on Iran

### Key Developments

- Iran has retaliated against US/Israel strikes by launching ballistic missiles at various locations across the region.
- Explosions have been reported in Israel, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE.
  - Bahrain said the headquarters of the US Navy's 5th Fleet had been targeted by a missile attack.
  - The UAE defence ministry issued a statement confirming that the country was targeted by Iranian ballistic missiles and air defences successfully intercepted a 'number' of them.
- Israel activated defensive systems near Tel Aviv and Haifa to intercept missiles launched from Iran.
- Iranian-backed Houthis in Yemen said they would resume missile and drone attacks on Israel and Red Sea shipping routes.
- Media reported attacks had been undertaken on the Iranian Parliament, National Supreme Council, Ministry of Intelligence, Iranian Atomic Agency.
- NetBlocks [confirmed](#) Iran is in the midst of a near-total internet blackout with national connectivity at 4% or ordinary levels.
  - There is limited media coverage of developments within Iran.
- Airspace in Israel, Iran, UAE, Kuwait, Qatar, Jordan and Iraq is currently closed.

### Australian Government Response

- Prime Minister Anthony Albanese [issued](#) a statement saying 'we support the US acting to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and to prevent Iran continuing to threaten international peace and security'.
- The Emergency Call Unit has been activated for this response.

s 47E(d)

s 47E(d)

- There have been 38 calls to the Consular Emergency Centre in relation to this event.
- Smartraveller travel advice has been updated for [Lebanon](#), [Qatar](#), [Israel](#) and [Middle East Conflict](#).

### Local Government Response

- Israel's Prime Minister issued a [statement](#) confirming the joint operation with the US and thanking President Donald Trump for his leadership.
- Israel Defense Forces officially named the joint operation as 'Operation Roaring Lion'.
- Media reported Iranian Supreme National Security Council directed residents to leave Tehran.

### International Responses

- The US [issued](#) a Security alert warning of Imminent drone/missile attack in Bahrain.
- The US issued additional Security Alerts warning citizens in [Kuwait](#) and [the UAE](#) to shelter in place.
- The US Department of War officially [named](#) the operation as 'Operation Epic Fury'.
- The UK FCDO [issued](#) a shelter in place alert to citizens in Qatar.
- The UK Maritime Trade operations [issued](#) an advisory of significant military activity in Arabian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, North Arabian Sea and the Strait of Hormuz.
- Canada updated its travel advice for [Bahrain](#), [Lebanon](#) and [Yemen](#).
- The EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs Kallas [said](#) the EU is coordinating closely with Arab partners to explore diplomatic paths.

### Media

Live: [AP](#), [Reuters](#), [Al Jazeera](#), [NYT](#), [Times of Israel](#)

- [Guardian](#): Albanese says Australia supports US action against Iran and stands with the Iranian people's 'struggle against oppression'.

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**Australian Government Global Watch Office**  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)



**MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL CONFLICT: DFAT SITREP V3**  
**AS AT 0530 1 MARCH 2026**

**KEY UPDATES**

1. Military hostilities continued, including missile and drone attacks targeting US assets in Bahrain, Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates, as well as missile strikes against Israel and continued Israeli strikes on Iran.
2. President Trump released a video on Truth Social that the US has launched a “major operation” in Iran, saying “bombs will be dropping everywhere”.
3. President Trump and Prime Minister Netanyahu have separately urged the Iranian people to seize the opportunity to instigate regime change. President Trump has said “The hour of your freedom is at hand”.
4. Iran’s Foreign Minister Araghchi has called regime change “mission impossible” but has indicated Iran’s willingness to deescalate if US and Israel strikes halt. Iranian Foreign Minister also contacted the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain and Iraq and warned them not to let the U.S. and Israel use their territory to attack Iran or they could become “legitimate targets.”
5. Airspace above Israel, Iran, Iraq, Bahrain, UAE, Jordan and Qatar is now closed. Four flights headed to the UAE have had to return to Australia.
6. Reuters has reported Iran is attempting to close the Strait of Hormuz. Ships in the Gulf are receiving high-frequency radio broadcasts from Iran’s Revolutionary Guards warning that vessels would not be permitted to pass through the strategic waterway.
7. An emergency meeting of the UN Security Council will be held 1 March (1600 EST/EDT).

**AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**

- Australian Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister issued a statement supporting US strikes to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and continuing to threaten international peace and security. The statement also said Australia “stood with the brave people of Iran in their struggle against oppression”.

**MIDDLE EAST RESPONSE**

- The Qatari Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly condemned Iran for firing missiles at Qatari territory, which is home to the Al Udeid Air Base that hosts US troops. The ministry called the attacks a flagrant violation of Qatar’s national sovereignty and a direct assault on its security. It added that Qatar reserves the right to respond, as per international law.
- The United Arab Emirates Ministry of Defence condemned in the “strongest terms” Iran’s attacks on its territory, several of which it said its air defences intercepted. It

called the attack “a dangerous escalation and a cowardly act that threatens the security and safety of civilians”, stressing that the UAE has the “full right” to respond.

- Bahrain confirmed that an Iranian missile attack targeted the headquarters of the US Navy’s 5th Fleet that it hosts, and called the attack “treacherous”.
- The Kuwait Ministry of Foreign Affairs denounced the Iranian attack on its soil as a “flagrant violation” of international law and said it had the right to respond. It warned that any additional escalation would only deepen regional instability.
- Saudi Arabia condemned in the “strongest terms” the Iranian attacks on Gulf Arab states and warned of “dire consequences”.

## INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS

- Prime Minister Carney of Canada and Foreign Minister Anand issued a statement supporting the United States actions to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and to prevent its regime from further threatening international peace and security.
- Britain, Germany and France (E3) issued a joint statement condemning Iranian attacks “in the strongest terms”, and calling on Iranian leadership to seek a negotiated solution.
- Prime Minister Starmer later said, during a televised statement, British Forces and planes have participated in coordinated defensive efforts in order to protect the country's interests and allies.
- President Macron also called for an urgent meeting of the United Nations Security Council.
- China called for an immediate cessation of military action and for Iran’s national sovereignty, security and territorial integrity to be respected.
- Russia condemned the U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran as “a pre-planned and unprovoked act of armed aggression against a sovereign and independent U.N. member state”.
- The Indonesian foreign ministry has said President Prabowo Subianto is prepared to mediate between Washington and Tehran.
- President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has expressed concern over the joint US-Israeli air strikes against Iran, stating that the attacks were initiated by the “provocations” of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. In a separate statement, the Turkish Foreign Ministry expressed deep concern over “any action contrary to international law and condemned provocations that could lead to escalation of violence,” and threaten the lives of innocent civilians. The minister added that regional issues

should be resolved through peaceful means, and expressed readiness to offer necessary support on mediation.

- Malaysia's PM Anwar Ibrahim said that the joint US-Israeli strikes on Iran will "bring the Middle East to the edge of catastrophe," urging the US and Iran to pursue a diplomatic solution rather than further escalation.

### MILITARY UPDATES

- Known strikes have taken place in Kuwait, Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Amman, Israel/West Bank and Riyadh.
- Known strikes hit military bases.
- Shrapnel hit civilian infrastructure in Dubai (Fairmont Hotel, Palm Jumeriah) and Abu Dhabi (Yas Island).

### CONSULAR UPDATES

- Smartraveller travel advice has been updated for UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Palestine (overall) and Bahrain to do not travel. Advice for Jordan has been updated to reconsider your need to travel. Advice has been updated for Armenia to exercise a high degree of caution.
- Contingency planning figures indicate there are up to 115,000 Australians in the broader Middle East region. These are approximate numbers only.
- An Emergency Call Unit has been established in DFAT to field calls from Australians with concerns about the welfare of Australians, permanent residents and their families in the Middle East
- As at 0400 1 March, DFAT has received 288 calls in relation to this event.
- There are no reports of any Australian deaths or casualties.

### CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM DEPLOYMENTS

- No deployments are currently planned.



**MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL CONFLICT: DFAT SITREP V4**  
**AS AT 1400 1 MARCH 2026**

**KEY UPDATES**

1. Iran state media confirmed the death of Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has been killed. his death.
2. The US and Israel continue to strike ballistic missile and air defence systems in Iran. Iran has launched attacks against Israel and US assets in the region including Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, Kuwait, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Iraq.
3. At an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council on 1 March, US Ambassador Waltz called this 'a moment in history requiring moral clarity, and President Trump has met that moment.' He listed the long history of Iranian actions that have raised concerns and directly caused the loss of American lives. To this end, the 'US had taken lawful actions' in response.
4. Iran's ambassador to the UN said Tehran considers strikes on all US and Israeli bases and other installations across the region part of its self-defence and is showing no signs of stopping its attacks.
5. The UN Secretary General condemned the 'massive' military strikes by US and Israel on Iran; and subsequent strikes by Iran on Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE as violating their sovereignty and territorial integrity.
6. On social media, President Trump called on the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and Iranian police to join 'Iranian patriots' to change the government and said 'that process should soon be starting now that Khamenei has been killed. Added that heavy bombing will continue uninterrupted as 'long as necessary.'

**AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**

- The Australian Prime Minister said [press conference] Australia 'stands with the brave people of Iran in their struggle against what is an oppressive regime'. That we 'support the United States acting to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and to prevent Iran from continuing to threaten international peace and security' and confirmed that we were not 'directly active in the current military strikes'.
- The Foreign Minister, Penny Wong [press conference] said 'any regime change must be supported by the people of Iran'. Urging 'the protection of civilian life' and 'the resumption of dialogue and diplomacy'. Further calling on all parties to 'adhere to international humanitarian law'. Confirming we want to avoid any 'escalation in a wider regional conflict' and anticipate difficult days ahead.

## MIDDLE EAST RESPONSE

- Speaking at the UN Security Council (UNSC) on behalf of the six Gulf cooperation Council members and Syria and Jordan, Bahrain said 'we hold the government of Iran fully responsible for these attacks, and we reject any justifications or explanations to justify this hostile behaviour or to manipulate rules of international law.'

## INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS

- At the UNSC, the UK Ambassador reiterated that the UK played no role in the strikes against Iran, and condemned Iran's strikes across the region. They expressed concern about attacks on civilians and civilian objects, and Iran's nuclear program.
- Russia's UN envoy Nebenzya said US President Donald Trump's claim that attacks on Iran were aimed at preventing Tehran from acquiring a nuclear weapon was 'unfounded' and 'despite Tehran's willingness to engage in the diplomatic process, it once again is stabbed in the back'.
- The Chinese UN representative called for an immediate cessation of military action in the region to prevent further escalation, and a return to negotiations.
- French President Macron condemned Iran's attacks on states in the region and on civilians and offered to protect them if requested. He expressed concerns about Iran's ongoing pursuit of a nuclear program, refusal to conclude an agreement, and reduced cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).
- New Zealand Prime Minister and Foreign Minister released a statement condemning Iranian strikes on multiple Gulf states and calling for a resumption of negotiations and adherence to international law.
- EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Kaja Kallas will convene an extraordinary Foreign Affairs Council on 1 March. She called the latest developments across the Middle East as 'perilous' and stated that 'protection of civilians and international humanitarian law is a priority.'
- At Russia's request, the International Atomic Energy Agency will hold an emergency meeting on 2 February to discuss the joint US-Israeli strikes.
- US President Trump held calls with leaders of the UK on 28 February, and Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Türkiye on 1 March.

## MILITARY UPDATES

- Explosions have been reported in Riyadh, Doha, Dubai, Shiraz, Fujairah, Manama, Tel Aviv, Tehran and Qom and various other sites.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Cleared by: Lucelle Veneros, Crisis Centre SES Manager

**OFFICIAL : SENSITIVE**

- Iranian drones reportedly targeted Basrah Operations Command in Iraq, Mohammed al-Ahmad Naval Base in Kuwait and Burj Al Arab hotel in Dubai.
- UAE Defence Ministry reported intercepting over 130 missiles and 195 drones since the start of Iranian attacks.
- The US military reportedly conducted nearly 900 strikes in the first 12 hours of operations.
- IDF stated it carried out additional strikes on military facilities in central and western Iran, including a site associated with ballistic missiles.
- Attacks were reported at Bahrain, Kuwait, Abu Dhabi and Dubai airports with minimal damage reported.
- Civilian injuries have been reported in Tel Aviv, central Israel, Qatar, Dubai, Ecuador and Iran.

### CONSULAR UPDATES

- As at 1200hrs on 1 March, we have received 463 calls [*including 38 calls received by Consular Emergency Centre before ECU was activated*]; the majority seeking assistance in response to travel disruptions.
- On 1 March 2026 DFAT opened the Registration Online Portal for Australians in Iran and Israel only.
- Contingency planning figures indicate there are up to 115,000 Australians in the broader Middle East region. These are approximate numbers only.
- Smartraveller travel advice has been updated as Do Not Travel to Bahrain, Israel, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, all of Palestine (including Jerusalem), and the United Arab Emirates. Advice for Jordan updated to reconsider your need to travel, and Armenia updated to exercise a high degree of caution.

s 47E(d)

- We are aware of local phone connectivity issues in UAE and Lebanon. As of 1300hrs on 1 March, we have diverted telephones for Abu Dhabi Embassy, Dubai Consulate-General and Beirut Embassy to the Consular Emergency Centre in Canberra.
- There are no reports of any Australian deaths or casualties.

### CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM DEPLOYMENTS

- Nil deployment.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Cleared by: Lucelle Veneros, Crisis Centre SES Manager



**MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL CONFLICT: DFAT SITREP V5**  
**AS AT 0530 2 MARCH 2026**

**KEY UPDATES**

1. Israeli, US and Iranian strikes continue for a second day across multiple countries in the Middle East.
2. Airspace across the Middle East is mostly closed, with flights operating only from a few countries, including Oman and Saudi Arabia.
3. There are reported casualties from strikes in Israel, Iran, United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain. Three US service members have been killed as part of the US operation.
4. The new Iranian leadership has reportedly reached out to President Trump.
5. Gulf Cooperation Council foreign ministers are meeting to discuss airport closures and a unified response to Iranian attacks on Gulf states.

**AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**

- Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said [press conference 1 March 2026] ‘we are concerned about the regional escalation’ and that ‘the closure of transport hubs in the Middle East will likely lead to flight disruptions and cancellations.’
- Foreign Minister Penny Wong said [press conference 1 March 2026] for Australians ‘to observe the travel advice’ and ‘leave [the affected] countries now if it is safe to do so.’
- On 1 March, Foreign Minister Penny Wong issued a media release advising all Australians overseas to prepare for serious travel disruptions in the days ahead due to the conflict in the Middle East.

**MIDDLE EAST RESPONSE**

- Iranian state media reported Alireza Arafai as Iran’s temporary Supreme Leader. This follows Iranian media confirmation of the deaths of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iranian Armed Forces Chief of Staff Abdolrahim Mousavi, Defence Minister Aziz Nasirzadeh, Head of Police Intelligence Shahid Rezaiyan and the destruction of the Iranian Command Headquarters in Tehran. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said Iran will continue to strike targets in the region.
- The Israel Defense Force (IDF) said it was striking targets ‘in the heart of Tehran’ after establishing aerial superiority over Iranian airspace.

**OFFICIAL : SENSITIVE**

- Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has said Iran does not intend to close the Strait of Hormuz. Shipping companies (MSC (world's largest), Maersk, CMA CGM, Hapag-Lloyd) have announced they have stopped shipments travelling through the Strait of Hormuz for safety reasons.
- Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council Jasem AlBudaiwi condemned Iranian strikes in the region and the targeting of ships in the Strait of Hormuz as a dangerous escalation.

### INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS

- Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif called the killing of Iranian Supreme Leader Khamenei 'a violation of the norms of international law'.
- US President Donald Trump said Iran would be hit 'with a force that has never been seen before' if it followed through with threats to hit US assets in the region.
- European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said there was 'renewed hope for the people of Iran' following the death of Supreme Leader Khamenei.
- An extraordinary board meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors has been called for 9am Monday 2 March (Vienna time).

### MILITARY UPDATES

- Iranian strikes continue across the Arabian Gulf, including sites in Saudi Arabia and Oman. Israeli and US strikes continue in Iran.
- Casualties from strikes in the Middle East since 28 February 2026 have been reported in Israel, Iran, United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain.
- The US Central Command said three service members had been killed in action and five seriously wounded as part of the operation against Iran.
- Attacks have been reported on airports in Bahrain, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and Qatar with minimal damage reported.

### CONSULAR UPDATES

- As at 0400 2 March 2026, we had received 1,451 calls [*including 38 calls received by Consular Emergency Centre before ECU was activated*]; the majority seeking assistance in response to travel disruptions.
- The Registration Online Portal (ROP) is open for Australians in Iran and Israel.
- As at 0330 2 March 2026, there are:
  - 93 Australians and family members registered on the ROP (34 from Iran and 59 from Israel)

**OFFICIAL : SENSITIVE**

- o 81 of the 93 registered want to depart.
- o 225 registrations waiting to be assessed (180 from Iran and 45 from Israel)
  - 66 per cent appear to either have no right of entry or are awaiting Visa checks from Home Affairs
- o s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- There are no reported departures from registrants on the ROP.
- Contingency planning figures indicate there are up to 115,000 Australians in the broader Middle East region. These are approximate numbers only.
- Airspace across the Middle East remains mostly closed, with flights operating only from a few countries including Oman and Saudi Arabia. Limited Qatar Airways and Emirates flights are operating in areas outside the conflict region. Cyprus, Istanbul, Baku and Cairo flights continue to operate.
- Smartraveller advises Australians Do Not Travel to most destinations in the Middle East. This includes Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestine, Qatar, Syria, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. Australians should reconsider the need to travel to Jordan, Oman and Saudi Arabia.

s 47E(d)

- We are aware of local phone connectivity issues in the Middle East. As of 1300hrs on 1 March, we have diverted telephones for Abu Dhabi Embassy, Dubai Consulate-General and Beirut Embassy to the Consular Emergency Centre in Canberra.
- There are no reports of any Australian deaths or casualties.

### CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM DEPLOYMENTS

- Nil deployment.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Cleared by: FAS MAD and FAS CCD



**MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL CONFLICT: DFAT SITREP V6**  
**AS AT 01400 2 MARCH 2026**

**KEY UPDATES**

1. Israeli, US and Iranian strikes continue for a second day across multiple countries in the Middle East.
2. Airspace across the Middle East is mostly closed, with flights operating only from a few countries, including Lebanon, Oman and Saudi Arabia.
3. There are reported casualties from strikes in Israel, Iran, United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain. Three US service members have been killed as part of the US operation.
4. Hezbollah has claimed responsibility for strikes in northern Israel and Israel has responded with strikes in southern Beirut, the Beqaa Valley and southern Lebanon.
5. The UK Government says two missiles have been fired in the direction of Cyprus.
6. The new Iranian leadership has reportedly reached out to President Trump.
7. Gulf Cooperation Council foreign ministers are meeting to discuss airport closures and a unified response to Iranian attacks on Gulf states.

**AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**

- Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said [press conference 1 March 2026] ‘we are concerned about the regional escalation’ and that ‘the closure of transport hubs in the Middle East will likely lead to flight disruptions and cancellations.’
- *Foreign Minister Penny Wong announced [press interviews 2 March] the government would open the Register Online Portal for the UAE and Qatar, in addition to Israel and Iran.*
- Foreign Minister Penny Wong said [press conference 1 March 2026] for Australians ‘to observe the travel advice’ and ‘leave [the affected] countries now if it is safe to do so.’
- On 2 March, Foreign Minister Penny Wong issued a media release advising all Australians overseas to prepare for serious travel disruptions in the days ahead due to the conflict in the Middle East.

**MIDDLE EAST RESPONSE**

- Iranian state media reported Alireza Arafii as Iran’s temporary Supreme Leader. This follows Iranian media confirmation of the deaths of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iranian Armed Forces Chief of Staff Abdolrahim Mousavi, Defence Minister Aziz Nasirzadeh, Head of Police Intelligence Shahid Rezaiyan and the

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destruction of the Iranian Command Headquarters in Tehran. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said Iran will continue to strike targets in the region.

- The Israel Defense Force (IDF) said it was striking targets ‘in the heart of Tehran’ after establishing aerial superiority over Iranian airspace.
- *Hezbollah has claimed responsibility for strikes in northern Israel in retaliation for the killing of Supreme Leader Khamenei*
- *Israel has responded with strikes in southern suburbs of Beirut, the Beqaa Valley (east), and southern Lebanon.*
- *UK Prime Minister Starmer has said the UK has agreed to a US request to use British military bases for ‘defensive’ strikes on Iranian missile sites*
- *UK Defence Secretary Heally has said two missiles have been fired in the direction of Cyprus.*
- Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has said Iran does not intend to close the Strait of Hormuz. Shipping companies (MSC (world’s largest), Maersk, CMA CGM, Hapag-Lloyd) have announced they have stopped shipments travelling through the Strait of Hormuz for safety reasons.

## INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS

- Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif called the killing of Iranian Supreme Leader Khamenei ‘a violation of the norms of international law’.
- US President Donald Trump said Iran would be hit ‘with a force that has never been seen before’ if it followed through with threats to hit US assets in the region, *and has said ‘attacks could go on for the next four weeks’.*
- European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said there was ‘renewed hope for the people of Iran’ following the death of Supreme Leader Khamenei.
- An extraordinary board meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors has been called for 9am Monday 2 March (Vienna time).

## MILITARY UPDATES

- Iranian strikes continue across the Arabian Gulf, including sites in Saudi Arabia and Oman. Israeli and US strikes continue in Iran.
- Casualties from strikes in the Middle East since 28 February 2026 have been reported in Israel, Iran, United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain.
- The US Central Command said three service members had been killed in action and five seriously wounded as part of the operation against Iran.

- Attacks have been reported on airports in Bahrain, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and Qatar with minimal damage reported.

### CONSULAR UPDATES

- As at 1400 2 March 2026, we had received 1,714 calls [*including 38 calls received by Consular Emergency Centre before ECU was activated*]; the majority seeking assistance in response to travel disruptions.
- The Registration Online Portal (ROP) is open for Australians in Iran, Israel, *Qatar and UAE*.
- As at 1200 2 March 2026, there are:
  - 92 Australians and family members registered on the ROP (34 from Iran and 58 from Israel)
  - 74 of the 92 registered want to depart.
  - 294 registrations waiting to be assessed (219 from Iran, 65 from Israel and 10 from UAE)
  - 27 per cent appear to either have no right of entry or are awaiting Visa checks from Home Affairs

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- There are no reported departures from registrants on the ROP.
- Contingency planning figures indicate there are up to 115,000 Australians in the broader Middle East region. These are approximate numbers only.
- Airspace across the Middle East remains mostly closed, with flights operating only from a few countries including Lebanon, Oman and Saudi Arabia. Limited Qatar Airways and Emirates flights are operating in areas outside the conflict region. Cyprus, Istanbul, Baku and Cairo flights continue to operate outside of the conflict region.
- Smartraveller advises Australians Do Not Travel to most destinations in the Middle East. This includes Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestine, Qatar, Syria, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. Australians should reconsider the need to travel to Jordan, Oman and Saudi Arabia.

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s 47E(d)

- We are aware of local phone connectivity issues in the Middle East. As of 1300hrs on 1 March, we have diverted telephones for Abu Dhabi Embassy, Dubai Consulate-General and Beirut Embassy to the Consular Emergency Centre in Canberra.
- There are no reports of any Australian deaths or casualties.

#### CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM DEPLOYMENTS

- Nil deployment.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Cleared by: FAS MAD and FAS CCD



**MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL CONFLICT: DFAT SITREP V7**  
**AS AT 0530 3 MARCH 2026**

**KEY UPDATES**

1. Israeli, US and Iranian strikes continue for a second day across multiple countries in the Middle East.
2. Airspace across the Middle East remain closed, with flights operating only from a few countries, including Lebanon, Oman and Saudi Arabia.
3. *At least 555 people have been killed across Iran in joint US-Israeli attacks on 131 counties so far.*
4. Hezbollah has claimed responsibility for strikes in northern Israel and Israel has responded with strikes in southern Beirut, the Beqaa Valley and southern Lebanon.
5. *Israeli air attacks on Lebanon have killed at least 31 people and wounded 149*
6. The UK Government says two missiles have been fired in the direction of Cyprus.
7. *Iran has refuted US media reports that Tehran pushed to resume nuclear talks with US.*
8. Gulf Cooperation Council foreign ministers are meeting to discuss airport closures and a unified response to Iranian attacks on Gulf states.

**AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**

- Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said [press conference 1 March 2026] ‘we are concerned about the regional escalation’ and that ‘the closure of transport hubs in the Middle East will likely lead to flight disruptions and cancellations.’
- *Foreign Minister Penny Wong announced [press interviews 2 March] the government would open the Register Online Portal for the UAE and Qatar, in addition to Israel and Iran.*
- Foreign Minister Penny Wong said [press conference 1 March 2026] for Australians ‘to observe the travel advice’ and ‘leave [the affected] countries now if it is safe to do so.’
- On 2 March, Foreign Minister Penny Wong issued a media release advising all Australians overseas to prepare for serious travel disruptions in the days ahead due to the conflict in the Middle East.

**MIDDLE EAST RESPONSE**

- Iranian state media reported Alireza Arafii as Iran’s temporary Supreme Leader. This follows Iranian media confirmation of the deaths of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iranian Armed Forces Chief of Staff Abdolrahim Mousavi, Defence Minister Aziz Nasirzadeh, Head of Police Intelligence Shahid Rezaiyan and the

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destruction of the Iranian Command Headquarters in Tehran. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said Iran will continue to strike targets in the region.

- The Israel Defense Force (IDF) said it was striking targets ‘in the heart of Tehran’ after establishing aerial superiority over Iranian airspace.
- *Hezbollah has claimed responsibility for strikes in northern Israel in retaliation for the killing of Supreme Leader Khamenei*
- *Israel has responded with strikes in southern suburbs of Beirut, the Beqaa Valley (east), and southern Lebanon.*
- *UK Prime Minister Starmer has said the UK has agreed to a US request to use British military bases for ‘defensive’ strikes on Iranian missile sites*
- *UK Defence Secretary Heally has said two missiles have been fired in the direction of Cyprus.*
- Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has said Iran does not intend to close the Strait of Hormuz. Shipping companies (MSC (world’s largest), Maersk, CMA CGM, Hapag-Lloyd) have announced they have stopped shipments travelling through the Strait of Hormuz for safety reasons.
- *Canada has deployed surge consular support to the surrounding region to help Canadians across the region including in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Israel, Jordan, Turkmenistan and Türkiye. New Zealand is deploying consular support to Türkiye.*

## INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS

- Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif called the killing of Iranian Supreme Leader Khamenei ‘a violation of the norms of international law’.
- US President Donald Trump said Iran would be hit ‘with a force that has never been seen before’ if it followed through with threats to hit US assets in the region, *and has said ‘attacks could go on for the next four weeks’.*
- European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said there was ‘renewed hope for the people of Iran’ following the death of Supreme Leader Khamenei.
- An extraordinary board meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors was held at 9am Monday 2 March (Vienna time). *DG Grossi said “We have no indication that any of the nuclear installations ... have been damaged or hit.”*

## MILITARY UPDATES

- Iranian strikes continue across the Arabian Gulf, including sites in Saudi Arabia and Oman. Israeli and US strikes continue in Iran.
- Casualties from strikes in the Middle East since 28 February 2026 have been reported in Israel, Iran, United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain.

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- The US Central Command said three service members had been killed in action and five seriously wounded as part of the operation against Iran.
- Attacks have been reported on airports in Bahrain, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and Qatar with minimal damage reported.

### CONSULAR UPDATES

- As at 1400 2 March 2026, we had received 1,714 calls [*including 38 calls received by Consular Emergency Centre before ECU was activated*]; the majority seeking assistance in response to travel disruptions.
- The Registration Online Portal (ROP) is open for Australians in Iran, Israel, *Qatar and UAE*.
- As at 1430 2 March 2026, there are:
  - *108 Australians and family members registered on the ROP (41 from Iran, 63 from Israel and 4 from UEA)*
  - *88 of the 108 registered want to depart.*
  - *1,179 registrations waiting to be assessed (122 from Iran, 61 from Israel, 831 from UAE and 165 from Qatar)*
  - 59 per cent appear to either have no right of entry or are awaiting Visa checks from Home Affairs

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- Contingency planning figures indicate there are up to 115,000 Australians in the broader Middle East region. These are approximate numbers only.
- Airspace across the Middle East remains mostly closed, with flights operating only from a few countries including Lebanon, Oman and Saudi Arabia. Limited Qatar Airways and Emirates flights are operating in areas outside the conflict region. Cyprus, Istanbul, Baku and Cairo flights continue to operate outside of the conflict region.
- Smartraveller advises Australians Do Not Travel to most destinations in the Middle East. This includes Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestine, Qatar, Syria, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. Australians should reconsider the need to travel to Jordan, Oman and Saudi Arabia.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Cleared by: FAS MAD and FAS CCD

**OFFICIAL : SENSITIVE**

s 47E(d)

- We are aware of local phone connectivity issues in the Middle East. As of 1300hrs on 1 March, we have diverted telephones for Abu Dhabi Embassy, Dubai Consulate-General and Beirut Embassy to the Consular Emergency Centre in Canberra.
- There are no reports of any Australian deaths or casualties.

#### CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM DEPLOYMENTS

- Nil deployment.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL CONFLICT: DFAT SITREP V8**  
**AS AT 0600 3 MARCH 2026**

**KEY UPDATES**

1. Israeli, US and Iranian strikes continue for a *third* day across multiple countries in the Middle East.
2. *Israel struck Hizballah in Lebanon, including in Beirut, leading to civilian population displacement throughout the country.*
3. *Limited outbound flights have resumed from Abu Dhabi and Dubai. Other airspace across the Middle East largely remains closed.*
4. *US President Trump said the “big wave” of strikes against Iran is yet to come and that he “always thought [the campaign] would be four weeks” long.*
5. *UK Prime Minister Starmer said the UK would now allow the US to use its bases for strikes against missile launcher and missile storage depots inside Iran.*
6. *Germany is preparing for assisted departures for vulnerable citizens from Riyadh and Muscat using chartered aircraft.*
7. *Three US fighter jets were shot down over Kuwait by Kuwaiti air defences in “friendly fire”. All crew are reported safe.*
8. *US Central Command is taking reports of a strike hitting a school in southern Iran seriously.*

**AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**

- *Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said [ABC, 2 March 2026] that the public mourning of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in Australia is inappropriate and ‘Australia does not have access to the intelligence that the US had prior to the attacks’.*
- Foreign Minister Penny Wong said [press conference 1 March 2026] for Australians ‘to observe the travel advice’ and ‘leave [the affected] countries now if it is safe to do so.’
- On 2 March, Foreign Minister Penny Wong issued a media release advising all Australians overseas to prepare for serious travel disruptions in the days ahead due to the conflict in the Middle East.

## MIDDLE EAST RESPONSE

- *The Lebanese Government condemned Hizballah's attacks against Israel.*
- *Qatar paused production of liquefied natural gas (LNG) after Iranian attacks on Ras Laffan and Mesaieed facilities. Saudi Arabia's largest oil refinery shut as a precautionary measure after two drones were intercepted at the facility.*
- *Germany is preparing assisted departure flights from Muscat and Riyadh. Canada has deployed surge consular support to assist Canadians including in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Israel, Jordan, Turkmenistan and Türkiye. Japan has evacuated five citizens from Israel to Amman via bus. The UK has evacuated British families from its RAF base in Cyprus.*

## INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS

- *US Secretary of Defence Pete Hegseth and US Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff US General Dan Caine held a press conference, 3 March 2025. Caine said the US's objectives was to 'protect and defend ourselves' and to prevent Iran from exerting its power outside its borders.*
- *UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer said he "stands by" the decision not to "get involved in the initial strikes" and the UK 'will not join offensive action'.*
- *Israel's Ambassador to Australia Hillel Newman spoke in support of Israel and the US.*
- *Pakistan, Russia and China condemned the killing of Iranian Supreme Leader Khamenei.*

## MILITARY UPDATES

- *The Israel Defense Force (IDF) said it was attacking Lebanon and Iran "simultaneously", having established aerial superiority over Iranian airspace and Israel continued with strikes in southern Lebanon, killing at least 31 people.*
- *UK Prime Minister Starmer has said the UK would allow the US to use its bases for strikes against missile launcher and missile storage depots inside Iran.*
- *US Secretary of Defence Pete Hegseth said the US hit 1,000 targets in the first 24 hours.*
- *Qatar's Defence Ministry says it shot down two Iranian fighter jets and intercepted seven ballistic missiles and five drones from Iran. UAE Defence Ministry says it shot down nine ballistic missiles, 148 drones and six cruise missiles.*
- *Hizballah has claimed responsibility for strikes in northern Israel in retaliation for the killing of Supreme Leader Khamenei.*

- Iranian strikes continue across the Arabian Gulf, including sites in Saudi Arabia and Oman. Israeli and US strikes continue in Iran.
- Casualties from strikes in the Middle East since 28 February 2026 have been reported in Bahrain, *Cyprus*, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Kuwait, *Oman*, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates.
- *US said it had hit 1,000 targets in the first 24 hours.*
- US Central Command said *four* service members had been killed in action and *four* seriously wounded as part of the operation against Iran.
- Attacks have been reported on airports in Bahrain, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and Qatar with minimal damage reported.
- *Cyprus confirmed two drones heading towards RAF Akrotiri had been intercepted.*
- *Greece announced it was sending two frigates to Cyprus, one with an anti-drone system, plus two F-16 fighter jets.*
- *Spain denied the US permission to use jointly operated military bases on its territory to attack Iran as Madrid stepped up its criticism of the “unjustified and dangerous military intervention”.*

## CONSULAR UPDATES

- As at 0415 3 March 2026, DFAT had received 2,223 calls [*including 38 calls received by Consular Emergency Centre before ECU was activated*]; the majority seeking assistance in response to travel disruptions.
- The Registration Online Portal (ROP) is open for Australians in Iran, Israel, *Qatar and UAE*.
- As at 0420 3 March 2026, there are:
  - *513 Australians and family members registered on the ROP (49 from Iran, 119 from Israel, 218 from Qatar and 127 from UAE)*
  - *465 of the 513 (91%) registered want to depart.*
  - *7,668 registrations waiting to be assessed (239 from Iran, 64 from Israel, 1,207 from Qatar and 6,158 from UAE)*
  - 62 per cent appear to either have no right of entry or are awaiting Visa checks from Home Affairs

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**OFFICIAL : SENSITIVE**

- Contingency planning figures indicate there are up to 115,000 Australians in the broader Middle East region. These are approximate numbers only.
- Smartraveller advises Australians Do Not Travel to most destinations in the Middle East. This includes Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestine, Qatar, Syria, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. Australians should reconsider the need to travel to Jordan, Oman and Saudi Arabia.

s 47E(d)

- We are aware of local phone connectivity issues in the Middle East. As of 1300hrs on 1 March, we have diverted telephones for Abu Dhabi Embassy, Dubai Consulate-General and Beirut Embassy to the Consular Emergency Centre in Canberra.
- There are no reports of any Australian deaths or casualties.

#### CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM DEPLOYMENTS

- Nil deployment.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Cleared by: FAS MAD and FAS CCD



**MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL CONFLICT: DFAT SITREP V9**  
**AS AT 1400 MARCH 2026**

**KEY UPDATES (3 March)**

1. Israeli, US and Iranian strikes continue to escalate for a third day across multiple countries in the Middle East.
2. The US Secretary of State issued a security update for all Americans in the Middle East to leave now via commercial means
3. US President Donald Trump outlined four objectives of strikes:
  - Destroying the regime's ballistic missile stocks and capacity to produce them
  - Destroying the Iranian navy
  - Preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon
  - Preventing Iran from arming, funding and directing proxy militant groups

**CONSULAR UPDATES**

- As at 1200 3 March 2026, DFAT had received 2,340 calls [including 38 calls received by Consular Emergency Centre before ECU was activated]; the majority seeking assistance in response to travel disruptions.
- The Registration Online Portal (ROP) is open for Australians in Iran, Israel, Qatar and UAE.
- **Total number of registrations in ROP for the 2026 Middle East Conflict is 9,071, breakdown as follows:**
- **7,851 (183 more than reported at 0245, 3-Mar-26) registrations are waiting to be assessed for eligibility.**
  - Iran – 185
  - 112 were registered in Iran
  - 73 were registered outside Iran, but in the region
  - Israel – 58
  - 56 were registered in Israel
  - 2 were registered outside Israel, but in the region
  - Qatar – 1066
  - 1061 were registered in Qatar

OFFICIAL : SENSITIVE

- 5 were registered outside Qatar, but in the region
- UAE – 6542
- 6538 were registered in UAE
- 4 were registered outside UAE, but in the region
- 911 (**398 more than reported at 0245, 3-Mar-26**) Australians and family members registered on the DFAT Crisis Portal have been assessed and are confirmed as eligible for assistance. Out of these, 821 (90%) want to depart.
  - Iran – 115 registrations (80 want to depart)
  - Israel – 136 registrations (116 want to depart)
  - Qatar – 505 registrations (478 want to depart)
  - UAE – 155 registrations (147 want to depart)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- Contingency planning figures indicate there are up to 115,000 Australians in the broader Middle East region. These are approximate numbers only.
- A small number of commercial flights were able to leave the UAE, including an Etihad flight to London.
- Italy, India, Japan, the Philippines and Austria have assisted departures from the region. Other countries are also planning assisted departures from the region.
- Smartraveller advises Australians Do Not Travel to most destinations in the Middle East. This includes Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestine, Qatar, Syria, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. Australians should reconsider the need to travel to Jordan, Oman and Saudi Arabia.

s 47E(d)

## MILITARY UPDATES

- The Al Minhad Airbase near Dubai, used by the Australian Defence Force, was hit by a drone over the weekend but that all Australians are “safe and accounted for”.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Cleared by: Crisis Centre SES Manager

**OFFICIAL : SENSITIVE**

- US Central Command released a statement claiming all Iranian ships in the Gulf of Oman were destroyed and that the US military had struck over 1,250 targets in Iran.
- The US Embassy in Riyadh was hit by multiple drones with no injuries reported.
- Casualties from strikes in the Middle East since 28 February 2026 have been reported in Bahrain, Cyprus, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Lebanon.

### AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

- On 2 March, Foreign Minister Penny Wong issued a media release advising all Australians overseas to prepare for serious travel disruptions in the days ahead due to the conflict in the Middle East.
- Assistant Foreign Minister Matt Thistlethwaite said the government is exploring all options to assist Australians in leaving the region and that commercial flights are “the best option.”
- On 3 March, Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles confirmed all Australian ADF personnel are “safe and accounted for” across the Middle East.

### US STATEMENTS

- In a press conference, US President Trump said he had seized "our last, best chance" to strike Iran's "sick and sinister regime".

### MIDDLE EAST RESPONSE

- Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has said Iran is at war with the US and that US military bases in the region were legitimate targets.
- Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam rejected any military or security operations “launched from Lebanese territory outside the framework of legitimate institutions.”
- Iranian media reported that Iran’s Revolutionary Guards commander have said the Strait of Hormuz is closed, contradicting Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi’s 1 March statement that Iran does not plan to close the Strait.

### INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS

- Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan called US and Israeli strikes “illegal” and that Turkiye will “intensify our contacts at all levels until a ceasefire is concluded.”
- Leaders of Malaysia, Brunei and India have called for restraint and respecting territorial integrity of all states. Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto has offered to mediate the conflict.
- NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte said there were “no plans” for NATO to join strikes but supported US and Israeli action against Iran.

02 March 2026

QB26-000094

## MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL CONFLICT 2026

### ISSUES

Iran strikes 2026 – consular issues; see QB26-000041 – ‘Iran Crisis’ for geo-political dimensions of conflict.

### KEY MESSAGES

- Australians overseas should be prepared for serious travel disruptions in the days ahead due to the conflict in the Middle East.
- The Albanese Government’s priority is the safety and security of Australians.
- We will continue to support Australians to navigate the disruption ahead, providing regular travel advice updates and consular assistance where we can
  - DFAT has opened an online portal to enable Australians in Iran, Israel, Qatar and UAE to register for updates
  - there are limits to what any government can do in a fast-moving and uncertain environment.
- Many Australians in the Middle East are unable to leave due to airspace closures, including around major transit hubs
- We advise Australians ‘do not travel’ to most destinations in the Middle East
- There is also a broader security risk in the Middle East. Periods of heightened conflict can increase the threat of protests, civil unrest and, in some cases, terrorist attacks.

### What is the Government doing to assist Australians stranded overseas?

- DFAT has activated its 24/7 Crisis Centre to provide consular support to Australians in the region.
  - we estimate that there are up to 115,000 Australians in the broader Middle East region.
- We will continue to support Australians to navigate the disruption ahead, providing regular travel advice updates and consular assistance where we can.
- DFAT has opened an online portal to enable Australians in Iran, Israel, Qatar and UAE to register for updates [*Iran & Israel on 1 March; Qatar and UAE on 2 March*].

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Name: Matthew Wise  
Branch/Division: ISG | MAD | MEB - Middle East Branch  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Cleared By:  
Name: Alan Copeland  
Position: Assistant Secretary  
Branch/Division: CCD | CPB – Crisis Preparedness and Management  
Branch  
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

02 March 2026

QB26-000094

- Our options to assist Australians to depart the Middle East are limited until airspace opens.
  - we are assessing options and associated risks for alternative transport arrangements.
- Australians should follow Smartraveller for the latest advice, which is regularly updated.
- Australians in the region should prioritise their safety, monitor events, and follow the advice of local authorities, including shelter in place instructions.

### **What advice would you give to Australians impacted by travel disruptions?**

- Closely monitor events and local media.
- Check directly with their travel agent or airlines to confirm their plans.
- Review their travel insurance to understand what is covered in the event of cancellations.
- Follow Smartraveller for the latest advice and subscribe for updates.
- We advise Australians 'do not travel' to most destinations in the Middle East
  - this includes Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestine, Qatar, Syria, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.
  - if you are in any of these countries, prioritise your safety, monitor events, follow the advice of local authorities and leave when it is safe to do so.
  - We advise 'reconsider your need to travel' to Oman, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.
- Our ability to provide consular services in Iran is extremely limited
  - the Australian Embassy's operations are suspended.
- We continue to urge all Australians in Iran to leave as soon as possible
  - be prepared to shelter in place for an extended period and ensure you have supplies of food, water and medication.

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02 March 2026

QB26-000094

## Is Australia considering assisted departures for Australians?

- Our first priority is doing all we can to ensure the safety of Australians in the region.
- The airspace is closed - Australia is not facilitating assisted departures at this stage
  - we advise Australians to prioritise their safety, including sheltering in place
  - we will continue to monitor the evolving situation
  - we are assessing options and associated risks for alternative transport arrangements, and will advise of any updates through Smartraveller.

## Was the Australian Government too slow to provide travel advice to Australians on risks of travelling to and through the Middle East region?

- Australia's warnings were based on the best available information, and were in line with the warnings given by Australia's partners.

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02 March 2026

QB26-000094

## BACKGROUND

On 28 February 2026, US President Trump confirmed the US and Israel had launched an attack on Iran. Iran has retaliated by launching ballistic missiles at various locations across the region. Explosions have been reported in Israel, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and the UAE. The death of Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei was confirmed on 1 March. Iran state media has reported Alireza Arafai as Iran's interim Supreme Leader.

### Australian Government Consular Response

On 2 March Foreign Minister Wong issued a media release noting Australians should prepare for serious travel disruptions both regionally and globally.

Contingency planning figures indicate there are up to 115,000 Australians in the broader Middle East region. These are approximate numbers only.

DFAT's Crisis Centre and Emergency Call Unit have been activated. The ECU has so far received 1,451 calls (as at 0400, 2 March, inclusive of 38 calls received by the Consular Emergency Centre before ECU was activated). The majority of callers are seeking assistance in response to travel disruptions.

At approximately 1130 1 March, DFAT opened the Registration Online Portal (ROP) for Australians in Iran and Israel. The ROP was extended to UAE and Qatar on 2 March.

As at 0330 2 March 2026, there are:

- 93 Australians and family members registered on the ROP (34 from Iran and 59 from Israel)
- 81 of the 93 registered want to depart.
- 225 registrations waiting to be assessed (180 from Iran and 45 from Israel)
- 66 per cent appear to either have no right of entry or are awaiting Visa checks from Home Affairs

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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03 March 2026

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## MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL CONFLICT 2026

### ISSUES

Iran strikes 2026 – consular issues; see QB26-000041 – ‘Iran Crisis’ for geo-political dimensions of conflict.

### KEY MESSAGES

- Australians overseas should be prepared for serious travel disruptions in the days ahead due to the conflict in the Middle East.
  - The security situation is dynamic and unpredictable.
- The Albanese Government’s priority is the safety and security of Australians.
- We will continue to support Australians to navigate the disruption ahead, providing regular travel advice updates and consular assistance where we can
  - DFAT has opened an online portal to enable Australians in Iran, Israel, Qatar and UAE to register for updates
  - there are limits to what any government can do in a fast-moving and uncertain environment.
- We are focused on the situation of Australian non-resident travellers in major transit hubs who are unable to leave due to airspace closures.
- We advise Australians ‘do not travel’ to most destinations in the Middle East.
- There is also a broader security risk in the Middle East. Periods of heightened conflict can increase the threat of protests, civil unrest and, in some cases, terrorist attacks.

### What is the Government doing to assist Australians stranded overseas?

- DFAT has activated its 24/7 Crisis Centre to provide consular support to Australians in the region
  - we estimate that there are up to 115,000 Australians in the broader Middle East region.
- We will continue to support Australians to navigate the disruption ahead, providing regular travel advice updates and consular assistance where we can
  - noting there are limits to what any government can do in a fast-moving and uncertain environment

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03 March 2026

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- there will be delays and cancellations, both in the region and globally, including on routes to Europe
- scheduled flights can change at short notice.
- DFAT has opened an online portal to enable Australians in Iran, Israel, Qatar and UAE to register for updates [*Iran & Israel on 1 March; Qatar and UAE on 2 March*].
- Our options to assist Australians to depart the Middle East are limited while airspace is restricted
  - we are assessing options and associated risks for alternative transport arrangements.
- Australians should follow Smartraveller for the latest advice, which is regularly updated.
- Australians in the region should prioritise their safety, monitor events, and follow the advice of local authorities, including shelter in place instructions.

### What advice would you give to Australians impacted by travel disruptions?

- We urge Australians across the Middle East region to be alert to developments, including retaliatory action.
- Closely monitor events and local media.
- Check directly with their travel agent or airlines to confirm their plans.
- Review their travel insurance to understand what is covered in the event of cancellations.
- Follow Smartraveller for the latest advice and subscribe for updates.
- We advise Australians 'do not travel' to most destinations in the Middle East
  - this includes Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestine, Qatar, Syria, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen
  - if you are in any of these countries, prioritise your safety, monitor events, follow the advice of local authorities and leave when it is safe to do so
  - we advise 'reconsider your need to travel' to Oman, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.
- Our ability to provide consular services in Iran is extremely limited
  - the Australian Embassy's operations are suspended.
- We continue to urge all Australians in Iran to leave as soon as possible

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QB26-000094

- if you are unable to do so, be prepared to shelter in place for an extended period and ensure you have supplies of food, water and medication.

### **Is Australia considering assisted departures for Australians?**

- Our first priority is doing all we can to ensure the safety of Australians in the region.
- The airspace across much of the region is closed - Australia is not facilitating assisted departures at this stage
  - we advise Australians to prioritise their safety, including sheltering in place
  - we will continue to monitor the evolving situation
  - we are assessing options and associated risks for alternative transport arrangements, and will advise of any updates through Smartraveller.

### **Was the Australian Government too slow to provide travel advice to Australians on risks of travelling to and through the Middle East region?**

- Australia's warnings were based on the best available information, and were in line with the warnings given by Australia's partners.

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03 March 2026

QB26-000094

## BACKGROUND

On 28 February 2026, US President Trump confirmed the US and Israel had launched an attack on Iran. Iran has retaliated by launching ballistic missiles at various locations across the region. Explosions have been reported in Israel, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and the UAE. The death of Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei was confirmed on 1 March. Iran state media has reported Alireza Arafai as Iran's interim Supreme Leader.

Emirates and Etihad airlines have restarted a limited number of repatriation, repositioning and cargo flights. Initial flights are not destined for Australia.

### Australian Government Consular Response

On 2 March Foreign Minister Wong issued a media release noting Australians should prepare for serious travel disruptions both regionally and globally.

Contingency planning figures indicate there are up to 115,000 Australians in the broader Middle East region. These are approximate numbers only.

DFAT's Crisis Centre and Emergency Call Unit have been activated. The ECU has so far received 2,223 calls (as at 0400, 3 March, inclusive of 38 calls received by the Consular Emergency Centre before ECU was activated). The majority of callers are seeking assistance in response to travel disruptions.

At approximately 1130, 1 March, DFAT opened the Registration Online Portal (ROP) for Australians in Iran and Israel. The ROP was extended to UAE and Qatar on 2 March.

As at 0245, 3 March 2026, there are:

- 513 Australians and family members registered on the ROP (49 from Iran; 119 from Israel; 218 from Qatar; 127 from UAE)
  - 465 of the 513 registered want to depart.
- 7,668 registrations waiting to be assessed (239 from Iran, 64 from Israel, 1,207 from Qatar, 6,158 from UAE)
  - 62 per cent appear to either have no right of entry or are awaiting Visa checks from Home Affairs

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** Elizabeth McGregor  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 3, 2026 9:38 AM  
**To:** s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
 DLO FM  
**Cc:** Alan Copeland; Crisis Ses.Manager; Brett Mason<sup>s 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup> Harinder Sidhu;  
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** Number of people assisted in previous crisis responses [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

FMO colleagues

Understand you were interested in some comparison data points of numbers of affected Australians now vs. previous numbers we have assisted to depart in previous crises.

See below.

Let us know if you need other details, I've sought to keep it high level but we can also include the DFAT and Defence resources directed to these operations.

At the highest level, the data point for the current crisis is 115,000 affected Australians in the region – if we were expected to assist that number to depart, it's more than 30 times the number we helped in Lebanon (the next largest operation).

I think it's also important to note thought that not all of the 115,000 may wish to depart, which is where the line about DFAT focusing on short term travellers – the more vulnerable in these circumstances - is the important one.

Liz McGregor

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First Assistant Secretary  
 Consular and Crisis Management Division  
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Israel / Hamas Conflict (Oct – Dec 2023)	s 47E(d)
New Caledonia – Civil Unrest (May 2024)	
Lebanon – Conflict (Oct 2024)	

Vanuatu – Earthquake (Dec 2024)	s 47E(d)
Iran – Israel (Jun-July 2025)	

## Numbers of Australian in the Middle East Region 01 March 2026

Country	AUS residents	AUS visitors (per month)	Key locations	Travel advice
Bahrain	s 47E(d)		Manama, Saar, Seef, Rifaa, Muharraq	DNT since 28/02/26
Iran			Tehran, Shiraz, Qom, Esfahan, Mashhad	DNT since March 2020
Iraq			Baghdad, Erbil, Najaf, Samawa, Naasiriyah	DNT since August 2015
Israel			Tel Aviv, Jerusalem	DNT since 28/02/26
Jordan			Amman, Irbid,, Ma'an, Petra, Aqaba	Reconsider your need to travel since 28/02/26
Kuwait			Salmiya, Jabriya, Salwa, Hawally, Fahaheel, Mangaf, Abu Halifa, Egaila, Abu Al-Hasania and Jahra	DNT since 28/02/26
Lebanon			Tripoli, Akkar, Beirut	DNT since 28/02/26
Oman			All cities	Level 2 Exercise a high degree of caution since 15/01/2026
Qatar			Doha	DNT since 28/02/26
Saudi Arabia			Riyadh, Makkah, Jeddah	Level 2 Exercise a high degree of caution since
Syria			Latakia, Aleppo, Damascus	DNT since august 2000 (as far back as records show)
UAE			Dubai, Abu Dhabi	DNT since 28/02/26
Yemen			San'aa, Aden, Hadramout	DNT since august 2000 (as far back as records show)
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>67,854</b>	<b>47,140</b>		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>114,994</b>			

























