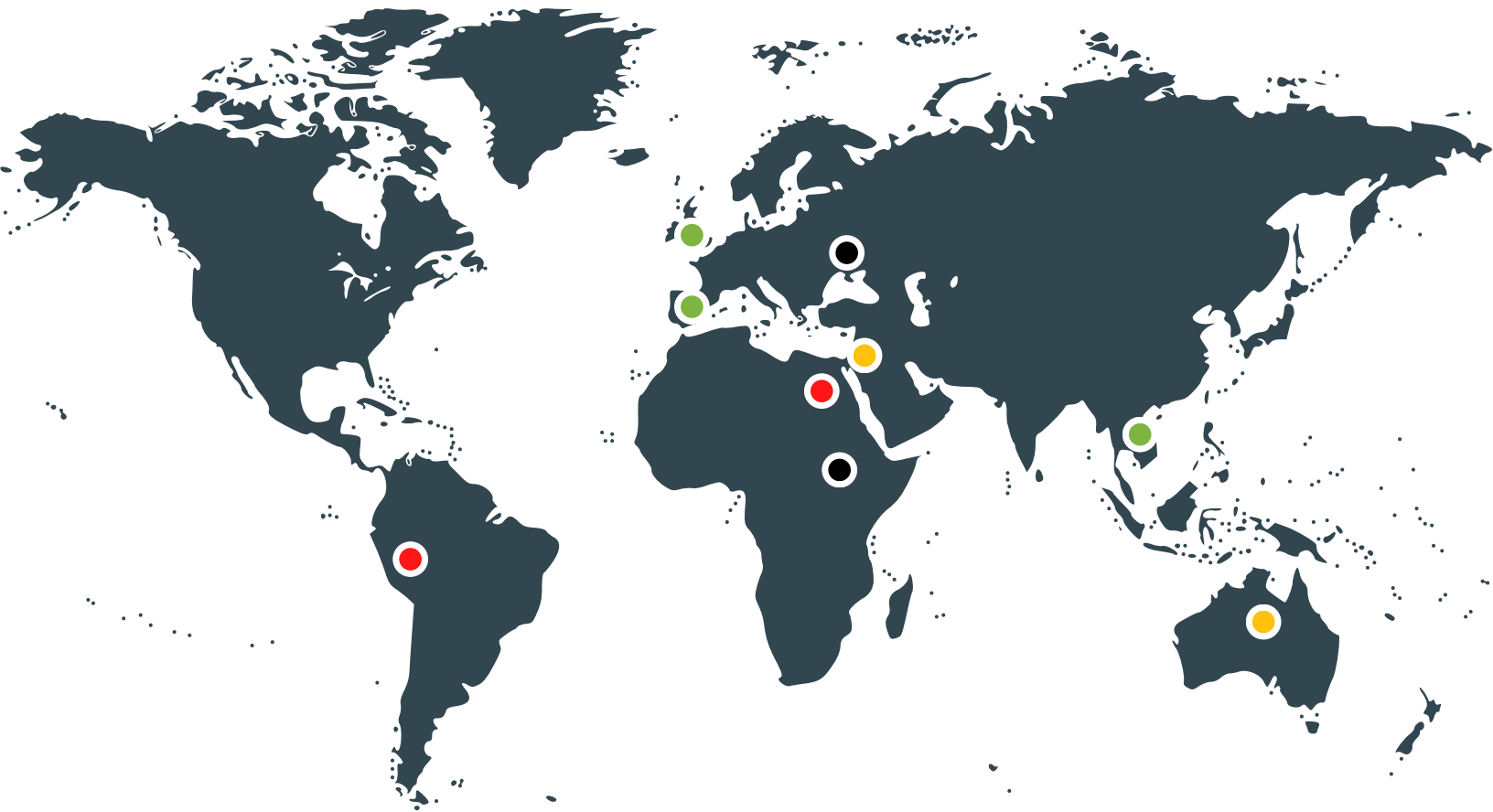


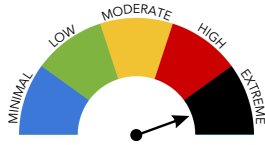
WORLDWIDE HOTSPOTS

August 2023



Concentric identified several travel risks in August 2023, including violent protests in Peru and Kenya, a severe heat wave throughout Southern Europe, conflict in Sudan and Ukraine, and political tensions affecting Israel and Thailand. We also urge travelers to remain wary of crime and potential terrorism associated with the Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand.

UKRAINE



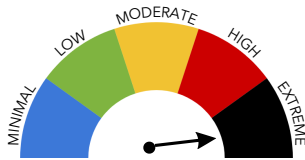
The overall threat to travelers in Ukraine is **EXTREME**.

The security situation in Ukraine remains unstable and may deteriorate without warning. In recent weeks, Russia pulled out of a deal allowing grain and other food products to be shipped from Ukraine through the Black Sea. Following the announcement, Russian forces launched [strikes](#) on Odessa and other major grain port cities and Russian officials said any ship attempting to pass the blockade would be seen as committing an act of war.

OPERATIONAL RISKS

- Travelers should monitor local and international news for updates on the developing security situation and other travel disruptions.
- Travelers should exercise caution and remain vigilant of their surroundings at all times.
- Travelers should be familiar with emergency response and air raid protocols and know where to locate near-by bomb shelter locations.
- Law enforcement and emergency personnel speak limited English and translators are not readily available.

SUDAN



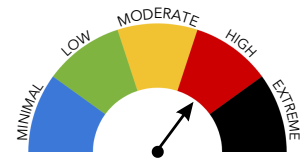
The threat to travelers in Sudan is **EXTREME**.

Clashes between the Sudanese Army and opposition Rapid Support Forces continue in the cities of Khartoum and Omdurman, as well as rural provinces. The center of conflict in recent weeks shifted to Omdurman from the western region, bringing violence closer to the capital and main centers of population. At least 3,000 people [died](#) according to conservative estimates.

OPERATIONAL RISKS

- Travelers should reconsider travel to Sudan. Rural and urban areas are scenes of frequent clashes between the military and militias attempting to overthrow the government. Government buildings are the frequent targets of militias.
- Travelers should monitor local and international news for updates on the developing security and political situation. Ceasefire violations are frequent between warring factions.

KENYA



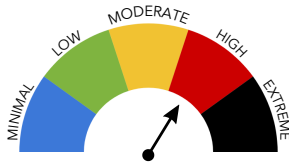
The overall threat to travelers in Kenya is **HIGH**.

Protests related to the cost of living in Kenya increased in intensity and frequency at the end of July. On July 19, at least 300 people were [arrested](#) across the country and six died when police fired live rounds into crowds. Security forces have shown little restraint in using force against protesters.

OPERATIONAL RISKS

- Travelers should monitor local media for updates regarding the location and time of protests. Protest sites should be avoided due to the risk of being inadvertently targeted by protestors or security forces.
- Travelers should carry photo identification and all required documentation on their person at all times due to the risk of being stopped at checkpoints.
- Kenyan police are widely seen as corrupt and are [known](#) to use excessive force. When interacting with security forces, follow all directives and do not escalate the situation.

PERU

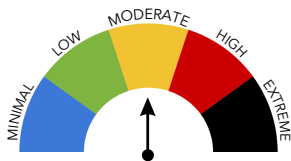


The overall threat to travelers in Peru is HIGH.

Many Peruvians see unelected President Dina Boluarte's presidency as illegitimate, and over 20,000 protesters have called for immediate elections and an end to the widening inequality in the country. Protests are taking place primarily in Lima, with other isolated incidents across the country resulting in highway closures and clashes with police. As of writing, at least six people were arrested and eight injured in the protests. Security forces deployed tear gas and other anti-riot measures against protestors and [said](#) they will do so again if deemed necessary.

OPERATIONAL RISKS

- Travelers should monitor local media and avoid any demonstrations due to the risk of being inadvertently caught in protest violence.
- Peruvian law enforcement and U.S. Consular services have limited capabilities to respond to emergencies in some areas of the country. The U.S. State Department issued "Level 4: Do Not Travel" advisories for the border with Colombia, the Puno region, and the Valley of the Apurímac, Ene, and Mantaro Rivers region.
- Travelers should plan for considerable disruptions when traveling between cities. Protestors blocked roads and Peruvian authorities issued a [state of emergency](#) through at least August 14 for several highways throughout the country.



ISRAEL

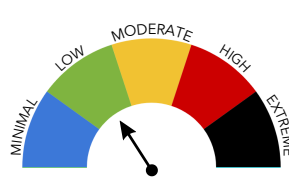
The overall threat to travelers in Israel is MODERATE.

Protests against changes to Israel's judicial system have continued into the summer, growing more frequent in July. Protestors have routinely blocked major roadways and government offices, and more frequent protests are likely over the next month. In addition, many of the country's largest unions [threatened strikes](#) in coming weeks, including the 30,000-strong Israeli Medical Union which, if it were to rescind its services, would cripple health services in the country.

OPERATIONAL RISKS

- Travelers should monitor local news for updates on local demonstrations and other travel disruptions. Protesters have [blocked](#) the road to Israel's airport in Tel Aviv.
- Visitors should remain aware of possible strikes throughout the month of August and understand medical risks should healthcare workers go on strike.

SOUTHERN EUROPE

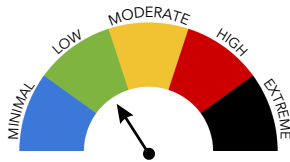


The overall threat to travelers in Southern Europe is MODERATE.

Southern European countries, including Italy, Spain, and Greece, are experiencing their worst heat wave on record. In recent weeks, temperatures regularly topped 100 degrees Fahrenheit, with several major cities reaching 110 degrees. The Italian government issued heat-related health warnings for multiple cities, with an [increase](#) in hospitalizations from heat stroke and dehydration. Most buildings in the region are not equipped with air conditioning, making it difficult to find relief from the heat. The risk of wildfires also increased across the region, and in mid-July, 123 fires were [recorded](#) in Greece, resulting in thousands of evacuations and hazardous air quality.

OPERATIONAL RISKS

- Travelers should ensure adequate access to hydration at all times. The Italian government [recommends](#) drinking at least 1.5 liters of water per day until the heat wave subsides.
- Travelers should avoid strenuous outdoor activities during the hottest hours of the day in mid-afternoon. A road worker in Milan [collapsed](#) and later died in a hospital after working outside in the heat.
- Travelers should regularly consult local media for updates on fire conditions, air quality, and potential evacuations.



THAILAND

The overall threat to travelers in Thailand is LOW.

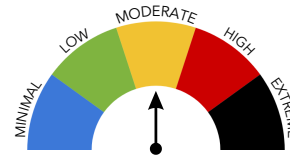
Thailand held general elections in May, but Pita Limjaroenrat's Move Forward party has not secured enough votes in the legislature for Limjaroenrat to become Prime Minister and form a government despite winning the election. Move Forward's supporters are [protesting](#) the situation, alleging the legislature's move to block Limjaroenrat's candidacy is a subversion of democracy, as 249 of the 500 seats in the lower house are appointed by the military junta.

OPERATIONAL RISKS

- Travelers should monitor local news for updates on demonstrations and their locations. Demonstrations can disrupt travel and access to popular areas. Clashes between protestors and security forces are possible as Thai authorities are known to employ violent tactics during protests.

OTHER KEY AREAS TO WATCH

AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND



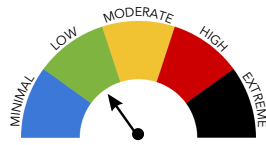
The overall threat to travelers in Australia and New Zealand is LOW.

Australia and New Zealand are jointly hosting the Women's World Cup through August 20, with matches held across multiple cities. Large crowds associated with matches provide prime targets for terrorist attacks and shootings. The risk is significantly mitigated by enhanced security for the events, but travelers should remain vigilant. Security was [increased](#) following a shooting in Auckland on July 20, but international football authorities state the incident was unrelated to the World Cup.

OPERATIONAL RISKS

- Travelers should maintain heightened situational awareness while in large crowds and report suspicious actions to security authorities.
- Travelers should be aware of nearby evacuation routes in the event of an emergency. Identify all nearby exits and safe places, such as police and fire stations.

LONDON



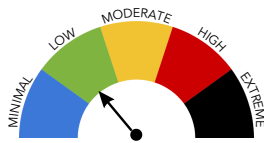
The overall threat to travelers in London is **LOW**.

Travelers face possible [disruption](#) due to record numbers of tourists, staffing shortages on airlines, and possible protests. The U.K. is [experiencing](#) a cost of living crisis as inflation strains the average citizens' purchasing power, motivating some unions to protest government policies. Many planned protests were [called off](#) following renewed negotiations, though some are scheduled for the coming weeks.

OPERATIONAL RISKS

- Travelers should monitor local media for updates regarding planned or spontaneous demonstrations and modify travel routes to stay away from these areas.
- Though demonstrations are common, they rarely result in violence. Protests often occur around the city squares and government buildings.
- Petty crimes, such as pickpocketing, purse snatching are common around tourist sites in major urban areas.
- Cybercrime attacks, especially data theft from high-profile targets such as large companies, continue to increase. Phishing is the most common form of cyber attack against travelers. We recommend travelers avoid public Wi-Fi and use VPNs in London.

PARIS



The overall threat to travelers in Paris is **LOW**.

Anti-police [protests](#) in the Parisian suburb of Nanterre occurred in late June after a teenager was shot by police in an altercation at a checkpoint. Security forces have contained the protests, but President Emmanuel Macron and the French government [vowed](#) to take a tougher stance on combating future protest activity. This includes the [passage](#) of a law that allows French authorities to tap into the electronic devices of anyone suspected of offenses punishable by five or more years in prison.

OPERATIONAL RISKS

- Travelers should monitor local media for updates regarding planned or spontaneous demonstrations and modify travel routes to stay away from these areas. Demonstrations and strikes occur frequently and protests can be unpredictable and have a history of travel delays and turning violent. Protesters may exhibit reckless disregard for public safety and cause property damage in populated tourist areas.
- Travelers should keep their belongings close to them in crowded areas and stay particularly vigilant around tourist attractions and cash points. Violent crime significantly increased in recent years, especially in the northern suburbs. Crimes targeting foreigners typically include pickpocketing, break-ins, and other forms of theft.
- Terrorism remains a threat and terrorists may attack with little to no warning, targeting tourist locations, transportation hubs, government facilities, and other public areas.
- Cybercrime is common in France, and hackers often compromise Wi-Fi hotspots to intercept communications or gain control of the connecting device. The U.S. government advises travelers to use secure Wi-Fi connections to access sensitive private information.

Intelligence-led security is essential for effectively managing risk in a complex threat environment. Concentric's background in national security enables us to leverage cutting edge intelligence methodologies to improve our clients' ability to detect threats and manage risk. Concentric's in-house research and analysis team has top-tier analytical capabilities and a robust technical toolkit.

Active Monitoring

Periodic Threat Reporting

Online Sentiment & Exposure Analysis

Deep and Dark Web Report

Red Team Analysis Report

Travel Risk Assessments

Security and Risk Audits

Event Risk Assessments

Risk Intelligence

For a more detailed travel risk assessment of these locations, or any other area of interest, please contact Concentric

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