

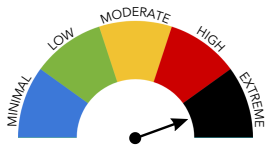
WORLDWIDE HOTSPOTS

May 2023



Concentric identified several hotspots prone to travel risks in May 2023, including the ongoing conflict in Sudan, protests in Israel and Kenya, and geopolitical tensions affecting China and the Philippines. The Coronation of King Charles III may lead to delayed travel and increase risks in London. We also urge travelers to remain wary of crime in popular Mexican vacation destinations and large-scale demonstrations in Paris.

SUDAN



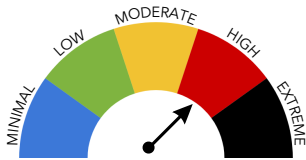
The threat to travelers in Sudan is **EXTREME**.

Due to the ongoing [conflict](#) between the rival Sudanese Armed Forces and Rapid Support Forces, which has left hundreds dead and thousands wounded, the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum [suspended](#) its operations, and the Department of State ordered the departure of U.S. government employees. Though the U.S. stated it will continue to provide regular updates and assist Americans in Sudan with safety planning, it warned they would be traveling in the region at their own risk and would not aid with evacuations. Several nations, including Canada, France, Poland, and Switzerland have also halted embassy operations. The eruption of violence has led to a disruption in services such as electricity, internet, food, water, and hospitals. The situation remains violent, volatile, and extremely unpredictable.

OPERATIONAL RISKS

- Travelers should avoid travel to the region at all costs. If traveling in the region, travelers should exercise extreme caution, be aware of their surroundings, monitor local and U.S. government media, and avoid demonstrations and public gatherings.
- Assaults, home invasions and looting have occurred. Foreigners have been the target of such attacks.
- Travelers should develop a communications plan with family and/or employer or host organizations so they can monitor the travelers' safety and location.
- Travelers should also prepare a crisis management and evacuation plan which does not rely on U.S. government assistance.

CHINA



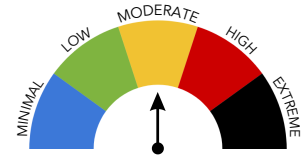
The threat to travelers in China is **HIGH**.

China and U.S. relations have worsened in recent months due to U.S. economic restrictions on China and China's growing relationship with Russia. Though China has maintained it will remain neutral in the Ukraine conflict, it held [joint](#) military drills with Russia and Iran in March. Russia's dependence on China [increased](#) during the Ukraine crisis, particularly economically as Russia faced increased sanctions. Russia's attack on Ukraine parallels forecasting China could attempt to seize control of Taiwan. China [conducted](#) large-scale combat exercises around Taiwan in early April that simulated sealing off the island in response to the Taiwanese president's trip to the U.S.

OPERATIONAL RISKS

- Travelers should stay clear of political demonstrations. China's surveillance system can easily track whereabouts.
- Concentric recommends travelers only bring burner devices and limit their amount of sensitive information. Pervasive and intrusive technical surveillance and monitoring is likely.
- Travelers should not post anything on social media platforms seen as critical of the government.
- Travelers should bring masks and monitor COVID-19 restrictions. Most governments removed entry restrictions from China as COVID-19 concerns ease.

ISRAEL



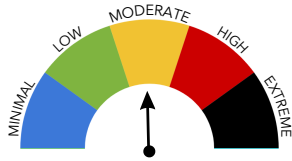
The threat to travelers in Israel is **HIGH**.

Israel's controversial judicial reform plan has led to [ongoing](#) protests since March and will likely continue throughout May. Tens of thousands regularly block major highways and [demonstrate](#) outside of government buildings and official's [homes](#) in Tel Aviv. Police have [responded](#) with riot gear, stun grenades, and water cannons. Tensions increased in recent weeks following a series of attacks by Palestinians against Israelis in Israel, and Israeli military operations in the West Bank. There were also [clashes](#) between Palestinians and Israeli police at the Al-Aqsa mosque during Ramadan and Passover. We anticipate continued conflict, as recent conflict may lead to continued clashes.

OPERATIONAL RISKS

- Travelers should monitor local news for updates on road closures, demonstrations, and other travel disruptions. Protestors are likely to obstruct major roads and cause overcrowding on public transportation.
- Travelers should allow extra time while traveling and seek updated security information before visiting the West Bank or East Jerusalem. Travelers should ensure travel documents are in order and heed directions from law enforcement.
- The risk of mass violence is high. Counter-protestors may prompt clashes between demonstrators, and terrorism is a persistent threat. Travelers should avoid large gatherings and political sites. Strike activity extended to shopping centers, hospitals, and other entities.
- Petty theft and car break-ins are common in urban areas, such as Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. The police often confiscate unattended belongings.

KENYA

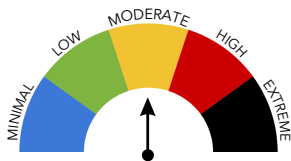


The overall threat to travelers in Kenya is MODERATE.

Kenya's main opposition party [announced](#) it will resume protests over high living costs and alleged election fraud due to the government's lack of commitment to talks. Demonstrations, which [ran](#) from January to April and led to several deaths and hundreds of injuries, were halted in early April after President William Ruto agreed to talks and reform the election commission. We cannot rule out the risk of ongoing protests which could spillover to other regions outside of Nairobi. The U.S. Department of State (DoS) has also included a Crime "C" Indicator on the Travel Advisory for Kenya, indicating there may be widespread violent and organized crime, and local law enforcement may have limited ability to respond.

OPERATIONAL RISKS

- Travelers should monitor local news for updates on road closures, demonstrations, and other travel disruptions. Protestors are likely to obstruct major roads and cause overcrowding on public transportation.
- We advise travelers to avoid walking alone at night, maintain a low profile, and take appropriate security measures, including securing valuable items out of sight, keeping car windows up and doors locked, and avoid hailing taxis from the street, which often results in robbery.
- Kidnapping is widespread in Kenya and usually involves kidnappers removing people from vehicles or off the street by force and exploiting their credit cards. Significant injuries are common.
- Terrorist attacks happen with little or no warning, targeting Kenyan and foreign government facilities, tourist locations, and transportation hubs.
- Travelers should note reported crimes involving violence or threats against LGBTQIA+ individuals and minority groups and insufficient investigation of gender-based violence.



PERU

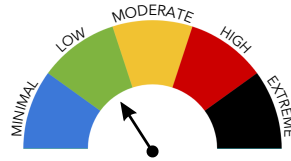
The overall threat to travelers in Peru is MODERATE.

Due to continued protests and civil unrest, states of emergency will remain in effect in several southern areas through May, including: Puno Department, Pan-American Highway, Central Highway, South Apurimac-Cusco-Arequipa Highway Corridor, and South Interoceanic Highway Corridor. Recent demonstrations have led to airport closures, roadblocks of major highways, and violence. Northern Peru, including Machu Picchu, remain open and unaffected.

OPERATIONAL RISKS

- Travelers should monitor local media for updates regarding planned or spontaneous demonstrations and modify travel routes to stay away from these areas.
- Petty crime, kidnappings, and armed robberies are frequent in major cities, tourist sites, and hiking trails, and crime against foreign travelers increased. Showing resistance to crime generally provokes a violent response. Peru is the world's second-largest cocaine producer and drug trafficking groups and criminal organizations operate throughout the country. The police response is generally ineffective and prone to bribery.
- Peru is witnessing a rise in cybercrimes, including phishing attacks, identity theft, blackmail for human trafficking, and the cloning of online shopping websites. Concentric recommends using secure servers, VPNs, or personal hotspots instead of public Wi-Fi.

PHILIPPINES



The overall threat to travelers in the Philippines is LOW.

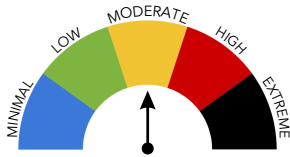
The U.S. and China continue to vie for influence with the Philippines to gain influence in the Asia-Pacific region. The U.S. and Philippines [held](#) joint military drills in April to strengthen ties in the face of an increasingly assertive China. China responded by sending a top diplomat to meet with Philippine officials. The Philippines has repeatedly [accused](#) China of aggressive behavior in the South China sea, including targeting a Philippine coast guard ship with a military-grade laser in February. The U.S. warned it would help defend Philippine forces if attacked. Cases of dengue fever have also [increased](#) in the area in recent years and are likely to increase during summer months.

OPERATIONAL RISKS

- Travelers should stay clear of political demonstrations.
- Travelers should wear bug repellent, monitor their symptoms, and immediately report to a qualified medical professional if they experience fever, weakness, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, rashes, and eye, muscle, bone, or joint pain.
- We recommend practicing exceptional hygiene, including regular hand washing, and avoiding large gatherings. We suggest those considering travel to the region monitor news programs and websites to stay abreast of government health announcements.
- Terrorist and armed groups continue plotting possible kidnappings, bombings, and other attacks in the Philippines. These groups may attack with little or no warning, targeting tourist locations, markets/shopping malls, and local government facilities.

OTHER KEY AREAS TO WATCH

LONDON



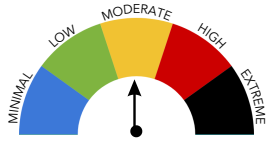
The overall threat to travelers in London is MODERATE.

The Coronation of King Charles III on May 6 will be attended by royalty and wealthy individuals from around the world, including First Lady Jill Biden, Prime Minister of Australia Anthony Albanese, and French President Emmanuel Macron. Over 1,400 Heathrow Airport security agents have announced a strike during this time and London police have warned protest groups may attempt to disrupt the coronation to bring attention to their cause. Lone-wolves, anti-establishment groups, and other threat actors may choose to target the high-profile individuals at the event. Travelers should [anticipate](#) heightened security measures and travel delays due to the [risk](#) of protests, eco-warriors, terrorists, and anarchists. The threat to England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland from terrorism is substantial [according](#) to the U.K. government, meaning an attack is likely.

OPERATIONAL RISKS

- Travelers should be prepared for significant travel delays on and around the Coronation. Travelers should maintain awareness of their surroundings and avoid Buckingham Palace and Westminster Abbey if they are not attending the event. Travelers are most vulnerable in crowded areas.
- Though demonstrations are expected and common, they rarely result in violence. Protests often occur around the city's bridges, Trafalgar Square, and the House of Parliament.
- Petty crimes, such as pickpocketing, purse-snatching, and vehicle break-ins, are on the rise. Credit card "skimming" is common and travelers are advised to exercise caution when using ATMs, looking for any signs of tampering, and withdraw money from bank tellers if possible.
- 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.

MEXICO



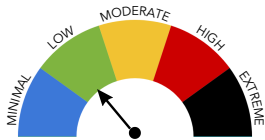
The overall threat to travelers in Mexico is MODERATE.

Over 3,000 migrants are [marching](#) through southern Mexico, walking from the city of Tapachula to Mexico City in a mass protest against detention centers. The demonstrators are demanding food, water, and buses to the capital, otherwise they will flagellate themselves and block major roadways. Violence in areas such as Cancun, Tulum, Mexico City, and Playa del Carmen continue due to cartels, economic hardship, and poor living conditions. Street crime, kidnapping, and carjacking remain a risk in areas throughout the country.

OPERATIONAL RISKS

- Concentric recommends travelers remain in tourist zones, stay in well-lit pedestrian areas, and avoid downtown areas after dark. Popular travel destinations in Mexico experience moderate to high crime rates exacerbated by organized gang violence. Though visitors are most likely to encounter petty crime, kidnapping for ransom and virtual kidnappings also pose serious risks to foreign travelers.
- Travelers should monitor local news for updates on crime, road closures, demonstrations, and other travel disruptions. Mexican law prohibits foreigners from participating in political activity, and violations may result in detention.
- Travelers should purchase medication in consultation with a medical professional and only from reputable establishments. Counterfeit medication is common and may prove to be ineffective, the wrong strength, or contain dangerous ingredients.
- Travelers should request bottled drinks as tap water is not potable in many areas. Tourists should heed surf advisories as strong currents and rogue waves may be extremely dangerous, even to those on the beach. Air pollution is a severe problem in major cities, and earthquakes are routine.

PARIS



The overall threat to travelers in Paris is LOW.

Large-scale demonstrations over the minimum retirement age, pension reform, and police violence have been ongoing in Paris since March, with no signs of lifting. Protests have led to violent clashes with police and thousands of individuals taking to the streets, causing travel delays, property damage, and fires. Intermittent strike days in which government workers leave their posts en masse have occurred during the demonstrations. Travelers should continue to avoid demonstrations and areas with significant police activity. Those finding themselves near violent protest activity should immediately depart the area and avoid interfering between demonstrators and police.

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 cashpoints. 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

www.concentric.io

info@concentric.io

+1 866 828 5855