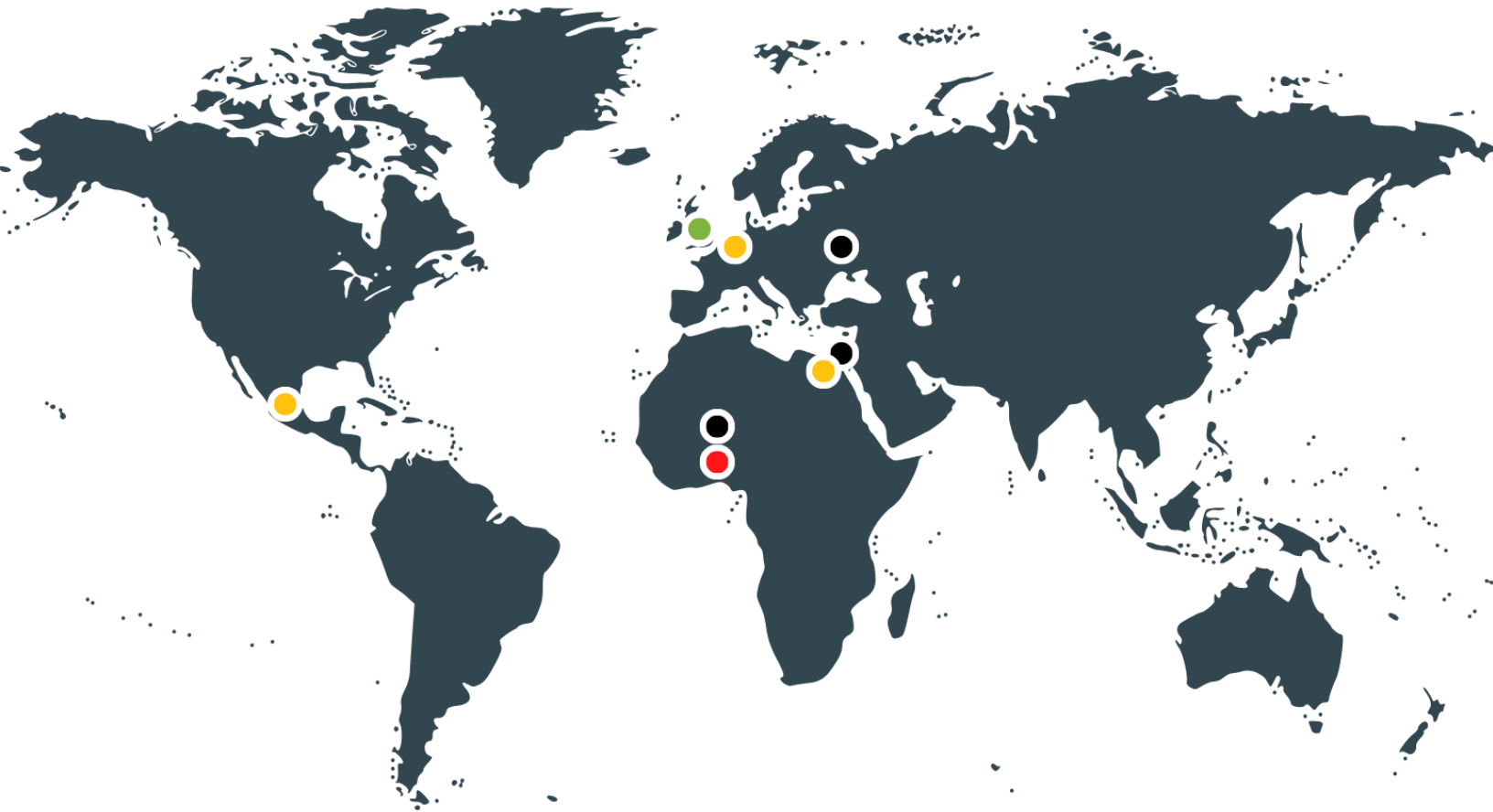


WORLDWIDE HOTSPOTS

November 2023



Concentric identified several travel risks in November 2023, including extreme tensions in Israel, Palestine, and Egypt following Hamas' attack, Ukraine remains unstable as Ukrainian forces continue fighting Russian forces, the DoS issued a Level 4: Do Not Travel warning for Niger after the military seized control and overturned civilian rule, and Nigeria's Supreme Court upheld President Bola Tinubu's election victory following allegations of electoral fraud.

PALESTINE AND ISRAEL TERRITORIES

The overall threat to travelers in Palestine and Israel is EXTREME.

Tensions in Israel and Palestine intensified following Hamas' attack on Israel on October 7, killing 1,400 people according to Israeli authorities. Israel's subsequent air strikes and ground raids on occupied territories in Gaza and West Bank have

[killed](#) 8,000 Palestinians and exacerbated the humanitarian crisis in the region. Israeli authorities announced a complete siege of Gaza, cutting off access to food, water, and electricity.

*Please see Concentric Middle East updates for more info on the developing situation.



OPERATIONAL RISKS

- The U.S. Department of State (DoS) has [issued](#) a Level 4-Do Not Travel advisory for Gaza and Level 3-Reconsider travel to the West Bank and Israel due to terrorism, and conflict.
- *Travelers should monitor local and international news for updates on the developing security situation and other travel disruptions.*
- Pro-Palestine and Pro-Israel protests have erupted globally. *Travelers should monitor local media for updates regarding planned or spontaneous demonstrations and modify travel routes to avoid these areas.*
- *Travelers should exercise caution and remain vigilant of their surroundings at all times.*

UKRAINE

The overall threat to travelers in Ukraine is EXTREME.

The security situation in Ukraine remains [unstable](#) as Ukrainian forces continue fighting Russian forces and the U.S. [warns](#) funds to support war efforts are running low. President Biden [met](#) with President Volodymyr Zelensky last month to discuss ongoing support.



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.* The DoS has received reports of Russian forces targeting U.S. citizens for interrogation and harassment, particularly in Russian-occupied areas.
- *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.

NIGER

The overall threat to travelers in Niger is EXTREME.

The DoS [issued](#) a Level 4: Do Not Travel warning for Niger after the military seized control and overturned civilian rule in late July. The U.S. government and French forces have begun to [depart](#) the country and Niger's border areas, including Agadez, Zinder, Tillaberi, and Diffa are targeted in terror and bandit attacks.



OPERATIONAL RISKS

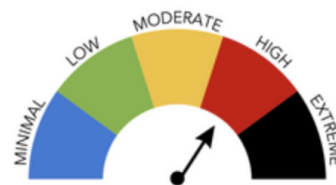
- *Travelers should reconsider travel to Niger due to anti-Western sentiment and possible terrorist attacks.* Avoid travel to Niger's border regions, particularly the Malian border area, Diffa region, and the Lake Chad region.
- Protests can erupt spontaneously and often draw a repressive response from state security forces which struggle to contain the ensuing violence. Protests are common in Niamey.

- Medical care across Niger is of a low standard with poor sanitary conditions and limited access to medication, particularly outside of Niamey.

NIGERIA

The overall threat to travelers in the Caucasus is HIGH.

Nigeria's Supreme Court [upheld](#) President Bola Tinubu's election victory following allegations of electoral fraud. President Bola Tinubu and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz met on October 29 to [continue](#) ongoing discussions about trade and investment opportunities. In early October, the government [increased](#) employee wages following labor union strikes over increased cost of living threatening to close government offices. Western areas, including Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states, face increased terror attacks and militant activity.



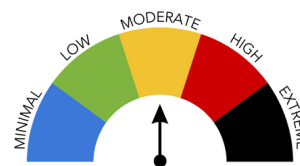
OPERATIONAL RISKS

- *Travelers should reconsider travel to Nigeria, particularly northern areas where foreign nationals are at increased risk of kidnapping.*
- *Travelers should regularly consult local media for updates on the regional situation and demonstrations in Nigeria.*

EGYPT

The overall threat to travelers in Egypt is MODERATE.

Egypt [condemned](#) Israel's continued attacks on Palestinian civilians and [threatened](#) to "limit" diplomatic ties with Israel. Earlier this month Israel [bombed](#) Egypt's border with Gaza following a warning to Gaza residents to flee. Humanitarian aid trucks have begun [entering](#) Gaza through the Rafah crossing. Egypt is expected to play a key role in peace negotiations between Israel and Palestine as the situation unfolds. The Department of State (DOS) advises [against](#) traveling to the Sinai Peninsula and Western Desert due to threats of terrorism. Separately, a multi-vehicle [crash](#) near Beheira governorate on October 28 cause 32 deaths and left 63 injured



OPERATIONAL RISKS

- *Travelers should monitor local news for updates on developing political situations especially as it relates to the humanitarian crisis in neighboring Gaza.*

OTHER KEY AREAS TO WATCH

LONDON, ENGLAND

The overall threat to travelers in London is LOW.

Large scale Pro-Palestine protests occurred throughout October with attendance [estimated](#) at more than 500,000 for some events. The large scale events resulted in [increased](#) police presence and a rise in antisemitic and Islamophobic incidents, calling into [question](#) the police's definition of extremism and response to the incidents.



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*

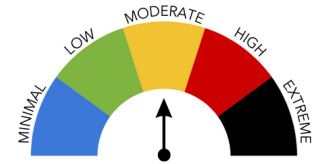
- squares and government buildings.
- Petty crimes, such as pickpocketing, purse snatching are common around tourist sites in major urban areas.

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.

MEXICO

The overall threat to travelers in Mexico is MODERATE.

Hurricane Otis, a Category 5 hurricane, hit Acapulco last week [causing](#) 100 deaths, significant damage to local infrastructure, and an increase in crime. In addition, Mexico [rejected](#) U.S. plans to add sections to the U.S.-Mexico border wall, calling it a “step backwards.” President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said he would send a diplomatic note to the U.S. to [protest](#) truck inspections in Texas which were causing significant border crossing delays. Mexico also witnessed several [protests](#) this month related to [wages](#), [inflation](#), [Palestine](#), and more.



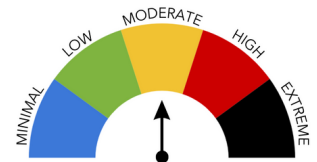
OPERATIONAL RISKS

- *Travelers should stay informed of local weather conditions and avoid areas currently witnessing heavy rain.*
- *Concentric recommends travelers remain in tourist zones, stay in well-lighted 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.

PARIS, FRANCE

The overall threat to travelers in Paris is MODERATE.

Despite a ban on protests, Paris witnessed several Pro-Palestine [protests](#) in recent weeks, which resulted in use of tear gas by police to disperse crowds. The Louvre [evacuated](#) staff and visitors earlier this month after receiving a bomb threat. Officials at the palace at Versailles also received similar threats as police continue to investigate the incidents. There has been a bedbug [outbreak](#) in Paris impacting most aspects of travel, including hotels, trains, and movie theaters.



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.

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

Concentric.

We are tracking these and other global developments across time. This assessment is based on open sources as of October 30, 2023.