ACTIVE CONFLICT ADVISORY — MARCH 2026

IRAN CONFLICT: MIDDLE EAST SECURITY ASSESSMENT

REGIONAL IMPACT & AMERICAN TRAVELER PROTECTION GUIDE

The military conflict involving Iran has created a cascade of security implications across the entire Persian Gulf and broader Middle East region. Missile threats, maritime disruptions, proxy group activations, cyber operations, and economic instability extend far beyond Iran's borders and directly impact American travelers, business executives, and expatriates throughout the region.

⚠ U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT HAS ISSUED ELEVATED TRAVEL ADVISORIES FOR UAE, QATAR, BAHRAIN, OMAN, KUWAIT, SAUDI ARABIA, JORDAN & IRAQ ⚠

KEY DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING AMERICAN TRAVELERS

BALLISTIC MISSILE & DRONE THREATS
Iranian forces and proxy groups with capability to reach Gulf state population centers, including Dubai and Abu Dhabi

STRAIT OF HORMUZ DISRUPTION
Maritime security disruptions affecting commercial shipping, energy markets, and air travel corridors over the Persian Gulf

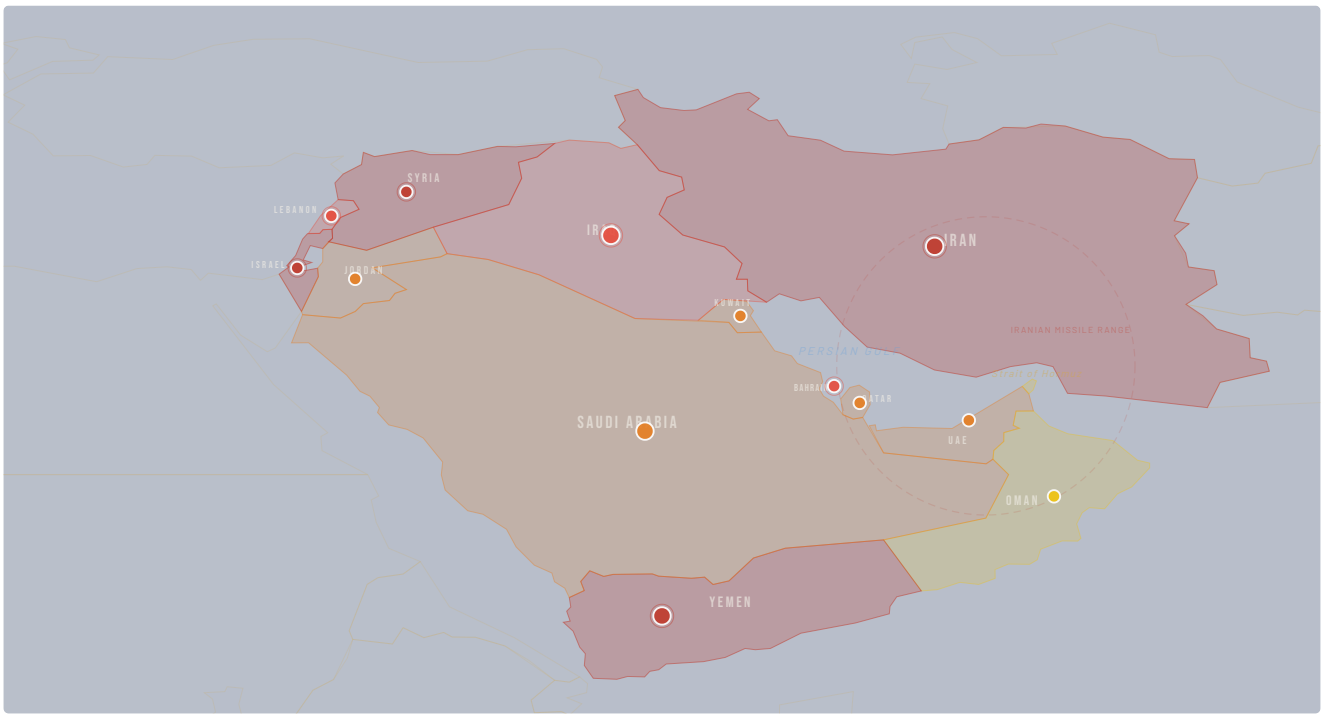
PROXY GROUP ACTIVATION
Hezbollah, Houthi, and Iraqi militias creating simultaneous security threats across multiple countries

CYBER WARFARE
Targeting critical infrastructure, financial systems, and communications networks throughout the Gulf region

AVIATION DISRUPTION
Commercial flight disruption, airspace closures, and rerouted flight paths affecting all regional travel

RETALIATORY TARGETING
Potential targeting of American citizens and interests in countries perceived as U.S. allies in the region

CRITICAL HIGH ELEVATED MODERATE



AE UAE (DUBAI & ABU DHABI) — ELEVATED

Key Risks: Dubai is ~150 miles from Iran across the Persian Gulf. Iranian ballistic missile and drone strike capability demonstrated in 2022 Houthi attacks on Abu Dhabi. Major financial hub makes it a target for economic disruption. All digital communications may be monitored.

➤ If business can be conducted remotely, postpone in-person travel. If present, engage professional EP and maintain departure readiness.

QA QATAR (DOHA) — ELEVATED

Key Risks: Hosts Al Udeid Air Base — the largest U.S. military installation in the Middle East — making it a high-priority military target. Large American expatriate community creates concentration risk. Diplomatic balancing act between U.S. and Iran creates unpredictable policy shifts.

➤ Maintain close contact with U.S. Embassy in Doha. Ensure evacuation plans don't rely solely on Hamad International Airport.

BH BAHRAIN — HIGH

Key Risks: Hosts U.S. Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT) and the U.S. Fifth Fleet. Internal sectarian tensions with significant Shia population with Iranian ties. Extremely small geography provides no distance buffer. King Fahd Causeway disruption would eliminate overland evacuation.

➤ Non-essential American personnel should strongly consider departure. Those remaining must have maritime evacuation options identified.

SA SAUDI ARABIA — ELEVATED

Key Risks: Iran's primary regional rival faces significant security implications. Previous Houthi drone and missile attacks on Saudi oil infrastructure (Aramco, 2019) demonstrated vulnerability. Americans should follow U.S. Embassy guidance closely.

➤ Exercise Increased Caution — Avoid border zones and oil infrastructure areas.

KW KUWAIT — ELEVATED

Key Risks: Hosts significant U.S. military presence and sits in close proximity to both Iran and Iraq. Iranian-backed Iraqi militia activity could create cross-border incidents. Critical infrastructure vulnerability.

➤ Maintain elevated awareness and departure readiness at all times.

OM OMAN — MODERATE

Key Risks: Maintains traditional neutrality and diplomatic relationships with Iran, offering some buffer. However, coastline along the Strait of Hormuz and Gulf of Oman creates vulnerability to maritime and overflight disruptions.

➤ Lower direct targeting risk. Monitor situation and consider as alternate departure point from UAE.

IR IRAN — CRITICAL

Key Risks: Active military operations. Wrongful detention of U.S. nationals. Risk of arbitrary arrest. Regional proxy conflict coordination center. Complete communications surveillance.

➤ DO NOT TRAVEL — No consular services for U.S. citizens.

IQ IRAQ — HIGH

Key Risks: Iranian-backed militia activity, kidnapping, IEDs, sectarian violence. Cross-border incidents with Kuwait possible. Contested regions with active instability.

➤ DO NOT TRAVEL — Extreme caution all regions.

YE YEMEN — CRITICAL

Key Risks: Houthi military operations as Iranian proxy force. Drone and missile attacks launched at Gulf states and maritime targets. Active civil war. Piracy in surrounding waters.

➤ DO NOT TRAVEL — No consular services available.

IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Take these steps immediately if you are in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Doha, Manama, Muscat, or elsewhere in the Persian Gulf

01 REGISTER & COMMUNICATE

- Enroll in STEP at step.state.gov immediately
- Contact nearest U.S. Embassy & confirm operating status
- Share exact location with a trusted stateside contact
- Establish 4–6 hour check-in protocols
- Agree on a duress code that signals danger

02 SHELTER & EVACUATION

- Identify nearest shelter or safe room in your hotel
- Know location of nearest hospital & U.S. diplomatic facility
- Determine multiple routes to the nearest airport
- Identify alternate departure points (Muscat if Dubai disrupted)
- Keep passport, medications, cash in a packed "go bag"

03 SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

- Monitor U.S. Embassy alerts & local government comms in real-time
- Avoid military installations, government buildings, oil facilities
- Stay away from large public gatherings & protests
- Note locations of missile defense systems — activation signals incoming threats
- Download local emergency alert apps

YOUR PROTECTION OPTIONS

AMERINE maintains established security networks across the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, and the wider Gulf region

FULL EXECUTIVE PROTECTION

VIRTUAL SECURITY MONITORING

CORPORATE DUTY OF CARE

- 24/7 close protection by Middle East experienced agents
- Secure ground transportation with protective drivers
- Real-time GSOC intelligence monitoring
- Emergency extraction with pre-positioned resources
- U.S. Embassy & local security coordination

- Real-time tracking & 24/7 check-in protocols
- Instant alerts on military activity near your location
- Emergency response coordination
- Medical evacuation planning
- Pre-planned evacuation routing with multiple exits

- Enterprise threat monitoring across all Gulf locations
- Employee tracking & mass notification systems
- Crisis management planning & tabletop exercises
- Group evacuation coordination
- Duty of care compliance documentation

SECURE YOUR DIGITAL LIFE

- Use a VPN on all devices (some restricted in UAE)
- Use Signal for all sensitive communications
- Travel with clean devices — not your primary phone or laptop
- Disable Bluetooth and Wi-Fi auto-connect
- Assume hotel & airport Wi-Fi is monitored by state intelligence
- Never discuss sensitive information on open channels

MARITIME & AVIATION

- 20% of world oil transits the Strait of Hormuz — disruption imminent
- Iranian & Iraqi airspace may be restricted or closed
- DXB and AUH may experience significant disruptions
- Identify alternates: Muscat (MCT), Kuwait (KWI), Amman (AMM)
- Pre-identify private aviation charter for emergency departure
- Carry a satellite communication device — cellular may fail

~150 MI	20%	24/7	8+
DUBAI TO IRAN DISTANCE	WORLD OIL VIA STRAIT OF HORMUZ	GSOC THREAT MONITORING	COUNTRIES UNDER ADVISORY

THE BOTTOM LINE

The Iran conflict has transformed the Middle East from a region requiring standard travel precautions to one demanding professional-grade security planning. This is not the time for a "business as usual" approach to Gulf travel. For Americans currently in the region: register with STEP, maintain departure readiness, establish communication protocols, and consider engaging professional security support. For those planning travel: seriously evaluate whether the trip is essential. For corporate leaders: your duty of care obligations have never been more important.

AMERINE PROTECTION

CONTACT US FOR AN IMMEDIATE CONSULTATION

Confidential threat assessments • Executive protection • Secure transport • Crisis management

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