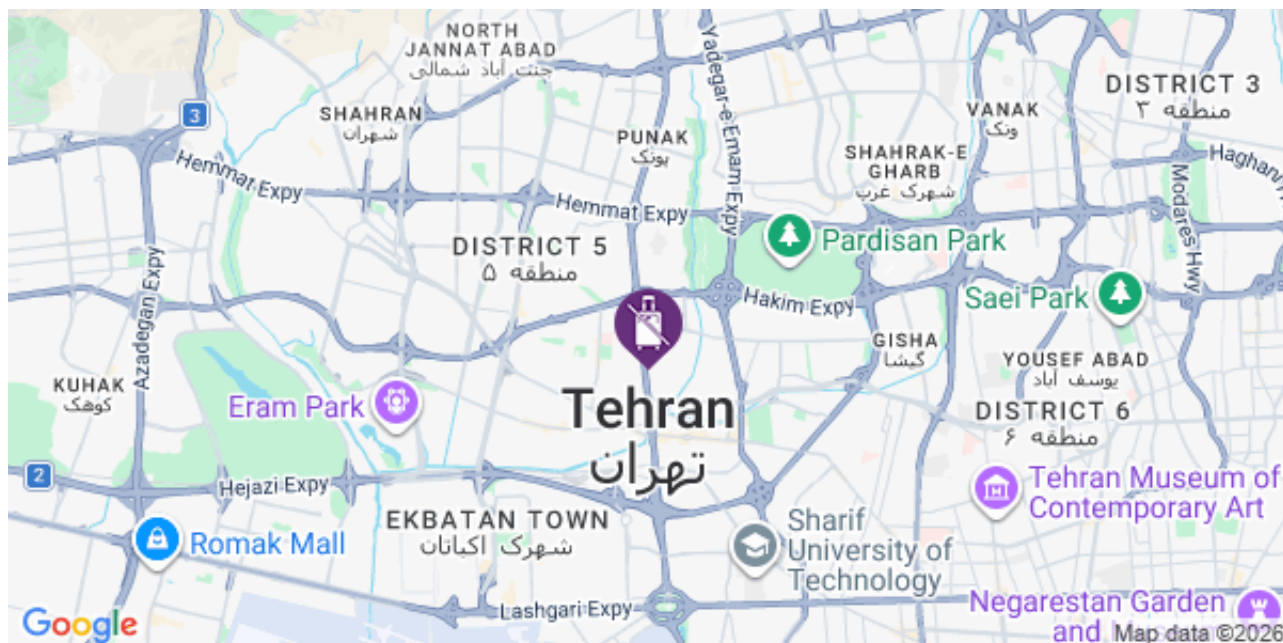


## Travel



18

JUL  
4:13 UTC

**MENA Alert (UPDATE): US issues security alert reiterating 'potential for unforeseen escalation' during early morning hours of July 18; continue to monitor regional developments**

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### Current Situation:

- The US State Department issued a security alert during the early morning hours (Gulf time) on July 18, stating that the security situation across the Middle East remains complex with the potential for “unforeseen escalation.”
- The alert advises US citizens to continue exercising caution throughout the region and to closely monitor regional developments.
- The alert also advises US citizens traveling to or through the region to reconfirm their flight itineraries and reconsider travel through or to the Middle East.

Source: [US State Department](#)

### Recommendations:

1. Throughout the region, conduct timely risk assessments, refresh security protocols and business contingency plans (BCPs) for escalation scenarios, and continuously confirm travel itineraries.
2. Avoid all travel to Iran, Yemen, Syria, and Iraq at the current juncture.
3. Avoid nonessential travel to Israel, the Palestinian Territories, Lebanon, Jordan, and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states at the current juncture and reconsider the necessity of currently planned trips.
4. Remain cognizant of elevated risks to airports in GCC states, especially in Kuwait, Bahrain, and the UAE. Conduct repeated, timely risk assessments before using commercial airports in these countries.
5. Continuously monitor official alert systems.
6. Avoid all travel to military installations in the region, especially those hosting US personnel.
7. Avoid all travel to major energy and heavy industry facilities (particularly petrochemical facilities), as well as major ports across the region, and implement precautions in such sites due to the continued threat to such infrastructure posed by Iran.
8. Avoid travel to US-linked diplomatic and academic institutions in the region amid Iranian threats to target such locations.
9. Avoid maritime travel through the Strait of Hormuz and take precautions in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman, given the risk of attacks on vessels in these waterways.
10. Avoid disseminating picture material and footage of interceptions, falling debris, and military assets on social media, as the circulation of such info is often illegal in Gulf states and may lead to prosecution.
11. MAX Security has strong on-the-ground capabilities across several arenas in MENA, including secure transportation, the provision of safe havens, and contingency consultation and planning. Contact us at [operations@max-security.com](mailto:operations@max-security.com) or +44 20-3540-0434.