

## **Travel**





Israel Tactical: US officials, including Vice President Vance, slated to visit Israel on October 20-23; allot for disruptions

## **Current Situation:**

- Israel's public broadcaster reported that several US officials are expected to arrive in Israel between October 20-23 to discuss the implementation of the Israel-Hamas ceasefire.
- Per the report, US Special Envoy Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner will arrive in Israel on October 20. According to an unconfirmed report, both individuals are slated to land at Ben Gurion International Airport (TLV) at 12:00 (local time).
- Vice President (VP) JD Vance is expected to arrive on October 21 and will stay in the country until October 23. No time for his arrival has been specified.

Source: Kan

## **Assessments & Forecast:**

- 1. While VP Vance's visit was planned prior to the flare-up recorded on October 19, amid Hamas' ceasefire violation and subsequent Israeli airstrikes, all three officials are likely to engage in talks to stabilize the agreement. No details on their itinerary have been announced at the time of writing. However, their travel to Israel will entail significant security measures given their high-profile, which can be expected to result in travel disruptions.
- 2. FORECAST: Based on precedent, this will include limited disruptions while the officials land at TLV, although this is unlikely to significantly affect or delay other passengers at the facility. The officials are most likely to visit Jerusalem for discussions with Israeli officials and Tel Aviv, potentially including a visit to Hostages Square, as indicated by an unconfirmed October 19 report that the Hostages' Family Forum has extended an invitation to VP Vance to attend the site. Travel disruptions are therefore likely in both cities, including road closures which may occur at short notice. In this context, disruptions are also plausible along Route 1, the primary thoroughfare connecting Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. This could record staggered closures to facilitate and secure convoys transporting the officials between the cities.

## **Recommendations:**

- 1. Those operating or residing in Israel on October 20-23 are advised to allot for disruptions in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and along Route 1 due to the anticipated arrival of high-profile US officials and associated security measures that will likely disrupt travel.
- 2. Remain cognizant of authorities' updates regarding road closures and other security measures that may be announced at short notice.