

Travel



22

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MENA Tactical (UPDATE): Authorities issue travel updates across region on June 21-22; adhere to authorities' instructions

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Current Situation:

Travel updates:

- On June 22, the Israel Airports Authority (IAA) announced that **Israeli airspace** is closed to inbound and outbound flights due to developments in the security situation, following US strikes on Iran. The IAA stated that land crossings on the Egyptian and Jordanian borders are operating as normal.
- On June 21, **Syrian Airlines** announced that flights scheduled for departure from Damascus International Airport (DAM) on June 22 will instead depart from Aleppo International Airport (ALP). Flights scheduled to land at DAM will continue to be diverted to ALP. The Syrian Civil Aviation Society announced the formation of a crisis cell to manage the transfer of flight operations from DAM to ALP.
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Embassy advisories:

- On June 21, the US State Department reiterated that the travel advisory to **Iraq** remains at Level 4, indicating that US nationals should avoid all travel to the country. Those operating in the country are advised to avoid large gatherings, keep a mobile device charged, and remain in contact with relatives, and enroll in the Smart Traveller Enrollment Program (STEP).
- The US Embassy in Baghdad and the Consulate in Erbil have temporarily suspended routine visa services, while consular services will remain operational.
- On June 21, the US Embassy in **Israel** stated that it had instructed all US government employees and their families to continue sheltering in place until further notice.
- On June 20, the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO) stated that it was coordinating with Israeli authorities to arrange charter flights from **Ben Gurion International Airport** as soon as airspace in the country reopens. Flights will be available depending on demand. British nationals are advised to register their presence to receive updates.

Source: [US Embassy in Baghdad](#), [UK FCDO](#), [US Embassy in Jerusalem](#)

Recommendations:

1. Within the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, remain cognizant of updates regarding airspace closures, flight cancellations, and disruptions, and reconfirm travel itineraries.
2. Adhere to the authorities' instructions and remain cognizant of further updates.
3. Refresh security protocols and take precautions to prepare for possible missile or UAV attacks throughout the region, and adhere to authorities' instructions.
4. Avoid all travel to Iraq at this juncture, given the very elevated risks of attacks against bases housing US personnel and assaults against US citizens.
5. Avoid all travel to Iran, Israel, and Lebanon at this juncture in light of the ongoing conflict and the risk of renewed flare-ups between Israel and Hezbollah.
6. Avoid travel through the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, given the potential for renewed maritime attacks by the Houthi forces in Yemen.