

MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 2022

LEGEND Travel Bulletin

AMERICAS

AFRICA & THE
MIDDLE EAST

ASIA & THE PACIFIC

EUROPE

Worldwide

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) COVID-19 UPDATE

Globally, the number of new weekly cases decreased by 24% during the week of August 8, as compared to the previous week, with over 5.4 million new cases reported. The number of new weekly deaths decreased by 6%, as compared to the previous week, with over 15,000 fatalities reported.

As of August 14, 587 million confirmed cases and 6.4 million deaths have been reported globally.

WORLDWIDE TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

For the most up-to-date information on current entry restrictions, please visit IATA's "Government Measures Related to Coronavirus (COVID-19)" website by clicking [here](#).

MONKEYPOX

The number of countries reporting monkeypox cases continues to grow. Cases of monkeypox have been confirmed in over 90 countries, some deaths have been reported. Monkeypox is a viral disease not usually present in these countries. Transmission can occur through close contact with an infected person. Investigations are ongoing into how they became infected. Travelers should prevent infection by following good hygiene measures.

FROSCHE TRAVEL RESOURCES

- [Rebooking Policies](#)
- [Health & Safety Measures](#)
- [Travel Restrictions](#)
- [Face Mask Guidance](#)

NOTEWORTHY EVENTS

- AUG 22**
 - Micronesia: Gospel Day (Kosrae) Observed
 - Portugal: Our Lady of Graces
- AUG 23**
 - Estonia: Day of Remembrance for Victims of Communism and Nazism
 - Croatia: European Day of Remembrance of Victims of Totalitarian and Authoritarian Regimes
- AUG 24**
 - Costa Rica: National Parks Day
 - Liberia: Flag Day
 - Malaysia: Birthday of the Governor of Malacca
 - Ukraine: Independence Day (Suspended)
- AUG 25**
 - North Korea: Day of Songun
 - Mongolia: Youth's Day
 - Uruguay: Independence Day
- AUG 26**
 - Sri Lanka: Public Sector Holiday
 - Namibia: Heroes' Day
 - Papua New Guinea: National Day of Repentance
- AUG 27**
 - Moldova: Independence Day
 - United States: Lyndon Baines Johnson Day
- AUG 28**
 - Georgia: Day of the Assumption of Mary
 - North Macedonia: Feast of the Assumption of Mary (Orthodox)
- AUG 29**
 - Guernsey: Summer Bank Holiday (except Alderney)
 - Gibraltar: Late Summer Bank Holiday
 - Isle of Man, Jersey, United Kingdom: Summer Bank Holiday
 - Kazakhstan: Constitution Day (extra holiday)
 - Peru: Public Sector Holiday
 - Philippines: National Heroes Day
 - Saint Helena: August Bank Holiday
 - Slovakia: National Uprising Day

Americas

UNITED STATES

CDC ENDS NEGATIVE TEST REQUIREMENT TO ENTER US

As of 12:01 AM eastern time on June 12, 2022, the CDC will no longer require air passengers traveling from a foreign country to the United States to show a negative COVID-19 viral test or documentation of recovery from COVID-19 before they board their flight.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL & PREVENTION (CDC) TRAVEL GUIDANCE FOR US CITIZENS

US citizens who are fully vaccinated with an FDA-authorized vaccine or a vaccine authorized for emergency use by the World Health Organization can travel safely within the United States and may travel internationally with close attention paid to the conditions at their destination before traveling. Fully vaccinated travelers are less likely to get and spread COVID-19; however, even fully vaccinated can potentially get and/or spread some COVID-19 variants.

There are several safe and effective vaccines that prevent people from getting seriously ill or dying from COVID-19. The Food & Drug Administration has evaluated that the following vaccines against COVID-19 have met the necessary criteria for safety and efficacy in the United States: Pfizer/BionTech, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson. The World Health Organization advises people to take whatever vaccine is made available to you first, even if you have already had COVID-19. The COVID-19 vaccines are safe for most people 18 years and older, including those with pre-existing conditions of any kind, including auto-immune disorders. These conditions include hypertension, diabetes, asthma, pulmonary, liver and kidney disease, as well as chronic infections that are stable and controlled.

MASK MANDATE ON CERTAIN AIRLINES LIFTED

On April 18, a federal judge in Florida ruled against the Biden Administrations' mandatory mask mandate for travelers on public transportation, including airplanes. As a result, Alaska Airlines (AS), American Airlines (AA), Delta Air Lines (DL), Southwest Airlines (WN) and United Airlines (UA) have now made masks optional for travelers on their aircraft. Travelers should exercise patience when traveling over the coming days, as enforcement of this change in policy may be inconsistent in the short term. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) announced it will also no longer enforce its Security Directives and Emergency Amendment requiring mask use on public transportation and in transportation hubs.

CDC SHORTENS QUARANTINE PERIOD

Given what is currently known about COVID-19 and the Omicron variant, the CDC is shortening the recommended time for isolation from 10 days for people with COVID-19 to 5 days, if asymptomatic, followed by 5 days of wearing a mask when around others. The change is motivated by science demonstrating that the majority of SARS-CoV-2 transmission occurs early in the course of illness, generally in the 1-2 days prior to onset of symptoms and the 2-3 days after. Therefore, people who test positive should isolate for 5 days and, if asymptomatic at that time, they may leave isolation if they can continue to mask for 5 days to minimize the risk of infecting others. For more information from the CDC, click [HERE](#).

UPDATED INFORMATION ON DOMESTIC TRAVEL FOR FULLY VACCINATED TRAVELERS

The US Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) has updated its recommendations for domestic travel. The CDC continues to recommend delaying travel until travelers are fully vaccinated. Travelers who are fully vaccinated with an FDA-authorized vaccine can travel safely within the United States and do not need to get tested before or after travel unless their destination requires it, nor do they need to self-quarantine. Fully vaccinated travelers should still follow the CDC's recommendations for traveling safely, including wearing a mask over the nose and mouth, staying 6 feet from others and avoiding crowds, and washing hands often or using hand sanitizer. This guidance applies to travel within the United States and its territories.

MONKEYPOX

The monkeypox outbreak has been declared a national Public Health Emergency. Monkeypox is a viral disease not usually present in the US. There is a multi-country outbreak and contact tracing and investigations are ongoing. Transmission can occur with close contact with an infected person. Travelers should prevent infection by following good hygiene measures.

SOUTHERN STATES: ARKANSAS, ARIZONA, LOUISIANA, NEW MEXICO, OKLAHOMA, TEXAS

Through at least August 24, travelers should exercise caution amid ongoing heavy rainfall in parts of the Southeast and Southwest states. The National Weather Service (NWS) has issued a flash flood threat across the southern Plains and lower Mississippi Valley until at least August 24. Flood watches have been issued for southwestern Arkansas, northern Louisiana, southern Oklahoma, and eastern Texas states. Flood warnings and advisories are in effect in south-central Arizona, and central and south-eastern New Mexico states. On August 21, flash flooding at a national park in New Mexico caused the evacuation of about 160 people. Short-notice transport disruption and power outages are possible in the affected areas.

ARGENTINA

On August 22, travelers should plan journeys accounting for a bridge blockade between Neuquen and Cipolletti. Demonstrators from the Rio Negro Provincial Picketeer Front have announced that they will block the Interprovincial Bridge beginning at 10:00 AM local time to call for better employment opportunities and social assistance. The group is also reportedly considering blocking the nearby Third Bridge, but this plan has not been confirmed. As there are few routes between Neuquen and Cipolletti, significant disruption to traffic can be expected.

On August 22, travelers should anticipate disruption in Buenos Aires during a march planned by several trade unions. Groups including the General Confederation of Labor (CGT) and the Argentine Workers Central Union are calling for measures to offset the increasing cost of living. The march will begin at 9:00 AM local time at the CGT office, then move to the Obelisk and end in front of the Ministry of Labor. The protest is expected to be well attended and may cause significant disruption in the city center.

Travelers should anticipate disruption in urban centers on August 23, 24 and August 25 due to a nationwide strike by teachers' unions. Participants will protest over salaries, inflation, and other grievances. While details on related gatherings have not been announced, they are likely to take place outside government buildings and in main public squares, including Obelisk and Plaza de Mayo in Buenos Aires. Demonstrations are likely to be well attended and cause local traffic disruption.

BELIZE

Through at least August 30, travelers should anticipate heightened security and follow official directives amid a state of emergency (SoE) in the Saint Martin de Porres area of Belize City. Authorities imposed the measure until at least August 30 in response to an increase in gang-related violence and a failure of police mediation between rival gangs. Any associated security operations and resulting clashes may pose incidental risks to bystanders.

BOLIVIA

On August 25, travelers should plan journeys in El Alto and La Paz bypassing a pro-government march. The event has been organized by labor unions. Participants will gather at 8:00 AM local time at La Ceja in El Alto and march towards Plaza San Francisco in La Paz, where they will hold a rally. While the march should pass off peacefully, it is likely to be well attended and cause local travel disruption.

CANADA

On August 22, travelers should exercise caution and anticipate weather-related disruption in Quebec province. Severe thunderstorms on August 21 have caused numerous power outages in the province, mainly in the regions of Laval, Lanaudiere, the Laurentians, and city of Montreal. Environment Canada had issued severe thunderstorms warnings and watches earlier that day. Short notice travel disruption and protracted power outages are possible due to the weather.

CHILE

Through September 13, travelers should expect heightened security in Araucania region and Arauco and Biobio provinces during an ongoing state of emergency (SoE). The SoE, which has been extended again until at least September 13, allows troops to guard roads and highways. This follows a continuing violence linked to a protracted conflict between authorities and the indigenous Mapuche community. Further security incidents are likely in the coming weeks. Travelers should follow all official directives, including any movement restrictions.

COLOMBIA

Through at least August 25, travelers should plan journeys accounting for weather-related disruption in northern and central departments. Heavy rain, flooding, and landslides have been reported in parts of Antioquia, Atlantico, Bolivar, Casanare, Cesar, Cordoba, Guaviare, Meta, Santander, and Vichada departments. The worst-hit departments thus far are Antioquia, Bolivar, Casanare, and Meta. Flooding has affected the city of Barranquilla, while landslides have killed at least two people in Antioquia department. Travelers should exercise caution and reconfirm the status of routes before setting out.

CUBA

Through September, travelers should anticipate and avoid further protests over the coming weeks over ongoing power shortages across the country. Power cuts had been previously scheduled to conserve electricity, but in recent days blackouts have been sporadic with some areas losing power for up to 18 hours at a time. Havana has seen numerous blackouts, with some lasting up to ten hours. Related demonstrations have been staged in urban centers, with gatherings increasing in frequency in recent weeks. On August 20, clashes between protesters and police were reported in Nuevitas, and at least three people were arrested.

ECUADOR

Travelers should anticipate heightened security in Guayaquil and follow all official directives amid a state of emergency (SoE). On August 14, President Guillermo Lasso declared the SoE following a bombing in the city. The government has blamed the growing violence on rivalries between organized criminal groups. The SoE is set to last until at least September 13. A task force has been constituted between the armed forces and police to counter the violence.

EL SALVADOR

Travelers should continue to expect heightened security and follow official directives in El Salvador after authorities extended the ongoing state of emergency (SoE) until August 24. The measure was initially declared on March 27, following an increase in gang-related violence in the previous days. The National Civil Police have arrested more than 34,500 suspected gang members thus far. The SoE restricts gatherings and allows for arrests without a warrant and the monitoring of communications. Any security operations and resulting clashes may pose incidental risk to bystanders.

GUATEMALA

On August 22, travelers should plan journeys bypassing an anti-government demonstration by civil society members and indigenous activists in Guatemala City. Participants will gather at Hipodromo del norte and march to the Congress building at 8:00 AM local time. While the event is expected to be peaceful, it is likely to be well attended and liable to cause local disruption.

MEXICO

Through at least August 25, travelers should anticipate flood-related disruption in Sonora state, especially in Empalme and nearby Guaymas, and plan journeys accordingly. Local reports indicate that heavy rain has caused the San Miguel River to overflow, prompting severe flooding in the two cities. A bridge collapse has closed Highway 15 between Hermosillo and Guaymas, and another collapse has closed the same highway between Empalme and Ciudad Obregon. Further rain over the coming days will exacerbate related disruption. Travelers should allow additional journey time and reconfirm the status of routes and the feasibility of road travel before setting out.

Africa & the Middle East

ANGOLA

Travelers should monitor developments and avoid gatherings linked to the country's General Elections scheduled for August 24, due to the risk of unrest and local disruption. The ruling Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) and rival National Union for the Total Independence of Angola will begin to hold rallies beginning July 9. Most gatherings are likely to pass off peacefully; however, security forces may disperse protest activity. Travelers should anticipate heightened security force presence around rallies, political party offices and government installations during the electoral period.

BURKINA FASO

Through at least August 25, travelers should plan journeys accounting for flood-related disruption in Boucle du Mouhoun region. Flooding caused by heavy rainfall has inundated roads. Authorities have closed the N1 Road between Boromo and Pa, blocking the major route connecting Ouagadougou and Bobo-Dioulasso. Further rainfall is forecast in the coming days. Travelers should reconfirm the status of routes before setting out and exercise enhanced caution while undertaking road travel.

CONGO (DRC)

On August 22, travelers should anticipate disruption during a planned march from Rutshuru to Goma. The event will be followed by a sit-in protest at the North Kivu governorate building in Goma. The demonstration has been called by several civil society organizations to denounce the government's perceived inability to tackle insecurity amid the resurgence of the M23 rebel group in North Kivu.

GHANA

On August 22, travelers should avoid a planned protest in Kumasi by the #AriseGhana activist movement over socio-economic issues. Although no details have been disclosed, potential gathering points include the Suame Circle, Kejetia Roundabout, Asafo Interchange, and the Labour Roundabout. Related demonstrations by #AriseGhana in Accra on June 28-29 turned violent after protesters clashes with police and were forcibly dispersed. Several demonstrators were also arrested. Demonstrations by the group carry an underlying potential for unrest, posing incidental risk to bystanders.

GUINEA

Travelers should anticipate and avoid further anti-government protests throughout August. Although the transitional government has announced the dissolution of the opposition National Front for the Defense of the Constitution (FNDC), the latter has said it will continue to hold demonstrations. Potential protest hotspots in Conakry includes the Kobaya, Bailobaya, Bambeto, Cosa, Hamdallaye, Koloma, Matoto and Ratoma areas. Fatal unrest was reported during protests on August 17, July 28, and July 29. There is a high risk of further unrest at gatherings, as all demonstrations are currently banned.

KENYA

On August 22, travelers should anticipate heightened security and associated disruption around the Supreme Court in Nairobi. Opposition presidential candidate Raila Odinga's Azimio La Umoja ("Resolution for Unity") coalition is due to submit a legal challenge to the August 9 presidential election results. Odinga, who was defeated by President-Elect William Ruto of the Kwanza Kenya Alliance, alleges electoral irregularities. Political tensions will be elevated, and there is a risk of local protests and unrest; any such disturbances will pose incidental risks to bystanders.

LEBANON

On August 22, travelers should avoid the Khalde Highway south of Beirut due to an ongoing fire. The blaze reportedly started early on August 22 opposite a bakery situated along the highway. Emergency services are at the scene.

LESOTHO

Travelers should expect heightened security and follow all official directives amid an ongoing nationwide state of emergency (SoE) until August 29. Prime Minister Moeketsi Majoro declared the SoE on August 16 in response to

tensions surrounding political parties' activities ahead of the October 7 General Elections. The SoE is likely to be accompanied by nightly curfews. Travelers should monitor developments and exercise enhanced caution.

MALAWI

An outbreak of cholera has been declared in Malawi, involving additional several districts. Many of the cases are in people who had traveled from Mozambique, where an outbreak is ongoing. Cholera spreads via contaminated food and water. Symptoms include vomiting and profuse, watery diarrhea which can lead to severe dehydration. Those staying in quality accommodations with access to safe food and water are at low risk; however, travelers should ensure food and water for consumption are safe and consider vaccination if likely to encounter unsanitary conditions.

NIGERIA

Travelers should continue to avoid all protests related to nationwide strikes by education workers due to the risk of unrest. The Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), after an executive council meeting on July 31, announced an extension of the ongoing strike until August 29. The walkout is linked to various issues, including salary-related grievances. Regular student demonstrations opposing the strike have involved roadblocks and clashes with police, including in Abuja and Akure. Related protests for and against the strikes are likely to intensify.

Throughout August, travelers should exercise caution and abide by a curfew order from August 11 in Karu Local Government Area, which borders Abuja. The curfew will be in effect from 10:00 PM to 6:00 AM local time until further notice in response to perceived security threats.

SOMALIA

Armed militants stormed the Hayat Hotel, near the KM4 Junction, following at least two explosions, reported to be suicide attacks, at around 7:00 AM local time on August 19. The assailants reportedly held the hotel under siege with hostages for 30 hours before security forces retook the building. At least 21 people were killed, and dozens injured during the incident. According to local media sources, the Islamist extremist group al-Shabab has claimed responsibility for the attack. The incident underscores the persistent threat posed by militancy in and the need to defer all travel.

SOUTH AFRICA

On August 23, travelers should anticipate disruption in Pretoria around a planned march by the National Union of Public Service and Allied Workers. Participants intend on marching from the health department in the Thaba Tshwane area at 10:00 AM local time to deliver a list of demands to several government offices including the Department of Social Development, the National Treasury, and the Department of Health. The march will end at the union's offices, where a night vigil will be held. This event is being held over issues including the rising cost of living. It is a precursor to the nationwide shutdown strike on August 24. The rally is expected to pass off peacefully, though local disruption is likely.

On August 24, travelers should anticipate disruption and avoid gatherings in urban centers on August 24 to protest the rising costs of basic commodities and unemployment. Several groups, including the SAFTU and COSATU trade unions, are calling for a nationwide shutdown strike on the day, demanding a plan to reduce unemployment and create Basic Income Grant to support unemployed workers. Demonstrations over socio-economic concerns are expected to be well attended and accompanied by a heightened security presence. Further nationwide protests may occur in the coming weeks if the demands of the protesters are not met.

SUDAN

Travelers should continue to avoid nationwide anti-military demonstrations throughout August due to the credible risk of violence. At least 116 people have been killed, and 5,000 injured in related unrest since the October 2021 military coup. Near-daily gatherings are continuing across major urban centers, particularly in Khartoum, Khartoum North, and Omdurman. The anti-military Khartoum Resistance Committees has called for anti-military protests on August 7, 11, 18, 22, 25 and 31. Smaller sporadic gatherings are likely to occur between such protests. Travelers should stand fast in a secure location on days when major demonstrations are planned.

Through October, travelers should anticipate intermittent weather-related disruption during the ongoing rainy season. More than 70 people have been killed, and 30 injured in heavy flooding since the start of the rainy season. An estimated 0.8 square miles of farmland has been damaged, along with hundreds of water source locations and

buildings. On August 21, authorities imposed a State of Emergency in El Gezira, River Nile, South Darfur, West Kordofan, and White Nile states. They have also warned of worsening conditions as well as food, shelter, and medical shortages in some affected areas.

Asia & the Pacific

MUHARRAM

Travelers should anticipate heightened security and associated disruption in Bangladesh and India during the Islamic holy month of Muharram through August 28. Shia Muslim processions can be expected, particularly around Ashura on August 9 and on Fridays. There is a potential for violence targeting Shia gatherings during this period, especially around imambargahs. Travelers should respect local religious and cultural sensitivities and minimize time spent around potential targets for militant attacks.

NORTH KOREAN MISSILE TEST

On August 17, North Korea reportedly fired two missiles from Onchon into the Yellow Sea. If confirmed, this would be the North's first cruise missile launch since January. This coincides with South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol's press conference to mark his 100th day in office. Further North Korean missile tests remain possible in the coming months, especially around key dates such as Day of Songun (August 25) and National Day (September 9). These incidents reflect the need for travelers to monitor related developments given the underlying tensions in the region.

AFGHANISTAN

A renewed spate of attacks on Taliban and civilian targets in Kabul highlights the persistent threat of militancy and need to defer all travel throughout August. On August 15, at least one person was killed, and nine others were injured in an explosion in the central Police District (PD) 3. The attack occurred during Taliban events marking the first anniversary of the group's return to power and the fall of the internationally recognized government. The extremist Islamic State-Khorasan (IS-K) group claimed responsibility for the attack. Other recent attacks have targeted the minority Shia Hazara community, religious sites and Taliban vehicles and personnel.

AUSTRALIA

Travelers should plan journeys accounting for disruption to rail travel in New South Wales (NSW) state in the coming weeks during a strike by the Rail, Tram, and Bus Union (RTBU) to demand safer working conditions and equipment. Union-affiliated rail workers will temporarily cease services on several lines on August 23, 25 and 31. This will likely result in travel delays due to a lack of available alternative options. Travelers should plan journeys in advance and allow additional time through August 31.

Travelers should plan journeys accounting for intermittent disruption during the ongoing winter season until the end of August. Rain and strong winds have caused disruption to electricity and road travel, as well as damage to buildings in the states of Queensland, South Australia (SA) and New South Wales (NSW), including in Sydney and Adelaide. During the season, dense fog, particularly in the morning, may cause poor visibility, resulting in ferry and flight disruption. Travelers should monitor weather conditions and reconfirm the feasibility of journeys before setting out.

BANGLADESH

Travelers should anticipate disruption throughout August during protests linked to ongoing nationwide power outages. The country is experiencing a daily power supply deficit following a significant increase in the prices of natural gas and oil. Related demonstrations led by the main opposition Bangladesh National Party took place on July 29-31, during which at least one person was killed, and 40 others injured. Further protests by political parties, civil society groups and unions can be expected in the coming days. These events should be avoided due to the risk of unrest.

CAMBODIA

Through November, travelers should plan journeys accounting for intermittent disruption to travel and essential services during the ongoing monsoon season. Flooding and landslides are possible following periods of heavy rainfall, especially in mountainous and low-lying areas, as well as Phnom Penh. Travelers should maintain flexible itineraries during this period and liaise with local contacts to reconfirm the feasibility of road journeys.

CHINA

Travelers should expect intermittent disruption during the ongoing monsoon season, which typically lasts until October. Flooding is common and may occur amid persistent rainfall in low-lying areas near water bodies. Heavy rainfall, strong winds and related disruption can also be expected in southern and eastern coastal areas. Flights at major airports, including Beijing Capital (PEK) and Shanghai Pudong (PVG) international airports, may be affected by adverse weather conditions. Travelers should maintain flexible itineraries and reconfirm the feasibility of journeys before setting out.

INDIA

Travelers should anticipate disruption during demonstrations by the Indian National Congress (INC) party between August 17 and August 28. The protests are being held over several issues, including inflation and an alleged increase in unemployment in India. Rallies will be held in all assembly constituencies across the country on August 17-23. Additionally, the party is expected to hold a large-scale rally on August 28 at the Ramleela maidan in New Delhi. Local traffic disruption is likely along key routes and intersections during this period. Authorities are expected to maintain a heightened security posture in New Delhi and other major urban centers.

Through at least August 23, travelers should plan journeys accounting for weather-related disruption. In Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh states, heavy rain is forecast at least until August 22. This is due to the formation of a deep depression (second lowest on a seven-tier scale) over the coastal areas of Odisha and West Bengal states. Severe flooding has been reported across Odisha. Separately, flooding and landslides have been reported in several parts of Himachal Pradesh state due to the ongoing monsoon season. Travelers should reconfirm the status of routes and transport in affected areas before setting out and allow additional time for travel.

Until further notice, travelers should exercise caution in New Delhi following the imposition of prohibitory orders (Section 144) in the Central Delhi district. The measures come ahead of a demonstration by the Samyukt Kisan Morcha farmer's group, which has not been authorized by police. Police have erected barricades along National Highway 44 near Singhu and National Expressway 3 near Ghazipur. Long tailbacks have been reported along both roads. Travelers should anticipate heightened security across the city. Further short-notice traffic restrictions may be implemented to mitigate potential unrest.

Through September, travelers should avoid nationwide protests by the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), an umbrella group of farmers' organizations, and anticipate associated disruption. Participants are protesting over several issues, including the government's alleged delay in delivering agricultural policy reforms. The group has announced a demonstration on August 22 at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi at 10:00 AM local time. Related protests will also take place in other states. Authorities are likely to increase surveillance and heighten security across urban centers and major railway stations ahead of these events.

INDONESIA

On August 24, travelers should anticipate disruption in Surabaya during scheduled demonstrations and plan journeys accordingly. Motorcycle taxi drivers will gather outside government offices to call for improved working conditions. The protests should pass off peacefully; however, travelers should expect a heightened security force presence and local traffic disruption around the venues.

JAPAN

Travelers should anticipate disruption during scheduled protests in Tokyo throughout August and plan journeys accordingly. The events have been organized to denounce the government's decision to hold a state funeral for former President Shinzo Abe on September 27. Abe was fatally shot by a lone assailant on July 8 during a public event in Nara city. Some 1,200 people participated in a related rally on August 16 in front of Shinjuku Station. While further such gatherings should pass off peacefully, they are likely to garner high attendance and disrupt travel in their vicinities.

Travelers should plan journeys accounting for intermittent travel disruption due to the ongoing rainy and typhoon seasons. The rainy season typically lasts until the end of July, while tropical storms will affect the country until at least October. Earlier, on May 31, authorities issued evacuation orders for 550,00 people in Naha city due to heavy rain and flooding. Further rainfall and associated flooding and landslides can be expected countrywide during this

period, especially in low-lying, riverine, and coastal areas. Travelers should follow all official directives and reconfirm the feasibility of journeys before setting out.

KYRGYZSTAN

Travelers should plan itineraries accounting for temporary closure of Batken Airport (KGZ) and Jalal-Abad Airport (JBD). The facilities will be closed from August 1 until at least November 1 for maintenance work.

LAOS

Travelers should anticipate intermittent disruption to travel and essential services during the ongoing monsoon season, which typically lasts until November. Flooding and landslides are possible following periods of heavy rainfall, particularly in provinces along the Mekong River. The passage of tropical storms is also liable to exacerbate damage and disruption during this period. Travelers should maintain flexible itineraries during the monsoon season and liaise with local contacts to reconfirm feasibility of overland journeys prior to setting out.

MALAYSIA

Travelers should anticipate intermittent disruption and maintain flexible itineraries during the country's southwest monsoon season, which usually lasts from May until October. The states that may be most impacted include Kedah, Kelantan, Malacca, Penang, Perak, Sabah, and Sarawak. While flooding, landslides and associated disruption are more protracted in rural areas, urban centers, such as Kuala Lumpur and Johor Bahru, can also be affected. Travelers should reconfirm the feasibility of journeys before setting out.

MYANMAR

Violence continues to be reported in urban centers amid heightened political tensions following the July 25 execution of four prominent anti-military activists. At least four people were killed in a shoot-out with security forces on the Ayeyarwady Bridge on August 17. This location is situated just over nine miles south of Mandalay. Further incidents can be expected. Violence is more likely around key dates, including the first anniversary of the anti-military National Unity Government's declaration of 'war' on September 7.

NEW ZEALAND

Travelers should plan journeys in Wellington bypassing an anti-government protest at 1:00 PM local time on August 23 at the Parliament Buildings. The Freedom and Rights Coalition (TFRC) activist group has called for the rally over a variety of political and economic issues. Protesters intend to hold a mock legal trial of the current government and demand that the opposition party call for a vote of no confidence. Any confrontation between demonstrators and police would pose incidental risks to bystanders. A heightened security presence and associated traffic disruption should be expected in the vicinity.

Through at least August 25, travelers should defer non-essential travel to the worst-affected areas and those under evacuation orders including parts of Marlborough, Nelson-Tasman, and West Coast regions of South Island. A State of Emergency remains in place in these regions due to extensive flooding. A heavy rain watch (lowest on a three-tier scale) remains in place for Fiordland and western Tasman. More than 1,200 households were evacuated, mostly in the northern parts of South Island as on August 20. Restoration works in the affected areas are ongoing.

PAKISTAN

On August 22, travelers should anticipate heightened security and associated disruption in Islamabad and Rawalpindi. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan (in office 2018-22) has been charged under the country's anti-terror law, for allegedly threatening the country's judiciary and police during a rally in Rawalpindi on August 20. PTI supporters protested in several urban centers on August 21-22 to denounce the charge. Heightened security has been reported in Islamabad, including near Khan's residence. Disruption to domestic communications, including mobile and internet services are likely.

Travelers should plan journeys accounting for intermittent disruption to travel and essential services during the monsoon season, which typically lasts until September. The government has warned of higher-than-usual rainfall in Punjab and Sindh provinces and have urged all local authorities to take the necessary measures. Travelers should maintain flexible itineraries and reconfirm the feasibility of journeys before setting out.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Travelers should continue to minimize non-essential movement and exercise heightened vigilance following the recent General Election. Travelers should avoid political gatherings and sensitive locations, such as political offices and government buildings, as a precaution. Prime Minister James Marape's Pangu Party and other coalition parties have formed a government with the new parliament set to reconvene on August 30. While most voting has concluded, vote-counting is ongoing in the National Capital District. The situation remains fluid and further post-election disturbances are likely.

PHILIPPINES

Through at least August 25, travelers should plan journeys accounting for disruption in parts of Luzon Island during the passage of Tropical Storm Florita. The weather system is located east of Casiguran and moving west-southwestwards. A Tropical Cyclone Wind Signal No. 2 (second lowest on a five-tier scale) has been issued for parts of Cagayan, Isabela, Quirino, and Aurora provinces. Heavy to intense rainfall is expected with winds of up to 75 miles per hour over the coming days. Flash flooding and landslides are extremely likely in the affected areas and may cause short-notice transport disruption.

SRI LANKA

On August 22, travelers should avoid a protest by trade unions in Colombo from 1:00 PM local time outside the Ministry of Energy. The protest is being held against proposed reforms by a government-owned oil company. It is expected to be well attended and cause local disruption, including along the A4. Related demonstrations are also possible near the company's headquarters in Colombo. Any unruly behavior is liable to be met with a strong police response, including the use of batons, water cannons, and tear gas. Any clashes would pose incidental risks to bystanders.

Travelers should continue to defer all travel to Sri Lanka due to the potential for further unrest and operational disruption linked to the ongoing economic crisis. Demonstrations over issues such as fuel shortages and power outages will persist in the coming weeks. Police fired tear gas and water cannon to disperse a protest march on August 18 by the Inter University Students' Federation (IUSF) at Slave Island in the commercial capital Colombo. They also arrested the convener of IUSF along with four other activists. Further protests to demand the release of the detained members are likely. Bystanders will face incidental risks in the event of any ensuing disturbances.

THAILAND

Through August 22, travelers should plan journeys in Bangkok and its environs accounting for disruption due to heavy rainfall and flash flooding. The Thai Meteorological Department (TMD) has issued a severe weather warning due to a low-pressure area moving across northern and north-eastern Thailand. The Department of Highways has cautioned that major roads such as Chaeng Watthana, Kanchanaphisek, Sukhumvit, and Vibhavadi Rangsit may be inundated. Heavy rainfall may also cause short-notice transport and infrastructure disruption.

On August 23-24, travelers should plan journeys in Bangkok bypassing planned anti-government demonstrations, due to the risk of unrest. On August 23, participants will gather from 2:00 PM local time at Victory Monument and from 5:00 PM local time at Democracy Monument to demand the resignation of Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha. On August 24, protesters will assemble from 2:00 PM local time at Nang Loeng Junction, Makkhawan Rangsan Bridge, and Thewakam Rangrak Bridge before marching towards the Government House. Travelers should anticipate a heightened security force presence at all events, which are liable to be forcibly dispersed, posing incidental risks to bystanders.

On August 8, an explosion occurred in Mueang Narathiwat district, near Narathiwat Airport (NAW). Authorities said the perpetrators were targeting security guards and flights, but no casualties were reported. Earlier, on August 6, an explosion at a security checkpoint in Tak Bai district killed a civilian and injured two others. These attacks highlight the persistent risks posed by insurgent groups in the region despite recent peace talks between Thai authorities and the separatist National Revolutionary Front (BRN) group. Further insurgent activity can be expected throughout August.

VIETNAM

Travelers should plan journeys accounting for intermittent weather-related disruption during the ongoing monsoon season, which typically lasts until November. Bouts of heavy rain and associated flooding and landslides can be expected during this period, especially in mountainous and low-lying areas in the northern and central provinces.

Flash flooding is also possible in urban areas, including Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, due to ill-equipped drainage and sewage systems. Monsoon rains may also prompt short-notice and intermittent flight disruption. Travelers should maintain flexible itineraries, avoid affected areas and reconfirm the feasibility of journeys before setting out.

Europe

LGBTQ+ PRIDE EVENTS

Travelers should anticipate disruption during LGBTQ+ Pride events across urban centers in Europe through August and plan journeys accordingly. These events are likely to be well attended and accompanied by heightened security and road closures. Counterdemonstrations by far-right groups may coincide with such events, particularly in countries where attitudes toward the LGBTQ+ community are more conservative. Meanwhile, targeted attacks against members of the LGBTQ+ community are possible. If planning to attend an event, remain alert to your surroundings.

CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS ALONG ARMENIA-AZERBAIJAN BORDER

Despite recent negotiations between Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, reports of ceasefire violations in shared border regions and Nagorno-Karabakh will continue. On August 13, Azerbaijani authorities accused Armenian forces of firing at Azerbaijani military positions in Gadabay, Kalbajar and Tovuz regions, as well as Lachin. Subsequently, Armenian authorities denied the allegation. The incident underscores the persistently high tensions and the need to avoid all travel to Armenia-Azerbaijan border regions and Nagorno-Karabakh.

ARMENIA

Travelers should continue to exercise caution in Yerevan throughout August linked to anonymous bomb threats and follow all official directives. The Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES) received multiple reports of bombs on August 2. These were reportedly planted at all the metro stations, City Hall, the National Assembly, Saint Gregory the Illuminator Cathedral, and several military and government facilities. The metro stations were evacuated during the investigation. The MES subsequently confirmed all the threats to be hoaxes. Further such incidents cannot be ruled out and are likely to cause disruption.

RUSSIA

Travelers should continue to reconfirm the status of flights to, from and within Russia amid the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict. Russian aviation authorities have repeatedly extended the closure of 11 airports and are likely to continue doing so for the duration of the conflict. The number of international flights to and from Russia has reduced amid mutual airspace closures with multiple countries. Further restrictions, flight delays and cancellations can be expected.