

TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2024

# LEGEND TRAVEL BULLETIN



AMERICAS

AFRICA & THE  
MIDDLE EAST

ASIA & THE PACIFIC

EUROPE

## Travel Reminders

### REAL ID DEADLINE EXTENDED

Travelers have until May 7, 2025 to ensure their driver's license meets REAL ID standards to board domestic flights and access certain federal facilities. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced its intent to extend the REAL ID full enforcement date by 24 months, from May 3, 2023 to May 7, 2025. Under the new regulations published to execute this change, states will now have additional time to ensure their residents have driver's licenses and identification cards that meet the security standards established by the REAL ID Act. As required by the law, following the enforcement deadline, federal agencies, including the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), will be prohibited from accepting driver's licenses and identification cards that do not meet these federal standards.

### ETIAS REQUIREMENTS DELAYED UNTIL 2025

The European Union was scheduled to launch the European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS) by 2024, however, the ETIAS has been postponed for another year, until at least 2025. Created by the European Union, the European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS) is an entry requirement for visa-exempt nationals traveling from [60 countries](#), including the US. Beginning in mid-2025, travelers will need complete a digital application to travel to one of [30 EU countries](#) for up to 90 days within a 180-day period. Currently, US travelers do not need a visa for entry to these countries. Travelers will need to apply for a visa using the [official ETIAS website](#) or mobile application; most applications will incur a small processing fee of 7 Euros.

## NOTEWORTHY EVENTS

### JUNE 25

- Croatia, Mozambique: Independence Day
- Iran: Eid-e-Ghadir
- Slovenia: Statehood Day

### JUNE 26

- Azerbaijan: Azerbaijan Armed Forces Day
- Madagascar, Somalia: Independence Day
- Romania: Flag Day
- Turkmenistan: Day of Prosecutor's Office Employees

### JUNE 27

- Djibouti: Independence Day
- Tajikistan: Day of National Unity
- Turkmenistan: Day of Turkmen Workers of Culture and Art

### JUNE 28

- Djibouti: Independence Day Holiday
- Mongolia: Election Day
- New Zealand: Matariki
- Serbia: St Vitus' Day
- Solomon Islands: Day off for Central Province Day
- Ukraine: Constitution Day (Suspended)

### JUNE 29

- Congo Democratic Republic: Independence Day observed
- Switzerland, Chile, Colombia, Germany, Italy, Malta, Peru, Portugal, Vatican City (Holy See), Venezuela, Wallis and Futuna: St. Peter and St. Paul
- French Polynesia: Autonomy Day
- Solomon Islands: Central Province Day
- Seychelles: National Day

### JUNE 30

- Central African Republic: National Payer Day
- Egypt: June 30 Revolution
- Guatemala: Army Day
- Haiti: Father's Day
- Malaysia: Sultan of Kedah's Birthday

# Americas

## **FLOOD WARNING IN PARTS OF IOWA, MINNESOTA, SOUTH DAKOTA, AND WISCONSIN**

Through June 25, travelers should exercise caution and plan journeys accounting for weather-related disruption. The National Weather Service (NWS) has issued flood warnings for parts of Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota and Wisconsin states until at least June 25. Severe flooding has been reported in parts of north-west Iowa, southern Minnesota, south-east South Dakota, and south-east Wisconsin since June 22. Such conditions could continue to disrupt air and road travel, as well as power supplies. Travelers should reconfirm the status of routes before setting out and follow official directives.

## **HIGH TEMPERATURES ACROSS SEVERAL STATES IN THE U.S.**

Throughout June, travelers should exercise caution and monitor symptoms as high temperatures are expected in several states. Exposure to excessive temperatures for a sustained period can pose health risks ranging from relatively mild rashes and sunburn to heat stroke, which constitutes a medical emergency. To prevent heat-related illnesses, minimize exposure, reduce physical activity and stay well hydrated. Travelers should know the warning symptoms of heat illness and what to do if they develop.

## **WILDFIRE IN LINCOLN COUNTY NEW MEXICO**

Through June 28, travelers should exercise caution and follow all official directives amid two wildfires in Lincoln county (New Mexico state). As of June 23, the so called 'South Fork' and 'Salt' fires that broke out near Ruidoso (New Mexico) on June 17 are 31% and 7% contained, respectively. At least two people have died and around 1,400 structures have been damaged. Evacuation orders in Mescalero Apache Reservation, Ruidoso Downs (both New Mexico) and Ruidoso remain in place. Parts of Highways 48 and 70 in the affected areas remain closed to traffic. Travelers should reconfirm the status of routes before setting out and plan journeys accordingly.

## **PRIDE EVENTS THROUGHOUT JUNE**

Throughout June, travelers should expect localized disruption during LGBTQ+ Pride events across urban centers and plan journeys accordingly. The events are likely to be well attended and accompanied by heightened security and road closures. They may coincide with counter-demonstrations by far-right groups, particularly in countries where attitudes towards LGBTQ+ people are generally more conservative. On May 17, the US State Department issued a worldwide alert to exercise increased caution due to the possibility of attacks targeting LGBTQ+ people. If planning to attend an event, remain alert to your surroundings.

## **WAR IN ISRAEL TO PROMPT PROTEST**

Travelers should continue to expect heightened security and travel disruption during demonstrations linked to the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas. There will be a heightened police presence at gatherings in major urban centers in Canada and the US following isolated scuffles between rival demonstrators. Enhanced security measures are in place around prominent Jewish and Muslim religious and cultural sites, US government buildings, and other sensitive locations. Pro-Israeli and pro-Palestinian activists have regularly assembled at major gathering points, transportation hubs, and government buildings. Major pro-Palestinian demonstrations have recently taken place at universities throughout the US, entailing scuffles with counter-demonstrators and police. Demonstrators regularly gather at events held by US government representatives. Related rallies have also been held elsewhere in the region, including Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, and Peru.

## **ARGENTINA**

On June 25, travelers should expect disruption during a 24-hour nationwide strike by transportation workers and plan journeys accordingly. The industrial action has been called by the La Fraternidad union over salary-related demands. Buses, trains, and subway services will be affected. Travelers should expect heightened demand for other forms of transportation during the strike and plan journeys accordingly.

From June 25-27, travelers should expect disruption in urban centers during demonstrations by university teachers to demand increased salaries. In the capital Buenos Aires, participants will gather at 12:00 PM at Pizzurno Palace. Associated demonstrations are likely across the country at flashpoints such as major public squares and outside university buildings. While related rallies are expected to pass off peacefully, localized disruption should be expected.

## **BRAZIL**

Throughout June, travelers should continue to defer non-essential inbound travel to areas of Rio Grande do Sul impacted by severe flooding. Travelers in affected areas should continue to monitor developments and follow official directives amid persistent infrastructure damage and disruption. Low-lying areas of Porto Alegre remain flooded, and the city's Salgado Filho International Airport (POA) remains closed indefinitely. Power and water outages persist across the state, though services are gradually being restored to the affected areas. Thus far, 169 people have reportedly been killed and at least 56 others are missing due to flooding and landslides across the state.

On April 10, 2025, the government of Brazil has moved to reinstate the visa requirement for citizens of the United States, Australia, Canada, and Japan. The visa requirement will apply to all passport holders from those countries traveling to Brazil for business, tourism, or other reasons.

## **CHILE**

Through June 28, travelers should exercise caution and plan for weather-related disruption in central and southern regions. A low-pressure weather system has brought heavy rain in recent days to Biobio, Los Lagos, Los Rios, Maule, Nuble, O'Higgins, Santiago Metropolitan, and Valparaiso regions. A substantial number of roads are currently closed because of flooding or landslides. The recent heavy rain is forecast to become lighter and more isolated. However, further precipitation may exacerbate flooding and hinder ongoing emergency response efforts in affected areas. Travelers should monitor developments and follow official directives.

## **CUBA**

Until June 30, travelers should expect further demonstrations across urban centers due to nationwide power outages and avoid them due to the risk of unrest. Residents from Las Tunas held protests late on May 10 to denounce persisting power outages and food shortages. The state power provider Union Electrica has warned power outages will likely persist until at least the end of June due to the maintenance of thermo-electric plants and a fuel shortage. During related demonstrations on March 17, authorities blocked mobile and internet connections. Power-supply disruptions will likely continue, prompting further demonstrations. Any ensuing scuffles between protesters and security forces could pose incidental risks to bystanders.

## **MEXICO**

Throughout June, travelers should exercise caution and expect heightened security amid a surge in violence across Chiapas state. Violence between criminal groups and associated security operations have intensified in rural areas, particularly in municipalities close to Tabasco state and the Mexico-Guatemala border. According to reports, thousands of people have been displaced due to recent incidents of violence. Associated violence in these areas pose incidental risks to bystanders and may cause disruption to travel.

Throughout June, travelers should expect heightened security and disruption following the June 2 general election. According to the preliminary results from the National Electoral Institute (INE), Claudia Sheinbaum - of the Sigamos Haciendo Historia coalition led by the Morena party - won the presidential election after securing between 58.3% and 60.7% of votes. Widespread unrest is highly unlikely as the losing presidential candidates have each publicly conceded the election. However, localized instances of violence could occur, primarily across high-risk and politically sensitive areas. These include Chiapas, Guerrero, Mexico, Michoacan, Oaxaca, Puebla, and Veracruz states. Celebratory gatherings by the supporters of winning candidates are likely in public squares and may disrupt nearby road travel.

## **URUGUAY**

On June 27, travelers should expect disruption during a general strike and related demonstrations linked to the anniversary of the 1973 coup. The strike, organized by the PIT-CNT union, will take place from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM and may disrupt public transportation. In Montevideo, participants will gather at Plaza Huelga General, though an exact time is unclear. Related events are also likely in other urban centers. Travelers should expect the gatherings to cause localized traffic disruption but pass off peacefully.

## VENEZUELA

Through July 28, travelers should monitor developments and expect disruption in the lead up the presidential election. Incumbent President Nicolas Maduro will seek re-election amid a significant challenge by opposition candidate Edmundo Gonzalez. Recent opinion polls indicate Gonzalez holds a considerable advantage over Maduro, though questions remain regarding the integrity of the electoral process and whether Maduro will allow a fair election and transfer of power. Despite the official campaign period commencing on July 4, gatherings in support of both Maduro and Gonzalez have been taking place and will likely intensify. Travelers should exercise caution and follow all official directives.

# *Africa & the Middle East*

## **MONSOON SEASON UNTIL NOVEMBER**

Until November, travelers should expect intermittent disruption to travel and essential services in south-east Asia during the monsoon season. Flooding is common and may occur during persistent rainfall in low-lying areas near bodies of water. The passage of typhoons may also exacerbate damage and disruption during this period. Expect heavy rain, strong winds and related disruption in coastal areas. Flights at major airports may be affected by adverse weather conditions. Travelers should maintain flexible itineraries and liaise with local contacts to reconfirm the feasibility of journeys before setting out.

## **TRAVEL WITH CAUTION DUE TO ISRAEL-HAMAS CONFLICT**

Throughout June, travelers should exercise caution near embassies and government buildings amid protests linked to the Israel-Hamas conflict. Protesters are reportedly gathering in urban centers across the region, including in Ankara, Istanbul (both Turkey), Baghdad (Iraq), Beirut (Lebanon), Amman, Aqaba (both Jordan), Rabat (Morocco), Tunis (Tunisia), and Ramallah (West Bank). Visits to Israeli embassies and consulates should proceed for essential purposes only.

## **ISRAEL**

Throughout June, travelers should expect further anti-government protests and avoid them as a precaution. On June 26, participants will gather at 7:30 PM at HaBima Square in Tel Aviv (Tel Aviv district). Participants will also gather on June 27 at 8:00 PM at the Chords Bridge and march towards Azza Street in Jerusalem. A rally will also be held at 6:30 PM on July 1 at Menora Mivtachim Arena in Tel Aviv. The event is likely to be well attended, with more than 40 organizations due to participate. Police have previously used water cannon to disperse demonstrators during related events throughout the country. Such measures and any associated disturbances pose incidental risks to bystanders.

## **KENYA**

Throughout June, travelers should expect and avoid further anti-government protests following unrest on June 18-19 in Nairobi and Mombasa (Mombasa county). Despite a police ban, activists gathered in Nairobi near the Parliament building on June 18 and in central areas of Mombasa on June 19 to denounce the proposed finance bill of 2024. Security forces used water cannon and tear gas to disperse the crowds during both rallies. Fresh demonstrations are planned on June 20 in several urban centers. Travelers should avoid all such gatherings as they may be forcibly dispersed by authorities.

Throughout June, travelers should expect periodic disruption amid planned power outages nationwide, including Nairobi, due to scheduled maintenance. Temporary disruption to cellular and internet services is possible during this period. There is also an increased risk of vehicle and residential robberies in the affected areas during the outages. Travelers should exercise enhanced caution and ensure that your accommodation is equipped to cope with the power outages.

## **NIGERIA**

On June 25, travelers should plan journeys accounting for flood-related disruption over the coming hours. The Nigerian Meteorological Agency has forecast heavy rain and thunderstorms across the country, including in the capital Abuja, until late on June 25. Heavy rain on June 23-24 caused flooding in parts of Abuja. The Lugbe area was the worst hit, with some disruption reported on Airport Road. Two people reportedly died in weather-related incidents. Adverse weather is expected to exacerbate flooding conditions and associated disruption over the coming hours. Travelers should reconfirm the status of routes before setting out and exercise enhanced caution.

Throughout June, travelers should expect transportation disruption and avoid protests linked to an indefinite ongoing strike led by Nigeria's major labor unions, the National Labour Congress and the Trade Union Congress. The industrial action began on June 3 following failed negotiations between union and government representatives over a new national minimum wage and electricity tariff hikes. Aviation sector unions also joined the industrial action and flight disruption should be expected at airports across the country through June 6. Related protests are likely in urban centers during the strike. Such events may be forcibly dispersed by police, posing incidental risks to bystanders.

# Asia & the Pacific

## MONSOON SEASON UNTIL OCTOBER

Until October, travelers should expect intermittent disruption to travel and essential services during the monsoon season in south Asia, which can persist until October. Flooding is common and may occur following persistent rainfall in low-lying areas near water bodies. Heavy rainfall, strong winds, flooding, and landslides are likely, especially in India and Nepal. The passage of tropical storms may also exacerbate disruption. While flooding and associated disruption can be more protracted in rural areas, urban flooding is also a major concern. Travelers should maintain flexible itineraries and liaise with local contacts to reconfirm the feasibility of journeys before setting out.

## INDIA TRAVEL INSURANCE REQUIREMENT FOR SCHENGEN VISAS

Throughout 2024, any Indian national in need of a visa from Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland as well as the European Union Member States of Bulgaria, Cyprus, and Romania must hold a valid travel insurance policy from an approved vendor. Visa applicants are advised to note that unapproved travel medical insurances issued by Indian insurance companies are not accepted for Schengen visa procedure. However, visa applicants may seek to obtain insurance in any other country where claims against the insurance company would be recoverable in a Schengen State.

## WAR IN ISRAEL TO PROMPT PROTEST

Throughout June, travelers should anticipate disruption during demonstrations linked to ongoing fighting in Israel and the Palestinian Territories. Such events are likely to be well attended and accompanied by a heightened police presence. Travelers should follow official directives and leave an area at the first sign of unrest.

## BANGLADESH

Throughout June, travelers should defer all journeys to St Martin's Island (Cox's Bazar district, Chattogram division) following the suspension of boats from the mainland. Local sources state that Bangladeshi boats in the Naf river have been shot at from neighboring Rakhine state (Myanmar), where a civil conflict is ongoing. Boat operators in Teknaf (Cox's Bazar) have halted passenger and cargo services accordingly. A shortage in essential supplies has also been reported on St Martin's Island. The developments highlight the persistent risk of spillover violence in border areas as the conflict in Myanmar intensifies. Travelers should expect an increase in Border Guard Bangladesh patrols along the Naf river.

## CHINA

Through June 27, travelers should defer non-essential travel to flood-affected areas outside of urban centers due to weather-related disruption in southern and eastern provinces. The China Meteorological Administration (CMA) has issued a red warning (highest on a four-tier scale) for heavy rainfall in effect in parts of Anhui, Guizhou, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangxi, Jiangsu, Shanghai, Sichuan, and Zhejiang provinces and Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region.

## INDIA

Throughout June, travelers should expect disruption linked to water shortages in New Delhi. These have affected prominent hospitals, marketplaces and upscale neighborhoods. Meanwhile, the government has announced a fine of 2,000 rupees (US\$24) for activities such as washing vehicles with a hose and utilizing domestic water supply for commercial and construction purposes. Several protests against the shortages have taken place outside government offices.

Through September 30, travelers should exercise enhanced caution in Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, and Nagaland following the extension of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA). The AFSPA has also been implemented in four districts of Asom (Assam). Previously in force until March 31, the controversial anti-insurgency legislation grants special powers to security forces in 'disturbed areas', which are at comparatively high risk due to insurgency. The extension reflects the HIGH travel risks posed by ongoing low-level ethnic insurgencies in these locations. Protests against the legislation may take place in urban centers.

Throughout the spring and summer, travelers should expect disruption due to water shortages in and around Bengaluru, with the situation likely to worsen during the summer months. Political parties, activists, civil society groups and residents have held protests over the issue. Shortages have been reported in the peripheral neighborhoods of Mahadevapura, Varthur, Whitefield, and Yelahanka which rely mostly on borewells and water tankers. Reduced supply of piped water has led to an increase in waiting times and prices for water tankers. Business parks in these areas remain unaffected, but residential areas are facing supply problems. However, business and commercial establishments are likely to be impacted.

## **JAPAN**

On June 26, travelers should expect disruption in the capital Tokyo during a pro-Palestinian demonstration. Participants will gather at 4:00 PM at Hachiko Square to protest against the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip (Palestinian Territories) and to oppose weapon exports. Travelers should expect heightened security measures and travel disruption in the area of the demonstration and follow all official directives.

Through July 7, travelers should expect localized disruption around events linked to Tokyo prefecture's gubernatorial election and the campaigning which will run until July 6. Of the more than 55 candidates, the front-runners are incumbent Governor Yuriko Koike, who is supported by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, and Renho Saito who is supported by the opposition Constitutional Democratic Party. Campaign and related events are usually held near subway and train stations or from atop candidates' vehicles. The events are authorized and well policed to minimize disruption. More than 10m registered voters will participate. Travelers should expect a heightened police presence around election-related events.

## **MALDIVES**

Throughout the spring and summer, travelers should expect weather-related disruption and plan journeys accordingly following heavy rainfall in recent days. Flooding and related road disruption has been reported in the Male, Addu city (Addu atoll), Foakaidhoo island (Shaviyani atoll), Fuvahmulah city (Fuvahmulah atoll), Guraidhoo island (Kaafu atoll) and Kaadehdhoo island (Gaaf Dhaal atoll). Baa, Felidhe, Haddhunmathi, and Northern Thiladhunmathi atolls have also experienced similar conditions. Several houses were reportedly damaged in these areas. Such weather may recur during the south-west monsoon (mid-May to November). Travelers should reconfirm the status of routes and transportation services before setting out and exercise enhanced caution.

As of June 2, travelers should follow all official directives as the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) issued an advisory for its nationals looking to travel to and living in the Maldives. The Maldivian government on June 2 passed an amendment to ban entry for Israeli passport holders. However, the measure has not yet been implemented. The MFA subsequently asked all Israeli citizens, including dual passport holders, to avoid travel to the Maldives. The MFA has also asked Israelis in the Maldives to consider leaving the country. Meanwhile, activists on June 2 held pro-Palestine protests in Male, including outside the president's office.

## **MYANMAR**

Throughout 2024, sustained fighting involving the military, ethnic armed organizations (EAOs), and anti-government People's Defense Force (PDF) groups persists in conflict zones. The Kachin Independence Army (KIA) has seized Dawthponeyan, Hsinbo, Lwegel and Sumprabum towns (all Kachin state) and 80 military outposts since March. Hostilities in general have increased since October 2023, when a coalition of EAOs launched a military offensive. Meanwhile, internet services have been restricted in Yangon (Yangon region) since May 30. Travelers should expect further fighting, highlighting the need to defer all travel to conflict zones.

## **NEW ZEALAND**

Through June 26, travelers should plan journeys accounting for weather-related disruption in the eastern areas of the North Island. The Met Service has issued orange warnings (middle on a three-tier scale) for heavy rainfall and strong winds in parts of Gisborne/Tairāwhiti and Hawke's Bay regions until June 26. Surface flooding is possible during the warning period, which could make driving conditions difficult. Additionally, a strong wind watch (lowest) has been issued for parts of the Bay of Plenty until June 26. Travelers should monitor developments and reconfirm the status of routes prior to setting out.

## PHILIPPINES

June 21-30, travelers should plan journeys in Davao City (Davao region) accounting for disruption during the cultural Duaw Davao festival. Activities are planned at Davao City Recreation Center, Rizal Park, Roxas Avenue, San Pedro Square, and USEP Gymnasium. The official announcement can be found [here](#). Authorities are likely to impose traffic restrictions during the festival, causing localized disruption near the aforementioned venues. Travelers should expect heightened security and associated disruption in the vicinities of the events.

Until October 25, travelers should expect disruption in Quezon City (Metro Manila) due to the ongoing closure of the southbound lane of the EDSA-Kamuning flyover. The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) said that the lane will be closed until October 25 for maintenance work. MMDA has advised to use alternative routes such as Mother Ignacia Avenue, Panay Avenue, Scout Albano, and Scout Borromeo if heading south towards Pasig, Makati and Taguig cities (all Metro Manila), and to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (MNL).

## SOUTH KOREA

On June 25, travelers should expect localized disruption in Daegu during events commemorating 74th anniversary of the Korean War (1950-53). The Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs has announced a ceremony from 10:00 AM at the Daegu Exhibition and Convention Centre. Over 1,300 people will reportedly attend the event. Related commemoration events are also likely to be held for veterans on the day. Travelers should reconfirm the status of nearby routes before setting out and plan journeys accordingly.

Throughout June, travelers should expect disruption in Seoul during demonstrations by several civil society groups. Protesters will gather at 4:00 PM on June 22 in front of Gwanghwamum Square Lee Soonshin Statue. They will march from there towards City Hall Station at 5:00 PM. Related gatherings will take place outside the station on June 29 at 5:00 PM. The demonstrations are being organized to demand the resignation of President Yoon Suk Yeol. Previous such demonstrations have garnered support from opposition groups. While the gatherings are likely to pass off peacefully, associated traffic disruption can be expected in their vicinities.

Throughout June, travelers should expect disruption in Seoul during an ongoing nationwide strike and related protests by healthcare workers. The action by junior doctors, which commenced on February 20, is supported by the Korean Medical Association. The latter has announced a strike followed by a rally at Yeouido Park from 2:00 PM on June 18. Hospitals under the Catholic Medical Centre will also reportedly go on a one-day strike. Following a court ruling supporting the government, most junior doctors have submitted their resignation. With protests likely to continue, police may break up related gatherings and arrest participants.

## THAILAND

As of April 19, authorities extended an ongoing State of Emergency (SoE) in parts of southern provinces for another three months. The emergency decree allows security forces to detain suspects without charge for up to 30 days. The development highlights the persistent risk posed by the ongoing southern separatist insurgency. Travelers should continue to restrict non-essential travel to High-risk areas in the south (Narathiwat, Pattani, and Yala and southern districts of Songkhla).

## VIETNAM

Throughout the summer, travelers should expect disruption due to water shortages in and around central Vietnam. The situation is likely to worsen during the summer months (May, June, and July). Authorities announced that water shortages are likely in the Central Highlands region and Binh Thuan, Khanh Hoa, Phu yen, Quang Nam, and Quang Tri. Business parks, commercial establishments, and residential areas are likely to face water supply problems.

# Europe

## JUNE IS LGBTQ+ PRIDE MONTH IN EUROPE

Throughout June, travelers should expect localized disruption during LGBTQ+ Pride events across urban centers and plan journeys accordingly. The events are likely to be well attended and accompanied by heightened security and road closures. They may coincide with counterdemonstrations by far-right groups, particularly in countries where attitudes towards LGBTQ+ people are generally more conservative. On May 17, the US State Department issued a worldwide alert to exercise increased caution due to the possibility of attacks targeting LGBTQ+ people. If planning to attend an event, travelers should remain alert to your surroundings.

### FINLAND

Through June 30, travelers should expect heightened security and disruption in Helsinki during planned protests by climate activists. Participants are protesting against the Finnish government's environmental policies. They will gather outside the Parliament House on June 25 at 3:00 PM. Further demonstrations are planned for 3:00 PM on June 28 and 1:00 PM on June 30, with exact locations yet to be announced. Travelers should expect the gatherings to pass off peacefully but cause significant traffic disruption in the center of the capital. Anticipate increased security measures around the protests.

### FRANCE

Until September 9, travelers should monitor developments and anticipate disruption in Paris linked to a planned strike by the CGT-RATP public transportation union. The industrial action is reportedly being held over a lingering salary dispute following recent negotiations between RATP and union representatives, among other issues. It is scheduled to last until September 9, notably coinciding with the holding of the 2024 Summer Olympic and Paralympic games in Paris from July 26 and August 28, respectively. Should the union move forward with the strike, travelers should expect associated disruption to public transportation and increased demand for alternative travel options in the capital.

### IRELAND

Starting June 26, travelers should expect disruption and reconfirm flights due to a planned strike by unionized pilots employed by the national carrier Aer Lingus over salary-related grievances. Participants will begin an indefinite work-to-rule action from 12:01 AM on June 26. During this action, pilots will follow official working hours and work no more than the minimum required. Another strike will take place between 5:00 AM and 1:00 PM on June 29. The airline has announced the cancellation of at least 100 flights during the strikes. Travelers should expect further cancellations during the strike and reconfirm the status of flights prior to setting out.

### PORTUGAL

On June 28, travelers should plan for travel disruption during a 24-hour nationwide strike by unionized rail workers. The walkout is linked to workers' concerns over career advancement. It is liable to impact inter and intra-city services, including in the capital Lisbon. Travelers should reconfirm travel itineraries and allow additional travel time.

### GERMANY

From June 28-30, travelers should expect heightened security measures and disruption in Essen (North Rhine-Westphalia state) during the far-right Alternative for Deutschland (AfD) party conference. At least 70,000 people are expected to participate in demonstrations against the AfD's conference. Major roads near the demonstrations will reportedly be cordoned off. Similar gatherings in the past have caused localized disruption. The police are liable to use forcible dispersal measures in the event of any scuffles or unruly behavior, posing incidental risks to bystanders.

From June 14-July 14, travelers should expect heightened security and disruption in urban centers across Germany during the European Football Championship. The event will be held in Berlin and the cities of Cologne, Dortmund, Dusseldorf, Gelsenkirchen (all North Rhine-Westphalia state), Frankfurt (Hesse state), Hamburg (Hamburg state), Leipzig (Saxony state), Munich (Bavaria state), and Stuttgart (Baden-Wuerttemberg). Authorities have stated that they will increase security force presence in and around host cities during the tournament.

## **GREECE**

On June 27, travelers should plan for disruption around the French embassy in Athens during a demonstration against the French far-right. Anti-fascist activists from 7:30 PM are due to gather outside the mission. The rally has been called in response to forecast gains for the French far-right National Rally party in the June 6-9 European election. Expect a heightened police presence and traffic disruption around the embassy. Bystanders would face incidental risks in the event of scuffles between demonstrators and police.

## **RUSSIA**

The US Department of State advises US citizens to defer travel to Russia due to the invasion of Ukraine by Russian military forces, the potential for harassment against US citizens by Russian government security officials, the singling out of US citizens in Russia by Russian government security officials including for detention, the arbitrary enforcement of local law, limited flights into and out of Russia, the Embassy's limited ability to assist US citizens in Russia, COVID-19-related restrictions, and terrorism. US citizens residing or traveling in Russia should depart immediately and exercise increased caution due to wrongful detentions. US credit and debit cards no longer work in Russia, and options to electronically transfer funds from the United States are extremely limited as a result of sanctions imposed on Russian banks. There are reports of cash shortages within Russia.