

MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2025

## 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 2026

The European Union's European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS), intended to grant entry approval for visa-exempt nationals visiting the EU for short-term stays, has had its launch [postponed to the end of 2026](#).

Currently, no action is required from travelers. The European Union will announce the precise start date for ETIAS several months prior to its implementation.

### NOTEWORTHY EVENTS

#### APR 7

- Armenia: Motherhood and Beauty Day
- Australia: Day off for Self Determination Day
- Burundi: Day off for President Ntaryamira Day
- Indonesia: Idul Fitri Joint Holiday
- Kyrgyzstan: April People's Revolution Day
- Mongolia: Health Day
- Mozambique: Mozambican Woman's Day
- Rwanda: Genocide Against the Tutsi Memorial Day
- Thailand: Day off for Chakri Day
- Turkmenistan: World Health Day
- Tanzania: Karume Day
- Vietnam: Hung Kings Festival

#### APR 8

- North Macedonia: International Romani Day (for Romani community)
- Kosovo: Day of Romas

#### APR 9

- Canada: Vimy Ridge Day
- Georgia: Independence Restoration Day
- Iraq: Baghdad Liberation Day
- Iraq: Fall of the Defunct Dictatorial Regime and the Liberation of Iraq Day
- Philippines: The Day of Valor
- Tunisia: Martyrs' Day
- Kosovo: Constitution Day of the Republic of Kosovo

#### APR 10

- India: Mahavir Jayanti

#### APR 11

- Costa Rica: Battle of Rivas
- Liberia: Fast and Prayer Day

#### APR 12

- Passover Eve
- Bolivia: Children's Day
- Sri Lanka: Bak Full Moon Poya Day

# Americas

## SEVERE FLOODING AND RELATED DISRUPTION IN THE MIDWEST, SOUTH AND SOUTHWEST US

Through April 9, travelers should exercise caution due to severe flooding and related disruption in the Midwest, South, and Southwest regions. Significant and widespread flooding has occurred following several days of heavy rainfall. The National Weather Service (NWS) issued a flood warning for multiple states and has forecasted further flooding in the coming days. Infrastructure outages are possible in the affected areas.

## INCREASED ACTIVITY OF MOUNT SPURR IN ALASKA

Throughout April, travelers should monitor developments and follow official directives in the coming weeks following increased activity at Mount Spurr volcano (Alaska state). The US Geological Survey (USGS) issued an advisory alert (lowest on a four-tier scale) after several shallow volcanic earthquakes were detected on March 30. According to the authorities, an eruption is not imminent and would be preceded by additional warning signs, allowing for advance notice.

## ELECTRONIC TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION POSTPONED FOR US PASSPORT HOLDERS

The European Union's European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS), intended to grant entry approval for visa-exempt nationals visiting the EU for short-term stays, has had its launch [postponed to the end of 2026](#).

Currently, no action is required from travelers. The European Union will announce the precise start date for ETIAS several months prior to its implementation.

## BRAZIL

Through April 8, travelers should exercise caution and expect further weather-related disruption in several states. The National Institute of Meteorology (INMET) has issued an orange alert for municipalities of Amapa, Amazonas, Ceara, Maranhao, Para, Piaui, and Roraima states until April 7. Recent heavy rains have resulted in road closures and infrastructure damage in Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro states.

## CANADA

Through April 30, travelers should check their vaccination status amid measles outbreaks in several provinces. Outbreaks of measles have been declared in Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, and Quebec provinces. Measles is caused by a highly contagious virus that spreads from person to person via infected droplets. Outbreaks occur frequently in under-vaccinated populations. Common symptoms include fever, cough, and a characteristic rash. Measles can result in serious complications, particularly when very young children, the elderly, or pregnant people are infected. Prevention is through immunization.

## COLOMBIA

Through April 14, travelers should exercise caution due to an increase in explosive attacks in Bogota. An explosion in Fontibon locality on April 2 left at least seven people injured. This is the latest in a series of attacks reported in the city. Authorities attribute these incidents to an urban terrorism strategy by criminal local gangs to assert territorial control and retaliate against non-compliant extortion victims.

## ECUADOR

Through April 8, travelers should plan journeys accounting for weather-related disruption. The National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (INAMHI) has issued red and orange warnings for thunderstorms, heavy rain, river overflows, and strong winds nationwide until 7:00 PM local time on April 7. Flooding, landslides, and power outages have been reported in several locations following recent heavy rainfall. Travelers should reconfirm the status of routes before setting out and exercise enhanced caution.

## **MEXICO**

Through April 30, travelers should exercise caution and expect heightened security in Tabasco state, including its capital Villahermosa, amid an increase in violence. Armed criminals have carried out shoot-outs, arson attacks, and roadblocks in Villahermosa and its environs. These incidents follow the detention of Adrian Rosario Vidal, a leader of a local faction of the Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG) on April 3, and highlight the ongoing threats posed by violent crime in the state.

## **PANAMA**

Through April 24, travelers should expect further protests in urban centers over controversial social security reforms and avoid them as a precaution. A march is planned in Panama City on April 24, with participants proceeding to the National Assembly. Teachers' unions held a 48-hour strike and associated protests on April 3 and 4. Further protests are likely to be well attended and carry an underlying risk of unrest, posing incidental risks to bystanders.

## **PERU**

Through April 10, travelers should exercise caution and plan journeys accounting for nationwide weather-related disruption amid a 60-day State of Emergency (SoE). The National Meteorology and Hydrology Service (SENAMHI) issued orange and yellow warnings for heavy rainfall, river overflow, sleet, and snowfall until April 10. Flooding, landslides, and road closures are likely to continue, particularly in low-lying and mountainous areas.

Travelers should plan journeys accounting for indefinite flight disruption at Francisco Carle Airport (JAU), which serves Huancayo, Jauja, and Tarma. The Chile-based LATAM Airlines, one of two carriers serving the airport, has suspended its flights at the facility until further notice, citing runway safety issues. It is currently unclear when the problem will be resolved. Travelers should contact the airline to ascertain the status of flights and plan journeys accordingly.

## **TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

Through April 13, travelers should expect heightened security following the extension of a nationwide state of emergency (SoE). The government declared the measure on December 30, 2024, in response to an ongoing surge in gang-related crime across the island of Trinidad. It extended the measure by three months on January 13. The SoE was imposed following an incident in the Laventille area of Port of Spain, in which five people were killed overnight on December 29-30, 2024. It was declared by the government in response to the increased use of high-powered automatic weapons by criminal gangs.

# *Africa & the Middle East*

## **TRAVEL TO ISRAEL AND PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO REVIEW**

Through April 30, travelers should monitor developments linked to the resumption of Hamas-Israel hostilities in the Gaza Strip. On March 18, the Israeli army resumed airstrikes and ground incursions in Gaza. Rockets have since been launched from Gaza and Lebanon towards Israel, along with missiles from Yemen. The future of the Hamas-Israel ceasefire agreement remains uncertain. Travelers should defer all travel to Gaza and areas of Israel within four miles of its borders with Lebanon, Gaza, and Syria. All travel to Israel and the Palestinian Territories should be subject to a comprehensive review.

## **MPOX OUTBREAK**

Latest update: Outbreak ongoing, now spread to Tanzania and Zambia as of April 1. Mpox infections have been increasing since their initial identification at the end of July. Mpox is a potentially severe viral disease. People can contract the virus from close contact with a sick person or contaminated objects and surfaces. Travelers should prevent infection by following strict hygiene measures and avoiding contact with sick people. Travelers should consult their doctor for an individual recommendation on vaccination.

## **ANGOLA**

Through April 7, travelers should plan journeys in Luanda province accounting for disruption caused by heavy rain and flooding. The National Institute of Meteorology and Geophysics (INAMET) has forecast continued rainfall until April 7 across the province, including in Luanda. Several structures have collapsed as a result of the adverse weather, resulting in at least two casualties. Civil protection services are assisting with water drainage and rescue operations. Travelers should reconfirm status of routes before setting out and maintain flexible itineraries.

## **COMOROS**

Through April 30, travelers should avoid mosquito bites amid an ongoing dengue outbreak in the country. Dengue is a viral disease spread through mosquito bites. It can cause a range of symptoms. Fever, headache, and a rash are common. Sometimes, dengue is severe and can have fatal complications. Those who are infants, pregnant, or have had dengue before are most likely to get a severe infection. The main way to prevent dengue is by avoiding mosquito bites. Dengue vaccines are approved in some countries. Travelers should discuss with their healthcare provider if such vaccines are recommended for their situation.

## **CONGO**

Effective January 20, authorities announced an indefinite curfew for Lubumbashi, from 12:01 AM to 05:00 AM local time. The measure aims to address the reported rise in crime and insecurity in the city. Security forces will increase their presence across Lubumbashi and establish additional checkpoints on major roads. Travelers should exercise caution and abide by the curfew.

## **GABON**

On April 7-15, travelers should expect heightened security across Gabon ahead of the April 12 presidential election, particularly in Libreville and other urban centers such as Port-Gentil. Although the security environment is expected to remain stable, travelers should defer non-essential inbound travel between April 7 and 15 as a precautionary measure. During previous electoral cycles, authorities have temporarily closed air and land borders, as well as disrupted telecommunications networks, making immediate evacuations significantly more arduous.

## **ISRAEL**

On April 7, travelers should follow official directives after a rocket attack in Ashdod, Ashkelon, and Gan Yavne. Earlier on April 6, air-raid sirens were activated after Hamas launched ten rockets from Gaza. The Israel Defense Forces claimed five of them were intercepted by air defense systems; however, at least one rocket impacted a southern area of Ashkelon, damaging buildings and injuring one person.

## NIGERIA

On April 7, travelers should expect disruption and heightened security in urban centers during planned anti-government demonstrations. Civil society organizations have called for protests to denounce recent governmental measures, including a State of Emergency (SoE) in Rivers state and perceived misuse of the Cybercrime Act. Participants will gather across major urban centers, including in Abuja from 8:00 AM local time at the National Assembly. Police are liable to forcibly disperse such gatherings, posing incidental risks to bystanders. If traveling near a protest venue, travelers should expect associated disruption and follow official directives.

Until further notice, travelers should reconfirm flights if traveling via Akure Airport (AKR) due to adverse weather conditions and related structural damage. Local news indicate multiple structural damages and equipment failures at the airport were reported due to heavy rain and thunderstorms. As a precautionary measure, the Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria has announced the temporary closure of operations until further notice. Travelers should expect residual disruption following the resumption of operations.

## TOGO

Through April 30, travelers should follow hygiene measures amid continued increase in meningitis infections. Bacterial meningitis infections have been reported in Dankpen prefecture in Kara region. Bacterial meningitis can be rapidly life-threatening. Anyone can be affected, though it is more common in infants, teenagers, and young adults. It spreads from person-to-person via infected droplets. Symptoms usually include fever, intense headache, neck stiffness, sensitivity to light, vomiting, and confusion, while a characteristic rash can also appear. It must be urgently treated with antibiotics. Travelers should prevent infection through vaccination and paying attention to hygiene. Travelers who have been in close contact with those who have contracted a meningococcal disease must be given antibiotics promptly to prevent them from getting sick.

# *Asia & the Pacific*

## **SPECIAL ADVISORY-FOLLOWING A MAGNITUDE 7.7 EARTHQUAKE IN MYANMAR**

Until further notice, travelers should defer travel to Myanmar's capital Naypyitaw and Mandalay city. This follows a magnitude 7.7 earthquake north-northwest of Sagaing city on March 28, which struck at a depth of approximately six miles. Substantial fatalities and infrastructure damage have been reported in Myanmar and Thailand, while tremors were felt in parts of Bangladesh, China, India, Laos, and Vietnam. More than 160 aftershocks of varying magnitudes, including 6.4 and 5.1 tremors, have occurred thus far. Travelers should expect further aftershocks in the coming days.

## **EXERCISE CAUTION DUE TO ORGANIZED CYBERCRIME OPERATIONS**

Travelers should remain vigilant and exercise sensible precautions due to organized cybercrime operations. Regional authorities are increasingly collaborating and intensifying security operations to counter growing transnational operations based in Southeast Asia, including in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and the Philippines. Fraudsters are known to lure victims by impersonating job agents with lucrative offers and profits, with an ulterior motive to recruit them as part of an operation or for ransom. A recent high-profile case involved a Chinese actor who was trafficked into a cybercrime compound while under the impression that he was traveling for audition.

## **MONSOON SEASON OVER THE COMING MONTHS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA**

Travelers should expect intermittent disruption to travel and essential services in south and southeast Asia over the coming months during the northeast monsoon season. The season typically begins in mid-October-November and lasts until March-April. Flooding and landslides are possible following periods of heavy rainfall, especially in mountainous and low-lying areas and even major urban centers. The passage of tropical storms is also liable to exacerbate damage and disruption, which is more protracted in rural areas. Travelers should maintain flexible itineraries and liaise with local contacts to reconfirm feasibility of overland journeys prior to setting out.

## **CYCLONE SEASON IN AUSTRALIA, SOUTH PACIFIC UNTIL SPRING 2025**

The Australia and South Pacific cyclone season takes place between November 1 and April 30. Regional meteorological agencies, including the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) in Australia and the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) in New Zealand, have forecast an average number of cyclones during the 2024-25 season. Between six to ten cyclones are forecast in the South Pacific, while 11 cyclones are forecast in Australia. Between three to four cyclones are expected to reach Category 3 or higher across the region. Travelers should maintain flexible itineraries and liaise with local contacts to reconfirm the feasibility of overland journeys prior to setting out.

## **INDIA TRAVEL INSURANCE REQUIREMENT FOR SCHENGEN VISAS**

Throughout 2025, 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.

## **AUSTRALIA**

Through April 30, travelers should ensure their vaccination is up to date amid a measles outbreak in Victoria state and Western Australia. An outbreak of measles is also affecting Melbourne. Measles is caused by a highly contagious virus that spreads from person-to-person via infected droplets. Outbreaks occur frequently in under-vaccinated populations. Common symptoms include fever, cough, and a characteristic rash. Measles can result in serious complications, particularly when very young children, the elderly, or pregnant people are infected. Prevention is through immunization.

## FIJI

Through April 30, travelers should avoid mosquito bites amid a dengue outbreak in the country. Infections are increasing and fatal cases were reported. Dengue is a viral disease spread through mosquito bites and can cause a range of symptoms. Fever, headache, and a rash are common. Sometimes, dengue is severe and can have fatal complications. Those who are infants, pregnant, or have previously had dengue are most likely to get a severe infection. The main way to prevent dengue is by avoiding mosquito bites. Dengue vaccines are approved in some countries. Travelers should discuss with their healthcare provider if vaccines are recommended for their situation.

## INDIA

On April 8-9, travelers should expect disruption in Karnataka state during planned protests by opposition parties. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) are holding protests to denounce the state government's decision to increase government contract quotas for Muslims. Participants supporting the VHP will hold a rally at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on April 8. Related demonstrations are expected to be held at district headquarters across the state. BJP supporters will march through Mangaluru on April 9, though no details have been announced yet.

From March 30 to April 12, travelers should expect disruption and heightened security during religious activities due to the Hindu festival of Navratri from March 30 - April 7 and the ongoing Islamic Holy month of Ramadan until March 31. Further key dates include the Islamic celebration of Eid-al-Fitr on March 31, Hindu festivals of Ram Navami on April 6, and Hanuman Jayanti on April 12. Unrest at religious events is possible. On March 25, clashes took place between two groups in the Jhanda Chowk area of Hazaribagh in Jharkhand state during a Hindu procession ahead of Ram Navami. Stone pelting and vandalism occurred. Police used baton charge to disperse participants.

Through September 30, travelers should exercise enhanced caution in Asom, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, and Nagaland states following the extension of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA). On March 27, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) revoked AFSPA in Dibrugarh district in Asom. The legislation grants special powers to security forces operating in 'disturbed areas', which are at risk due to insurgency. The extension reflects the risks posed by ongoing low-level ethnic insurgencies in these locations.

Until further notice, travelers should defer all travel to Manipur state, while workforce in Manipur should minimize non-essential movement. Authorities have imposed a curfew in Bishnupur, Imphal East, Imphal West, Kakching and Thoubal districts. This follows protests and widespread violence linked to the abduction and killing of six members of the local Meitei community. Curfew relaxations are being announced daily, depending on the security situation, to help locals access essential goods and services. On December 9, 2024, mobile internet and data services were restored in Bishnupur, Churachandpur, Imphal East, Imphal West, Jiribam, Kakching, Kangpokpi, Pherzawl and Thoubal districts.

## INDONESIA

Through April 30, travelers should ensure their vaccination is up to date amid an ongoing measles outbreak, with hundreds of infections reported this year. Measles is caused by a highly contagious virus that spreads from person-to-person via infected droplets. Outbreaks occur frequently in under-vaccinated populations. Common symptoms include fever, cough, and a characteristic rash. Measles can result in serious complications, particularly when very young children, the elderly, or pregnant people are infected. Prevention is through immunization.

## MALAYSIA

On April 5-27, travelers should expect heightened security and traffic disruption during the nationwide Eid al-Fitr celebration. On April 5, a gathering is planned at Melaka International Trade Center in Ayer Keroh town in Melaka state from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM local time. Around 50,000 people will attend, including Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim and several other dignitaries. The prime minister is also scheduled to attend official events in Selangor on April 6, Pahang on April 11, Kelantan and Penang on April 12, Sarawak on April 19, Perak on April 25, and Perlis on April 27. Details for these events are yet to be announced. Travelers should plan journeys accounting for traffic delays if traveling near the event locations. Travelers should follow all official directives.



## MYANMAR

Throughout 2025, sustained fighting involving the military, ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) and anti-government People's Defence Force (PDF) groups persists in conflict zones. Hostilities have increased since June 25 when a coalition of EAOs renewed a military offensive. On August 25, an alliance of resistance forces took control of Thabeikkyi in town (Mandalay region). On August 31, one person was killed and at least four others injured during bombings carried out by military jets. A bombing also took place in a monastery in Maungdaw township (Maungdaw district) on September 1. Earlier, on July 25, the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) claimed to have captured the military's north-eastern regional command headquarters in Lashio (Shan state). Meanwhile, some residents of Pyinoolwin (Mandalay region) have fled, anticipating an escalation in the conflict. Travelers should expect further fighting through the end of the year, highlighting the need to defer all travel to conflict zones.

## NEPAL

Through April 14, travelers should expect and avoid further pro-monarchy protests in Kathmandu. The opposition Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) and various other groups have called for a demonstration on April 8 in the Bhrikuti Mandap neighborhood to demand the restoration of the monarchy. Several related protests were held in recent weeks, including a violent rally on March 28 in which two people were killed and more than 120 others injured. In response to the unrest, authorities deployed the army and imposed a temporary curfew. Around 70 participants were arrested.

## PAKISTAN

On April 7, travelers should expect disruption across Balochistan province due to a shutdown strike and blockades on national highways by the Balochistan National Party (BNP). The party has called for the strike to condemn security force actions amid a protest march towards Quetta. The march was organized to demand the release of Baloch Unity Committee members protesting against alleged atrocities against the Baloch community. Travelers should expect a heightened security presence around blockades and avoid all related events. Police are liable to forcibly disperse gatherings. Clashes may occur if protesters attempt to breach security cordons and/or stage protracted sit-ins.

## PHILIPPINES

Through May 12, travelers should expect heightened security and travel disruption during rallies linked to the mid-term election campaign period, with polling scheduled for May 12. Related events, including motorcades and campaign rallies, will take place across the country. Disturbances are most likely on polling day, during vote counting and after the release of results. All political gatherings should be avoided due to incidental risks posed to bystanders.

## SAUDI ARABIA

On June 4-9, travelers should abide by entry requirements for travel during Hajj and Umrah. Each year, health requirements and recommendations are issued for seasonal workers and travelers undertaking Hajj pilgrimage or performing Umrah. This year, the holiday period will take place from June 4 to 9. All pilgrims and those undertaking seasonal work are required to have proof of meningococcal disease vaccination. Depending on their country of origin, travelers may be required to show proof of polio and yellow fever vaccination and may receive oral polio vaccination and/or antibiotics on arrival. More information is available in the Hajj and Umrah Health Requirements document, issued by the Ministry of Health.

## SOUTH KOREA

Through April 7, travelers should avoid all gatherings in major urban centers following President Yoon Suk-yeol's impeachment verdict. On April 4, the Constitutional Court upheld Yoon Suk-yeol's impeachment and removed him from office in a unanimous decision. According to the constitution, snap presidential elections must now be held within 60 days of this verdict, which is either on or before June 3. Police have sealed off the Constitutional Court area and implemented measures such as roadblocks and patrols. Heightened tensions between supporters and opponents of the president will fuel a risk of unrest at protests over the coming days. Travelers should expect heightened security and follow official directives.



Starting September 1, 2024, the Republic of Korea (ROK) government has mandated that travelers who have visited, stayed, or transited through certain regions, including certain U.S. States (Colorado, Michigan, and Texas), must submit a Q-CODE or health declaration form upon entering South Korea. Please review the complete list at the U.S. Embassy & Consulate in the Republic of Korea official website of locations that require a Q-CODE or health declaration form when entering Korea.

## THAILAND

From April 13-16, travelers should expect travel disruption during the Thai New Year holiday (known locally as the Songkran water festival). Celebrations as part of the festival will start in some places from April 7. Large gatherings are likely nationwide, particularly in Bangkok and other major cities. Business travelers should reconfirm bookings as demand for transport and accommodation may increase. There is also an increased risk of opportunistic crime during the holiday period, necessitating caution.

Through April 19, travelers should monitor persistent separatist insurgency in Southern provinces. At least seven people were injured on February 14 in an explosion near a territorial defense unit in Waeng district in Narathiwat province. This incident follows an explosion on February 7 at a police booth in Nong Chik district in Pattani province, in which at least four police officers were injured. These attacks highlight the persistent risk posed by the ongoing southern separatist insurgency. The government has extended a State of Emergency (SoE) in the three southern provinces of Narathiwat, Pattani, and Yala until April 19. Under the SoE, suspects can be detained without charge for up to 30 days.

# Europe

## ELECTRONIC TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION POSTPONED FOR US PASSPORT HOLDERS

The European Union's European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS), intended to grant entry approval for visa-exempt nationals visiting the EU for short-term stays, has had its launch [postponed to the end of 2026](#).

Currently, no action is required from travelers. The European Union will announce the precise start date for ETIAS several months prior to its implementation.

### BELGIUM

Through April 8, travelers should plan journeys accounting for disruption during a nationwide strike by railway workers. Several rail unions are organizing the strike to denounce recent reforms, including raising the retirement age for railway workers. Trains will be impacted from 10:00 PM local time on April 7 to 10:00 PM on April 8. The Eurostar railway company has already cancelled some international trains. According to local reports, the National Railway Company of Belgium (SNCB) will organize alternative services if adequately staffed.

### GREECE

On April 9, travelers should expect significant transport disruption during a 24-hour nationwide strike. Several unions are organizing the industrial action to demand salary increases and the reinstatement of mandatory bonuses. Air-traffic controllers will also participate in the strike, and most flights are expected to be cancelled on the day. A related demonstration will be held in Athens from 11:00 AM local time at Syntagma Square.

### HUNGARY

Through April 14, travelers should expect further demonstrations in Budapest related to a new law banning LGBTQ Pride events. On April 8, participants will rally at 4:30 PM local time at the Erzsébet Bridge. The event is expected to last until early on April 9. There is a potential for scuffles involving protesters, counter-demonstrators, and police during related events, posing incidental risks to bystanders.

### ITALY

On April 8-9, travelers should expect disruption and reconfirm schedules during nationwide strikes planned by several transport unions over working conditions. Intercity rail workers have called for a nationwide strike from 9:00 PM local time on April 8 to 9:00 PM on April 9. Urban rail workers have also planned a strike throughout April 9. Unionized airport and airline workers will carry out industrial action from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM on April 9. Additionally, aviation workers at Palermo Airport (PMO) will strike from 10:30 AM to 6:30 PM on the same day. Participating unions are liable to hold demonstrations in urban centers. Travelers should plan journeys accounting for disruption during the industrial action.

Throughout 2025, travelers should expect heightened security in Rome. Ongoing Catholic celebrations linked to the 2025 Jubilee Year will be held until January 6, 2026. Authorities expect more than 30 million travelers to participate in the celebrations and have deployed around 700 police units to ensure public safety. Security checkpoints have been established along key routes to the Vatican City, including on Via Ottaviano and Via della Conciliazione. Travelers should plan journeys accounting for increased security measures and associated disruption around sensitive sites, such as tourist destinations and transport hubs, and allow additional times for journeys.

### NETHERLANDS

Starting December 9, 2024, travelers should expect heightened security at all border crossings in the Netherlands following a re-introduction of increased checks. Government officials have announced that the aforementioned measures will be implemented at border crossings with neighboring Schengen countries Belgium and Germany. The measures will stay in place until June 8, 2025.

## 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.

## UNITED KINGDOM

Through May 25, travelers should plan journeys accounting for disruption to rail services every Sunday due to a strike. Railway workers represented by the Rail, Maritime, and Transport union at Avanti West Coast have announced plans to strike every Sunday starting on January 12 until May 25. The industrial action comes amid a dispute over wages and staffing. Avanti West Coast has announced reduced services will be available on Sundays during the strike.