



OVERALL COUNTRY RISK RATING

MINOR

Minor risk locations generally have a historically stable political and economic system with few or no prominent security risks or threats to the governing structure. Issues such as crime, demonstrations and unrest do not pose any notable concern for visitors, locals or general business operations. Protest actions are very rare and the few that occur are minor in scale and non-violent. Infrastructure and medical facilities are advanced and of good quality with only occasional disruptions prompted by natural or man-made hazards.

LOW

Locations with a Low threat rating are typically characterized as politically and socially stable, with few prominent security concerns. Minor socio-economic issues can contribute to occasional incidents of civil unrest and/or protest actions, although most such developments remain non-violent with few major associated disruptions to daily life and business operations. While crime is not a frequent occurrence, low levels of non-violent crime may be present. Violent crime may occur on occasion generally in a major urban area of the country. Overall infrastructure and medical facilities are advanced or of good quality with occasional disruptions caused by natural and man-made hazards.

MODERATE

Moderate risk locations experience periodic demonstrations and protests, with instances of violent civil unrest possible. These locations are typically politically stable, but developments such as socio-economic issues may periodically give rise to notable social tensions. Rates of crime are moderate, though instances of violent crime occur more frequently especially in major urban locations; while criminal incidents may occur in any area of the country, crime is not pervasive nationwide. Overall safety and security risks to individuals and businesses are moderate. Terrorism-related concerns may be present, but are not frequent occurrences. Ethnic and/or sectarian issues may exist, but do not typically manifest in serious security developments. Infrastructure and medical care may be inconsistent throughout the country, although acceptable levels can be found in the most prominent urban centers.

HIGH

Locations with a High threat rating often experience elevated rates of crime, including violent crime, that pose a concern to travelers. Political instability concerns may be heightened, and the type of government in place may present itself as an issue to foreign interests. Countries may have weak economic structures that contribute to elevated levels of unrest and protest activity. Demonstrations are common and may arise in response to a multitude of issues; response by security forces may compound problems. Terrorism, ethnic and/or sectarian issues may also be a concern; terrorism-related developments occur more frequently in High threat destinations. Localized militia or anarchist activity may also occur in these locations. The risk of, or ongoing conflict, may be an issue in High threat environments. Overall issues pose a notable risk to foreign travelers and businesses as well as the local populace. Overall medical care/facilities and infrastructure are poor and unreliable and many foreigners would need medical evacuation for serious health issues.

EXTREME

The security and/or political environment poses a significant and direct threat to travelers and business operations. Locations rated as Extreme have unstable security environments, with political instability often a major and persistent risk. The nature of the government may pose a significant risk to foreign interests, and state sponsorship of surveillance and/or censorship may be a notable concern. Extreme rated locations are affected by serious levels of conflict. Crime (including frequent or pervasive violent crime) is a serious issue as a result of inconsistent and/or ineffective security coverage. Kidnapping (for political and/or economic purposes), violent/disruptive demonstrations and civil unrest are often elevated issues as well. Travel to and within Extreme risk locations entails serious risks, particularly outside urban centers where general lawlessness may exist in the absence of an adequate security apparatus. Quality of infrastructure, or lack thereof, may also present a serious issue. Medical facilities and care may be very poor to non-existent in portions of the country and those that exist are significantly below standards even for basic medical care. Most health issues would require external medical support and any major medical emergency would likely require evacuation.

MARITIME PIRACY

Areas of concern in which acts of robbery or criminal violence are carried out against a marine vessel for political and/or financial reasons.

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