SAFETY OF 2018 SUMMER / HOLIDAY TRAVEL DESTINATIONS

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CATEGORY
Other

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Safety of 2018 Summer / Holiday Travel Destinations

Globalization has both decreased the costs of travel and increased the scale of operations for terrorist groups. Individuals can now easily and relatively affordably (at least individuals in developed countries) travel to various areas of the world for short holidays; however, the same ease of travel – along with the growth of open societies – has allowed extremist groups to target travelers in either less secure countries or in more open ones. This has created, for some, caution when traveling abroad as individuals are reticent to leave the known security infrastructure of their home country for the unknown infrastructure in another country. Nevertheless, people do and will continue to travel abroad extensively and, therefore, individuals must be cognizant of the relative risk present in their destinations. Some regions have no known or publicly disclosed terror threat; others are known to receive threats constantly.

One item that travelers ought to take note of is that in many cases, the risk of a country is not dependent on its socioeconomic status. Many developing or poorer countries have fewer publicly known threats than developed countries. For example, France and the United States, according to recent United Kingdom reports, are examples of two countries that are major targets for terrorist attacks. On the other hand, countries such as Poland, Greece, and Cyprus are not known to have current threats. Also, amongst developed countries, Germany and Belgium are likely targets along with middle income countries such as the Russian Federation and Turkey. Hungary, Malta, and Monaco are also countries with no known targets. Nations such as Italy, Austria, and Spain lack known threats; however, it is believed that they are likely preferred targets.

Outside of threats to terrorism, run-of-the-mill organized crime and violence are a threat to potential travelers. Countries such as Mexico and Jamaica – both of whom have been plagued for a long time with capricious street crime – are two places where travelers are expected to exercise additional caution to prevent themselves from falling victim to such crime. In Jamaica, for example, a state of emergency – which allows the military to assist in policing – has been extended until August in the parish that includes the popular resort destination of Montego Bay. Additionally, the United States Department of State has developed specific travel guidelines for various Mexican States to assist government officials and private travelers in protecting themselves against the country's endemic crime problems.

In some cases, falling victim to crime is a numbers game – an individual may be exercising all of the caution available and, nevertheless, fall victim to criminals or be somewhere during a terrorist attack. That said, a healthy dose of preparedness can reduce the risk of falling victim or, if one does fall victim to crime, mitigating the damage done.

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Travel advisories

RANK	LEVEL 3: RECONSIDER TRAVEL
1	Guatemala Travel Advisory
2	Guinea-Bissau Travel Advisory
3	Lebanon Travel Advisory
4	El Salvador Travel Advisory
5	Honduras Travel Advisory
6	Burkina Faso Travel Advisory
7	Burundi Travel Advisory
8	Turkey Travel Advisory
9	Nigeria Travel Advisory
10	Nicaragua Travel Advisory
11	Haiti Travel Advisory
12	Chad Travel Advisory
13	Pakistan Travel Advisory
14	Niger Travel Advisory
15	Democratic Republic of the Congo Travel Advisory
16	Russia Travel Advisory
17	Mauritania Travel Advisory
18	Cuba Travel Advisory
19	Sudan Travel Advisory
20	Venezuela Travel Advisory

RANK	LEVEL 4: DO NOT TRAVEL
1	Syria Travel Advisory
2	Mali Travel Advisory
3	Somalia Travel Advisory

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RANK	LEVEL 4: DO NOT TRAVEL
4	Afghanistan Travel Advisory
5	Libya Travel Advisory
6	South Sudan Travel Advisory
7	North Korea (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) Travel Advisory
8	Iraq Travel Advisory
9	Iran Travel Advisory
10	Yemen Travel Advisory
11	Central African Republic Travel Advisory

Source: https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/mexico-travel-advisory.html

Soundbite analytics

- In North Sinai, in August 2017, over 300 individuals were killed during an attack in the North Sinai governorate of Egypt.
- More than 10 million individuals visited Mexico during the first quarter of 2018.
- Cancun, one of the most popular destinations for Americans, 14 people were killed in less than 36 hours.
- More than one-fifth of Americans surveyed intended to travel to Mexico or the Dominican Republic for their overseas vacations.

SOURCES

1 https://chroniclelive.co.uk/news/north-east-news/how-safe-2018-holiday-destination-11548165

2 https://www.express.co.uk/travel/articles/971531/safe-holiday-summer-2018-europe-terrorism-fco-travel-advice

3 https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/mexico-travel-advisory.html

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