



IT'S A TOUGH WORLD.

MENA Borders and Travel Situation Update

March 19, 2026 | 08:00 UTC



**MAX
INTELLIGENCE**



Status Update

The ongoing war with Iran has severely disrupted regional transit, leading to operational disruptions across regional transportation hubs due to ongoing airstrikes and excessive traffic.

Land border crossings in the region are largely functioning, although the Abdali–Safwan route between Kuwait and Iraq remains closed. Increased security protocols and ongoing regional tensions are contributing to periodic congestion, resulting in delays, extended wait times, and heavy queues at several operational crossings. Additionally, private vehicle movements from Israel to Jordan via the Jordan River and Yitzhak Rabin crossings remain restricted; however, alternative modes of travel, including pedestrian crossings and bus or shuttle services, continue to operate.

Air travel across the region continues to face major disruption due to the ongoing conflict, with most Gulf states sustaining reduced and tightly managed operations. Qatar, Israel, and the UAE are still operating under capacity and security limitations, with a focus on repatriation and essential travel. Ongoing hostilities, including intermittent missile and UAV activity, have periodically impacted regional aviation operations. In Israel and the UAE interception activity has at times led to precautionary and temporary airspace restrictions. Additionally, El Al has extended the suspension of its operations until March 28.

Maritime routes across the Middle East remain operational, though transit through the Strait of Hormuz is heavily restricted, with movement limited to a very small number of vessels authorized by Iran. Additionally, two incidents were reported in the past 24 hours: one 11 NM east of Khawr Fakkan, UAE, and another 4 NM east of Ras Laffan, Qatar, highlighting the persistent threat environment and ongoing risks to commercial shipping in the region.

Logistically, strikes on gas and energy infrastructure in southern Iran have triggered a sharp retaliatory posture from the IRGC, with attacks reported on key oil and petrochemical assets across neighboring Gulf states. These include reported strikes causing fires and damage at Ras Laffan Industrial City in Qatar, impacts on refinery infrastructure in the Riyadh area and Yanbu in Saudi Arabia, disruptions at gas facilities in the UAE, including interception activity near the Al Hosn gas field, and a reported drone-related incident at the Mina Al Ahmadi refinery in Kuwait. This escalation has led to production disruptions, export constraints, and heightened alert levels across the region, further tightening supply and exacerbating market volatility.

Disclaimer: The operational status of land border crossings, airports and airspace, and seaports and maritime routes across the Middle East remains highly dynamic due to the ongoing conflict involving Iran. The information presented in this report reflects conditions only as of the time and date indicated and may change rapidly with little or no prior notice due to security developments, government directives, or operational disruptions. Travelers and operators are strongly advised to verify the status of any relevant crossing, airport, port, or transit route before departing or moving toward the crossing point. MAX Security will continue to monitor developments and update this report regularly. Our team remains available to assist clients with verification, situational updates, and operational support as required.



Land Crossings

Country 1	Country 2	Border Crossing	Country 1 to Country 2	Country 2 to Country 1	Opening Hours
Saudi Arabia	Qatar	Abu Samra / Salwa	Open	Open	Open 24/7
Saudi Arabia	Bahrain	King Fahd Causeway	Open	Open	Open 24/7
Saudi Arabia	UAE	Al Batha / Al Ghuwaifat	Open	Open	Open 24/7
Saudi Arabia	Oman	Al-Rub Al-Khali (Empty Quarter)	Open	Open	Operational delays
Saudi Arabia	Kuwait	Al-Khafji	Open	Open	Open 24/7
Saudi Arabia	Kuwait	Salmi land port	Open	Open	Open 24/7
Kuwait	Iraq	Abdali-Safwan crossing	Closed	Closed	
UAE	Oman	Hatta / Al Wajajah	Open	Open	Operational delays
UAE	Oman	Khatmat Malaha	Open	Open	Operational delays
UAE	Oman	Al Ain (Mazyad) / Hafit	Open	Open	Operational delays
UAE	Oman	Khatm Al Shiklah	Open	Open	Operational delays
UAE	Oman	Al Dara Border Crossing	Open	Open	Operational delays
Oman	Yemen	Sarfait land port	Open	Open	Operational delays
Oman	Yemen	Al Mazyunah land port	Open	Open	Operational delays
Egypt	Libya	Sallom	Open	Open	Operational delays
Israel	Egypt	Menachem Begin / Taba	Open	Open	Operational 24/7
Israel	Jordan	Yitzhak Rabin / Arava	Restricted	Restricted	Private vehicles suspended until March 23
Israel	Jordan	Jordan River / Sheikh Hussein	Restricted	Restricted	
Israel	Jordan	Allenby / King Hussein	Open	Open	Sunday-Thursday, 08:00-17:00
Jordan	Syria	Jaber / Nassib	Open	Open	Operational delays
Jordan	Iraq	Karameh / Trebil	Open	Open	08:00- 13:30
Jordan	Saudi Arabia	Omari / Mudawara	Open	Open	Open 24/7
Turkey	Iran	Gürbulak / Esendere	Open	Open	Operational delays
Turkey	Iraq	Habur (Khabur)	Open	Open	Operational delays
Turkey	Syria	Cilvegözü / Bab al-Hawa	Open	Open	07:00-19:00
Turkey	Greece / Bulgaria	İpsala / Kapikule	Open	Open	Operational delays
Armenia	Iran	Aras Agarak-Norduz	Open	Open	Open 24/7
Syria	Lebanon	Masnaa Border Crossing	Open	Open	Open 24/7

*Recommended routes in green across the row



Airports and Airspace

Country	Airspace	Airport	Airport Status	City	Operating Status
Israel	Restricted	Ben Gurion Airport (TLV)	Restricted	Tel Aviv	Select repatriation flights
		Ramon Airport (ETM)	Restricted	Be'er Ora	Select repatriation flights
		Haifa Airport (HFA)	Closed	Haifa	
Lebanon	Open	Beirut-Rafic Hariri Airport (BEY)	Restricted	Beirut	Major flight suspensions
Jordan	Open	Queen Alia Airport (AMM)	Open	Amman	Operational delays
		King Hussein Airport (AQJ)	Open	Aqaba	
		Amman Civil Airport (ADJ)	Open	Marka	
Syria	Restricted	Damascus Airport (DAM)	Closed	Damascus	The northern sector of the Syrian airspace towards Turkey is open
		Aleppo Airport (ALP)	Open	Aleppo	
		Latakia Airport (LTK)	Closed	Latakia	
		Qamishli Airport (KAC)	Closed	Qamishli	
Bahrain	Closed	Bahrain Airport (BAH)	Closed	Manama	Departures with prior approval
Saudi Arabia	Open	King Abdulaziz Airport (JED)	Open	Jeddah	Airspace bordering Iraq and the Persian Gulf is operating with limited operations
		King Khalid Airport (RUH)	Open	Riyadh	
		King Fahd Airport (DMM)	Open	Dammam	
		Prince Mohammad bin Abdulaziz Airport (MED)	Open	Medina	
Iraq	Closed	Baghdad Airport (BGW)	Closed	Baghdad	
		Basra Airport (BSR)	Closed	Basra	
		Erbil Airport (EBL)	Closed	Erbil	
		Kirkuk Airport (KIK)	Closed	Kirkuk	
		Mosul Airport (OSM)	Closed	Mosul	
Oman	Open	Al Najaf Airport (NJF)	Closed	Najaf	
		Muscat Airport (MCT)	Open	Muscat	Operational delays
		Sohar Airport (OHS)	Open	Sohar	
Qatar	Restricted	Salalah Airport (SLL)	Open	Salalah	
		Hamad Airport (DOH)	Restricted	Doha	Limited operations
		Dubai Airport (DXB)	Restricted	Dubai	Limited operations
UAE	Open	Abu Dhabi Zayed Airport (AUH)	Restricted	Abu Dhabi	Limited operations
		Ras Al Khaimah Airport (RKT)	Restricted	Ras Al Khaimah	Limited operations
		Fujairah Airport (FJR)	Restricted	Fujairah	Limited operations
		Al Ain Airport (AAN)	Restricted	Al Ain	Limited operations
		Sharjah Airport (SHJ)	Restricted	Sharjah	Limited operations
Kuwait	Closed	Kuwait Airport (KWI)	Closed	Kuwait	Recently targeted
Cyprus	Open	Paphos Airport (PFO)	Open	Paphos	Occasional disruptions
		Larnaca Airport (LCA)	Open	Larnaca	
Turkey	Open	Istanbul Airport (IST)	Open	Istanbul	
		Ankara Esenboga Airport (ESB)	Open	Ankara	Occasional disruptions
		Antalya Airport (AYT)	Open	Antalya	
Egypt	Open	Cairo Airport (CAI)	Open	Cairo	
		Sharm El Sheikh Airport (SHH)	Open	Sharm El Sheikh	
		Taba Airport (TCP)	Open	Taba	
Azerbaijan	Restricted	Nakhchivan Airport (NAJ)	Open	Nakhchivan	Southern airspace closed



Sea Routes and Ports

Sea Route	Operating Status	Port Country	Major Ports Along Route	Port Status	Notes
Straits of Hormuz	Closed	Iran	Bandar Abbas	Restricted	Struck during recent US/Israel operations; fires/damage reported
			Bandar Lengeh	Restricted	Recently struck
		Oman	Khasab	Open	Impacted by route disruption
			Sohar	Open	
		UAE	Fujairah	Open	Impacted by route disruption
			Jebel Ali	Open	
			Khalifa Port	Open	
Suez Corridor	Open	Egypt	Port Said	Open	Minor delays
			Port Fouad	Open	Minor delays
			Port Ismailia	Open	Minor delays
Red Sea & Gulf of Aden	Restricted	Egypt	Port of Suez (Port Tawfiq)	Open	Impacted by route disruption
			Port Sokhna (Ain Sokhna)	Open	
			Safaga Port	Open	
			Hurghada Port	Open	
		Saudi Arabia	Jeddah Islamic Port	Open	Elevated risk
			King Abdullah Port (KAEC)	Open	
			Yanbu Commercial Port	Open	
			Jazan Port	Open	
		Sudan	Port Sudan	Open	Operations are often limited to 06:00-22:00 due to staff
			Suakin Port	Open	
		Eritrea	Port of Massawa	Open	
			Port of Assab	Open	
		Yemen	Port of Aden	Restricted	Irregular
			Port of Hodeidah (Al Hudaydah)	Restricted	
			Port of Saleef	Restricted	
			Mocha Port (Al Mukha)	Restricted	
Somalia	Port of Berbera	Open			
	Port of Bosaso	Open			
	Port of Mogadishu	Open			



Arabian Sea & Western Indian Ocean	Open	Oman	Port of Duqm	Open	Operations disrupted after a recent drone strike and fire
			Port of Salalah	Restricted	
		Madagascar	Port of Toamasina (Tamatave)	Open	
			Port of Mahajanga (Majunga)	Open	
			Ehoala Port (Fort Dauphin / Tolagnaro)	Open	
Port of Antsiranana (Diego Suarez)	Open				
Eastern Mediterranean	Open	Israel	Port of Haifa	Open	Increased security
			Port of Ashdod	Open	Increased security
		Lebanon	Port of Beirut	Open	
			Port of Tripoli	Open	
		Syria	Port of Latakia	Restricted	Daylight only
			Port of Tartus	Restricted	Daylight only
		Egypt	Port of Alexandria	Open	
			Port of Damietta	Open	
			Port Said	Open	
			El Dekheila Port	Open	
		Cyprus	Port of Limassol	Open	
			Port of Larnaca	Open	
Turkey	Port of Mersin	Open			
	Port of Iskenderun	Open			
Persian Gulf	Restricted	Kuwait	Shuwaikh Port	Open	Partial capacity
			Doha Port	Open	
		Iraq	Shuaiba Port	Open	Partial capacity
			Um Qasr	Open	
		Khor al Zubair	Khor al Zubair	Open	
		Bahrain	Khalifa Bin Salman Port	Open	
		Qatar	Hamad Port	Open	Crew change on hold
			Ras Laffan Port	Open	Crew change on hold
			Mesaieed Port	Open	Crew change allowed
		UAE	Khalifa Port	Open	
		Iran	Bandar-e Emam Khomeini	Open	
			Bandar-e Mahshahr	Open	
			Bushehr	Open	
			Assaluyeh	Open	
		Iran	Bandar-e Emam Khomeini	Open	
Bandar-e Mahshahr	Open				
Bushehr	Open				
Assaluyeh	Open				
Saudi Arabia	King Abdulaziz Port	Open			
	Jubail Port	Open			
	Ras Tanura Port	Open			



Logistics

Country	Food	Fuel	Electricity	Internet	Water
Saudi Arabia	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal
UAE	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal
Bahrain	Normal	Constrained	Normal	Constrained	Normal
Kuwait	Normal	Constrained	Constrained	Normal	Normal
Qatar	Normal	Constrained	Normal	Normal	Normal
Oman	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal
Iraq	Normal	Normal	Constrained	Constrained	Normal
Jordan	Normal	Constrained	Normal	Constrained	Normal
Lebanon	Normal	Constrained	Constrained	Constrained	Constrained
Israel	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal
Syria	Constrained	Constrained	Constrained	Constrained	Constrained
Egypt	Normal	Normal	Constrained	Normal	Normal