

Syria Travel Advisory

Travel Advisory
August 27, 2024

Syria - Level 4: Do Not Travel

Do not travel to Syria due to the risk of **terrorism, civil unrest, kidnapping or hostage taking, and armed conflict**. Exercise increased caution due to the risk of **wrongful detention**.

Country Summary: The Fiji government is unable to provide any routine or emergency consular services to Fiji citizens in Syria.

Syria has experienced active armed conflict since 2011. No part of Syria is safe from violence. Hostage taking by armed groups, wrongful detentions, the use of chemical warfare, shelling, and aerial bombardment of civilian centers pose significant risk of death or serious injury. The destruction of infrastructure, housing, medical facilities, schools, and power and water utilities has also increased hardships inside the country.

Protests and demonstrations are quelled by government forces through aggressive tactics and protestors, activists, and political dissenters are routinely detained without access to legal representation or the ability to communicate with friends and family.

There is an ongoing risk of hostage taking of foreign nationals throughout the country. Only the Syrian government can issue a valid entry visa to Syria. Failure to obtain a legitimate entry visa directly from the Syrian government could result in detention.

Read the country information page for additional information on travel to Syria.

If you decide to travel to Syria:

- Visit our website on Travel to High Risk Areas.
- Draft a will and designate appropriate insurance beneficiaries and/or power of attorney.
- Establish a proof of life protocol with your family, so that if you are taken hostage, your family knows specific questions (and answers) to ask the hostage-takers to be sure that you are alive and to rule out a hoax.
- Leave DNA samples with your medical provider in case it is necessary for your family to access them.
- Share important documents, login information, and points of contact with family so that they can manage your affairs if you are unable to return as planned to the Republic of Fiji.
- Develop a communication plan with family and/or your employer or host organization so that they can monitor your safety and location as you travel through high-risk areas. This plan should specify who you would contact first, and how they should share the information.

- Register your trip in the MFA Diaspora site to receive Alerts and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Follow the MFA site on Facebook and Twitter/X.
- Fiji citizens who travel abroad should always have a contingency plan for emergency situations. Review the Traveler's Checklist.

Reference

- USA Government Travel Advisory site, Accessed: 27 August 2024