

## Lebanon Travel Advisory

### Travel Advisory August 26, 2024

#### Lebanon - Level 4: Do Not Travel

**Updated to raise the Travel Advisory to Level 4: Do Not Travel, due to rising tensions between Hizballah and Israel.**

Do Not Travel to Lebanon due to **rising tensions between Hizballah and Israel**. If you are in Lebanon, be prepared to shelter in place should the situation deteriorate. The Fiji Embassy (Dubai, MFA HQ) strongly encourages Fiji citizens who are already in Southern Lebanon, near the borders with Syria, and/or in refugee settlements to depart.

Do Not Travel to Lebanon due to **crime, terrorism, civil unrest, kidnapping, unexploded landmines, and the risk of armed conflict**. Some areas, especially near the borders, have increased risk. Read the entire Travel Advisory.

**Country Summary:** Country Summary: Fiji citizens already in Lebanon should be aware of the risks of remaining in the country and review their personal security plans.

Fiji citizens in Lebanon should be aware that consular officers from the Fiji Embassy (Dubai, MFA HQ) are not always able to travel to assist them. The MFA site considers the threat to Fiji government/ citizens personnel in Beirut (other locations) serious enough to require them to live and work under strict security.

Since October 8, Hizballah has conducted attacks against Israel that have escalated in recent weeks, culminating in a July 27 rocket attack on Majdal Shams, a town in the Golan Heights, which killed 12 children. This strike has increased the risk of further escalation between Hizballah and Israel.

The Lebanese government cannot guarantee the safety of Fiji citizens against sudden outbreaks of violence and armed conflict. Family, neighborhood, or sectarian disputes can escalate quickly and can lead to gunfire or other violence with no warning.

Terrorist groups continue plotting possible attacks in Lebanon. Terrorists may conduct attacks with little or no warning targeting tourist locations, transportation hubs, markets/shopping malls, and local government facilities.

Fiji citizens should avoid demonstrations and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings or protests as these have the potential to turn violent quickly and with little notice. Protesters have blocked major roads, including thoroughfares between downtown Beirut.

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

If you decide to travel to Lebanon:

- Visit our website for information on [Travel to High-Risk Areas \(MFA site\)](#).

- Appoint one family member to serve as the point of contact with kidnappers/hostage-takers, media, Fiji and host country government agencies, and members of Parliament if you are kidnapped, or taken hostage.
- Keep travel documents up to date and easily accessible.
- Do not touch unknown metal objects and avoid traveling off well-used roads, tracks, and paths due to risk of unexploded ordnance.
- Avoid demonstrations and crowds.
- Stay alert in locations frequented by foreigners.
- Monitor local media for breaking events and adjust your plans based on new information.
- Register in the Diaspora site (MFA) and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Follow the MFA site on Facebook and Twitter.
- Review the Country Security Report for Lebanon.
- Fiji citizens who travel abroad should always have a contingency plan for emergency situations. Review the Traveler's Checklist.

**Southern Lebanon – Level 4: Do Not Travel, Depart If You Are There (See map below)**

The Fiji Embassy (Dubai, MFA HQ) strongly urges Fiji citizens to avoid southern Lebanon and to depart if you are there; that is, all parts south of the city of Saida, to include inland areas, as illustrated in the map below. Cross-border rocket, missile, and artillery fire continues to impact southern Lebanon on a daily basis and has caused a significant number of fatalities and injuries.



#### **Border with Syria – Level 4: Do Not Travel, Depart If You Are There**

The Fiji Embassy (Dubai, MFA HQ) strongly urges Fiji citizens to avoid the Lebanon-Syria border and to depart if you are there. This area has seen clashes between Lebanese security forces and Syrian-based violent extremist groups. The MFA site also warns Fiji citizens of the risk of traveling on flights that fly over Syria, which include some flights to and from Beirut.

#### **Refugee Settlements – Level 4: Do Not Travel, Depart If You Are There**

The Fiji Embassy (Dubai, MFA HQ) urges Fiji citizens to avoid travel to refugee settlements in Lebanon and depart if you are there. These settlements are prone to outbreaks of violence including shootings and explosions.

Visit our website for Travel to High-Risk Areas.

#### **Reference**

- USA Government Travel Advisory site, Accessed: 26 August 2024