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MENA Borders and Travel Situation Update

March 5, 2026 | 18:00 UTC

MAX INTELLIGENCE

Status Update

Amid the ongoing war with Iran, regional transportation networks remain fragmented, with occasional operational disruptions even in open ports due to varying circumstances including airstrikes and overload.

Land borders across the region remain open, but significant operational delays have been observed at many of the crossings, and there is heightened security at sensitive borders. Preferred routes currently include the Taba Crossing between Israel and Egypt, Hatta between the UAE and Oman, and Al Khafji between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. No widescale land border shutdowns are currently confirmed.

Regional airspace remains highly constrained. Qatar, Kuwait, Iraq, and Bahrain have fully closed their airspace, while Israel's airspace is restricted to ongoing repatriation flights. Syria resumed limited air operations out of Aleppo Airport (ALP). On March 5, an Iranian UAV hit a terminal building of Nakhichevan International Airport (NAJ) in Azerbaijan, prompting the closure of the southern sector of Azerbaijani airspace. Azerbaijani authorities have since vowed retaliation against Iran, raising the prospect of further escalation along the Iran–Azerbaijan axis. Repeated explosions were also reported near Zayed International Airport (AUH) in Abu Dhabi, leading to significant delays and cancellations out of both Zayed (AUH) and Dubai (DXB).

Maritime routes throughout the Middle East remain open but heavily constrained, with the Strait of Hormuz closed due to direct threats by the IRGC. Apparent naval military operations by both Iranian and coalition forces have created bottlenecks at ports and relief routes such as those in the southeastern Indian Ocean. There remains a high likelihood of attempted Iranian attacks on energy sector transports amidst the Trump Administration announcement that they will offer improved insurance for tankers, which is expected to significantly impact energy sector supply chains in the near term. While the Persian Gulf remains officially open, Iranian threats to the Strait of Hormuz create de facto closures and significant delays and constrictions even at open ports.

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. 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	Open with 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	Open	Open	08:00 - 20:00
UAE	Oman	Hatta / Al Wajajah	Open	Open	08:00 - 20:00
UAE	Oman	Khatmat Malaha	Open	Open	Open with operational delays
UAE	Oman	Al Ain (Mazyad) / Hafit	Open	Open	Open with operational delays
UAE	Oman	Al Dara Border Crossing	Open	Open	Open with operational delays
Oman	Yemen	Sarfait land port	Open	Open	Open with operational delays
Oman	Yemen	Al Mazyunah land port	Open	Open	Open with operational delays
Egypt	Libya	Sallom	Open	Open	Open with operational delays
Israel	Egypt	Menachem Begin / Taba	Open	Open	Operational 24/7 every day
Israel	Jordan	Yitzhak Rabin / Arava	Open	Open	08:00- 20:00
Israel	Jordan	Jordan River	Open	Open	08:30- 16:00
Israel	Jordan	Allenby / King Hussein	Open	Open	08:00-15:30
Jordan	Syria	Jaber / Nassib	Open	Open	Open with 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	Open with operational delays
Turkey	Iraq	Habur (Khabur)	Open	Open	Open with operational delays
Turkey	Syria	Cilvegözü / Bab al-Hawa	Open	Open	07:00-19:00
Turkey	Greece / Bulgaria	İpsala / Kapıkule	Open	Open	Open with operational delays
Armenia	Iran	Aras Agarak-Norduz	Open	Open	Open 24/7
Syria	Lebanon	Masnaa Border Crossing	Closed	Closed	

*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)	Closed	Be'er Ora	
		Haifa International Airport (HFA)	Closed	Haifa	
Lebanon	Open	Beirut-Rafic Hariri Airport (BEY)	Restricted	Beirut	Significant operational 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	
		Aleppo Airport (ALP)	Open	Aleppo	
		Latakia Airport (LTK)	Closed	Latakia	
		Qamishli Airport (KAC)	Closed	Qamishli	
Bahrain	Closed	Bahrain Airport (BAH)	Closed	Manama	
Saudi Arabia	Open	King Abdulaziz Airport (JED)	Open	Jeddah	Airspace bordering Iraq and the Persian Gulf is closed
		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	
		Al Najaf Airport (NJF)	Restricted	Najaf	
Oman	Open	Muscat Airport (MCT)	Open	Muscat	Operational delays
		Sohar Airport (OHS)	Open	Sohar	
		Salalah Airport (SLL)	Open	Salalah	
Qatar	Closed	Hamad Airport (DOH)	Closed	Doha	
UAE	Restricted	Dubai Airport (DXB)	Restricted	Dubai	Limited operations
		Abu Dhabi Zayed Airport (AUH)	Restricted	Abu Dhabi	
Kuwait	Closed	Kuwait Airport (KWI)	Closed	Kuwait	
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	Primarily serving as a relief hub for Israelis
Azerbaijan	Restricted	Nakhchivan International Airport (NAJ)	Restricted	Nakhchivan	Southern sector 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	Daylight only / Ad-hoc
		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	Irregular / Daylight only
			Port of Saleef	Restricted	Irregular / Daylight only
			Mocha Port (Al Mukha)	Restricted	Irregular/ high risk
		Somalia	Port of Berbera	Open	
			Port of Bosaso	Open	
			Port of Mogadishu	Open	

Western Indian Ocean	Open	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	
			Shuaiba Port	Open	Partial capacity
		Iraq	Um Qasr	Open	
			Khor al Zubair	Open	
		Bahrain	Khalifa Bin Salman Port	Closed	
		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		
			Assaluyeh	Open	
		Iran	Bandar-e Emam Khomeini	Open	
			Bandar-e Mahshahr	Open	
			Bushehr	Open	
			Assaluyeh	Open	
		Saudi Arabia	King Abdulaziz Port	Open	
			Jubail Port	Closed	
			Ras Tanura Port	Restricted	

Logistics

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