CONCENTRIC

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SAUDI ARABIA & REGION
UPDATE

November 18, 2026

Over the past 48 hours, the Saudi-led coalition downed three drones and a cruise missile launched towards Riyadh and Mecca. Bahrain and U.S. forces intercepted Iranian drones aimed at a U.S. radar site November 17, and U.S. forces then struck an Iranian missile site on Qeshm Island. Kuwait and Bahrain intercepted more drones after the U.S. strike. Concentric assesses the Houthis will almost certainly continue attacks on Saudi cities and energy sites within 48 hours, and further Iranian strikes on Gulf states are likely.

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

HIGH

Aviation & travel	HIGH
Security situation	HIGH
Maritime	HIGH
Energy & supply chain	HIGH
Yemen & regional conflict	HIGH

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Aviation: No new civil aviation authority notice found. The EU air safety agency extended Gulf and Saudi conflict-zone warnings; the Gulf bulletin runs to January 31, 2027.

Carriers: Etihad extended Riyadh and Dammam cancellations to November 30; flydubai suspended Riyadh and Abha to November 27 and cut Dammam flights.

Maritime: Projectiles hit a tanker twice off Khasab; a separate attack on a UAE oil firm vessel left one missing and 11 injured. Iran's mine claims are unverified.

Borders: Concentric found no new closures. The latest U.S. Mission alert, November 13, said all land crossings, including the King Fahd Causeway, remained open.

U.S./U.K. Travel Alerts: No change to advice. U.K. advice still current November 17; no new U.S. Mission Saudi Arabia alert since November 13.

CARRIER STATUS

PASSENGER AIRLINES SERVING SAUDI ARABIA

	Airline	Status	Scope	Until (as stated)
NEW	Air France-KLM	SUSPENDED	Air France: Riyadh until Dec 12. KLM: Riyadh and Dammam until Dec 27	Dec 27 (KLM)
	Air India, AI Express	SUSPENDED	Riyadh, Dammam suspended until Nov 30; Jeddah until Nov 21	Nov 30 (Riyadh)
	Akasa Air	SUSPENDED	Jeddah and Riyadh suspended until Nov 30	Nov 30
	Cathay Pacific	SUSPENDED	Riyadh and Dubai passenger flights canceled	Jan 31, 2027
NEW	Etihad Airways	SUSPENDED	Riyadh and Dammam canceled until Nov 30; Jeddah services resumed Nov 6	Nov 30
	IndiGo	SUSPENDED	Jeddah, Medina canceled to Nov 21; Riyadh, Dammam to Nov 30	Nov 30 (Riyadh)
NEW	Lufthansa Group	SUSPENDED	Riyadh and Dammam until Jan 7, 2027; Eurowings Jeddah restart Dec 17	Jan 7, 2027
	SriLankan Airlines	SUSPENDED	Riyadh remains suspended, per Gulf News; no restart date found	Not stated
	Air Arabia	RESTRICTED	Riyadh partial, Abha canceled Nov 18; Dammam, Jeddah operating	No date given
	Emirates	RESTRICTED	Riyadh, Dammam status unavailable Nov 18; Jeddah, Medina operating	Not stated
NEW	flydubai	RESTRICTED	Riyadh, Abha suspended to Nov 27; Dammam reduced; Jeddah operating	Nov 27 (Riyadh)
	Oman Air	RESTRICTED	Riyadh suspension to Nov 7 lapsed; restart not confirmed; Dammam operating	Nov 7 (lapsed)
	Qatar Airways	RESTRICTED	Riyadh and Dammam daily flights resumed Nov 13–14; Abha, Taif suspended	Not stated
	Saudia	RESTRICTED	KKIA reopened to national carriers Oct 25; Jeddah and Dammam operating	Not stated
	Gulf Air	OPERATING	Riyadh service resumed, per Gulf News; no airline statement found	Not stated

NEW Updated in the past 48 hours

Sources: Gulf News (Nov 13–18); Lufthansa, CAPA (Nov 12); Air India (Nov 13); Akasa (Nov 12); IndiGo (Nov 10); Expeditors (Nov 4); Oman Air (Oct 31).

TRAVEL ADVISORIES

U.K. AND U.S. GOVERNMENT STANDING ADVICE ON SAUDI ARABIA

U.K. FCDO

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

AGAINST ALL TRAVEL TO PARTS

AGAINST ALL BUT ESSENTIAL TRAVEL ELSEWHERE

Latest update: October 27, 2026
Still current: November 17, 2026

- **Against All travel:** within 10km of the border with Yemen.
- **All but essential travel:** all of Saudi Arabia beyond the border zone, including all airports; previously listed areas only.
- **King Khalid International Airport:** continues to be targeted and remains at risk of further attacks.
- **Leaving:** consider traveling by land to a neighboring country and flying from there.
- **In country:** follow Civil Defense alerts, do not film incidents, avoid oil and military sites, and shelter indoors.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Travel Advisory and U.S. Mission Saudi Arabia alerts

LEVEL 3: RECONSIDER TRAVEL

LEVEL 4: DO NOT TRAVEL · YEMEN BORDER

Advisory issued: October 23, 2026
Latest U.S. Mission alert: November 13, 2026

- **Risks:** missile and drone attacks, Iranian targeting of U.S. officials, terrorism, exit bans, and social media laws.
- **Airports:** staff need Chief of Mission authorization to use any Saudi airport; KKIA partially reopened October 25.
- **Movement:** no staff travel within 20 miles of Yemen; Jizan, Asir, Najran, Qatif, Yanbu, and Taif need authorization.
- **Local laws:** authorities have detained U.S. citizens for photographing airports, government buildings, and impact sites.
- **Ordered departure:** non-emergency U.S. staff and families told to leave; announced October 21, formalized October 23.

Sources: GOV.UK FCDO, October 27 (still current November 17); travel.state.gov, October 23; U.S. Mission alert, November 13.

SITUATION MAP

STRIKES, INTERCEPTIONS, AND VESSEL ATTACKS · NOVEMBER 14–18



KEY

- Missile or drone strike
- Missile or drone intercepted
- Vessel struck
- Land border crossing
- Claimed, not verified
- Reported in the last 48 hours

LAST 48 HOURS NOV 16–18

1. **Nov 17–18:** Kuwait: drones intercepted; Iran claims air base strike
2. **Nov 17–18:** Bahrain: Iranian drones downed; U.S. denies radar hit
3. **Nov 16–18:** Riyadh region: two drones, one cruise missile downed
4. **Nov 17:** Hormuz: UAE oil firm vessel struck; one missing, 11 injured
5. **Nov 17:** Qeshm Island, Iran: U.S. strike on missile site
6. **Nov 17:** Pipeline, Sharurah: Houthis claim drone hits; unverified
7. **Nov 16–17:** North of Khasab: tanker struck twice; one crew missing
8. **Nov 16–17:** East of Hormuz: Iran claims tankers hit mines; unverified
9. **Nov 16:** Mecca region: one drone downed

EARLIER NOV 14–16

10. **Nov 15–16:** Hormuz: two tankers struck; crews safe
11. **Nov 15:** Bahrain: Iranian drones downed; Iran claims U.S. radar hit
12. **Nov 15:** Riyadh, pipeline: Houthis claim airport, station hits; unverified
13. **Nov 15:** Eastern Province: three drones downed
14. **Nov 15:** Medina, Mecca regions: three drones downed
15. **Nov 15:** Hormuz: Iran claims two tankers hit mines, one sank; unverified
16. **Nov 14–15:** Riyadh, south: two missiles, two drones downed; alert lifted

Sources: Saudi-led coalition, CENTCOM, Bahrain and Kuwait militaries, Houthi and Iranian officials, UKMTO, ADNOC, Reuters, AFP. Positions approximate.

TIMELINE

Date	Domain	Development
Nov 18	Security	Coalition downed cruise missile launched toward Riyadh region
Nov 18	Aviation	Etihad extended Riyadh, Dammam cancellations to Nov 30; flydubai to Nov 27
Nov 17–18	Yemen & regional	Kuwait, Bahrain intercepted drones; Iran claimed Kuwait base strike; unverified
Nov 17	Maritime	UAE oil firm vessel attacked in Hormuz; one crew member missing, 11 injured
Nov 17	Yemen & regional	U.S. forces struck Iranian missile site on Qeshm Island after Bahrain attack
Nov 17	Yemen & regional	Iran claimed drone strike on U.S. radar in Bahrain; U.S. said all intercepted
Nov 17	Security	Houthis claimed drone hits on two pipeline stations, Sharurah radar; unverified
Nov 17	Yemen & regional	Houthis claimed Bab el-Mandeb coast; vowed attacks deep inside Saudi Arabia
Nov 16–17	Security	Coalition downed three drones over Mecca and Riyadh regions
Nov 16–17	Maritime	Tanker struck twice north of Khasab, Oman; one crew member missing
Nov 15–17	Maritime	Iran claimed several tankers hit mines near Hormuz; unverified
Nov 16	Yemen & regional	King Salman named Gen. Fayyad al-Ruwaili coalition Joint Forces commander
Nov 15–16	Maritime	Projectiles hit two tankers near Strait of Hormuz; crews safe
Nov 15	Yemen & regional	Yemeni government forces withdrew from Bab el-Mandeb area to defend Aden
Nov 15	Security	Coalition downed two ballistic missiles toward Riyadh; alert lifted
Nov 15	Security	Coalition downed six drones over Eastern Province, Mecca, and Medina regions
Nov 15	Yemen & regional	Bahrain intercepted Iranian drones; Iran claimed attack on U.S. radar; unverified
Nov 15	Security	Houthis claimed Riyadh airport, financial center, pipeline hits; unverified
Nov 14	Security	Coalition downed two drones over Riyadh and the south

RISK METHODOLOGY

Concentric uses a five-point risk rating system to evaluate potential threats to travelers. Below is our risk rating and methodology and five risk categories:

RISK RATING	DEFINITION & RECOMMENDATION
EXTREME	**DEFINITION:** Hostile or unfavorable operating environment. There are credible persistent threats. The likelihood of an event is high, and the potential impact to the principal is high.
HIGH	**DEFINITION:** The operational environment is volatile or rapidly changing. The environment is unfavorable; there are credible indicators and warnings and a high likelihood of an event with significant potential impact to the principal, personnel, or organization.
MODERATE	**DEFINITION:** Operational risks exist and are either likely or would have significant impact. These risks are largely known and can be anticipated.
LOW	**DEFINITION:** Permissive operating environment. There are some known risks and uncertainty, but the likelihood or impact is low.
MINIMAL	**DEFINITION:** Safe operational environment where risks are clearly defined and can be easily anticipated. No likely impact to the principal, personnel, or organization.