International Travel Resources: US State Dept. Travel Advisories

Michael Price Global Education Oregon

michaelp@uoregon.edu

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US State Department Travel Advisory System

travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html/

Current system implemented January 2018

Level 1: Exercise Normal Precautions

Lowest advisory level for safety and security risk

Level 2: Exercise Increased Caution

Be aware of heightened risks to safety and security

Level 3: Reconsider Travel

Avoid travel due to serious risks to safety and security

Level 4: Do Not Travel

- Highest advisory level due to greater likelihood of life-threatening risks
- The US government may have very limited ability to provide assistance during emergencies.
- The Dept. of State advises US citizens to not travel to these countries.





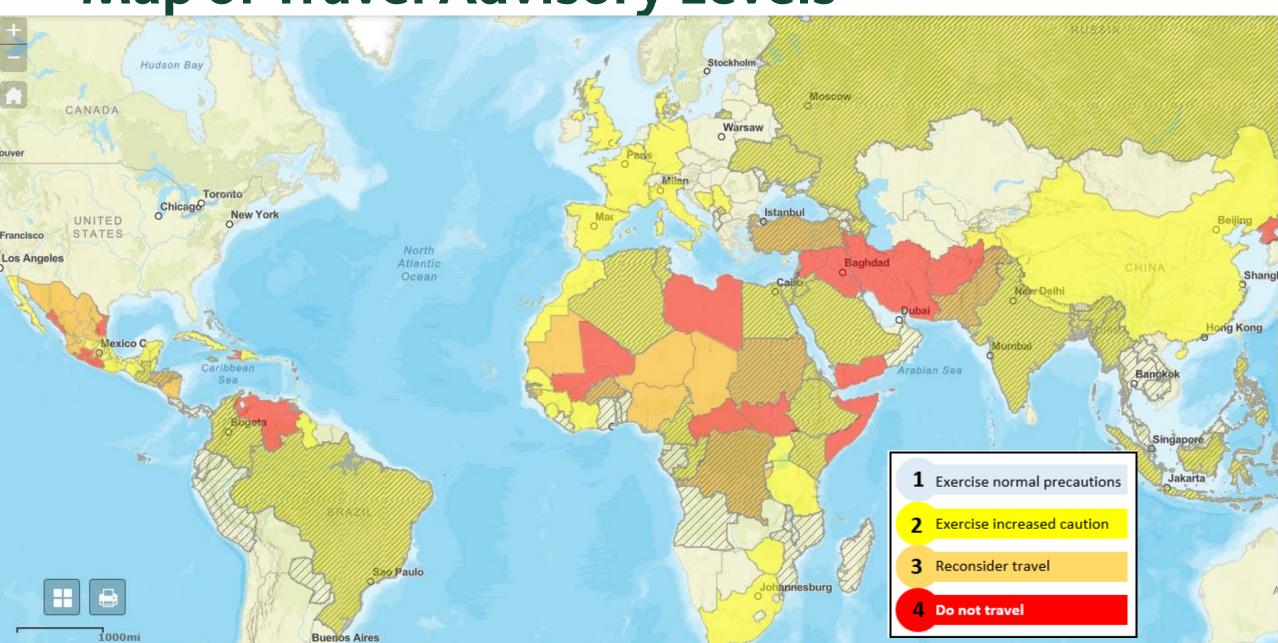
Travel Advisory Risk Indicators

- **Crime:** Widespread violent or organized crime is present in areas of the country. Local law enforcement may have limited ability to respond to serious crimes.
- **Civil Unrest:** Political, economic, religious, and/or ethnic instability exists and may cause violence, major disruptions, and/or safety risks.
- **Terrorism:** Terrorist attacks have occurred and/or specific threats against civilians, groups, or other targets may exist.
- **Health:** Health risks, including current disease outbreaks or a crisis that disrupts a country's medical infrastructure, are present. The issuance of a Centers for Disease Control Travel Notice may be a factor.
- **Natural Disaster:** A natural disaster, or its aftermath, poses danger.
- **Time-limited Event:** A short-term event, such as an election, sporting event, or other incident that may pose a safety risk.

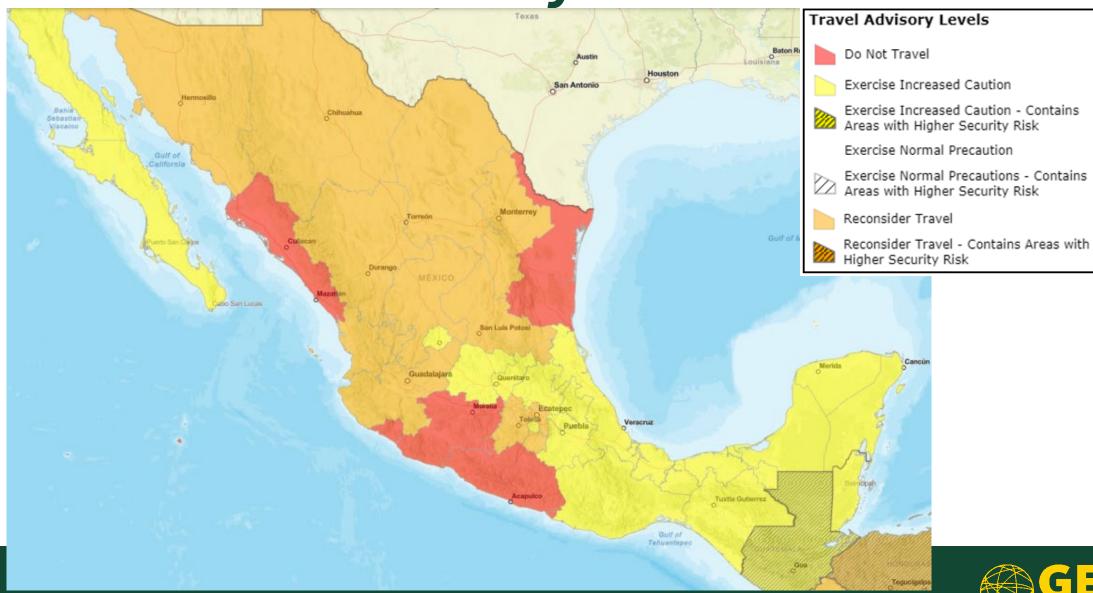




Map of Travel Advisory Levels



Mexico: Overall Country Level 2





Ecuador: Overall Country Level 1



Travel Advisory Levels



Exercise Increased Caution

Exercise Increased Caution - Contains Areas with Higher Security Risk

Exercise Normal Precaution

Exercise Normal Precautions - Contains Areas with Higher Security Risk

Reconsider Travel

Reconsider Travel - Contains Areas with Higher Security Risk





Ecuador Travel Advisory

Travel Advisory April 19, 2018 Ecuador - Level 1: Exercise Normal Precautions



Exercise normal precautions in Ecuador. Some areas have increased risk. Read the entire Travel Advisory.

Do not travel to:

Esmeraldas, Carchi, and Sucumbíos provinces due to crime.

Read the Safety and Security section on the country information page.

If you decide to travel to Ecuador:

- Enroll in the <u>Smart Traveler Enrollment Program</u> (<u>STEP</u>) to receive Alerts and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Follow the Department of State on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Twitter</u>.
- · Review the Crime and Safety Reports for Ecuador.
- U.S. citizens who travel abroad should always have a contingency plan for emergency situations. Review the <u>Traveler's Checklist</u>.

Esmeraldas, Carchi, and Sucumbíos Provinces - Level 4: Do Not Travel

Since January 2018, a transnational crime group has kidnapped and murdered Ecuadorian citizens in Esmeraldas province, in addition to carrying out bombings targeting Ecuadorian military and law enforcement.

The U.S. government is limited in its ability to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in the Colombian border area, as U.S. government personnel cannot travel to the provinces of Esmeraldas, Carchi, and Sucumbios without permission from the Embassy's security office. However, U.S. government personnel are permitted to travel to the northern bank of the Napo River in Sucumbios, an area approximately four miles wide.

Visit our website for Travel to High-Risk Areas.





GEO Study Abroad Program Policies

All GEO study abroad destinations undergo risk assessment using the US Department of State travel advisory system.

- Programs will not be allowed to run in countries rated as 3 or 4
- Countries with areas rated as 3 or 4 undergo committee review
- Students required to sign travel waivers for these countries
- All countries where GEO runs program undergo quarterly reviews
- Sources other than the US State Department also taken into consideration:

UK Foreign Ministry <u>www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice</u>

Australian Dept. of Foreign Affairs <u>smartraveller.gov.au</u>

• Government of Canada <u>travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories</u>

• Center for Disease Control <u>cdc.gov</u>



