

Earthwatch No Go List

Updated May 2022

Please note:

COVID-19 related restrictions and requirements that could affect the feasibility of Earthwatch teams are still in effect in some destinations, including destinations not listed here. Restrictions and requirements are subject to change at any time and could include: prohibitive entry, exit or visa requirements; curfews, movement restrictions or lockdowns; mandatory mask use; or mandatory quarantine or isolation periods.

All prospective programs must be carefully reviewed for risk (including regional restrictions such as those below, the impacts of COVID-19, or other risks) and approved on a case-by-case basis prior to funding.

Country	Advice
Afghanistan	No Go: all
Albania	No Go: city of Lazarat
Algeria	No Go: all
Angola	No Go: Provinces of Cabinda, Lunda Norte and Lunda Sul
Armenia	No Go: within 5kms of Armenia's border with Azerbaijan; along the M16/H26 road between the towns of Ijevan and Noyemberyan
Azerbaijan	No Go: all
Bangladesh	No Go: Southeast Bangladesh, including the Chittagong Hill Tracts (Khagrachari, Rangamati, and Bandarban Hill Tracts); city of Dhaka
Belarus	No Go: all
Benin	No Go: within 50 km of the borders with Burkina Faso, Niger and Nigeria in the departments of Atacora, Alibori and Borgou; this includes W National Park (including Meêkrou and Djona hunting zones), Pendjari National Park and adjacent hunting grounds, the area north of National Highway 7, and the area between the Interstate Highway 2 (Tchaourou to Malanville) and the Nigerian border
Brazil	No Go: areas within 150 km/100 miles of Brazil's land borders with Venezuela, Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana, and Paraguay (with exception of the Foz do Iguacu or Pantanal National Parks), informal housing developments ('favelas'), and Brasilia's administrative regions of Ceilandia, Santa Maria, Sao Sebastiao, and Paranoa
Burkina Faso	No Go: all
Burundi	No Go: all
Cameroon	No Go: Far North, North, Northwest, Southwest (including Bakassi Peninsula) and Adamaoua regions; within 40km of borders with Central African Republic, Chad, and Nigeria's northeastern Adamawa and Borno States

Central African Republic	No Go: all
Chad	No Go: all
Colombia	No Go: all
Congo	No Go: within 50 km of borders with Democratic Republic of Congo and Central African Republic; Pool Department, except Brazzaville; Bouenza Department
Democratic Republic of the Congo	No Go: all
Djibouti	No Go: border areas with Eritrea, Somalia and Ethiopia
Ecuador	No Go: within 20km of the border with Colombia, including El Angel Ecological Reserve (except the official border crossing at Tulcan); Carchi, Sucumbíos, and Esmeraldas provinces, including Esmeraldas city; south of Portete de Tarquí Avenue in Guayaquil
Egypt	No Go: all
El Salvador	No Go: all
Eritrea	No Go: all
Ethiopia	No Go: all
Gambia	No Go: Southern border with Senegal's Casamance region
Georgia	No Go: border areas with Russia; Abkhazia and South Ossetia regions, including areas surrounding their Administrative Boundary Lines
Guatemala	No Go: Zones 2, 3, 5, 7, 11 and 18 and municipality of Villa Nueva in Guatemala City; Chiquimula, Petén, Zacapa and Izabal departments; San Marcos Department (except the city of San Marcos); Huehuetenango Department (except the city of Huehuetenango)
Guinea	No Go: border areas with Mali, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone
Guinea-Bissau	No Go: all
Haiti	No Go: all
Honduras	No Go: all
India	No Go: within 10 km of the India-Pakistan border; Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir (except the eastern Ladakh region and its capital, Leh); states of Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Odisha states; some districts of eastern Maharashtra (including Gadchiroli district), northeastern Telangana (Bhadradi Kothagudem), northeastern Andhra Pradesh (including Visakhapatnam district) states

Indonesia	No Go: Poso Regency in Central Sulawesi, Papua and West Papua Provinces, within 10 km of Mount Sinabung (North Sumatra) or Mount Agung (eastern Bali)
Iran	No Go: all
Iraq	No Go: all
Israel Includes Gaza Strip, West Bank & Palestinian Occupied Territories	No Go: Gaza Strip, including the Israeli-side border region; West Bank (including Bethlehem, Jericho, Ramallah, Jenin and Nablus); Golan Heights (including Sheba'a Farms and Ghajjar) border area with Syria and within 500m of the border with Lebanon; within 5 km of the border with Egypt (including the town of Eilat)
Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire)	No Go: within 50km of border areas with Mali and Burkina Faso, including the Zanzan and Savenes districts and all of Comoé National Park; within 50km of the border with Liberia
Jamaica	No Go: Hanover Parish (Logwood and Orange Bay), Westmoreland Parish (Southeastern quadrant of Savannah la Mar, Whitehall neighborhood of east Negril), St. James Parish (Cambridge, Springmount, Johns Hall, Montego Bay neighborhoods of Canterbury, Flankers, Glendevon, Mount Salem, Norwood, Paradise Heights and Rose Heights areas, Clarendon Parish (all), St. Ann Parish (Steer Town), Kingston and St. Andrew Parish (West Kingston, Cassava Piece, Downtown Kingston including Trench Town, Arnett Gardens, Cockburn Gardens, Denham Town, Olympic Gardens, Seaview Gardens, and Tivoli Gardens, Duhaney Park, Grants Pen, Standpipe, Swallowfield, Elleston Flats, August Town) and St. Catherine Parish (Spanish Town, Central Village, Portmore)
Japan	No Go: restricted areas near the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant, Fukushima Prefecture
Jordan	No Go: within 5km of the Syrian and Iraqi border regions; refugee camps; northeastern Jordan (east of the city of Ruwaished)
Kenya	No Go: Northern Kenya including within 110 km of the borders with South Sudan and Ethiopia, all of Turkana, Marsabit, West Pokot and Samburu counties, and northern Isiolo county; border with Somalia including all of Mandera, Wajir, and Garissa counties; Lamu county; coastal area of Tana River County, extending 65km inland; coastal area of Kilifi County, north of the Galana-Sabaki River and extending 50km inland; Eastleigh, Kibera and Pangani neighborhoods of Nairobi
Kosovo	No Go: municipalities of Leposavić, Zubin Potok and Zvečan; northern part of the city of Mitrovica
Kuwait	No Go: desert region near the border with Iraq; Jaleeb Al-Shuyoukh area in Kuwait City
Kyrgyz Republic (Kyrgyzstan)	No Go: border areas with Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, including Jalal-Abad, Batken, Osh oblasts and the Ferghana Valley
Laos	No Go: Xaisomboun, Luang Prabang, Vientiane, Xiengkhuang provinces; remote areas along the border with Burma
Latvia	No Go: areas near the border with Belarus

Lebanon	No Go: all
Liberia	No Go: border region with Côte d'Ivoire (Grand Gedeh and River Gee counties)
Libya	No Go: all
Lithuania	No Go: within 5km of the border with Belarus
Madagascar	No Go: Batterie Beach, north of Toliara; Anosy region (except the capital Fort Dauphin/Tôlanaro); Atsimo-Atsinanana region
Malaysia	No Go: coastal areas and island groups of eastern Sabah state from Kudat to Tawau, including (but not limited to) Lankayan, Mabul, Pom Pom, Kapalai, Litigan, Sipadan and Mataking. This includes dive sites and tourist facilities in these areas
Mali	No Go: all
Mauritania	No Go: all
Mexico	No Go: the states of Baja California, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Colima, Durango, Guanajuato, Guerrero, Jalisco, Estado de Mexico (Mexico State), Michoacán, Morelos, Nayarit, Sinaloa, Sonora, Tabasco, Tamaulipas, Veracruz, or Zacatecas
Moldova	No Go: all
Morocco	No Go: Western Sahara
Mozambique	No Go: Cabo Delgado Province, including the islands off the coast; the EN1 road between the Save River and Caia (Sofala province); the EN6 road between Chimoio (Manica province) and Beira (Sofala province)
Myanmar (Burma)	No Go: all
Nicaragua	No Go: all
Niger	No Go: all
Nigeria	No Go: all
North Korea (Democratic People's Republic of Korea)	No Go: all
Oman	No Go: border with Yemen
Pakistan	No Go: all
Panama	No Go: Darien province, Mosquito Gulf coast area
Papua New Guinea	No Go: all
Peru	No Go: within 20km of the border with Colombia in the Loreto region; areas bordering Ecuador (within the Loreto, Amazonas and Cajamarca regions); Valley of the Rivers

	Apurimac, Ene, and Mantaro (VRAEM) including areas within the Ayacucho, Cusco, Huancavelica, and Junin regions
Philippines	No Go: Mindanao (including the Zamboanga Peninsula), Sulu Archipelago, and the southern Sulu Sea area
Poland	No Go: within 3km of the border with Belarus
Russia	No Go: all
Rwanda	No Go: within 10 km of the border with Burundi; within 10 km of the border the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including towns of Gisenyi, Kibuye and Cyangugu
Saudi Arabia	No Go: all
Senegal	No Go: Casamance region
Solomon Islands	No Go: all
Somalia	No Go: all
South Sudan	No Go: all
Sri Lanka	No Go: all
Sudan	No Go: all
Syria	No Go: all
Tajikistan	No Go: within 30 km of the borders with Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan; Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (province)
Tanzania	No Go: within 20 km of the border with Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (except city of Kigoma and Gombe, Katavi and Mahale National Parks); Mtwara Region, including within 30km of the Mozambican border and inland up to 150km from the coast
Thailand	No Go: Yala, Pattani, Narathiwat and Songkhla provinces
Togo	No Go: northern areas within 18 miles (30km) of the Burkina Faso border
Tonga	No Go: all (due to the effects of the January 2022 volcanic eruption and resulting tsunamis)
Trinidad	No Go: on Trinidad, the Laventille, Beetham, Sea Lots, Cocorite, and the interior of Queen's Park Savannah in Port of Spain, and the Maracas and Las Cuevas beaches, Fort George and the La Brea Pitch Lake. On Tobago, Englishman's Bay and King Peter's Bay beaches
Tunisia	No Go: within 30km of the border with Algeria; within 75km of the Libyan border; governorates of Kasserine, Sidi Bou Zid, Le Kef, Jendouba, Tataouine; Mount Orbata in the governorate of Gafsa; the towns of Nefta, Douz, Medenine, and Zaris
Turkey	No Go: within 16km of the border with Syria; provinces of Batman, Bingöl, Bitlis, Diyarbakir Province (including Diyarbakir city), Gaziantep, Hakkari, Hatay, Kilis (including Kilis city), Mardin, Mus, Sanliurfa, Siirt, Şirnak, Tunceli and Van

Turkmenistan	No Go: border regions with Afghanistan
Uganda	No Go: within 50km of the South Sudan border; within 50 km of the border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Karamoja province in the Northern Region
Ukraine	No Go: all
Uzbekistan	No Go: areas bordering Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, including the city of Andijan, Termez region and Ferghana Valley
Venezuela	No Go: all
Yemen	No Go: all
Zambia	No Go: areas bordering Angola, Mozambique and Democratic Republic of Congo

Methodology

1. Any country deemed 'do not travel' on the Smartraveller List compiled by the Australian Government (www.smartraveller.gov.au) remains do not travel.
2. Any country deemed 'reconsider the need to travel' or 'exercise a high degree of caution' has been cross-referenced to the UK FCO travel advice and the US State travel advice for that specific country. Additional resources, such as On Call, International SOS or the Canadian government travel advice are also consulted.
3. For countries without Smartraveller advice, the FCO and US State Department at minimum are consulted.
4. If it is requested to revisit a country designation after the publication of this list, an additional review will be conducted by Earthwatch's No-Go Committee following the above process. Changes to the list must be approved by the committee or in consultation with the Director of Risk Management.

Publicly Available Resources

Australian Government Smartraveller:
<https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/destinations>

UK Foreign Commonwealth Office:
<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>

US State Department:
<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/map-and-travel-notice.html>

Government of Canada Travel Advice:
<https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories>