

## RISK ALERT: Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories

### Introduction

In the early hours of 7<sup>th</sup> October, Hamas and Palestinian militants launched a series of attacks against Israel. Israeli authorities have declared a state of emergency and are engaged in retaliatory military action into Gaza and the West Bank.



As of 10<sup>th</sup> October, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) advise against all but essential travel to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. They advise against all travel to:

- Gaza
- The Sheba’a Farms and Ghajjar
- Within 500m of the border with Lebanon (the ‘Blue Line’) east of Metula, including the northern edge of the town and within 500m of the border with Syria (the ‘Alpha Line’).
- The area close to the border with Gaza that includes the following:
- The area southwest of Ashkelon
- The area south of route 35 and west of route 40 as far as Tlaim, not including Be’er Sheva
- The area west of Be’er Sheva
- The area north of route 211

Crisis24 (formerly Drum Cussac) have issued a severity 4.00 (High) alert: <https://www.drum-cussac.net/travel-advice/countries/il/alerts>

## UMAL Travel Cover

**Cancellation** - Journeys booked prior to 7th October may be eligible for cancellation cover if travel is due to commence imminently. For trips scheduled for later in the year, a 'wait and see' position should be adopted as the situation is fluid and may improve over time.

**Curtailement/Travel Delay** - Cover under these sub-sections is in respect of specified causes only and would not be triggered by the current events.

**Rearrangement** - Reasonable additional costs for sustenance, travel and accommodation may be covered if a traveller is forced to relocate or reroute their journey. Please note however that cover is for continuation of the journey and would not include repatriation.

**Political Evacuation** - As of 9<sup>th</sup> October, the FCDO has not advised UK citizens to leave the affected areas so cover would not apply.

UMAL has however taken a policy decision to provide discretionary cover under the Curtailement section of the travel cover to consider any claim in relation to early return from affected areas to the UK (or Country of Domicile). This applies to travellers in the areas that the FCDO advises against all travel to, as per the list above.

Cover is subject to individual circumstances and will require the traveller to have a pre-booked ticket for their return. We will provide cover for the reimbursement of additional travel costs associated with returning earlier than planned or scheduled. Claims should be submitted to: [claims@umal.co.uk](mailto:claims@umal.co.uk)

Our advice is that travellers and Members should use their usual travel providers to make these arrangements, but if help is needed advice can be sought from Crisis24 (formerly Drum Cussac), who can be accessed via our main emergency contact details, administered by International Medical Group (IMG):

Tel: +44 (0) 203 859 1492

E-mail: [UMAL@global-response.co.uk](mailto:UMAL@global-response.co.uk)

Or details can be found on our website, via this link:- <https://umal.co.uk/travel-hub/emergency-assistance/>

If you need any other help or advice, please get in touch with us as follows:-

[paul.cusition@umal.co.uk](mailto:paul.cusition@umal.co.uk)

[leon.martin@umal.co.uk](mailto:leon.martin@umal.co.uk)

[claims@umal.co.uk](mailto:claims@umal.co.uk)