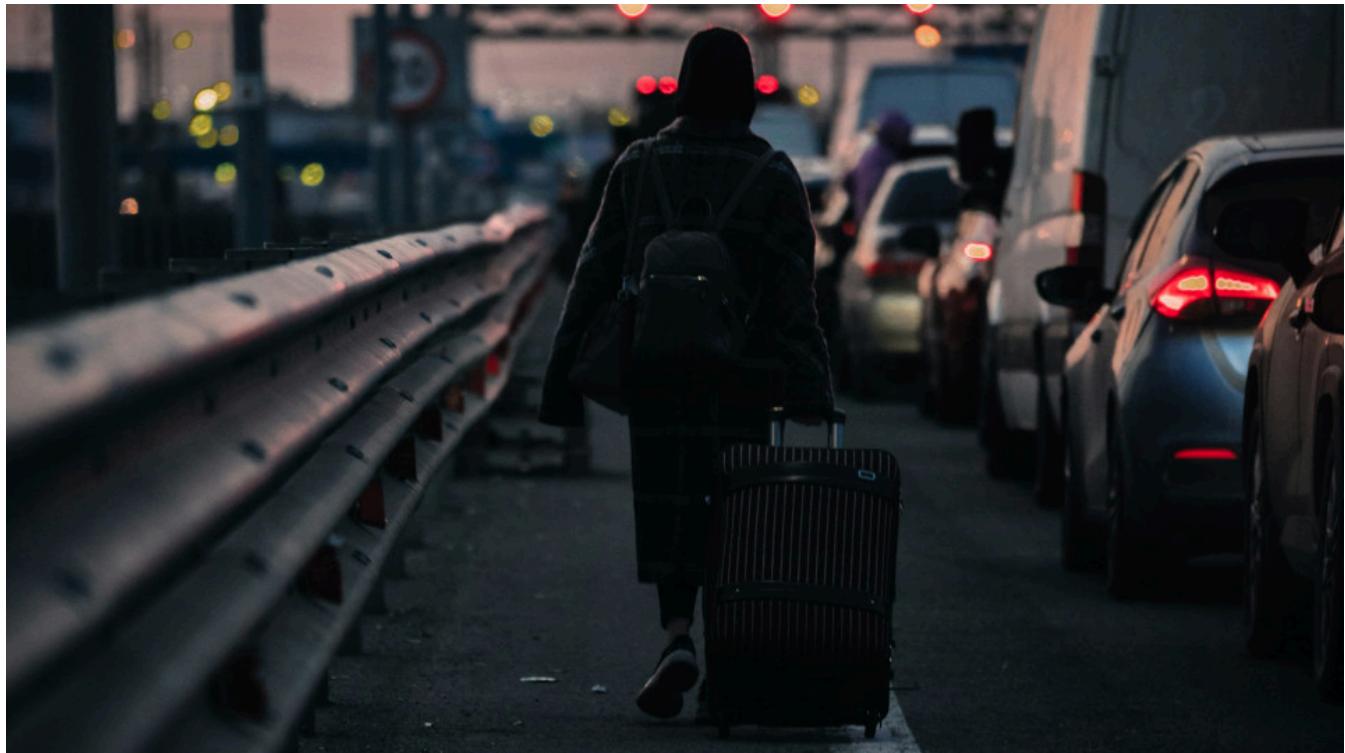


Global index flags 10 most travel-unfriendly countries amid rising security risks in 2026

- A Monitor Desk Report

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Dhaka: A new global travel risk ranking has identified the world's 10 most travel-unfriendly countries in 2026, citing persistent conflict, terrorism, strict governance, and limited visa access as key deterrents for international visitors.

The assessment is based on three major indicators: the Passport Index, the Global Peace Index, and international danger and safety indices. Together, these metrics evaluate visa accessibility, conflict intensity, crime, terrorism, and overall risks to travelers.

10. Somalia

Somalia continues to rank among the most dangerous destinations worldwide. Ongoing political instability, piracy, kidnappings, and frequent militant attacks severely restrict tourism. Most governments

maintain strict “Do Not Travel” advisories due to the high threat level and weak infrastructure.

9. Eritrea

Despite reports of hospitable locals, Eritrea’s authoritarian governance and mandatory national service create a hostile environment for visitors. Independent travel is nearly impossible, visa access is tightly controlled, and security concerns remain widespread.

8. Mali

Mali’s tourism prospects are undermined by escalating terrorist activity, particularly in northern regions. Kidnappings and jihadist insurgencies persist, while state security forces struggle to maintain control beyond major urban centers such as Bamako.

7. Central African Republic

The Central African Republic combines rich cultural heritage with chronic instability. Armed militias, recurring violence, and a fragile security apparatus make it one of the world’s riskiest destinations for foreign travelers.

6. Libya

More than a decade after the 2011 uprising, Libya remains deeply fragmented. Rival factions, militia violence, and frequent kidnappings contribute to an unpredictable security environment, limiting any meaningful revival of international tourism.

5. North Korea

North Korea’s tightly controlled tourism system places visitors under constant surveillance. Movements are strictly regulated, independent exploration is forbidden, and minor infractions can result in detention, reinforcing its reputation as an unwelcoming destination.

4. Iraq

While reconstruction has improved conditions in parts of Iraq, including Baghdad and the Kurdistan region, sectarian tensions and sporadic terrorist incidents persist. Political uncertainty continues to deter casual international travel.

3. Syria

Syria remains among the most perilous countries for foreigners. Years of civil war have left widespread insecurity, with armed groups, kidnappings, and criminal networks posing severe risks.

2. Yemen

Ongoing civil war and terrorism make Yemen extremely dangerous. Armed clashes, landmines, and severe health risks have prompted most governments to issue the highest-level travel warnings.

1. Afghanistan

Afghanistan tops the 2026 list as the most travel-unfriendly country. Persistent violence, terrorism, kidnappings, and political instability under Taliban rule have virtually eliminated independent tourism, keeping the country under universal “Do Not Travel” advisories.

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