

The Pakistan Business Council Comparative of Travel Advisories



The Pakistan Business Council

The Pakistan Business Council (PBC) is the country's premier private sector think tank and business advocacy forum. PBC's objectives include, fostering economic growth by advocating policies which create employment, promote value-added exports, encourage import substitution and result in broadening of the tax base. PBC works closely with the government, industry regulators, professional bodies and multilateral institutions to promote this objective. It is composed of the country's leading businesses including 30 multinational companies from fourteen countries. The combined turnover of these represents every ninth Rupee of Pakistan's GDP; they together contribute a quarter of the country's taxes; generate 40% of its exports and provide employment to 2 million people. More information on the PBC is available on: www.pbc.org.pk

Seven of the top ten exporters belong to the PBC - six of them are in the textiles sector. Textiles represents 60% of Pakistan's exports. Whilst travel to Pakistan is important for all businesses, it is crucial for the textiles industry. Foreign buyers need physical access to production facilities in order to ensure their orders are executed to perfection. Travel advisories are therefore an impediment to exports.

Travel Advisories

Travel Advisories are issued by foreign governments to guide their citizens whilst traveling abroad. In general, they tend to take a cautious approach. This limits the number of foreign buyers and tourists visiting Pakistan. In some cases, their corporate insurance cover is also affected.

As security and safety in the main centers of industrial activity have improved considerably, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs can through economic diplomacy by its missions abroad, advocate a more positive and differentiated approach, which, as the comparison below shows, is in general more restrictive for Pakistan than its main competitor countries.

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		Pakistan	Bangladesh	Myanmar	Ethiopia	Cambodia	Srilanka	India
1	USA	Level 3: Reconsider travel Do not travel to: Balochistan, KPK, Azad Kashmir, India-Pakistan border	Level 2: Exercise Increased Caution	Level 2: Exercise Increased Caution	Level 2: Exercise Increased Caution	Level 1: Exercise Normal Precautions	Level 2: Exercise Increased Caution	Level 2: Exercise Increased Caution
2	Canada	Avoid non-essential travel Avoid all travel to: Balochistan, KPK, Kashmir, India-Pakistan border Avoid non-essential travel to: Rest of Pakistan except Islamabad Exercise high degree of caution: Islamabad	Exercise a high degree of caution	Exercise a high degree of caution	Exercise a high degree of caution	Exercise a high degree of caution	Exercise a high degree of caution	Exercise a high degree of caution
3	UK	Advise against all but essential travel Advise against all travel to: KPK, Northern and Western Balochistan, LoC, and Karakoram Highway. Advise against all but essential travel to: Kalesh Valley, Quetta, some areas of Sindh (North of and including Nawabshah)	Advise against all but essential travel to the Chittagong Hill Tracts	Advise against all but essential travel - few areas	Advise against all but essential travel - few areas	--	--	Advise against all travel to: border with Pakistan, other than at Wagah Jammu and Kashmir

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4	Spain	Extreme caution during the trip. Certain areas must be avoided except for reasons of extreme need	The trip is advised for reasons of extreme need	Recommended to travel with caution and refrain from doing it for certain areas	Recommended to travel with extreme caution and refrain from doing so in certain areas	Recommended to travel with extreme caution and refrain from doing so for certain areas	Recommended to travel with extreme caution during the trip	Recommended to travel with caution and refrain from doing so for certain areas
5	Germany	Strongly discouraged to travel to: KPK, Balochistan, LoC.	Take special care	Take special care	--	Take special care	Travel with increased caution	Travel with increased caution
6	Belgium	Non-essential journeys are discouraged Advise against all travel to: KPK, tribal areas on the border with Afghanistan, Baluchistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and around the disputed border with India, rural areas of Punjab, and rural areas of Sindh. Travel to these areas only if necessary: Islamabad and its surroundings, the big cities in Punjab (Rawalpindi, Lahore, Faisalabad), and Karachi.	Exercise utmost vigilance	Normal caution recommended	Normal caution recommended	Normal caution recommended	Normal caution recommended	Usual vigilance is required
7	Denmark	Advise against all unnecessary trips Advise against all travel to: Baluchistan, KPK, Kashmir and the tribal areas against	Take special care	Advise against all unnecessary trips	Advise against all unnecessary trips	Take special care	Take special care	Take special care

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		<p>the border with Afghanistan. Advise against all unnecessary trips to: The rest of the country including Islamabad and the provinces of Punjab, Sindh and Gilgit-Baltistan.</p>						
8	France	<p>High Risk Travel discouraged to: Baluchistan, Tribal areas (ex-FATA), KPK, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, The border with India. Punjab province, with the exception of the area between Faisalabad, Lahore and Islamabad, not recommended unless imperative. Travel not recommended unless imperative to: Sind, Gilgit-Baltistan, area between Faisalabad, Lahore and Islamabad, the cities of Sialkot, Faisalabad and Multan in Punjab province.</p>	Medium Risk	High Risk	High Risk	Medium Risk	High Risk	Medium Risk

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		Vigilance required in: Islamabad and Lahore						
9	Italy	High Risk- Advisable to limit trips	Medium Risk – Exercise caution in certain areas	High Risk- Utmost caution	Medium Risk- Exercise caution in certain areas	Medium Risk- Exercise prudence	High Risk – Exercise utmost caution	High Risk- Maximum vigilance recommended
10	Sweden	Exercise utmost caution Advise against all trips to KPK and Balochistan	Exercise caution	Exercise utmost caution	Exercise caution	--	Exercise caution	Exercise utmost caution in border areas with Pakistan
11	Switzerland	Vigilance recommended High risk areas: Gilgit-Baltistan, KPK, Border regions with India, Lahore, Balochistan, Northern Sindh, South Punjab, Karachi	Vigilance recommended	Normal caution recommended	Vigilance recommended	Normal caution recommended	Vigilance recommended	Vigilance recommended
12	New Zealand	Avoid non-essential travel Do not travel to the Federally-Administered Tribal Areas, Balochistan, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, and border areas with Afghanistan and India (excluding the Wagah official border crossing point). Avoid non-essential travel elsewhere in Pakistan.	Exercise increased caution	Avoid non-essential travel	Avoid non-essential travel	Exercise normal safety and security precautions	Exercise increased caution	Avoid non-essential travel

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13	Australia	<p>Reconsider your need to travel Do not travel to Balochistan, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (excluding Chitral district) and border areas with Afghanistan and India (excluding Lahore, Wagah, Kasur, Narowal and Sialkot).</p>	Exercise a high degree of caution	Exercise a high degree of caution	Exercise a high degree of caution	Exercise normal safety precautions	Exercise a high degree of caution	Exercise a high degree of caution
14	Japan	<p>Evacuate border with Afghanistan, Quetta. Stop unnecessary travel</p> <p>Evacuation is recommended (Level 4 threat) at border with Afghanistan, Quetta, LoC. Stop traveling (Level 3 threat) to certain counties in Balochistan. Stop unnecessary travel (Level 2 threat) to cities such as Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi.</p>	Stop unnecessary travel in Chittagong. Normal caution in other areas	Stop travel in certain areas. Normal caution in most areas.	Evacuate border areas with Somalia. Normal caution in certain areas.	Normal caution in all areas.	Normal caution in all areas.	Evacuate from LoC, Srinagar, Ladakh. Normal caution in other areas