



## Special Travel Notice for Mauritania

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In accordance with MS 220, 3.3.2, the Offices of Safety and Security and Global Operations restrict Volunteer travel to Mauritania until further notice.

For additional information, please consult the Department of State Travel Warning issued on February 23, 2016 at [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov).

*The U.S. Department of State warns U.S. citizens of the risks of traveling to Mauritania, particularly the eastern regions, due to activities by terrorist groups including al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), which are active in the neighboring regions of Mali. The ability of the U.S. Embassy to provide consular services in remote and rural areas of Mauritania is severely limited.... Kidnapping and other violent acts, including by terrorist groups, have occurred in the past in the border regions of Guidimagha, Hodh El Charghi and Hodh El Gharbi near the south-eastern border with Mali, the eastern half of the Assaba region (east of Kiffa), Tidjikja, the eastern half of the Tagant region (east of Tidjikja), the eastern half of the Adrar region (east of Ouadane), and the Zemmour region of northern Mauritania (other than F'Derick and Zouerat). Aside from the security risks, the remoteness and harsh environment of these areas present safety challenges as well. The government of Mauritania has designated most of this area as a restricted security zone. Entry into this region requires permission from the Mauritanian authorities.*

*AQIM and al-Murabitun terrorist organizations and affiliates have declared their intention to attack foreign targets in north and west Africa (particularly the Sahel region bordering the Sahara). In recent years, AQIM terrorist activity in Mauritania included kidnapping, murder, and attacks on foreign diplomatic missions and private citizens, gendarme military installations and personnel. Although not currently active in Mauritania, the threat of terrorism remains. Christian faith-based organizations operating in Mauritania, or individuals perceived to be proselytizing, may be targeted.*