

# Middle East: situation update as of 13 March 2026

## ● Key developments over the past 24 hours (non-exhaustive selection)

- **Continuation of US–Israeli air raids in Iran**, massive strikes reported in at least ten provinces (West and Central) targeting military and security sites in **Tehran** (during a parade attended by regime dignitaries for Al-Quds Day), Alborz, Qom, Khuzestan and Sistan-Baluchistan; more than 15,000 targets struck since 28 February according to the Pentagon.
- **Iranian and proxy retaliation against Israel**: Iranian and Hezbollah missile barrages against **northern Israel** during the night of 12-13 March, mostly intercepted by air defense systems.
- **Arabian/Persian Gulf**: continuation of Iranian drone and missile attacks against Gulf states, with multiple interceptions on 13 March in the **UAE** (35 projectiles intercepted) and in **Saudi Arabia** (around fifty); material damage in Dubai (DIFC) following falling interception debris. Deadly drone attack in **Sohar** (Al-Awahi industrial area, **Oman**). Iran now indicates it is expanding its legitimate targets to economic and technological infrastructure linked to the United States and Israel in Gulf countries (evacuations of offices of international companies in Dubai in recent days).
- **Lebanon and regional spillover**: Israeli strikes outside Hezbollah strongholds in **Beirut (Jnah, Nabaa–Bourj Hammoud)** during the night of 12-13 March, following those in **Bachoura** and **Zokak el-Blat** (central Beirut); unprecedented Israeli leaflet drops over the capital on 13 March calling for the disarmament of Hezbollah. Intensification of bombardments in **southern Lebanon** (Nabatiyeh, Tyre, Sidon) and Israeli threats to strike civilian infrastructure and seize territory. In **Iraq**, a drone attack on the **Mala Qara base (Erbil) killing a French soldier**, threats by the pro-Iranian group **Ashab al-Kahf** against French interests (including K1 base, Kirkuk), drones near the Majnoon oil field (Basra) and a crash of a US KC-135 tanker in western Iraq (6 dead). Iranian missile intercepted in **Turkish** airspace.

### ✈ Airspaces closed

- **Kuwait**
- **Israel** (repatriation flights to Israel)
- **Iraq** (at least until the 16<sup>th</sup>)
- **Iran**

### ✈ Airspaces restricted

- **UAE / Qatar / Bahrain** (limited flights - Do not go to the airports without confirmation)
- **Lebanon** (almost exclusively Middle East Airlines)

### ✈ Airspaces open

- **Saudi Arabia**
- **Oman**
- **Jordan, Syria**
- **Türkiye, Egypt**

## Recommendations

Maintain regular contact with diplomatic authorities and airlines; choose reliable and official sources of information.

**Gulf countries**: postpone future travel. Travellers in transit in the country should prepare for departure continuing to **shelter-in-place** (home/hotel) during alerts, avoid open areas and windows indoors, and follow instructions given by the authorities. Maintain contact with your security coordinator. Ensure communication means remain active and operational at all times so you can be contacted.

➔ **Alert systems & official resources**

**Lebanon**: postpone travel. Within the country, avoid all travel to all regions south and east of Beirut, prepare for departure by contacting diplomatic authorities and Middle East Airlines.

**Jordan**: increased risk related to interceptions and falling projectiles. Limit non-essential travel and follow local alerts. Avoid the vicinity of the US Embassy.

**Israel**: postpone future travel. Inside the country, it is essential to take shelter at every air raid alert, also notified via the Tzofar app ([Google Play](#) & [App Store](#)).

**Iraq / Syria**: postpone travel (risk of strike expansion targeting US assets and indirect incidents).

**Iran**: major deterioration of the internal and security environment; liaise with diplomatic authorities.