

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO: Travel Safe

Recognizing that most American people don't know the difference between a "travel warning" and a "travel alert," the U.S. State Department has overhauled its country-specific travel advisory system.

Every nation in the world now has a travel advisory ranking from 1 to 4, with level "4" meaning "do not travel" and level "1" "exercise normal precautions."

Popular destinations for U.S. travelers such as Mexico, France and the United Kingdom register a 2, "exercise increased caution," while countries including Cuba, Turkey, and Russia have been given level 3, "reconsider travel."

An interactive map color-codes the country by its ranking: red for 4 (Iran, Yemen, North Korea), orange for 3 (Cuba, Turkey, Russia), and yellow for 2 (Spain, India, Brazil). Countries with a level 1 ranking (Canada, Sweden, Mongolia) are not color-coded.

For countries deemed level 2 and above, the risks and threats of traveling there are further specified. For example, terrorism in Western European countries and crime in Central and South American nations.

The U.S. State Department has not changed its methods for determining the country-specific threats. If there is an emergency the State Department will put out a Media Press Release.

Only Book International Travel from an insured and bonded travel provider, Travel Agent or Tour Provider.

Information provided by DeKalb Chamber Member Michael Embrey, **FunME Events** Entertainment and Excursions.

