

25 June 2008

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Europe

Germany vs Turkey football match - Travel advisory

Germany and Turkey meet in the semi-final of the [Euro 2008](#) football tournament in Basel, [Switzerland](#) this evening at 20:45 local time. A sizeable Turkish community lives in Germany and large numbers of both sets of fans are expected to gather in [Berlin](#) and other German cities to watch the game on giant screens; unruliness and violence between rival fans is possible in locations throughout [Germany](#), [Turkey](#) and Switzerland, and caution is advised.

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Americas

Chile protest march - Travel advisory

Protesters are expected to stage a series of countrywide marches in [Chile](#) between 24 and 27 June to protest reforms to the country's education system. Several demonstrations over the proposed education bill have occurred in the past and have resulted in skirmishes with the police. Transport disruptions are likely in places, including in the capital, [Santiago](#), and travel delays may be experienced during this time. Travellers to the country are advised to avoid all related gatherings due to the threat from [civil unrest](#).

Landslide in north eastern Colombia kills ten

A landslide triggered by heavy rains in the municipality of Acari, in north eastern [Colombia](#), left ten people dead yesterday. Emergency officials are evaluating the extent of the damage in the affected area. Colombia is in the middle of one of its two rainy seasons, during which time flooding and landslides are an ongoing concern. Travellers to the country are advised to monitor local news for updates on affected areas and to follow the directives of the local authorities in the event of [flooding](#).

Surge in violent killings in Mexico border town

Six people were shot and killed yesterday in the Mexican city of Ciudad Juarez in the state of Chihuahua, near the country's border with the US. Suspected drug hitmen have been blamed for the attack, which is the most recent in a spate of killings that left dozens dead in the city over the past weekend. Despite the government's crackdown on drug cartels along [Mexico's](#) northern border regions, Ciudad Juarez in particular has witnessed an increase in violence as a result of gang rivalry over control of lucrative drug trafficking routes. Due to the ongoing insecurity and violence, [red24](#) advises travellers to exercise vigilance and avoid travel in the vicinity of the northern border.

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Middle East

Jerusalem's annual Gay Pride Parade to go ahead tomorrow despite protests

The annual Gay Pride Parade in the city of [Jerusalem](#), [Israel](#), is due to take place tomorrow, despite efforts by ultra-orthodox Jews and right-wing opponents to ban it. For the past three years the parade has been accompanied by protests from opponents; in 2005 an ultra-orthodox Jew stabbed three participants. Travellers to Jerusalem should avoid the parade given the possibility of [civil unrest](#).

Rocket attacks on Israel breach Gaza ceasefire

Israeli authorities have closed a border crossing between the [Gaza Strip](#) and [Israel](#) following a rocket attack by Islamic Jihad yesterday. The attack breached a ceasefire agreement that called for an end to rocket attacks against southern Israel; the agreement also included the reopening of border crossings so that supplies could enter the Gaza Strip. Travellers are advised to avoid all travel to the Gaza Strip and to all non-essential travel to within 20km of the Israel-Gaza border.

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Asia

Indonesian students take to the streets of Jakarta

Over 1,000 students took to the streets of [Indonesia's](#) capital, [Jakarta](#), yesterday to protest against the killing of a student demonstrator by police last week. The students were also demanding that the government revoke a 30 percent fuel price increase imposed last month. The demonstrators blocked roads near the parliament, burned cars

and hurled stones at police, who in turn used water cannons to disperse the crowds. The situation in Jakarta remains tense at this time and caution is advised; all large gatherings should be avoided due to the potential for [civil unrest](#).
Tropical storm Fengshen moves over Hong Kong

Typhoon Fengshen, which has weakened and been downgraded to a tropical storm, moved over [Hong Kong](#) today. Financial markets, schools and public transport were all suspended as the storm brought heavy wind and rainfall to the city. The storm is now forecast to further weaken and move north or north west towards [China's](#) Guangdong province. For more information on the threat from tropical cyclones please click [here](#).
Cambodia closes Thai border crossing to ancient temple

[Cambodia](#) has closed the border crossing to [Thailand](#) at the Preah Vihear temple following demonstrations over the past three days by protesters claiming that the temple belongs to Thailand. The Preah Vihear temple, in the Dangrek Mountains, has historically been claimed by both countries, but was awarded to Cambodia by the International Court of Justice in 1962. Tensions have mounted in Thailand since a decision last week by Thailand's prime minister to endorse Cambodia's application to have the area declared a World Heritage site. Protests appear to be ongoing near the border and as the situation remains tense travel near the Preah Vihear temple should be undertaken with caution at this time.

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Africa

Crackdown on banned sect in Kenya's capital

At least five members of the banned criminal Mungiki gang were killed in a gun battle that erupted after they were confronted by police in [Kenya's](#) capital, [Nairobi](#), officials reported yesterday. The gang members were reportedly part of a criminal group responsible for a recent crime wave, involving [mugging](#) and carjacking specifically, in the Kirinyaga district. Nairobi is currently experiencing escalating crime levels, and incidents of crime have become increasingly violent and indiscriminate. Visitors to Nairobi are urged to exercise caution and remain vigilant.

Pirates take four hostages off Somali coast

Four European nationals were taken hostage by pirates off [Somalia's](#) northern coastline on 23 June. Efforts are underway to free the group, thought to be either French or German citizens, who are being held near the town of Las Qoray. Piracy remains a serious concern along Somalia's coastline and ships are advised to remain at least 200 nautical miles offshore. For further information on piracy, please click [here](#).

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