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Australia Issues Travel Warning Amid Deadly Thailand-Cambodia Border Conflict

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The Australian government has issued a major travel advisory for citizens planning to visit Thailand, amid an intensifying border conflict with Cambodia that has reportedly claimed at least 33 lives.

According to the latest *Smarttraveller* update from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Australians are now advised to “exercise a high degree of caution” across Thailand, and to avoid all travel within 50 kilometres of the Thai-Cambodian border due to the threat of armed violence.

“Due to the ongoing armed conflict, we now advise Australians not to travel to areas within 50 kilometres of the Thailand-Cambodia land border throughout the provinces of Buriram, Si Saket, Sa Kaeo, Surin, Ubon Ratchathani, Chanthaburi, and mainland Trat,” the advisory states.

Tensions escalate with deadly consequences

The security situation at the border has rapidly deteriorated in recent days following armed clashes between Thai and Cambodian military forces. Local authorities and international observers confirm that military strikes, artillery exchanges, and ground incursions have taken place, particularly in rural areas of northeastern Thailand and northwestern Cambodia.

Martial law has been declared in several Thai districts near the conflict zone. Images from Cambodia’s Oddar Meanchey province show civilians fleeing their homes and seeking shelter in makeshift camps near pagodas and government buildings.

Landmines and terrorism risk compound threats

DFAT warns that, in addition to the armed conflict, landmines have been reported in the affected zones, posing serious risks to travellers and local populations. The advisory also notes an ongoing risk of terrorism across Thailand, with popular tourist destinations such as Bangkok, Phuket, Pattaya, and Chiang Mai flagged as potential targets.

Australian travellers currently in Thailand are urged to monitor local media, follow instructions from local authorities, and register their presence with *Smartraveller*. Emergency assistance remains available via the Australian Embassy in Bangkok.

Flight paths and travel disruptions possible

While major airports and tourist hubs remain operational, travellers should prepare for possible disruptions. Increased military activity and road closures could affect both land and air transportation in the eastern provinces.

The Department of Foreign Affairs continues to monitor the situation and will update travel advice as necessary.

Australians are strongly advised to reconsider any non-essential travel to eastern Thailand and stay informed via official government channels.

