**AVIATION TRAVEL SECURITY BRIEF**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AIRPORT NAME</th>
<th>Mallam Aminu Kano International Airport</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AIRPORT IDENTIFIER</td>
<td><strong>ICAO:</strong> DNKN, <strong>IATA:</strong> KAN</td>
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<tr>
<td>AIRPORT LOCATION</td>
<td>Kano, Nigeria</td>
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<td>DATE OF REVIEW</td>
<td>20 April 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>CITY RISK RATING</td>
<td>![HIGH]</td>
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<tr>
<td>MEDICAL RATING</td>
<td>![HIGH]</td>
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<tr>
<td>COUNTRY RATING</td>
<td>![HIGH]</td>
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<tr>
<td>LOCAL EMERGENCY #s</td>
<td>All Emergencies: 112 / 199</td>
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**Security Personnel**
- Joint civil-military security forces; reported corruption; occasional security breaches

**Security Features**
- Complete perimeter fencing; well-lit aprons; CCTV; collocated military base

**Runway Specs.**
- **06/24:** 10,827 x 197 ft. (3,300 x 60 m.)
- **05/23:** 8,038 x 148 ft. (2,450 x 45 m.)
- Elevation: 1562 ft. (476 m.)
- RWYs & RMPs: good condition

**Ground Handling**
- Slots not required; handling required; ground handling available

**Airport of Entry**
- Yes

**International Standard**
- Meets most international standards; Nigeria officially evaluated by ICAO in 2016

**Hours of Ops**
- 24/7, restricted.

**Airport Contacts**
- Airp Auth: +234 803 848 6411
- Customs: +234 64 648879
- Airp Admin: +234 64 631978
- [www.faannigeria.org](http://www.faannigeria.org)
AVIATION SUMMARY

Overall, management of the Nigerian civil aviation infrastructure mostly meets international standards and has improved in recent years. It scored a 68% in its 2016 ICAO audit, above the global average of 65%. In addition, Nigerian operators have no operational restrictions with regard to European Union (EU) airspace, and the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) also been assessed by the United States (US) Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) through their International Aviation Safety Audit (IASA) program. For many years the FAA had suspended service to Lagos and warned that the airport did not meet minimum ICAO standards. However, Nigeria is now rated a Category 1 and has a number of IOSA-certified operators. An ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) was conducted in 2016, and the current overall result exceeded the global average, though the report specified that Nigeria had not improved its effective implementation of international standards since its initial audit in 2008. While a June 2015 ICAO audit found there to be massive improvements in the security apparatus at Nigerian international airports, aviation security in Nigeria as a whole should not be considered of an international standard due to several deficiencies.

Airport Summary

Mallam Aminu Kano International Airport (DNKN) is located four miles (6km) north of the city centre. The airport itself is suitable for operations, but has limited facilities for business travellers and crew members. There are no FBO or dedicated general aviation facilities at the airport and all arriving crews and passengers process through the single commercial terminal, although a second terminal has been under construction. There are multiple ground handling service providers available for hire at the airport, which are required. Aircraft parking is assigned according to availability and anticipated length of stay for transient aircraft.

Disruption to air travel is possible due to ongoing fuel shortages across the country. A scarcity of aviation fuel has affected flight operations in recent months at a number of airports in Nigeria; specifically several domestic commercial flights have been cancelled or delayed since 01 March 2016. Members in the country should be prepared for possible short-notice logistical issues due to the fuel shortages and maintain flexible itineraries.

Airport Security

Overall, security at Mallam Aminu Kano International Airport (DNKN) is considered poor. Shared policing of the airport premises is conducted by members of the State Security Services (SSS), Nigerian Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Port Health Services, Nigerian Customs & Immigration Services and the Nigerian Air Force (NAF). However, airports in Nigeria are externally affected by strikes, fuel and electricity shortages.

As a joint military-civilian use aviation facility, there are military units located within the installation perimeter. This generally raises security at the airfield, though travellers should be cautious of the usual sensitivities around military facilities. The Nigerian Air Force has deployed Special Forces to Kano in order to conduct counter-terrorism operations against Boko Haram and protect against a general threat to airports across the country, especially in the north. The city of Kano and the area surrounding the city has generally seen a decline in the security environment and targeted several times by Boko Haram.

- **Airports in Nigeria are externally affected by strikes, fuel and electricity shortages.**
- **Demands for dash (bribes), though reported to have declined significantly, remain a problem in most airports in Nigeria.**
- **Overcrowding at Nigerian airports can cause disruption, while pickpockets and con artists pose a credible risk to passengers.**
- **Visitors should exercise common sense security precautions in all Nigerian airports at all times.**

CITY OVERVIEW

Kano is located in the Sahel savannah belt, on the fringe of the Sahara and it is the capital of Kano state. This city is rated as a HIGH travel risk destination. The security environment in Kano has improved since December 2015, as the army has largely contained the threat posed by the Islamist militant Boko Haram group to the country's north-east. Nevertheless, some risk associated with militancy remains; likely targets would include gov-
ernment and security force personnel and infrastructure, places of entertainment and Christian- and Shia Muslim-related targets. There is also a risk of serious violence as a result of religious or communal antagonism, particularly during electoral periods and religious festivals.

CRIME

Crime levels are lower than in some of the larger southern cities, such as Port Harcourt and Lagos. Visitors should remain vigilant to pickpocketing and theft and avoid crowded areas. Burglary is a risk and personnel should ensure that their accommodation has adequate security precautions and that doors are kept locked.

Kidnapping has not traditionally been a common feature of the security environment in Kano. However, it became a bigger threat with the resurgence in 2011 of the Islamist militant group Boko Haram in the north-east and the insecurity it temporarily brought to the wider region. For instance, a German engineer was abducted in January 2012 from a road-construction site in the city, and subsequently killed during a Joint Task Force rescue attempt in May 2012. The abduction was claimed by the Islamist militant group Ansaru – an offshoot of Boko Haram. The group had bases in Kano and pursued a jihadist agenda that made it a threat for foreign personnel. However, the group has not been associated with any attacks since.

Subsequently, a Lebanese national employed by a local company was kidnapped in December 2013 from a factory in the Sharada Industrial Area; he was found unharmed a few days later. It is unclear whether the abduction was carried out by a criminal gang or Islamist militants.

SECURITY FORCES AND CORRUPTION

Police and security forces lack adequate resources to combat crime. Law enforcement authorities can be indifferent in their response to criminal activity, as well as very slow in providing investigative support to victims if they do not foresee any cash inducement. Foreigners have experienced harassment, bribery requests and shake-downs at checkpoints and during encounters with officials. Morale and discipline are poor, and some police and military personnel are involved in criminal activity. In the event of a security incident, visitors should seek advice from MedAire or local providers, and contact the relevant embassy.

TERRORISM

Despite periodic warnings from Western intelligence agencies, the threat of transnational extremist groups targeting foreign interests is low. However, the Islamist extremist sect Boko Haram has a history of carrying out attacks in the city, and its offshoot Ansaru is predominantly based in Kano state.

The city’s status as the home of the Kano emirate – which Boko Haram reportedly regards, more than Sokoto, as the rightful spiritual home of the country’s Muslims – makes it a prized target in the militants’ pro-Sharia (Islamic law) campaign in the north. Bombings and shootings may target the security forces, government offices, educational institutions, churches and mosques, as well as influential political and ethnic leaders. Symbolic dates such as religious festivals – both Muslim and Christian – are particularly sensitive.

Boko Haram carried out co-ordinated attacks in the city in January 2012, which killed more than 180 people; bombs detonated at security force-related premises and churches, while shootings occurred in various locations. Several other attacks were recorded in the city that year. In November 2014, a bombing and gun attack occurred at the city’s central mosque, killing more than 120 people during Friday afternoon prayers.

Thereafter, at least 20 people were killed in a suicide bombing that targeted a Shia Muslim procession outside the city in November 2015. While military operations have reduced the threat posed by Boko Haram in the broader north as well as in Kano, there have been several security incidents and operations involving Islamist militants in the city in 2016 and 2017; these continue to pose significant incidental – and potentially direct – risks to foreign travellers.

NATURAL DISASTERS

Floods cause significant travel disruption during the rainy season between May and October. Harmattan, a seasonal wind that brings sand and dust, often causes reduced visibility during the dry months of November-April in central and northern Nigeria; droughts are common during this period. Seasonal bush fires and landslides on steep topographic slopes also occur.

GROUND TRANSPORTATION

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We recommend travel from the airport to the hotel be pre-arranged by a local host. Your local handling agent may be able to make arrangements for transport to the hotel; if not, we recommend contacting the hotel and asking them or their associated travel agent to arrange a vehicle.

Please contact MedAire Security if secure transport is desired.

**LODGING**

In general, we recommend booking hotels that meet international business class standards for security, cleanliness, and amenities. In most locations, hotels that meet these standards are branded international hotels. Branded international hotels often enforce a higher level of standards in each of their hotels throughout the world and are more likely to have desirable levels of security, amenities, and sanitation in less-developed countries.

In Kano, there are very limited suitable lodging options. The Tahir Palace, listed below, has been vetted and deemed a secure hotel in Kano. The hotel maintains security standards and is one of the more secure locations in the city.

**Tahir Palace**

No. 4 Ibrahim Natsugune Road
Kano, Nigeria, 2123
Phone: +234 805 029 8536

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE**

Private medical facilities in Lagos and Abuja offer the highest standards of care in the country and are able to manage basic medical conditions. These facilities are also best suited for stabilising moderate and complex medical issues which may require international evacuation. In addition, specialist care is often sought internationally. Public facilities and private facilities in smaller cities and rural areas may offer a lower standard of medical and nursing care. Equipment may be limited, and in some areas interruption to electricity and water supplies is not unusual. Further care can be coordinated in advance through MedAire’s 24/7 Global Response Centre. Regardless of the nature of the medical need, we strongly advise contacting the GRC immediately upon anticipating a need for medical care.

**VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS**

For the most up-to-date vaccination requirements and recommendations, please visit the MedAire Client Portal (login required) or contact MedLink directly to discuss your specific requirements and recommendations with a medical professional.

**ENTRY & EXIT REQUIREMENTS**

Entry and exit requirements constantly change and depend on individual circumstances, such as; nationality, point of origin, and destination. Please submit individual requirements to the here database for specific up to date information.

**Emergency Contact Information:**

MedAire Assistance 24/7: +1 602-281-3330