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Saudi Flight Disruption: A Guide for Nepali Travellers

Dated Dammam cancellations, Himalaya’s refund terms and a practical booking checklist for Nepalis travelling between Nepal and Saudi Arabia.

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By Nepal Digest - October 21, 2026 - Nepal

Checked: 21 October 2026. For Nepalis facing Saudi flight disruption, the first step is to confirm the exact service before leaving home, paying for a replacement ticket or arranging an airport pickup. Official notices from two Nepal-based carriers document Dammam cancellations, while a newly strengthened Australian travel warning points to wider security concerns.

The immediate issue for workers and families is practical: which booking is affected, what alternative is actually confirmed, and how to keep employers and relatives informed. A dated cancellation notice cannot answer all three. This guide separates what the airlines have announced from the questions passengers still need answered for their own journey.

Saudi flight disruption checklist for booking status, alternatives, documents a
Guide illustration: Nepal Digest.

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Saudi: what the official notices confirm

Himalaya Airlines' Dammam update, dated 14 October and listed on its website on 15 October, says services to and from Dammam were cancelled from 11 October because of the changing safety situation. It offers affected passengers rescheduling without charge or a refund, with an exception for non-refundable Saudi E3 taxes. Requests go through the airline office or the travel agency.

A separate Nepal Airlines announcement issued on 16 October cancelled RA241 from Kathmandu to Dammam and RA242 in the opposite direction on 18 October. It attributed the decision to security conditions and passenger safety. That announcement

specifies those flights and that date; it does not establish the status of subsequent departures.

Dated notices, rather than a live departure board

Carrier	Notice and affected dates	Passenger action
Himalaya Airlines	Notice dated 14 October; website listing 15 October. Dammam cancellations from 11 October 2026.	Ask about the announced rebooking/refund arrangement and the E3 tax exception. Obtain confirmation for your proposed replacement flight.
Nepal Airlines	Notice issued 16 October. RA241 and RA242 cancelled for 18 October 2026.	Ask the carrier or ticket seller about your specific date, available alternatives and applicable refund terms.

No resumption date for either carrier’s affected service was established by the material reviewed for this guide. That is a reporting limit, not proof that every later flight is cancelled. Check the current Himalaya notices and Nepal Airlines notices, then confirm your booking directly.

Why the wider warning matters

Australia’s Smartraveller advice for Saudi Arabia, updated on 19 October and marked current on 21 October, raised its overall level to “Do not travel”. It reports major disruption to aviation and advises passengers reconfirming departure arrangements before travelling to an airport. It also warns specifically about Riyadh’s King Khalid International Airport.

This is Australian government advice for its travellers. It is not a Nepal-issued travel ban, a new Saudi immigration rule for Nepali passport holders or a booking-status notice from an airline. Its relevance here is the security and operational context. Nepalis should check instructions applicable to their location and nationality rather than assume every foreign advisory creates the same rights or restrictions.

Start with your own booking

Have the passenger name, booking reference, ticket number, flight number, travel date and departure airport ready before calling. If a relative bought the ticket, obtain the actual itinerary rather than a screenshot showing only the payment. Ask the seller to identify the airline operating each leg and who will handle changes.

Use a precise question: “Is my flight on this date operating, and is my seat confirmed on it?” A timetable, a price displayed online or

a verbal suggestion of a new route is not the same answer. Request a written itinerary after any change, and check the date, airport and passenger details before accepting it.

Check again before starting the journey to the airport. Make sure the airline has a working telephone number or email address for you. If the ticket was issued through an agency, ask how urgent updates will reach you outside its usual office hours. Keep a screenshot or downloaded copy of the latest confirmation that you can open without mobile data.

Before choosing a refund or another flight

For a Himalaya booking covered by the announcement, ask for an itemised calculation showing the fare, taxes, any proposed deductions and the amount to be returned. Its E3 exception is a reason to request that breakdown before treating the advertised refund as the entire original payment. Ask when and how the money will reach you.

For other carriers, request their own applicable terms. One airline’s disruption arrangement should not be transferred to a different ticket by assumption. If a seller proposes a fee, ask what the charge covers and request a receipt. Keep the response with the original ticket and payment record.

Compare the complete alternative journey before buying. Include the new flight, any extra overnight stay, ground transport and the

consequences for an onward booking. Ask whether existing connecting flights will be changed together or need separate attention. A low replacement fare can still leave an unanswered question about reaching the final destination.

If you are considering insurance, contact the insurer with the booking and cancellation documents. Ask about the precise cover, exclusions, evidence and claim deadline for your policy. This guide has not verified a universal compensation entitlement or a reimbursement guarantee for extra accommodation, missed work or a separately purchased connection.

For workers returning to Saudi Arabia

Tell your employer or authorised workplace contact about the disruption as soon as your booking is affected. Send the airline’s dated notice alongside your itinerary so the original work-return plan and the airline change can be understood together. Ask for acknowledgement and a written response about the revised reporting arrangement.

Keep travel and immigration questions separate. Ask the responsible official service or authorised representative to check any visa, residence or travel-document deadline that could affect your individual case. Do not assume an airline cancellation changes a document’s validity or resolves an approaching deadline. No automatic extension has been verified for this article.

Agree who will arrange transport after arrival and how to reach them if the flight changes again. Share a revised arrival time only after it is confirmed. For a worker already in Saudi Arabia, include the journey from accommodation to the departure airport in the planning conversation, rather than focusing only on the international ticket.

Before buying another ticket, use Nepal Digest’s guide to comparing the full cost of a journey to Nepal, including baggage, transfers and overnight stays.

Changing the route needs a separate check

A route through another country needs more than an available seat. Before paying, ask the airline and the relevant official immigration service to confirm the requirements for your Nepali passport, documents, transit arrangement and planned journey. State whether you would leave the airport, collect baggage or cross a land border.

This article does not verify a land route through a neighbouring country as available to Nepali travellers. Advice written for another nationality cannot establish your permission to enter or transit. Request an answer for the actual itinerary; a general assurance that a route is commonly used leaves too much unresolved.

Keep one record that your family can use

Save the original itinerary, cancellation message, receipts, replacement booking and written exchanges in one folder. Give a trusted family member the essential travel details and a contact plan. Avoid putting passport scans, booking references or other private documents in public social-media comments while asking for help.

Record the date and time of each useful answer, the organisation giving it and what remains unresolved. This makes a later follow-up clearer: you can identify whether you are waiting for a seat, a refund calculation, a payment or a document check. If language is a barrier, ask a trusted person to help you prepare those questions without handing over control of your account.

Before leaving, check three things together: the flight is reconfirmed, the documents suit the agreed route, and someone knows the revised plan. A new itinerary is useful only when the whole journey makes sense.

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