# Trump’s UK layover signals push for $1 trillion Saudi investment amid Gaza crisis



President Donald Trump has made a brief stop in the UK, landing at RAF Mildenhall en route to the Middle East amid escalating tensions in Gaza and Iran. The strategic nature of this layover was underscored by the UK's implementation of stringent flight restrictions, which temporarily banned unauthorized flights in the area to ensure the safety of the president during his visit. This regulatory measure was in place from 11pm on Monday to 4am on Tuesday, with similar restrictions expected as Trump returns to the UK later in the week.

Trump's quick pit stop, reminiscent of his previous visits, highlighted the urgency of his current mission. He is set to visit pivotal allies in the Middle East—Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates—countries that play significant roles in regional diplomacy and commerce. As reported, the president is particularly focused on securing substantial investments from the Saudi kingdom during this trip, aiming for as much as $1 trillion in potential funding. However, the broader aspiration of normalising relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia remains clouded by the ongoing conflict in Gaza, where military actions have surged following a protracted ceasefire.

This conflict has led to a significant humanitarian crisis, exacerbating the already fraught dynamics between Israel and its Arab neighbours. While Saudi Arabia insists on a roadmap to Palestinian statehood as a precursor to any potential normalisation agreements, Trump appears to be leveraging his diplomatic engagements to push for economic deals that would bolster his business interests in the region. "This is his happy place," remarked Jon B Alterman from the Center for Strategic and International Studies, underscoring that Trump thrives where he can negotiate lucrative contracts without the hindrance of political criticism.

Israel, feeling increasingly sidelined, has raised concerns over its role in U.S. foreign policy discussions, especially regarding hostage negotiations and responses to Iranian-backed militia activities in the region. The perception of diminished Israeli influence in U.S. diplomatic initiatives has created unease, particularly as Trump pursues an agenda that intertwines his personal business interests with the strategic priorities of the U.S. in the Gulf.

Throughout this tour, Trump’s established business ties in the region will likely come into play, as he has historically used his relationships to foster mutual benefits. His administration's entwinement with Gulf states has raised questions about the separation of business interests and statecraft, especially given the significant investments he has made, including proposed developments linked to Trump-branded projects.

As Trump wraps up his Middle Eastern visit, observers will be watching closely to see not only how he manages the complex geopolitical landscape but also how effectively he can navigate the tensions at play while advancing his own commercial interests. The outcome of this trip could have lasting implications for U.S. foreign policy in the region amid ongoing challenges from Iran and internal divisions in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

### Reference Map

1. Article [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2054267/donald-trump-lands-uk-en-route-middle-east-amid-regional-tensions) informed the core narrative and details about Trump's UK layover and Middle Eastern plans.
2. Article [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/world/prospects-saudi-ties-israel-elusive-trump-seeks-1-trillion-bonanza-2025-05-11/) provided context on the complexities of U.S.-Saudi relations, specifically related to the Gaza situation.
3. Article [[3]](https://www.reuters.com/world/trump-heads-gulf-israel-asks-where-it-stands-2025-05-12/) highlighted Israeli concerns regarding their standing in U.S. foreign policy as Trump navigates relations in the Gulf.
4. Article [[4]](https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/what-links-have-trump-his-allies-maintained-with-oil-rich-gulf-states-2024-11-06/) elaborated on Trump's personal investments and connections with Gulf states, adding nuance to the discussion.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

* <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2054267/donald-trump-lands-uk-en-route-middle-east-amid-regional-tensions> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
* <https://www.reuters.com/world/prospects-saudi-ties-israel-elusive-trump-seeks-1-trillion-bonanza-2025-05-11/> - U.S. President Donald Trump is expected to focus on securing $1 trillion in Saudi investments during his upcoming visit to Riyadh. However, the goal of normalizing relations between Saudi Arabia and Israel remains elusive due to the ongoing Gaza war, which has resulted in significant casualties and displacement. Saudi Arabia insists on a ceasefire and a roadmap to Palestinian statehood before considering normalization, complicating U.S. efforts to expand the Abraham Accords. ([reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com/world/prospects-saudi-ties-israel-elusive-trump-seeks-1-trillion-bonanza-2025-05-11/?utm_source=openai))
* <https://www.reuters.com/world/trump-heads-gulf-israel-asks-where-it-stands-2025-05-12/> - As President Trump embarks on a Middle East tour to Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the UAE, Israel finds itself uncertain about its position in U.S. foreign policy. Israeli officials express concern over being excluded from key decisions, such as hostage negotiations with Hamas and the cessation of U.S. strikes on Iranian-backed Houthi forces. The exclusion from discussions and Trump's unpredictable leadership style have raised fears about diminishing Israeli influence. ([reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com/world/trump-heads-gulf-israel-asks-where-it-stands-2025-05-12/?utm_source=openai))
* <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/what-links-have-trump-his-allies-maintained-with-oil-rich-gulf-states-2024-11-06/> - As President Trump resumes his presidency, his administration's connections with Gulf nations—Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the UAE—are under renewed scrutiny. Trump and his allies have established extensive business and diplomatic ties in the region, including real estate developments and significant investments. These engagements reflect a fusion of personal business interests and U.S.-Gulf diplomatic relations under Trump's leadership. ([reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/what-links-have-trump-his-allies-maintained-with-oil-rich-gulf-states-2024-11-06/?utm_source=openai))
* <https://www.reuters.com/world/trump-says-he-could-go-turkey-join-russia-ukraine-2025-05-12/> - President Trump suggested the possibility of attending talks between Russia and Ukraine scheduled for Thursday in Turkey. While speaking to reporters at the White House, Trump mentioned his upcoming visits to Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Qatar but expressed interest in participating in the Turkey meeting if he believed productive outcomes could result. He emphasized the importance of achieving results and stated that logistics and existing commitments might affect his ability to join the discussions. ([reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com/world/trump-says-he-could-go-turkey-join-russia-ukraine-2025-05-12/?utm_source=openai))
* <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/most-gulf-shares-gain-us-china-tariff-deal-egypt-snaps-losing-streak-2025-05-12/> - Gulf stock markets rose following the U.S.-China agreement to temporarily reduce tariffs, boosting investor confidence. The U.S. will lower tariffs on Chinese goods from 145% to 30%, while China will reduce its tariffs on U.S. imports from 125% to 10% for 90 days. Saudi Arabia's TASI index climbed 1.3%, its sharpest monthly gain, led by a 2.2% rise in Saudi Aramco shares after reporting Q1 net profit of $26.01 billion. ([reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/most-gulf-shares-gain-us-china-tariff-deal-egypt-snaps-losing-streak-2025-05-12/?utm_source=openai))
* <https://www.reuters.com/podcasts/us-china-tariff-deal-ukraine-russia-ai-weapons-trump-saudi-2025-05-12/> - The latest Reuters World News podcast covers several significant global developments. The United States and China have reached a temporary agreement to reduce tariffs for 90 days following crucial negotiations held in Geneva, marking a potential easing in trade tensions. Meanwhile, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy has proposed a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Turkey, aiming to revive direct dialogue for the first time since early in the 2022 invasion. In other key updates, U.S. President Donald Trump is visiting Saudi Arabia, and international attention is growing on the issue of using artificial intelligence in warfare. ([reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com/podcasts/us-china-tariff-deal-ukraine-russia-ai-weapons-trump-saudi-2025-05-12/?utm_source=openai))