

Belarus

Medical Summary

The health risk information presented here is summarized from Shoreland Travax[®], a decision-support tool used by health care providers to perform a detailed health risk analysis based on specific locations, individual travel styles, and traveler risk behaviors. Travax provides practitioners current, independently researched malaria risk and prevention recommendations in a map-based format that goes beyond the annual WHO and CDC statements included here. Not included here are current reports from Travax of disease outbreaks or environmental events that may pose elevated risks to travelers' health and safety. The Providers section of this site offers a directory of health care providers who utilize Shoreland Travax for travel health counseling. Learn more about the detailed reports and maps available from these practitioners (includes links to samples).

General Information

Belarus is a developing nation classified as upper middle income. Located in northeastern Europe (north of Ukraine and south of Lithuania), the climate is classified as humid cold (no dry season).

Immunizations

Depending on your itinerary, your personal risk factors, and the length of your visit, your health care provider may offer you vaccination against hepatitis A, hepatitis B, influenza, measles, mumps, rubella, rabies, or tick-borne encephalitis. Routine immunizations, such as those that prevent tetanus/diphtheria or "childhood" diseases, should be reviewed and updated as needed.

Malaria

The following is current information as reported by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC):

WHO—International Travel and Health (current online update, Country List)

No statement given.

CDC—Health Information for International Travel (current online edition)

Areas with malaria: None.

Drug resistance: Not applicable.

Other Concerns

Travelers' Diarrhea

Moderate risk exists throughout the country, with minimal risk in deluxe accommodations. Food and beverage precautions may reduce the likelihood of illness.

Travelers should carry loperamide for self-treatment of diarrhea and, if risk is moderate to high, an antibiotic to add if diarrhea is severe. Consult a knowledgeable health care provider regarding which antibiotic is appropriate for you and most effective for your destination.

Insect- and Arthropod-Borne Diseases

Lyme disease, West Nile virus may pose a risk. Personal protective measures are important.

Other Disease and Health Risks

Additional concerns include air pollution, radiation, sexually transmitted infections, tuberculosis.

Consular Advice

The material below includes information from the U.S. Department of State (DOS), U.K. Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO), Global Affairs Canada (GAC), and Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), as well as from additional open-source material. Standard safety precautions that apply to all international travel can be found in the Library article Safety and Security.

Terrorism Risk

Risk of attack by transnational terrorist groups exists throughout Europe. Targets may include domestic and international organizations and businesses; public places and events, including those frequented by tourists; and transportation systems.

Crime

Low risk of violent crime (armed robbery) and moderate risk of petty crime exist throughout the country, mainly in the cities of Minsk, Grodno, Brest, Gomel, Mogilev, and Vitebsk (particularly near hotels and bars frequented by foreigners) and on or near public transportation (especially overnight trains). Organized criminal groups are active in casinos and nightclubs.

Scams involving corrupt officials have been reported.

Risk exists of robberies and/or assaults occurring after consuming intentionally drugged food or drink; tourists are frequently targeted.

Civil Unrest

Protests and demonstrations occur throughout the country, especially in Minsk and other cities, and have the potential to turn violent without warning. Bystanders are at risk of harm from violence or from the response by authorities. Disruption to transportation, free movement, or the ability to carry out daily activities may occur.

Transportation Safety

High risk of traffic-related injury or death exists. The road-traffic death rate is 12 to 24 per 100,000 population. The rate is less than 10 in most high-income countries. Driving at night is not advised. Seek local advice before traveling on roads outside urban areas after dark.

Traffic flows on the right-hand side of the road. Travelers (including drivers and pedestrians) accustomed to traffic moving on the opposite side should be vigilant when navigating traffic.

Exercise caution on rail services, especially on overnight trains to Warsaw (Poland) and Moscow (Russia), due to the risk of pick-pocketing.

Many taxis are unsafe. Use taxis from official ranks or dispatched via smart phone app or radio from a reputable company and ascertain the license or identification number of the dispatched vehicle.

Consular Information

Selected Embassies or Consulates in Belarus

- | United States: [+375] 17-210-12-83; by.usembassy.gov
- | Canada: Canada does not have an embassy or consulate in Belarus.
- | United Kingdom: [+375] 17-229-8200; www.gov.uk/world/organisations/british-embassy-minsk
- | Australia: Australia does not have an embassy or consulate in Belarus.

Belarus's Embassies or Consulates in Selected Countries

- | In the U.S.: usa.mfa.gov.by
- | In Canada: canada.mfa.gov.by
- | In the U.K.: uk.mfa.gov.by
- | In Australia: www.australia.mfa.gov.by

Visa/HIV Testing

HIV testing is not required to obtain a tourist, work, or residence visa.

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