

Burma (Myanmar)

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 US 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

Burma (Myanmar) is a developing nation classified as lower middle income. Located in Southeast Asia along the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea (east of India and west of Thailand), the climate ranges from dry summer to humid equatorial (short dry season), with cooler temperatures in some high-altitude areas.

Vaccinations

Routine vaccinations are essential due to a persistent global rise of vaccine-preventable diseases (especially markedly high rates of diphtheria, pertussis, and measles). Prior to travel, travelers should be up-to-date with the age-appropriate routine vaccinations recommended by their home country, which may include: COVID-19; *H. influenzae* type B (Hib); hepatitis A; hepatitis B; herpes zoster; human papillomavirus; influenza; measles, mumps, rubella (a single early dose is recommended for travelers aged 6-11 months); meningococcal; pneumococcal; polio; rotavirus; tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap preferred; consider an early pertussis booster for high-risk travelers); varicella.

Yellow Fever

Although yellow fever does not occur in Burma (Myanmar), an official yellow fever vaccination certificate may be required depending on your itinerary.

- **Requirement:** A certificate proving yellow fever vaccination is required for travelers aged ≥ 1 year coming from countries with risk of YF transmission. This also applies to airport transit stops (no exit through immigration checkpoint) longer than 12 hours in risk countries.

Other Vaccines

Depending on your itinerary, your personal risk factors, and the length of your visit, your health care provider may offer you vaccination against chikungunya, cholera, dengue, Japanese encephalitis, rabies, or typhoid fever.

Malaria

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

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

(2019) Malaria risk due predominantly to *P. falciparum* exists throughout the year in remote rural, hilly and forested areas of the country, as well as in some coastal areas in Rahkine State. There is no transmission in cities and urban areas. The central plains and the dry zone are generally free of malaria, but some pockets of transmission still exist. Mefloquine resistance has been reported in Kayin State and the eastern part of Shan State. Emerging artemisinin resistance is suspected in south-eastern Myanmar. *P. vivax* resistance to chloroquine has been reported. Human *P. knowlesi* infection has been reported.

- Recommended prevention in risk areas: **C** – Risk of *P. falciparum* malaria. Mosquito-bite prevention plus atovaquone-proguanil or doxycycline or mefloquine chemoprophylaxis (select according to drug-resistance pattern, reported side-effects and contraindications).^{a, b}

^aAlternatively, for travel to rural areas with low risk of malaria infection, mosquito bite prevention can be combined with stand-by emergency treatment (SBET).

^bIn certain areas with multidrug-resistant malaria, mefloquine chemoprophylaxis is no longer recommended. At present, these areas include Cambodia, south-eastern Myanmar and Thailand.

WHO Country List footnote: When available, the date of the most recent update or confirmation is indicated in parentheses in the country list. If no accurate date is indicated, the most recent update or confirmation was provided prior to 2013.

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

Transmission areas

- All areas

Drug resistance¹

- Chloroquine and mefloquine

Species

- *P. vivax* (80%)
- *P. falciparum* (20%)
- *P. knowlesi*⁶, *P. malariae*, and *P. ovale* (rare)

Recommended chemoprophylaxis

- Areas in the regions of Bago and Tanintharyi; and in the states of Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, and Shan: Atovaquone-proguanil, doxycycline, tafenoquine²
- All other areas: Atovaquone-proguanil, doxycycline, mefloquine, tafenoquine²

¹ Refers to *P. falciparum* malaria, unless otherwise noted.

² Tafenoquine can cause potentially life-threatening hemolysis in people with glucose-6-phosphate-dehydrogenase (G6PD) deficiency. Test for G6PD deficiency with a quantitative laboratory test before prescribing tafenoquine to patients.

⁶ *P. knowlesi* is a malaria species with a simian (macaque) host. Human cases have been reported from most countries in Southwest Asia and are associated with activities in forest or forest-fringe areas. *P. knowlesi* has no known resistance to antimalarials.

Other Concerns

Travelers' Diarrhea

High risk exists throughout the country, including in deluxe accommodations. Community sanitation and food safety measures are generally inadequate. Some itineraries (e.g., remote destinations, austere accommodations) and activities (e.g., ecotourism, eating street or local-market food) further increase risk.

Travelers should observe food and beverage precautions, which 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.

Other Food-Borne Illnesses

Precautions to prevent brucellosis may be needed.

Insect- and Arthropod-Borne Diseases

Leishmaniasis, West Nile virus, Zika may pose a risk. Personal protective measures are important.

Other Disease and Health Risks

Additional concerns include air pollution, anthrax disease, Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever, helminths, hepatitis C, leptospirosis, marine hazards, melioidosis, plague, schistosomiasis, sexually transmitted infections, snakebites, tuberculosis.

Safety and Security

Key Safety Risks

- Road conditions and traffic collisions
- Petty crime
- Scams
- Cybersecurity
- Natural disasters
- Arbitrary arrest/unlawful detention

Key Security Threats

- Armed conflict
- Risk of terrorist attacks by domestic groups
- Risk of violent civil unrest
- Risk of security forces responding to protests with excessive force
- Explosions in public places
- Landmines/unexploded ordnance
- Occasional violent crime
- Kidnapping
- Random acts of armed violence

Emergency Contacts

The police emergency number is 199; local operators may not speak English.

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