

# Comoros

## Medical Summary

The health risk information presented here is summarized from Shoreland Travax<sup>®</sup>, 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

Comoros is a developing nation classified as low income. Located in the Mozambique Channel (west of Mozambique and north of Mayotte), the climate is classified as humid equatorial (long dry season).

## Vaccinations

Depending on your itinerary, your personal risk factors, and the length of your visit, your health care provider may offer you vaccination against COVID-19, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, influenza, measles, mumps, rubella, rabies, or typhoid fever. 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 US Centers for Disease Control (CDC):

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

(2018) Malaria risk due predominantly to *P. falciparum* exists throughout the year in the entire country.

- Recommended prevention: **C** – Risk of *P. falciparum* malaria, in combination with reported chloroquine and sulfadoxine–pyrimethamine resistance. Mosquito bite prevention plus atovaquone–proguanil or doxycycline or mefloquine chemoprophylaxis (select according to reported side effects and contraindications) <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Alternatively, for travel to rural areas with low risk of malaria infection, mosquito bite prevention can be combined with stand-by emergency treatment (SBET).

*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 date is indicated, the most recent update or confirmation was provided before 2013.

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

Areas with malaria: All.

- Drug resistance<sup>3</sup>: Chloroquine.
- Malaria species: Primarily *P. falciparum*.
- Recommended chemoprophylaxis: Atovaquone-proguanil, doxycycline, mefloquine, or tafenoquine.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Refers to *P. falciparum* malaria unless otherwise noted.

<sup>4</sup> Primaquine and tafenoquine can cause hemolytic anemia in people with G6PD deficiency. Patients must be screened for G6PD deficiency before starting primaquine or tafenoquine. See *Tafenoquine Approved for Malaria Prophylaxis and Treatment* for more information.

## Other Concerns

### Travelers' Diarrhea

High risk exists throughout the country, with moderate risk 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

Chikungunya, dengue, Rift Valley fever, West Nile virus may pose a risk. Personal protective measures are important.

### Other Disease and Health Risks

Additional concerns include helminths, leptospirosis, marine hazards, tuberculosis.

## Consular Advice

*The material below includes information from the US Department of State (DOS), the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development 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

No intrinsic risk of attack by terrorist groups exists, but unforeseen attacks are possible.

### Crime

Negligible risk of violent crime exists throughout the country.

Low risk of petty crime exists throughout the country, mainly in crowded markets, in parks, and on beaches.

### Civil Unrest

Protests and demonstrations may infrequently occur 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.

### Unsafe Areas

Piracy (involving commercial and private leisure vessels) may occur in coastal and international waters.

### Water Safety

Passenger boats may be unsafe, including ferries traveling between islands. Decline water transportation in vessels that appear overloaded or lack personal flotation devices or life jackets.

### Transportation Safety

Significant risk of traffic-related injury or death exists. The road traffic death rate is more than 24 per 100,000 population, the highest risk category. Carefully assess the safety of transportation options before any road travel.

Speed laws are poorly enforced.

There are no seatbelt laws.

Drunk driving laws are poorly enforced.

There are no restrictions on mobile phone usage while driving.

### Natural Disasters

The rainy season is from December through April, coinciding with the cyclone season. Floods, mudslides, and landslides may occur.

Seismic and volcanic activity occurs, especially on Grande Comore Island.

## Consular Information

Selected Embassies or Consulates in Comoros

- United States: [+261] 20-23-480-00; mg.usembassy.gov
- Canada: Canada does not have an embassy or consulate in Comoros.
- United Kingdom: U.K. does not have an embassy or consulate in Comoros.
- Australia: Australia does not have an embassy or consulate in Comoros.

Comoros' Embassies or Consulates in Selected Countries

- In the U.S.: [www.un.int/comoros](http://www.un.int/comoros)
- In Canada: [+1] 905-319-1244
- In the U.K.: [+44] 07768-821-888
- In Australia: Comoros does not have an embassy or consulate in Australia.

## Visa/HIV Testing

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

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