Cote d'Ivoire

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

Cote d'Ivoire is a developing nation in the lower half of the world's economies. Located on the Gulf of Guinea in western Africa, its climate is tropical along the coast and semiarid in the far north. The southern third of the country is covered by tropical rain forest.

Immunizations

Yellow Fever

- Requirement: A vaccination certificate is required for all travelers 9 months of age and older.
- Official Status: listed by WHO as a country where YF transmission risk is present.

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 hepatitis A, hepatitis B, influenza, measles, mumps, rubella, meningococcal meningitis, 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 U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC):

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

(2013) Malaria risk due predominantly to *P. falciparum* exists throughout the year in the whole 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) a

aAlternatively, 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

- Estimated relative risk of malaria for US travelers: High
- Drug resistance4: Chloroquine
- Malaria species: *P. falciparum* 85%, *P. ovale* 5%-10%, *P. vivax* rare.
- Recommended chemoprophylaxis: Atovaquone-proguanil, doxycycline, or mefloquine.

4 Refers to *P. falciparum* malaria unless otherwise noted.
Other Concerns

Travelers' Diarrhea
High risk exists throughout the country, including 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
African trypanosomiasis, dengue, leishmaniasis, onchocerciasis, tick-bite fever, West Nile virus and Zika may pose a risk. Personal protective measures are important.

Other Disease and Health Risks
Additional concerns include avian influenza, Ebola virus disease, lassa fever, marine hazards, schistosomiasis, sexually transmitted infections and 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.

Consular Travel Advice
Due to ongoing violence and the presence of armed groups, Australia (DFAT) advises against nonessential travel to Haut-Sassandra Region and Bas-Sassandra and Montagnes districts. U.K. (FCO) and Canada (GAC) advise against nonessential travel to areas bordering Liberia. U.S. (DOS) has no current warning.

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

Crime
High risk of violent crime (armed robbery, home invasion, and carjacking) exists throughout the country, especially in Abidjan (particularly in Abobo, Adjame, and Yopougon districts; and neighborhoods of Trechiville and Plateau, including on bridges to and from Plateau) and on the main road from Yamoussoukro to Korhogo (Savanes District).
High risk of petty crime exists throughout the country, especially in Abidjan.

Scams involving ATMs, credit cards, a wide range of financial activities, and false identity (such as criminals posing as military officials) have been reported.

Unsafe Areas
Political tensions are high and have led to ongoing armed clashes resulting in deaths. Violence and assaults targeting civilians have been reported. Street crime persists due to the absence of armed forces.

Ongoing tensions along the line that divided the country into 2 politically opposed factions during the civil war continue to pose a risk. Communal and ethnic tensions also persist and have resulted in sporadic episodes of unrest in the northern territories.

The border areas with Liberia, along the western provinces of Dix-Huit Montagnes and Moyen-Cavally are particularly insecure. The region is volatile and the presence of armed militias and the lack of proper security forces patrols increase the risk to travelers. Highway robberies and carjackings have been reported.
Transportation Safety
Significant risk of traffic-related injury or death exists. The road-traffic death rate is > 24 per 100,000 population, the highest risk category. Carefully assess the safety of transportation options before any road travel. 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.

Natural Disasters
In the southern coastal region, the rainy seasons occur from May to August and October to November. In the central and north-central region, the rainy seasons extend from mid-July to mid-October and mid-March to mid-May. In the north, the rainy season is from July to November, and a harmattan wind blows down from the Sahara between December and February.

Consular Information
Selected Embassies or Consulates in Cote d'Ivoire
- United States: [+225] 22-49-40-00; abidjan.usembassy.gov
- Canada: [+225] 20-30-07-00; canadainternational.gc.ca/cotedivoire
- United Kingdom: [+225] 22-44-26-69
- Australia: Australian Embassy: Australia does not have an embassy or consulate in Cote d'Ivoire.

Cote d'Ivoire's Embassies or Consulates in Selected Countries
- In the U.S.: Cote d'Ivoire does not have an embassy or consulate in the U.S.
- In Canada: www.canada.diplomatie.gouv.ci
- In the U.K.: [+44] 020-7235-6991
- In Australia: Cote d'Ivoire does not have an embassy or consulate in Australia.

Visa/HIV Testing
Visa applicants may need to meet specific requirements. Review the application and contact the appropriate embassy or consulate with questions. The U.S. Department of State is unaware of any HIV/AIDS entry restrictions for visitors to or foreign residents of Cote d'Ivoire.