

# Iraq

## 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

Iraq is a developing nation classified as upper middle income. Located in the Middle East (north of Saudi Arabia and south of Syria), the climate is classified as predominantly dry (arid).

## Vaccinations

**Routine vaccinations** are essential due to a persistent rise of vaccine-preventable diseases (especially markedly high rates of diphtheria, pertussis, and measles) globally. 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; influenza; measles, mumps, rubella; meningococcal; pneumococcal; polio; rotavirus; tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap preferred; consider an early pertussis booster for high-risk travelers); varicella.

## Yellow Fever

- *Requirement:* No requirement for any traveler as of November 18, 2022 per the 2022 online update of *International Travel and Health*.

## 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 cholera, 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)

(2020) Limited malaria risk due exclusively to *P. vivax* may exist from May through November in areas in the north below 1500 m (Duhok, Erbil and Sulaimaniya provinces). No indigenous cases have been reported since 2009.

- Recommended prevention in risk areas: **None**

*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: None.

Drug resistance: Not applicable.

## Other Concerns

### Travelers' Diarrhea

Moderate risk exists throughout the country, including in deluxe accommodations. Community sanitation and food safety measures may be 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 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, leptospirosis, plague, schistosomiasis, sexually transmitted infections, snakebites, tuberculosis.

## Safety and Security

### Key Safety Risks

- Road conditions
- Public transportation
- Domestic and/or international air travel
- Petty crime
- Theft of vehicles
- Scams

### Key Security Threats

- Armed conflict
- Terrorist attacks by domestic and/or transnational groups, which may target foreign nationals or airports
- Risk of violent civil unrest
- Risk of violent protests
- Risk of security forces responding to protests with excessive force
- Potential spillover of armed conflict
- Cross-border threats in areas bordering Syria and Turkey
- Explosions in public places
- Landmines/unexploded ordnance
- Violent crime
- Kidnapping/hostage taking, which may target foreign nationals
- Random acts of armed violence

## Emergency Phone Number

The police emergency number is 104; the line may not be answered and local operators may not speak English.