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

Kosovo is a developing nation in the lower half of the world’s economies. Located between Serbia and Macedonia in southeastern Europe, its climate varies by region but generally is characterized by hot, dry summers and cold, snowy winters.

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, or rabies. 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 and West Nile virus may pose a risk. Personal protective measures are important.

Other Disease and Health Risks
Additional concerns include Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever, hantavirus and tuberculosis.

Consular Advice

The material below includes information from the U.S. Department of State (DOS), U.K. Foreign & Commonwealth Office
Consular Travel Advice

Due to ongoing violence and ongoing security concerns, U.K. (FCO) advises against nonessential travel to the municipalities of Zvecan, Zubin Potok, and Leposavi and to northern areas of the city of Mitrovica (Mitrovica Municipality). Canada (GAC) and Australia (DFAT) concur. U.S. (DOS) has no current warning.

Terrorism Risk

There is an underlying risk from terrorism. Attacks could be indiscriminate, including in places frequented by expatriates and foreign travelers.

Crime

Petty crime, such as pickpocketing and purse snatching is prevalent, especially in public areas such as markets and public transportation facilities, particularly in Pristina. Foreigners can be targets of crime, as criminals assume that they carry cash. Carjacking and car theft also occur. Violent criminal acts, such as assassinations and murder, are often linked to organized crime and not directed at foreigners.

Civil Unrest

Public demonstrations occur frequently throughout Kosovo, often with little or no notice, and can cause serious traffic disruptions or violent incidents, particularly near government buildings. Tear gas, pepper spray, and other tactics have been used in previous incidents.

Unsafe Areas

The security situation, particularly in north Kosovo, remains unpredictable.

Kosovo declared its independence in 2008; Serbia does not recognize Kosovo’s independence. Travelers may experience difficulty crossing that border; along the border the security situation is unpredictable, and attacks and roadblocks may occur. International explosive ordnance disposal teams have cleared all major routes and population centers, in addition to marking remaining sites known to contain mines or other unexploded ordnance. However, unexploded land mines may remain along the Albania-Kosovo border. Cluster bombs are a problem throughout rural areas but can also be found elsewhere, including urban areas. Off-road travel and hiking in wooded areas can be dangerous. Exercise vigilance and risk-avoidance strategies.

Transportation Safety

National incidence data on traffic-related injury or death are not available.

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

Kosovo is located in an active earthquake zone. Tremors are common.

Bush and forest fires can occur in summer months (June to September), particularly in northern Kosovo. During winter months, fog can obscure visibility while driving.

Consular Information

Selected Embassies or Consulates in Kosovo

- Canada: Canada does not have an embassy or consulate in Kosovo.
- United Kingdom: [+381] 038-254-700; ukinkosovo.fco.gov.uk/en
- Australia: Australia does not have an embassy or consulate in Kosovo.

Kosovo’s Embassies or Consulates in Selected Countries

- In the U.S.: www.ambasada-ks.net/us
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 Kosovo.

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