

Kosovo

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 classified as lower middle income. Located in southeastern Europe (south of Serbia and north of North Macedonia), the climate is classified as humid temperate (no dry season).

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, 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, 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 ongoing security concerns, U.S. (DOS), U.K. (FCO), Canada (GAC), and Australia (DFAT) advise reconsidering travel (or avoiding nonessential travel) to the municipalities of Zvecan, Zubin Potok, and Leposavi and to northern areas of the city of Mitrovica (Mitrovica Municipality).

Terrorism Risk

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

Crime

Low risk of violent crime (armed robbery, home invasion, sexual assault, and carjacking) exists throughout the country. Organized criminal groups are active in casinos and nightclubs.

Low risk of petty crime exists throughout the country, mainly in Pristina, in airports, on or near public transportation, in markets and crowded places, and in areas frequented by foreigners and tourists. Theft of valuables from unattended vehicles is common.

Civil Unrest

Protests and demonstrations frequently occur throughout the country, especially in the cities of Pristina and Gjakova, 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

Ethnic tensions are present in Mitrovica District, including in cities and towns.

Landmines and other unexploded ordnance are present in areas bordering Albania and Serbia, in the Dulje Pass area near the city of Prizren, and in western and southern areas of the country.

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.

Public buses and rail services do not meet international safety standards (due to unsafe vehicles and poor maintenance).

Many taxis are unsafe. Use taxis from official ranks or dispatched via smart phone app or radio from a reputable company and ascertain the license or identification number of the dispatched vehicle.

Natural Disasters

Forest fires occur during the dry season from June through September, especially in northern areas.

Seismic activity frequently occurs.

Consular Information

Selected Embassies or Consulates in Kosovo

- | United States: [+381] 38-59-59-3000; xk.usembassy.gov
- | Canada: Canada does not have an embassy or consulate in Kosovo.
- | United Kingdom: [+381] 038-254-700; www.gov.uk/world/organisations/british-embassy-pristina
- | 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
- | In Canada: [+1] 613-569-2828

- | In the U.K.: [+44] 020-7405-1010
- | In Australia: [+61] 02-6156-1532

Visa/HIV Testing

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

© 2019 Shoreland, Inc. All rights reserved.