

Libya

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

Libya is a developing nation classified as upper middle income. Located in northern Africa along the Mediterranean Sea (west of Egypt and east of Algeria), the climate is classified as predominantly dry (arid).

Immunizations

Yellow Fever

Although yellow fever does not occur in Libya, an official yellow fever vaccination certificate may be required depending on your itinerary.

- *Requirement:* A vaccination certificate is required for travelers aged ≥ 1 year coming from countries with risk of YF transmission. Note: This does not apply to airport transit stops (no exit through immigration checkpoint) in risk countries.

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, typhoid fever, or a one time polio booster if you haven't previously received one for travel. 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

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

Leishmaniasis, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, West Nile virus may pose a risk. Personal protective measures are important.

Other Disease and Health Risks

Additional concerns include marine hazards, plague, schistosomiasis, snakebites, 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 terrorism and ongoing security concerns, U.S. (DOS), U.K. (FCO), Canada (GAC), and Australia (DFAT) advise avoiding all travel to this country.

Terrorism Risk

High risk of attack by domestic and transnational terrorist groups exists throughout the country, especially at airports and in Benghazi. Targets may include domestic and international organizations and businesses; public places and events, including those frequented by tourists; and transportation systems.

High risk of kidnapping by terrorist groups exists throughout the country, especially in areas bordering Algeria, Niger, Chad, and Sudan. Targets may include foreigners (especially Westerners), journalists, nongovernmental organization workers, missionaries, and aid workers.

Crime

High risk of violent crime (armed robbery and carjacking) and high risk of petty crime exist throughout the country.

Kidnappings by criminal groups occur throughout the country, especially in Tripoli and coastal towns west of Tripoli. Targets may include foreigners (especially Westerners).

Civil Unrest

Protests and demonstrations frequently occur throughout the country, especially in Tripoli, 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

Armed conflict occurs and a dangerous security environment exists throughout the country, including in Tripoli and Benghazi.

Water Safety

Rent water sports equipment from reputable operators. Scuba dive only with personnel certified by PADI or NAUI, and use equipment only from PADI- or NAUI-certified dive operators.

Transportation Safety

Significant risk of traffic-related injury or death exists. The road-traffic death rate is greater 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. 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.

Due to security concerns, travel between the cities of Az Zawiyah and Tripoli and on roads in southeastern areas is unsafe.

Taxis are unsafe. Use a privately hired driver.

Natural Disasters

The rainy or monsoon season is from November through March. Floods, mudslides, and landslides may occur.

Sandstorms and dust storms frequently occur.

Extreme heat (which can lead to heat-related illness) occurs from June through September.

Consular Information

Selected Embassies or Consulates in Libya

- | United States: ly.usembassy.gov
- | Canada: www.libya.gc.ca
- | United Kingdom: U.K. does not have an embassy or consulate in Libya.
- | Australia: Australia does not have an embassy or consulate in Libya.

Libya's Embassies or Consulates in Selected Countries

- | In the U.S.: www.embassyoflibyadc.org
- | In Canada: www.libyanembassy.ca
- | In the U.K.: [+44] 020-7201-8280
- | In Australia: [+61] 02-6290-7900

Visa/HIV Testing

HIV testing may be required to obtain a work or residence visa.

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