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

Madagascar is a developing nation in the lowest 25% of the world’s economies. Located off the southeastern coast of Africa in the Indian Ocean, its climate is tropical in coastal areas, temperate inland, and arid in the south.

Immunizations

Yellow Fever

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

Requirement: A vaccination certificate is required for travelers 9 months of age and older coming from countries with risk of YF transmission. Note: This applies to airport layovers > 12 hours in these 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, 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)

(2016) Malaria risk exists only in limited foci in the deep hinterland of the states of Sabah and Sarawak and the central areas of Peninsular Malaysia. Urban, suburban and coastal areas are free from malaria. Human P. knowlesi infection reported. P. falciparum resistance to chloroquine reported.

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

Alternatively, 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 areas, except rare cases in the city of Antananarivo.

Estimated relative risk of malaria for US travelers: Moderate.

Drug resistance4: Chloroquine.
Malaria species: *P. falciparum* 85%, *P. vivax* 5%-10%, *P. ovale* 5%.

Recommended chemoprophylaxis:
- All areas except the city of Antananarivo: Atovaquone-proguanil, doxycycline, or mefloquine.
- Antananarivo: Mosquito avoidance only.

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.

Other Food-Borne Illnesses
Precautions to prevent seafood poisoning may be needed.

Insect- and Arthropod-Borne Diseases
Chikungunya, dengue, murine typhus, Rift Valley fever, tick-bite fever and West Nile virus may pose a risk. Personal protective measures are important.

Other Disease and Health Risks
Additional concerns include air pollution, marine hazards, melioidosis, schistosomiasis 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 violent crime targeting Westerners, U.K. (FCO) advises against travel to Batterie Beach, Atsimo-Andrefana Region. Canada (GAC) and Australia (DFAT) concur. U.S. (DOS) has no current warning.

Terrorism Risk
Risk of attack by transnational terrorist groups exists throughout the country. 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) and petty crime exists throughout the country, especially in Antananarivo, coastal cities, national parks (including Montagne d'Ambre and Ankarana national parks), and on Nosy Be Island.

Kidnappings by criminal groups occur throughout the country, including in Antananarivo and surrounding areas. Targets may include foreigners (especially Westerners).

Scams involving false identity (such as criminals posing as tour guides) have been reported.

Other Safety Threats
The country is still recovering from an economic crisis that exacerbated the already poor living conditions in most regions. Visitors may wish to travel with established organizations or travel firms who have the capacity to monitor the local media and
warn of possible trouble. If traveling independently, travelers should monitor the local media closely.

Alcohol can be tainted with poisonous substances and may be fatal if ingested.

**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. 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.

**Natural Disasters**

Inadequate maintenance and severe cyclone damage in some areas in recent years has left the road and rail networks of Madagascar in a dismal state. The poor state of the roads and railways, however, has led to the development of an extensive domestic airline network, reaching all parts of the country.

**Consular Information**

Selected Embassies or Consulates in Madagascar

- United States: [+261] 20-23-480-00; www.antananarivo.usembassy.gov
- Canada: Canada does not have an embassy or consulate in Madagascar.
- United Kingdom: [+261] 2022-33053; ukinmadagascar.fco.gov.uk
- Australia: Australia does not have an embassy or consulate in Madagascar.

Madagascar’s Embassies or Consulates in Selected Countries

- In the U.S.: www.madagascar-embassy.org
- In Canada: www.madagascar-embassy.ca
- In the U.K.: Madagascar does not have an embassy or consulate in the U.K.
- In Australia: [+61] 02-9299-2290

**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 Madagascar.

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