

Morocco

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

Morocco is a developing nation classified as lower middle income. Located in northwestern Africa, along the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea (north of Algeria), the climate classifications range from dry (semi arid) in the south to dry summer in the north, with cooler temperatures in some high-altitude areas.

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, 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

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

Other Disease and Health Risks

Additional concerns include air pollution, marine hazards, 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 ongoing security concerns, Canada (GAC) and Australia (DFAT) advise avoiding travel within 30 km (19 mi) west of the Moroccan Western Sahara Wall, and between the Moroccan Western Sahara Wall and border areas on the eastern side. U.S. (DOS) and U.K. (FCO) have no current warnings.

Terrorism Risk

Risk of attack by domestic and 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.

High risk of kidnapping by terrorist groups exists in remote areas, southern areas, and areas bordering Mauritania and Algeria; targets may include foreigners (especially Westerners).

Crime

Low risk of violent crime (armed robbery and murder) and high risk of petty crime exist throughout the country, mainly in cities and areas frequented by tourists (including beaches, medinas, and market areas).

Scams involving credit cards, extortion, and false identity (such as criminals posing as tour guides) have been reported.

Civil Unrest

Protests and demonstrations frequently occur in Al Hoceima, Taza-Al Hoceima-Taounate Region (and occur throughout the rest of the country) and are generally peaceful, but 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 may occur.

Unsafe Areas

A dangerous security environment may exist in southern desert areas and east of the Moroccan Western Sahara Wall.

Landmines and other unexploded ordnance are present and territorial disputes exist in areas bordering Western Sahara.

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.

Outdoor Safety

Desert excursions should only be undertaken with organized groups and experienced guides. Participants should inform someone not on the tour of their itinerary and anticipated return time. An adequate supply of food and water for extended unforeseen delays is essential.

Transportation Safety

High risk of traffic-related injury or death exists. The road-traffic death rate is 12 to 24 per 100,000 population. The rate is less than 10 in most high-income countries. 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.

Airline Safety

U.S. Federal Aviation Administration has determined that the civil aviation authority of this country oversees its air carriers in accordance with minimum international safety standards.

Natural Disasters

The rainy season is from November through March. Floods, mudslides, and landslides may occur, especially in mountainous areas and near rivers.

Seismic activity frequently occurs.

Consular Information

Selected Embassies or Consulates in Morocco

- | United States: [+212] 0537-637-200; ma.usembassy.gov
- | Canada: [+212] 0537-54-49-49; www.morocco.gc.ca
- | United Kingdom: [+212] 0537-633-333; www.gov.uk/world/organisations/british-embassy-rabat
- | Australia: Australia does not have an embassy or consulate in Morocco.

Morocco's Embassies or Consulates in Selected Countries

- | In the U.S.: www.embassyofmorocco.us
- | In Canada: www.consulatdumaroc.ca
- | In the U.K.: www.moroccanembassylondon.org.uk/en/indexD.asp
- | In Australia: www.moroccoembassy.org.au

Visa/HIV Testing

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

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