

Oman

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

Oman is a developing nation classified as high income. Located in the Middle East along the Arabian Sea, Persian Gulf, and Gulf of Oman (east of Yemen and south of Saudi Arabia), the climate is classified as dry (arid).

Immunizations

Yellow Fever

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

- Requirement: A vaccination certificate is required for travelers aged ≥ 9 months coming from countries with risk of YF transmission. This also applies to airport transit stops (no exit through immigration checkpoint) longer than 12 hours 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, 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)

(2019) Sporadic transmission of *P. falciparum* and *P. vivax* may occur subsequent to international importations of parasites. In 2010, local outbreaks of *P. falciparum* and *P. vivax* were reported in Ash Sharqiyah North Governorate. Local cases were also reported in 2011 and 2012.

- Recommended prevention: **None**

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: Sporadic transmission in Dakhliyah, North Batinah, and North and South Sharqiyah.

- Drug resistance³: Chloroquine
- Malaria species: *P. falciparum* and *P. vivax*
- Recommended chemoprophylaxis: None (practice mosquito avoidance).

³ Refers to *P. falciparum* malaria unless otherwise noted.

⁴ Primaquine and tafenoquine can cause hemolytic anemia in people with G6PD deficiency. Patients must be screened for G6PD deficiency before starting primaquine or tafenoquine. See *Tafenoquine Approved for Malaria Prophylaxis and Treatment* for more information.

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.

Other Food-Borne Illnesses

Precautions to prevent brucellosis may be needed.

Insect- and Arthropod-Borne Diseases

Dengue, leishmaniasis may pose a risk. Personal protective measures are important.

Other Disease and Health Risks

Additional concerns include Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever, marine hazards, MERS Coronavirus, schistosomiasis, snakebites.

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 military conflict and ongoing security concerns, U.S. (DOS) advises avoiding travel to areas bordering Yemen. Canada (GAC) and Australia (DFAT) advise reconsidering travel (or avoiding nonessential travel) within 10 km (6 mi) of the border with Yemen. U.K. (FCO) 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

Negligible risk of violent crime and low risk of petty crime exist throughout the country.

Civil Unrest

Protests and demonstrations may infrequently occur and have the potential to turn violent without warning.

Unsafe Areas

Armed conflict occurs in areas bordering Yemen.

Piracy (involving commercial and private, leisure vessels) occurs in coastal and international waters.

Water Safety

Passenger boats may be unsafe, including ferries and small crafts. Decline water transportation in vessels that appear overloaded or lack personal flotation devices or life jackets.

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

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. 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.

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.

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 May through September, coinciding with the cyclone season. Floods, mudslides, and landslides may occur, especially in southernmost areas.

Sandstorms and dust storms frequently occur.

Consular Information

Selected Embassies or Consulates in Oman

- | United States: [+968] 2464-3400; om.usembassy.gov
- | Canada: [+968] 2479-4928; travel.gc.ca/assistance/embassies-consulates/oman
- | United Kingdom: [+968] 2460-9000; www.gov.uk/world/organisations/british-embassy-muscat
- | Australia: Australia does not have an embassy or consulate in Oman.

Oman's Embassies or Consulates in Selected Countries

- | In the U.S.: www.culturaloffice.info
- | In Canada: Oman does not have an embassy or consulate in Canada.
- | In the U.K.: [+44] 020-7225-0001
- | In Australia: oman.org.au

Visa/HIV Testing

HIV and hepatitis testing are required to obtain a work or residence visa. Travelers, including short-term travelers, may be detained or deported after arrival if found to be positive for HIV or hepatitis.

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