Solomon Islands

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

Solomon Islands is a developing nation in the lower half of the world’s economies. Located northeast of Australia in the Pacific Ocean and consisting of 6 main islands, its climate is tropical monsoon.

Immunizations

Yellow Fever

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

  Requirement: A vaccination certificate is required for travelers coming from countries with risk of YF transmission.

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)

Malaria risk due predominantly to *P. falciparum* exists throughout the year except in a few outlying eastern and southern islets. *P. vivax* resistance to chloroquine reported.

  Recommended prevention in risk areas: **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)**

  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.

  Estimated relative risk of malaria for US travelers: High.

  Drug resistance4: Chloroquine.

  *Malaria species: *P. falciparum* 60%, *P. vivax* 35%-40%, *P. ovale* < 1%.

  Recommended chemoprophylaxis: Atovaquone-proguanil, doxycycline, or mefloquine.
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
Dengue, scrub typhus and Zika may pose a risk. Personal protective measures are important.

Other Disease and Health Risks
Additional concerns include marine hazards 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.

Crime
Criminal activity, including armed gang violence, robberies, and rape, occurs. Violent crime against foreigners has occurred, including at night clubs and bars. Burglary, assault, and car and house break-ins are a major concern, especially in Honiara. Police are limited in their ability to respond effectively.

Gang-based criminal activity has increased in and around the Burns Creek area in East Honiara and in the Borderline area close to the Japanese memorial, which travelers should not visit alone. Purse and phone snatching is common in the central market area.

Yacht-related robberies occur. The perpetrators, usually armed with knives and clubs, board the yachts at night while the occupants are asleep and steal valuables and money. If confronted by robbers, it is best not to resist. Most criminals are not deterred even when boats are anchored off-shore.

Civil Unrest
The possibility of violent demonstrations and civil unrest exists, especially in Honiara.

Other Safety Threats
Land ownership in the Solomon Islands is an important and sensitive issue. Walking and trekking off the beaten track, or the use of many of the beaches around Honiara, may require payment of a “kastom” fee to the landowner.

Salt water crocodiles are native to many parts of Solomon Islands, and there are regular sightings on beaches.

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 < 10 in most high-income countries. 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 left-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
The Solomon Islands are subject to earthquakes, volcanic activity and tidal waves. The rainy (or monsoon) and typhoon (tropical cyclone) seasons in the South Pacific are from November to April. Severe rainstorms can cause flooding and landslides. Disruptions to air services and to water and power supplies may also occur.

Consular Information
Selected Embassies or Consulates in Solomon Islands
- United States: The U.S. does not have an embassy or consulate in Solomon Islands.
- Canada: Canada does not have an embassy or consulate in Solomon Islands.
- United Kingdom: [+677] 21705; ukinsolomonislands.fco.gov.uk
- Australia: [+677] 21-561; www.solomonislands.embassy.gov.au

Solomon Islands' Embassies or Consulates in Selected Countries
- In the U.S.: Solomon Islands does not have an embassy or consulate in the U.S.
- In Canada: Solomon Islands does not have an embassy or consulate in Canada.
- In the U.K.: Solomon Islands does not have an embassy or consulate in the U.K.
- In Australia: [+61] 02-6282-7030

Visa/HIV Testing
Visa applicants may need to meet specific requirements. Review the application and contact the appropriate embassy or consulate with questions. According to the U.S. Department of State, some HIV/AIDS entry restrictions exist for visitors to and foreign residents of Solomon Islands. According to the Solomon Islands Immigration Act, an immigration officer can bar visitors from entering the country or deport visitors who refuse to submit to an examination by a government medical officer after being required to do so.

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