

Turkey

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

Turkey is a developing nation classified as upper middle income. Located in the Middle East along the Mediterranean and Black Seas (north of Syria and south of Bulgaria), the climate is extremely diverse with classifications that range from humid temperate (no dry season) to dry (semi arid), 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, tick-borne encephalitis, 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)

(2018) Local malaria transmission has been interrupted; no locally-acquired cases have been reported since 2010. There is no Malaria risk in the country.

- ▮ Recommended prevention in risk areas: 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: None.

Drug resistance: Not applicable.

Other Concerns

Travelers' Diarrhea

Moderate risk exists throughout the country, with minimal risk 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

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 air pollution, Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever, hantavirus, marine hazards, 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 terrorism and ongoing security concerns, U.S. (DOS) advises avoiding travel to areas near the borders with Syria and Iraq and advises reconsidering travel (or avoiding nonessential travel) to the rest of the country. U.K. (FCO), Canada (GAC), and Australia (DFAT) have more limited warnings.

Terrorism Risk

High risk of attack by domestic and transnational terrorist groups exists throughout the country, especially in southeast areas, Istanbul, and Ankara. 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 southeastern areas including areas bordering Syria and Iraq. Targets may include foreigners (especially Westerners), journalists, and aid workers.

Crime

Moderate risk of violent crime (armed robbery, home robbery, sexual assault, and assault) and moderate risk of petty crime exist throughout the country, especially in areas frequented by tourists in Istanbul (particularly in Taksim Square, Grand Bazaar, Spice Bazaar, and Sultanahmet Square) and in coastal resort areas such as Antalya.

Scams involving requests to export parcels that contain hidden narcotics, substitution of inferior goods (such as carpets) after purchase, and exorbitant fees for services at bars have been reported.

Risk exists of robberies and/or assaults occurring after consuming intentionally drugged food or drink; tourists are frequently targeted.

Civil Unrest

Protests and demonstrations occur throughout the country, especially in Istanbul, Ankara, and other cities (particularly on days of national significance), 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 may occur and a dangerous security environment exists in areas bordering Syria and in eastern and southeastern provinces.

Restricted areas may exist in the area of Mount Ararat, Agri Province.

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

Basic safety standards for adventure activities (including hot air ballooning, paragliding, and recreational off-roading) may not be in place. Travelers should only use reputable adventure-sport operators for activities and equipment rentals.

Transportation Safety

Risk of traffic-related injury or death exists. The road-traffic death rate is 7 to 12 per 100,000 population. The rate is less than 10 in most high-income countries. Speed laws are poorly enforced.

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

Forest fires occur during the dry season from June through September.

Seismic activity frequently occurs, especially in northern areas.

Consular Information

Selected Embassies or Consulates in Turkey

- | United States: [+90] 312-455-5555; tr.usembassy.gov
- | Canada: [+90] 312-409-2700; www.turkey.gc.ca
- | United Kingdom: [+90] 312-455-3344; www.gov.uk/world/organisations/british-embassy-ankara
- | Australia: [+90] 312-459-9500; www.turkey.embassy.gov.au

Turkey's Embassies or Consulates in Selected Countries

- | In the U.S.: www.washington.emb.mfa.gov.tr
- | In Canada: ottava.be.mfa.gov.tr
- | In the U.K.: london.emb.mfa.gov.tr
- | In Australia: kanberra.be.mfa.gov.tr

Visa/HIV Testing

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

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