

# **LIBERIA**

# **ABOUT LIBERIA VACCINATIONS**

Liberia lies on the west coast of Africa, some 240 km north of the Equator. It shares borders with Sierra Leone on the north and Guinea on the northwest. Liberia's climate is tropical, with a 6-month rainy season from May through November, marked by long-lasting and often torrential rainfalls. The dry season, December through April (sometimes characterised by a dust-laden atmosphere) is the hottest period.

OVERALL RISK High Risk - Preventable disease is much more common than in Australia. Consult a Travelvax clinic for your specific risk.	<b>MALARIA RISK</b> Malaria is present throughout country. Anti-malarial medications recommended. Type of malaria tablets will vary according to itinerary, length of stay and needs to be discussed with a medical practitioner.

# **VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASES**

# **YELLOW FEVER**

Disease present. A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required for travellers aged 9 months or over arriving from countries with risk of yellow fever transmission.

Vaccination is recommended for protection against the disease over 9 months of age; a vaccination certificate may be required for subsequent destinations.

Travellers returning to Australia within 6 days of leaving this country will require proof of yellow fever vaccination on entry.

# **COVID-19**

For the most up to date requirements for entry into Australia, go to Smartraveller.

Please click this COVID-19 Travel Regulations Map (IATA) to view the latest Liberia COVID travel requirements.

# **HEPATITIS A**

Risk of Hepatitis A infection is high for all travellers, vaccination recommended.

# **HEPATITIS B**

High presence of Hepatitis B in local population. Vaccination would be recommended. Consult a medical practitioner for your specific risk.

### TYPHOID

Moderate risk for most travellers. Vaccination recommended for travel to smaller cities, villages and rural areas outside usual tourist routes. Some medical conditions pre-dispose to infection; whether vaccinations would be recommended should be discussed with a medical practitioner. Consult a medical practitioner for your specific risk.

### INFLUENZA

Northern hemisphere winter risk (November to April). Most common vaccine preventable illness in travellers. Vaccine recommended, effective for 1 year.

#### RABIES

Disease present. Recommendation for vaccination will depend on specific itinerary and activities planned. Generally rabies vaccination is advised for high risk individuals such as veterinarians or animal handlers, cavers. Additionally for higher risk travellers who plan: extended periods outdoors, rural travel, adventurous activities including bicycling; also expats or long-term travellers to endemic regions and children (risk of more severe or risk-prone bites and may not report contact at all).

#### **JAPANESE ENCEPHALITIS**

No risk to travellers.

#### POLIO

Disease present. Recommendation for vaccination will depend on specific itinerary and activities planned. The risk to travellers is generally low, however vaccination is recommended for travel to affected regions and is a requirement for travel to/from some countries. If at risk, adults should have a booster to the childhood series.

Following the detection of **vaccine-derived poliovirus**, it is recommended to ensure polio vaccinations are up to date, however the final decision will be dependent on specific itinerary and activities planned.

The risk of polio infection to travellers is generally low, however vaccination is recommended for travel to affected regions and is a <u>requirement for travel</u> to/from some countries. If at risk, adults should have a booster to the childhood series. <u>Click here</u> to learn more about Polio.

#### **TICKBORNE ENCEPHALITIS**

No risk to travellers.

#### **MENINGOCOCCAL MENINGITIS**

Low risk to travellers.

#### **CHOLERA**

No risk to travellers.

# **OTHER DISEASES**

# **TRAVELLERS DIARRHOEA**

High risk. Travellers' Diarrhoea affects 20-60% of overseas travellers, food and water precautions are essential. Self-treatment medications may be recommended.

# **INSECT-BORNE DISEASES**

Diseases such as Dengue, Chikungunya, Zika may be present. Seasonal risk will vary by country. Whether preventive

measures will be recommended will depend on itinerary, length of stay, type of travel etc. and needs to be discussed with a medical practitioner. For those countries with disease present, risk is highest in urban and semi-urban areas, but may also occur in rural areas; <u>insect avoidance measures</u> are highly recommended all year round. Travelvax believes that the best defence is to understand their habits, dress properly and use an <u>effective insect repellent</u> in the correct manner. Consult a medical practitioner for your specific risk.

# **SCHISTOSOMIASIS**

Swimming or bathing in freshwater is the main cause of infection. Avoid freshwater contact if you are unsure of origin.

### STIs

Sexually transmitted and blood-borne diseases occur. The risk to travellers can be greatly reduced by practising safe sex with any new partner. All travellers should carry condoms. Blood borne diseases (HIV, Hepatitis B & C) can be spread by blood transfusion, tattooing, body piercing or non-sterile needles. Travellers in high risk groups should carry sterile needles (see also Medical Care).

# ALTITUDE

Altitude illness is a risk to travellers ascending higher than 2000 meters. Preventative medication is available. Consult a medical practitioner if ascending to 2000 metres or above.

# **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

# **PERSONAL SAFETY**

In order to check before and during travel for any high-risk areas visit the Smartraveller website. Avoid unnecessary displays of wealth or valuables and minimise the amounts of cash carried. Keep secure records of passport/credit card/licence numbers. For more safety tips visit: www.smartraveller.gov.au.

# **MEDICAL CARE**

Comprehensive medical facilities available only in the major population centres and/or specific private clinics. Sterile surgical products (syringes/needles/sutures) are not always available. Check for any contacts supplied by your emergency assistance organisation (nominated by your travel insurer) or with IAMAT (International Association of Medical Assistance for Travellers).

# **FIRST AID KITS & ACCESSORIES**

Always carry an <u>advanced first aid kit</u>, including needles and syringes (shortages of sterile equipment are common). A prescription kit (containing treatments for travellers' diarrhoea) is essential. A <u>mosquito net</u> and <u>insect repellent</u> (containing DEET, Citriodiol or Picaridin) are highly recommended, even if anti-malarials are taken.

More information on Liberia is available during your pre-travel consultation with Travelvax. Call 1300 360 164 for the location of the clinic nearest to you.