



COLOMBIA

ABOUT COLOMBIA VACCINATIONS

Located in northwest South America, Colombia has coasts on both the Caribbean and the Pacific, and borders with Panama, Ecuador, Peru, Brazil and Venezuela. Colombia's climate varies with altitude, with three distinct climatic zones - hot, temperate and cold. While the cooler Andes region dominates the west, the southeast is below the Equator and takes in a portion of the Amazon Basin. From the popular beaches like Santa Marta to rainforest and mountainous regions, Colombia is a one-off experience that every traveller should undertake. Located at the top of South America, be sure to visit the different districts to get the full breadth of the Colombian experience. The information below is intended to make sure you get the correct injections, vaccinations and advice for Colombia.

OVERALL RISK

Medium Risk - Preventable disease occur sporadically or at moderate levels. Consult a Travelvax clinic for your specific risk if travelling outside resorts, 5 star accommodation or for periods longer than a few days.

MALARIA RISK

Malaria is present, whether or not anti-malarial medications are recommended will need to be discussed with a medical practitioner. Consult a Travelvax clinic for long stays or significant level of outdoor activities.

VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASES

YELLOW FEVER

Disease is present. A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required for travellers aged 1 year or over arriving from Angola, Brazil, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Uganda and for travellers having transited for more than 12 hours through an airport from the same countries mentioned above.

Recommended for all travellers aged 9 months or over going to Colombia except for the areas described below.

Vaccination is generally not recommended for travellers going to the cities of Barranquilla, Cali, Cartagena, and Medellín.

Not recommended for travellers whose itineraries are limited to all areas above 2300 m, the department of San Andrés y Providencia, and the capital city of Bogotá.

Travellers arriving in Australia within 6 days of leaving this country require proof of vaccination.

Travelvax note: We recommend that this advice is discussed with a yellow fever licenced practitioner.

COVID-19

For the most up to date requirements for entry into Australia, go to [Smartraveller](https://www.smartraveller.gov.au).

Please click this [COVID-19 Travel Regulations Map](#) (IATA) to view the latest Colombia COVID travel requirements.

HEPATITIS A

Moderate risk to travellers, vaccination recommended.

HEPATITIS B

Low presence of Hepatitis B in local population, discuss whether vaccination would be recommended with a medical practitioner. Vaccination is recommended for specific high-risk travellers (sport/adventure/occupational/sexual). 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

Year round risk present. 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

No risk to travellers.

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; [insect avoidance measures](#) are highly recommended all year round. Travelvax believes that the best defence is to understand their habits, dress properly and use an [effective insect repellent](#) in the correct manner. Consult a medical practitioner for your specific risk.

SCHISTOSOMIASIS

No risk to travellers.

STIs

Low incidence of sexually transmitted and blood-borne diseases. Safe sex and needle precautions should be followed by all travellers.

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

Limited medical facilities available. Unless travelling with a well-equipped organisation, a high level of self-sufficiency in terms of first aid kits and sterile equipment is recommended. An evacuation contingency should be a part of your travel insurance. 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 [advanced first aid kit](#), including needles and syringes (shortages of sterile equipment are common). A prescription kit (containing treatments for travellers' diarrhoea) is essential. A [mosquito net](#) and [insect repellent](#) (containing DEET, Citriodiol or Picaridin) are highly recommended, even if anti-malarials are taken.

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