



IRAQ

ABOUT IRAQ VACCINATIONS

Iraq is a middle-eastern nation located east of Syria and west of Iran. Summers are hot, with temperatures reaching 49°C except in mountainous areas. Winters are mild with temperatures ranging from 10-16°C.

OVERALL RISK

High Risk - Preventable disease is much more common than in Australia. Consult a Travelvax clinic for your specific risk.

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

A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required for travellers aged 9 months or over arriving from or departing to countries with risk of yellow fever transmission and for travellers having transited more than 12 hours through an airport of a country with risk of yellow fever transmission.

No certificate required for direct travel from Australia or New Zealand.

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

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

No risk to travellers.

Other country requirement(s) (2020)

Poliomyelitis: A passenger coming to the Republic of Iraq from polio-endemic countries (Afghanistan and Pakistan) must: (i) provide a certificate of vaccination for children under 15 years of age attesting that they have received three doses of polio vaccine prior to obtaining the entry visa to the Iraqi territory; (ii) provide a certificate of vaccination for adults attesting receipt of oral polio vaccine within a period of 1-12 months prior to granting the entry visa; and (iii) if the certificates of oral polio vaccine cannot be provided, all arrivals from polio-endemic countries through border crossings shall be vaccinated.

Passengers departing from Iraq to polioendemic countries must: (i) vaccinate their children according to the national vaccination schedule; (ii) ensure that adults received three doses; and (iii) those who have already received the required doses should preferably take a dose of injectable polio vaccine (booster dose) and document such doses by an official vaccination certificate.

The country is no longer polio-virus infected, but has been considered by the GPEI as being at high risk of outbreaks. As a result, a booster dose of a polio-containing vaccine is recommended if more than 10 years have lapsed since the last dose.

TICKBORNE ENCEPHALITIS

No risk to travellers.

MENINGOCOCCAL MENINGITIS

Low risk to travellers.

Other country requirement(s) (2020)

Meningococcal meningitis: Meningococcal (groups A, C, Y and W-135) meningitis vaccination must be given to Iraqi passengers departing to countries of the African meningitis belt, as well as to Hajj and Umrah performers.

Meningococcal ACWY vaccine must be given to passengers coming to the Republic of Iraq from the countries of the African meningitis belt 10 days before their entry into the Republic of Iraq, as this disease is endemic in such countries.

CHOLERA

No risk to travellers.

OTHER DISEASES

TRAVELLERS DIARRHOEA

Moderate 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

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