

# **KIRIBATI**

### **ABOUT KIRIBATI VACCINATIONS**

This equatorial island nation forms part of Micronesia and consists of over 30 islands and coral atolls spread over a vast area in the Central Pacific. Climate is heavily influenced by ocean conditions, being tropical, hot and humid; the wettest months vary by location due to the expansive spread of the islands and atolls.

### **OVERALL RISK**

Low Risk - Preventable disease at similar rates to Australia. Consult a Travelvax clinic for your specific risk based on the information set out below.

### **MALARIA RISK**

No risk to travellers.

## **VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASES**

#### YELLOW FEVER

No vaccination certificate is required and no risk to travellers.

### 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 Kiribati COVID travel requirements.

#### **HEPATITIS A**

Low risk.

### **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**

Low risk for most travellers. 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 <u>Dengue</u>, <u>Chikungunya</u>, <u>Zika</u> 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**

No risk to travellers.

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