

International SOS assigns medical ratings to countries by assessing a range of factors including the standard of local medical and dental care available, access to prescription drugs, the risk of serious infectious diseases and cultural, language or administrative barriers. The medical risk within a country can vary widely. For example, major cities may have lower risk whereas remote or rural communities may have higher risk. Our overall country medical risk rating is based on these variables.

EXTREME RISK:

International SOS assigns an **extreme** medical risk rating to countries where healthcare for citizens, travellers and expatriates is almost non-existent or severely overtaxed. This may be due to economic conditions, war and/or lack of governmental stability, all of which also threaten travellers' health and safety. In these nations, even basic emergency services and dental care may not be accessible. Quality prescription drugs may not be available. Serious infectious diseases such as typhoid, cholera, dengue fever and malaria may pose a significant threat. Travellers with moderate or severe illnesses/injuries are likely to require international evacuation.

Examples: Afghanistan, Côte d'Ivoire, Iraq, Zimbabwe

HIGH RISK:

International SOS mainly assigns a **high** medical risk rating to developing countries with very limited medical capabilities. Some or all of these countries' physicians and specialists tend to have limited training. Emergency services and dental care may be basic. Moderate and severe illness/injury may require international evacuation. Access to prescription drugs may be limited and, in some cases, counterfeiting and/or improper storage of drugs may make local purchase inadvisable. Serious infectious diseases such as typhoid, cholera, dengue fever and malaria may pose a threat.

Examples: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Cameroon, Papua New Guinea

MODERATE RISK:

International SOS assigns a **moderate** medical risk rating to countries which have a higher risk of infectious diseases than "low risk" countries, and any developed or developing country where full tertiary-level care is not readily available. In these countries, many or most illnesses/injuries can be adequately treated. The most serious cases may require international evacuation. Although **moderate** risk countries usually have safe and adequate supplies of prescription drugs, the range may be limited. Infectious diseases such as malaria and dengue fever may be present in some regions of the country. Adequate emergency services and dental care are usually available, but the standard may vary on a geographical basis within the country

Examples: Costa Rica, Mexico, South Africa, Turkey, United Arab Emirates

LOW RISK:

International SOS assigns a **low** medical risk rating to nations that offer that are capable of offering the best medical care in the world. In these countries, all tertiary-level and specialist and sub-specialist care is available. Physicians have been trained to "international" standards and medical boards control licensure. Most prescription drugs, or acceptable alternative brands, are available. Travellers in low risk countries usually face little risk of contracting serious infectious diseases, especially in urban areas. High quality emergency and dental services are available. It is unlikely that a visitor would require an international evacuation, as appropriate medical care would be available in-country for almost any medical problem.

Examples: Australia, Canada, France, Germany, United Kingdom, USA

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