



## Travel Medicine Information for Countries in *Tropical South America* from [TRIPSETC.COM](http://TRIPSETC.COM)

### Vaccine and Immunization Information for Travelers to Countries in *Tropical South America*



#### Recommended Vaccinations and Preventive Medications:

- **Hepatitis A** or immune globulin (IG).
- **Hepatitis B**, especially if you might be exposed to blood or body fluids (for example, health-care workers), have sexual contact with the local population, or be exposed through medical treatment.
- **Malaria:** your risk of malaria may be high in some of the countries in these regions.
- **Rabies**, if you might have extensive unprotected outdoor exposure in rural areas, such as might occur during camping, hiking, or bicycling, or engaging in certain occupational activities.
- **Typhoid**, particularly if you are visiting developing countries in this region.
- **Yellow fever**, a viral disease that occurs primarily in sub-Saharan Africa and tropical South America, is transmitted to humans through the bite of infected mosquitoes. The virus is also present in Panama and Trinidad and Tobago. Yellow fever vaccination is recommended for travelers to endemic areas and may be required to cross certain international borders.
- As needed, booster doses for **Tetanus-Diphtheria** and **Measles**

#### Required Vaccinations:

- Yellow Fever is present in this region and vaccination is recommended if you travel to the endemic zones in any of these countries. A certificate of yellow fever

vaccination may be **required** for entry into certain countries if you have visited an endemic area. For detailed information, find the nearest authorized U.S. yellow fever vaccine center.

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## **Diseases found in Tropical South America (risk can vary by country and region within a country; quality of in-country surveillance also varies)**

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### **Malaria:**

**Malaria is always a serious disease and may be a deadly illness.** Humans get Malaria from the bite of a mosquito infected with the parasite. Prevent this serious disease by seeing your health care provider for a prescription antimalarial drug and by protecting yourself against mosquito bites.

#### ***Tropical South America:***

Your risk of malaria may be high in these countries, including some cities. Travelers to malaria-risk areas, including infants, children, and former residents of South America, should take an antimalarial drug.

Travelers to Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, Paraguay and Venezuela should take antimalarial drugs.

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### **Yellow Fever:**

#### ***Tropical South America:***

Yellow Fever **is present** in this region and vaccination is recommended if you travel to the endemic zones. A certificate of Yellow Fever vaccination may be **required** for entry into certain countries if you have visited an endemic area.

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### **Food and Waterborne Diseases:**

Make sure your food and drinking water are safe. Food and waterborne diseases are the primary cause of illness in travelers. **Travelers' Diarrhea** can be caused by viruses, bacteria, or parasites, which are found throughout Tropical South America and can contaminate food or water. Infections may cause diarrhea and vomiting (**E. coli, Salmonella, Cholera, and Parasites**), **fever (Typhoid Fever and Toxoplasmosis)**, or **liver damage (Hepatitis)**.

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### **Other Disease Risks:**

#### ***Tropical South America:***

**Dengue, Filariasis, Leishmaniasis, Onchocerciasis, and American Trypanosomiasis (Chagas Disease)** are other diseases carried by insects that also occur in this region. Epidemics of **Viral Encephalitis** and **Dengue Fever** occur in some countries in this area. **Bartonellosis, or Oroya Fever** (a sand fly-borne disease), occurs in arid river valleys on the western slopes of the Andes up to 3,000

meters (9,842 feet). **Louse-Borne Typhus**, a rickettsial infection is often found in mountain areas of Colombia and Peru. Protecting yourself against insect bites will help to prevent these diseases.

**Schistosomiasis**, a parasitic infection that can be contracted in fresh water in this region, is found in Brazil, Suriname, and north-central Venezuela. Do not swim in fresh water (except in well-chlorinated swimming pools) in these countries.

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