

29 Aug 2018

South Africa - Malaria: updated risk areas and advice

The risk areas for malaria transmission in South Africa have been reviewed by the South African authorities resulting in changes to guidance for UK travellers

The National Department of Health and the South African Malaria Elimination Committee (SAMEC) has undertaken a review of their malaria guidelines; risk areas have been expanded in response to ongoing monitoring of malaria prevalence and distribution.

Public Health England (PHE) Advisory Committee for Malaria Prevention (ACMP) acknowledges this development and has updated recommendations for UK travellers to South Africa accordingly.

The [malaria transmission areas in South Africa](#) [page 13] are:

- North-eastern Kwazulu-Natal
- Low altitude areas of Mpumalanga (note expanded area of risk)
- Low altitude areas of Limpopo (note expanded area of risk)

Very rarely malaria is contracted in the North West (adjacent to the Molopo river) and Northern Cape (adjacent to the Orange river) (note expanded risk area).

Please refer to the [map provided by the Department of Health, Republic of South Africa](#) (page 13), for more detail on the risk areas for malaria transmission. This link is also provided on TravelHealthPro [South Africa: Country Information page](#).

In South Africa, mosquito bite precautions are recommended throughout the year for all risk areas. Malaria transmission typically occurs between the months of September to May, during which malaria chemoprophylaxis is recommended for some risk areas.

Please refer to the [Country Information page: Malaria - South Africa](#) to inform your individual risk assessment.

Resources

- [Insect and tick-bite avoidance](#)
- [Malaria in brief](#)

References

1. [National Guidelines for the Treatment of Malaria, South Africa 2018. August 2018 Update. Department of Health. Republic of South Africa](#)