

IRAQ



Country Dialling Code (Tel/Fax): ++964

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Capital: Baghdad **Time:** GMT + 3

Background: Formerly part of the Ottoman Empire, Iraq became an independent kingdom in 1932. A "republic" was proclaimed in 1958, but in actuality a series of military strongmen have ruled the country since then, the latest being SADDAM Husayn. Territorial disputes with Iran led to an inconclusive and costly eight-year war (1980-1988). In August 1990 Iraq seized Kuwait, but was expelled by US-led, UN coalition forces during January-February 1991. The victors did not occupy Iraq, however, thus allowing the regime to stay in control. Following Kuwait's liberation, the UN Security Council (UNSC) required Iraq to scrap all weapons of mass destruction and long-range missiles and to allow UN verification inspections. UN trade sanctions remain in effect due to incomplete Iraqi compliance with relevant UNSC resolutions.

Location: Middle East, bordering the Persian Gulf, between Iran and Kuwait

Map References: Middle East

Area: total: 437,072 sq km land: 432,162 sq km water: 4,910 sq km

Climate: mostly desert; mild to cool winters with dry, hot, cloudless summers; northern mountainous regions along Iranian and Turkish borders experience cold winters with occasionally heavy snows that melt in early spring, sometimes causing extensive flooding in central and southern Iraq

Terrain: mostly broad plains; reedy marshes along Iranian border in south with large flooded areas; mountains along borders with Iran and Turkey

Natural Resources: petroleum, natural gas, phosphates, sulfur

Population: 22,675,617 (July 2000 est.)

Nationality: noun: Iraqi(s) adjective: Iraqi

Ethnic Groups: Arab 75%-80%, Kurdish 15%-20%, Turkoman, Assyrian or other 5%

Religions: Muslim 97% (Shi'a 60%-65%, Sunni 32%-37%), Christian or other 3%

Languages: Arabic, Kurdish (official in Kurdish regions), Assyrian, Armenian

Economy: Iraq's economy is dominated by the oil sector, which has traditionally provided about 95% of foreign exchange earnings. In the 1980s, financial problems caused by massive expenditures in the eight-year war with Iran and damage to oil export facilities by Iran led the government to implement austerity measures, borrow heavily, and later reschedule foreign debt payments; Iraq suffered economic losses of at least \$100 billion from the war. After the end of hostilities in 1988, oil exports gradually increased with the construction of new pipelines and restoration of damaged facilities. Iraq's seizure of Kuwait in August 1990, subsequent international economic sanctions, and damage from military action by an international coalition beginning in January 1991 drastically reduced economic activity. The government's policies of supporting large military and internal security forces and of allocating resources to key supporters of the regime have exacerbated shortages. The implementation of the UN's oil-for-food program in December 1996 has helped improve economic conditions. For the first six six-month phases of the program, Iraq was allowed to export limited amounts of oil in exchange for food, medicine, and other humanitarian goods. In December 1999, the UN Security Council authorized Iraq to export under the oil-for-food program as much oil as required to meet humanitarian needs. Oil exports are now about three-quarters their prewar level. Per capita food imports have increased significantly, while medical supplies and health care services are steadily improving. Per capita output and living standards are still well below the prewar level, but any estimates have a wide range of error.

Industries: petroleum, chemicals, textiles, construction materials, food processing

Currency: 1 Iraqi dinar (ID) = 1,000 fils

Railways: total: 2,032 km standard gauge; 2,032 km 1.435-m gauge

Highways: total: 45,550 km paved: 38,400 km unpaved: 7,150 km (1996 est.)

Waterways: 1,015 km; Shatt al Arab is usually navigable by maritime traffic for about 130 km; channel has been dredged to 3 m and is in use; Tigris and Euphrates Rivers have navigable sections for shallow-draft watercraft; Shatt al Basrah canal was navigable by shallow-draft craft before closing in 1991 because of the Gulf war

Ports and Harbors: Umm Qasr, Khawr az Zubayr, and Al Basrah have limited functionality

Airports: 113 (1999 est.) Airports - with paved runways: total: 80 over 3,047 m: 20 2,438 to 3,047 m: 39 1,524 to 2,437 m: 4 914 to 1,523 m: 7 under 914 m: 10 (1999 est.) Airports - with unpaved runways: total: 33 over 3,047 m: 3 2,438 to 3,047 m: 6 1,524 to 2,437 m: 2 914 to 1,523 m: 10 under 914 m: 12 (1999 est.)

Heliports: 5 (1999 est.)

Visa: required by all.

Duty Free: goods permitted: 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 250g tobacco, 1 bottle wine and 1 bottle spirits with a total volume of not more than 1 litre, 500ml of perfume, gifts upto the value of ID10.

Health: a yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from all travellers coming from infected areas. Malaria risk throughout the year, all water should be regarded as potentially contaminated. All travellers entering Iraq are required to take an AIDS test

HOTELS•MOTELS•INNS

BAGHDAD

ANDALUS PALACE HOTEL, Sadoun St, Baghdad Iraq, Phone: 1-96144

AL MANSOUR HOTEL, Baghdad Iraq, Phone: 1-885-3323

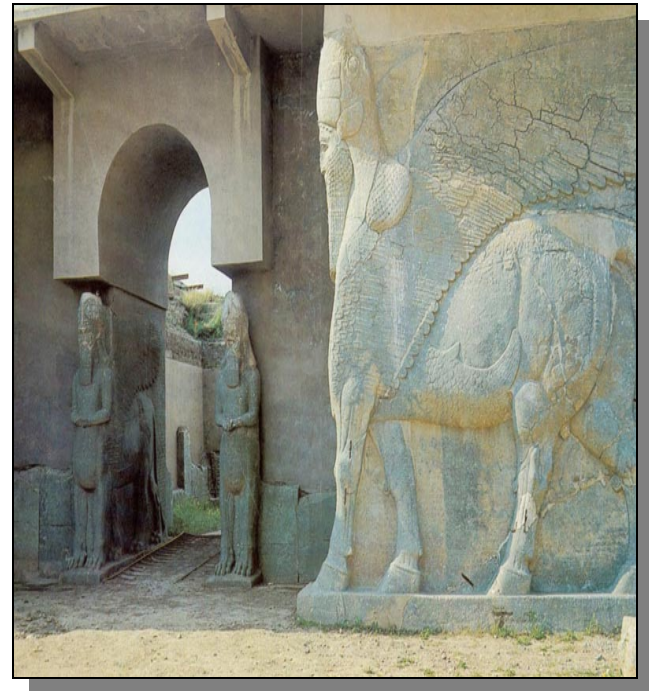
BABYLON HOTEL, Baghdad Iraq, Phone: 1-776-1964

HOTEL AL-RASHEED, Baghdad Iraq, Phone: 1-885-1000

HOTEL ISHTAR, BAGHDAD , Saadoun St Baghdad Iraq Phone: 1-888-9500

PALM BEACH HOTEL, Abu Nawas St, Baghdad Iraq, Phone: 888-0010

PALESTINE INTL HOTEL, St 47, Mahallat 102, Baghdad Iraq, Phone: 1-887-1357



AIRLINES/HELICOPTERS/AIRPORTS

BAGHDAD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT , Iraq, PO Box 23006, Baghdad, Tel: +964 (0)1 886 3999, Fax: +964 (0)1 888 0187, +964 (0)1 887 8430

BASRAH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT , Basrah, Iraq, PO Box 23006, Basrah, Tel: +964 (0)40 886 3999, Fax: +964 (0)40 888 2310

ERBIL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT , Erbil, Iraq, Erbil, Website: www.erbilairport.net

IRAQI AIRWAYS, Region: Middle East, Address: Baghdad International Airport, Tel: 00964 886 39 99, Fax: 00964 886 58 08, Main Base: Baghdad

SULAIMANIYAH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT , Iraq, Sulaimaniyah, Kurdistan, Tel: +964 (0)704 317 0017, Fax: +964 (0)704 317 3322, Email: info@sulairport.net, Website: www.sulairport.net