

SAUDI ARABIA

**Country Dialling Code (Tel/Fax): ++966**

Saudi Arabian Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Nasseriya Street, Riyadh 11124, Saudi Arabia Tel: (1) 406 7777 or 441 6836. Fax: (1) 403 0159.

Capital: Riyadh **Time:** GMT + 3

Background: In 1902 Abdul al-Aziz Ibn SAUD captured Riyadh and set out on a 30-year campaign to unify the Arabian peninsula. In the 1930s, the discovery of oil transformed the country. Following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990, Saudi Arabia accepted the Kuwaiti royal family and 400,000 refugees while allowing Western and Arab troops to deploy on its soil for the liberation of Kuwait the following year. A burgeoning population, aquifer depletion, and an economy largely dependent on petroleum output and prices are all major governmental concerns.

Location: Middle East, bordering the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea, north of Yemen

Area: total: 1,960,582 sq km, land: 1,960,582 sq km, water: 0 sq km

Terrain: mostly uninhabited, sandy desert

Natural Resources: petroleum, natural gas, iron ore, gold, copper

Population: 22,023,506 *note:* includes 5,360,526 non-nationals (July 2000 est.)

Nationality: noun: Saudi(s) adjective: Saudi or Saudi Arabian

Ethnic Groups: Arab 90%, Afro-Asian 10%

Religions: Muslim 100%

Languages: Arabic

Economy: This is an oil-based economy with strong government controls over major economic activities. Saudi Arabia has the largest reserves of petroleum in the world (26% of the proved total), ranks as the largest exporter of petroleum, and plays a leading role in OPEC. The petroleum sector accounts for roughly 75% of budget revenues, 40% of GDP, and 90% of export earnings. About 35% of GDP comes from the private sector. Roughly 4 million foreign workers play an important role in the Saudi economy, for example, in the oil and service sectors. Saudi Arabia was a key player in the successful efforts of OPEC and other oil producing countries to raise the price of oil in 1999 to its highest level since the Gulf War by reducing production. Although oil prices are expected to remain relatively high in 2000, Riyadh expects to have a \$7.5 billion budget deficit in part because of increased spending for education and other social problems. The government in 1999 announced plans to begin privatizing the electricity companies, which follows the ongoing privatization of the telecommunications company. The government is expected to continue calling for private sector growth to lessen the kingdom's dependence on oil and increase employment opportunities for the swelling Saudi population. Shortages of water and rapid population growth will constrain government efforts to increase self-sufficiency in agricultural products.

Industries: crude oil production, petroleum refining, basic petrochemicals, cement, construction, fertilizer, plastics

Currency: 1 Saudi riyal (SR) = 100 halalah

Railways: total: 1,390 km standard gauge: 1,390 km 1.435-m gauge (448 km double track) (1992)

Highways: total: 146,524 km, paved: 44,104 km, unpaved: 102,420 km (1997 est.)

Ports and Harbors: Ad Dammam, Al Jubayl, Duba, Jiddah, Jizan, Rabigh, Ra's al Khafji, Mishab, Ras Tanura, Yanbu' al Bahr, Madinat Yanbu' al Sinaiyah

Airports: 205 (1999 est.) Airports - with paved runways: total: 72 over 3,047 m: 13 2,438 to 3,047 m: 13 1,524 to 2,437 m: 23 914 to 1,523 m: 3 under 914 m: 2 (1999 est.) Airports - with unpaved runways: total: 133 2,438 to 3,047 m: 4 1,524 to 2,437 m: 77 914 to 1,523 m: 39 under 914 m: 13 (1999 est.)

Heliports: 4 (1999 est.)

Visa: required by all. Except the male nationals of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and United Arab Emirates.

Duty Free: permitted goods: 600 cigarettes or 100 cigars or 500g tobacco; perfume for personal use; a reasonable amount of cultured pearls for personal use.

Health: a yellow fever certificate is required from all travellers arriving from countries of which any parts are infected. Malaria risk. All water should be regarded as being potentially contaminated.

HOTELS•MOTELS•INNS

JEDDAH

AL AZHAR HOTEL, JEDDAH, Tel: +966 2 6424444, Fax: +966 2 6424445, Email: gm@alazharhotel.com , <http://www.alazharhotel.com>

GRAND HOTEL AL BUSTAN, Madina & Falsteen Rd, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Phone: 2-669-6444, Email: h3125@hotelaibustan.com , Web: <http://www.hotelaibustan.com>

HOLIDAY INN, JEDDAH-AL SALAM, KING KHALED ST. MAKKAH ROAD PO BOX 6582, JEDDAH, 21452 SAUDI ARABIA , Hotel Front Desk: 966-2-6314000 | Hotel Fax: 966-2-6324194, <http://www.ichotelsgroup.com>

HOTEL INTERCONTINENTAL JEDDAH, JEDDAH P.O. BOX 41855 JEDDAH, 21531 ,SAUDI ARABIA, Front Desk: +966-2-6611800, Fax: +966-2-6611145 , <http://www.ichotelsgroup.com>

JEDDAH HILTON, North Corniche Road, Jeddah, 21362, Saudi Arabia, Telephone: +966 (0)2 659 0000, Fax: +966 (0)2 659 1111, sales.jeddah@hilton.com , <http://www.hilton.co.uk/jeddah>

JEDDAH MARRIOTT HOTEL, Palestine Rd. Corner PR Fahad Street, PO Box 6448 , Jeddah, 21442 Saudi Arabia, Phone: 966 2 671 4000 , Fax: 966 2 671 5990 , Sales: 966 2 671 4000 ext. 7803 , Sales fax: 966 2 6176943, <http://www.marriott.com>

LE MERIDIEN JEDDAH, Medinah Road, Jeddah 21463 , Saudi Arabia, Phone: (966)(2) 663 3333, Fax: (966)(2) 663 2333, <http://www.starwoodhotels.com>

MOVENPICK RESORT AL NAWRAS JEDDAH, PO Box 14018, 21424 Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, P: +966 2 655 55 50, Fax: +966 2 607 68 33, <http://www.moevenpick-hotels.com>

RADISSON SAS HOTEL JEDDAH, Medina Road - P.O. BOX 8483 Jeddah 21482, Saudi Arabia, Phone: +966 2 652 1234, Fax: 00966-2-6516260, Email: reservations.jeddah@radissonsas.com , <http://www.jeddah.radissonsas.com>

RED SEA PALACE HOTEL, King Abdul-Aziz Street, P. O. Box 824 Jeddah 21421, Telephone: 00 966 2 642 8555, Fax: 00 966 2 642 2395, E-mail: info@redseapalace.com , www.redseapalace.com

ROSEWOOD CORNICHE, P.O. Box 48122, Jeddah 21572, Saudi Arabia, T: 966.2.257.8888, F: 966.2.257.8111, corniche@rosewoodhotels.com , <http://www.hotelcorniche.com>

SANDS HOTEL, P.O.Box 7030, Al-Andalus Dist.Jeddah 21462 S.A.Tel: +966 2 669 2020, Fax: +966 2 660 9971, E-mail: info@sandsjeddah.com , <http://www.sandsjeddah.com>

THE WESTIN JEDDAH, North Corniche, P.O. Box 51991, Jeddah 21553, Saudi Arabia, Phone: (966)(2) 6588200, Fax: (966)(2) 6588550, jeddah.reservations@westin.com , <http://www.starwoodhotels.com>

MECCA

ELAF KINDAH-MAKKAH, Al Messyaal St, Misfalah, Mecca, Saudi Arabia, Phone: 2-574-5555, sofitel_kindah@sps.net.sa

INTERCONTINENTAL DAR AL TAWHID, MECCA, Ibrahim Al Khalil Street, Mecca, Saudi Arabia, Phone: 2-541-1111, tawhidmakkah@interconti.com , <http://www.ichotelsgroup.com>

LE MERIDIEN MAKKAH, King Abdul Aziz Rd, Mecca, Saudi Arabia, Phone: 2-575-1111, <http://www.lemeridien-hotels.com> , reservation@lemeridienmakkah.com



MEET THE MERCURES

Umm Al Qura St, Mecca, Saudi Arabia
Phone: 2-549-8855
H6678@HIBATMERCURE.COM
<http://www.mercure.com>

MAKKAH HILTON & TOWERS, P.O. Box 844 , Makkah, Saudi Arabia , Telephone: +966 (0)2 537 3800, Fax: +966 (0)2 537 6500, reservations.makkah@hilton.com , <http://www.hilton.co.uk/makkah>



MAKKAH INTERCONTINENTAL, MAKKAH OLD JEDDAH ROAD • MAKKAH • SAUDI ARABIA, Front Desk: +966-2-5601000 • Fax: +966-2-5602000 , <http://www.ichotelsgroup.com>

RIYADH



P.O. Box 4148, King Fahad Road, Olaya,
Riyadh 11491, Saudi Arabia
T: 966.1.273.2000
F: 966.1.273.2001

Email: alfaisaliah@rosewoodhotels.com
<http://www.alfaisaliahhotel.com>



RADISSON SAS HOTEL, AL MUBARAKIAH PLAZA, King Abdulaziz Street, P.O. Box 18006, Riyadh 11415, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Tel.: +966 (1) 479 1234, Fax : +966 (1) 477 5373, reservations.riyadh@radissonsas.com , www.riyadh.radissonsas.com

AL SETEEN PALACE HOTEL, Seteen St & Salahudeen Rd, Malaz, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Phone: 1-477-3006, Email: mohdsalehkhamsi@hotmail.com

AL-TAJ AL-JADEED, Al-Ghurabi Street, Al-Amel District, Riyadh, ArRiyadh, +966 1 405 9888, Fax: +966 1 405 2501

FOUR SEASONS RIYADH, Kingdom Centre, P.O. Box 231000, Riyadh 11321, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Tel. 966 (1) 211-5000, Fax. 966 (1) 211-5001, <http://www.fourseasons.com>

HOTEL AL KHOZAMA, A ROSEWOOD HOTEL, P.O. Box 4148, Olaya Road, Riyadh 11491, Saudi Arabia, T: 966.1.465.4650, F: 966.1.464.8576, Email: alkhozama@rosewoodhotels.com , <http://www.al-khozama.com>

HOLIDAY INN, RIYADH-AL QASR, OLAYA MAIN RD, OLAYA DISTRICT, RIYADH, 11482 SAUDI ARABIA , Hotel Front Desk: 966-1-4625000 | Hotel Fax: 966-1-4624487, <http://www.ichotelsgroup.com>

HOLIDAY INN RIYADH MINHAL , Old Airport Road, Al-Wizarat District, Riyadh, ArRiyadh, 17058, +966 1 478 2500, Fax: +966 1 477 2819, minhal@holidayinn.com.sa

RIMAZ, Al-Dai'ri ring Rd Riyadh, T: +966 1 445 0901 / F: +966 1 445 0575

RIYADH MARRIOTT HOTEL, Al Ma'ather Street, P.O. Box 16294 , Riyadh, 11464 Saudi Arabia, Phone: 966 1 4779300, Fax: 966 1 4779089, Sales: 966 1 4779300 ext. 7075, Sales fax: 966 1 2922212, <http://www.marriott.com>

RIYADH INTERCONTINENTAL, RIYADH, RIYADH MAAZAR STREET • RIYADH, 11481 • SAUDI ARABIA, Front Desk: +966-1-4655000 • Fax: +966-1-4657833 , <http://www.ichotelsgroup.com>

RIYADH PALACE HOTEL, Prince Abdul Rahman Bin, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Phone: 1-405-4444, <http://www.riyadhpalacehotel.com> , rph@riyadhpalacehotel.com

TULIP INN OLAYA HOUSE - Olaya Main Street - 57749 - Riyadh - +466 1 4628844 , Fax 966-1-4655433, info@goldentuliptop.com <http://www.tulipinnolayahouse.com>

SALAHEDIN HOTEL, King Abdulaziz Rd. P.O. Box 85396, Riyadh 11691, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, <http://www.salahedinhotel.com>

THE GOLDEN TULIP ANDALUSIA HOTEL, P. O. BOX 57749, Riyadh 11584 - K.S.A. Phone : +966 1 461 1000, Fax : +966 1 462 4442, sales@goldentulipandalusia.com <http://www.gtandalusia.com>

WHITE PALACE (AL-QUASR AL-ABIYAD) HOTEL , King Abdul Aziz Street, PO Box 8145, Al-Dubai District, Riyadh, ArRiyadh, 11482, +966 1 478 7800, Fax: +966 1 478 7800

RESTAURANTS & BARS

RIYADH

AL-NAFOURA, Osama bin Zaed Street, Riyadh Saudi Arabia, +966 1 230 3746 / +966 1 231 5086, <http://www.nafora.com.sa>

AL-TAZIG, Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Azeez Street, Riyadh, Cuisine: Steak & Barbecue, +966 1 225 4769

EASTERN FLOWER, King Abdul Azeez Street, District Al-malaz, Riyadh, ArRiyadh, 11443, Phone: +966 1 403 8800, Fax: +966 1 401 5328

MARIZ , Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Azeez Street, District Al-Word, Riyadh, ArRiyadh, +966 1 450 8877

SHOGUN, King Abdulaziz Street, Riyadh 18006 Saudi Arabia, +966 1 479 1234, <http://riyadh.radissonsas.com>

SPAZIO 77, Al Aruba Street, Riyadh 1169 Saudi Arabia, +966 1 211 1888, info@spazio77.com , <http://www.spazio77.com>



AIRLINES/HELICOPTERS/AIRPORTS

DAMMAM - KING FAHD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT , PO Box 3477, Dammam 3147, Tel: +966 (0)3 883 1000, Fax: +966 (0)3 883 1900, Email: kalmzel@kfia.pca.gov.sa , Website: www.pca.gov.sa

DHAHRAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT , Saudi Arabia, PO Box 74, Dhahran 31175, Tel: +966 (0)3 864 4608, Fax: +966 (0)3 891 0342

JEDDAH - KING ABDULAZIZ INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT , Saudi Arabia, PO Box 6326, Jeddah 21442, Tel: +966 (0)2 684 2227, Fax: +966 (0)2 684 2256, Email: info@pca.gov.sa, Website: www.pca.gov.sa

RIYADH - KING KHALED INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT , Saudi Arabia, PO Box 12531, Riyadh 11483, Tel: +966 (0)1 221 1000, Fax: +966 (0)1 221 1637, Email: feedback@pca.gov.sa , Website: www.pca.gov.sa

SAUDI ARABIAN AIRLINES, Region: Middle East, Address: PO Box 620 Jeddah 21231, Tel: 00966 2 686 00 00, Fax: 00966 2 686 45 52, Web site: www.saudiairlines.com or www.saudiairlines.com.xxx, Main Base: Jeddah

