

# Babylon

## Location: Iraq

Babylon is an ancient city located in present-day Iraq, about 85 kilometers south of Baghdad. The city was founded around 2300 BCE and quickly became a major center of trade and culture in the region. Under the rule of Hammurabi in the 18th century BCE, Babylon became the capital of the Babylonian Empire and a center of political power and wealth. The city was also known for its impressive architecture, including the famous Hanging Gardens, which were one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Throughout its history, Babylon was ruled by a succession of empires, including the Assyrians, Persians, and Greeks. The city was sacked and rebuilt several times, and was eventually abandoned in the 2nd century CE. Babylon is also significant for its place in religious history. The city is mentioned in the Hebrew Bible and was the site of the famous Tower of Babel, a story that appears in both the Bible and the Quran. In the 20th century, the ruins of Babylon were excavated and restored by German and Iraqi archaeologists. Today, Babylon is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a popular tourist destination. Visitors can explore the ruins of the city's impressive

structures, including the Ishtar Gate and the Temple of Marduk, and learn about the rich history and culture of this ancient civilization.