

Country Risk Report of Iraq

Security Advice

STANDARD TRAVEL SECURITY ADVICE





- Maintain a low profile. Dress as inconspicuously as possible and avoid ostentatious displays of wealth. Avoid displaying money, wearing jewellery or carrying valuables such as laptop computers or cameras. When walking in the street, keep your bags and briefcases away from passing traffic.
- Always carry some form of communication equipment, such as a cellular phone programmed with numbers that would be useful in an emergency (police, embassy, International SOS Assistance Centre, etc).
- Understand the basic geography of your destination, and ensure you familiarise yourselves with key routes: avoid high-crime or low-income areas if possible. If you find yourself disorientated, be discreet when consulting a map – or ask for directions from someone in a public, client-facing role, such as a shop assistant or police officer.
- Avoid disputes, demonstrations, political rallies and commotions on the street. Do not stay to watch or photograph them.
- Carry cash in more than one pocket, and keep a small amount in a top pocket to hand over to a criminal who confronts you. A dummy wallet – with a small amount of local currency, an expired credit card and some useless receipts – can be useful to satisfy a mugger.
- Where possible, obtain small denominations of currency and keep the bulk of cash and cards in a money belt, which should only be accessed in private places.
- Ignore verbal 'bait' from passers-by – do not get into an argument – and avoid eye contact with strangers. If you suspect that you are being followed, enter any busy public place and call for help.
- Maintain a high level of information security. Do not give out personal information. Do not discuss your plans with strangers. Do not carry unnecessary amounts of information, either in hard copy or on laptops, removable drives etc.
- Memorise important local phrases (yes, no, how much, stop here etc).
- Be alert to your surroundings: if possible, understand the pattern of life, and be alert for – and ready to respond to changes.
- Limit your alcohol intake: it is likely to reduce your level of awareness and judgment.
- Do not accept food or drinks from strangers. Always keep your food and drink in sight in entertainment venues.

ADDITIONAL ADVICE FOR WOMEN TRAVELLERS

- Call for advice from our security specialists if you have any concerns about the risks you might face in a given destination.
- Observe and respect local clothing customs. Dress modestly to avoid drawing attention.

- In some countries, a lone female traveller is a source of curiosity: you may be stared at if travelling alone. As a precaution, avoid eye contact with strangers, especially on the street and on public transport. If travelling alone, restrict evening entertainment to business-class hotels or membership clubs.
- A wedding ring – even a fake one – can reduce levels of unwanted male attention.
- Decline politely but firmly any invitations which make you feel uncomfortable, even if faced by amicable pressure to accept.
- Ignore suggestive comments.
- Some hotels offer women-only floors; ask about them when you book your room. Ensure your hotel only allows guest access to accommodation floors. You might want to consider using a door wedge and/or portable alarm for extra security.
- Check the available transport options at your destination, and if there are any additional precautions advised for women – such as not using a taxi alone, or where to sit on a bus.

Risk Ratings

-  EXTREME MEDICAL RISK for Iraq
-  EXTREME TRAVEL RISK for Iraq
-  MEDIUM TRAVEL RISK for [Kurdistan Region](#)
-  HIGH TRAVEL RISK for [Southern governorates; Kurdistan Region border areas](#)

Risk Summary

While normal travel can continue to the Kurdistan Region (KR), all travel to the de facto border with federal Iraq, together with travel to the majority of other provinces (including Anbar, Salahaddin and Baghdad), should be avoided. Travel to Baghdad itself and the southern governorates should be for business-critical purposes and requires professional security support to mitigate the risks present. Armed opposition groups and transnational terrorist networks continue to be active in Iraq and evidence indicates that the capabilities of these groups are increasing. Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) personnel and infrastructure and local civilians are generally the primary focus of militant attacks, but foreign personnel and assets also face significant incidental risks from suicide attacks, roadside bombings, shootings and kidnapping. In Baghdad, the KR and southern governorates, these risks can be effectively mitigated by stringent security precautions employed by travellers. Areas north, west and immediately south of the capital Baghdad are among the most acutely affected by Islamist extremist militancy and travel should be deferred.

Violent crime is widespread but most crime affects locals due to the security precautions implemented by foreign business travellers. Crime rates and militant attacks are considerably lower in the KR, as the Kurdish security forces are highly capable and remain able to secure the region effectively. Kurdish forces based abroad and the US military have since August 2014 become involved in pushing Islamist militant groups back from the KR's borders with federal Iraq.

This information is intended as a summary of the travel security environment; however, the risks can change at short notice during a crisis or evolving situation. Please check our travel security alerts to ensure you are informed of the most recent developments.

[STANDING TRAVEL ADVICE](#)

Alerts

- T** [Baghdad: Kidnap of US nationals underlines EXTREME travel security risks, need for comprehensive security programme](#)
- T** [Kurdistan region: Ibrahim Khalil border crossing with Turkey reopens to commercial traffic; maintain flexible itineraries, monitor developments](#)

[View All Alerts](#)

Vaccinations For Iraq

Cholera Oral vaccination is recommended for travellers
[Read more](#)

Hepatitis A Recommended for all travellers and expatriates.
[Read more](#)

Hepatitis B Recommended for all travellers and expatriates.
[Read more](#)

Polio A booster is recommended for all travellers.
[Read more](#)

Rabies Consider for certain travellers, especially: For
[Read more](#)

Typhoid fever Recommended for all travellers and expatriates.
[Read more](#)

Yellow fever To enter Iraq, a yellow fever vaccination
[Read more](#)

Routine Vaccinations

- All routine vaccinations should be current: these include [Measles-Mumps-Rubella](#), [Polio](#), [Tetanus-Diphtheria-Pertussis](#), and [Varicella](#).
- Influenza occurs in the northern and southern hemisphere winters and year-round in the tropics. Consider an annual [vaccination](#).

Other Medical Precautions

- [Before you go - See your doctor and dentist and ensure you are in the best health before you leave. Other preparations:](#)
- [Malaria](#)
- [Health Threats](#)

Summary

TRAVEL RISK SUMMARY

While normal travel can continue to the Kurdistan Region (KR), all travel to the de facto border with federal Iraq, together with travel to the majority of other provinces (including Anbar, Salahaddin and Baghdad), should be avoided. Travel to Baghdad itself and the southern governorates should be for business-critical purposes and requires professional security support to mitigate the risks present. Armed opposition groups and transnational terrorist networks continue to be active in Iraq and evidence indicates that the capabilities of these groups are increasing. Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) personnel and infrastructure and local civilians are generally the primary focus of militant attacks, but foreign personnel and assets also face significant incidental risks from suicide attacks, roadside bombings, shootings and kidnapping. In Baghdad, the KR and southern governorates, these risks can be effectively mitigated by stringent security precautions employed by travellers. Areas north, west and immediately south of the capital Baghdad are among the most acutely affected by Islamist extremist militancy and travel should be deferred.

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STANDING TRAVEL ADVICE

- Business-critical travel to the capital Baghdad and southern provinces is possible, but requires a specific pre-travel threat assessment as part of a comprehensive and fully co-ordinated security programme. This entails flexible itineraries, detailed preparation and dedicated professional security support. Be prepared to postpone or cut short travel at short notice.
- Defer all travel to the rest of federal Iraq (including Anbar, Salahaddin and Baghdad provinces), as well as parts of the de facto border between the Kurdistan Region (KR) and federal Iraq where fighting is known to be ongoing.
- Normal travel to the Kurdistan Region (KR) can continue.

International travellers to Baghdad and southern governorates

- You must receive a full itinerary-specific briefing on the prevailing threats prior to travel. Formal security training is recommended for long term deployments.
- Seek professional 24/7 security support to ensure access to the latest locally sourced threat intelligence, trip-specific assessments, operations-room tracking, reliable communications and immediate access to emergency support.
- Where possible, use air to travel between cities.
- Armoured vehicles are recommended for all road movement.
- Minimise movement outside secure premises and the time spent around likely targets for militant attacks, both static and in transit.

- Arrange accommodation in secure compounds, hotels or villas, with adequate assessed security arrangements that can support a stand-fast period of up to 1 week.
- Comply with all instructions from the security forces.

International travellers to Kurdistan Region

- Ensure you receive a briefing on the current security situation and prevailing threats prior to travel.
- Arrange accommodation at business class hotels, villas or compounds with adequate assessed security arrangements.
- Pre-arrange meet and greet service upon arrival. Do not self-drive unless you are very familiar with local driving conditions and have local language ability in the vehicle.
- For in-country travel, arrange security trained drivers, redundant vehicles through a reputable provider to ensure good journey planning and management. Arrange local security support for any movements to rural and border areas.
- Take basic security precautions to mitigate the risks of petty and street crime.
- Avoid all protests, rallies and strike-related activity.
- Minimise time spent around likely targets for militant attacks.
- Dress modestly and respect local customs as well as cultural sensitivities.
- Carry reliable communication at all times and be sure who to call in case of an emergency or incident.
- Treat any members of the security forces you encounter with patience and respect.
- Travel to the HIGH travel risk parts of the Turkish and Iranian borders, where there are risks of cross-border fire and incursions, requires journey-management measures and the support of a professional security provider.

Travel risk managers

- Assess business requirements of any trip to federal Iraq; keep itineraries flexible.
- Ensure your travellers receive an itinerary-specific briefing prior to travel.
- Arrange adequate security support through your own local office, or a vetted security provider for all travellers going to federal Iraq and trips to rural areas in the KR.
- Ensure you can locate and communicate with all personnel in Iraq. Ensure travellers in federal Iraq check in with management nominated point of contact at convenient times.
- Ensure travellers have access to reliable communication (primary, alternate and emergency mean of communication) and understand who to contact in the event of an emergency.
- Understand how to arrange additional security and medical support for your travellers if required.

RISK ZONES

Kurdistan Region: MEDIUM

The Kurdistan Region (KR) is generally more stable and secure than the rest of the country. This is due to the mitigation measures employed by the Kurdish security forces and because administrative systems

are in place and basic services are operating. Areas around the main cities of Erbil and Suleimaniyah offer a much less permissive environment for both criminal and insurgent activity, and the frequency and impact of security incidents is much lower than in other parts of the country.

Kurdistan Region border areas with Federal Iraq, Iran and mountainous parts of Turkey: HIGH

There is a noticeable absence of significant security incidents in most of the KR, though the risk of such occurrences increases considerably in the vicinity of the border with Federal Iraq; along with the Turkish and Iranian frontiers, the strip along this border is rated as HIGH for travel risk. The peshmerga (Kurdish armed forces) and the Iraqi military currently administer security along some of the border areas, including in the vicinity of Kirkuk city. Travel to areas bordering Federal Iraq should be for essential business purposes only. Travel to the HIGH travel risk parts of the Turkish and Iranian borders, where there are risks of cross-border fire and incursions, requires journey-management measures and the support of a professional security provider.

Southern governorates; western desert: HIGH

The security situation in the south is better than that in the central region, but southern areas nevertheless experience occasional insurgent activity targeting Shia civilians and government officials. There is also a credible risk of attacks by rogue Shia Arab militias in this area using roadside bombs, rockets, mortars and firearms. Although direct targeting of business travellers is unusual, all such attacks pose a significant albeit indirect risk to personnel. There are also significant numbers of landmines in the region, especially near the borders with Iran and Kuwait. The nine governorates included in this region are Babil, Karbala, Wasit, Qadisiyah, Najaf, Maysan, Dhi Qar, Muthanna and Basra.

Personal Risk

CRIME

Violent crime is widespread and includes carjacking, robbery, rape and murder. Most crime affects local Iraqis because foreign organisations tend to have stringent security measures around their premises and residential compounds. Crime levels are highest in Baghdad, particularly in poor suburbs and on the outskirts of the city, and in central and north-western Sunni areas. Baghdad's International Zone (commonly referred to as the Green Zone) is highly secured and less prone to criminal activities. Crime rates are lower in the KR because of the higher capacity of the Kurdish security forces to maintain rule of law.

Carjackings and banditry occur frequently on roads between major cities, particularly on routes to Baghdad from Kuwait, Syria and Jordan. Robbers often kill vehicle occupants and steal vehicles and/or the goods they are carrying. The western desert is particularly dangerous, as are other roads with lower levels of traffic.

TERRORISM

Terrorism continues to be a significant security risk across Iraq, with the exception of the Kurdistan Region (KR), where the threat is underlying. Numerous armed militias, criminal organisations and transnational terrorist groups operate in the country. Fatal attacks against both military and civilian targets, including government infrastructure, police stations, checkpoints, diplomatic missions, markets and places frequented by foreigners, such as hotels, are common. These attacks have utilised a range of tactics, including mortar fire, suicide bombings, small arms fire, roadside improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and vehicle-borne IEDs. Such attacks occur with greater frequency in EXTREME travel risk areas, including the capital Baghdad.

The Islamic State (IS)

IS, also known as the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria/the Levant (ISIS/ISIL), is a powerful Sunni Muslim extremist army that has grown out of the former al-Qaida in Iraq (AQI)/Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) militant group and is led by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. AQI was responsible for considerable terrorist activity during the US military presence in Iraq (2003-11), particularly at the peak of insurgent activity in 2006-07. While the capacity of the Sunni insurgency diminished in the following years, divisive actions by the Shia-led government against the Sunni community intensified in December 2012, spurring a continuing increase in Sunni militant activity in central and western Iraq. In addition, the Sunni-led rebellion against Bashar al-Assad's regime in Syria led to an expansion of ISIS' area of operations in the country, which now includes most of northern Syria and provides considerable territory for the group to utilise as a support base. The ability to use Syria as a rear operating base and increasing anti-government sentiment among Sunni Muslims in Iraq led to an increased frequency and lethality of ISIS' operations during 2013.

The uptick in Sunni militant violence is thought to have been linked to the establishment in December 2012 of a protest camp in Ramadi to denounce the perceived marginalisation of Sunnis by the central government. In late-December 2013, the protest camp was broken up by the security forces, prompting a major backlash by Sunnis in Anbar province; IS and other nationalist and tribal militant groups exploited the situation and seized urban territory in Anbar. This resulted in very heavy fighting and a complete lockdown of the province's key cities of Ramadi and Fallujah, as well as in the town of Abu Ghraib near the border with Baghdad province. Despite significant military operations, the security forces have been unable to retake the province. .

In June 2014, IS, backed by nationalist and tribal militant organisations, launched a large-scale assault seizing Mosul (Nineveh province) before advancing throughout the provinces of Nineveh, Anbar, Salahaddin, Kirkuk and Diyala after the Iraqi Security Forces largely fled the offensive. During the assault, militant fighters seized large stores of heavy weapons, including combat aircraft, and executed large numbers of captured security force personnel. IS and affiliated groups continue to hold and administer territory in these areas. In response to the group's targeting of Iraq's Yazidi community and a potential advance on Erbil, a US-led military coalition began airstrikes against IS positions in Iraq in August 2014. The strikes have helped prevent further IS advances in certain areas and facilitated ground operations by the Iraqi army and Kurdish security forces (peshmerga), which resulted in the reclamation of parts of IS-controlled territory, including the strategic Mosul dam.

Sunni extremist groups, including IS, regularly stage co-ordinated and large-scale attacks in Shia-majority areas of central Iraq. They also retain the intent and capability to carry out attacks in the

Shia-majority south. Large-scale operations have also targeted the security forces and public spaces, including markets in Sunni-majority, Christian and religiously mixed areas. In addition, Sunni militants periodically target high-profile locations in Baghdad such as the International (Green) Zone, the foreign ministry building and Baghdad International Airport (BGW, often referred to as BIAP).

KIDNAPPING

There is a high risk of kidnapping in the country. Despite the high risk and significant population of foreign nationals working in Iraq, kidnaps of expatriate staff remains rare largely due to the fact that foreigners generally employ extensive security measures. However, several large-scale kidnaps, primarily of Turkish and Indian nationalities, were reported following the outbreak of hostilities between IS and government forces in June 2014.

Kidnapping of Iraqi civilians is widespread, particularly in the capital Baghdad and Basra. Most are focused on comparably wealthy Iraqis for the purpose of financial gain, though some women have been abducted for sexual assault. Members of the Iraqi security forces are also periodically targeted with the motive of securing the release of incarcerated criminals.

SOCIAL UNREST

Protests — especially in Baghdad, Basra and the KR — have been held over issues such as political reforms, corruption, economic instability, inadequate provision of essential services and high levels of unemployment. Protests can also occur in reaction to international developments. These are often boisterous and are liable to result in scuffles between participants and the security forces, with the latter often resorting to heavy-handed measures to disperse crowds. Visitors should avoid all demonstrations as a basic security precaution. Foreigners who have inadvertently driven into protests have been attacked — underlining the need to monitor local events closely through local sources — though no one has been killed in such incidents.

Ethnic unrest can be a problem in northern areas, particularly Mosul and Kirkuk, where there are mixed communities of Arabs, Kurds and Turkmens. US forces were crucial in maintaining security along the tense KR border, where large numbers of peshmerga (Kurdish fighters) and Iraq Security Forces (ISF) troops were based. While the ISF and peshmerga are focused on the shared threat from IS, tensions between the two forces will retain the potential to escalate, particularly should the IS threat recede. However, the situation has not yet led to a significant deterioration in the security environment on the border.

Sensitivities that can lead to protests in the Shia-majority southern provinces of Iraq, including the southern main city of Basra, tend to spike annually around the Islamic holy dates of Ashura and Muharram. This was seen near Basra in October 2013, when the removal of flags depicting the revered (by Shias) Imam Hussein from an oil installation triggered violent unrest and a spike in anti-foreign sentiment in the area.

BUSINESSWOMEN

Iraq is a male-dominated society; business and political representatives and local contacts might expect to do business with men. Businesswomen should dress modestly – especially when passing through checkpoints – but there is no need to wear a headscarf. Few female expatriates are in Iraq at present. Women should under no circumstances walk on the streets alone.

CONFLICT

Internal

The security situation in Iraq deteriorated quickly following the end of combat operations to overthrow the regime of former president Saddam Hussein (1979-2003) in April 2003, leading to widespread violence. Sunni Arab insurgents have employed sophisticated, high-impact tactics to maximum effect, while also maintaining the ability to adapt to changing circumstances. By late 2006, the country appeared likely to fragment further along sectarian lines, and a full-blown civil war was, if not already under way, increasingly feared.

Sectarian divisions continue to fuel tensions between the country's Shia community, which makes up an estimated 60% of the population, and the Sunnis (35%), who were politically dominant under Hussein. The implementation of a major coalition counter-insurgency campaign in early 2007 had a significant impact on the security environment across the country, though government policies and actions towards the Sunni community in 2011-13 led to a deterioration in sectarian relations. The rising sectarian tensions in June 2014, prompted by IS' military operations and the killings of Shia security force members and threats against important Shia mosques and shrines, have increased the potential for reigniting widespread violence. The security environment in the northern and western provinces of federal Iraq has deteriorated significantly and the mobilisation of Shia Muslim militias to fight IS increases the number of potential threat actors that make up the security environment.

The security situation remains less severe in Basra and some southern cities, and the situation in the KR is generally stable, particularly around the major urban areas. However, instability is likely to persist for the foreseeable future in the EXTREME travel risk provinces, with sectarian violence being a central issue in Baghdad.

External

Iraq's relations with Turkey have been strained in recent years. The Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and the Kurdish Freedom Falcons (TAK) are known to use Kurdish areas in northern Iraq as safe havens to conduct attacks on Turkish military targets in south-eastern and eastern Turkey. This has led to a number of incursions into northern Iraq by Turkish armed forces since late 2007, the latest beginning in July 2015, when a widely held two-year ceasefire was abandoned and Turkish forces launched air strikes against PKK camps in the mountainous northern areas of the KR. The situation has been further complicated by the continued residence of Iraqi vice-president Tariq al-Hashemi in the Turkish capital Ankara; the Sunni political leader has been sentenced in absentia to death on terrorism charges, but has not been extradited. However, the situation is unlikely to lead to any dangerous escalation.

Baathist Iraq had a history of conflict with its post-revolutionary Shia neighbour Iran, with which it fought a long and costly war in the 1980s. Although in the past Iran conducted covert military action in Iraq, these tactics were predominantly aimed at undermining the US military effort there. Iran retains a significant connection with many Iraqi Shia politicians, a number of whom took refuge in Iran during Saddam Hussein's presidency.

Tensions with Kuwait persist, though these are unlikely to go beyond nationalist rhetoric. Kuwait has residual fears of a fresh invasion by its neighbour, which in August 1990 seized what many of its people refer to as the country's '19th province', triggering the Gulf War of 1990-91. Iraq is paying Kuwait more than US\$40bn in reparations owed for the invasion, which was finally repelled by a UN-backed, US-led coalition force in February 1991.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Ambulance services are not recommended. Contact [International SOS](#) for help with your medical situation.

Country Stability

POLITICAL SITUATION

Since the fall of the Ba'ath regime in 2003, Iraq has made significant progress in creating a democratic political system. A new constitution that was approved in 2005 stipulates that the country is a democratic, federal and parliamentary republic and that Islam is the state religion and a basic foundation for the country's laws. The federal government is composed of executive, legislative and judicial branches. The legislative branch is composed of the Council of Representatives (COR) and the Federation Council, while the executive branch is composed of the president and the Council of Ministers.

The president, who is largely a ceremonial head of state, is elected by the COR by a two-thirds majority and his or her mandate is limited to two four-year terms. There also exist two vice-presidents who shall assume the office of the president in case of the latter's absence or removal. The Council of Ministers comprises one prime minister, two deputy prime ministers and around 40 cabinet ministers. The three provinces of Dohuk, Erbil and Sulaimaniyah, which together form the KR, are administered by the Kurdistan Regional Government, which, under the constitution, has considerable powers of autonomy. The KR has significantly greater stability compared with the rest of Iraq, though disputes between the Kurdistan Regional Government and the central government over oil legislation continue to challenge political stability. The KR is also currently experiencing internal political uncertainty, following the expiration of President Massoud Barzani's mandate on 20 August 2015. A stalemate is presently in effect as the competing parties have not yet reached an agreement on either extending his term or determining a successor.

Despite several positive developments since the US-led invasion in 2003, including two general elections, Iraq remains in a transition process and still faces many challenges, such as overcoming an array of political, economic and security concerns. Parliamentary elections were held in March 2010 amid persistent sectarian and ethnic tensions. Following a nine-month-long period of dispute regarding

election results, the incumbent Nuri al-Maliki was confirmed as prime minister in December 2010. Parliamentary elections were held once again amid increasing sectarian and ethnic tensions in April 2014. Maliki's State of Law Coalition won the most seats but was unable to immediately form a government. Following much speculation and behind the scenes discussion, Haider al-Abadi was named as the new PM and Maliki was forced to resign.

Deep sectarian tensions between Shias and Sunnis, competition between Arabs and Kurds and the lack of effective state control in many parts of the country may challenge the relative progress made so far, meaning that political uncertainty is highly likely to endure in the near term; however, a collapse of the political system is not expected. Sectarian tensions surfaced in December 2011 after Maliki's government issued an arrest warrant for vice-president Tariq al-Hashemi, a member of the Sunni Iraqiya bloc, on terrorism charges. Hashemi denied the charges and took refuge in the KR, subsequently fleeing to Turkey. The Sunni leader in September 2012 was sentenced to death over the charges, further exacerbating sectarian tensions.

RULE OF LAW

The provision of law and order continues to be limited and the quality of Iraq's security forces varies greatly. In spite of increased capacity, the police force is still considered to be ethnically biased by many Iraqis and is broadly unpopular with several sections of the community. In addition, Shia Muslim militias are participating in policing operations in the capital Baghdad and southern governorates; in some areas militias operate checkpoints and conduct patrols independently of the security forces.

The withdrawal of coalition forces and ongoing military campaign against Islamic State (IS) has placed more substantial demands on the domestic security forces. Companies must be able to supply protection and security management for themselves and ensure that they are prepared to deal with emergencies and other contingencies.

CORRUPTION

Corrupt practices in Iraq - ranging from petty bribery to large scale misappropriation, expropriation, abuse of power and nepotism - are hampering both reconstruction efforts and attempts to improve the security situation.

Corruption among police and the security forces, including nepotism, graft and petty bribery to supplement salaries, is believed to be high, although improving.

NATURAL DISASTERS

Iraq is located in a seismically active zone. The country is also vulnerable to sand and dust storms. Floods also occur occasionally.

RECENT HISTORY

Iraq has undergone a protracted period of political transition since the overthrow of former president Saddam Hussein (1979-2003) in April 2003. The security situation in Iraq deteriorated quickly following

the end of major combat operations, leading to widespread violence and delaying reconstruction. However, Iraq in recent years has also made significant progress in creating a democratic political system. A new constitution that was approved in 2005 stipulates that the country is a democratic, federal and parliamentary republic, with Islam as the state religion and a basic foundation for the country's laws.

The three provinces of Dohuk, Erbil and Sulaimaniyah, which together form the Kurdistan Region (KR), are administered by the Kurdistan Regional Government, which, under the constitution, has considerable powers of autonomy.

Iraq remains in transition and continues to face a number of major political, economic and security concerns. The KR has significantly greater stability compared with the rest of Iraq, though disputes between the Kurdistan Regional Government and their central counterpart over oil legislation persist.

Parliamentary elections were held in March 2010 amid persistent sectarian and ethnic tensions. Following a nine-month-long dispute over the poll results, incumbent Nuri al-Maliki of the Islamic Dawa Party was confirmed as prime minister in December 2010. Sectarian tensions surfaced almost immediately following the withdrawal of the last US combat troops in December 2011. Subsequently, Maliki's government issued an arrest warrant for Vice-President Tariq al-Hashemi, a member of the Sunni Iraqiya bloc, on terrorism charges. Hashemi denied the charges and took refuge in the KR and subsequently fled to Turkey; he was sentenced to death in absentia in September 2012.

In September 2014, Haider al-Abadi was approved by the Iraqi parliament as the country's new prime minister, following a protracted process due to al-Maliki's initial refusal to step down. During his tenure, al-Abadi has demonstrated an ability to engage and compromise with minority Sunni and Kurd groups, promoting a more inclusive political platform that was lacking under al-Maliki's leadership.

Before You Go

See your doctor and dentist and ensure you are in the best health before you leave. Other preparations:

- Check your routine vaccinations are up to date (polio; varicella; measles, mumps and rubella; tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis). See a travel health practitioner 6 to 8 weeks before departure for destination-specific health preparations. You may need additional vaccinations, some of which require several doses, or be recommended malaria medication which may need to be started a week or more before arriving in the malarial country.
- **Documentation:** Arrange a copy of your personal health record to carry with you when you travel. Include a letter from your doctor explaining your need for all medications you are carrying, including any over-the-counter medications, in English and the language of your destination(s). Make sure you have copies of your prescriptions.
- **Medication:** Check the regulations of your destination country regarding importation of your medication, as some drugs may be strictly prohibited (especially narcotics and psychotropics) and may result in severe penalties. Take any medicines you require *in their original packaging*, including any information leaflets, with them clearly labelled with your name (matching your passport name), and your doctor's name. Have enough to cover the trip, and extra in case of

delays, however note that many destinations limit quantities of certain drugs to a 30-day supply. Carry medication in your hand luggage, with copies of your prescriptions.

Vaccinations for Iraq

Recommendations may vary for short-term visitors. Always consult your travel health advisor or contact International SOS to discuss your specific needs.

Cholera	Oral vaccination is recommended for travellers and relief workers who are likely to encounter unsanitary conditions, or will have limited access to safe water. These are the conditions more commonly associated with cholera outbreaks. Vaccination is not 100% protective, and hygiene, food and water precautions must still be taken. (Note the vaccination is not available in the USA).
Hepatitis A	Recommended for all travellers and expatriates.
Hepatitis B	Recommended for all travellers and expatriates.
Polio	<p>A booster is recommended for all travellers. Although polio has not been recorded in this country for some time, there is a risk of polio importation from areas nearby.</p> <p>Vaccination is required for entry into Iraq for travellers from polio-endemic countries. Vaccination should be recorded on the International Certificate of Vaccination or Prophylaxis (ICVP).</p>
Rabies	<p>Consider for certain travellers, especially:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• For expatriates and long-term visitors.• For children who tend to play with animals and may not admit to being bitten or scratched.• If you are travelling to a location where quality medical care may not be available immediately after being bitten/scratched by an animal. <p>(Unvaccinated people need immunoglobulin within 24 hours of an animal injury, and this medication is scarce in some countries. If you are pre-vaccinated, you do not need this immunoglobulin after an injury.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If contact with dogs, monkeys or other potentially

	rabies-carrying animals is likely.
	Jogging increases your risk of dog bite.
Typhoid fever	Recommended for all travellers and expatriates.
Yellow fever	<p>To enter Iraq, a yellow fever vaccination certificate is required for travellers > 9 months of age who has travelled from a country with a risk of yellow fever transmission, and for people who have transited for more than 12 hours through the airport of a risk country. Officials in Iraq consider the certificate valid for 10 years.</p> <p><i>(Deciding whether to have a yellow fever vaccination is complex. Always discuss with your travel health professional well in advance of your trip. If vaccination is required by a country on your itinerary, you may need proof that you were given the vaccination at least 10 days before entering that country. The nation's official vaccination requirements for entering travellers are detailed above, though these may be implemented unevenly by immigration personnel on the ground.)</i></p>

[More on diseases in Iraq](#)

Malaria

Spread By: Insect Bites

Malaria is present below 1,500m (4,921 ft) in the following northern provinces of Iraq:

- Duhok
- Erbil
- Sulaimaniya

Risk exists from May to November and is low. No locally-acquired cases have been reported since 2009. Anti-malarial medications are not recommended for most travelers. Mosquito bite prevention is the primary protective measure.

Malaria is transmitted by mosquitoes that usually bite from dusk to dawn. Symptoms can develop as early as six days or as late as several months after exposure. Early malaria symptoms are flu like, such as head/body aches and generally feeling tired and unwell. Untreated, it can cause complications including anaemia, seizures, mental confusion, kidney failure and coma. It can be fatal.

There is a limited risk of malaria in this country.

PREVENTING MALARIA

- Prevent mosquito bites.
- Chemoprophylaxis is not generally recommended.

Standard of Care

Emergency Response

Always try to call International SOS whenever medical care or advice is required, especially in emergencies.

There are extremely limited private ambulance services in Iraq. Public ambulances are very basic and not recommended. These ambulances are often dispatched by their respective hospital with a driver only, no medical staff.

Standard of Health Care

The medical system and infrastructure in Iraq has undergone particular strain during the past several years. Supply, staff and medication shortages are chronic, and the healthcare system is overburdened. Security concerns have exacerbated the problem and have made accessing medical services in parts of Iraq difficult. Basic medical care is largely unavailable and many facilities are non-operational. The level of medical care is below international standards. Medical evacuation will be necessary for moderate to severe conditions. Because of the unstable security environment and continued economic upheaval, information on healthcare in Iraq is subject to change and requires verification at the time of access.

In Baghdad, there is at least one public hospital in every municipality. Although the Iraqi health professionals in public facilities try their best with limited materials, hygiene standards are poor and the hospitals are insufficiently stocked to provide acceptable care. Private hospitals are generally crowded and require cash deposits up front. Although they charge more for their services than other facilities, they do not necessarily provide an increased standard of care.

Since the departure of the U.S. military, the healthcare system which was previously created, has been left to be managed by the local Iraqi authorities. This leaves the national healthcare system and NGO facilities as the main options.

Some international companies have opened in Erbil to serve the primary care health needs of foreign contractors. The medical facilities in Erbil can be considered of a higher standard to those found in Sulaimaniya and the surrounding area. However, given the limitations to the medical infrastructure, all but the most minor of injuries and illnesses will require evacuation to a center of medical excellence outside Iraq.

Northern Iraq, particularly Kurdistan, has fared better than the south. The Kurds have maintained an improved security environment and increased investment relative to the rest of the country. With that said,

in recent times, Kurdistan has suffered from insurgent attacks, chronic disruption of supply chains and large-scale emigration (and sometimes death) of experienced healthcare professionals.

OutPatient Care

Public clinics in Baghdad provide a minimal level of care. The standard is low, and these facilities are not recommended. Many public clinics are in areas that are not considered safe.

Private clinics in Baghdad are staffed by general practitioners and specialists, but are yet to be fully functional. Several private facilities operated by overseas companies have also opened in Baghdad to serve the medical needs of expatriate contractors. Depending on the severity of the injury, they may not be equipped to handle the range of medical problems and all fees must be paid in cash up front.

None of the private hospitals have emergency rooms. Contact your medical assistance company for a recommendation.

Paying for Health Care

Payment is expected in cash. Fees are low in public facilities, higher for private care. You must pay before receiving care in a hospital. Additional fees apply for consultations, hospital stays and medicine.

Do not defer medical treatment because of financial concerns. Contact International SOS, and if our terms allow, we will make financial arrangements on your behalf.

Dental Care

All routine dental treatment should be undertaken prior to travel to Iraq. Basic dental care may be available in the country.

Blood Supplies

Even in areas where the blood supply is considered safe, it's best to avoid blood transfusions if possible. Screening cannot detect every blood-borne disease, and immune reactions can vary from minor to life-threatening. If a blood transfusion is recommended and circumstances permit, seek a second opinion from International SOS or your health advisor.

Medication Availability

Equipment, drugs and staff shortages are common. Although many pharmacies are open, most offer extremely limited range of drugs. Counterfeit medications circulate.

Since brand names vary, know the generic (chemical) names of your medications. It is always advisable to bring an adequate supply of prescription and other medications from your home country. Check the expiration date on all medications.

Clinics & Hospitals

Medical Providers

No matter where you are, contact International SOS first if you are sick, injured or need medical advice.

Our medical staff will advise you, help you select the correct doctor, hospital or clinic, and make any necessary appointments on your behalf. If our terms allow, we will also make financial arrangements for you.

It is recommended that you contact International SOS before accessing medical care in Iraq

Food & Water

Food and Water Precautions

Travellers have a small risk of developing diarrhoea in any country. It may be advisable to drink bottled water only, especially on short trips. Always wash your hands with soap before eating, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. See the following country-specific recommendations:

Water and Beverages

The safety of water supplies (tap or bottled) in Iraq is uncertain. Drink only water from a verified safe source, or boil it before consuming. Avoid ice unless you know it has been made with clean water.

Food Risk

The safety of food supplies in Iraq is uncertain. Only eat fruits and vegetables you peel yourself, or that you have washed in clean water. Choose thoroughly cooked meals that are served hot.

[More on food and water safety](#)

Health Threats

These pages display diseases in approximate order of risk

Malaria | Spread By : Insect Bites

Malaria is transmitted by mosquitoes that usually bite from dusk to dawn. Symptoms can develop as early as six days or as late as several months after exposure. Early malaria symptoms are flu like, such as head/body aches and generally feeling tired and unwell. Untreated, it can cause complications including anaemia, seizures, mental confusion, kidney failure and coma. It can be fatal.

[More on Malaria and its presence in Iraq](#)

Travelers' diarrhea | Spread By : Food and/or water

Travellers' diarrhoea usually occurs within the first week away from home. It affects between 20 and 50 percent of all international travelers, especially people visiting high-risk destinations such as developing nations in Latin America, Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

[More on Travelers' diarrhea](#)

Rabies | Spread By : Animals

Rabies is a viral disease contracted when bitten or scratched by an infected (rabid) animal, often a dog. Once it enters the body, the virus travels along nerves and causes paralysis. As it reaches important organs like the spinal cord and the brain, it causes coma and death.

[More on Rabies](#)

Typhoid fever | Spread By : Food and/or water

Typhoid fever is a serious infection caused by a type of salmonella bacteria spread by contaminated food or water. Choosing safe food and water will greatly reduce the risk of developing the disease.

[More on Typhoid fever](#)

Hepatitis A | Spread By : Food and/or water

Hepatitis A is a viral disease that affects the liver. It is transmitted person-to-person and by contaminated food and water, especially in areas with poor sanitation and overcrowding.

[More on Hepatitis A](#)

Getting There

METHOD OF ARRIVAL

By air

Baghdad International Airport (BGW - commonly referred to as BIAP) has regular commercial and charter flights. Security measures inside the airport have improved and are adequate. After being met by one's security protection team (or specialist in-country security provider), personnel are typically taken to a secure area of the airport and briefed on the current and localised security conditions and the necessary precautions and protocols which would apply to their movement in the country during their stay. Visitors are advised to meticulously adhere to the instructions given by the security specialists. Stringent security measures in and around the facility tends to cause significant delays, particularly at checkpoints; travellers are advised to arrive at least four hours before their scheduled flights. Basra International Airport (BSR) in the south is the second-largest airport in the country.

The threat to commercial aircraft is assessed to be low at this time. Despite increased security along the road between the airport and the International Zone, armed groups operating in the areas north and south of the route retain the intent to stage car bombings near the road or launch mortar fire into the BIAP compound. Security is provided by both the Iraqi army and a private security company, and is deemed adequate. However, security gaps cannot be ruled out as Iraqi VIPs tend to flaunt security measures while travelling.

Airlines have variable security standards. You may wish to consult the European Commission's [website](#) for a list of [airlines](#) banned within the EU and the US Federal Aviation Administration's [website](#) for a database of aviation accidents and statistics.

By land

It must be noted that road travel is the most dangerous form of transport due to the overall threat of violence and because of specific concerns over safety and security in the vast majority of Iraq's frontier regions. If travelling by land is the only option, a strict journey management plan should be drawn out and measures should include the use of an armed security escort, an armoured 4X4 vehicle, adequate communication equipment and the services of a security provider with extensive in-country experience.

There are several routes leading into Iraq. Members seeking to enter the Kurdistan Region can enter from the north at the Turkish-Kurdistan border, though Kurdish militant activity in south-eastern Turkey can present considerable risks; travellers should liaise closely with local authorities and security professionals. There is also the Kuwaiti border entrance, though crossing can be a long process and Kuwaiti officials may be strict in choosing whom to allow to pass through. It is not recommended to

enter Iraq from Syria, Iran or Jordan.

There is a continued threat of carjacking, robbery and random acts of terrorism, most especially on highways 1, 5, 10 and 15. It is generally recommended to travel in convoys protected by professional security teams and to travel in daylight hours. IED's are common and used on well-travelled roads as well as secondary roads.

Entry & Departure Requirements

Passport and visa requirements are subject to change and vary depending on the length of stay and visa type (business or tourist). Check with your travel advisor, embassy or consulate in your home country. Passports must be valid for at least six months from the date of entry.

	Passport Required?	Visa Required?	Return Ticket Required
Australia	Yes	Yes	No
United Kingdom	Yes	Yes	No
Canada	Yes	Yes	No
Europe	Yes	Yes	No
United States	Yes	Yes	No

Visas

A visa is required by all nationals intending to visit Iraq; however, visas are granted only after the application has been approved by authorities in Baghdad. Regulations are liable to change so nationals are advised to contact the relevant embassy for further information. Tourist or visit visas allow travellers to stay up to 30 days in a three month period, while a regular visa allows for a stay up to three months. Visit visas are valid for 30 days; extensions are available but not for more than 90 days in total. Iraqi missions in the following countries are currently authorised to issue entry visas: Bahrain, Egypt, France, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey and United Arab Emirates. Sponsorship from in-country will assist business travellers in obtaining approval for a visa. Personnel visiting the Kurdistan Region only can obtain a visa on arrival on presenting relevant documentation.

Entry/Exit requirements

Passports valid for at least six months from the date of issue of visa are required by all nationals. Foreigners are not allowed to import more than \$10,000 of foreign currency and 200,000 Iraqi dinars.

Procedures

Visitors are required to obtain an arrival sticker as they enter the country - which can be a lengthy process - and submit a blood sample within ten days at the Iraqi Ministry of Health for those intending to stay for longer than ten days. They must also obtain a residency stamp; failure to do so would result in heavy penalties. Those staying for more than three months must apply for a one-year residence permit.

Residency and arrival stickers can be obtained at the Residency Office in Baghdad.

Departure Tax

- The departure tax is included in the price of ticket.

Getting Around

BY AIR

There is a limited commercial air service within Iraq. National carrier Iraqi Airways operates flights between Baghdad and the cities of Erbil, Najaf and Basra. The airline can be unreliable and flight schedules are prone to last-minute alterations or cancellations. Tickets must be purchased in-country. While there is a significant security presence at both Baghdad and Basra airports, the two facilities remain attractive targets for insurgents. Internal travel to all other locations at present must generally be undertaken by road.

BY ROAD

Overland travel within Iraq remains dangerous because of the threat posed by ambushes, unexploded ordnance, road-side bombings and robbery. Roads are usually in bad condition and driving standards are often poor.

If travel by road outside major cities is unavoidable, personnel should seek itinerary-specific advice; it is essential that up-to-date locally sourced threat information is obtained on routes prior to travel. Overland travel must be conducted with the support of a professional security provider, with travel by convoy in armoured vehicles essential. Personnel should also travel with an Arabic-speaker who is familiar with Iraq, bring plentiful supplies of fuel and water, travel only during daylight hours, and ensure that they are able to communicate regularly with local security managers. The authorities could impose curfews and ban on vehicle movements at short notice particularly around religious holidays, pilgrimages, and critical political dates such as elections.

Carjackers often kill the driver and passengers. Security managers should note that the most attractive vehicles for carjackers are high-end four-wheel-drive vehicles and luxury cars. Fuel supplies can be sporadic and may not be available in every city on a particular day. Personnel should therefore carry extra fuel and top up where supplies are available and as long as it is safe to do so. Diesel is difficult to obtain.

There is a proliferation of checkpoints, roadblocks and other safety measures employed by Iraqi security forces and Shia militias which can also make road movement unpredictable and lengthy. Foreigners should minimise the time spent in the vicinity of security convoys or checkpoints, and comply with any

instructions given by security personnel. Personnel should approach impromptu checkpoints carefully; such checkpoints have been the site of criminal activities such as murder, abduction and robbery.

All vehicles entering or within the International Zone (IZ, commonly referred to as the Green Zone) area of closed-off streets in central Baghdad need to meet vehicle registration and licensing requirements enforced by the Iraqi Security Forces and the Iraqi Army.

Unexploded ordnance (UXO)

There are moderate amounts of UXO as a result of the 2003 invasion and other recent conflicts in which Iraq has been involved. Stray UXO is generally found in relatively remote locations and not on roads or in built-up urban areas. Personnel should avoid off-road short cuts. There are also significant numbers of landmines, especially near the borders with Iran and Kuwait, which again do not affect main transport routes.

BY TAXI

Personnel should not travel by taxis due to security concerns.

BY TRAIN

The country's limited rail system is operational but slow, and vulnerable to criminal and terrorist attacks. The railway infrastructure has suffered extensive damage due to both conflict and looting.

Language & Money

LANGUAGE

Arabic is the national language, while Kurdish is predominately spoken in the north. English is the *lingua franca* for most reconstruction and humanitarian activity, but travelling with an Arabic speaker is advised.

MONEY

Iraqi dinar (ID) is the legal tender; however, US dollars are accepted everywhere, including at immigration where cash will be required to collect visas. Most transactions are in cash; some business-class hotels in major cities have credit card facilities but this should be confirmed with the property prior to travel. Traveller's cheques are not accepted. Visitors should carry back-up cash. ATM facilities are becoming increasingly common though not all machines will accept foreign cards.

Cultural Tips

General Tips

- The right hand is used for eating, greeting and accepting gifts.
- Both men and women dress conservatively.
- When addressing someone, always use their title and full name until invited to do otherwise. First names are only used between close friends and family.
- In social situations, a handshake and kisses on each cheek is common between locals.
- Removing your shoes before entering a home may be expected. Follow your host's lead.
- Consumption of alcohol and pork products is illegal for Muslims, though alcohol is easy to purchase in Iraq.
- Do not show the soles of your feet when sitting.
- The family is an important part of life.
- Bargaining for better prices in open markets is customary.
- Do not take photographs of any military or government installations.
- Avoid political discussions. Domestic and Middle Eastern politics – particularly the Iran-Iraq war and the Arab-Israeli conflict – and Islamist extremism are all controversial topics.
- Do not display affection in public places.
- During the holy month of Ramadan, visitors should not eat, drink or smoke in public during daylight hours.
- It is unlawful to take photographs of Iraqi security forces and checkpoints.

Business Tips

- Iraqis place great importance on friendship and developing close relationships with those they are conducting business with. The visitor should initiate the end of a meeting – the host would avoid doing so for fear of seeming impolite.
- Invitations and introductions are key components of successful business meetings.
- Foreign executives should wear business suits for meetings and social occasions.
- Punctuality is viewed as a positive attribute; therefore, you should always arrive at business meetings on time.
- Respect is important in business relationships. Show respect for elder business associates by greeting them first.
- It is customary to shake hands on arrival and departure from a business meeting; however, do not attempt to shake hands with a female business associate unless she initiates first.
- Extensive social pleasantries may be exchanged before business discussions begin.
- Business is conducted in Arabic. Attempts to learn basic Arabic phrases are greatly appreciated.
- Business meetings may need to be scheduled around the five daily Islamic prayer times, each lasting about five minutes.
- Business cards should be printed in Arabic or Kurdish and include your company position and title.
- Meetings are often interrupted, since Iraqis prefer to handle more than one issue at once.
- Business hours are curtailed during Ramadan and the pace of decision-making slows. Executives should consider whether business trips during Ramadan are essential or can be rearranged for a more suitable time.

Businesswomen

Iraq is a male-dominated society; business and political representatives and local contacts might expect to do business with men. Businesswomen should dress modestly – especially when passing through checkpoints – but there is no need to wear a headscarf. Few female expatriates are in Iraq at present. Women should under no circumstances walk on the streets alone.

Tipping

A tip of 10-15% is appropriate in restaurants and for other basic services.

Working Week

- Working week: Sunday-Thursday
- Weekend: Friday- Saturday
- Office hours: 08.00-16.00

Phone & Power

Iraq Telecommunications

Dialing Codes	
Country Code	964
IDD Prefix (International Direct Dialing)	00
NDD Prefix (National Direct Dialing)	0

Telephone Information

There is an improvement in mobile telephone access; however, the service may vary by region. The following networks operate in Iraq: Asiacell, Zain Iraq and Korea Telecom. 'Mobal', a US telephone service provider, also provides GSM services. These network providers cover mostly urban areas including Baghdad and Basra. However, services can be erratic and users may experience dropped calls. A reliable communications system such as the Thuraya satellite telephone network is essential, but the Thuraya system is oversubscribed in Iraq, meaning that it is advisable to have a back-up system such as VHF radio fitted in all vehicles. Iridium telephone services are better but more expensive than Thuraya. Singapore Telecommunications (SingTel) launched Inmarsat's IsatPhone Pro satellite phone for Iraq in June 2010.

Iraq Electricity

Voltage and Frequency

Additional Electrical Information

Voltage: 230 volts

Frequency: 50 Hz

These are the most common plug types used:



Geography & Weather

[Weather data provided by weather.com](https://www.weather.com)

Climate

Iraq has a hot and dry climate. Summers (April-September) are hot with low rainfall. October to March are the wettest months and winters (December-March) are cold. Mean temperatures in Baghdad: January 11°C (52°F); July 33°C (91°F).

GEOGRAPHY

Iraq shares borders with Iran, Turkey, Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Two major rivers - the Tigris and Euphrates - run through the country in a south-easterly direction. The country is divided into 18 provinces, with each comprising of several districts, and one autonomous region (Kurdistan Region). The north of the country is mountainous, while the western area is largely desert. Iraq's sole opening to the sea is a small stretch of coast on the north-western end of the Persian Gulf, where the Shatt al Arab waterway is shared with Iran.

Embassies & Consulates

Embassies

Australia Embassy

Baghdad

International Zone; Baghdad

Baghdad

Iraq

Telephone: +964 1 5382103

Email: austemb.baghdad@dfat.gov.au

website: <http://www.iraq.embassy.gov.au/>

France Consulate

Erbil

33, Salaheddine street; Erbil

Erbil

Iraq

Telephone: +964 066 2573583

Email: consulat.erbil-fslt@diplomatie.gouv.fr

website: <http://www.ambafrance-iq.org/-Consulat-General-de-France-a-Erbil->

France Embassy

Baghdad

Quartier Abu Nawas, Location 102, Street 55, Number 7; Baghdad

Baghdad

Iraq

Telephone: +964 7181996

Fascimilie: +870 600853141

Email: info@ambafrance-iq.org

website: <http://www.ambafrance-iq.org/>

Germany Consulate

Erbil

Kirkuk Road, Azady (opp. Salahaddin University); Erbil

Erbil

Iraq

Telephone: +964 750 7907909

website: http://www.bagdad.diplo.de/Vertretung/bagdad/de/08/___GK___Erbil___Startseite.

Germany Embassy

Baghdad

P.O.Box 2036, Jadriyah; Baghdad

Baghdad

Iraq

Telephone: + 964 790 1922526

Fascimilie: + 49 228 1767071

Email: info@bagdad.diplo.de

website: <http://www.bagdad.diplo.de/Vertretung/bagdad/de/Startseite.html>

Italy Embassy

Baghdad

International Zone; Baghdad

Baghdad

Iraq

Telephone: +964 7801952388

Fascimilie: +870 764018541

Email: ambasciata.baghdad@esteri.it

website: http://www.ambbaghdad.esteri.it/Ambasciata_Baghdad

Japan Embassy

Telephone: +870 772543197

Fascimilie: +870 782174466

website: <http://www.iraq.emb-japan.go.jp/>

Netherlands Embassy

Baghdad

Al Kindy area, District 215, Street 15, House 7, (International Zone); Baghdad

Baghdad

Iraq

Telephone: +964 1 7782571

Fascimilie: +964 1 7763513

Email: bag@minbuza.nl

website: <http://iraq.nlembassy.org/>

Spain Embassy

Baghdad

Al Mansur. District 609. Calle 3 House 55 and 57; Baghdad

Baghdad

Iraq

Telephone: +964 7801099364

Email: emb.bagdad@maec.es

website: http://www.maec.es/subwebs/Embajadas/Bagdad/es/home/Paginas/home_abidjan.as

Sweden Embassy

Baghdad

P.O. Box 3475, Al-Alwiyah Post Office, Karadat Mariam; Baghdad

Baghdad

Iraq

Telephone: +964 780 1987450

Email: ambassaden.bagdad@foreign.ministry.se

website: <http://www.swedenabroad.com/en-GB/Embassies/Baghdad/>

United Kingdom Consulate

Erbil

Khanzad Hotel, Shaqlawa Main road; Erbil

Erbil

Iraq

Telephone: +964 750 8237415

Email: enquiries.erbil@fco.gov.uk

website: <http://ukiniraq.fco.gov.uk/en/>

United Kingdom Embassy

Baghdad

International Zone; Baghdad

Baghdad

Iraq

Telephone: +964 790 1926280

Email: britembBaghdad@fco.gov.uk

website: <http://ukiniraq.fco.gov.uk/en/>

United States Embassy

Baghdad

Al-Kindi Street, International Zone; Baghdad

Baghdad

Iraq

Telephone: +964 760 0303000

Email: BaghdadACS@state.gov

website: <http://iraq.usembassy.gov/>

Calendar

2016

08 Feb Revolution Day

22 Mar Arab League Day

09 Apr Baghdad Liberation Day

17 Apr Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Day

01 May Workers' Day/Labour Day/May Day/Spring Day

Student/labour demonstrations. If the holiday falls on a rest day, it may be observed on the next working

day.

14 Jul Republic Day

17 Jul Revolution Day

08 Aug Victory Day (End of Iran/Iraq War)

03 Oct Independence Day (National Day)

12 Oct Ashura

This is a day of mourning by Shia Muslims to commemorate the martyrdom of Imam Hussain in 680 AD. Isolated sectarian protests and unrest are possible.

21 Nov Arba'in-e Hosseini (40th day after Ahsura)

2017

01 Jan New Year's Day

In many countries, if this holiday falls on a Saturday or Sunday, a public holiday is declared for the following Monday.

06 Jan Army Day