


Saudi Arabia

US State Dept Travel Advisory	The US Department of State currently recommends US citizens reconsider travel to Saudi Arabia due to the threat of missile and drone attacks. Exercise increased caution in Saudi Arabia due to terrorism, the risk of arrest based on social media activity, and importation of prohibited items. Some areas have increased risk.
	https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html
Passport/Visa Requirements	For the latest passport and visa requirements for this country, please consult the U.S. State Department's "Learn About Your Destination" search tool, available through the link below.
	https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages.html
US Embassy/Consulate	[966] (11) 488-3800; US Embassy in Riyadh, PO Box 94309, Riyadh 11693, Saudi Arabia; RiyadhACS@state.gov; https://sa.usembassy.gov/
LGBTQIA+ Travelers	https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/before-you-go/travelers-with-special-considerations.html
Telephone Code	966
Local Emergency Phone	Ambulance: 997; Fire: 998; Police: 999
Vaccinations	The CDC and WHO recommend the following vaccinations for Saudi Arabia: hepatitis A, hepatitis B, typhoid, yellow fever, rabies, anthrax, meningitis, polio, measles, mumps and rubella (MMR), Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis), chickenpox, shingles, pneumonia, influenza, and COVID-19.
	http://www.who.int/
Climate	Harsh, dry desert with great temperature extremes
Currency (Code)	Saudi riyals (SAR)
Electricity/Voltage/Plug Type(s)	220 V / 60 Hz / plug types(s): G
	 Type G
Major Languages	Arabic
Major Religions	Muslim (85-90% Sunni and 10-15% Shia), other (includes Eastern Orthodox, Protestant, Roman Catholic, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist, and Sikh); note: most forms of public religious expression inconsistent with the government-sanctioned interpretation of Sunni Islam are restricted
Time Difference	UTC+3 (8 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)
Potable Water	Yes, but some opt for bottled water
International Driving Permit	Suggested
Road Driving Side	Right
Tourist Destinations	National Museum of Saudi Arabia; Jamarat Bridge; Mada'in Salih; King's Fountain; Dumat al-Jandal; Al-Turaif District
Major Sports	Soccer, camel racing, wrestling
Cultural Practices	Only use your right hand for shaking hands or for handing anything. It's considered rude to use your left hand in Islam. Respect the religion. Shops, cafes, etc. will close for a short while during prayer times.
Tipping Guidelines	Tipping 10-15% is expected for good service. Tip a porter/bellhop \$1-2 (USD) per bag and a housekeeper \$2 (USD) per day.
Souvenirs	Oud perfume, dried dates, olive oil, woven wool prayer rugs, oil lamps or incense burners, frankincense and myrrh incense
Traditional Cuisine	Kabsa — water used to cook meat or fish is re-used to cook rice to impart flavor; the dish can be made with chicken, lamb, camel meat, fish, or shrimp; the meat or fish is usually placed on top of the rice and served on a large platter