

Saudi Arabia

Continent: Asia

Languages Spoken: Arabic

Population: 35,000,000

Currency: Saudi Riyal (SAR)

Area: 2,149,690

Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Masjid al-Haram', 'writeup': 'The largest mosque in the world, located in Mecca, it surrounds Islam's holiest site, the Kaaba.'}
- {'name': 'Al-Masjid an-Nabawi', 'writeup': 'The Prophet's Mosque in Medina, second holiest site in Islam, known for its green dome.'}
- {'name': 'Diriyah', 'writeup': 'Historic town near Riyadh, birthplace of the Saudi state and a UNESCO World Heritage site.'}
- {'name': 'Edge of the World', 'writeup': 'A dramatic cliff offering panoramic views over the surrounding desert landscape.'}
- {'name': 'Madain Saleh', 'writeup': 'Archaeological site with well-preserved Nabatean tombs, Saudi Arabia's first UNESCO World Heritage site.'}

Head of State / Government:

King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud

Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Janadriyah Festival', 'writeup': 'Annual cultural festival celebrating Saudi heritage, including traditional music, dance, and crafts.'}
- {'name': 'Riyadh Season', 'writeup': 'A months-long entertainment festival featuring concerts, sports, and cultural events.'}
- {'name': 'Hajj', 'writeup': 'The annual Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca, one of the Five Pillars of Islam, attracting millions of Muslims worldwide.'}

Food & Cuisine:

Saudi cuisine features dishes like Kabsa, a spiced rice and meat dish, and dates, which are culturally significant. Meals often include lamb, chicken, rice, and a variety of spices reflecting Arabian Peninsula flavors.

Brief History:

Saudi Arabia was unified in 1932 by King Abdulaziz Al Saud. It is the birthplace of Islam and home to its two holiest cities, Mecca and Medina. The discovery of oil in 1938 transformed its economy and global significance.

Important People:

- King Abdulaziz Al Saud - Founder of modern Saudi Arabia
- King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud - Current King
- Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman - De facto ruler and reformist

- Ibn Saud - First monarch and unifier
- Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab - Religious reformer influencing Saudi ideology

Current Conflicts:

Saudi Arabia is involved in the Yemen conflict, supporting the Yemeni government against Houthi rebels. It also faces regional tensions with Iran and ongoing concerns over terrorism and security.

Youtube Links:

- Saudi Arabia: Land of the Two Holy Mosques
- Inside Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030
- The Culture and Traditions of Saudi Arabia
- Saudi Arabia's Economic Transformation
- Travel Guide to Saudi Arabia's Top Landmarks