

Iraq

Continent: Asia

Languages Spoken: Arabic, Kurdish

Population: 44,000,000

Currency: Iraqi Dinar (IQD)

Area: 438,317

Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Ancient City of Babylon', 'writeup': 'A historic city famous for its ancient ruins and the Hanging Gardens, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.'}
- {'name': 'Al-Mustansiriya University', 'writeup': 'One of the oldest universities in the world, established in Baghdad in the 13th century.'}
- {'name': 'Erbil Citadel', 'writeup': 'A continuously inhabited settlement and one of the oldest human-made structures in the world.'}
- {'name': 'Great Mosque of Samarra', 'writeup': 'Known for its unique spiral minaret, it was once the largest mosque in the world.'}
- {'name': 'Ziggurat of Ur', 'writeup': 'An ancient Sumerian ziggurat located near Nasiriyah, dating back to the 21st century BCE.'}

Head of State / Government:

President Abdul Latif Rashid

Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Nowruz', 'writeup': 'The Kurdish New Year celebrated on the spring equinox with traditional music, dancing, and festivities.'}
- {'name': 'Ashura', 'writeup': 'A significant religious observance for Shia Muslims commemorating the martyrdom of Imam Hussein.'}
- {'name': 'Baghdad International Film Festival', 'writeup': 'An event showcasing regional and international films, promoting cultural exchange.'}

Food & Cuisine:

Iraqi cuisine features rich flavors with staples like rice, lamb, and dates. Popular dishes include Masgouf (grilled fish), Dolma (stuffed vegetables), and Kebabs, reflecting a blend of Arab, Kurdish, and Mesopotamian culinary traditions.

Brief History:

Iraq, historically known as Mesopotamia, is one of the world's earliest cradles of civilization. It has been home to ancient empires such as the Sumerians, Babylonians, and Assyrians. In modern times, Iraq was part of the Ottoman Empire before becoming a kingdom and later a republic. The country has experienced significant conflict, including the Iran-Iraq War, Gulf War, and the 2003 US-led invasion.

Important People:

- Saddam Hussein - Former President

- Abdul Salam Arif - Former President
- Nouri al-Maliki - Former Prime Minister
- Ahmed Chalabi - Politician and businessman
- Jalal Talabani - Former President and Kurdish leader

Current Conflicts:

Iraq faces ongoing security challenges including insurgent attacks, sectarian violence, and tensions with various militant groups despite efforts to stabilize the country.

Youtube Links:

- Iraq: History, Culture, and Modern Challenges
- Exploring Ancient Babylon - Iraq's Historical Treasure
- Life in Baghdad: A Glimpse into Iraqi Society
- Iraqi Cuisine: Traditional Dishes and Recipes
- Understanding Iraq's Political Landscape