

STATE OF KUWAIT IMPORTANT TRAVEL INFORMATION

Preparation for travel

U.S. passports

U.S. Department of State: http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html

Be sure your passport is up to date.

Kuwait – Country specific information

U.S. Department of State: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_944.html

This link will provide you with important information before you begin your trip to Kuwait including country description, entry/exit requirements, safety and security, crime, information for victims of crime, medical facilities and health information, medical insurance, traffic safety and road conditions, aviation safety oversight, special circumstances, criminal penalties, children's issues and registration/embassy location.

Kuwaiti visa

U.S. Department of State:

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_944.html#entry_requirements

You may also contact the Embassy of Kuwait in D.C. at (202) 966-0702, or the Kuwaiti Consulate in New York City at (212) 973-4318.

Embassy of Kuwait

2940 Tilden Street NW
Washington, DC 20008
Tel: (202) 966-0702

Travel alert for Arabian Peninsula and Persian Gulf

U.S. Department of State: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_1155.html

Health information for travelers to Kuwait - Vaccinations and other health precautions

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

<http://www.cdc.gov/travel/destinationKuwait.aspx>

Be sure you read through this guide.

Safety tips for traveling abroad

U.S. Department of State: http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/tips_1232.html

This is an important safety guide. Please make sure you read through this guide. Register your travel plans with the State Department at <https://travelregistration.state.gov> is recommended by the State Department.

OVERSEAS CITIZENS SERVICES: Call 1-888-407-4747 (from overseas: 202-501-4444) for answers related to questions concerning the:

- Death of an American citizen abroad
- Arrest/detention of an American citizen abroad
- Robbery of an American citizen abroad
- American citizens missing abroad
- Crisis abroad involving American citizens
- After-hours number for an emergency involving an American citizen abroad

U.S. Embassy in Kuwait:

<http://kuwait.usembassy.gov/>

P. O. Box 77, Safat 13001, Kuwait

Tel: 00-(965) 259-1001

Fax: 00-(965) 538-0282

E-mail: paskuwaitm@state.gov

Hours of Operation: Sunday – Thursday 8:00 - 4:30

Ambassador --DEBORAH K. JONES (<http://kuwait.usembassy.gov/ambassador.html>)

Reminder: Have your important documents, contact information, medications, a set of clothes and other necessities in your carry-on luggage in the event of lost or delayed luggage.

Cultural/national information for Kuwait:

Kuwaiti profile

U.S. Department of State: <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/35876.htm>

Information Includes geography, people, government, economy, history, political conditions, defense, foreign relations, U.S.-Kuwaiti relations, and travel and business information.

More information about Kuwait

Wikipedia: <http://wikitravel.org/en/Kuwait>

Information Includes religions, cities, other destinations, understand, get in, get around, talk, buy, eat, drink, learn, work, stay safe, stay healthy and respect.

Educational system

- UNESCO - http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/kw.rtf

- Wikipedia - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Kuwait

Reminder: Please check the educational system in which the visited institution resides and make sure the visited programs are postsecondary level in the host country.

Etiquette and customs in Kuwait, business etiquette and protocol in Kuwait

Kwintessential Cross Cultural Solutions: <http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/resources/global-etiquette/kuwait-country-profile.html>

Culture of Kuwait

Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Culture_of_Kuwait

Other useful information and links about Kuwait

* **Public Holidays and Bank Holidays** – Check for local weekends and religious/official/non-official holidays before setting the visit dates at

<http://www.qppstudio.net/publicholidays2009/kuwait.htm>

Reminder: Please request that the institution provide the institution's work week, daily schedule for praying, local, national and religious holidays. Please read the "2008-09 lessons learned from non-domestic visits" for pre-visit preparation and Appendix B regarding timing of visits, logistics, and obtaining visitor visas.

* **The Umm al-Qura Calendar** – This calendar is commonly used in the Arabian Peninsula including Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. Please check with the institution for the calendar they adopt and the institution's holidays. Learn more about Islamic calendar and its versions at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_calendar

* **Currency** - Kuwait's currency is the Kuwait Dinar (KWD), which is divided into 1,000 fils. Use the currency converter at <http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/cross-cultural/currency-converter.html> to compare to dollars, GBP or Euro.

* **Money** – where to exchange money? Can I use traveller cheques or credit card? Get info at <http://www.wordtravels.com/Travelguide/Countries/Kuwait/Currency>

* **Airport/Transportation Guides** -
<http://www.wordtravels.com/Travelguide/Countries/Kuwait/Airports>

* **Dialing Code** – The country code is +965 and the outgoing international code is 00, followed by the relevant country code (e.g. 0044 for the United Kingdom).

* **Time** – Kuwait is +3 hours GMT. Get the time in Kuwait at <http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/city.html?n=123> (Kuwait City)

* **Weather** - visit Yahoo!'s up to date weather for Kuwait at http://uk.weather.yahoo.com/Middle_East/Kuwait/

* **Language** – Arabic is the official language, but English is widely used and understood. Want to pick up few Arabic words before the trip? Try this website http://www.gulfarabic.com/v21_gulf_arabic_greetings.php

* **Electricity** - 240 volts, 50Hz. Both the UK-style three-pin and European-style two-pin plugs are in use.

* **Tipping** - A service charge of 15% is usually added to bills in restaurants and hotels; if not a tip of 10% is acceptable. Additional tipping is only expected in more expensive hotels. Taxi drivers appreciate a small tip for long journeys.
<http://www.wordtravels.com/Travelguide/Countries/Kuwait/Basics>

* **Translation Services** - if you need an Arabic Translation Service you can try this link at <http://www.atanet.org/onlinedirectories/individuals.php>

* **News** - check out all the latest Google news on Kuwait at <http://news.google.com/news?hl=en&ned=us&q=kuwait&btnG=Search+News>

* **History** – read about the history of Kuwait at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Kuwait