

# KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA IMPORTANT TRAVEL INFORMATION

## Preparation for travel

### **U.S. passports**

U.S. Department of State: [http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport\\_1738.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html)

Be sure your passport is up to date.

### **Saudi Arabia – Country specific information**

U.S. Department of State: [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1012.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1012.html)

This link will provide you with important information before you begin your trip to Saudi Arabia 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.

### **Saudi visa**

U.S. Department of State:

[http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1012.html#entry\\_requirements](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1012.html#entry_requirements)

A passport valid for at least six months and a visa are required for entry. All visas require a sponsor, can take several months to process, and must be obtained prior to arrival. The Saudi visa requires the passport to contain at least two adjacent blank pages.

Team Chair: Please request that the institution assist in obtaining visitor visas.

Visit the Embassy of Saudi Arabia web site at <http://saudiembassy.net/Travel/VisaReq.asp> for the most current visa information.

- Embassy and Consulates of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia:

Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, 601 New Hampshire Avenue NW , Washington , DC 20037 , telephone (202) 342-3800. The Embassy's home page is <http://www.saudiembassy.net/>

Saudi Consulate General in Houston:  
5718 Westheimer, Suite 1500, Houston, TX 77057  
Tel: (713) 785-5577

Saudi Consulate General in Los Angeles:  
Sawtelle Courtyard Building, 2045 Sawtelle Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90025  
Tel: (310) 479-6000

Saudi Consulate General in New York:  
866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 480, New York, NY 10017  
Tel: (212) 752-2740

### **Travel warning for Saudi Arabia**

U.S. Department of State: [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/tw/tw\\_1764.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html)

### **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](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_1155.html)

### **Health information for travelers to Saudi Arabia - Vaccinations and other health precautions**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

<http://www.cdc.gov/travel/destinationSaudiArabia.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](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

### **The U.S. Embassy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia:**

Collector Road M, Riyadh Diplomatic Quarter

Mailing address: PO Box 94309, Riyadh 11693 (Mail may also be sent via the U.S. Postal Service to: U.S. Embassy, Unit 61307, APO AE 09803-1307)

Tel: (966) (1) 488-3800

Fax: (966) (1) 483-0773.

Website: <http://riyadh.usembassy.gov/>

### **The U.S. Consulate General in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia:**

Located between Aramco Headquarters and the old Dhahran Airport at the King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals highway exit

Mailing address: PO Box 38955, Doha-Dhahran 31942 (Mail may also be sent via the U.S. Postal Service to: Unit 66803, APO AE 09858-6803)

Tel: (966) (3) 330-3200

Fax: (966) (3) 330-0464

### **The U.S. Consulate General in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia:**

Located on Palestine Road, Ruwais

Mailing address: PO Box 149, Jeddah (Mail may also be sent via the U.S. Postal Service to: Unit 62112, APO AE 09811-2112)

Tel: (966) (2) 667-0080

Fax: (966) (2) 669-3078 or 669-3098

***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 Saudi Arabia:**

### **Saudi profile**

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3584.htm>

Source: U.S. Department of State

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

### **More information about Saudi Arabia**

[http://wikitravel.org/en/Saudi\\_Arabia](http://wikitravel.org/en/Saudi_Arabia)

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/online\\_databases/systems\\_data/sa.rtf](http://www.unesco.org/iau/online_databases/systems_data/sa.rtf)
- World Education Services - <http://www.wes.org/ewenr/01nov/practical.htm>

**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 Saudi Arabia, business etiquette and protocol in Saudi Arabia**

<http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/resources/global-etiquette/saudi-arabia-country-profile.html>

Source: Kwintessential Cross Cultural Solutions

### **Culture of Saudi Arabia**

Wikipedia: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Culture\\_of\\_Saudi\\_Arabia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Culture_of_Saudi_Arabia)

## Other useful information and links about Saudi Arabia

\* **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/saudi\\_arabia.htm](http://www.qppstudio.net/publicholidays2009/saudi_arabia.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](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_calendar)

\* **Currency** - The Saudi currency is the Riyal (SAR), divided into 100 halala. 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/Saudi+Arabia/Currency>

### \* **Airport/Transportation Guides -**

<http://www.wordtravels.com/Travelguide/Countries/Saudi+Arabia/Airports>

\* **Dialing Code** – The country code is +966 and the outgoing international code 00, followed by the relevant country code (e.g. 0027 for South Africa). City/area codes are in use, e.g. (0)1 for Riyadh.

\* **Time** – Local time is +3 hours GMT. Get the time in Saudi Arabia at

<http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/city.html?n=214> (Riyadh) or

<http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/custom.html?continent=asia&sort=1> (select a city)

\* **Weather** - visit Yahoo!'s up to date weather for Saudi at

<http://weather.yahoo.com/regional/SAXX.html>

\* **Language** – Arabic is the official language of Saudi Arabia, but English is widely spoken. It is used in business and is a compulsory second language in schools. Among the non-Saudi population, many people speak Urdu, the official language of Pakistan, and other Asian languages such as Farsi and Turkish. Want to pick up few Arabic words before the trip? Try this website

[http://www.gulfarabic.com/v21\\_gulf\\_arabic\\_greetings.php](http://www.gulfarabic.com/v21_gulf_arabic_greetings.php)

\* **Electricity** - 125 volts, 50Hz, but 215 volts, 60Hz in some (more remote) areas.

\* **Tipping** - Service charge is usually included in bills at hotels. Elsewhere a tip of 10% can be offered for services rendered. Taxi drivers can be given 10% of the fare.

<http://www.wordtravels.com/Travelguide/Countries/Saudi+Arabia/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 Saudi Arabia at <http://news.google.co.uk/news?hl=en&ned=uk&q=saudi+arabia>

\* **History** – Read about the long and rich history of Saudi Arabia at <http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/world/A0860941.html>