



Country Profile: Iraq

In 2005, Iraqi citizens adopted a new constitution and participated in legislative elections to create a permanent, democratic government, and in May 2006, a new Government of Iraq (GOI), led by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, was sworn in. Although the GOI has made political, economic and security progress, Iraq still faces many challenges, including overcoming three decades of war and government mismanagement that stunted Iraq's economy, sectarian and ethnic tensions that have slowed progress toward national reconciliation, and ongoing (even if abating) insurgent, sectarian, criminal, and terrorist violence. Conditions in Iraq are extremely dangerous. While Iraqi Security Forces now take the lead in providing security in most provinces, Multinational Force-Iraq (MNF-I) continues to assist the Iraqi government in providing security in many areas of the country. The workweek in Iraq is Sunday through Thursday. Visit the Department of State [Background Notes](#) on Iraq for the most current visa information.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW



Country Name:	Iraq
Continent:	Asia (Middle East)
Capital City:	Baghdad
Boundary Countries:	Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey.
Recommended Hospitals in Capital:	Global Med USA
Main Cities:	Baghdad, Kirkuk, Mosul, Al Basrah, Al Kut, Umm Qasr, An Najaf, Ar Ramadi, Ar Rutbah, Karbala, An Nasiriyah, Samarra, Arbil, As Sulaymaniyah
Country Size:	437,072 sq km
Population:	27,499,638

COUNTRY GENERAL INFORMATION

Language:	Arabic, Kurdish (official in Kurdish regions), Assyrian, Armenian.
Currency:	New Iraqi Dinar (NID) as of 22 January 2004
Predominant Religions:	Muslim 97% (Shi'a 60%-65%, Sunni 32%-37%), Christian or other 3%
National Holidays:	Revolution Day, 17 July (1968); note- this holiday was celebrated under Saddam Husayn regime; the Government of Iraq has yet to declare a new holiday
Economic Status:	Three decades of war and government mismanagement stunted Iraq's economy, leading to increased crime and poverty. Infrastructure is antiquated. Iraq's economy is dominated by the oil sector, which has traditionally provided about 95% of foreign exchange earnings.
Security:	Iraqi Armed Forces: Iraqi Army (includes Iraqi Special Operations Force, Iraqi Intervention Force), Iraqi Navy (former Iraqi Coastal Defense Force, Iraqi Air Force (former Iraqi Army Air Corps).
US Presence:	U.S. Embassy in Baghdad Al-Kindi Street International Zone Baghdad, Iraq Local Number: 0760-030-3000 U.S. Consulate General in Basrah Basrah International Airport Phone: 0760 031 4139 Basrah, Iraq

	<u>U.S. Consulate General in Erbil</u> From Iraq: 066 211 4000 From the United States: 240-264-3467
Major Airports:	Airports: 110, Airports w/paved runways: 77 Baghdad International Airport (SDA/ORBI) Baghdad Airport, Iraq, PO Box 23006, Baghdad, IRAQ Tel: +964 (0)1 886 3999 Fax: +964 (0)1 888 0187, +964 (0)1 887 8430

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