



## Country Profile: Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia is a monarchy ruled by a king chosen from and by members of the Al Saud family. The king rules through royal decrees issued in conjunction with the Council of Ministers, and with advice from the Consultative Council. The king appoints members of both councils. Islamic law is the basis of the authority of the monarchy and provides the foundation of the country's conservative customs and social practices. Saudi Arabia has a modern and well-developed infrastructure, and facilities for travelers are widely available. Read the Department of State [Background Notes](#) on Saudi Arabia for additional information.

### COUNTRY OVERVIEW



Country Name:	Saudi Arabia
Continent:	Middle East
Capital City:	Riyadh
Boundary Countries:	Iraq 814 km, Jordan 744 km, Kuwait 222 km, Oman 676 km, Qatar 60 km, UAE 457 km, Yemen 1,458 km
Recommended Hospitals in Capital:	King Faisal Specialist Hospital (Riyadh), Dr. Abdul Rahman Al-Mishari Hospital (Riyadh), GNP Hospital (Jeddah).
Main Cities:	Riyadh, Jeddah, Dhahran, Mecca, Medina, Ha il, Duba, Tabuk, Ra' s al Khafji
Country Size:	2,149,690 sq km
Population:	27,019,731 note: includes 5,576,076 non-nationals

### COUNTRY GENERAL INFORMATION

Language:	Arabic.
Currency:	Saudi riyal (SAR)
Predominant Religions:	Muslim 100%
National Holidays:	Unification of the Kingdom, 23 September (1932)
Economic Status:	This is an oil-based economy with strong government controls over major economic activities.
Security:	Land Forces (Army), Navy, Air Force, Air Defense Force, National Guard, Ministry of Interior Forces (paramilitary)
US Presence:	<a href="#">U.S. Embassy in Riyadh</a> P.O. Box 94309 Riyadh 11693 Saudi Arabia Telephone: 966-11-4883800 <a href="#">U.S. Consulate General in Dhahran</a> P.O. Box 38955 Dhahran Airport 31942 Saudi Arabia Phone: (966-13) 330-3200 <a href="#">U.S. Consulate General in Jeddah</a> Falastin Al-Hamra'a Jeddah 23323, Saudi Arabia Phone: +966 12 667 0080

Major Airports:	Airports: 208, Airports w/paved runways: 73
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