

Saudi Arabia

Travel Facts



US State Department Travel Advisory

The US State Department currently recommends US citizens exercise increased caution in Saudi Arabia due to the threat of missile and drone attacks from Yemen and terrorism. Some areas have increased risk. Be aware of risks concerning social media activity and importation of prohibited items.

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html>

Passport/Visa Requirements

For the latest passport and visa requirements for this country, please consult the US State Department's "Learn About Your Destination" search tool, available through the link below.

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages>

US Embassy/Consulate

[966] (11) 488-3800; US Embassy in Riyadh, PO Box 94309, Riyadh 11693, Saudi Arabia; RiyadhACS@state.gov;

<https://sa.usembassy.gov/>

LGBTQIA+, Women, and Special Needs Travelers

Additional travel considerations can be found on the US State Department's International Travel page.

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/before-you-go/travelers-with-special-considerations.html>

Telephone Code

966

Local Emergency Phone

Ambulance: 997; Fire: 998; Police: 999

Vaccinations

The CDC and WHO recommend the following vaccinations for Saudi Arabia: hepatitis A, hepatitis B, typhoid, yellow fever, rabies, anthrax, meningitis, polio, measles, mumps and rubella (MMR), Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis), chickenpox, shingles, pneumonia, influenza, and COVID-19.

<http://www.who.int/>

Climate

Harsh, dry desert with great temperature extremes

Currency (Code)

Saudi riyals (SAR)

Electricity/Voltage/Plug Type(s)

220 V / 60 Hz / plug types(s): G



Type G

Major Languages

Arabic

Major Religions

Muslim

Time Difference

UTC+3 (8 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)

Potable Water

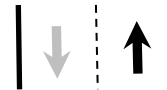
Yes, but some opt for bottled water

International Driving Permit

Suggested

Road Driving Side

Right



Tourist Destinations

National Museum of Saudi Arabia; Jamaraat Bridge; Mada'in Salih; King's Fountain; Dumat al-Jandal; Al-Turaif District

Major Sports

Soccer, camel racing, wrestling

Cultural Practices

Only use your right hand for shaking hands or for handing anything. It's considered rude to use your left hand in Islam. Respect the religion. Shops, cafes, etc. will close for a short while during prayer times.

Tipping Guidelines

Tipping 10-15% is expected for good service. Tip a porter/bellhop \$1-2 (USD) per bag and a housekeeper \$2 (USD) per day.

Souvenirs

Oud perfume, dried dates, olive oil, woven wool prayer rugs, oil lamps or incense burners, frankincense and myrrh incense

Traditional Cuisine

Kabsa — water used to cook meat or fish is re-used to cook Rice to impart flavor; the dish can be made with chicken, lamb, camel meat, fish, or shrimp; the meat or fish is usually placed on top of the rice and served on a large platter

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