

Culture and Tourism in Iraq



Cradle of Civilization



One of the most ancient civilizations was started in Iraq.

Fragment of a papyrus scroll with faint, illegible text.

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The Sumerian 4000 B.C

The Akkadian 2340 B.C

The Babylonian 1700 B.C

The Assyrian 900 B.C

The Glory of Baghdad 762- 1258 AD





Iraq

The official name: Republic of Iraq



Iraq is divided into 18 regions



- **The capital city of Iraq:** Baghdad.
- **Political system:** parliamentary democracy
- **Date of independence:** 3 October 1932
- **Population:** 31 million (UN, 2010)
- **Area of Iraq:** 438,317 km²
- **Natural resources:** petroleum, natural gas, phosphates, sulfur
- **Currency:** Iraqi Dinar
- **Life expectancy:** 68 years (men), 73 years (women) (UN)



Iraq has borders with six countries;
Turkey, Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia,
Kuwait and Iran. Iraq has a narrow
sea port on the gulf in the south.

Languages

- The official languages in Iraq are the **Arabic** and the **Kurdish** (mainly in the north of Iraq), there are other languages belong to minority groups such as **Turcoman, Assyrians, Aramiac , Yazidis, Persian, Hebrew and Armenian.**

Religions

- **Muslims** in their two divisions (Sunnis and Shias) are the biggest population in Iraq, about 97%. **Christianity** is the biggest minority religion in Iraq. There are other minority religions such as **Sabiee Mandaiee, Jew** and **Yazidees**.





Climate and Environment

- **Iraq is characterized by the diversity of the natural environment.**



- In the north there are the mountains where the weather is very cold in winter there are peaks higher than **3500** meters above sea level in the **Rawanduz** mountain.





In the centre of Iraq and large parts of the south stretch vast plains.





The west part of Iraq is characterized by vast area of desert and is dotted with hills, and there are lakes such as

Althurthar and Alhabaina.





**The marshes are found in the
south of Iraq**



Family

- **The family in Iraq is a big one; we may see three generations live in one house. Parents dominate the house and most of the time the children follow their parent's advice even when they become adults. Respect is always given to the elders.**

- **Iraqi children are loved and indulged, but taught to respect their elders. Correcting children's behavior is considered the community's responsibility-including extended family members and neighbors.**

Wedding

- Most young Iraqis marry when they finish their university education. Traditionally, women are given a dowry (Mahar) of money and gold. furniture or other useful items provided by the groom and his family. After marriage, women keep their own names and often continue to work



A day before the wedding the groom and the bride each throw a small party, one at his or her house called the henna night. Seven days after the wedding there is another small party in the groom's house .



Photo: Kameel Ahmady, visual anthropologist

Education in Iraq



Students must wear uniform



Primary school: 6-12

Intermediate school: 12-15

Secondary school: 15-18

After secondary school, students may attend one of Iraqi universities, teacher training colleges or technical colleges or institutes. Tuition is free. The University of Baghdad's medical school is well-known for its research facilities. Mustansiriya University in Baghdad (founded 1234) is one of the oldest in the Arabic world.



Food

Iraqi food is rich and diverse, incorporating spices typical of Arabic cooking. Extra food is usually cooked in case of surprise visitors; while expected guests are treated to many elaborate dishes.





The preferred meats in Iraq are lamb, beef, goat, mutton and poultry and fish. As in other Middle Eastern countries, Iraqi meat dishes often combine vegetables and rice.



Masgouf is a special dish made from fish that live in the Tigres river.





For dessert, people enjoy some of Iraq's local fruits, rice pudding, Turkish sweets, sesame cookies, or baklawa, a pastry made with honey and pistachios layered between filo sheets.



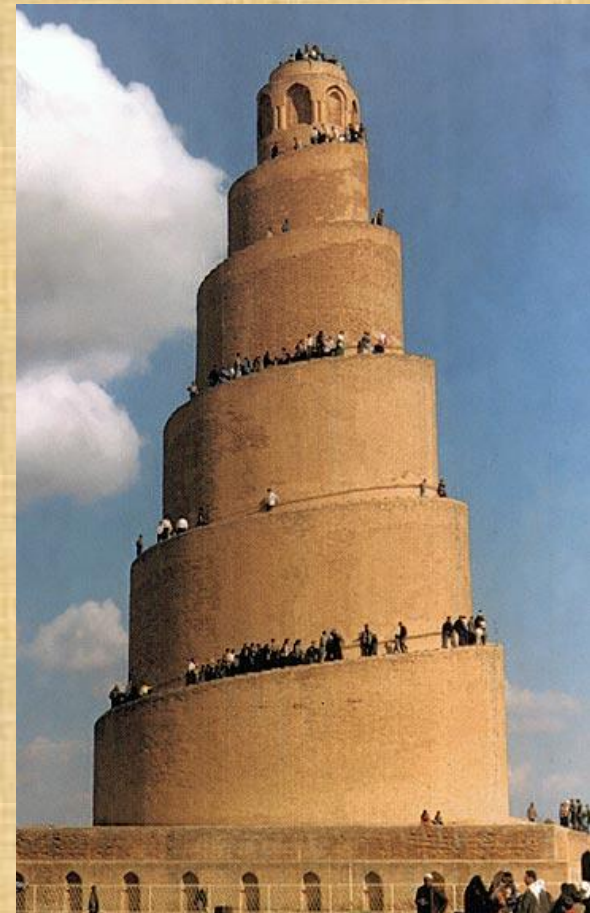
Tourism

In Iraq there are three types of tourism

Religion Tourism

Archaeology tourism

Recreation tourism





alazrag

The most widely consumed drinks in Iraq are coffee and tea. Arabic coffee is famous for its strong flavor. In Iraq, people brew their coffee thick and bitter, and serve it black. Tea is usually served in small glasses and drunk sweetened, without milk. Fruit juices and soft drinks are also popular.



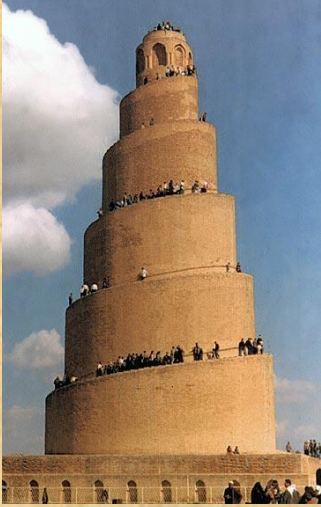
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Religion Tourism



In Iraq there are many religious sites, most of these sites are Islamic such as Najaf and Karbala , others are Christian sites.

Archaeology tourism



Iraq is filled with ancient places from the south to the north such as Ur, Babylon, Nineveh and others.

Recreation tourism



- In summer the north of Iraq become distention to a lot of the Iraqis, because the weather is cool in the north.

Culture and arts



Books festival in Al-Mutanabi street every week

Land of the finest Arabic calligraphy



In the name of Allah, the
Beneficent, the Merciful.

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the
Merciful, and an aya (sentence) from Quran.

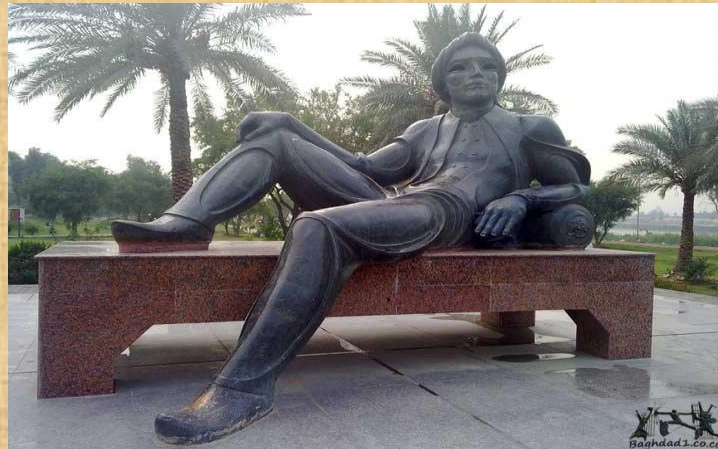
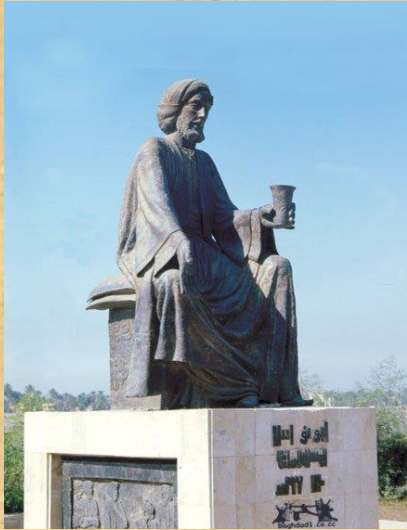


An aya (sentence) from Quran
written in a mirror technique.

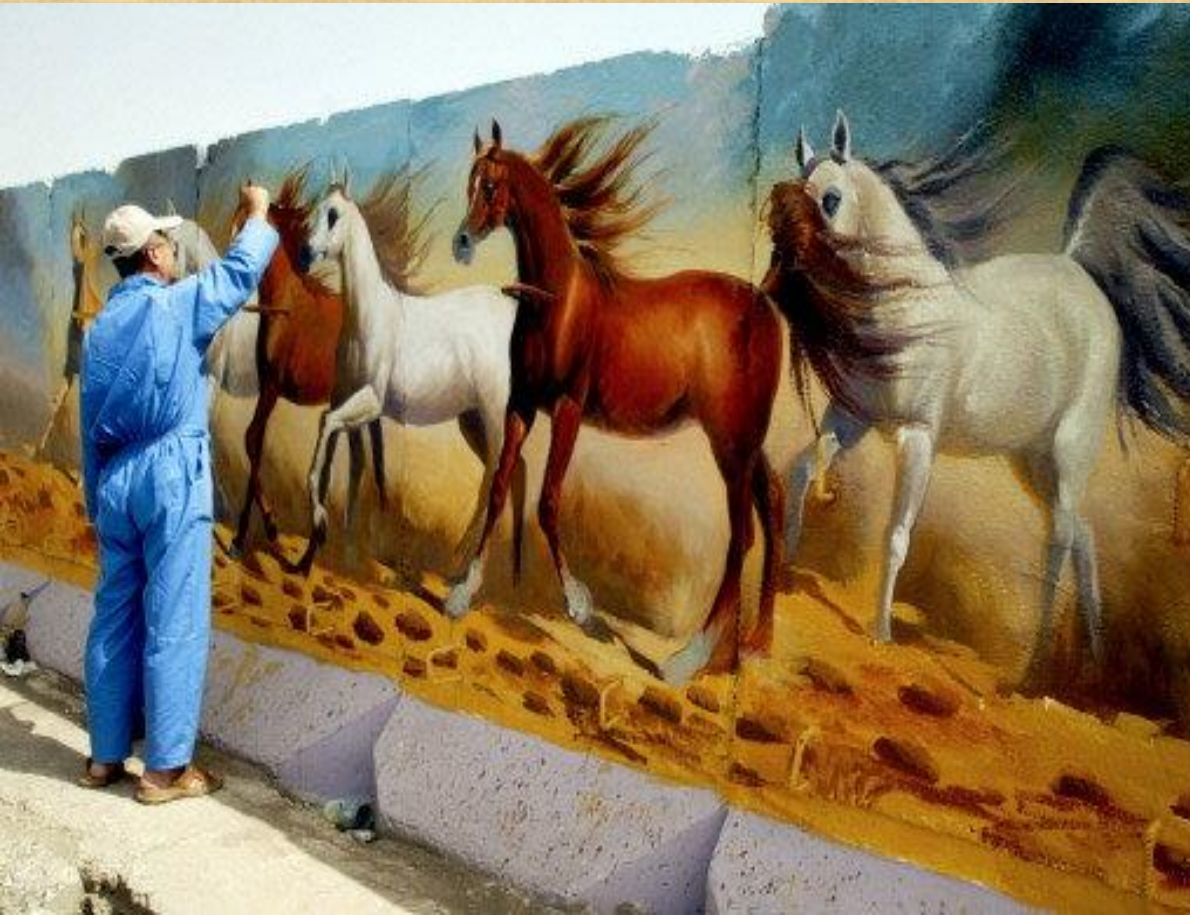


An aya (sentence) from
Quran.

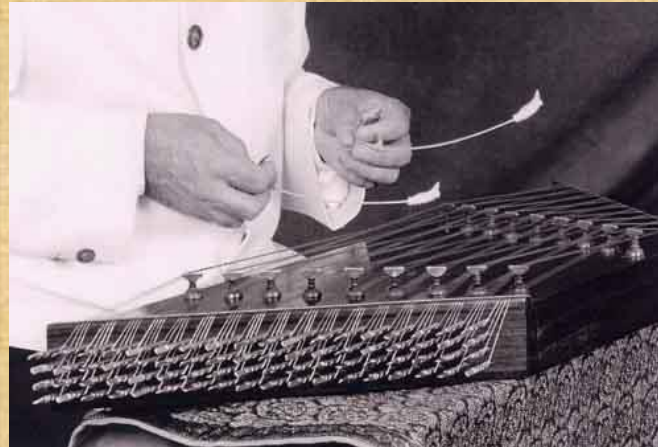
Iraq is a land of statues



The colorful paintings brightens the walls that separate each sector.



Musical Instruments



Oud is the soul of the Orient



Land filled with sorrow

Iraq as a modern state was founded in 1920. The country did not express long time of happiness.

- In 1958 an military coup occurred and the royal family was killed. Iraq became a republic.
- After 4 years, in 1963 another coup occurred.
- In 1968 a coup led by The Baath party occurred.
- Where the country had been governed by fist of iron

Wars and Conflicts

- 1941 against Great Britain
- 1948 against Israel.
- 1967 against Israel .
- 1973 against Israel.
- 19780-1988 against Iran.
- 1990 against Kuwait.
- 1991 against the USA and its allies.
- 2003 against the USA and it allies.

Ekonomiska sanktioner 1990-2003

- **Half million Iraqi child dead.**
- **Family income dropped to the lowest. (teacher salary from 500\$ to 5\$ a month).**



We think that the desire, courage and determination of the people can create a happy, successful future for all, despite the difficulties faced.