Saudi Arabia

Global Health Advisory: Do Not Travel. Avoid all international travel due to the global impact of COVID-19. Exercise increased caution in Saudi Arabia due to terrorism and the threat of missile and drone attacks on civilian targets. Do not travel to: Within 50 miles of the border with Yemen due to terrorism and armed conflict. The US Department of State currently recommends US citizens consult its website daily via the link below for any travel advisories about visiting this country.

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

Passport/Visa Requirements

US citizens should make sure their passport will not expire for at least 6 months after they enter the country even if they do not intend to stay that long. They should also make sure they have at least 1 blank page in their passport for any entry stamp and or visa that will be required. A visa is required. US citizens will need to get in touch with the country’s embassy or nearest consulate to obtain a visa prior to visiting the country.

US Embassy/Consulate

[966] (11) 488-3800; US Embassy in Riyadh, P.O. Box 94309, Riyadh 11693, Saudi Arabia

Vaccinations

An International Certificate of Vaccination for yellow fever is required for travelers arriving from countries with a risk of yellow fever transmission and for travelers having transited through the airport of a country with risk of yellow fever transmission. Vaccinations required for certain visa classes. See WHO recommendations.

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 type(s): G

Major Languages

Arabic

Religions

Muslim (citizens are 85-90% Sunni and 10-15% Shia), other (includes Eastern Orthodox, Protestant, Roman Catholic, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist, and Sikh); note: despite having a large expatriate community of various faiths (more than 30% of the population), most forms of public religious expression inconsistent with the government-sanctioned interpretation of Sunni Islam are restricted; non-Muslims are not allowed to have Saudi
**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

**Cultural Practices**
Do not point at people, better to keep hands flattened and gesture instead.

**Telephone Code**
966

**Local Emergency Phone Numbers**
Ambulance: 997; Fire: 998; Police: 999

Please visit the following links to find further information about your desired destination.

- World Health Organization (WHO) - To learn what vaccines and health precautions to take while visiting your destination. [http://www.who.int](http://www.who.int)


To obtain an international driving permit (IDP). Only two organizations in the US issue IDPs:
- American Automobile Association (AAA) ([www.aaa.com](http://www.aaa.com))
- American Automobile Touring Alliance (AATA) ([www.aataidp.com](http://www.aataidp.com))

US citizens may call the US Dept of State (+1-202-501-4444) for emergencies abroad.

Last updated
Monday, July 06, 2020