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SAUDI ARABIA TRAVEL GUIDE AND USEFUL INFORMATION



CURRENCY:
Saudi’s national currency is the Saudi riyal (SAR), which is divided into 100 halala. You’ll receive notes in denominations of 1, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 and 500 riyals, and coins in denominations of 1 or 2 riyals and 1, 5, 10, 25 and 50 halala.



Banks, Currency Exchange
The U.S. dollar is equivalent to SAR3.75 (fixed rate).
Banking hours are generally from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday to Thursday.

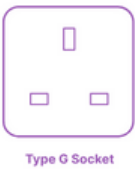
All banks in Saudi offer currency exchange services. You can also find exchange bureaus at airports, some shopping centers, and other locations throughout the country. Exchange bureaus are often open later, although they may charge higher commission fees.



Credit Cards:
ATMs are widely available, and credit cards including Visa, Mastercard and American Express are accepted at many retailers, restaurants, hotels, transportation providers and other businesses throughout the country. Smaller shops may include a surcharge for card payments, so having cash handy can help you avoid additional fees. Many businesses also accept digital payment methods, such as Apple Pay.



Electricity
The current in Saudi Arabia is 220 Volts. The associated plug is type G, which is the plug that has three rectangular pins in a triangular pattern.
Transformers for your appliance are available at most hotels.



Language:
The official language of Saudi Arabia is Arabic. Many Saudis understand and speak English. Many road signs are in English and Arabic.



Religion:
Islam is the state religion of Saudi Arabia, with 93% of the population are Muslims.
Certain shops close briefly during prayer times to allow time for worship. During the holy month of Ramadan, the rhythm of the country changes into a mellow, spiritual one.



Local Time:
Saudi Arabia Follows Arabian Standard Time (AST) which is UTC/GMT +3 and there are no Daylight Saving Time clock changes.



General Dress Code in Saudi:
Foreign visitors to Saudi should dress modestly and respectfully. Men should wear long pants and shirts with sleeves. Women should also consider long sleeves and full-length skirts or pants. While traditional Saudi attire isn’t mandatory for guests, avoid tight or revealing clothing. Women might also want to bring a shawl or scarf to drape over their heads if they plan to visit a mosque.



Weather:

Contrary to popular belief, it's not always hot in Saudi. The country experiences four distinct seasons — from chilly winter breezes in January to peak desert heat in August — and a climate that varies between regions.

Spring: *Mid-March to Mid-June*, Spring in Saudi can be brisk, particularly in the north, where the temperature at night can drop below 15 degrees C. The central and southern regions are warmer, averaging around 20 degrees after nightfall.

Summer: *Mid-June to Mid-September*, With the exception of the comparatively mild highlands in the southwest, summer signals the start of rising temperatures across most of the country, with the average hovering around 45 degrees C. The early mornings and long evenings are more temperate, so take advantage of the warm seas to explore Saudi's world-class scuba diving sites, or try sailing and snorkeling.

Autumn: *Mid-September to Mid-December*. Autumn brings gentler weather and cool breezes in both Saudi's northern regions and the southwestern highlands. While daytime temperatures remain warm and can reach the 30s in early fall, evenings are milder and fit for outdoor activities.

Winter: *Mid-December to Mid-March*. Take advantage of Saudi Arabia's beautiful winter weather to explore the kingdom. The balmy days and cool nights are ideal for camping, rock climbing or exploring Saudi Arabia's verdant highlands and bustling cities, from Riyadh to Jeddah. Average winter temperatures are in the teens.



Passport and Visa Information:

Your passport needs to be valid for at least six (6) months after your journey ends and should have a minimum of one (1) blank visa page for entry and exit stamps. Tourist Visa is required to Enter Saudi, visitors from Eligible countries can apply online for an e-visa through the official portal visa.visitsaudi.com/

The e-Visa will be a one-year, multiple entry visa, allowing tourists to spend up to 90 days in the country and it costs 535 SAR (equiv. to USD \$142).

US, Canadians and most European citizens are eligible for the e-visa and also can obtain a visa on arrival.

Tourists that are not from eligible countries should apply for a consulate visa through Saudi embassies and consulates in their country of residence.
for more information please visit: visa.visitsaudi.com/



Phone and Internet:

Most public areas, such as hotels, restaurants and coffee shops, offer free Wi-Fi. You can get a SIM card in Saudi from mobile network provider stores and authorized dealers. Major phone providers in Saudi include STC (Saudi Telecom Company), Mobily and Zain.

Local Emergency Phone

Ambulance: 997; Fire: 998; Police: 999



Tipping:

Tipping is common in Saudi Arabia, but it is not routine, please use your own discretion in tipping, based on quality of service.