



# BAHRAIN

Bahrain is situated right in the heart of the Persian Gulf with Saudi Arabia on its west coast. Bursting with the very best of Arabian culture including bustling bazaars, Arab coffee and stunning landscapes, Bahrain is one of the Middle East's more relaxed locations. Many multinationals including those in financial services, oil, engineering and FMCG sectors have set up their Middle Eastern and westernised bases here, thus creating a lively expatriate community.

**Cost of Living:** Bahrain is an inexpensive place to live and work and the standard of living is extraordinarily high. Food and drink are very cheap compared to Ireland.

**Accommodation:** The majority of foreigners live in compounds and accommodation is generally paid for by the employer. Domestic help is also provided as a matter of course.

**Transport:** If going to the heart of the island, four wheel drives and the hire of a driver are advisable.

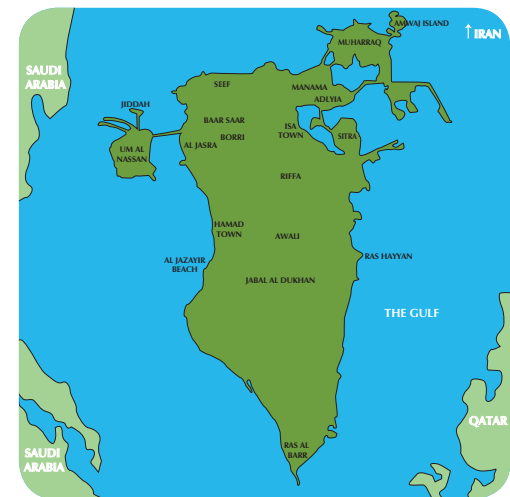
**Socialising:** Bahrain has superb facilities for sports, shopping and entertainment. Its location in the Gulf is perfect for water-sports. The expatriate scene is extremely lively with bars and restaurants constantly busy. Bahrain also has a range of excellent tax free open markets, perfect for the bargain hunters.

**Dress Code:** The office dress code is professional.

**Taxation:** There is no income tax in Bahrain and salaries can be very generous. There is however a entry point tax, which varies annually, each time you enter the island.

**Getting There:** Employers generally pay the cost of relocation and 1 return flight a year. There are daily flights to the west.

**Visas:** All visitors require a visa. If you are working there, the employer will arrange the visas. The actual immigration process can take up to 6 weeks, provided all documentation is in order.



## KEY FACTS

Population: 1,046,814  
Area: 665 km<sup>2</sup>  
Capital City: Manama  
Languages: Arabic, English  
Currency: Bahraini Dinar (BHD)  
Time Zone: UTC/GMT +3 hours

## CLIMATE

Warm temperatures and soft breezes in spring/autumn. Summers can be hot and humid, but humidity is modified at the end of the season with a dry northwesterly wind. Average rainfall is low, but most of it falls in winter.

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