



SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi Arabia is home to two of Islam's holiest cities and a host of modern oil rich cities. A mixture of desert landscapes and modern metropolises, this stunning country is now supporting private sector growth to lessen the kingdom's dependence on oil and increase employment opportunities for the rapidly growing Saudi population. It also has a large expatriate community despite the recent regional troubles. Saudi is also home to some of the world's best known archaeological sites.

Cost of Living: With no income tax and paid accommodation, the cost of living is relatively low. The standard of living however is exceptionally high if you are prepared to abide by the restrictions that are the norm in the Middle East.

Accommodation: Accommodation is usually provided by your employer and is generally in a compound. Utilities are paid for and domestic help is provided. Air-conditioning is the norm in both home and office environments.

Transport: Generally a car or a driver is provided by the employer but if not, the buses are a pretty good option but tickets must be purchased in advance. It is not advisable for a woman to travel on her own. Service taxis are also available for the same price as a bus.

Socialising: Recreation facilities are usually provided by the employer or at the compound. They include health clubs, pools, tennis and golf courses. Desert drives or "wadi-bashing" are also popular.

Dress Code: Dress is modest in accordance to the customs of the Kingdom. For men, the accepted office wear is casual trousers and shirts. Ties are generally only worn for special occasions. For women, short skirts and sleeveless or lowcut tops are not acceptable.

Taxation: There is no income tax in Saudi Arabia.

Getting There: Employers generally pay the cost of relocation and return airfares. Riyadh has regular international flights.

Visas: All expatriate workers are required to have a visa which is arranged by the employer. A full medical is required for a visa.



KEY FACTS

Population: 27,601,038
Area: 2,149,690 km²
Capital City: Riyadh
Languages: Arabic
Currency: Riyal (SAR)
Time Zone: UTC/GMT +3 hours

CLIMATE

Saudi Arabia has a typical desert climate and is one of the driest countries in the world. Summers are very hot with temperatures rising to 130°F (55°C) in some areas. The higher inland areas are cooler. Coastal cities are humid and hot year round.