

13D11N

# IRAQ & KURDISTAN



**BOOK NOW:**

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## Day 01

### ✈️ Depart for Baghdad (3N)

Depart for **Baghdad, Iraq**. On arrival transfer to hotel.



## Day 02

### 📍 Baghdad



Hotel Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

Baghdad is the capital of Iraq. The population of Baghdad is approximately 9 million, making it the largest city in Iraq and the second largest city in the Arab world. **Baghdad city excursions** – **National Museum & the Old City - Copper Market, Al Mutanabbi Café Shahbandar, Mustansiriya School. Traditional Fish Masgouf dinner.**



## Day 03

### 📍 Baghdad



Hotel Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

Excursion to the **Martyr Monument** (outside view if closed for repairs), **Khadmiya Mosque** and the **Arch of Ctesiphon** (outside view) – the world's largest brick-built arch, and the last structure still standing from an ancient Persian imperial capital of the same name.

In the afternoon, visit **Agargouf Kassite Ziggurat**. The ziggurat built by the Kassites is dedicated to the god Enlil – is an unusually well preserved building, with mud brick core that still stands to a height of about 170 feet on the flat plain in the vicinity of Baghdad.



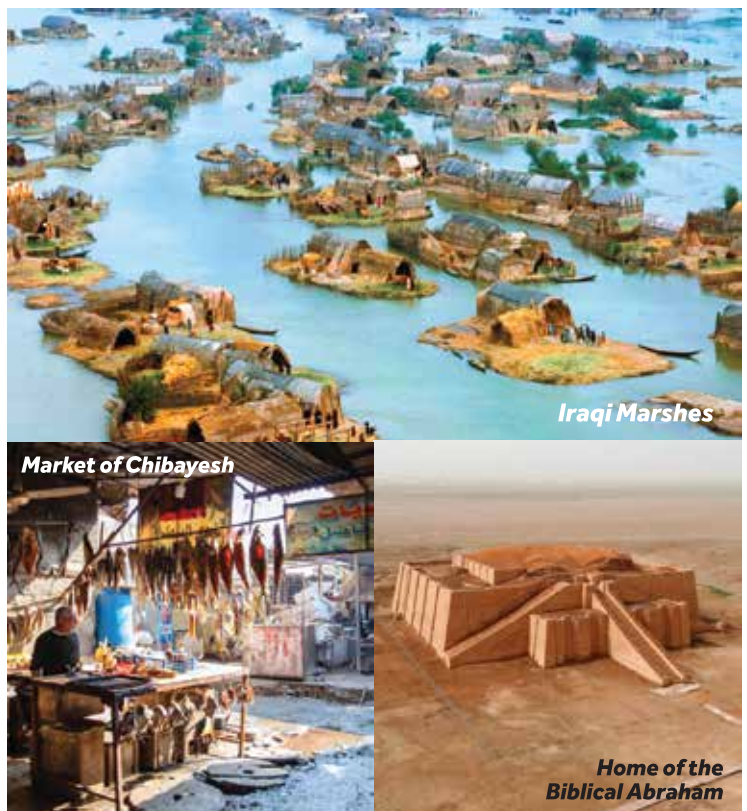
## Day 04

### 📍 Baghdad ➤ Iraqi Marshes ➤ Ur ➤ Nasiriyah (1N)



Hotel Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

Early departure for a fun day as we explore the **marshes, waterways, and unique lifestyle of southern Iraq**. Enjoy a boat trip through the maze of marshes and stopping at local villages for tea. **Tour the local market of Chibayesh**. Continue to **Ur**, a major Sumerian city-state. Cuneiform tablets show that Ur was a highly centralized, wealthy, bureaucratic state during the third millennium B.C. See the home of the **biblical Abraham**.





## Day 05

Nasiriyah > Babylon > Najaf (1N)



Hotel Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

Travel to the ancient city of **Babylon** and overnight in **Najaf**.

**Babylon** – the most famous ancient city in the whole World. It was the capital of ten Mesopotamian dynasties. Renowned for its high, well-fortified walls and for the magnificence of its temples and palaces. Its famous Hanging Gardens, built by King Nebuchadnezzar II and one of the Seven Wonders of the World.

### Saadam Hussein's Palace next to Babylon.

On to **Kufa Mosque** then **Najaf** where Imam Ali is buried. It was in nearby Kufa in 661 that Imam Ali, the son-in-law of the Prophet Mohamed, was badly wounded and, as he lay dying, instructed his followers to strap his body to the back of a white camel and, where the camel stopped, to dig his grave. On this spot grew up the shrine city of Najaf, a place of pilgrimage for the Shia. Visit spectacular Iman Ali shrine.



## Day 06

Najaf > Kerbala > Baghdad (1N)



Hotel Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

Visit **Karbala – the Shrine city** with Imam Hussein Shrine and **Al Abbas Mosque**. Continue to **Ukhaider**, the Islamic castle / palace.



## Day 07

Baghdad > Samarra > Hatra > Mosul (1N)



Hotel Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

Samarra is one of the four Islamic Holy Cities of Iraq, and is considered as the largest ancient city known in the whole World with its majestic ruins along the eastern bank of the Tigris.

**Samarra Mosque and Minaret** – a dominating, magnificent structure that was once the largest mosque in the Islamic world built by Caliph Al-Mutawakkil in 852 AD using bricks and clay. The **Mosque's minaret** is the famous. Spiral which rises to a height of 52 m.

**Hatra** – a fortified city under the influence of the Parthian Empire and capital of the first Arab Kingdom, The remains of the city, especially the temples where Hellenistic and Roman architecture blend with Eastern decorative features, attest to the greatness of its civilization.



## Day 08

Mosul > Al Qosh > Lalish > Duhok, Kurdistan (1N)



Hotel Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

**Mosul** is the second largest city in Iraq and in the process of rebuilding after being liberated from the Islamic State. Visit **Old Mosul** with its **souks and bazaar** and the **Immaculate Church**.

Proceed to **Al Qosh** to **Monastery of Rabban Hormuz**; the world's oldest monastery. Continue to **Shikhan** which has the **Lalish Temple** which is the most sacred temple for the **Yazidi** religion. Spend the afternoon here mingling and joining the festivities before overnighting in Duhok.





Old Mosul



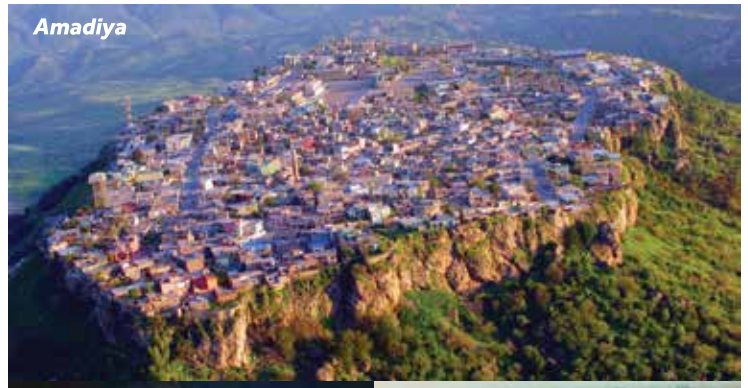
Bazaar



Mosul Church



Monastery of Rabban Hormuz



Amadiya



Shanidar caves



Erbil

 **Day 09**

 **Duhok** > **Erbil (1N)**

 Hotel Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

**St Matthew Monastery** famous for its magnificent library.

**Amadiya** – the stunning Kudish mountain village which is a cultural and historical gem. See Saddam’s Hussein’s former mountain top Palace.

Walk to the **Shanidar caves**, an archaeological site. Overnight **Erbil**, the capital of Kurdistan.



St Matthew Monastery

 **Day 10**

 **Erbil** > **Hamilton Road** > **Sulaymaniyah (1N)**

 Hotel Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

**Rwanduz Canyon** is one of the most beautiful natural spots in Iraq. The countryside is pretty dramatic with snake like rivers moving between the canyons.

Drive on the **Hamilton Road** which connects Iraq with Iran. Built in the 1930’s, it was an engineering marvel of its time. See the excavated **cave of Qzqapan**, which dates back to the Medes period. Overnight in **Sulamainyah** the second largest city in Kurdistan. In the evening, stroll **Saholka Street** – the street that never sleeps.



Rwanduz Canyon



Cave of Qzqapan



Hamilton Road



## Day 11

**Sulaymaniyah ➤ Erbil (1N)**



Hotel Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

Our first stop today is **Halabja**, the scene of a chemical attack on the Kurdish civilians, perpetrated by the Baathist regime. Visit the memorial site. Visit **Dukan Lake** on the way to Erbil. Visit the village of **Koy Sanjaq** which is located in one of the most beautiful regions of Kurdistan.



## Day 12

**Depart Erbil ✈**



Hotel Breakfast / Lunch / -

Visit **Erbil Citadel** in the historical centre. Continue to **Choli Minaret** and **Jalil Khayat Mosque**. Visit the **local bazaar** for last minute bargains. Transfer to Erbil airport for flight home.



## Day 13

**Arrive Home**



We always attempt to add more sites and interesting places. The above schedule is our minimum – you should see more.....

## HOTELS



### BAGHDAD

Shaheen Hotel 4\* or similar  
(4 nights) ★★★★★☆



### NASIRIYAH

Al Zaitoon Hotel 4\* or similar  
(1 night) ★★★★★☆



### NAJAF

Qasr Al Dur Hotel 4\* or similar  
(1 night) ★★★★★☆



### MOSUL

Bashtabia Hotel Mosul 4\* or similar  
(1 night) ★★★★★☆



### DUHOK

Dilshad Hotel Duhok 4\* or similar  
(1 night) ★★★★★☆



### ERBIL

Erbil International Hotel 4\* or similar  
(2 nights) ★★★★★☆



### SULAYMANYIA

Millenium Hotel Sulaymaniyah 4\* or similar  
(1 night) ★★★★★☆

\*Note: Hotel subject to final confirmation. Should there be changes, customers will be offered similar accommodation to the list.

# HIGHLIGHTS

- 📍 *Baghdad City Excursions*
- 📍 *Agargouf Kassite Ziggurat*
- 📍 *Kerbala – The Shrine City*
- 📍 *Ukhaider, The Islamic Castle / Palace*
- 📍 *The Marshlands of Southern Iraq*
- 📍 *Samarra Mosque and Minaret*
- 📍 *Erbil Citadel*



## DELICACIES

Meal Plan

**11** Breakfasts, **11** Lunches, **10** Dinners

Mediterranean Sea

