



هولیدی بغداد
Holiday Baghdad

Discover

IRAQ

Step inside the History, Heritage, Culture
And Attractions of Iraq



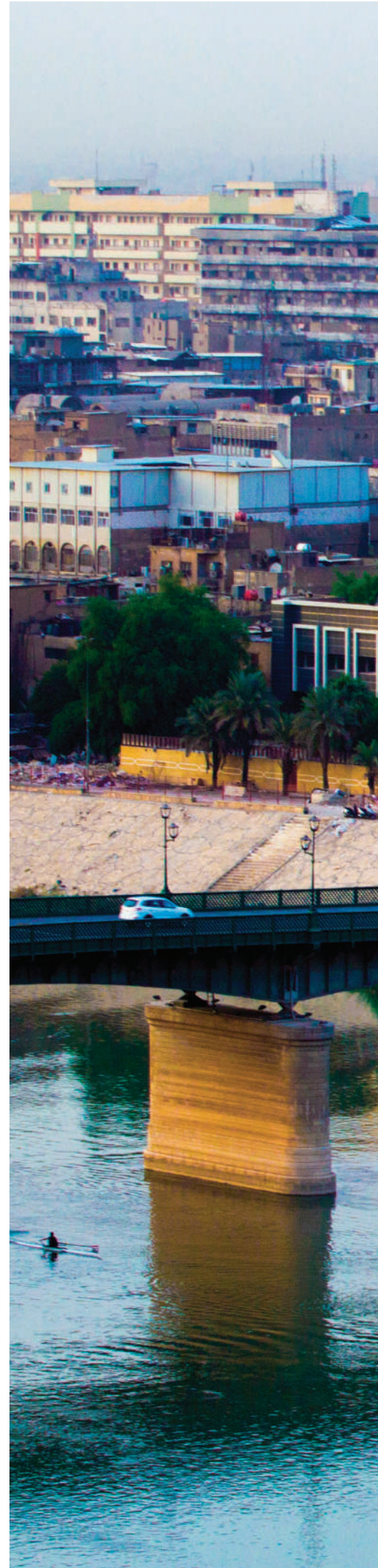
IRAQ

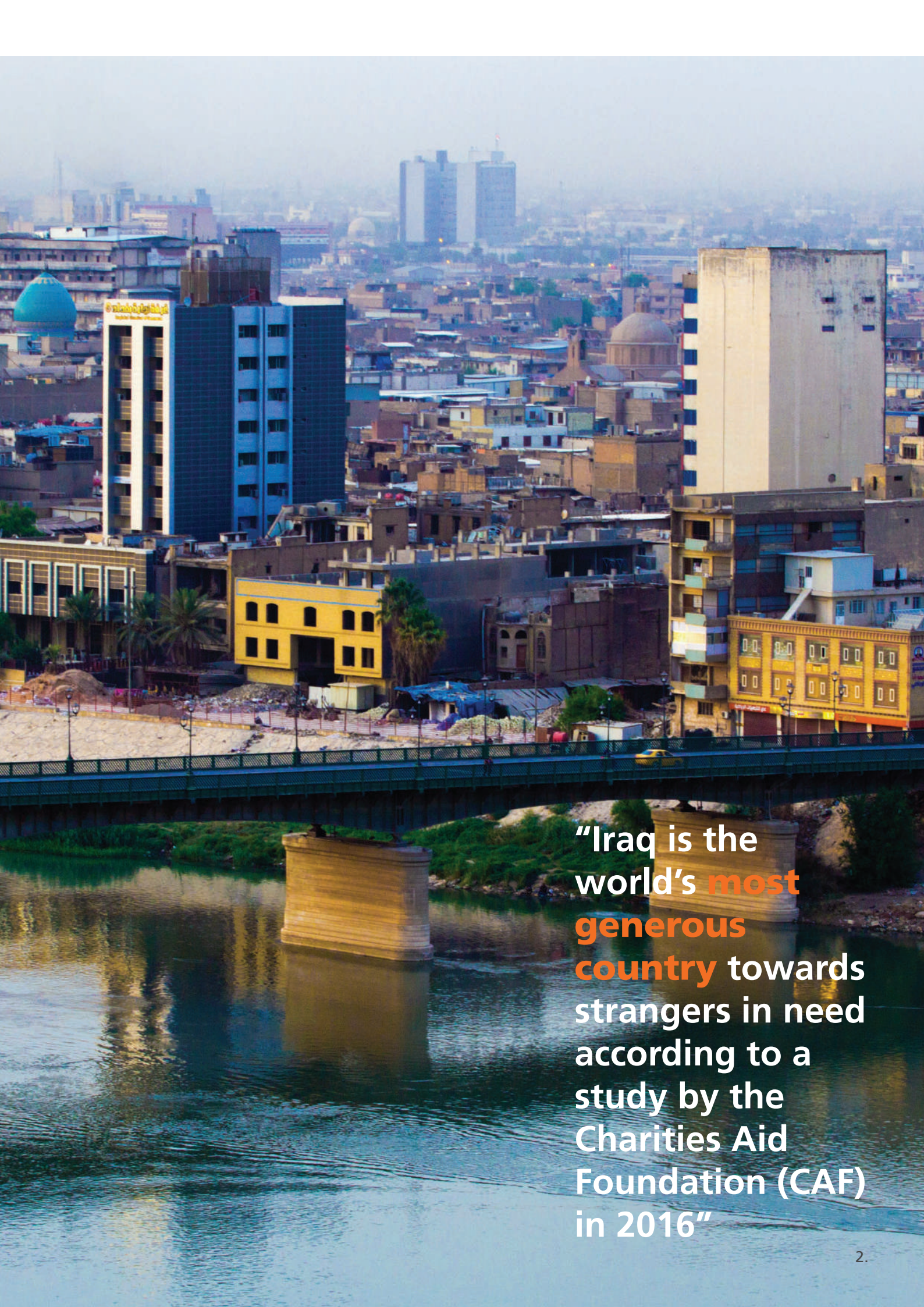
In Iraq, there is so much more to see than just the scars of war.

This country is one that is covered in natural beauty; with the winding waterways of the mighty Tigris and Euphrates rivers, it is often referred to as the Cradle of Civilization. In fact, this is a reference to its ancient Mesopotamian cities, famed for their innovations in science, writing, literature, medicine, theology, and law. Iraq is also the old home of Babylonia, which was once the stomping grounds of Alexander the Great. Mysterious towns like Ur are sprinkled with Ottoman relics and famous

mosques along the borders. You will also find stunning canyons that carve out large crescents in the fertile plains of Iraqi Kurdistan. Iraq is the world's most generous country towards strangers in need according to a study by the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) in 2016.

Iraq is full of vivid and rich regional history across a number of diverse religious and cultural backgrounds. While exploring this beautiful country and everything that it has to offer, you can revel in the rich history throughout nearly every activity that you participate in during your stay.





“Iraq is the world’s **most generous country** towards strangers in need according to a study by the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) in 2016”





Entertainment

Popular Tourist Attractions

When you visit Iraq, you should give yourself the opportunity to fully immerse yourself in every experience and appreciate every memorable spot that you visit.

Start your adventure by visiting the Iraqi Museum in Baghdad, take a deep breath and dive in an ocean full of thousands of years of history to gain a deeper insight into the ancient civilizations that used to inhabit this land.

Then, take a quick tour to the Baghdadi Museum and have a look at how the people of Baghdad used to live their daily lives in the past. After your deep dive into history, explore more into the present by visiting Baghdad Tower in Harthiya, located at 14th Ramadan street in Mansour, and Abou Nawaas street as well, where you can hear fairytales about its famous, "One thousand and one night" statue. Explore the exciting nightlife of Jadriya in Baghdad, Ain Kawa in Erbil, or Sarnchar and Salim street in Sulimaniya.

Not only will it be a time to remember, but you'll instantly feel at home in the land of Iraq.



Photo By:
Ziyad Matti

Parks

In Iraq, there are tons of options for nightlife and entertainment, but there are also a number of public parks to explore. Many of Iraq's public parks feature tremendous and expansive green areas with amusement sections, Zoos, and lakes for water activities.

If you're in Baghdad, you can visit Zawraa Park, located in Karkh; near the Green Zone.

In Erbil, there is another park where visitors can take in some of the fresh cold air outside of the city. The Sami Abdulrahman Park is always a popular destination for tourists and residents alike. There's also Minaret Park, which has a teleferic that offers visitors a unique view over the city.

And we also can't forget about Sarchnar Park in Sulaymaniah and Azadi Park in Douhok.

Iraq is full of expansive public spaces that are always worth a visit on a nice day.





Shopping

Iraq offers a wide array of options when it comes to shopping, starting from more affordable boutique products to international designer brands.

If you're looking for a modern touch, your destination should most certainly be Baghdad Mall, Babylon Mall, or Mansour Mall in Baghdad. If you're in Erbil, you can visit Majidi Mall or Family Mall, where you'll find all of the modern amenities, products, and goods that you could ever need.

If you were looking to shop tools, furniture, or any other products with good quality and cheap prices, your destination should be Shoorjah, one of the busiest souks in old Baghdad.

From Shoorjah, you'll be able to visit Souk El Ghazal, Rasheed Street, and Mutanabi Street to enrich your experience by traveling through some of the oldest streets in the city of Baghdad.



Photo By:
Ziyad Matti



Restaurants and Cafes

Restaurant franchises rank amongst the top 10 best businesses in Iraq throughout recent years.

You'll enjoy your time in Iraq with a great variety of different international cuisines such as: Lebanese, Syrian, Indian, Chinese, and Italian.

We'll not forget to give you some tips on what to try with the Iraqi cuisine. Try the traditional Iraqi fish (Maskouf), Dolma, Beryani, and Pachaa

We're sure that you'll spend most of your savings on food and beverages, because this country has the most delicious traditional dishes in the region, and quite simply, you won't be able to resist! You'll easily gain some extra pounds to take home with you!



History

The ancient Sumerians, Babylonians, and Assyrians all developed great empires in the region between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.

Later on, it was ruled by the Greeks, the Romans, the Persians, and the Ottoman Turks.

This land, with all that it holds, can offer visitors a lifetime of one of a kind experiences that you can cherish forever. Baghdad evolved into a significant cultural,

commercial, and intellectual center for the Islamic world. This, in addition to housing several key academic institutions, as well as hosting multiethnic and multi-religious environment, garnered the city a worldwide reputation as the "Centre of Learning."

Ur

is known for its Biblical tales of epic floods and fearsome Babylonian kings. However, it is also known for one of the most

beautiful ancient ruins in the region. Located in the southern Iraqi deserts, Ur is the home of the Ziggurat, a tall structure with high walls and steep staircases that would have been used in ancient times to worship the Akkadian moon gods.

Certainly, this is one of the most odd and mysterious sites in Iraq.

Hatra

was an ancient city in the Ninawa Governorate of present-day Iraq. The city lies





290 km (180 mi) northwest of Baghdad and 110 km (68 mi) southwest of Mosul. Sitting in the dusty deserts of western Iraq, are the towering columns and ornate temples of Hatra. As a result, this place is known as one of the most amazing archaeological sites in the entire country.

The name **Babylonia**, or **Babylon**, conjured up images of ancient empires, hanging gardens, and epic battles between Alexander the Great and Persian kings. In fact, you can still take in some of the majestic castles here, as well as

the vast remains of Homera.

As you explore Babylon, know that you are walking in the footsteps of some of the greatest emperors that the world has ever known. You can marvel at artifacts like gracefully crumbling lion statues that represent the glory of the Babylonian empire, and imagine how the Hanging Gardens of Babylon would have once looked.

Imagination plays a role in these ancient lands, but the artifacts of the past help to provide the context.

In the middle of the 4th century

BC, **Ctesiphon** was a small Persian settlement on the banks of the limpid Tigris River. In the 1st century AD, however, it became the Parthian capital and grew to include the city of Seleucia. This meant that Ctesiphon became one of the biggest cities in the region by the 7th century, and for that very reason, the site was chosen for the famous Arch of Ctesiphon. Also known as the Taq Kasra, this is a Sassanid dome that is one of the largest of its kind in the world, and one of the most important archeological sites in the region.





“All of these great cities will give the vibe that you walked into a **fairytale book.**”







Nature and Culture

If you're looking for riverside stay, a mountain view dinner, or a Sahara adventure, you'll find them all in Iraq! The geography of Iraq is diverse and falls into five main regions: the desert (west of the Euphrates), Upper Mesopotamia (between the upper Tigris and Euphrates rivers), the northern highlands of Iraq, Lower Mesopotamia, and the

alluvial plain, which extends from around Tikrit to the Arabian Gulf.

If you're in Baghdad, located along the Tigris River, you can stay on Abu Nawass street to enjoy the cold breeze all year around.

Sulaymaniah is one of the most welcoming and relaxed cities in Iraq. Located on the rugged mountains in northern

Iraq, the cool climate makes it an ideal location as opposed to other regions of the country. Also, be sure to pay a visit to Dukan lake. Located approximately 1 hour away from Sulaymaniah city, visitors can take advantage of the various BBQ and picnic spots, as well as the number of adjacent restaurants that line the lake.









Erbil

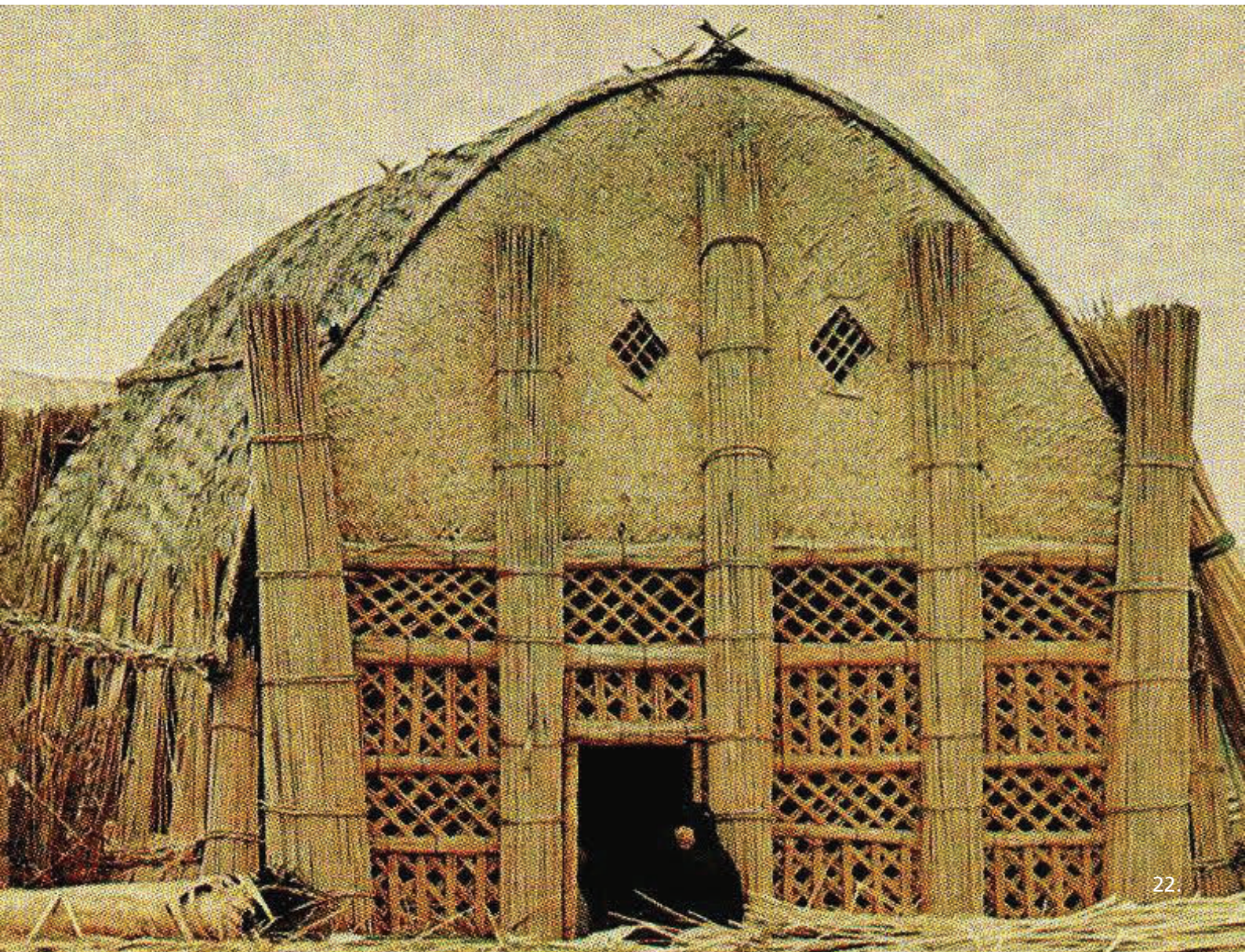
In Erbil, the famous Gali Ali Begg waterfall, situated about 95 kilometers from Erbil, is a popular site for tourists from all around the country. There are also several restaurants and cafes in the valley specifically built to accommodate visitors. The 12km valley dips between the Korek and Bradost mountains, and contains many beautiful sites including a number of vibrant springs and towering waterfalls.

A photograph of a sunset over a body of water. The sky is a gradient of orange, pink, and purple. A large, bright sun is low on the horizon, reflecting in the water. Several birds are silhouetted against the sky, flying in a line. In the foreground, a small wooden boat with two people is on the water. One person is standing at the bow, and the other is sitting at the stern. The water is calm, and the overall scene is peaceful and serene.

The Marshes

But don't forget to visit south of Iraq, as well. Pay a visit to the Marshes, a rare aquatic landscape in the desert that provides a robust habitat for the Marsh Arabs and important populations of wildlife. The marshes are home to 40 species of bird and several species of fish. It also demarcates a range limit for a number of bird species. Flamingos, pelicans, and herons inhabit the marshes exclusively, but the area is also home to a large number of birds because it serves as the stopover for many other migratory birds as they travel from Siberia to Africa.

Photo By:
Salah almosawi



Religious Tourism



Religious tourism is one of the most popular forms of tourism in Iraq, with tens of millions of tourists from several countries visiting the various holy cities and religious sites located in Iraq every year. These include the Imam Ali Mosque in Najaf, the Al Abbas Holy Shrine and Imam Hussain's Shrine in Karbala, Hassan Al Askari in Samara, Mousa Ibn Jaffar in Al-Kadhimiya Mosque, Abou Hanifa Mousque, and Abul Qader Al Qailani Mosque in Baghdad. In addition, 30 million pilgrims

make their passage to the town of Karbala each year. The area is sacred to Shiite Muslims because of the Imam Hussain Shrine, which is the final resting place of the martyr, Hussain ibn Ali, who died in 680 AD during the Battle of Karbala. It is also said to be the spot that the archangel, Gabriel, deemed one of the most sacred places on earth. As such, this town sees thousands of devotees arrive for the Ashura Day of Atonement each and every year.

Iraq holds not only Muslim shrines, but also shrines and sites from other religions as well, such as the Armenian Orthodox Church in Baghdad, Mar Matti Monastery and Rabban, Hormizd Monastery in Mousl, and Lalish in Duhok. The strength of the land of Iraq lies in the various religions and cultures that have settled here. This rich and vibrant diversity has created a wonderful image for the most vivid instances of human coexistence.





Photo By:
Ziyad Matti

Business

Iraq is open for business! The country is currently in the process of rebuilding and upgrading its infrastructure, and throughout the process, Iraq's market has developed tremendous growth rates in business.

Looking to attract new and diverse businesses to Iraq, business owners are sure to enter the highly competitive marketplace with a plan to ensure that they can leverage the newfound market growth and generate profits.

There are many opportunities across a number of different industries and fields to invest your money, such as design and construction, education, healthcare, sports and entertainment, leisure and

hospitality, travel and tourism, and so much more.

The healthcare sector is valued at tens of billions of dollars. Specific areas of opportunity for foreign businesses within this industry include hospital refurbishment, hospital management, medical equipment and training, and pharmaceuticals. Iraq's financial and professional services sector also has a great potential when it comes to investment. Opportunities for foreign business include global investment banking, as well as local financing.

The rapidly growing insurance sector, with a total aggregate gross written premium for private insurance companies worth USD 70 to 80 million, is

also a robust industry ripe for investment. Budgeting reform and capacity building, which will impact gold reserves and currency exchange, has presented foreign investors tremendous opportunities to secure a large ROI.

Not to mention the fact that the hospitality sector in Iraq is officially booming. Iraq currently has multiple national brands operating in this sector such as Rotana Rayhaan in Baghdad, Erbil, and Karbala, Divan Hotels in Erbil, and Sheraton Hotel in Basra. Essentially, bringing your business to Iraq is a winning game for you.

Iraq welcomes you and will deliver you with the best economic environment to ensure your success.









هوليداي بغداد
Holiday Baghdad