



Date: May 24, 2024
From: Kurdistan Regional Government – Iraq; Representation in the United States
To: All Airlines
Re: Visa exemptions to travel to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq

Starting March 1, 2023, a visa will be mandatory for all visitors journeying to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Expedited online visa processing will be available for select nationalities, while others may undergo a lengthier application procedure. *However, certain individuals are exempt from this requirement, including those born in Iraq and their accompanying children, regardless of birthplace.*

EXEMPT FROM VISA:

Visitors born in Iraq (as evidenced by their passport or any national Iraqi ID), regardless of their current nationality, are exempt from the visa requirement. Additionally, if a traveler's accompanying family members (such as children) were not born in Iraq but have one parent who was, they are also exempt from the visa requirement. For the latest updates and further details, please refer to our website: <https://us.gov.krd/en/services/visa-information>

Additionally, travelers with Turkish or Iranian passports, do not require a visa. These two nationalities have a visa waiver and therefore can enter the Kurdistan Region and Iraq from anywhere around the world without a visa.

GENERAL VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR IRAQ

According to the Iraqi Ministry of Interior, entry and exit requirements for foreign citizens in Iraq is that passports be valid for at least six months after the dates of travel. A visa may be required for all U.S./Canadian citizens entering Iraq via Baghdad, Basra, or Najaf airports. An Iraqi visa may be obtained through the Iraqi Embassy in Washington, D.C., or upon arrival. Travelers who obtain this approval must enter Iraq within 90 days of the issuance of the memorandum for a single-entry visa or within six months of the issuance of the memorandum for a multi-entry visa. Holders of valid US passports whose country of birth is Iraq are exempt from the visa requirements and other stay restrictions, as clarified below.

TRAVEL TO KURDISTAN REGION, IRAQ

The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) issues *visas on arrival to the US, Canada, EU, Australia, and many other foreign passport holders*. It is recommended, but not mandatory for nationals of these countries to obtain a visa in advance, unless the traveler intends to go outside of the Kurdistan Region during their stay. The KRG issues a 30-day visa upon arrival at Erbil International Airport (EIA), Sulaymaniyah International Airport (ISU), or other overland border crossings. This visa is not valid outside of the Kurdistan Region, and such travelers are not permitted to travel to the rest of Iraq. Those who plan to stay for longer than 30 days require an extension to their visa which can be obtained by visiting the local residency office. Furthermore, children whose parent(s) birthplace is Iraq or Kurdistan Region do not need a visa either.

To that extent, the traveler(s) presenting this letter are exempt from visa requirements.

For additional questions or inquiries, please feel free to contact our 24-hour hotline at: +1 (202) 821-1860.

Kurdistan Regional Government
Representative to the United States

