

Bahrain Fact Sheet



Did you know that...?

- ◆ Bahrain was the first Gulf state to discover and extract oil in 1932
- ◆ Bahrain is slightly larger than Chicago
- ◆ Bahrain was the first in the Gulf Cooperation Council to sign a Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act with the USA
- ◆ Arcapita, one of the leading international investment banks with nearly \$4 billion under management, is headquartered in Bahrain. As of September 2007, Arcapita has completed 62 transactions with total transaction value of over \$20 billion
- ◆ Manama was recently recognized as Middle East City of the Future 2006/2007 by the Financial Times, yet it has the lowest cost of city living in the Gulf
- ◆ Bahrain's annual growth target was 6.9% in 2007
- ◆ Manama is the headquarters of Gulf Air, owned by the governments of Bahrain and Oman
- ◆ Bahrain's imports from the US are growing at a rate of 34%
- ◆ Bahrain recently became the first Middle-eastern country to institute unemployment insurance
- ◆ Bahrain is an archipelago of 36 islands lying between the east coast of Saudi Arabia and the Qatar Peninsula.
- ◆ Bahrain does not share a land boundary with another country but has a 161-km(100 mi) coastline
- ◆ There are no personal income taxes, no wealth taxes, no Capital Gains tax, no death duty tax or inheritance taxes.
- ◆ King Fahad Bridge is a 25-km bridge which connects Saudi Arabia and Bahrain
- ◆ There are 1.5 phone lines for each resident in Bahrain
- ◆ Bahrain attracted 4.5 million business and leisure visitors in 2006, up 15.5% from 2005
- ◆ The highest elevation point in Bahrain is Jabal ad Dukhan, 122m
- ◆ Bahrain has the number one labor force for men between the ages 30 to 49 (99.14%)
- ◆ Bahrain has the tenth highest population density in the world

Other Information

- ◆ Bahrain is an Arabic word meaning "Two Seas," referencing both the spring and salt water sources, along with the north and south water divides between Saudi Arabia and Iran, respectively.
- ◆ Bahrain enjoys friendly relations with all its neighbors and was a founding member of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) along with Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE.
- ◆ With its recent landmark Free Trade Agreement with the USA, Bahrain enjoys bilateral trade and economic agreements with countries such as Australia, China, France, India, Jordan, Malaysia, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, and the UK.
- ◆ Bahrain has been recognized as a 'major non-NATO ally' of the US, placing the country among a very small group of nations that enjoy this status.
- ◆ Bahrain is the fastest growing economy in the Arab world, according to the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in January 2006
- ◆ Bahrain has the freest economy in the Middle East according to the 2006 Index of Economic Freedom published by the Heritage Foundation/Wall Street Journal, and is 25th freest overall in the world.
- ◆ Bahrain is home to numerous multinational firms with business in the Arabian Gulf
- ◆ Bahrain is a member of the UN, Arab League, Gulf Co-operation Council and the Organization of the Islamic Conference
- ◆ We encourage you to visit news sources such as the Financial Times, industry reports, local Arab news sources, BBC, the Economist and others for the latest on this dynamic subject.

Bahrain References

*One's mind, once stretched by a new idea,
never regains its original dimensions.*

— Oliver Wendell Holmes



Articles and Books for Further Reading

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Web Resources

- ◆ Bahrain Gateway — <http://www.bahraingateway.org>
- ◆ Bahrain Airport — <http://www.bahrainairport.com>
- ◆ Bahrain Business Directory — <http://www.thebahrain.com/dir/default.asp>
- ◆ Bahrain Economic Development Board — <http://www.bahrainedb.com>
- ◆ Bahrain Explorer — <http://www.bahrainexplorer.com>
- ◆ Bahrain Government — <http://www.e.gov.bh>
- ◆ Bahrain Lifestyle — <http://www.clickbahrain.com>
- ◆ Bahrain Lifestyle — <http://www.nightlifeinbahrain.com>
- ◆ Bahrain Ministry of Tourism Affairs — <http://www.bahraintourism.com>
- ◆ Bahrain News — <http://www.momentnews.com>
- ◆ Bahrain News Agency — <http://english.bna.bh>
- ◆ Bahrain Weather — <http://www.bahrainweather.com>
- ◆ Colombia Bahrain Studies — <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/mideast/cuvlm/Bahrain.html>
- ◆ Discover Bahrain — <http://www.discoverbahrain.com>
- ◆ E-Visa — <http://www.evisa.gov.bh>
- ◆ Economist Bahrain Briefings — <http://economist.com/countries/Bahrain/>
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