



General	123
Buoyage System	123
Currency	123
Government	123
Holidays	124
Industries	124
Languages	124
Mined Areas	124
Regulations	124
Time Zone	124
U.S. Embassy	124

Government



Flag of Kuwait

General

Kuwait is located at the NW corner of the Persian Gulf. It is bordered on the NW by Iraq, on the SW by Saudi Arabia, and on the E by the Persian Gulf. The islands of Qaruh, Kubrqurayn, Faylakah, Awhah, Maskin, Umm al Maradim, Bubiyan, and Al Warbah are dependencies of Kuwait. Ownership of Umm al Maradim and Qaruh is disputed by Saudi Arabia.

The terrain is mostly flat with some undulating desert plain.

The climate is dry desert with intensely hot summers and short, cool winters.

Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region A) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

Currency

The official unit of currency is the Kuwait dinar, consisting of 1,000 fils.

Kuwait, which received independence from the United Kingdom in 1961, is a nominal constitutional monarchy. The country is ruled by an Amir who is assisted by an appointed Council of Ministers.

The unicameral Majlis al-Umma (National Council) consists of 50 directly-elected members, who serve 4-year terms, and 25 appointed members, who are named by the Amir.

Kuwait was invaded without warning and overrun by Iraq in 1990. Following the expiry of a required UN withdrawal date, an extensive international coalition of forces, headed by the US, launched an offensive in 1991 and liberated the country. Subsequently, Iraq recognized the independence and borders of Kuwait in 1994.

The legal system is based on a civil law system with Islamic law significant in personal matters.

The capital is Kuwait (Al Kuwait).

Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

New Year's Day	January 1
Kuwait National Day	February 25

Islamic holidays, which are subject to the appearance of the moon, include Al-Isra, Eid Al-Fitr (End of Ramadan), Waqfat Arafat, Eid Al-Adha (End of Pilgrimage), Hijrah (Islamic New Year), and the Prophet's Birthday.

Industries

Crude oil production and refining are the major industries. Other industries include boat building, fishing, food processing, petrochemicals, and the manufacturing of construction materials.

Languages

The official language is Arabic. English is widely used.

Mined Areas

Vessels are advised that former mined areas exist off the coast of Kuwait in the N part of the Persian Gulf. Mines could still present a hazard in these areas; anchoring, fishing, or seabed operations are not recommended anywhere in this area. Additionally, drifting mines may be encountered anywhere.

Mine sightings should be reported to the naval authorities by INMARSAT (150 5612) or to Coalition naval vessels on VHF channel 13 or 16. Details of areas reported to be dangerous due to mines are promulgated by Navigation Notices issued by the Middle East Navigation Aids Service (MENAS) and MARAD advisories.

Regulations

General

The selling, giving, or taking out of the ship or transferring from one ship to another of alcohol is strictly prohibited by law. Alcoholic beverages are strictly prohibited to be held out of bond.

The import of firearms and ammunition is forbidden.

Reporting

Due to the prevailing situation in the Persian Gulf area, the Ports Public Authority now exempt vessels, proceeding for

Kuwait, from sending cables through Kuwait shore stations giving details of ETA. It is now requested that the vessel's agent at the port of departure, from which the vessel sailed for Kuwait, notify the Director, Marine Operations Department, Ports Public Authority, Kuwait (Telex: HM SHP 22740 KT), as soon as the vessel departs. Messages should contain the following information:

1. Date and time of sailing.
2. Length of vessel.
3. Arrival draft.

When entering Kuwaiti territorial waters, vessels must contact the Marine Operations Department, Ports Public Authority, in the usual manner.

Every merchant ship entering a port between sunrise and sunset shall fly, in addition to the required national and courtesy flags, the vessel's signal letter flags.

Pollution

Vessels shall not discharge into the water of the port any part of the content of their cargo, slop, ballast tanks or bilges which is liable to pollute the waters. Kuwait has stringent laws in force concerning the pollution of the sea by oil; persons responsible for pollution are liable to heavy fines.

Time Zone

The Time Zone description is CHARLIE (-3). Daylight Savings Time is not observed.

World Time Zone Chart

<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/ref/pdf/802801.pdf>

U.S. Embassy

The U.S. Embassy is situated in Bayan, Area 14, Al-Masjed Al-Aqsa Street.

The mailing addresses are, as follows:

1. International mail—
P.O. Box 77
Safat 13001
2. Diplomatic pouch—
Unit 6900
APO AE 09880-9000

U. S. Embassy Kuwait Home Page

<http://www.usembassy.gov.kw>