

# Governorate of Basra

## Historical Background

Basra is the second Governorate in Iraq regarding volume population and considered as the commercial capital of its only port overlooking the Arab Gulf and its main sea outlet. Basra has several names mentioned by references, after building it, it was named Um Al-Iraq "Mother of Iraq", Khizanat Al-Arab "Treasury of Arabs", Al-Basra Al-Uthma "The Great Basra", Al-Basra Al-Zahira "Prosperous Basra", Thaghr Al-Iraq Al-Basim "The smiling mouth of Iraq", Al-Fayha "The extensive", Qubat Al-Ilm "Dome of Science".



## Natural resources

This is one of the important Governorates in Iraq, as it is rich for the oil fields among which are Rumaila field, Shi'aiba field, western Qurna field, and Majnoun field. Due to its location as it occurs in the plains of Rafidain valley, it is one of the important centers for planting rice, barley, wheat, and millet. It is also famous for cattle breeding. The Governorate occurs on varying terrain land includes plains, upland, and desert and is also considered as a tourists Governorate for having many religious shrines and historical sites.

## Location

Basra is situated at the extreme south of Iraq, on the western bank of Shatt Al-Arab, the watercourse which results from the meeting of the Rivers Tigris and Euphrates at Qurna, 110 km northward of Fao. Basra is almost 55 km from the Arab Gulf, 545 km from Baghdad. It has mutual border with Saudi Arab Kingdom and Kuwait southward, and with the Islamic Republic of Iran Eastward. Local borders of Basra are with the Governorates of Thi Qar and Maysan to the north and Muthanna to the west. Basra is the only port of Iraq and its main sea outlet.

From a geographical view, it occurs at the southern eastern corner of Iraq. This situation has its impact in putting the Governorate within the huge desert extension in the continents of Asia and Africa which consequently results in its overwhelming dry climate.

Basra, within its geographical location, is linked to the other Governorates of Iraq through paved roads which lengths vary according to being near to, or far from it.

## Area

The area of the Governorate of Basra amounts to (19.070) sq km.

## Main cities:

- Basra Constituency (Center)
- Qurna Constituency
- Zubair Constituency
- Um Qasir Constituency
- Abu Al-Khaseeb Constituency
- Fao Constituency
- Allmdainah Constituency

**Population:** Approximately (2.647.754) person.

**Main activities**

- Oil and gas
- Sea charging and Railway
- Agriculture
- Food stuff industries
- Heavy industries, such as, iron and steel, fertilizers, and petrochemicals
- Fishing

**Infrastructures**

Governorate of Basra has all the six Iraqi ports, including the deep port. Thus it is the transportation cross point of the southern part of Iraq. There is also a highway linking the Hashemite kingdom of Jordan to Iraq which starts from the Jordanian borders and ends in Basra. The governorate is also linked to the State of Kuwait via Safwan border crossing point, a main commercial outlet. In addition to these, there is Basra International Airport, too.

**Education:**

The Governorate of Basra has only one University, University of Basra and (988) primary schools; (441) secondary schools; (14) institutes for Teachers Qualifying, and many professional institutes and schools.

**Health**

Governorate of Najaf has 15 hospitals and (39) medical centers.

**Tourist sites:**

**Sindibad Island**

This island is a marvelous tourist site which is located at the middle of Shatt Al-Arab, opposite to Shatt Al-Arab Hotel. It is linked to



both river banks via Sindibad Bridge.

It has wonderful gardens decorated by beautiful fountains. There are facilities for visitor comfort, a tourist coffee shop, and tourist houses for residence, in addition to the floating hotel near the Island, and a vast coffee shop at the southern end of the Island.

**Qurna City:** It is 74 km northward of Basra; Qurna is the legendary place of Adam's tree and paradise of Eden, where Tigris and Euphrates meet to form together Shatt Al-Arab, and where farms and orchards are a lot, particularly, date palm orchards.

**Abu Al-Khaseeb:** This city is located on Shatt Al- Arab, 26 km to the south of Basra. It is the city of the late great poet Badr Shakir As-Sayyab, it is also the center of date palm forests which are unique for their beautiful landscapes.

