

## Governorate of Holy Kerbala

### Historical Background

The city history dates back to the Babylonian era. Some historians see that the word Kerbala means (qurb Alilah: near Allah), a Babylonian origin word. It said that the word has been chiseled from (Kur Babil: a collection of Babylonian villages). The Governorate has pure land surrounded by dense orchards irrigated by River Euphrates. The most prominent feature of the Holy City of Kerbala is the shrine of Imam Hussein and the shrine of his brother, Imam Abbas, Allah may bless them both. Within the Governorate there is also the Akhaidhir stronghold, southward the city, the palace of Sham'oun at Ain Tamr, and Al-tar historical caves.



### Location

Governorate of Kerbala is situated on the right bank of River Euphrates, surrounded by important agricultural areas on three sides, particularly, the eastern side which occurs between the city and the River Euphrates. The city is 105 km to the western south of Baghdad, bordered from the north by the Governorate of Anbar; from the south by the Governorate of Najaf; from the east by the Governorate of Babylon; and from the west by the desert of Sham and the Saudi Arabia lands. The city occurs on the longitude 44° and the altitude 32°.

### Area

The area of the Governorate of Karbala amounts to approximately 5.034 sq km.

### Main cities

- Karbala
- Ain Tamr Husseiniyah
- Al-Hurr
- Hindiyah
- Akhaidhir
- Touaireej

## Population

Population of the Governorate of Kerbala amounts to (1.084.362) person.

## Main activities

- Tourism
- Oil refine
- Dates
- Citrus
- Agriculture
- Canning factories

## Infrastructures

There are two main roads pass through Karbala, the first is that starts from southern Baghdad, passes through Karbala, and continues to Najaf, the other one starts from Babylon and goes westward to Kerbala and continues through the south part of Anbar to the border outlet of 'Ar'ar towards Saudi Arabia Kingdom, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and Syria.

## Education:

The Governorate has two Universities, Karbala University and Ahl al-Bait University, and 457 primary schools; 188 secondary schools, 5 Teachers Qualifying Institutes and many professional institutes and schools.

## Tourist sites

### Karbala

Karbala is one of the ancient Iraqi cities. It enjoys a religious prestige due to shrine of Imam Hussein and the shrine of his brother, Imam Abbas, Allah may bless them both. Among the most historical sites at the Governorate are the following:



**Akhaidhir stronghold:** This feature is one of the defensive archeological buildings. It is one of the characteristic Islamic military architecture regarding design and geometry, not only in Iraq, but also on the level of the Arab and Islamic World. The stronghold occurs on a desert way links Iraq to the external world.

**Razaza Lake:** This Lake is 18 km from Karbala, on the way leads to Akhaidhir.



The Lake is 60 km in length; 30 km in width. This wide beautiful lake is an important tourist site visited by people who are eager to practice various kinds of water sports and fishing.

**Ain Tamr:** The city of Ain Tamr "Shithatha" is situated to the western south of Kerbala, (67 km) from Karbala. It is a historical spot as it has ancient civilization antiques. Ain Tamr constituency is regarded the largest oasis in the western upland, It is famous for its palm tree forests and orchards. It is characterized for its landscapes, beautiful atmosphere during spring and autumn seasons. It is also famous for its mineral water which flow from more than fifty natural springs. A tourist complex composed of 20 tourist apartments, a hotel, and a restaurant, in addition to extended gardens have been established in the area.

