

## **Governorate of Kirkuk**

### **Historical Background**

Kirkuk is an ancient city. It is 250 km north of Baghdad. It had been built, firstly, as a castle on a circular four cornered hill. It includes the areas among Zagros Mountain, the rivers of minor Zab and Tigris, and Himreen Mountain series. History of Kirkuk City goes back to 1.600 years B. C.

Kirkuk is famous for the shrines, mosques and the ruins of some buildings and antiques it has which can be traced back to the beginnings of the third millennium B. C., i. e. the early beginnings of the historical eras, in addition to its geographical and commercial situation.



### **Location**

Governorate of Kirkuk is situated at an important geographical area within the part which links north Iraq to its middle. It is surrounded by the Governorates of Sulaimaiyah, Irbil, Naynawa, Saladin, and Diyala.

### **Area**

The area of the Governorate of Kirkuk amounts to 9.676 sq km, 2.2% of the total area of Iraq.

### **Main cities:**

- Kirkuk Constituency
- Hawijah Constituency
- Daquq Constituency
- Dibs Constituency

### **Population indicators**

Inhabitants of the Governorate are (1.376.053).

### **Main activities**

- Oil
- Cement
- Agriculture

### **Infrastructures**

Governorate of Kirkuk is characterized by the many main roads which link it to the neighbouring Governorates. It is located on the main road linking the capital with the north.

The strategic situation of the Governorate which links the north to the middle has made the city a crossway for roads and railways which link it to the capital, Baghdad.

### **Economic background**

Governorate of Kirkuk is characterized by being rich for its mineral resources. Oil is the main axis of its economic activities. It has the largest oil field in Iraq. In addition, it has natural gas and sulfur. The Governorate appreciates, as well, fertile arable land, and a lot of lands ready to be invested, besides the availability of reclaimed and non- reclaimed irrigated lands.

Several main resources of water on which the Governorate depends for agriculture and industry are available, among which are:

- A. Minor Zab River which branches to five streams at the District of Zab, Hawijah constituency.
- B. Part of River Tigris at the district of Zab, southwards Hawijah, near the city of Al-Shik
- C. Khassa River (seasonal). A Dam is being built to regulate water stream.
- D. Artesian and surface wells

**Education:**

The Governorate of Kirkuk has only one University, (University of Kirkuk), more than 988 primary schools, more than 338 secondary schools, and many professional institutes and schools.

**Health**

Governorate of Kirkuk has 8 hospitals and more than 72 medical centers.

**Tourism**

**Castle of Kirkuk:** This is one of the ancient sites at the Governorate.

