

# Governorate of Holy Najaf

## Historical Background

Najaf is a historical city. It represents an important cultural, religious, commercial, and agricultural center at the center of Iraq. It is situated on a high mound over vast sand land overlooking from the northern eastern front on the cemetery of Wadi Salam "Valley of Peace"; and from the western front on the sea of Najaf.



The Governorate of Najaf embraces the tomb of Imam Ali, Allah may bless him. It receives millions of visitors all over the world.

## Location

Najaf is one of the Governorates which occur in the middle of south Iraq, at the edge of the western upland, 161 km from Baghdad. The city is 70 m above the sea level. It is bordered from the north by the Governorate of Karbala, almost 80 km away.

## Area

The area of the Governorate of Najaf amounts to (27. 845) sq km.

## Main cities:

- Najaf Constituency
- Kufa Constituency
- Manathirah Constituency

**Population:** (1.342.269) person.

## Main activities

- Tourism
- Agriculture
- Cattle breeding
- Commerce
- Constructions

## Infrastructures

- There is a main road stretches from Baghdad southward to the Governorate of Babylon, and then to the governorate of Najaf. Another road links governorate of Najaf to the Governorate of Karbala.
- The Governorate has the international airport of Imam Ali.

### **Education:**

The Governorate of Najaf has only one University, University of Kufa and (546) primary schools; (245) secondary schools; (4) institutes for Teachers Qualifying and many professional institutes and schools.

### **Health**

Governorate of Najaf has 7 state hospitals and many medical centers.

### **Tourist sites:**

1. **Tomb of Imam Ali (Allah may bless him):**  
It is one of the most important sites for religious tourism. It receives almost 40 million visitors a year.



2. **Khan of Rahba:**  
It occurs on the old Hajj route within a low area, almost 30 km from the village of (Rahba). It had been built from rocks and gypsum.



3. **Palace of N'uman Bin Al-Munthir:**

Palace of N'uman Bin Al-Munthir is one of the palaces which dates back to the ancient kingdom of Manathirah and the state of Akhminians Manathirah which enjoyed a major role in the Arab pre-Islamic history. Its monuments remained to cope with the historical events, it often enriched poets' imagination who chanted these monuments and ruins.

