

Information for Business Travelers to Iraq

A resource for German business travelers and participants in our events and business delegations

1. Visa Requirements

Types of Visas for Business Travelers:

- Single-entry business visa (valid for a short-term stay)
- Multiple-entry business visa (valid for frequent travelers)
- **Visa on Arrival** (available to German passport holders at Baghdad International Airport and Erbil International Airport)

Required Documents for the Visa on Arrival:

- Passport (valid for at least six months)
- Visa application form (available for download)

Visa Fees and Payment Methods for the Visa on Arrival:

- The fee for the Visa on Arrival at both Baghdad International Airport and Erbil International Airport is approximately 80 USD (150,000 IQD).
- **Payments at Baghdad International Airport must be made in cash.**
- **Payments at Erbil International Airport can only be made via credit card. Cash payment is not accepted.**

Processing Time for the Visa on Arrival:

20-40 minutes

2. Financial and Payment Information

Iraq remains a largely cash-based economy. However, credit cards (Visa/MasterCard) are widely accepted at hotels and international businesses. ATMs are available for cash withdrawals. The Iraqi Dinar (IQD) is the official currency, though USD is also commonly accepted, especially for large transactions.

Tip: It is advisable to carry small USD denominations for daily expenses. Always keep cash on hand, as card payments may not always be an option.

3. Travel and Security Guidelines

General Safety Considerations:

- Business travelers are encouraged to consult travel information from the German Embassy and Consulate.
- German nationals can also register with the German Embassy and Consulate (ELEFAND) to receive emergency updates.

Business-Friendly Areas:

- Baghdad

- Erbil
- Basra
- Karbala
- Suleimani

Airport Taxis and Transportation:

- Airport taxis are available at both Baghdad International Airport and Erbil International Airport (**Cash payments only**).
- **Careem app** can be used to book airport taxis from/to Baghdad International Airport.
- Private car services are available.
- Armored vehicles and security services can be arranged.

4. Accommodation & Business Venues

Recommended Business Hotels:

- Babylon Rotana Baghdad
- Divan Erbil, Rotana Erbil, Radisson Erbil
- Grand Millennium Basra

Internet & Connectivity:

- Wi-Fi is available in most hotels, though speeds may be slow.
- It is recommended to use an international SIM card for a stable data connection.
- Alternatively, purchasing a local SIM card (Asiacell, Zain Iraq) can provide more reliable connectivity.

5. Local Business Culture & Etiquette

Business Attire:

- Formal business attire is expected (suits for men, modest business attire for women).
- Business casual is acceptable in Erbil and Baghdad.

Meetings & Greetings:

- Handshakes are the standard greeting (use your right hand).
- Business cards should be exchanged at the beginning of meetings.
- Address people with their titles (Mr./Dr.) unless invited to use first names.
- Avoid crossing your legs while sitting in meetings.

Punctuality & Business Conduct:

- Meetings may not always begin on time, patience is important.
- Gift-giving is not common but can be appreciated for significant business deals.