

QUICK FACTS

Currency	Saudi Riyal – Abbreviations: SAR or SR
Language	Arabic
Area Urban	1, 000 square kilometer (386.1 square meter)
Area Metro	1, 815 square kilometer (700.8 square meter)
Climate	Summer, Winter, Arid
Summer	Max. - 52°C (125.6°F) Min. - 18°C (64°F)
Winter	Max. - 19.9°C (67.82°F) Min. - -0.5°C (31.91°F)
Also known as	Queen of the Desert
Famous for	Skyscrapers, Luxurious Shopping Malls and Hotels
Geographical Location	Center of Arabian Peninsula, Saudi Arabia
Latitude, Longitude and Altitude	24°42.42'N, 46°43.27'E and 1, 969ft (above sea level)
Best Time to Visit	March, April. September and October (rest of the month being extremely hot or cold)
Neighboring Countries	Al Kharj, Rumah, Buraydah and Al Hufuf
Means of Local Transportation	Taxis, Rented Cars and Buses
Official Website	www.ariyadh.com
Riyadh is the largest city of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	

OVERVIEW

The capital and largest city of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is Riyadh which is located in Ar Riyad Province in the heart of Arabian Peninsula. The name "Riyadh" is derived from an Arabic word "Rawdah" which means a place of garden and trees as with many "Wadis" (former water courses, now dry) in the vicinity, Riyadh since ages has been a fertile area set in the heartland Arabian deserts.

Besides being the seat of government, the city is also the central corridor of development of the nation especially after the oil boom in 1950. The oil boom turned the small walled city into a developed metropolis which is one of the fastest growing and most prosperous cities in the world nowadays.



Today, this prosperous capital city is towering with futuristic skyscrapers rising from the barren desert, equipped with vast dams to quench the thirst of the dry desert and accessible with glitzy venues to satisfy the business needs of this ever advancing oil producing desert. Therefore, this one of the most splendid and rich cities of the modern world was dubbed as the "Queen of Desert".

However, modern it may be, Riyadh will never let its visitors forget that they are in the heart of Arab world as in between snazzy shopping malls and broad sweeping highways are nestled ancient mosques and remnants of times gone by. The shady trees and date palms line the avenues while camels sometimes sway between the luxury vehicles. Furthermore, the capital is also run on a strict moral and cultural code of Islam which visitors are also required to abide remembering the fact that women have restricted access to certain attractions and sites. As a result, the travelers can drink deeply this unique urban landscape which will quench their wanting of both historic interest and modern wonder.