

Considering Employment with the Middle East District?

Life in Saudi Arabia

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

The United States Military Training Mission (USMTM) to Saudi Arabia is a joint training mission and functional component command under the military command of the United States Central Command (USCENTCOM). The Chief of USMTM was given coordinating authority over all DoD agencies in Saudi Arabia. USACE is therefore, sponsored by USMTM. The Chief of USMTM works under the guidance of the American Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, who ultimately has overall responsibility for all US Government activities in country.

USACE employees enjoy the full complement of Morale, Welfare and Recreation services available, have access to the all shops, the commissary and exchange.

HOUSING

USACE personnel in the Riyadh area of Saudi Arabia will stay in villas.

- Accompanied personnel villa: 3 bedrooms, 3 full baths, living room, full kitchen, dining room, laundry room.
- Unaccompanied personnel: There are two split villas with 1 bedroom, 1 living room, 1 bathroom, full kitchen/dining area, laundry room and a storage room.
- All villas are completely furnished, including shower curtain, trash containers, stove, refrigerator, washer/dryer, microwave, water dispenser, freezer and humidifiers.
- There are approximately 9 Armed Forces Network (AFN) Channels and about 40 regular channels.
- Internet service can be purchased through AAFES or outside vendors.
- Electrical current in Riyadh, Dhahran, Jeddah, and Jubail is 120 volts, 60 cycles; the rest of the Kingdom is mostly 220 volts, 50 cycles. Transformers are available.

USACE personnel assigned to project locations away from Riyadh stay on the economy in leased apartments/villas with 2 or 3 bedroom, 2 bathrooms, full kitchen, living room and some with dining rooms. These too are fully furnished.

- The intent of leased housing is to have it in locations found acceptable by Force Protection personnel, near other US Military or Embassy personnel.

SCHOOLS/PRESCHOOLS

There are no USACE or US Embassy funded schools for any age in the Kingdom. Children are discouraged, except for visits.

TRANSPORTATION: For tours in Saudi Arabia, the current policy is to fund a leased vehicle for work and off duty life support use

HEALTH INFORMATION

The environment where families live and work by and large meets Western standards for cleanliness and public health.

- Several medical resources are available including two small military clinics, one in Riyadh and one in Dhahran.
- A physician, veterinarian and two experienced independent duty medical technicians.
- There is a medical clinic with a doctor and nurse. Medical procedures that go beyond that capacity will be referred to off base treatment facilities.
- All locations are close to a Ministry of Defense and Aviation hospital where both primary and specialty care is available. These facilities were built and equipped to Western standards.
- The scope of dental care in Saudi Arabia is limited.
- Personnel and family members must have no chronic illnesses that require close or frequent monitoring.

COMMUNICATIONS

• Telephone and Internet Services: Communications

USACE employees are authorized to use the telephone system for morale and welfare calls up to a maximum of 4 hours per month. Command sponsored families are allowed an additional 4 hours for a maximum of 8 hours per month. Any overages will be charged and billed to the employee by the minute.

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- **Cellphones:**
- **Television**

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND SOCIAL LIFE/DINING OUT

Morale, Welfare, Recreational Facilities and Social Life

- Recreational facilities available at all in-Kingdom locations
 - Movies
 - Courts and fields for sports
 - Swimming pools
 - Eskin Village Club in Riyadh
- Recreation on Eskin Village

- Community Club serves breakfast, lunch and dinner, has a bar that can serve beer, wine and hard drinks for consumption there.
- Excellent gym with weight rooms, exercise equipment, racquetball courts, sauna, steam room, special purpose rooms.
- Outdoor heated pool, golf driving range, 1/2 mile outdoor running track, basketball and tennis courts.
- Arabian Gulf and Red Sea offer excellent fishing, water skiing, sail boating, scuba diving and snorkeling opportunities
- Western-style entertainment is not available in Saudi Arabia. Social life for both Western and Saudi communities is normally confined to the home, residential compounds and the military club or dining facility.

SHOPPING

- **Base Facilities:** There is a full service Post Office, Commissary and Post Exchange. There is also a post gas station (for government vehicles only).
- **Shopping:** Shopping is abundant with numerous large malls and souqs within the Kingdom.

PETS

POTENTIAL HARDSHIPS

- No alcohol consumption within the Kingdom proper
- No pork consumption within the Kingdom proper
- Driving in Riyadh is extremely hectic and congested.
- Restrictions on women
 - Women are not allowed to drive a motorized vehicle in Saudi Arabia, except for Eskan Village.
 - Off of Eskan Village, women must adapt to restricted freedoms.
 - Women may not be a passenger in a vehicle with a man who is not a relative or an assigned driver.
 - The dress code for women is very restrictive in most areas of Saudi Arabia with a requirement for arms and legs to be covered.

CULTURAL/RELIGION DO's and DON'Ts

POCs FOR MORE INFORMATION

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