



**BEYOND  
THE PATH  
ADVENTURE**

## **Iraq 9 days – between the Tigris and Euphrates**

**trip, nature, culture and sightseeing**

*An exceptional expedition to the places considered to be the cradle of our civilisation. During the tour, we will visit the fascinating heritage sites of ancient Babylon and Assyria and newer ones – dating back to the Arab and Ottoman eras. We will have an opportunity to see the cultural and religious diversity of Iraq, numerous branches of Christianity, Yazidis, and also Iraqi Sunni and Shia Muslims. We will visit little-known regions of the south Iraq. Furthermore, we will have an opportunity to admire the Ahwar Marshlands and we will take a boat tour along the Shatt al-Arab River.*

**You are welcome to take part! BTP Adventure.**

---

### **Program :**

#### **❖ Day 1 - Baghdad**

Arrival at the Baghdad airport and transfer to the hotel. An organizational meeting will be held at the hotel. Dinner in one of local restaurants. D.

#### **❖ Day 2 - Baghdad**

From the morning, we will start visiting the fascinating city of Baghdad. At the beginning, we will see what is left from the formerly priceless and vast collection of the National Archaeological Museum of Iraq. In the afternoon, a drive through Baghdad – we will see some of the most important sites: the Freedom Square and the al-Shaheed Monument, also



known as the Martyr's Memorial – a memento of the Iran–Iraq War that led to the fall of Iraq in 1980s. In the evening, transfer to the hotel, dinner and rest. B.L.D.

### **Day 3 - Samarra, Malwiya Minaret**

In the morning, we will set off to the one-day trip to Samarra – one of the oldest towns of Iraq. The most important sights will be the remaining structures of the Great Mosque of Samarra, with their most prominent “snail shell minaret”. Construction of the 33 m minaret was started in 848 and finished 851, in the times of Abbasid caliphs. In 2007, the Malwiya Minaret was entered into the UNESCO World Heritage List. In the afternoon, return to Baghdad. Dinner at our hotel. B.L.D.

### **❖ Day 4 – Ctesiphon, Babylon, Karbala**

After breakfast, we will set off to see the ruins of the ancient capital of the Persian Parthian Empire – Ctesiphon. The ruins are located on the Tigris shore. Our sightseeing will include a visit to the remains of the palaces of the first rulers from the Sasanian Dynasty. Afterwards, we will go to the excavation site where the Babylon ruins were discovered. Visiting the Babylon ruins - we will walk through the reconstructed Ishtar Gate and visit the museum. Another stop on our trip will be the Euphrates shore where one of the most impressive palaces of Saddam Hussein is located. In the afternoon, a drive to Karbala – a sacred place of Shia Muslims. The town was founded at the place of death of Imam Hussain ibn Ali – grandson of the Prophet Muhammad, killed at a battle in 680. It is the location of the most sacred Shia sanctuary that attracts thousands of pilgrims, not only from Iraq. Dinner and night rest at the hotel. B.L.D.



## ❖ **Day 5 – Al Ukhaidiri Kufa Najaf**

In the morning we will drive to the exceptionally well preserved remains of a fortress from the times of Abbasid caliphs, Al Ukhaidir. The fortress was finished in 775 AD but the history of this place dates back to much older times, which is indicated by numerous artefacts from the Sasanian and Parthian times. Next we will go to Kufa, where we will visit the house of imam Ali (the son-in-law of the Prophet Muhammad). After lunch and a short walk around Kufa we will continue the drive to Najaf, the most important place for Shia Muslims apart from Karbala – a town and sanctuary. We will see (if possible) the place where Imam Ali, the most faithful companion of the Prophet Muhammad, the husband of the only daughter of the Prophet, Fatima, and the fourth caliph, was murdered. We will visit the sanctuary and the town. Dinner and night rest at our hotel. B.L.D.

## **Day 6 – Ur, Uruk, Nasiriyah**

.In the early morning, we will set off from Najaf to the site where ruins of the ancient Babylonian town of Uruk are located. After lunch, we will continue our journey to the ruins of legendary Ur. At the beginning, the ziggurat in Ur which might have been a model for the Biblical Tower of Babel. Then we will have a walk among the remainders of a town which was the birthplace of Abraham according to the Bible. In the evening, arrival in Nasiriyah. Dinner and night rest at the hotel. B.L.D.

## **Day 7 - Ahwar Basra, Shatt Al-Arab**

We will start the sightseeing in As Sulaymaniyah in the morning from a visit in the Kurdistan museum where we will see collections from different historical eras, including the oldest artefacts from the beginnings of civilisation. After the visit at the museum, we



will drive to Halabiyah – a town that fell victim to a gas attack on 16 March 1986. During the attack of the Iraqi army more than 5,000 people were killed, and 10,000 were injured and hospitalised. Despite its tragic past, the town is still inhabited – the Genocide Monument and Museum are currently located there. In the afternoon, we will set off for the mountain regions near the border with Iran. We will visit the Ahmed Awa Waterfalls, where we will have lunch in the mountain scenery. In the afternoon, return to As Sulaymaniyah. Dinner and night rest at our hotel. B. L. D.

### **Day 8 - Basra**

From the morning, a walk around Basra – a town whose history starts with the first caliphs. At those times, it was a harbour and an important military garrison. Although Basra suffered considerable destruction in the 20th and at the beginning of the 21st century, numerous monuments and structures dating back to the Ottoman era can be seen there. Dinner and night rest at the hotel. B.L.D.

### **❖ Day 9 - Flight back from Erbil**

After breakfast, depending on the departure time, transfer to the airport. B.

## **Dates :**

## **Price per person depends on the number of travelers :**

### **The price includes**

- Accommodation: 4-star hotels in Iraq
- Meals according to the schedule B-breakfast, L-lunch, D-dinner
- Transfers and drives in Iraq



- Services of local guides and security guards – if necessary
- Admission tickets for the visited sites and national parks
- Tips
- The invitation to obtain a visa if it is necessary
- Cruise on the Shatt Al-Arab River

## **The price does not include:**

- Costs of the main flight to and from Iraq
- Iraqi visa cost
- Travel insurance
- Meals other than those listed in the final itinerary.
- Personal expenses and souvenirs
- Additional beverages

## **Final notes**

→ Depending on the political situation, the length of the tour and the order of visited places may change. In a situation of a serious threat to travellers' safety, the tour may be cancelled. We will keep you updated as to whether the expedition is possible.



**You are welcome to take part! BTP Adventure.**

---