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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION
OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

Extended forty-fifth session
Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
10 – 25 September 2023

GENERAL INFORMATION

SUMMARY

This document provides important information regarding the extended 45th session of the World Heritage Committee that will be held in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) from 10 to 25 September 2023 (registration, visas, travel and accommodation, etc.).

All information on the extended 45th session of the World Heritage Committee is also available at the following webpage:

45whcriyadh2023.com



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Extended 45th session
of the World Heritage
Committee

الهيئة العامة للثقافة
Ministry of Culture
of the State of Qatar
Extended 45th session of the
World Heritage Committee
47th Session, Doha, 2021
Cultural & Architectural World
Heritage Sites 2021-2022



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1. INTRODUCTION

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has the pleasure of hosting the extended 45th session of the World Heritage Committee. The Committee Session will take place in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from 10 to 25 September 2023.

The information document is hereby presented to give a general introduction to the participants of the extended 45th session of the World Heritage Committee. The practical information included in the document intends to ensure that the participants have all the required information to conveniently plan and realize their visit to the Host Country, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Kindly be reminded that the official website 45whcriyadh2023.com and the organizers of the extended 45th Session of the Committee are ready to assist you, if you have any further questions.

2. PURPOSE

The World Heritage Committee is comprised of representatives from 21 States Parties to the *Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* elected by the General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention.

The current composition of the Committee is as follows:

Argentina, Belgium, Bulgaria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Greece, India, Italy, Japan, Mali, Mexico, Nigeria, Oman, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Thailand and Zambia.

Chairperson: H.H Princess Haifa Al Mogrin (Saudi Arabia)

Rapporteur: Ms. Shikha Jain (India)

Vice-Chairpersons: Argentina, Italy, Russian Federation, South Africa, Thailand

For further information, please visit <https://whc.unesco.org/en/committee/>

The essential functions of the Committee are:

- i. To identify, on the basis of nominations submitted by States Parties, cultural and natural properties of Outstanding Universal Value which are to be protected under the Convention, and to inscribe those properties on the World Heritage List;
- ii. To monitor the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List, in liaison with States Parties; decide which properties included in the World Heritage List are to be inscribed on or removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger; decide whether a property may be deleted from the World Heritage List;
- iii. To examine requests for International Assistance financed by the World Heritage Fund.

The extended 45th session of the World Heritage Committee will be held in Riyadh from 10 to 25 September 2023 at Al-Faisaliah Hotel and its premises (<https://www.mandarinoriental.com/en/riyadh/olaya>).

3. SESSION ORGANIZERS

With the support of the higher authorities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host the extended forty-fifth session of the World Heritage Committee during the year 2023, the Saudi National Commission for Education, Culture, and Science at the Ministry of Culture of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is the main organizer of the session.

For general information regarding the extended 45th session of the World Heritage Committee, please contact the organizers at the following email address: information@45whcriyadh2023.com
For specific requests to the organizers, please find below a list of relevant contacts:

Host Country:

The Ministry of Culture, KSA
+9668001189999
info@moc.gov.sa

UNESCO:

World Heritage Centre
+33145681104
wh-info@unesco.org

4. OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONIES

The Opening Ceremony will take place on 10 September 2023 in Al-Riyadh and will be followed by a cultural performance and refreshments. Only registered participants with a badge will be allowed to take part in the Opening Ceremony. Formal dress is recommended for this event. Please collect your badge beforehand at the on-site registration desk in Al-Faisaliah Hotel.

The Closing Ceremony for the session will be held on 25 September in Riyadh. The event will include cultural performances and a reception.

Further details on the Opening and Closing Ceremonies can be found on the website: 45whcriyadh2023.com

5. SIDE EVENTS / EXHIBITIONS

If you wish to organize a side event or an exhibition, kindly submit your request to the UNESCO Secretariat focal point, Mr David Martel (d.martel@unesco.org) and Caroline Varnet (c.varnet@unesco.org), by 28 July 2023 at the latest.

You will receive a form to fill in with details regarding the type of event or exhibition your country/institution would like to organize, indicating the characteristics of the required space as well as catering and technical needs.

After receiving clearance from the Secretariat, you will be put in contact with the Host Country organizers for any relevant information and details concerning the organization of the event (technical assistance, catering, etc.). Please note that the organizers reserve the right to indicate the space in which the requested event will take place. Though diverse, the space available at Al-Faisaliah Hotel premises is limited and it may occur that the organizers may not be able to accept all applications.

For logistical queries, you may contact the organizers of the session as below:

Venue and Technical Issues
technical@45whcriyadh2023.com

Accommodation
accommodation@45whcriyadh2023.com

Registration
registration@45whcriyadh2023.com

Side Events
events@45whcriyadh2023.com

General email address for logistical queries: information@45whcriyadh2023.com

6. INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION

6.1 WEBPAGE

The dedicated webpages for the extended 45th session of the Committee can be found at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/45com/> and at 45whcriyadh2023.com All relevant information for the session - including the registration page, documents, provisional schedules for certain agenda items - will be regularly updated at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/45com/>

6.2 WEBCAST

All participants as well as the general public can follow the daily working sessions throughout the duration of the extended 45th session via the livestream which will be aired through <https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/45com/> and the dedicated website 45whcriyadh2023.com There are no limits in the number of people who can follow the livestream nor registration of any kind required.

6.3 DOCUMENTS

Working and Information Documents corresponding to the items inscribed on the Agenda of the extended 45th session will be published and accessible on the dedicated webpage on the World Heritage Centre's website at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/45com/> as they become available starting from 30 June 2023, in the two working languages of the Committee (English and French).

As for any other session of the World Heritage Committee, the Decisions Report and Summary Records, as well as recordings, will be made available after the end of the session in conformity with Rules 46 and 47 of the Rules of Procedures of the World Heritage Committee.

If you are unable to download some documents, you may send an e-mail to the World Heritage Centre at: e.esquivel@unesco.org

7. PARTICIPANTS AND REGISTRATION

7.1 PARTICIPANTS

The main participants in the extended 45th session of the World Heritage Committee are the 21 members of the Committee.

The **States Parties to the Convention**, which are not members of the Committee, may attend the sessions of the Committee and its Bureau as Observers.

Non States Parties to the Convention who are Member States of UNESCO or of the United Nations may also be permitted by the Committee, upon written request, to attend the sessions of the Committee and its Bureau as Observers.

Representatives of the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) may attend the meetings of the Committee in an advisory capacity.

The United Nations and organizations of the United Nations system as well as, upon written request, at least 15 days prior to the date of the session of the Committee, other international governmental and non-governmental organizations, permanent observer missions to UNESCO and non-profit-making institutions having activities in the fields covered by the Convention, according to criteria defined by the World Heritage Committee, may be authorized by the Committee to participate in the sessions of the Committee as Observers.

7.2 REGISTRATION

All participation requests shall be submitted online. To register, please follow the instructions at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/45com> using the registration code provided in the invitation letter addressed to either the Permanent Delegation, National Commission or your organization. If you have not received the registration code, please contact your Permanent Delegation or National Commission. Contact details are available at: <https://www.unesco.org/en/countries>

Once you have registered online and your accreditation has been granted, you will receive an email confirming your registration and you will be redirected to the Host Country's website to finalize logistics details of your participation. Should you require any assistance, encounter any difficulties with the online registration process, or if you have not received a confirmation e-mail, please reach out by using the contact form available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/45com>

For Media registration please refer to paragraph 12 below.

All delegates and those who wish to attend the extended 45th session as observers are kindly advised to register as soon as possible and preferably before 1 August 2023. This will allow the session organizers sufficient time to process the information and make the necessary arrangements. Please see further details under *10.2. Visa Requirements* section.

8. PROTOCOL

The Host Country is in charge of all matters relating to protocol and the reception of VIPs. For further information and necessary arrangements, please send an e-mail at protocol@45whcriyadh2023.com Please make sure to contact us as soon as possible to ensure the Host Country can meet your requests.

9. ACCOMMODATION

Kindly be informed that the participants are responsible for arranging their accommodation. For your convenience, organizers have agreed on special rates with a list of hotels and have reserved a certain number of rooms for the duration of the Committee meeting. The list of hotels can be found at: <https://45whcriyadh2023.com/> You are advised to book your accommodation as soon as possible. Shuttle buses will be provided between the listed hotels and the venue of the Committee meeting on a regular basis. For further information, please refer to section 11.2. *Local Transportation and Transfers to the Conference Venue.*

The hotel rates are based on a Bed & Breakfast basis. Kindly visit the official website (<https://45whcriyadh2023.com/accommodation/>) for further details and booking your accommodation. Please note that the hotel rates will be valid until 1 September, so please make sure that you visit the website and make your reservation before then. Participants to the extended 45th session are encouraged to bring with them a printed copy of the confirmation email they would have received, should it be requested while checking-in at their hotel, to ensure they benefit from the special rate.

Should you face any problems or may have any questions concerning accommodation, please contact: accommodation@45whcriyadh2023.com

10. PASSPORT, VISA AND OTHER TRAVEL INFORMATION (As per Host Country's Regulations and Procedures)

10.1 PASSPORT REQUIREMENTS

All participants in the extended 45th session of the Committee are required to possess an international passport that is valid for a minimum of 6 months from the date of entry into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia territory, with sufficient pages for visa stamps.

It is mandatory that the passport or travel document be recognized and valid for the return of its bearer and that it does not contain any restriction or condition, whether it is an ordinary, diplomatic or special passport.

10.2 VISA REQUIREMENTS

Only registered persons will be eligible to apply for visas, where required, and to enter the territory of the Host Country to attend the Committee session. Please note that the UNESCO World Heritage Centre will be unable to intervene in any visa decisions taken by the authorities of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

All participants must check entry requirements to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in accordance with the nationality and the type of passport they hold with the nearest consulate or the diplomatic mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in their home country. The list of Diplomatic Missions of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia abroad with their current contact details is available at:

<https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/content/saudiEmbassies/>

Should an Entry Visa be required, participants are advised to submit their visa application as early as possible, **at least 4 weeks** prior to the Session, and obtain the visa in advance.

All nationalities are required to obtain a visa to enter the Kingdom, except for citizens of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries (GCC).

10.3 E-VISA

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has introduced e-visas for citizens of eligible countries who wish to visit the Kingdom. The e-visa system provides a simple and quick way to apply for e-visa, without the need to visit a Saudi Arabian embassy or consulate in person.

For this event, please note that once you have registered online via UNESCO website and your accreditation has been granted, you will receive an email confirming your registration, and you will be redirected to the Host Country's website to finalize the e-visa process.

Should you face any problems or may have any questions concerning e-visa, please contact: Registration@45whcriyadh2023.com

10.4 TRAVEL TO THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

The main entry point to the city of Riyadh is the King Khalid International Airport. The airport was opened in 1983 A.D in Riyadh city. It is located in an area of 375 km² about 35 km from the city center, containing five passengers' terminals, 40 Passenger boarding bridges, and more car parking designed for 11.600 vehicles. The airport consists of Royal Terminal, the Central Control Tower, two Parallel Runways, which are each 4,260 meters (13,980 ft) long. It collaborates with over 51 international and domestic airlines with over 105 destinations in total and over 217,000 flights a year.

To assist participants attending the extended 45th session of the Committee, a **clearly indicated airport welcome desk** will be set up at King Khalid International Airport from 9th to 17th September. Session organizers will also be present at the airport to assist participants upon their departure.

Shuttle services will be provided to participants from the airport to all the recommended hotels starting from 9 September 2023. Kindly confirm your arrival hour with your hotel. For those participants wishing to arrange for their own private airport transportation, the best options are:

- to take a metered taxi which is readily available at the ground floor entrance to the terminal;
- to use one of several available mobile app / internet taxi providers (careem, uber).

It should take approximately 40 minutes from the airport to reach any of the recommended hotels in Riyadh.

10.5 MEDICAL INSURANCE

The Host Country will provide a first-aid service for participants at the meeting venue and all the recommended hotels. All other medical services will not be covered. Participants are expected to assume the costs of any medical treatment that they might receive while in Riyadh. It is strongly recommended that medical insurance be purchased in your home country to cover you in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as well as any other destinations on your journey. The Host Country will not be responsible for travel and medical insurance costs of the Session participants. More information related to medical, dental and other health related issues can be obtained at the session venue information desk. Medical emergency number is: 997.

11. THE MEETING

11.1 CONFERENCE VENUE

The official venue of the extended 45th session of the World Heritage Committee is **Al-Faisaliah Hotel**. Located in the heart of the city and setting new standards for luxury, Al Faisaliah Hotel is one of the most sought-after addresses in Saudi Arabia. Its timeless elegance, central location and panoramic views are complemented by signature service to ensure a truly unforgettable Arabian experience. The Committee Plenary Meeting Room will be in Prince Faisal Hall which was designed to host events, banquets, presentations and meetings. Plenaries and Bureau sessions, working groups and side events will also take place in the hotel premises. The detailed location and a plan of the venue will be available on the website.

11.2 LOCAL TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSFERS TO THE CONFERENCE VENUE

All participants of the extended 45th session of the Committee are entitled to free of charge transportation with the designated buses, upon showing their registration badge. The buses will circulate between the airport and the session venue as well as between the recommended hotels and the session venue. A detailed timetable of buses will be available on the website beginning of September 2023, as well as at the session venue and at the airport information desk from 9 September 2023. Participants who prefer to rent their own vehicle should arrange it themselves with one of many international or local transportation companies.

11.3 REGISTRATION DESK AND DISTRIBUTION OF BADGES

Registration is mandatory for all participants. The badge distribution desk, situated at the entrance of the session venue, Al-Faisaliah Hotel, will be open on 8 and 9 September from 9 am to 11 pm and on 10 until 25 September from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. All participants are encouraged to present themselves at the on-site badge collection desk before the Opening Ceremony of the World Heritage Committee on 10 September in order to allow a smooth process.

For late registration, an on-site registration desk will be situated at the entrance of the session venue, Al-Faisaliah Hotel, and will be open on 8 and 9 September from 9 am to 11 pm and on 10 until 25 September from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. A welcome package with an information dossier

about the extended 45th session will be provided at the time of registration. Please note that, due to safety reasons and the expected number of visitors, the process of registration and receiving your badge may be time consuming. For this reason, early registration is strongly encouraged.

11.4 BADGES

Every participant must be in possession of a personal security photo identification badge (ID), which can be obtained at the registration desk. The ID badges are not transferable. For security purposes, the badge must be worn in a visible way at all times to access the session venue, to attend meetings and to participate in other activities, such as opening and closing ceremonies. Access to the meeting will be denied to any individual who is not officially accredited or who uses the ID badge in an inappropriate manner.

11.5 SERVICE AREA FOR PARTICIPANTS

Various participants' lounges with computers, internet access and printing facilities will be available at the session's venue. Technical staff will be on site to assist participants. Free wireless Internet connection will be provided in the entire venue at all times.

Documents will be accessible online as soon as they are available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/45com/>

11.6 MEALS AND REFRESHMENTS

During the session, coffee, tea, water and small refreshments will be offered outside the main plenary room free of charge.

Participants are advised to check the possibility of having their meals delivered from their hotels to the venue, in case of renting a room with full board.

11.7 PRAYER ROOMS

Prayer Rooms will be at participants' disposal during the entire Committee session.

Participants can obtain additional information about the prayer locations on the official website of the extended 45th session (<https://45whcriyadh2023.com/>) and at the registration desk.

12. MEDIA

12.1 ACCREDITATION, VISA AND CUSTOMS

Accreditation is mandatory for media representatives who wish to cover the extended 45th session of the World Heritage Committee. To be accredited, the following steps should be followed:

- i. Kindly send an email with the full name of each person and the name of the media organization seeking accreditation to information@45whcriyadh2023.com copying for information t.mallard@unesco.org and l.iglesias@unesco.org All media

representatives who wish to cover the session are kindly asked to register preferably before 1 August 2023.

- ii. In reply to your email, you will receive a registration code and a letter, which will be required to complete your visa application.
- iii. All media representatives who need a visa must apply for a visa by filling an online form through the registration system on the website: <https://45whcriyadh2023.com/>

Please take note of the need to declare all media equipment at Customs upon arrival. Additionally, certain items such as drones may not be brought to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia without additional permission from the Ministry of Interior of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Please visit <https://e-services.zatca.gov.sa/en/general/prohibited-goods> for the list of all prohibited items.

The organizers of the Host Country will be in a position to facilitate the permission process for these items. Therefore, please contact the Organizers at: information@45whcriyadh2023.com

12.2 MEDIA REGISTRATION AND SECURITY MEASURES

A special desk will be reserved for the registration of media representatives in the main registration area at the venue. The hours of registration will be the same as for all other participants (please see point 7.2). Please note that your application for accreditation must be received and approved before you register on site. Part of the registration procedure will be to obtain your personal accreditation/security badge at the media registration desk. Accreditation badges are to be worn visibly at all times to gain access to the venue and must be presented upon request to security personnel. Accreditation badges are not transferable. Access to the session venue will be denied to any individual who uses the badge improperly. Please be advised that security personnel may verify that equipment taken into the session venue is used for its intended purpose. Kindly allow sufficient time in your schedule to pass the security checks.

12.3 MEDIA CENTRE

A Media Centre will be made available as a space with workstations for the media to cover the extended 45th session of the World Heritage Committee. Journalists will also have access to the Internet and a printer.

12.4 PRESS CONFERENCE

Press Conferences will take place in a dedicated space nearby the main plenary room of the session venue. Only accredited media will have access to the room.

12.5 PRESS MATERIAL

Official press releases, photographs and live streaming of the extended 45th session of the World Heritage Committee will be regularly updated and available to download at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/45com/>. A technical briefing for media representatives will be held prior to the session in order to review media protocols and conduct of business of the World Heritage Committee. Media briefings might be held to provide information on proceedings or decisions taken by the Committee and press releases will be issued regularly during the session. The proceedings will also be live-streamed on the website of the session.

UNESCO's press officers will be present at the Media Centre during the session. In case of additional questions related to media, you may contact the following email addresses:

- Host country: information@45whcriyadh2023.com
- UNESCO Press Office: Lucia Iglesias (l.iglesias@unesco.org) and Thomas Mallard (t.mallard@unesco.org)

13. GUIDED TOURS AND DAY TRIPS

Session participants and their accompanying family or guests will have the opportunity to participate in complimentary guided tours of the cultural and natural heritage sites as well as some other destinations in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Full list of the tours and their timetable will be available on the website. Registration for tours will be possible on the website and at the tours desk located at the meeting venue. Please note that the availability for each tour is limited. You are therefore encouraged to book early to avoid disappointment. Additional information and the reservation for tours are available at the following link on the website: <https://45whcriyadh2023.com/en/tours/>

14. WORLD HERITAGE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS FORUM

As an integral part of the extended 45th session of the World Heritage Committee, and in the framework of the UNESCO World Heritage Education Programme, the Ministry of Culture of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia represented by the Heritage Commission and the National Committee of education and Culture and Science will host the World Heritage Young Professionals Forum 2023 under the theme of '**Looking Ahead: The Next 50 Years of Protecting Natural and Cultural Heritage**', from 3 to 12 September 2023, in Riyadh and the Al-Ahsa Oasis, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The Forum serves as a platform by bringing young people and heritage experts together to foster intercultural learning and exchange. It also provides an opportunity for the youth to meet and learn about each other's heritage, discuss common concerns in preservation and discover new roles for themselves in heritage conservation. Each Forum is focused on a specific topic linked to World Heritage, and aligned with the context of the World Heritage properties of the Host Country.

15. WORLD HERITAGE SITE MANAGERS' FORUM

As an integral part of the extended 45th session of the World Heritage Committee, the Ministry of Culture of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia represented by the Heritage Commission and the National Committee of Education, Culture and Science will host the World Heritage Site Managers Forum 2023 under the theme of "**Managing World Heritage for the Next 50 Years**" in Riyadh and Al-Ula, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Over the past five decades, the World Heritage Convention has protected and promoted humanity's treasures and transformed the way we value and safeguard heritage. The World Heritage sites today, currently 1,157 in 167 countries, are serving as climate disruption

observatories to gather and share information on applied and tested monitoring, mitigation, resilience, and adaptation practices and are raising awareness of the impacts on human societies and cultural diversity, biodiversity, and ecosystem services. Therefore, the Forum will be an opportunity to review the achievements of the past 50 years and at the same time examine some of the growing challenges which site managers should contribute to tackling in the years to come. The Forum will therefore be an occasion to reflect on the past and the future through the theme “Managing World Heritage for the Next 50 Years”.

The Forum will take place online as well as in-person. The online component will be held on the 19th of June and the 4th and 13th of July 2023 from 12:00 to 15:00, CET. The in-person sessions will be held in Riyadh, from 10 to 16 September 2023.

16. INFORMATION ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

16.1 KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has a rich culture shaped by the diversity of its people, which has formed the basis of the cultural identity of the Kingdom. With over 34 million inhabitants, the Kingdom has 13 regions all united by the Arabic language, but each with a unique dialect, traditions, heritage, and culinary identity.

The Kingdom has five official yearly celebrations; two Islamic celebrations, Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha, Founding Day (February 22), the Flag Day (March 11) and Saudi National Day (September 23).

The people of Saudi Arabia embrace many social values influenced by the Kingdom’s ancient customs and traditions, including generosity, courage, hospitality, and maintaining strong family relationships, as well as values that reflect the society’s culture and Islamic values.

Each region in the Kingdom has its own cultural identity. Therefore, each region has its own musical style and traditional tales that are reimaged in the stories told in movies and at the theater.

Saudi artists express their creativity through artwork that they aspire to share with the world. Many Saudi writers admire the rich heritage across the Kingdom’s regions describing them in their poetry and novels, while historians contribute to preserving each region’s heritage and artifacts in museums. Each region’s architecture and design are characterized by its environment, climate and topography, and similarly each region has its own culinary identity and local costumes.

16.2 CLIMATE

Contrary to popular belief, it is not always hot in Saudi Arabia. The Kingdom experiences four distinct seasons—from chilly winter breezes in January to peak desert heat in August - and a climate that varies between regions.

Spring in Saudi Arabia can be brisk, particularly in the north, where the temperature at night can drop below 15 degrees C. The central and southern regions are warmer, averaging around 20 degrees after nightfall. Rainfall is at its highest during spring, particularly in the central region and in the southwest over the Aseer Mountains.

With the exception of the comparatively mild highlands in the southwest, summer signals the start of rising temperatures across most of the country, with the average hovering around 45 degrees C. The early mornings and long evenings are more temperate.

Autumn brings gentler weather and cool breezes in both Saudi Arabia's northern regions and the southwestern highlands. While daytime temperatures remain warm and can reach the 30s in early fall, evenings are milder and fit for outdoor strolling.

During the month of September, temperature in Riyadh ranges between 38 and 42 degrees C during the day and from 24 to 29 degrees C during the night.

16.3 TIME ZONE

Riyadh is 3 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT +3, Arabia Standard Time AST).

16.4 CURRENCY & EXCHANGE

Currency exchange and transactions are easy in Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia's national currency is the Saudi riyal (ر.س SAR), which is subdivided into 100 halala.

Banknotes are in denominations of five riyals, ten riyals, 50 riyals, 100 riyals and 500 riyals; and coins in one riyal, two riyals, 50 halala, 25 halala, 10 halala, 5 halala and 1 halala.

All banks in the Kingdom offer currency exchange services. Exchange bureaus are located at airports, some shopping centers and various other locations throughout the country. Credit cards, such as Visa, MasterCard and American Express are accepted throughout the Kingdom. ATMs are also widely available.

The participants are recommended to check the currency rate at <https://www.sama.gov.sa/>

16.5 DRESS CODE

Traditional Saudi clothing is worn out of love and pride by locals. Traditionally, women wear an abaya (a long robe or cloak that covers the whole body) over their everyday clothing, and men wear a *thobe* (a long-sleeved, gownlike garment); however, not all Saudis wear traditional clothing all the time. As a visitor, you are not expected to wear the same attire as locals, or cover to the same extent, but it's highly recommended that you dress modestly. For example, loose-fitting clothing that covers the elbows and ankles is recommended for both men and women in public.

16.6 FOOD

Saudi's culinary scene is diverse, delicious and booming, especially in the capital city, where there's no shortage of fine dining, street food and cuisines from around the world. There's something to suit every appetite during your visit, whether you crave traditional Saudi kabsa or international dishes like Indian curry, American burgers, Mediterranean spreads and Chinese fried rice.

Dates are an iconic symbol of Arabian hospitality. The nutritious fruit has been a staple of the Saudi diet since ancient times. You can find them stuffed with nuts or candied fruits, mashed and

baked into pastries and cookies, and even incorporated into savory rice dishes; however, many Saudis say that eating dates unadorned remains the best way to appreciate them. Find them in markets and on menus across the capital city.

16.7 COFFEE & CULTURE

While coffee is now enjoyed in almost every part of the world, the beverage first gained popularity in the Middle East. Some food historians trace its origins back more than 1,000 years, when legend has it that a ninth-century Ethiopian goat herder noticed the energizing effect that the bright red berries of a certain bush had on his flock. (What we call a coffee bean is actually the seed of a cherry-like fruit.) Coffee eventually made its way to Makkah in the mid-16th century. Perhaps because of its long history in the region, coffee is a symbol of hospitality throughout the Middle East. It is the first beverage offered to any Saudi guest, and it is served at events, social gatherings and weddings, as well as in private homes, offices and, of course, cafés.

16.8 GRATUITIES

At restaurants where a service charge isn't included, 10% is the acceptable gratuity. Although tipping at other places is not mandatory it will be well received.

16.9 ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

The voltage is 230 V. and plugs are of type G, which is the plug that has three rectangular pins in a triangular pattern. If your appliance's plug does not match the shape of these sockets, you will need a travel plug adapter in order to safely plug it in. Hotels will have a limited number of adapters for guest use, so it is recommended that you obtain your own if you think you will need them during your stay.

16.10 SMOKING

It is against the law to smoke in public transportation and in most indoor facilities. Restaurants, usually, offer smoking and non-smoking sections.

16.11 DRINKING WATER

It is not recommended to drink tap water. Bottles of mineral water are widely available in shops and hotels.

16.12 TELEPHONE, MOBILE & USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Roaming agreements are in place with most international phone companies. SIM cards can be purchased at local phone stores (ID required). WhatsApp is widely used for texting and messaging only. For free calls, please use alternative apps like Signal, imo and FaceTime.

Country Code: **+966**

Police: **911**

Civil Defense: **998**

Traffic Accidents: **993**

Highway Patrol: **996**

Coast Guard: **994**
Tourism Hotline: **930**

16.13 MEDICAL CARE

Basic modern medical care and medicines are available in several hospitals and clinics in Riyadh offering a wide range of medical services. Pharmacies are common throughout Riyadh and carry a wide range of medicine. Prescriptions are normally required. Payment at all medical facilities is due at the time of service. For information about health insurance please refer to section *10.5 Medical Insurance*.




17. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For further information about the World Heritage Committee and the World Heritage Convention, please see the UNESCO World Heritage Centre's website at the following link:
<https://whc.unesco.org>

For all questions of an organizational nature concerning the extended 45th session of the World Heritage Committee, please do not hesitate to contact the session organizers:
information@45whcriyadh2023.com

ANNEX 1. LIST OF RECOMMENDED HOTELS

#	Photo	Hotel Category	Hotel Name	Bus Route Time	Price Range	Address	Google Maps Location Link	Telephone	website	Booking process
1		5*	Narcissus Hotel and Spa Riyadh	Hotel to Tower: 5min Tower to Hotel: 6min	750 - 28500 SAR	Olaya Corner Tahlia Streets P. O. Box 75, Riyadh 11372, Saudi Arabia	https://goo.gl/maps/TRGcbJRGDLKAUJza8	+966 11 294 6300	www.narcissushotels.com	by email: to: dosm.riyadh@narcissushotels.com cc: accommodation@45whcr Riyadh2023.com
2		5*	Hyatt Regency Riyadh - Olaya	Hotel to Tower: 7min Tower to Hotel: 6min	1840 - 16240 SAR	Olaya St, Al Olaya, Riyadh 11433, Saudi Arabia	https://goo.gl/maps/2ugsLUFBa94PbaE8	+966 11 288 1234	www.riyadhohaya.regency.hyatt.com	https://www.hyatt.com/shop/riyadh?location=Hyatt%20Regency%20Riyadh%20Olaya&checkinDate=2023-11-05&checkoutDate=2023-11-07&rooms=1&adults=1&kids=0&offercode=GOVTB
3		5*	Rosh Rayhaan by Rotana	Hotel to Tower: 9min Tower to Hotel: 5min	900 SAR	Olaya St, Al Olaya, Riyadh 11564, Saudi Arabia	https://goo.gl/maps/qdFNm8x5S8KyVYD7	+966 11 447 9888	https://www.rotana.com/riyahaanhotelandresorts/kingdomofsaudiarabia/riyadh/roshrayhaanbyrotana	http://roho.it/zhmf
4		5*	Voco Riyadh, an IHG Hotel	Hotel to Tower: 9min Tower to Hotel: 8min	750-1500 SAR	Opposite of Ministry of Interior, King Fahd Rd, An Namudhajah, Riyadh 13003, Saudi Arabia	https://goo.gl/maps/E1jD6G8Kda3bpsbt9	+966 11 457 9999	https://www.vocohotels.com/hotels/qb/en/riyadh/ruhsd/hoteldetail?	https://www.vocohotels.com/redirect?path=hd&brandCode=vv&localeCode=en&regionCode=1&hotelCode=RUHSD&PMID=99801505&CPC=HWD&con=no&viewFullSite=true
5		4*	Holiday Inn Riyadh - Olaya, an IHG Hotel	Hotel to Tower: 5min Tower to Hotel: 7min	550 - 750 SAR	Olaya Street, Riyadh, 11547 Saudi Arabia	https://maps.app.goo.gl/eySmVT1FEmCQJML7	+966 11 4612000	https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/qb/en/riyadh/ruhol/hoteldetail?	Link will be shared shortly
6		4*	Holiday Inn Riyadh - Meydan	Hotel to Tower: 5min Tower to Hotel: 9min	550 - 750 SAR	King Fahad Road, Riyadh, 11415 Saudi Arabia	https://goo.gl/maps/EPNnRlXTKZcgEAN6	+966 11 434 7474	https://www.holidayinn.com/hotels/qb/en/riyadh/ruhi/hoteldetail?	by email: to: mohammed.hendawy@ihg.com cc: accommodation@45whcr Riyadh2023.com
7		4*	Holiday Inn Riyadh - al Qasr, an IHG Hotel	Hotel to Tower: 4min Tower to Hotel: 7min	550 - 650 SAR	King Fahd Rd, District, Olaya, Riyadh 11482, Saudi Arabia	https://goo.gl/maps/hR1hmtr4TP7sdpLG9	+966 11 462 5000	https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/qb/en/riyadh/ruhaq/hoteldetail	by email: to: reservation@alqasrhi.com cc: accommodation@45whcr Riyadh2023.com
8		4*	Rio hotel	Hotel to Tower: 4min Tower to Hotel: 3min	550 - 874 SAR	40 Olaya Street, Al Olaya, 12212 Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	https://goo.gl/maps/muhFVYyxRphShFYA	+966 11 464 0111	https://www.riohotel.sa/	by email: to: sales@riohotel.sa cc: accommodation@45whcr Riyadh2023.com
9		4*	Centro Olaya	Hotel to Tower: 5min Tower to Hotel: 3min	550 - 750 SAR	7590 Wadi Al Artawi St, Al Olaya, Riyadh 12212, Saudi Arabia	https://goo.gl/maps/q4jhrYazE8ZNMbcw9	+966 11 835 2444	https://www.rotana.com/centrohoteles/kingdomofsaudiarabia/riyadh/centroolaya	Link will be shared shortly
10		4*	Ewaa Express Hotel - Al Olaya	Hotel to Tower: 5min Tower to Hotel: 5min	350 - 450 SAR	Olaya St, Al Olaya, Riyadh 12212, Saudi Arabia	https://goo.gl/maps/e4WmLh7ZLJpXVupd9	+966 11 463 4629	https://www.ewaahotels.com/en/hotel/ewaa_express_hotel_al_olaya.html	by email: to: reservations@ewaahotels.com cc: accommodation@45whcr Riyadh2023.com
11		4*	Courtyard by Marriott Riyadh Olaya	Hotel to Tower: 8min Tower to Hotel: 5min	780 SAR	2759 Olaya District Moussa Bin Nussair Street, Riyadh 11333, Saudi Arabia	https://goo.gl/maps/PLAKcX4v7mbMhYk6	+966 11 404 6111	https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/ruhy-courtyard-riyadh-olaya/overview/?scid=f2ae0541-1279-4f24-b197-a979c79310b0	https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1687075836943&key=GRP&app=resvlink
12		4*	Novotel Suites Riyadh Olaya	Hotel to Tower: 5min Tower to Hotel: 8min	550 - 650 SAR	Main Street, Al Olaya, Riyadh 12221, Saudi Arabia	https://goo.gl/maps/qfz2GfGMHQLwyaZV7	+966 11 465 6555	https://all.accor.com/hotel/9048/index.en.shtml	by email: to: h9048-re@accor.com cc: accommodation@45whcr Riyadh2023.com
13		4*	Aloft Riyadh	Hotel to Tower: 6min Tower to Hotel: 8min	550 SAR	2385 Olaya St, Al Olaya, Riyadh 12611, Saudi Arabia	https://goo.gl/maps/qXa7MDa2RlwlqTl76	+966 11 234 1111	https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/ruhal-aloft-riyadh/overview/	https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1686123985910&key=GRP&app=resvlink
14		4*	Joudyan Hotel	Hotel to Tower: 10min Tower to Hotel: 5min	600 - 2675 SAR	6341, Al Olaya , 12241 Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	https://goo.gl/maps/NCAWRaE3FQv9g8469	+966 11 445 9500	https://www.joudyan.com/	by email: to: mohammed.hendawy@ihg.com cc: accommodation@45whcr Riyadh2023.com
15		4*	Ewaa Express Hotel Khurais	Hotel to Tower: 7min Tower to Hotel: 8min	300 - 500 SAR	Khurais Road intermixing with King Fahd Road, Saudi Arabia	https://goo.gl/maps/qbyXNIGaezrdJMev8	+966 11 416 9542	https://www.ewaahotels.com/en/hotel/ewaa_express_hotel_khurais.html	by email: to: reservations@ewaahotels.com cc: accommodation@45whcr Riyadh2023.com
16		4*	Grand Plaza Takhasosi Hotel	Hotel to Tower: 7min Tower to Hotel: 10min	280 - 500 SAR	Al Takhasosi Street, 11564 Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	https://goo.gl/maps/qUro7gFTWx5ksJy9	+966 11 880 1919	https://www.ewaahotels.com/en/hotel/grand_plaza_takhasosi_riyadh.html	by email: to: Takhasosi@Ewaahotels.com cc: accommodation@45whcr Riyadh2023.com

#	Photo	Hotel Category	Hotel Name	Bus Route Time	Price Range	Address	Google Maps Location Link	Telephone	website	Booking process
17		4*	Grand Plaza Dhabab Hotel	Hotel to Tower: 8min Tower to Hotel: 11min	400 - 500 SAR	Prince Faisal Ibn Turki Ibn Abdulaziz, Al Murabba, Riyadh 12612, Saudi Arabia	https://goo.gl/maps/gnfb1YPpSypelEpy8	+966 11 402 2211	https://www.ewaahotels.com/en/hotel/grand_plaza_dhabab_riyadh.html	by email: to: dhabab@Ewaahotels.com cc: accommodation@45whcriyadh2023.com
18		3*	Almuhaib Olaya Suites	Hotel to Tower: 6min Tower to Hotel: 6min	270 - 465 SAR	Olaya St With Road Makah OPP Holiday In, 11461 ,Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	https://goo.gl/maps/coARm3arR2wYagfb7	+966 11 415 2333	https://www.ewaahotels.com/en/hotel/almuhaib_alolaya_suites.html	by email: to: reservations@ewaahotels.com cc: accommodation@45whcriyadh2023.com
19		3*	Al Muhaib Khurais	Hotel to Tower: 7min Tower to Hotel: 7min	225 - 325 SAR	2459 Makkah Al Mukarramah Br Rd, 9297, Al Olaya, Riyadh 12611	https://goo.gl/maps/AXqDru2XyImtpq8A	+966 11 416 0554	https://www.ewaahotels.com/en/hotel/almuhaib_alolaya_khurais.html	by email: to: reservations@ewaahotels.com cc: accommodation@45whcriyadh2023.com

Note: The hotel list may be subject to changes and updates. These will be reflected on the website at <https://45whcriyadh2023.com/accommodation/>