pcgn
The Permanent Committee on Geographical Names

Iraq

Country name	Iraq
State title	Republic of Iraq
Name of citizen	Iraqi
Official language(s)	Arabic (ara)[1]; Kurdish (kur) (see section 3 below)
Country name in official language(s)	العراق (Al ‘Irāq) [ara]; عێراق (‘Êraq) [kur]
State title in official language(s)	جمهورية العراق (Jumhūrīyat al ‘Irāq) [ara]; کۆماری عێراق (Komar-î ‘Êraq) [kur]
Script	Perso-Arabic (ara & kur)
Romanization System(s)	[BGN/PCGN Romanization System for Arabic](#)[2]; [BGN/PCGN Romanization System for Kurdish](#)[3]
ISO-3166 code (alpha-2/alpha-3)	IQ/IRQ
Capital (conventional English name)	Baghdad
Capital in official language(s)	بغداد (Baghdād) [ara]; بەغداد (Beghdad) [kur]

Introduction

Iraq is a country in western Asia that borders Turkey to the north, Iran to the east, Kuwait to the southeast, Saudi Arabia to the south, Jordan to the southwest, and Syria to the west. It has a narrow section of coastline measuring 58 km on the northern Persian Gulf[4] and its territory encompasses the Mesopotamian Alluvial Plain, the northwestern end of the Zagros mountain range, and the eastern part of the Syrian Desert. Two major rivers, the Tigris and Euphrates, run north-to-south through the centre of Iraq and flow into the Shatt al Arab near the Persian Gulf. The region between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers is often referred to as Mesopotamia, which comes from the Greek, meaning ‘between the rivers’[5].

Iraq's current boundaries were mostly demarcated in 1920 by the League of Nations when the Ottoman Empire was divided by the Treaty of Sèvres. Iraq was placed under the authority of the United Kingdom as the British Mandate of Mesopotamia. A monarchy was established in 1921 and the Kingdom of Iraq gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1932. In 1958, the monarchy was overthrown and the Republic of Iraq was created.

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[1] ISO 639-2 codes are given for languages mentioned in this Factfile.
[2] https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/320079/Arabic_Romanization.pdf
[3] https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/320115/Kurdish_Romanization_30Apr2012.pdf
[4] Although sometimes referred to as the Arabian Gulf, the long-standing English conventional name for this body of water is the Persian Gulf and this latter is the name recommended for use on UK government products. The Gulf may be used when it is clear from the context which feature is meant.
[5] The Arabic term for this is Bilād ar Rāfidayn (بلاد الرافدين), which means ‘land of the two river branches or tributaries’. This term is sometimes used to refer to Iraq.

Geographical names policy

Iraq has two official languages: Arabic and Kurdish. Arabic is relevant to toponyms throughout Iraq. Kurdish toponyms exist in the northern parts of Iraq inhabited by Kurds. Kurdish toponyms have official status in the area administered by the semi-autonomous Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG). PCGN policy is that features in the provinces of As Sulaymānīyah/Slêmanî, Dahūk/Dihok and Arbīl/Hewlêr should have dual Arabic/Kurdish names. Places elsewhere in Iraq have Arabic names only.

Names should be taken from official, authoritative sources and romanized according to the BGN/PCGN Romanization Systems for Arabic and Kurdish. Official Iraqi government sources can be used for the Arabic names. Availability of sources for Kurdish names is limited and the spellings of Kurdish names are often inconsistent and differ between sources. Products produced by the KRG and KRG official websites are a source for Kurdish names.

For further details of PCGN policy on Kurdish names in Iraq see *Iraq: New PCGN Geographical Names Policy (February 2013)* and *Iraq: PCGN Geographical Names Policy for Kurdish (Edition 2, October 2020)*

Languages

Arabic is a Semitic language. It is written from right to left in Perso-Arabic script. Modern Standard Arabic is used for official written purposes. The principal dialect spoken is Mesopotamian Arabic. The Iraqi dialect contains some sounds not present in Standard Arabic. These are sometimes represented in script using the perceived closest letter of the Standard Arabic alphabet. However, modified Perso-Arabic script characters are often used. As per usual PCGN policy, names should be taken from official Arabic-script Iraqi sources and romanized using the BGN/PCGN Romanization System for Arabic. If these modified characters are included they should be romanized according to the provisions made in Table 3 of the BGN/PCGN Romanization System for Arabic. In cases where, the official name is written in standard Arabic characters but an alternative using modified characters may be encountered, this alternative may be included in brackets for reference, e.g. Salmān Bāk (Salmān Pāk).

The three sounds/characters and their standard equivalents are as follows:

- پ (romanized as 'p'), e.g. سلمان پاك (Salmān Pāk) – sometimes written using the standard Arabic character ب (b), e.g. سلمان باك (Salmān Bāk)

- چ (romanized as 'ch'), e.g. الشبچة (Ash Shabachah) - sometimes written using the standard Arabic character ج (j), الشبجة (Ash Shabajah)

- گ (romanized as 'g'), e.g. گاطع العلي Gāţiʻ al ʻAlī - sometimes written using the standard Arabic character ك (k), e.g. كاطع العلي (Kāţiʻ al ʻAlī)

Kurdish is a member of the Indo-Iranian language family. There are two types of Kurdish spoken in Iraq: Sorani (or Central Kurdish) and Kurmanji (or Northern Kurdish). Sorani is the version used by the Iraqi central government and the Kurdistan Regional Government. It is usually written in a modified Perso-Arabic script. Kurmanji is the variety of Kurdish spoken in Turkey (and Syria). In Turkey it is written in Roman script, using the Hawar alphabet. In Iraq, Kurmanji is only used in Dahūk/Dihok province, where it can be found written in Perso-Arabic or Roman script. Kurdish has only been official in Iraq since 2004. Due to the history of repression of this language it lacks standardisation. A variety of spellings of a single toponym may be encountered.

Other languages spoken in Iraq include the Iraqi Turkmen/Turkoman dialect of Turkish and Assyrian Neo-Aramaic (aii). These are regionally recognised languages. Article 4 of the 2005 Iraqi Constitution recognizes "Turkomen" and "Syriac" as being official minority languages in the "administrative units

in which they constitute density of population"[6] and bilingual signs showing toponyms in Turkish/Arabic or Assyrian/Arabic may be found. Furthermore, these languages may influence the official Arabic toponyms found in Iraq.

The **Iraqi Turkmen/Turkoman dialect** of Turkish has been written in the Turkish alphabet since 1997, when the Iraqi Turkmen Congress adopted a Declaration of Principles, which states that "the official language of the Turkmen is Istanbul Turkish and its alphabet is the new Latin alphabet"[7]. By 2005 the Turkish language had replaced traditional Turkmeni, which had used Arabic script, in Iraqi schools.

Assyrian Neo-Aramaic, also known as Assyrian or Syriac, is a Semitic language. The modern Syriac script is used today by Assyrian writers of the neo-Aramaic language. The script is closely aligned to that of both Hebrew and Arabic, and, as these, is written from right to left. The BGN/PCGN Romanization System for Modern Syriac[8] may be applied to toponyms written in this script, which may be encountered in parts of northern Iraq, as well as Syria, northern Iran and eastern Turkey.

Inventory of characters (and their Unicode[9] encodings)[10]:

The BGN/PCGN Romanization System for Arabic[11] contains the following letter-diacritic combinations in addition to the unmodified letters of the basic Roman script:

Romanization	Unicode encoding	Romanization	Unicode encoding
'	2018/02BB	'	2019/02BC
Á	00C1	á	00E1
Ā	0100	ā	0101
Ḍ	1E10	ḍ	1E11
Ḥ	1E28	ḥ	1E29
Ī	012A	ī	012B
Ş	015E	ş	015F
Ţ	0162	ţ	0163
Ū	016A	ū	016B
Z̧	005A+0327*	z̧	007A+0327*

* There is no single Unicode encoding for these letter-diacritic combinations.

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[6] https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Iraq_2005.pdf?lang=en

[7] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraqi_Turkmen#Official_status

[8] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693736/ROMANIZATION_OF_MODERN_SYRIAC.pdf

[9] See www.unicode.org

[10] Characters can be manually input into Microsoft Word documents by typing in these character codes and then holding down the ALT key and pressing /x/. The code will change to the required character. The letter can be copied and pasted into other programmes if required. Alternatively, the 'Insert – Symbol' command can be used; the code can be entered into the 'Character code' box which will show the corresponding letter.
A GeoNames Soft-Copy Keyboard can be downloaded from the NGA website and used to enter the required letter-diacritic combinations for a particular region: http://geonames.nga.mil/gns/html/gns_services.html.

[11] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/858000/ROMANIZATION_OF_ARABIC.pdf

The BGN/PCGN Romanization system for Kurdish[12] contains the following letter-diacritic combinations in addition to the unmodified letters of the basic Roman script:

Romanization	Unicode encoding	Romanization	Unicode encoding
'	2018/02BB	'	2019/02BC
Ç	00C7	ç	00E7
Ḍ	1E0C	ḍ	1E0D
Ê	00CA	ê	00EA
Ḧ	0048+0308*	ḧ	0068+0308*
Î	00CE	î	00EE
Ł	0141	ł	0142
Ö	00D6	ö	00F6
Ṟ	1E5E	ṟ	1E5F
Ş	015E	ş	015F
Ṣ	1E62	ṣ	1E63
Ṭ	1E6C	ṭ	1E6D
Û	00DB	û	00FB
Ü	00DC	ü	00FC
Ẍ	1E8C	ẍ	1E8D

* There is no single Unicode encoding for these letter-diacritic combinations.

The BGN/PCGN Romanization System for Modern Syriac[13] contains the following letter-diacritic combinations in addition to the unmodified letters of the basic Roman script:

Romanization	Unicode encoding	Romanization	Unicode encoding
'	2019/02BB	'	2018/02BC
Ā	0100	ā	0101
Ē	0112	ē	0113
Ī	012A	ī	012B
Ḥ	0048+0323*	ḥ	0068+0323*
Ṣ	0053+0323*	ṣ	0073+0323*
Ṭ	0054+0323*	ṭ	0074+0323*
Ū	016A	ū	016B

* There is no single Unicode encoding for these letter-diacritic combinations.

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[12]https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693727/ROMANIZATION_OF_KURDISH.pdf
[13]https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693736/ROMANIZATION_OF_MODERN_SYRIAC.pdf

Administrative structure

Iraq is divided into 18 governorates (Arabic: *Muḥāfaẓah*/*Muḥāfaẓat*; Kurdish: *Parêzga*) at first-order adminstrative level (ADM1). The governorates are often called provinces in English. Each governorate is sub-divided into *Qaḍā'* (ara)/*Qeza* (kur) at second-order administrative level (ADM2) and *Naḥiyah* (ara)/*Naḧîye* (kur) at third-order level (ADM3).

The Iraqi Kurdistan Region is an autonomous region in the north of Iraq administered by the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG). The Iraqi Kurdistan Region approximately covers the area of the three provinces of As Sulaymānīyah/Slêmanî, Arbīl/Hewlêr and Dahūk/Dihok. BGN/PCGN policy is that the names of these three provinces and any features within them should be shown as dual-language names in the form Romanized Arabic/Romanized Kurdish. Although Kurdish is spoken outside these three provinces and the KRG claims some other areas of Iraq, PCGN does not recognise Kurdish names as being official elsewhere in Iraq.

There have been several news reports on the creation of new provinces in Iraq. However, the existence of these new provinces in reality has not been confirmed. It appears that the exact legal procedure for the creation of new governorates is unclear. For example, the KRG decreed the split of Ḩalabjah/Hełebce province from As Sulaymānīyah/Slêmanî on 16 March 2014 and, on 22 January 2014, the Iraqi cabinet approved the splitting of Al Fallūjah, Sahl Nīnawá (Nineveh Plains), and Ţūz Khūrmātū (Tuz Khormato) provinces from Al Anbār, Nīnawá, and Şalāḩ ad Dīn, respectively. However, there is no evidence of the implementation of these new provinces in practice.

Details of the 18 provinces (ADM1s) of Iraq are listed below. Current information on the second-order (ADM2) structure of the governorates is unavailable at the time of publishing for the majority of governorates. Where current data is available this is provided in the Appendix of this Factfile. For all other provinces please refer to the NGA GEONet Names Server (GNS)[14] for the most recent information on the ADM2 structure.

1. Al Anbār (33°00' 00" N, 041°45' 00" E)

Name in Arabic Script	الأنبار
Long form name	Muḥāfaẓat al Anbār
Long form name in Arabic Script	محافظة الأنبار
ISO 3166-2 code	IQ-AN
Variant Name(s)	Anbar; لواء الدليم ; Ad Dulaym
Centre	Ar Ramādī (33° 25' 14" N, 043° 18' 28" E)
Centre in Arabic Script	الرمادي
Variant Name(s) of Centre	Al-Rumadi; Ramadi; Ramadie
Website	https://anbar.iq/
Subdivisions	ADM2 structure unconfirmed at time of publishing.

2. Al Baṣrah (30° 20' 00" N, 047° 15' 00" E)

Name in Arabic Script	البصرة
Long form name	Muḥāfaẓat al Baṣrah
Long form name in Arabic Script	محافظة البصرة
ISO 3166-2 code	IQ-BA
Centre	Al Baṣrah (30° 31' 59" N, 047° 47' 51" E)
Centre in Arabic Script	البصرة
Variant Names	Basra; Bassora
Website	https://basra.gov.iq/ar/
Subdivisions	ADM2 structure unconfirmed at time of publishing.

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[14] https://geonames.nga.mil/gns/html/

3. Al Muthanná (30° 30' 00" N, 045° 00' 00" E)

Name in Arabic Script	المثنى
Long form name	Muḥāfaẓat al Muthanná
Long form name in Arabic Script	محافظة المثنى
ISO 3166-2 code	IQ-MU
Variant Name(s)	Muthanna; Liwā' as Samāwah
Centre	As Samāwah (31° 18' 21" N, 045° 16' 48" E)
Centre in Arabic Script	السماوه
Variant Name(s) of Centre	Samawa; Samawah; al-Samawah
Website	https://muthana.gov.iq/
Subdivisions	Consists of 4 ADM2s (See Appendix)

4. Al Qādisīyah[15] (31° 35' 00" N, 045° 00' 00" E)

Name in Arabic Script	القادسية
Long form name	Muḥāfaẓat al Qādisīyah
Long form name in Arabic Script	محافظة القادسية
ISO 3166-2 code	IQ-QA
Variant Name(s)	Al-Qadisiyyah; Qadissiya; Ad Dīwānīyah; Diwaniya; Al-Diwaniyyah; الدوانية
Centre	Ad Dīwānīyah (31° 59' 34" N, 044° 55' 32" E)
Centre in Arabic Script	الديوانية
Variant Name(s) of Centre	Diwaniya; Al-Diwaniyyah, Diwanie, Diwaniyeh
Website	http://diwaniya.gov.iq/
Subdivisions	ADM2 structure unconfirmed at time of publishing.

5. An Najaf (31° 15' 00" N, 043° 50' 00" E)

Name in Arabic Script	النجف
Long form name	Muḥāfaẓat an Najaf
Long form name in Arabic Script	محافظة النجف
ISO 3166-2 code	IQ-NA
Variant Name(s)	Najaf; Al Najaf; An Najaf al Ashraf; Al-Najaf Al-Ashraf; النجف الأشرف ; Nedjef
Centre	An Najaf[16] (32° 01' 33" N, 044° 20' 46" E)
Centre in Arabic Script	النجف
Website	https://najaf.iq/
Subdivisions	ADM2 structure unconfirmed at time of publishing.

6. Arbīl/Hewlêr (36° 20' 00" N, 044° 12' 00" E)

Names in Perso-Arabic Script	أربيل [kur]; هەولێر [ara]
Long form name in Arabic	Muḥāfaẓat Arbīl (محافظة أربيل)
Long form name in Kurdish	Parêzga-î Hewlêr (پارێزگای هەولێر)
ISO 3166-2 code	IQ-AR
Variant Name(s)	Erbil, Irbil, Hawler, Arbeel
Centre	Arbīl/Hewlêr (36° 11' 00" N, 044° 00' 43" E)
Centre in Perso-Arabic Script	أربيل [kur]; هەولێر [ara]
Website	https://www.hawlergov.org/app/ar
Subdivisions	Consists of 10 ADM2s (See Appendix)

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[15] Despite reports that the governorate name Al Qādisīyah was changed to Ad Dīwānīyah, the PCGN recommended name remains Al Qādisīyah due to a lack of evidence of the implementation of this change.
[16] An Najaf is considered sacred by Shi'a Muslims. It is the site of the burial place of Muhammad's son in law and cousin, ʻAlī Ibn Abī Tālib and is a centre of pilgrimage for Shi'a Muslims.

7. As Sulaymānīyah/Slêmanî (35° 35' 00" N, 045° 20' 00")

Names in Perso-Arabic Script	السليمانية [ara]; سلێمانى [kur]
Long form name in Arabic	Muḩāfaẓat as Sulaymānīyah (محافظة السليمانية)
Long form name in Kurdish	Parêzga-î Slêmanî (پارێزگای سلێمانی)
ISO 3166-2 code	IQ-SU
Variant Name(s)	Sulaimani, Sulaimany, Al Sulaymaniyyah, Suleimania, Suleimanieh, Sulaymaniah
Centre	As Sulaymānīyah/Slêmanî (35° 33' 54" N, 045° 25' 58" E)
Centre in Perso-Arabic Script	السليمانية [ara]; سلێمانى [kur]
Website	http://www.slemanipc.org/
Subdivisions	Consists of 15 ADM2s (See Appendix)

8. Bābil (32° 40' 00" N, 044° 35' 00" E)

Name in Arabic Script	بابل
Long form name	Muḩāfaẓat Bābil
Long form name in Arabic Script	محافظة بابل
ISO 3166-2 code	IQ-BB
Variant Name(s)	Babel; Babylon
Centre	Al Ḩillah (32° 27' 49" N, 044° 25' 11" E)
Centre in Arabic Script	الحلة
Variant Name(s) of Centre	Hillah, Hilla, Al-Hella, Hilah, Hillé
Website	http://www.babelprovince.org/
Subdivisions	ADM2 structure unconfirmed at time of publishing.

9. Baghdād (33° 08' 00" N, 044° 15' 00" E)

Name in Arabic Script	بغداد
Long form name	Muḩāfaẓat Baghdād
Long form name in Arabic Script	محافظة بغداد
ISO 3166-2 code	IQ-BG
Variant Name(s)	Bagdad, Beghdad [kur]
Centre	Baghdād (33° 20' 26" N, 044° 24' 03" E)
Centre in Arabic Script	بغداد
Website	https://baghdad.gov.iq/
Subdivisions	ADM2 structure unconfirmed at time of publishing.

10. Dahūk/Dihok (37° 04' 00" N, 043° 08' 00" E)

Names in Perso-Arabic Script	دهوك [ara]; دهۆك [kur]
Long form name in Arabic	Muḩāfaẓat Dahūk (محافظة دهوك)
Long form name in Kurdish	Parêzga-î Dihok (پارێزگای دهۆك)
ISO 3166-2 code	IQ-DA
Variant Name(s)	Duhok, Dohuk, Dhok, Dehok
Centre	Dahūk/Dihok (36° 52' 02" N, 042° 59' 18" E)
Centre in Perso-Arabic Script	دهوك [ara]; دهۆك [kur]
Website	http://duhokprovince.com/
Subdivisions	Governorate claims 7 ADM2s. PCGN recognises 4 of these as being part of Dahūk/Dihok (See Appendix for details)

11. Dhī Qār (31° 15' 00" N, 046° 15' 00" E)

Name in Arabic Script	ذي قار
Long form name	Muḩāfaẓat Dhī Qār
Long form name in Arabic Script	محافظة ذي قار
ISO 3166-2 code	IQ-DQ
Variant Name(s)	Thi Qar, Dhiqar, Dhigar
Centre	An Nāşirīyah (31° 03' 29" N, 046° 15' 26" E)
Centre in Arabic Script	الناصرية
Variant Name(s) of Centre	Al-Nasiriyah, Nasiriyeh, Nasrie, Nasriyeh, An Nasiriyyah
Website	N/A
Subdivisions	ADM2 structure unconfirmed at time of publishing.

12. Diyālá (34° 00' 00" N, 045° 00' 00" E)

Name in Arabic Script	ديالى
Long form name	Muḩāfaẓat Diyālá
Long form name in Arabic Script	محافظة ديالى
ISO 3166-2 code	IQ-DI
Variant Name(s)	Diala
Centre	Baʻqūbah (33° 44' 48" N, 044° 38' 37" E)
Centre in Arabic Script	بعقوبة
Variant Name(s) of Centre	Baquba; Baqoubah; Baqubah, Bakuba, Bequbah
Website	http://www.diyala.iq/
Subdivisions	ADM2 structure unconfirmed at time of publishing.

13. Karbalā' (32° 30' 00" N, 043° 50' 00" E)

Name in Arabic Script	كربلاء
Long form name	Muḩāfaẓat Karbalā'
Long form name in Arabic Script	محافظة كربلاء
ISO 3166-2 code	IQ-KA
Variant Name(s)	Kerbala, Karbalaa, Kerbela
Centre	Karbalā' (32° 35' 52" N, 044° 00' 59" E)
Centre in Arabic Script	كربلاء
Website	https://karbala.gov.iq/
Subdivisions	ADM2 structure unconfirmed at time of publishing.

14. Kirkūk (35° 22' 00" N, 044° 08' 00" E)

Name in Arabic Script	كركوك
Long form name	Muḩāfaẓat Kirkūk
Long form name in Arabic Script	محافظة كركوك
ISO 3166-2 code	IQ-KI
Variant Name(s)	Karkūk, Karkuk; Kerkuk, Kerkouk, Ta'mim, At Ta'mīm, Tameem
Centre	Kirkūk (32° 35' 52" N, 044° 00' 59" E)
Centre in Arabic Script	كركوك
Website	https://www.kirkuk.gov.iq/
Subdivisions	Consists of 4 ADM2s (See Appendix)

15. Maysān (31° 54' 00" N, 047° 04' 00" E)

Name in Arabic Script	ميسان
Long form name	Muḩāfaẕat Maysān
Long form name in Arabic Script	محافظة ميسان
ISO 3166-2 code	IQ-MA
Variant Name(s)	Missan, Maisan
Centre	Al ‘Amārah (31° 50' 08" N, 047° 08' 41" E)
Centre in Arabic Script	العمارة
Variant Name(s) of Centre	Amarah, Amara, Amaré
Website	http://www.missanpc.gov.iq/
Subdivisions	ADM2 structure unconfirmed at time of publishing.

16. Nīnawá (36° 05' 00" N, 042° 30' 00" E)

Name in Arabic Script	نينوى
Long form name	Muḩāfaẕat Nīnawá
Long form name in Arabic Script	محافظة نينوى
ISO 3166-2 code	IQ-NI
Variant Name(s)	Nineva; Ninewa; Nineveh
Centre	Al Mawṣil (Mosul[17]) (36° 20' 06" N, 043° 07' 08" E)
Centre in Arabic Script	الموصل
Variant Name(s) of Centre	Al Mūṣil, Mousl, Mossoul, Moussoul, موصل
Website	https://ninava.gov.iq/
Subdivisions	ADM2 structure unconfirmed at time of publishing.

17. Ṣalāḩ ad Dīn (34° 30' 00" N, 043° 39' 00" E)

Name in Arabic Script	صلاح الدين
Long form name	Muḩāfaẕat Ṣalāḩ ad Dīn
Long form name in Arabic Script	محافظة صلاح الدين
ISO 3166-2 code	IQ-SD
Variant Name(s)	Saladin, Salahuddin
Centre	Tikrīt (34° 36' 57" N, 043° 40' 43" E)
Centre in Arabic Script	تكريت
Variant Name(s) of Centre	Tekrit, Tikret
Website	http://www.sdgover.org/sd/
Subdivisions	Consists of 9 ADM2s (See Appendix)

18. Wāsiṭ (32° 40' 00" N, 045° 44' 00" E)

Name in Arabic Script	واسط
Long form name	Muḩāfaẕat Wāsiṭ
Long form name in Arabic Script	محافظة واسط
ISO 3166-2 code	IQ-WA
Variant Name(s)	Al Kūt, Kūt al Imārah
Centre	Al Kūt (32° 30' 46" N, 045° 49' 05" E)
Centre in Arabic Script	الكوت
Variant Name(s) of Centre	Kūt-al-Imārah, Kūt-al-Imāra, Kūt, Kūt al ‘Amārah, Kut-al-Almārah
Website	https://wasitprovince.gov.iq/
Subdivisions	ADM2 structure unconfirmed at time of publishing.

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[17] Mosul is the conventional English name for the city.

Other Significant Locations[18]

PCGN Approved Name*	Name(s) in Perso-Arabic Script[19]	Conventional Name*	Other Names/Spellings	Location	Feature Type
Shatt al Arab [PCGN recommends use of the conventional name for this disputed transnational feature]	شط العرب [ara] اروند رود [fas]	Shatt al Arab	Arvand Rūd [IR] Shaṭṭ al ʻArab [IQ] Variant spellings: Shatt el Arab; Shatt ol Arab; Shatt ul Arab; Basra River	29° 56' 59" N, 048° 34' 23" E	River/Estuary
Persian Gulf [PCGN recommends use of the conventional name for this transnational feature. See footnote 4.]	خليج فارس [fas] الخليج العربي [ara]	Persian Gulf	Khalīj-e Fārs, al-Khalīj al ʻArabī, Arabian Gulf, The Gulf, Arab Gulf	27° 00' 00" N, 051° 00' 00" E	Sea
Nahr al Furāt (Euphrates) [IQ,SY] Fırat Nehri (Euphrates) [TU]	نهر الفرات	Euphrates	Short form: Al Furāt Variant spellings: El Furāt; Firat; Eufrate; Euphrate	31° 00' 18" N, 047° 26' 24" E	River
Nahr Dijlah (Tigris) [IQ,SY] Dicle Nehri (Tigris) [TU]	نهر دجلة	Tigris	Short form: Dijlah Variant spelling: Tigre; Tigra; Idigna; Deqlat	31° 00' 00" N, 047° 25' 00" E	River
Sadd Ḥadīthah	سد حديثة	Haditha Dam	سد القادسية (Sadd al Qādisīyah)	34° 12' 27" N, 042° 21' 12" E	Dam
Zagros Mountains Kurdish: Çiyakan-î Zagros [IQ] Arabic: Silsilat Zāghrūs [IQ] Farsi: Kūhhā-ye Zāgros [IR]	چیاکانی زاگرۆس [kur] سلسلة زاغروس [ara] کوههای زاگرس [fas]	Zagros Mountains	Variant spelling: Çiyayên Zagros [kur]	34° 00' 50" N, 048° 24' 08" E	Mountain range

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[18] ISO 3166 alpha-2 country codes are used to indicate the different names applied to transnational features within different countries.
[19] Arabic unless otherwise indicated.

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PCGN Approved Name	Name(s) in Perso-Arabic Script [20]	Conventional Name*	Other Names/Spellings	Location	Feature Type
Bādiyat ash Shām (Syrian Desert)	بادية الشام	Syrian Desert	Badiet-es Cham; Badia; Syrian Steppe, Jordanian Steppe; Shamiyah; Western Desert	32° 00' 00" N, 040° 00' 00" E	Desert
Sahl Nīnawá (Nineveh Plains)	سهل نينوى	Nineveh Plains	ܕܫܬܐ ܕܢܝܢܘܐ (Dashtā d-Ninwā) [aii]; دهشتا نەینەوا, (Deshta Neynewa) [kur]	36° 37′ 00″ N, 43° 07′ 00″ E	Region
Buḩayrat ar Razāzah	بحيرة الرزازة		Al-Razazah Lake; Al Razzazah Lake Razzaza Lake;	32° 46' 06" N, 043° 36' 23" E	Lake
Buḩayrat Ḩadīthah	بحيرة حديثة		Buḩayrat Sadd al Qādisīyah; Al-Qadisiya Dam Lake; بحيرة سد القادسية	34° 18' 25" N, 042° 16' 47" E	Lake
Buḩayrat ath Tharthār	بحيرة الثرثار		Ath-Tharthar Lake; El Therthar Lake; Buhairat ath Tharthar; Umm ar Raḩḩāl	33° 58' 07" N, 043° 16' 57" E	Lake
Buḩayrat al Ḩabbānīyah	بحيرة الحبانية		Al Habbānīya; Habaniya Lake; Habbaniyah; Hawr al Ḩabbānīyah	33° 16' 46" N, 043° 30' 53" E	Lake
Al Fallūjah	الفلوجة		Faluja; Falluja; Fallujah; Al Fallūja; Feluja; Falooja	33° 20' 57" N, 043° 47' 10" E	Populated place
Ḩalabjah/Hełebce	حلبجة [ara] هەڵەبجه [kur]		Halabja; Halabchah	35° 10' 51" N, 045° 59' 23" E	Populated place
Sāmarrā'	سامراء		Samarra; Samarrah	34° 11' 45" N, 043° 53' 08" E	Populated place
Aṯlāl Bābil (Babylon)	اطلال بابل	Babylon	Babel	32° 32' 27" N, 044° 25' 27" E	Ancient ruins
Āthār Nimrūd	آثار نمرود	Nimrud	Namrūd; النمرود	36° 05' 46" N, 043° 19' 45" E	Ancient site
Az Zāb al Kabīr/Zabî Gewre/ (Great Zab)	الزب الكبير	Great Zab	Zap Suyu [TU]; ܙܒܐ ܥܠܝܐ (zabā 'alyā) [aii]; Zeî Gewre	35° 59' 36" N, 043° 20' 22" E	River

* The conventional name is recommended for international features and features of shared or disputed sovereignty. It can also be included in brackets after the local name of a feature and used in English language texts.

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[20] Arabic unless otherwise indicated.

Useful references

BBC Country Profile: http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-14542954
BGN Iraq Country Policy:
https://geonames.nga.mil/gns/html/Policies/Iraq_Country_Policy_webversion_Mar2013.pdf
BGN/PCGN Romanization System for Arabic:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/858000/ROMANIZATION_OF_ARABIC.pdf
BGN/PCGN Romanization System for Kurdish:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693727/ROMANIZATION_OF_KURDISH.pdf
BGN/PCGN Romanization System for Modern Syriac:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693736/ROMANIZATION_OF_MODERN_SYRIAC.pdf
CIA World Factbook: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/
Ethnologue: www.ethnologue.com [for information on languages]
FCDO Travel Advice: https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/iraq
International Organization for Standardization (ISO), Online Browsing Platform:
https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/
Iraq Central Statistical Organization: http://www.cosit.gov.iq/en/
Iraqi Cabinet: http://www.cabinet.iq/ [ara]; http://www.cabinet.iq/PageViewer.aspx?id=4 [eng]
Iraqi Government Portal: http://www.krg.org/?l=12 [ara]; http://www.egov.gov.iq/egov-iraq/index.jsp?&lng=en [eng]
Iraqi Kurdistan Regional Government: http://www.krg.org/?l=12
Omniglot: www.omniglot.com [for information on languages and scripts]
Statoids: http://www.statoids.com [for information on administrative divisions]
Unicode: www.unicode.org
United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN):
https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/
US Board on Geographic Names GEOnet Names Server: https://geonames.nga.mil/gns/html/
US Library of Congress Country Study: https://www.loc.gov/item/89013940/

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Appendix
Iraq: Second-order administrative divisions (ADM2s)

Each governorate (ADM1) is sub-divided into *Qaḍā'* (ara)/*Qeza* (kur) at second-order administrative level (ADM2). The governorates for which PCGN has current details of the ADM2s are listed below. For all other governorates, the NGA GEONet Names Server (GNS)[21] should be used as a source of the ADM2s as no more current source was available at the time of publishing.

Muḥāfaẕat Arbīl/Parêzga-î Hewlêr
Source: https://www.hawlergov.org/app/pages/198
As this governorate falls within the Iraqi Kurdistan Region, PCGN recommends that dual-language place names be shown in the form Arabic/Kurdish. For example, no. 1 in the list below would be shown as Qaḍā' Makhmūr/Qeza-î Mexmûr (long form); Makhmūr/Mexmûr (short form).

	Romanized-Arabic Name	Arabic script	Romanized-Kurdish Name	Perso-Arabic script	Location (approx. centre point)
1	Qaḍā' Makhmūr	قضاء مخمور	Qeza-î Mexmûr	قەزای مەخموور	35° 48' 27" N, 043° 35' 04" E
2	Qaḍā' Kūyah	قضاء كوية	Qeza-î Koyeh	قەزای کۆیە	36° 02' 48" N, 044° 31' 13" E
3	Qaḍā' Markaz Arbīl	قضاء مركز أربيل	Qeza-î Nawend-î Hewlêr	قەزای ناوه ندی هەولێر	36° 10' 19" N, 043° 59' 34" E
4	Qaḍā' Jawmān	قضاء جومان	Qeza-î Choman	قەزای چۆمان	36° 38' 14" N, 044° 52' 29" E
5	Qaḍā' Sawrān	قضاء سوران	Qeza-î Soran	قەزای سۆران	36° 51' 59" N, 044° 36' 11" E
6	Qaḍā' Shaqlāwah	قضاء شقلاوة	Qeza-î Sheqɫawe	قەزای شەقڵاوه	36° 26' 27" N, 044° 16' 57" E
7	Qaḍā' Khabāt	قضاء خبات	Qeza-î Xebat	قەزای خەبات	36° 21' 51" N, 043° 48' 25" E
8	Qaḍā' Mayrkah Sūr	قضاء ميركة سور	Qeza-î Mêrgasor	قەزای مێرگەسۆ ر	36° 58' 56" N, 044° 12' 17" E
9	Qaḍā' Rīf Arbīl	قضاء ريف اربيل	Qeza-î Deshti Hewlêr	قەزای دەشتی هەولێر	36° 00' 53" N, 044° 06' 55" E
10	Qaḍā' Ruwāndiz	قضاء رواندز	Qeza-î Rewandiz	قەزای ره واندز	36° 33' 06" N, 044° 38' 22" E

Muḥāfaẕat al Muthanná
Source: https://muthana.gov.iq/

	PCGN Recommended Name - Romanized Arabic	Arabic script	Location (approx. centre point)
1	Qaḍā' as Samāwah	قضاء السماوة	31° 14' 11" N, 045° 15' 37" E
2	Qaḍā' ar Rumaythah	قضاء الرميثة	31° 31' 23" N, 045° 19' 10" E
3	Qaḍā' al Khiḍr	قضاء الخضر	31° 12' 39" N, 045° 36' 28" E
4	Qaḍā'as Salmān	قضاء السلمان	30° 03' 28" N, 045° 22' 37" E

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[21] https://geonames.nga.mil/gns/html/

13

Muḥāfaẓat as Sulaymānīyah/Parêzga-î Slêmanî
Source: http://www.slemanipc.org/edara_ar.aspx?jimare=15

The As Sulaymānīyah/Slêmanî website lists 15 ADM2s. Two of these (Numbers 14 and 15 in the table below), while claimed by the KRG, are officially recognised as part of Diyalá governorate and should be shown as such on UK products. Toponyms in these areas should be shown in romanized Arabic only. The Kurdish names of these two ADM2s are provided for reference only.

For the names of and within the other 13 ADM2s, which are recognised as part of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region, PCGN recommends that dual-language place names be shown in the form Arabic/Kurdish. For example, no. 1 in the list below would be shown as Qaḍā' al Markaz/Qeza-î Nawend (long form); Al Markaz/Nawend (short form).

	Romanized-Arabic Name	Arabic script	Romanized-Kurdish Name	Kurdish script	Location (approx. centre point)
1	Qaḍā' al Markaz	قضاء المركز	Qeza-î Nawend	قەزای ناوەند	35° 32' 09" N, 045° 21' 21" E
2	Qaḍā' Qaradāgh	قضاء قرداغ	Qeza-î Qeredagh	قەزای قەرەداغ	35° 18' 02" N, 045° 24' 17" E
3	Qaḍā' Shārazūr	قضاء شارزور	Qeza-î Sharezur	قەزای شارەزور	35° 16' 45" N, 045° 42' 16" E
4	Qaḍā' Sayyid Şādiq	قضاء سيدصادق	Qeza-î Seyid Sadiq	قەزای سەیدسادق	35° 26' 57" N, 045° 46' 27" E
5	Qaḍā' Baynjiwayn	قضاء بينجوين	Qeza-î Pênciwên	قەزای پێنجوێن	35° 41' 32" N, 045° 59' 00" E
6	Qaḍā' Shārbāzayr	قضاء شاربازير	Qeza-î Sharbajêr	قەزای شارباژێر	35° 45' 29" N, 045° 34' 11" E
7	Qaḍā' Māwat	قضاء ماوت	Qeza-î Mawet	قەزای ماوەت	35° 54' 35" N, 045° 24' 03" E
8	Qaḍā' Bishdar	قضاء بشدر	Qeza-î Pishder	قەزای پشدەر	36° 17' 07" N, 045° 06' 06" E
9	Qaḍā' Rābirīn	قضاء رابرين	Qeza-î Raper̂în	قەزای راپەرین	36° 16' 42" N, 044° 44' 56" E
10	Qaḍā' Dūkān	قضاء دوكان	Qeza-î Dukan	قەزای دوكان	35° 56' 22" N, 045° 03' 33" E
11	Qaḍā' Darbandīkhān	قضاء دربنديخان	Qeza-î Derbendîxan	قەزای دەربەندیخان	35° 08' 38" N, 045° 42' 11" E
12	Qaḍā' Jamjamāl	قضاء جمجمال	Qeza-î Chemchemał	قەزای چەمچەماڵ	35° 19' 34" N, 044° 58' 13" E
13	Qaḍā' Kalār	قضاء كلار	Qeza-î Kelar	قەزای كەلار	34° 51' 59" N, 045° 20' 32" E
14	Qaḍā' Kifrī	قضاء كفري	Qeza-î Kifrî	قەزای كفری	34° 31' 17" N, 044° 51' 37" E
15	Qaḍā' Khānaqīn	قضاء خانقين	Qeza-î Xaneqîn	قەزای خانەقین	34° 21' 52" N, 045° 17' 50" E

Muḥāfaẓat Dahūk/Parêzga-î Dihok
Source: http://duhokprovince.com/

The Dahūk/Dihok website lists seven ADM2s. Only four of these fall within the officially recognised area of Dahūk/Dihok governorate. The KRG claims the area covered by the other three (numbers 5, 6 & 7 in the table below) but these areas are officially recognised as part of Nīnawá governorate and should be shown as such on UK products. Toponyms in this area should be shown in Romanized Arabic only. The Kurdish names of these two ADM2s are provided for reference only.

For the names of and within the four ADM2s which are recognised as part of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region, PCGN recommends that dual-language place names be shown in the form Arabic/Kurdish. For example, no. 1 in the list below would be shown as Qaḍā' Dahūk/ Qeza-î Dihok (long form); Dahūk /Dihok (short form).

	Arabic Name		Kurdish Name		Location (approx. centre point)
	Romanized	**Arabic script**	**Romanized**	**Perso-Arabic script**	
1	Qaḍā' Dahūk	قضاء دهوك	Qeza-î Dihok	قەزای دهۆك	36° 57' 29" N, 043° 03' 52" E
2	Qaḍā' al 'Amādīyah	قضاء عمادية	Qeza-î Amêdi	قەزای ئامێدی	37° 06' 45" N, 043° 32' 26" E
3	Qaḍā' Zākhū	قضاء زاخو	Qeza-î Zaxo	قەزای زاخۆ	37° 11' 50" N, 042° 50' 07" E
4	Qaḍā' Saymayl	قضاء سيميل	Qeza-î Sêmêl	قەزای سێمێل	36° 53' 58" N, 042° 43' 17" E
5	Qaḍā' 'Aqrah	قضاء عقرة	Qeza-î Akrê	قەزای ئاكرێ	36° 41' 33" N, 043° 50' 26" E
6	Qaḍā' Bardarash	قضاء بردرش	Qeza-î Berde Ṛesh	قەزای بەرده ڕش	35° 25' 28" N, 045° 48' 30" E
7	Qaḍā' Shaykhān	قضاء شيخان	Qeza-î Shêxan	قەزای شێخان	36° 41' 45" N, 043° 21' 07" E

Muḥāfaẓat Kirkūk
Source: www.kirkuk.gov.iq/about-kirkuk

	PCGN Recommended Name - Romanized Arabic	**Arabic script**	**Location (approx. centre point)**
1	Qaḍā' Kirkūk	قضاء كركوك	35° 30' 17" N, 044° 16' 04" E
2	Qaḍā' al Ḥawījah	قضاء الحويجة	35° 15' 43" N, 043° 42' 21" E
3	Qaḍā' Dāqūq	قضاء داقوق	35° 09' 13" N, 044° 24' 46" E
4	Qaḍā' Dibis	قضاء دبس	35° 40' 51" N, 043° 54' 14" E

Muḩāfaz̧at Şalāḩ ad Dīn
Source: www.sdgover.org/sd/

	PCGN Recommended Name - Romanized Arabic	Arabic script	Location (approx. centre point)
1	Qaḑā' Tikrīt	قضاء تكريت	34° 39' 58" N, 043° 37' 09" E
2	Qaḑā' Sāmarrā'	قضاء سامراء	34° 08' 42" N, 043° 29' 09" E
3	Qaḑā' ad Dawr	قضاء الدور	34° 24' 42" N, 044° 08' 21" E
4	Qaḑā' ash Sharqāţ	قضاء الشرقاط	35° 27' 05" N, 043° 08' 35" E
5	Qaḑā' Balad	قضاء بلد	33° 51' 28" N, 043° 58' 41" E
6	Qaḑā' Bayjī	قضاء بيجي	34° 50' 24" N, 043° 01' 01" E
7	Qaḑā' aţ Ţūz	قضاء الطوز	34° 47' 02" N, 044° 34' 17" E
8	Qaḑā' Āmirlī	قضاء آمرلي	34° 43' 37" N, 044° 35' 16" E
9	Qaḑā' ad Dujayl	قضاء الدجيل	33° 50' 48" N, 044° 14' 04" E