

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]; عراق (Êraq) [kur]
State title in official language(s)	جمهورية العراق (Jumhūriyat al 'Irāq) [ara]; كۆماری عێراق (Komar-î 'Eraq) [kur]
Script	Perso-Arabic (<i>ara</i> & <i>kur</i>)
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 Gulf⁴ 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

¹ ISO 639-2 codes are given for languages mentioned in this Factfile.

²https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/320079/Arabic_Romanization.pdf

³https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/636cd877e90e07618b9f499c/ROMANIZATION_OF_KURDISH_2022.pdf

⁴ Persian Gulf is the long-standing English conventional name for this body of water and is the name recommended for use on UK government products. The Gulf may be used *tout court* when it is clear from the context which feature is meant. The name Arabian Gulf may also be encountered, but this should not be used on UK government products.

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 also sometimes used to refer to Iraq.

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.

Geographical names policy

Iraq has two nationally official languages: Arabic and Kurdish. Arabic is relevant to toponyms throughout Iraq and Arabic place names are official throughout the country. 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, Halabjah/Helebce, Dahûk/Dihok and Arbîl/Hewlêr should have dual Arabic/Kurdish names. The Iraqi Turkmen/Turkoman dialect of Turkish and Assyrian Neo-Aramaic [ai] are recognised as official minority languages in the "administrative units in which they constitute density of population", and accordingly names included on official sources in these languages may be used alongside the nationally official names.⁶

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 پاک (Salmān Pāk) – sometimes written using the standard Arabic character ب (b), e.g. سلمان باک (Salmān Bāk)
- چ (romanized as 'ch'), e.g. الشبچة (Ash Shabachah) - sometimes written using the standard Arabic character ج (j), e.g. الشبچة (Ash Shabajah)
- گ (romanized as 'g'), e.g. گاطع الطی (Gāti' al 'Alī - sometimes written using the standard Arabic character ك (k), e.g. کاطع الی (Kāti' al 'Alī)

Kurdish is a member of the Indo-Iranian language family. There are two main 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

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

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Turkey it is written in Roman script, using the Hawar alphabet. In Iraq, Kurmanji is only used in Dahük/Dihok province, where it can be found written in Perso-Arabic or Roman script. Kurdish has 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 [ai]. 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"⁷ 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"⁸. 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](#)⁹ can 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 Unicode¹⁰ encodings)¹¹:

The **BGN/PCGN Romanization System for Arabic**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
Á	00C1	á	00E1
Ā	0100	ā	0101
Đ	1E10	đ	1E11
ჲ	1E28	ჵ	1E29
҃	012A	҄	012B
Ş	015E	ş	015F
҆	0162	҇	0163
Ӯ	016A	ӹ	016B
Ҋ	005A+0327*	ҋ	007A+0327*

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

⁷ https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Iraq_2005.pdf?lang=en

⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraqi_Turkmen#Official_status

⁹ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693736/ROMANIZATION_OF_MODERN_SYRIAC.pdf

¹⁰ See www.unicode.org

¹¹ 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.

¹² https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/858000/ROMANIZATION_OF_ARABIC.pdf

The BGN/PCGN Romanization system for Kurdish¹³ 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
Đ	1E0C	đ	1E0D
Ê	00CA	ê	00EA
Ḩ	0048+0308*	ḩ	0068+0308*
Î	00CE	î	00EE
Ł	0141	ł	0142
Ö	00D6	ö	00F6
Ŕ	1E5E	ŕ	1E5F
Ş	015E	ş	015F
Ş	1E62	ş	1E63
҆	1E6C	ҭ	1E6D
Ӯ	00DB	ӻ	00FB
Ӯ	00DC	ӻ	00FC
Ӯ	1E8C	Ӯ	1E8D

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

The BGN/PCGN Romanization System for Modern Syriac¹⁴ 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
Ḩ	0048+0323*	ḩ	0068+0323*
Ş	0053+0323*	ş	0073+0323*
Ҭ	0054+0323*	ҭ	0074+0323*
Ӯ	016A	ӻ	016B

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

¹³https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693727/Romanization_of_Kurdish.pdf

¹⁴https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693736/Romanization_of_Modern_Syriac.pdf

Map of Iraq



Map produced by PCGN for illustrative purposes only, and is not to be taken necessarily as representing the views of the UK government on boundaries or political status.

Administrative structure

Iraq is divided into 19 governorates (Arabic: *Muḥāfaẓah/Muḥāfaẓat*; Kurdish: *Parêzga*) at first-order administrative 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 *Nahiyyah* (ara)/*Nahiye* (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 four provinces of As Sulaymānīyah/Slēmanî, Arbīl/Hewlēr, Dahūk/Dihok and Ḥalabjah/Helebce. BGN/PCGN policy is that the names of these four 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 four provinces and the KRG claims some other areas of Iraq, PCGN does not recognise Kurdish names as being official elsewhere in Iraq.

The KRG decreed the split of Ḥalabjah/Helebce province from As Sulaymānīyah/Slēmanî on 16 March 2014, however, the legal procedure for creating new governorates appears complex and multi-layered. On 29 April 2014, the Iraqi President signed legislation passed by Iraq's Council of Representatives to designate Ḥalabjah/ Helebce as Iraq's 19th governorate (ADM1)¹⁵.

On 22 January 2014, the Iraqi cabinet approved the splitting of Al Fallūjah, Sahl Nīnawá (Nineveh Plains), and Tūz Khūrmātū (Tuz Khormato) provinces from Al Anbār, Nīnawá, and Ṣalāḥ ad Dīn, respectively. However, there is no evidence of the implementation of these new provinces in practice.

Details of the 19 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)¹⁶ for the most recent information on the ADM2 structure.

Maps of the Iraqi Kurdistan provinces and their subdivisions can be found at this link:
<https://krso.gov.krd/ar/map/kurdistan-region>

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

Name in Arabic Script	الأنبار
Long form name	Muḥafazat al Anbār
Long form name in Arabic Script	محافظة الأنبار
ISO 3166-2 code	IQ-AN
Variant Name(s)	Anbar; لواء النطيم ; 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	Subdivided into 8 ADM2s

¹⁵ <https://presidency.iq/Details.aspx?id=12440>

¹⁶ <https://geonames.nga.mil/gns/html/>

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

Name in Arabic Script	البصرة
Long form name	Muḥāfaẓat al Başrah
Long form name in Arabic Script	محافظة البصرة
ISO 3166-2 code	IQ-BA
Centre	Al Başrah (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.

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	السمواه
Variant Name(s) of Centre	Samawa; Samawah; al-Samawah
Website	https://muthana.gov.iq/
Subdivisions	Consists of 4 ADM2s (See Appendix)

4. Al Qādisīyah (Ad Dīwānīyah)¹⁷ (31° 35' 00" N, 045° 00' 00" E)

Name in Arabic Script	القادسية
Long form name	Muḥāfaẓat al Qādisīyah (Ad Dīwānīyah)
Long form name in Arabic Script	محافظة القادسية
ISO 3166-2 code	IQ-QA
Variant Name(s)	Al-Qadisiyyah; Qadissiya; Ad Dīwānīyah; الدوائية; Al-Diwaniyyah;
Centre	Ad Dīwānīyah (31° 59' 34" N, 044° 55' 32" E)
Centre in Arabic Script	الدوائية
Variant Name(s) of Centre	Diwaniya; Al-Diwaniyyah, Diwanie, Diwaniyah
Website	http://diwaniya.gov.iq/ or https://dewaniapc.gov.iq/
Subdivisions	Consists of 4 ADM2s (See Appendix)

¹⁷ There have long been reports that the governorate name Al Qādisīyah has been changed to Ad Dīwānīyah. Initially there was a lack of evidence of the implementation of this change. However, the change appears widely implemented within the governorate and can also be seen on central government sources: <https://mofa.gov.iq/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D8%B9%D8%B1%D9%8A%D9%81-%D8%A8%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%D9%88%D9%84%D8%A9/>. PCGN recommends including the name Ad Dīwānīyah in brackets for reference.

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

Name in Arabic Script	النَّجَفُ
Long form name	Muḥāfaẓat an Najaf
Long form name in Arabic Script	محافظة النَّجَفُ
ISO 3166-2 code	IQ-NA
Variant Name(s)	Najaf; Al Najaf; An Najaf al Ashraf; Al-Najaf Al-
Centre	An Najaf ¹⁸ (32° 01' 33" N, 044° 20' 46" E)
Centre in Arabic Script	النَّجَفُ
Website	https://najaf.iq/
Subdivisions	ADM2 structure unconfirmed at time of publishing.

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

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

7. As Sulaymāniyah/Slēmanî (35° 35' 00" N, 045° 20' 00")

Names in Perso-Arabic Script	[ara] سليماني; [kur] سلیمانی
Long form name in Arabic	Muḥāfaẓat Sulaymāniyah (محافظة السليمانية) سليمانيه
Long form name in Kurdish	Parêzga-î Slēmanî (پارێزگای سلیمانی)
ISO 3166-2 code	IQ-SU
Variant Name(s)	Sulaimani, Sulaimany, Al Sulaymaniyyah, Suleimania, Suleimanieh, Sulaymaniah
Centre	As Sulaymāniyah/Slēmanî (35° 33' 54" N, 045° 25' 58" E)
Centre in Perso-Arabic Script	[ara] سليماني; [kur] سلیمانی
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	Muḥāfaẓat Bābil
Long form name in Arabic Script	محافظة بابل
ISO 3166-2 code	IQ-BB
Variant Name(s)	Babel; Babylon
Centre	Al Hillah (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.

¹⁸ 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, 'Alī Ibn Abī Tālib and is a centre of pilgrimage for Shi'a Muslims.

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

Name in Arabic Script	بغداد
Long form name	Muḥāfaẓat 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	دھوك [ara]; دھوك [kur]
Long form name in Arabic	Muḥāfaẓat Dahūk (محافظة دھوك)
Long form name in Kurdish	Parêzga-î Dihok (پارێزگای دھوك)
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	دھوك [ara]; دھوك [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	ذی قار
Long form name	Muḥāfaẓat Dhī Qār
Long form name in Arabic Script	محافظة ذی قار
ISO 3166-2 code	IQ-DQ
Variant Name(s)	Thi Qar, Dhiqar, Dhigar
Centre	An Nāṣiriyah (31° 03' 29" N, 046° 15' 26" E)
Centre in Arabic Script	الناصرية
Variant Name(s) of Centre	Al-Nasiriyah, Nasiriye, Nasrie, Nasriyah, An Nasriyyah
Website	https://thiqar.gov.iq/
Subdivisions	ADM2 structure unconfirmed at time of publishing.

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

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

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13. Halabjah/Helebce (35°15'00"N, 046°02'00"E)

Names in Perso-Arabic Script	هەلەبجە [kur]; حلبجة [ara]
Long form name in Arabic	Muḥāfaẓat Ḥalabjah (محافظة حلبجة)
Long form name in Kurdish	پاریزگای هەلەبجە (پاریزگای هەلەبجە)
ISO 3166-2 code	N/A
Variant Name(s)	Halabja
Centre	Halabjah/Helebce (35°10'53"N, 045°59'24"E)
Centre in Arabic Script	المحافظة على حلبجة
Variant Name(s) of Centre	Halabja
Website	
Subdivisions	Consists of one/two ADM2 ¹⁹ and four ADM3s

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

Name in Arabic Script	كربالاء
Long form name	Muḥāfaẓat 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	كربالاء
Website	https://karbala.gov.iq/
Subdivisions	ADM2 structure unconfirmed at time of publishing.

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

Name in Arabic Script	كركوك
Long form name	Muḥāfaẓat Kirkūk
Long form name in Arabic Script	محافظة الكركوك
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)

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

Name in Arabic Script	ميسان
Long form name	Muḥāfaẓat 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	https://www.maysan.gov.iq/
Subdivisions	ADM2 structure unconfirmed at time of publishing.

¹⁹ Sources conflict as to whether the new Halabjah/Helebce governorate contains one or two ADM2s.

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

Name in Arabic Script	نينوى
Long form name	Muḥāfazat 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 ²⁰) (36° 20' 06" N, 043° 07' 08" E)
Centre in Arabic Script	الموصل
Variant Name(s) of Centre	Al Müṣil, Mousl, Mossoul, Moussoul,
Website	https://ninawa.gov.iq/
Subdivisions	ADM2 structure unconfirmed at time of publishing.

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

Name in Arabic Script	صلاح الدين
Long form name	Muḥāfazat Ṣalāḥ 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	https://salahaldeen.gov.iq/
Subdivisions	Consists of 9 ADM2s (See Appendix)

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

Name in Arabic Script	واسط
Long form name	Muḥāfazat 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://wasit.gov.iq/
Subdivisions	ADM2 structure unconfirmed at time of publishing.

²⁰ Mosul is the conventional English name for the city.

Other Significant Locations²¹

PCGN Recommended Name*	Name(s) in Perso-Arabic Script (romanized in brackets) ²²	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] (Shaṭṭ al 'Arab) اروند رود [fas] (Arvand Rūd)	Shatt al Arab	Arvand Rūd [IR] Shaṭṭ al 'Arab [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] (Khalīj-e Fārs) الخليج العربي [ara] (al-Khalīj al 'Arabī)	Persian Gulf	Khalīj-e Fārs, al-Khalīj al 'Arabī, 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 (Nahr al Furāt)	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 (Nahr Dijlah)	Tigris	Short form: Dijlah Variant spelling: Tigre; Tigra; Idigna; Deqlat	31° 00' 00" N, 047° 25' 00" E	River
Sadd Ḥadīthah	سد حديثة (Sadd Ḥadīthah)	Haditha Dam	سد القادسيّة (Sadd al Qādisīyah)	34° 12' 27" N, 042° 21' 12" E	Dam

²¹ ISO 3166 alpha-2 country codes are used to indicate the different names applied to transnational features within different countries.

²² Arabic unless otherwise indicated.

TOPONYMIC FACTFILE

PCGN Recommended Name*	Name(s) in Perso-Arabic Script (romanized in brackets) ²²	Conventional Name*	Other Names/Spellings	Location	Feature Type
Zagros Mountains Kurdish: Çiyakanî Zagros [IQ] Arabic: Silsilat Zāghrūs [IQ] Farsi: Kūhhā-ye Zāgros [IR]	چیakanî زاگروس [kur] (Çiyakanî Zagros) سلسلة زاغروس [ara] (Silsilat Zāghrūs) کوههای زاگرس [fas] (Kūhhā-ye Zāgros)	Zagros Mountains	Variant spelling: Çiyayê Zagros [kur]	34° 00' 50" N, 048° 24' 08" E	Mountain range
Bādiyat ash Shām (Syrian Desert)	بادية الشام (Bādiyat ash Shām)	Syrian Desert	Badiet-es Cham; Badia; Syrian Steppe; Jordanian Steppe; Shamiyah; Western Desert	32° 00' 00" N, 040° 00' 00" E	Desert
Sahl Nīnawā (Nineveh Plains)	سهل نينوى (Sahl Nīnawā)	Nineveh Plains	دشت نینوا (Dashtā d-Ninwā) [aii]; دشت نینوا (Deshta Neynewa) [kur]	36° 37' 00" N, 43° 07' 00" E	Region
Buħayrat ar Razāzah	بحيرة الرزازة (Buħayrat ar Razāzah)		Al-Razazah Lake; Al Razzazah Lake; Razzaza Lake;	32° 46' 06" N, 043° 36' 23" E	Lake
Buħayrat ḥadīthah	بحيرة حديثة (Buħayrat ḥadīthah)		Buħayrat Sadd al Qādisīyah; Al-Qādisīya Dam Lake; بحيرة سد القديسية	34° 18' 25" N, 042° 16' 47" E	Lake
Buħayrat ath Tharthār	بحيرة الثثار (Buħayrat ath Tharthār)		Ath-Tharthar Lake; El Therthar Lake; Buhairat ath Tharthar; Umm ar Raħħal	33° 58' 07" N, 043° 16' 57" E	Lake

TOPONYMIC FACTFILE

PCGN Recommended Name*	Name(s) in Perso-Arabic Script (romanized in brackets) ²²	Conventional Name*	Other Names/Spellings	Location	Feature Type
Buħayrat al Ḥabbānīyah	بحيرة الحبانية (Buħayrat al Ḥabbānīyah)		Al Habbānīya; Habaniya Lake; Habbaniyah; Hawr al Ḥabbānīyah	33° 16' 46" N, 043° 30' 53" E	Lake
Al Fallūjah	الفلوجة (Al Fallūjah)		Faluja; Falluja; Fallujah; Al Fallūja; Feluja; Falooja	33° 20' 57" N, 043° 47' 10" E	Populated place
Sāmarrā'	سامراء (Sāmarrā')		Samarra; Samarraah	34° 11' 45" N, 043° 53' 08" E	Populated place
Atṭāl Bābil (Babylon)	اطلال بابل (Atṭāl Bābil)	Babylon	Babel	32° 32' 27" N, 044° 25' 27" E	Ancient ruins
Āthār Nimrūd	آثار نمرود (Āthār Nimrūd)	Nimrud	Namrūd; النمرود	36° 05' 46" N, 043° 19' 45" E	Ancient site
Az Zāb al Kabīr/Zabī Gewre/ (Great Zab)	الزاب الكبير [ara] (Az Zāb al Kabīr) زابي گموره [kur] (Zabī Gewre)	Great Zab	Zap Suyu [TU]; زابي حلة (zabā 'alyā) [aij]; 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.

Useful references

- BBC Country Profile: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-14542954> (no longer updated)
- 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]
- Unicode: www.unicode.org
- United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN):
<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/>
- US Board on Geographic Names GEOFnet 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 Geographic Names Server](#) (GNS) should be used as a source of the ADM2s as no more current source was available at the time of publishing.

Muḥafazat al Qādisīyah/ad Diwānīyah

Source:

<https://dewaniapc.gov.iq/%D8%B9%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A9>

	PCGN Recommended Name - Romanized Arabic	Arabic script	Location (approx. centre point)
1	Qaḍā' ad Diwānīyah	قضاء الديوانية	31° 59' 34" N, 044° 55' 32" E
2	Qaḍā' 'Afak	قضاء عفك	32° 03' 51" N, 045° 14' 51" E
3	Qaḍā' al Ḥamzah	قضاء الحمزة	31° 43' 28" N, 044° 58' 37" E
4	Qaḍā' ash Shāmīyah	قضاء الشامية	31° 57' 45" N, 044° 36' 03" E

Muḥafazat Al Anbār (8)Source: <https://uoanbar.edu.iq/CMS.php?ID=7> (University of Anbar)

	PCGN Recommended Name - Romanized Arabic	Arabic script	Location (approx. centre point)
1	Qaḍā' Abī Ghurayb ²³	قضاء أبي غريب	N/A
2	Qaḍā' al Fallūjah	قضاء الفلوجة	33° 20' 57" N, 043° 47' 10" E
3	Qaḍā' al Qā'im	قضاء القائم	34° 23' 33" N, 040° 59' 22" E
4	Qaḍā' 'Anah	قضاء عنة	34° 22' 07" N, 041° 58' 55" E
5	Qaḍā' ar Ramādī	قضاء الرمادي	33° 25' 14" N, 043° 18' 28" E
6	Qaḍā' ar Rutbah	قضاء الرطبة	33° 02' 14" N, 040° 17' 09" E
7	Qaḍā' Hadīthah	قضاء حديثة	34° 08' 12" N, 042° 49' 40" E
8	Qaḍā' Hīt	قضاء هيـت	33° 38' 12" N, 042° 49' 40" E

²³ This ADM2 is listed on some sources but unconfirmed.

Muḥāfazat 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' Jawmān	قضاء جومان	Qeza-î Choman	قهزای چۆمان	36° 38' 14" N, 044° 52' 29" E
2	Qaḍā' Khabāt	قضاء خبات	Qeza-î Xebat	قهزای خهبات	36° 21' 51" N, 043° 48' 25" E
3	Qaḍā' Kūyah	قضاء كوية	Qeza-î Koyeh	قهزای کویه	36° 02' 48" N, 044° 31' 13" E
4	Qaḍā' Makhmūr	قضاء مخمور	Qeza-î Mexmûr	قهزای مەخمور	35° 48' 27" N, 043° 35' 04" E
5	Qaḍā' Markaz Arbīl	قضاء مركز أربيل	Qeza-î Nawend-î Hewlêr	قهزای ناوه ندی هەولێر	36° 10' 19" N, 043° 59' 34" E
6	Qaḍā' Mayrakah Sūr	قضاء ميركة سور	Qeza-î Mêrgasor	قهزای میرگەسۆر	36° 58' 56" N, 044° 12' 17" E
7	Qaḍā' Rīf Arbīl	قضاء ريف اربيل	Qeza-î Deshti Hewlêr	قهزای دەشتی هەولێر	36° 00' 53" N, 044° 06' 55" E
8	Qaḍā' Ruwāndiz	قضاء رواندز	Qeza-î Rewandiz	قهزای ره واندز	36° 33' 06" N, 044° 38' 22" E
9	Qaḍā' Sawrān	قضاء سوران	Qeza-î Soran	قهزای سوران	36° 51' 59" N, 044° 36' 11" E
10	Qaḍā' Shaqlāwah	قضاء شقلادوه	Qeza-î Sheqławe	قهزای شەقلادوھ	36° 26' 27" N, 044° 16' 57" E

Muḥāfazat al Muthanná

Source: <https://muthana.gov.iq/>

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

Muḥāfazat as Sulaymānīyah/Parêzga-î Slêmanî

Source:

<https://krso.gov.krd/ku/map/%D8%B3%D9%84%DB%8E%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%86%DB%8C> and
<https://krso.gov.krd/ar/map/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%84%D9%8A%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A9>

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' as Sulaymānīyah /Qeza-î Slêmanî (long form); as Sulaymānīyah/Slêmanî (short form).

	Romanized-Arabic Name	Arabic script	Romanized-Kurdish Name	Kurdish script	Location (approx. centre point)
1	Qaḍā' as Sulaymānīyah	قضاء السليمانية	Qeza-î Slêmanî	قەزای سلیمانی	35° 32' 09" N, 045° 21' 21" E
2	Qaḍā' Baynjiwayn	قضاء بینجويں	Qeza-î Pênciwêن	قەزای پېنجوین	35° 41' 32" N, 045° 59' 00" E
3	Qaḍā' Bishdar	قضاء بشدر	Qeza-î Pishder	قەزای پشدر	36° 17' 07" N, 045° 06' 06" E
4	Qaḍā' Darbandîkhân	قضاء دربندیخان	Qeza-î Derbendîxan	قەزای دەربەندیخان	35° 08' 38" N, 045° 42' 11" E
5	Qaḍā' Dûkân	قضاء دوکان	Qeza-î Dukan	قەزای دوکان	35° 56' 22" N, 045° 03' 33" E
6	Qaḍā' Jamjamâl	قضاء جمجمال	Qeza-î Chemchemał	قەزای چەمچەمال	35° 19' 34" N, 044° 58' 13" E
7	Qaḍā' Kalâr	قضاء کلار	Qeza-î Kelar	قەزای کەلار	34° 51' 59" N, 045° 20' 32" E
8	Qaḍā' Mâwat	قضاء ماوت	Qeza-î Mawet	قەزای ماوەت	35° 54' 35" N, 045° 24' 03" E
9	Qaḍā' Qaradâgh	قضاء قرداغ	Qeza-î Qeredagh	قەزای قەرداغ	35° 18' 02" N, 045° 24' 17" E
10	Qaḍā' Rânîyah	قضاء رانیة	Qeza-î Raniye	قەزای رانیه	36° 16' 42" N, 044° 44' 56" E
11	Qaḍā' Sayyid Šâdiq	قضاء سیدصادق	Qeza-î Seyid Sadiq	قەزای سەیدسادق	35° 26' 57" N, 045° 46' 27" E
12	Qaḍā' Shârazûr	قضاء شارزور	Qeza-î Sharezur	قەزای شارەزور	35° 16' 45" N, 045° 42' 16" E
13	Qaḍā' Shârbâzayr	قضاء شاربازير	Qeza-î Sharabajêr	قەزای شاربازىر	35° 45' 29" N, 045° 34' 11" E
14	Qaḍā' Khânaqîn	قضاء خانقين	Qeza-î Xaneqîn	قەزای خانەقىن	34° 21' 52" N, 045° 17' 50" E
15	Qaḍā' Kifrî	قضاء كفري	Qeza-î Kifrî	قەزای كفري	34° 31' 17" N, 044° 51' 37" E

Muḥāfazat 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 Nînawá 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 Qaqā' 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	Qaqā' al 'Amādīyah	قضاء عمادیة	Qeza-î Amêdi	قەزای ئامیدی	37° 06' 45" N, 043° 32' 26" E
2	Qaqā' Dahūk	قضاء دهوك	Qeza-î Dihok	قەزای دھۆك	36° 57' 29" N, 043° 03' 52" E
3	Qaqā' Saymayl	قضاء سيميل	Qeza-î Sêmêl	قەزای سیمیل	36° 53' 58" N, 042° 43' 17" E
4	Qaqā' Zākhū	قضاء زاخو	Qeza-î Zaxo	قەزای زاخو	37° 11' 50" N, 042° 50' 07" E
5	Qaqā' 'Aqrah	قضاء عقرة	Qeza-î Akrê	قەزای ئاکری	36° 41' 33" N, 043° 50' 26" E
6	Qaqā' Bardarash	قضاء بردش	Qeza-î Berde Rêsh	قەزای بەردە رەش	35° 25' 28" N, 045° 48' 30" E
7	Qaqā' Shaykhān	قضاء شيخان	Qeza-î Shêxan	قەزای شیخان	36° 41' 45" N, 043° 21' 07" E

Muḥāfazat Halabjah/ Parêzga-î Helebce

Sources conflict as to whether Halabjah/Helebce consists of just one ADM2, also called Halabjah/Helebce or whether there is a second ADM2 (Khûrmâl /Xurmâl). Maps of the governorate: <https://krso.gov.krd/ku/map/%D9%87%D9%87-%D9%84%D9%87-%D8%A8%D8%AC%D9%87%DA%A9%D8%A7%D8%B1%DA%AF%DB%8E%DA%95%DB%8C> and <https://krso.gov.krd/ar/map/%D8%AD%D9%84%D8%A8%D8%AC%D8%A9>

	Arabic Name		Kurdish Name		Location (approx. centre point)
	Romanized	Arabic script	Romanized	Perso-Arabic script	
1	Qaqā' Ḥalabjah	قضاء حلبة	Qeza-î Helebce	قەزای هەلەبجە	35°10'53"N, 045°59'24"E
2	Qaqā' Khûrmâl	قضاء خورمال	Qeza-î Xurmâl	قەزای خورمال	35° 17' 59" N, 046° 02' 06" E

Muḥāfaẓat Kirkūk

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

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

Muḥāfaẓat Ṣalāḥ ad Dīn

Source: www.sdgover.org/sd/

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