



Iraq Treasures of the South Cultural Discovery

Journey to the Cradle of Civilization from Ancient Babylon to Baghdad

Thank you for checking out our adventures and for downloading this itinerary. Please note that this itinerary and accommodations may be subject to change depending on the specific departure date. Be sure to check with us before scheduling any flights.

We love talking travel!
Contact us at info@mtsobek.com
or call **800-974-0300**



Feel the difference

with **Mountain Travel Sobek**

Unrivalled Expertise

MT Sobek started it all! Since our first Everest Base Camp trek in 1969, we've been leading award-winning adventures and building authentic connections in far-flung locations around the world. We were named Best Adventure Travel Company by Newsweek Readers' Choice Awards.

Unique Trip Design

Our adventures are perfectly paced, with incredible attention to detail — the right mix of fun, learning, and challenge that guarantees lifelong memories. Plan nothing, enjoy everything. We take care of all of the logistics so that you can have more time to do what's most important: relax, take in the experience, and enjoy!

Small Groups

We keep our groups intentionally small — usually fewer than 10 people. This allows you a more intimate experience with the people and wildlife you encounter. With a smaller group size, we can take advantage of many unexpected invitations and opportunities that would be impossible with larger groups.





Leading the Way

World-Class Local Guides

Our knowledgeable and passionate expert guides effortlessly create an immersive local experience for you. They are trained to the highest professional standards and are at the heart of everything we do. They make it possible to meet the challenges of adventure travel, and help create lasting memories and lifelong friendships... we can confidently say our guides are the best in the business.





Why take this trip with us?

REASON 1

MT Sobek has been trailblazing edgy and unknown destinations for more than 50 years, creating exploratory adventures that few other companies run.

REASON 2

You will be in the company of expert guides who have decades of experience leading groups in Iraq.

REASON 3

We operate trips throughout the Middle East and North Africa, including Iraq, Jordan, Oman, Egypt, and Morocco.

At A Glance

ACTIVITIES

Cultural touring by private vehicles and on foot, with well-paced walks to explore historical wonders.



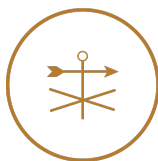
LODGING

Relax at the 5-star Babylon Rotana in Baghdad and the best available hotels in each city-all with Western-style rooms and most modern amenities.



CLIMATE

Iraq is generally dry year-round with spring temperatures in the 60-80°Fs and fall temperatures in the 70-100°Fs.



KNOW BEFORE YOU BOOK

Before booking this trip, all guests are advised to speak with our travel experts about travel protection options.



Iraq Treasures of the South Cultural Discovery

Journey to the Cradle of Civilization from Ancient Babylon to Baghdad

Visiting Iraq is a journey into the cradle of human civilization. Roam Mesopotamia, the land between the rivers of Euphrates and Tigris, and tread in the footsteps of the world's earliest civilizations. Start in Baghdad, the present-day capital of Iraq, and explore ancient Babylon—home of Mesopotamian kings. Marvel at the Ziggurat of Ur, believed to be the birthplace of Abraham, and boat through the dreamy Tigris marshlands. Visit Uruk, the world's first city, and discover Najaf and Karbala, centers of the Shia faith.

10 Days

Start: Baghdad, Iraq

End: Basra, Iraq

Departing: October

Activities: Cultural Discovery

Lodging: Comfortable Hotels, Luxury Hotels

Group Size: 4-12 Guests

ACTIVITY:



Check mtsobek.com for date-specific pricing.

“

“Great experience every time with some of the most knowledgeable guides in their fields. We always come home with wonderful memories of the people we meet and things we see.”

- Bob J.

The Itinerary



Arrive in Baghdad

An MT Sobek representative will welcome you at Baghdad International Airport. Settle into the hotel and relax over a welcome drink, then dine in the hotel restaurant.

MEALS: Dinner



Tour the Iraq Museum & Ancient Samarra

After breakfast, delve into the ancient past at the Iraq Museum, often called the Middle East Smithsonian for its 28 halls and artefacts as old as 10,000 years B.C. In the afternoon, journey to the holy city of Samarra, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that traces its roots back to 5500 B.C. Explore the ruins of its ancient royal palaces, and admire the majestic 9th-century Great Mosque (Al Malwiya Mosque) with its spiral minaret. Return to your hotel in Baghdad.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 5-hour private van transfer

ACTIVITY: Full day cultural touring



Explore Baghdad & Marvel at the Arch of Ctesiphon

Visit the 13th-century El-Mustansiriya madrasa (school), one of the oldest Islamic institutions of higher learning in the world, and marvel at its ancient water-powered alarm clock that once announced prayer times. Stroll down the bookstore-laden Al-Mutanabbi street, the heart of the city's cultural life, and delight in the symphony of clinking sounds at Souk al-Safareen, the coppersmiths' market. In the afternoon, head to Ctesiphon, the former winter capital of the Parthian and Sasanian empires, and today best known for the monumental remains of the 1,400-year-old palace Taq Kisra, complete with its 122-feet-high Arch of Ctesiphon. Enjoy dinner at your hotel.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 1.5-hour private van transfer

ACTIVITY: Full day cultural touring



DAY 04

Discover Mythical Babylon & Travel to Karbala

Travel to Babylon, the ancient capital of southern Mesopotamia, and trace the footsteps of Alexander the Great. Tour Saddam Hussein's rebuilt Babylon with its vibrant aqua-blue Ishtar Gate (a reproduction of the original) and compare it to one of his once-opulent palaces just behind the complex. Continue on to Karbala, a holy city for the Iraqi Shia, holding the shrine of the martyred Imam Husayn Ibn Ali (died 680). Return for dinner at your hotel.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 4-hour private van transfer

ACTIVITY: Full day cultural touring

DAY 05

Journey to Najaf & See the Holy Places of Shia Muslims

Today travel to the holy city of Najaf, and along the way stop in the town of Al Kifl to marvel at its 7th-century Kufa Mosque, the holiest place for Shia Muslims. Then continue on to Najaf and after settling in the hotel, discover the shrine of Imam Ali. This masterpiece of Islamic architecture holds the tomb of Imam Ali, the fourth caliph who was the cousin and later son-in-law of the Prophet Muhammad. In the evening, soak up the buzz of the nearby souk and savor dinner at the hotel.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 1-hour private van transfer

ACTIVITY: Full day cultural touring



Roam Uruk, the First City on Earth

Head to Samawa, a city on the banks of the Euphrates River that holds the archaeological site of Warka, also known as Uruk. Explore the magnificent remains of this ancient Sumerian city that thrived around 2900 B.C. and was supposedly the first city on earth. Continue to the busy hub of Nasiriya, one of Iraq's largest cities and the capital of the Dhi-Qar province with lunch at a local restaurant along the way. In the evening, feel the city's pulse on a stroll through its bustling souk.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 3.5-hour private van transfer

ACTIVITY: Full day cultural touring



Admire the Splendid Ziggurat of Ur

Tour the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Ur, an ancient Sumer city believed to be the birthplace of Prophet Abraham. Marvel at the Ziggurat of Ur, a splendid temple dedicated to the lunar god Nanna and built the same way as the biblical Tower of Babel. After lunch, head to Nasiriya's lively bazaar for a dash of local buzz and browse stalls selling everything from textiles and household wares to artisanal copperware and traditional sweets. Dinner tonight is at the hotel.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 40-minute private van transfer

ACTIVITY: Full day cultural touring



Journey by Boat to the Mesopotamian Marshes

Spend the day on the Tigris River, venturing into its dreamy marshes by boat. Navigate between islands of reeds and lakeside villages inhabited by Marsh Arabs, and take in the resplendent beauty of this unique aquatic environment inside a desert. En route to the town of Basra, stop to soak up the beauty of the Paradise of Aden (Garden of Eden) where the Tigris and Euphrates rivers meet.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 3.5-hour private van transfer

ACTIVITY: Full-day boat tour



Explore Basra & Watch the Sunset over Shatt Al-Arab

Wander around the old city of Basra, once known as the Venice of the East for the Ottoman Shenashil Houses, traditional 19th-century residences that line its canal. Think back to the city's glory days as you explore one of the villas that was owned by a wealthy Greek merchant — a rare showcase of a bygone era. Wrap up the journey with a boat ride on Shatt Al-Arab, the river created by the Tigris and Euphrates merging, and soak up one last splendid Iraq sunset. Enjoy a farewell dinner tonight.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: Full day cultural touring with sunset cruise



Depart from Basra

After breakfast, transfer to Basra International Airport for your homeward-bound flights and bid farewell to Iraq.

MEALS: Breakfast



Where You'll Stay

These accommodations may be subject to change depending on your date of travel.

Babylon Rotana

This 5-star urban retreat is located in one of Baghdad's most desirable districts and a vast range of modern touches, designed with comfort in mind, awaits. Spacious accommodations feature contemporary furnishings and in room technology to keep you connected. Also includes air conditioning, flat screen TV, mini-fridge and tea and coffee making facilities, bathtub/shower, large work desk and in-room safe. This property is an alcohol free environment.

Baron Hotel

Dedicated to providing you convenient services and amenities, this 5-star hotel offers guests spacious and comfortable beds, private bathroom with vanity and modern western touches. Each room is equipped with centralized air conditioning, flat screen 42' LED TV with satellite channels, coffee table and chairs, writing desk, mini fridge, electric coffee and tea maker and in-room safe.

Granada Hotel

The Granada Hotel is a comfortable hotel located in the Al-Amir neighborhood in Najaf. Relax in the hotel's spacious rooms and enjoy free complementary Wi-Fi, flatscreen TV, coffee/tea service, fridge, and air-con. While you're there, enjoy the breakfast buffet service in their on-site restaurant and re-energize with their Turkish hammam and sauna. Then step outside to explore popular landmarks like the Ali Ibn Abi Talib Shrine!



Where You'll Stay

These accommodations may be subject to change depending on your date of travel.

Sumerian Hotel

Located only a short drive from the impressive ancient monument, the Ziggurat of Ur, the Sumerian Hotel offers guests simple accommodations with traditional touches and modern amenities. Guests will enjoy the elegant gilded lobby and comfortable guest rooms that feature cool tiled floors, air conditioner and fan, and modern touches such as a mini fridge, coffee and tea maker and hairdryer.

Millennium Hotel Al Seef Basra

The Millennium Hotel is one of the best and safest hotels in Basra. Rest up in one of their 311 comfortable rooms and enjoy free complementary Wi-Fi, flatscreen TV, and a 24-hour room service. After a day of exploring, the Millennium Hotel offers relaxing amenities such as massage services, a pool, sauna and gym, and several on-site restaurants serving delectable local and international dishes.

Departure Dates

This trip is available to run in: October

Book early for a greater choice of available dates.
Once you book, your price is GUARANTEED!

October 1-10, 2025

What's Included

PRICE INCLUDES

- Expertise and services of our experienced adventure guides
- All accommodations as noted in the itinerary
- All breakfasts, almost all lunches and dinners as noted in the itinerary
- Snacks and water between meals
- Additional regional guides and experts on many trips
- Comprehensive Trip Planner with detailed pre-trip information
- Private guided tours at historic sites, museums, wineries and other select attractions as noted in the itinerary
- Special events and other select attractions as mentioned in the itinerary
- All gratuities at hotels and restaurants
- Equipment and experienced guides for activities as described in the itinerary
- Park and other entry fees (unless otherwise noted)
- Fares for trains, ferries and other modes of travel as listed in the itinerary
- Select transfers as mentioned in the itinerary
- Baggage transfers and portage

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- International airfare, airport taxes, and excess baggage fees
- Alcoholic beverages (MT Sobek provides wine at select events)
- Gratuities for MT Sobek guides and guide-drivers
- Travel Protection Program
- Personal expenses



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