



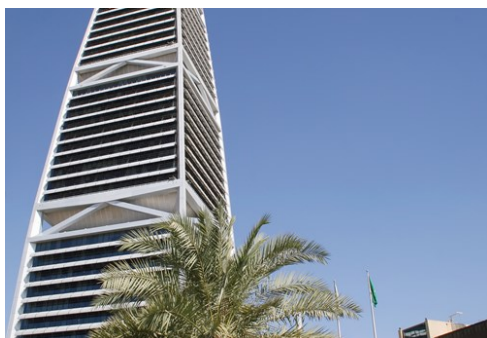
Riyadh

Photo: wajedram/Shutterstock.com



Fedor Selivanov/Shutterstock.com

Shimmering like a precious stone in the fierce desert sun, the city of Riyadh is a complex mix of dualisms that will intrigue the intrepid traveller. A modern cutting edge metropolis that boldly strides towards the future, yet a city firmly rooted in the traditions of its historical past. Known as the “Queen of the Desert”, Riyadh will captivate every suitor with her desert landscapes and lush green oases, her ancient monuments and the renowned Arabic hospitality of her denizens.



Fedor Selivanov/Shutterstock.com



Fedor Selivanov/Shutterstock.com

QUIZ

*What Type of Traveller
Are You Based on
Your Travel IQ?*

TAKE THE QUIZ

Top 5



Riyadh Kingdom Centre
Take a trip to the top of the Kingdom’s second tallest building and enjoy th...



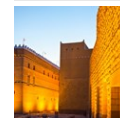
National Museum
The National Museum has a display of interactive exhibits that reveal the fa...



Al-Musmak Castle
Built around 1865, this fortress played an important role in the history of ...



City of Old Ad’Diriyah
Old Ad’Diriyah is the ruins of the Saudi dynasty’s first capital which was f...



Al Murabba Palace
This beautiful palace set in lush green gardens, provides an insight into th...



THE CITY



Fedor Selivanov/Shutterstock.com

The centre of Riyadh and the birthplace of the state of Saudi Arabia is the area of Al-Bathaa, in which visitors will find fascinating traces of the old city. At its heart lies Al-Musmak Fortress, a stunning example of desert architecture, whilst surrounding it is the King Abdul Aziz Historical centre and the souks that give a taste of the ambiance of yesteryear.

If you're thirsting for more cultural sites then head to the Al-Dira area which is home to many traditional buildings such as the Royal Palace. On the outskirts of the city is the ancient town of Ad'Diriyah.

In complete contrast, the neighbourhood of Olaya is home to gleaming skyscrapers. This is where you will find the bulk of Riyadh's high-end hotels, restaurants and shopping malls, chief among them being the Kingdom centre and the Al Faisaliah tower which stand like sentinels guarding the city.

Note that the city is run on a strict Islamic moral and cultural code and dress should be conservative at all times.

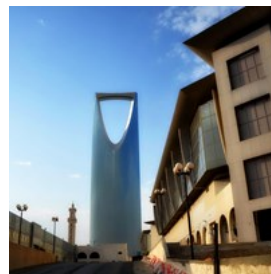
DO & SEE



Hugo Brizard/Shutterstock.com

In the beautiful old town you can discover hidden treasures of days gone by and admire traditional as well as modern architecture. Head to Al-Musmak Castle to learn more about Riyadh's history or enjoy a day of shopping in the Granada Center. Note that women can have restricted access to certain attractions and sites.

Riyadh Kingdom Centre



Take a trip to the top of the Kingdom's second tallest building and enjoy the view from the 56 metres long sky-bridge. Al-Mamlka Tower is 302 metres high and has 41 floors and is owned by a prince in the Saudi royal family.

Photo: Wajahat Mahmood (image cropped)

Address: 94 Al Olaya, Riyadh

Phone: +966 1 211 2222

Internet: www.kingdomcentre.com.sa

National Museum



The National Museum has a display of interactive exhibits that reveal the fascinating history of the Arabian peninsula and the introduction of Islam. The museum takes you through the stories in a

chronological fashion with help of movies, artefacts and maps.

Photo: Sammy Six (image cropped)

Address: Al-Muraba, King Abdul Aziz Historical Center, Riyadh

Phone: +966 1 402 9500

Internet: www.nationalmuseum.org.sa

Email: TNM@scth.gov.sa

More Info: Historical Centre

Al-Musmak Castle



Built around 1865, this fortress played an important role in the history of Riyadh. The recapture of the city happened here at the

turn of the century. The sand coloured brick constructing with its four towers is a popular tourist attraction and provides a glimpse on the past of Saudi Arabia. The word musmak means "strong, fortified".

Photo: Fedor Selivanov/Shutterstock.com

Address: 3153 Al Thumairi St, Ad Dirah, Riyadh

Opening hours: 8:00-12:00 16:00-21:00

More Info: Families can visit only on Thursdays / www.atlasobscura.com/places/al-masmak-fortress

City of Old Ad'Diriyah



Old Ad'Diriyah is the ruins of the Saudi dynasty's first capital which was founded in 1446. Ad'Diriyah is today an interesting place to visit in order to see the once splendid city that witnessed the reformation call and the rise of the Saudi State.

Photo: Fedor Selivanov/Shutterstock.com

Address: Ad'Diriyah, Riyadh

More Info: 20 km Northwest of Riyadh (11 km from the city

centre)

Al Murabba Palace



This beautiful palace set in lush green gardens, provides an insight into the lifestyle of the Saudi Royal family. Get a glimpse of the reception salons, political offices and private apartments.

Photo: Gimas/Shutterstock.com

Address: 2722 Al Murabba, Riyadh

Opening hours: 9:00-12:00 14:00-21:00 (Sun-Fri)

More Info: Women may only visit with male family members on Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons

Camel Market



Watch the Bedouin showing off their beasts while haggling furiously over the price. Located approximately 30 km outside of Riyadh, this is the largest camel market in the region. Prepare for a pretty strong smell.

Photo: Jon Connell (image cropped)

Address: Riyadh

The Desert by Night



Lie back and watch the stars and constellations dancing spectacularly across the sky. Head towards the city of Dhahran for great sand

dunes.

Photo: science photo/Shutterstock.com

Address: Dhahran, Riyadh

Al Faisaliya Center



This tower is a must-see for first-time visitors to Riyadh. From above you have a great view of the city and inside you can find a number of restaurants, cafes and shopping opportunities that make your stay worthwhile.

Photo: King Eliot (image cropped)

Address: 7411 King Fahd Rd, Al Olaya, Riyadh

Opening hours: 9:00-12:00 (Sat-Thu) 13:30-24:00 (Fri)

Phone: +966 1 273 4003

Internet: www.alfaisaliahmall.com

Red Sand Dunes Adventures



If you are an outdoor enthusiast and want to experience the Saudi Arabian environment, a trip to the red sand dunes is your fit. You can join a guided tour, get a camel ride or simply hike there for a picnic. The view is amazing!

Photo: Shanti Hesse/Shutterstock.com

Address: Riyadh

Saqer-Aljazirah Aviation Museum



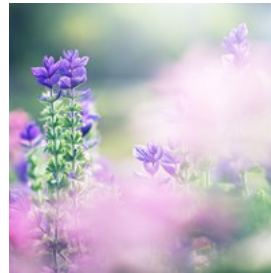
If you are an airplane enthusiast, this museum is your fit. Inside you will find one of the last Lockheed L A1011 Tristar planes and a guided tour can give you a cultural and historical background of the Royal Saudi Airforce.

Photo: lastbackup/Shutterstock.com

Address: Saqr Al-Jazeera Aviation Museum, Riyadh

Phone: +966 1 492 2303

King Abdullah Park



Blooming flowerbeds, sparkling fountains and playgrounds for kids await you in the King Abdullah Park. Get away from the hustle of the city and relax in the shadow beneath a palm tree. Not only during the daytime, but also at night, this place is worth visiting as the fountains are creatively illuminated.

6628 Al Ameen Abdullah Al Ali Al Naeem Street,
Al Malaz, Riyadh

Photo: nature photos/Shutterstock.com

Address: 6628 Al Ameen Abdullah Al Ali Al Naeem Street, Al Malaz, Riyadh

Granada Center



The Granada Center is one of the best and most popular shopping malls in Riyadh. An impressive atrium leads you to the boutiques and you can easily spend hours here. Next to several high-class fashion stores you can find a big food court and a number of cafes inside. The ideal place for shopaholics.

Photo: Ayoub kayor/Shutterstock.com

Address: East Ring Road, Exit 9, Riyadh

Phone: +966 1 253 4990

DINING



Momen Khaiti/Shutterstock.com

Dining out is one of the favourite pastimes in Riyadh. The typical Saudi diet consists of a range of pulses such as rice, bulgur wheat, lentils or chickpeas (hummus) served with grilled/barbecued meats such as lamb or chicken and the obligatory pita bread.

Note that the restaurants in Riyadh are segregated. However there are family facilities where married couples can dine together.

The Globe



The Globe serves exceptional international cuisine in the Al Faisaliah Hotel, served with a stunning view over the city. The restaurant is situated within the golden orb on top of the Al Faisaliah Tower.

Photo: KatarinaVe/Shutterstock.com

Address: Al Faisaliah Tower

Phone: +966 1 273 2222

Internet:

www.alfaisaliahotels.com/en/dining/the-globe-restaurant

Email: dining@alfaisaliahotels.com

Al Nakheel



Many consider this to be the premier Arabian restaurant in the city. They serve a range of Middle Eastern and North African dishes at the Four Points Hotel by Sheraton.

Photo: Maksim Toome/Shutterstock.com

Address: Four Points by Sheraton, Riyadh

Opening hours: 6:30-23:00

Phone: +966 1 268 2222

Internet: www.fourpointsriyadhkhaldia.com

Email: alkhozama@rosewoodhotels.com

Assaraya Turkish Restaurant



This restaurant is very popular with the locals, serving delicious Turkish mezze and barbecued meats. It is well known for its varied menu, generous portions and affordable prices.

Photo: Elnur/Shutterstock.com

Address: Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz Rd, Al Olaya, Riyadh

Najd Village



Your place for traditional cuisine is called Najd Village. The classy setting and relaxed atmosphere make this place a favourite of business people. There is a wide selection of authentic dishes on the menu and Saudi plates are their specialty. Don't miss out on this outstanding Arabic cuisine.

Photo: Martin Rettenberger/Shutterstock.com

Address: Najd Village

Phone: +966 1 464 6530

Internet: www.munajem.com/najd-village

Al-Tazaj



Al-Tazaj BBQ Chicken is one of the oldest restaurants in Riyadh, serving excellent barbecued chicken marinated in Arabic spices. The chickens are fed on wheat and soy beans and they are cooked fresh.

Photo: Marian Weyo/Shutterstock.com

Address: Ar Rabwah, Riyad

Lusin



Lusin offers you the best of Armenian Cuisine in a high-class setting. The place dazzles with chic elegance and rich flavours. Try the diced beef in cherry sauce, its heavenly!

Photo: wong yu liang/Shutterstock.com

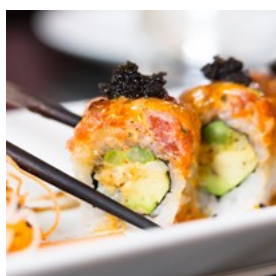
Address: Centeria Mall, Al Olaya, Riyadh

Phone: +966 9200 02690

Internet: www.lusinrestaurant.com

More Info: 2nd Floor, Olaya Street intersection with Tahlya Street

Nozomi



Nozomi brings the best of Asian cuisine to the center of Riyadh. Here you can enjoy Japanese specialties in a sharing plates concept. Let the award-winning cuisine tickle your taste buds!

Photo: Narong Jongsirikul/Shutterstock.com

Address: Dabbab Street, Sulaimaniya District, Riyadh

Phone: +966 92000 9686

Internet: www.nozomisaudi.com

Email: enquiries@nozomisaudi.com

Maestro Pizza



If you're looking for an Italian experience in Riyadh, Maestro Pizza is your place. Margarita, Mexicana or the Meat Lover special are among the most popular dishes on the menu. The cozy setting and reasonable prizes make this place a favourite of tourists.

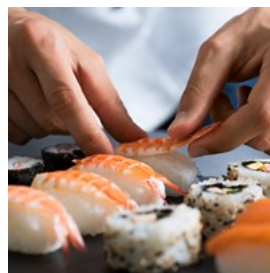
Photo: Alessio Orru/Shutterstock.com

Address: 4993 Qalat Al Fustat, Ishbilyah, Riyadh

Phone: +966 9200 17777

Internet: www.maestropizza.com

Tokyo Restaurant



Fresh, spicy, delicious, Japanese. The Tokyo restaurant promises an outstanding evening in a laid back atmosphere. Drop in and order the mixed sushi plate or indulge in one of numerous noodle dishes. The friendly staff will take good care of you.

Photo: Rido/Shutterstock.com

Address: Al Urubah Rd, As Sulimaniyah, Riyadh

Phone: +966 9200 09662

Mirage



Dine in a Chinese garden, under a starlit sky in this miraculous restaurant. Mirage welcomes you with the best of Asian cuisine in a classic setting. The friendly staff will take good care of you and help you choose from their wide selection.

Photo: Slawomir Fajer/Shutterstock.com

Address: Al Urubah Rd, Ar Rahmaniyah, Riyadh
Phone: +966 1 483 4127
More Info: www.360riyadh.com/360/mirage/tour/tour.html

Lahori Khabay



At this Pakistani restaurant you get quality food for budget prices. Note that the place can get quite crowded as the buffet is popular with

locals. Try the mixed grill plates and have some refreshing tea. This place will lift your spirits after a long day of sightseeing.

Photo: Linda Hughes/Shutterstock.com
Address: Al Wazarat District, Harra, Riyadh
Phone: +96 1 405 8159

CAFES



JOAT/Shutterstock.com

While in Riyadh, be sure to try the most famous Saudi dish, Al-Kabsa, which is rice and meat cooked with an array of spices, whilst saving enough room for a slice of kunafa and a strong cup of Arabica coffee.

Four Seasons Hotel Tea Lounge



The Lobby Lounge inside Four Seasons Hotel is the best place to sit back and enjoy a pot of freshly brewed tea and a mix of Arabic and international pastries. They also have an excellent selection of Cuban cigars.

Photo: Tobin C/Shutterstock.com
Address: Kingdom Centre, Olaya, Riyadh
Phone: +966 1 211 5000
Internet: www.fourseasons.com
More Info: Female guests should wear an abaya (black overgarment).

Dr. Café



From small coffee kiosk in a shopping mall to international chain. This is the story of Dr. Café, outcome of the vision of its founder who, after having travelled a lot, made the fascinating red coffee berries the core of his business. In every Dr. Café in the city you will find the best quality coffee and a well-prepared staff.

Photo: barang/Shutterstock.com
Address: Al-Hasa Street Ar Rabwah, Riyadh
Internet: www.dr-cafe.com

Saadeddin Pastry



Saadeddin is an excellent, famous sweet house with a wide selection of Arabic treats and aromatic coffee. They also serve western and oriental sweets, as well as ice cream and mixed nuts.

Photo: Viacheslav Lopatin/Shutterstock.com

Address: Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz, As Sulimaniyah,
Riyadh

Phone: +966 1 420 7940

Internet: www.saadeddin.com

Email: info@saadeddin.com

Munch Bakery



If you've got a sweet tooth stop by the Munch Bakery. From cupcakes to muffins you get everything sugary inside.

Take a seat and enjoy your choice with a coffee or take home some cake. You shouldn't miss out on these mouthwatering delights.

Photo: [goo922/Shutterstock.com](https://www.shutterstock.com/user/goo922)

Address: Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz Rd, Riyadh

Phone: +966 12 668 9108

Internet: www.munchbakery.com

Email: customercare@munchbakery.com

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Photo: [Sophie James/Shutterstock.com](https://www.shutterstock.com/user/SophieJames)

The cultural environment in Saudi Arabia is highly conservative. Religious law forbids the sale or consumption of alcohol throughout Saudi Arabia, so there are no bars or nightclubs. Instead evening social activities are centred on shopping or dining out in one of the city's many restaurants or cafés whilst indulging in a delicious mocktail (a mix of fresh fruit juices) or strong Arabic coffee.

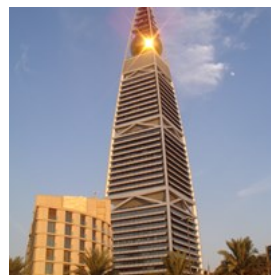
SHOPPING



Photo: [Syda Productions/Shutterstock.com](https://www.shutterstock.com/user/SydaProductions)

Shopping is the number one pastime in Riyadh. Be it brand names or handmade, markets or malls, whatever you're looking for the traders of Riyadh will satisfy your desires. So if you're after the latest in tax-free designer lingerie or if your tastes are more inclined towards the traditional abaya, then grab your wallet, put on a pair of comfortable shoes and hit the streets of Riyadh. With over 60 shopping malls you could quite easily spend your entire holiday drifting from one mall to the next and still not negotiate them all.

Al Faisaliya Center



This tower is a must-see for first-time visitors to Riyadh. From above you have a great view of the city and inside you can find a number of restaurants, cafes and shopping opportunities that make your stay worthwhile.

Photo: King Eliot (image cropped)

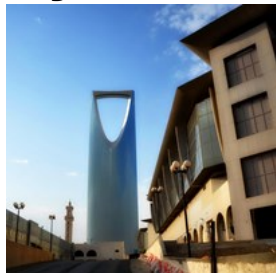
Address: 7411 King Fahd Rd, Al Olaya, Riyadh

Opening hours: 09:00-12:00 (Sat-Thu) 13:30-24:00 (Fri)

Phone: +966 1 273 4003

Internet: www.alfaisaliahmall.com

Kingdom Centre Mall



The Kingdom Tower can be found on Olaya St. Here you will find a host of high end designer stores such as Burberry, Cartier, Armani, Dior and Tiffany & Co, and the usual array of 21st century gadgetry outlets.

Photo: Wajahat Mahmood (image cropped)

Address: Al Olaya, Riyadh

Phone: +966 1 211 2222

Internet: www.kingdomcentre.com.sa

Email: kc@kingdomcentre.com.sa

Granada Center



The Granada Center is one of the best and most popular shopping malls in Riyadh. An impressive atrium leads you to the boutiques and you can easily spend hours here. Next to several high-class fashion stores you can find a big food court and a number of cafes inside. The ideal place for shopaholics.

Photo: Ayoub kayor/Shutterstock.com

Address: East Ring Road, Exit 9, Riyadh

Opening hours: Saturday-Thursday: 10.00-23.00, Friday: 13.00-23.00

Phone: +966112534990

Internet: www.grnadacenter.com.sa

Souk Shopping



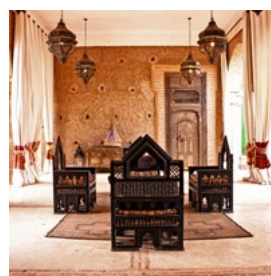
If you prefer the hustle of the market and a spot of haggling, then head on down to the Bathaa neighbourhood where there are a plethora of souks. You can pick up some great deals on

jewelry in the Gold souk if your bargaining skills are up to scratch. In almost all the souks you will find quality handcrafted goods, particularly antiques, pottery and linen. Souk Azal is the place to go for beautiful hand-woven carpets.

Photo: Ilona Ignatova/Shutterstock.com

Address: Riyadh

Lamsa House



Lamsa House was founded in 1990 and offers all types of furnishings including bedrooms, living rooms, dining rooms, curtains, office furniture, kitchens and interior decoration.

Photo: Lucky Business/Shutterstock.com

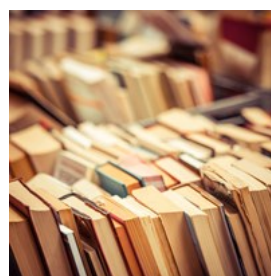
Address: King Fahd Rd, Riyadh

Phone: +966 14 58 59 81

Internet: www.lamsahouse.com

Email: admin@lamsahouse.com

Jarir Bookstore



For English and Arabic books, phones and tablets step into Jarir Bookstore. The media center equips you with everything you need for entertainment and communication. The staff is friendly and the prices are reasonable.

Photo: Yulia Grigoryeva/Shutterstock.com

Address: Al Olaya, Olaya Street, Riyadh

Phone: +966 9200 00089

Internet: www.jarir.com/sa-en/

Email: jarir@jarirbookstore.com

Munch Bakery



If you've got a sweet tooth stop by at the Munch Bakery. From cupcakes to muffins you get everything sugary inside. Take a seat and enjoy your choice with a coffee or take home some cake. You shouldn't miss out on these mouthwatering delights

Photo: goo922/Shutterstock.com
Address: Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz Rd, Riyadh
Phone: +966 2 668 9108
Internet: www.munchbakery.com
Email: customercare@munchbakery.com

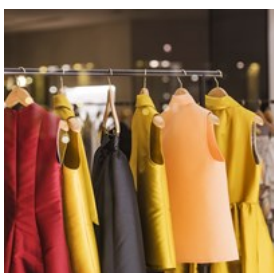
Sahara Plaza



This big shopping centre in town holds some famous international brands boutiques and stores. Whether you desire modern fashion or traditional antiques, here you can get everything you wish for. Step in for high-class souvenirs or a good long shopping tour. You won't leave empty-handed.

Photo: Kzenon/Shutterstock.com
Address: Central, King Abdullah Road, Riyadh
Phone: +966 920 000262
Internet:
www.arabiancentres.com/mall/index/en/23/sahara-plaza/
Email: info@arabiancentres.com

Panorama Mall



This lovely mall awaits your with over 75 specialty shops and restaurants in the heart of Riyadh. After shopping at high class brands and

fashion stores, you can rest your feet at one of the many cafes within.

Photo: Creative Lab/Shutterstock.com
Address: Ashiqar, Al Mathar Ash Shamali, Riyadh
Phone: +966 1 281 4950
Internet: www.panorama-mall.com

TOURIST INFORMATION



Fedor Selivanov/Shutterstock.com

Cultural Norms



When strolling and exploring the city, please make sure you wear the appropriate attire. Women should be covered from neck to ankle and in certain areas scarves are used to cover the face and head. Shorts and tank tops should not be worn outside of your accommodation by women. For men, loose clothing is recommended and shorts are prohibited.

When visiting, please make sure you respect and abide by the laws and culture of the country.

Photo: ClkerFreeVectorImages

Passport / Visa



Saudi Arabia introduced a new eVisa system in October 2019, dramatically simplifying visa applications for citizens of multiple world

countries, including the USA, Canada, China, Japan, Australia, and much of Europe. The new multiple-entry visa will be processed within record time (as quickly as 30 minutes), issued for one year, and will allow visitors to stay in the country for up to 90 days during its validity period. This marks a watershed moment in the country's history, as Saudi Arabia has historically been off limits to non-Muslim tourists, with visas notoriously difficult to secure.

Citizens of countries not covered by the eVisa program will still need to turn to their nearest consulate to obtain a visa.

Photo: TukTuk Design/Shutterstock.com
Internet: <https://visa.visitsaudi.com>

Riyadh King Khalid International Airport



Riyadh King Khaled International Airport is situated 35km from Riyadh city centre.

Authorised taxis marked with the airport logo

operate 24 hours a day. The journey to the city centre takes approximately 30 minutes. Discuss prices before entering a taxi.

Photo: Juan Garces
Address: Riyadh Airport Road, King Khalid International Airport, Riyadh
Phone: +966 1 221 1000
Internet: www.riyadh-airport.com

Best Time to Visit



The incredibly hot summers of Saudi Arabia, with temperatures often going above the 40°C mark, make the country one of the driest in the

world. The unbearable heat, from April to October, make it difficult to undertake continuous outdoor exploration.

A trip to Saudi Arabia is best planned for the period between November and March. During those months daytime temperatures tend to be cooler and significantly more comfortable.

Photo: VectorA/Shutterstock.com

Public Transport



The cheapest way to get around is by minibus, however these are primarily for men. There is a limited and infrequent bus service for

women. Some buses that belong to the Saudi Arabian Public Transport System (SAPTCO) travel internationally and domestically. Check bus schedules before paying your fare.

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair
More Info: www.globalmasstransit.net/archive.php?id=24083

Taxi



If you're staying in a hotel, get the concierge to call one of the authorised white taxis. Alternatively you can hail a taxi on the street and it

is acceptable for women to do this.

Photo: ArrivalGuides

Car Rental



Note that women are not allowed to drive on public roads, so a taxi would be more convenient. Hertz +966 11 220 5149
www.hertz.com Sixt +966

11 219 7171
www.sixt.com

Photo: ArrivalGuides

Post



Saudi Post Head Office
8228 King Abdul Aziz Rd,
Al Amal, Riyadh +966
9200 05700

Photo: Andy Fuchs

Address: King Abdulaziz Street, Al-Wazarat Area

Phone: +966 920 005700

Internet: sp.com.sa/en/Pages/default.aspx

Pharmacy



Riyadh Care Hospital
8395 Unayzah Sreet, Ar
Rawabi, Riyadh +966 920
004585 Orange
Pharmacies www.orange-pharmacy.sa/en/ Nahdi

Pharmacies
www.nahdi.sa/en/

Photo: Gemma Garner

Address: Unayzah, Ar Rawabi, Riyadh

Phone: +966 920 004585

Internet: web.care.med.sa

Telephone



Country code: +966 Area
code: 01

Photo: Jardson Almeida

Electricity



125/215 Volts AC,
50/60Hz

Photo: Stirling Tschan

Population

7,125,180

Currency

Saudi Riyal (SAR)
SR1 ~ US\$0,27

Opening hours

The working week is generally from Sun-Thu with some businesses open Saturday mornings. Government Offices: 7:30-14:30. Banks: 9:30-16:30. Private Businesses: 8:00-12:00 and 16:00-20:00

Newspapers

Saudi Gazette

Emergency numbers

Police: 999

Fire: 998

Ambulance: 997

Tourist information

The Supreme Commission for Tourism
Kindi Centre, D.Q
Open Sat-Wed 8:00-15:00
+966 11 880 8855

