

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

SAUDI ARABIA: DESERT KINGDOMS

PASSPORT AND VISA INFORMATION

Your passport needs to be valid for **at least six (6) months** after your journey ends, and should have a minimum of one (1) blank visa page for entry and exit stamps.

A tourist visa is required for U.S. and Canadian passport holders for entry into Saudi Arabia. There are currently two options available as outlined below. A&K recommends an electronic visa (eVisa).

Electronic Visa (eVisa): To apply for an eVisa, visit [Welcome to Saudi Arabia - Visit Saudi Official Website](#). The current fee for a multiple-entry visa, which is valid for one year, and includes a required health insurance fee is 440 SAR (approximately USD \$120 subject to change without notice). Read and follow all instructions carefully to ensure a smooth arrival in Saudi Arabia.

Visa on Arrival: A tourist visa can be obtained on arrival in Saudi Arabia and special visa kiosks at international airports. The current fee for a multiple-entry visa, which is valid for one year, and includes a required health insurance fee is 440 SAR (approximately USD \$120 subject to change without notice) and can be paid by credit card. *Please be aware that long lines are common.*

Applicants will likely be denied a visa for Saudi Arabia if they have a visa stamp in their passport from a previous visit to Israel. If you plan to travel to Israel before visiting Saudi Arabia, ask Israeli border officials to put your entry stamp on a separate piece of paper. If you already have an Israeli visa stamp in your passport you will need to get a new passport before applying for a visa for Saudi Arabia.

Our partner VisaCentral offers easy, efficient U.S. passport and visa processing. Visit them online at visacentral.com/abercrombiekent or call 844 823 1224 and reference A&K's account number 73001. Service fees apply.

Citizens of other countries should contact the appropriate consular office for entry requirements pertaining to their journey.

REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO COVID-19

A&K requires proof of full COVID-19 vaccination for travel on Small Group Journeys (Luxury Small Group, Marco Polo, Family, Wings Over the World, Connections and Limited Edition journeys) for departures beginning January 1, 2022. For Tailor Made and Signature journeys, guests must comply with all country entry requirements.

Visit the U.S. Department of State at travel.state.gov or the Government of Canada at travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories for comprehensive and up-to-date country entry requirements as well as information for onward travel. A&K will facilitate in-country testing required for returning home or onward travel at the end of your A&K journey. Costs are paid locally and vary depending on the type and location of testing. All details specific to your journey will be included in with your **Final Documents**.

Requirements for Returning Home or Onward Travel

Guests returning to the United States

Before boarding a flight to the United States, all travellers are required to show printed or electronic proof of a negative COVID-19 viral test (PCR or rapid antigen) result taken no more than one (1) day before travel, or documentation of recovery from COVID-19 in the last 90 days.

For up-to-date details and FAQs visit [Requirement for Proof of Negative COVID-19 Test or Documentation of Recovery from COVID-19 | CDC](#). Be sure to check state COVID-19 entry requirements, as they may vary.

Guests returning to Canada

All travellers, including Canadian passport holders, must provide printed or electronic proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test taken within 72 hours of boarding their flight to Canada. Additional information can be found at travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories.

Note all guests with flights connecting through and/or continuing to other countries should check the specific COVID-19 entry requirements.

VACCINATIONS & MEDICATIONS

A yellow fever vaccination is only required to enter Saudi Arabia if you are arriving from, or have transited through, a yellow fever-endemic area in South America or Africa. The CDC and WHO each provide a current list of all affected countries. If vaccination for yellow fever is necessary, you must carry an International Certificate of Vaccination provided by your physician; you may be denied entry without it. If your physician advises against receiving the vaccination because of your personal medical history, he or she can provide you with the necessary documentation for the country/countries you are visiting.

CASH & CREDIT CARDS

Cash transactions should be made in local currency. Major credit cards are widely accepted for goods and services. Access to ATM machines is widespread in cities and towns but may be limited in rural areas.

OF SPECIAL NOTE: ALCOHOL IN SAUDI ARABIA

The importation, possession and/or consumption of alcohol in Saudi Arabia is prohibited and punishable by law.

PACKING LIST

Please use the provided A&K luggage tags, even if your bags already have ID tags. This makes it easier for A&K staff to collect and manage your luggage for you.

Safe Travel Essentials

Be sure to bring personal protective equipment (PPE), including face masks, travel-sized hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, facial tissues and disinfecting wipes or spray.

General Dress Code in Saudi Arabia

As a traditional Islamic nation, Saudi Arabia observes a strict dress code that must be adhered to at all times. Women should wear long skirts or loose-fitting pants and ensure that their ankles and arms are properly covered. Men should keep their arms covered as well. Though it is not legally required, women may occasionally be asked to wear an *abaya* (long robe) or *hijab* (headscarf) - and many female visitors feel more comfortable wearing these garments in public.

Please note that men and women cannot use swimming pools at the same time in Saudi Arabia. There are designated times when each can use the pool, generally with women's swim hours being during the day. Check with your hotel for specifics.

Clothing

Choose versatile, casual clothing that can be layered if the weather (or level of air-conditioning) requires. Smart casual attire is appropriate for evenings. Formal clothing is not necessary.

Casual slacks

Abaya (a long, loose black robe) for women

- Polo shirts, casual short-sleeve shirts or blouses
- Long comfortable skirts for women
- Sweater or lightweight jacket
- Brimmed hat for sun protection
- Sleepwear
- Socks
- Hijab* (scarf large enough to cover neck and shoulders for women)
- Long sleeved shirts or blouses
- Comfortable walking shoes with traction
- Foldable umbrella to use as sun shade
- Personal garments
- Swimwear/cover-up

Other Recommended Items

- Sunglasses
- Simple first-aid kit
- Extra eyeglasses/contact lenses
- Charging cables for electronics
- Sun block / Insect repellent
- Prescriptions and medications (in their original bottles and/or packaging)
- Smartphone
- Global travel adapter

Optional Items

- Small LED flashlight
- Small daypack or fanny pack
- Foldable walking stick

Laundry service is available at most hotels and dry cleaning is available in larger cities. Check costs and return times before using these services.

TIPPING GUIDELINES

As a convenience, all staff gratuities are included on your Limited Edition Small Group Journey: *Saudi Arabia: Desert Kingdoms*.

Any additional gratuities that you may wish to bestow upon any specific member/s of your tour staff are left to your personal discretion.

For extra nights or Tailor Made services added to your main journey, we suggest the following gratuities (noted in U.S. dollars).

	Tailor Made Journeys
Local Guide (driving own vehicle)	\$40 per person, per day (full day)
Local Guide (with separate driver)	\$25 per person, per day (full day)
Drivers	\$15 per person, per day (full day)
Airport Transfer Drivers	\$5 per person, per transfer
Hotel Porters	\$2 per bag
Housekeepers	\$2 per person, per night

Included Meals	10-15% unless already added
Restaurants or Room Service on Own	10-15% unless already added