

MONARCH VIEW

Why Kuwait

Leading the Way

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Kuwait exemplifies good leadership practices. The country is the most progressive of the 22 nations in the Middle East even though it is one of the oldest tracing its history back to several hundred years B.C.

- ✚ Kuwait is a land of law, a land of justice. You can even sue the Amir. In the US, you cannot even do that – sue the head of state. In Kuwait, several do each year and some prevail. The courts are very business oriented.
- ✚ There is a parliament and people vote, yes including women.
- ✚ Back two decades there were flocks of airline hijackings. Finally, Kuwait drew the line in the sand and although a royal prince was on board, the Kuwaitis refused to give in to the hijackers.



April 5-20, 1988: A Kuwait Airlines Boeing 747 is diverted to Mashad, Iran with 111 people on board. Seven hijackers demand the release of Shiite Muslim extremists being held in Kuwait. Two passengers are killed during the 16-day ordeal that ends in Algiers after an aborted landing attempt in Beirut and a stopover in Larnaca, Cyprus.

Education is highly regarded. There are more PhD's per capita than any other country or University campus. Seventy percent of the graduates of Kuwait University are women.

- ✚ Women serve in many high positions:

President of the University, Faiza M. Al-Khorafi, Ph.D



President of the oil company - Sarah Akabar



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The head of the teams putting out the oil fires in 1991 is hard at work again in Iraq—already. The experts said it would take at least four years. She accomplished it within 7 months.

- ✚ Kuwaiti women drive, are allowed to travel alone, and enjoy a central role in their own families. Yet, there is much more to do in regard to women in Kuwait. This story illuminates:

Before the Gulf War, Barbara Walters did a story on gender roles in Kuwait. She noted that women customarily walked about 10 feet behind their husbands. She returned to Kuwait recently and observed that the men now walked several yards behind their wives. Ms. Walters approached one of the women for an explanation. "This is marvelous," she said, "What enabled women to achieve such respect?" The Kuwaiti woman replied, "Land mines."

- ✚ Kuwaitis love to laugh. Their spirits are almost, always high. They are an engaging, thought provoking, and naturally curious people. If you have a chance, always invite a Kuwait to dinner. You will not be disappointed and as my daughters discovered the men quickly help with the dishes - having been well trained at home.

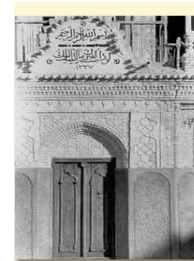
- ✚ There is a stock exchange with women stock traders



- ✚ Kuwait, historically, has been a major transshipment point for trade to the Middle East, particularly, Iraq.

- ✚ Kuwait has some of the most outspoken newspapers in the Arab world, frequently aggressive in their coverage of local political affairs and the government.

- ✚ Kuwait has a well-developed infrastructure with modern buildings and multilane roadways linking all areas of the country. Also, as you get into Iraq, Saudi and the other GCC, Gulf Cooperation Council countries.



- ✚ Once established in Kuwait a firm can easily operate throughout the region.

- ✚ Kuwait is seeking to foster the private sector with particular emphasis on service enterprise with high intellectual capital.

- ✚ Kuwaitis are generally most friendly to Americans giving both Bush Presidents their highest worldwide approval ratings. There is an anti-American backlash in Kuwait as everywhere including Beverly Hills.

- ✚ Religion in Kuwait: Muslim 85% (Sunni 70%, Shi'a 30%), other (includes Christian, Hindu, Parsi) 15%