Rules of Conduct for Tourists
Foreign Tourists
Cultural and geographical diversity are distinguishing characteristics of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. On this basis, the Saudi Commission for Tourism & Antiquities is pleased to offer some advice which will contribute towards enriching your experience, and give you the opportunity to become acquainted with the values, customs, traditions, cultural heritage and natural beauty which characterize our country.

While offering you this advice, we also wish to invite you to enjoy the friendly reception and generous hospitality for which Saudi Arabia is renowned.

President
Rules of Conduct for Tourists
Foreign Tourists
1. Religion in Saudi society

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is an Islamic country whose people hold their Islamic and Arab values and ethics very dear. You are invited to join with us in sharing the special qualities with which God has endowed our homeland and to live a unique tourism experience:

• The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia respects all revealed religions. Mosques are the Muslim houses of worship, and should therefore be treated with respect.
• The Islamic religion forbids the sale, purchase and consumption of alcoholic beverages and drugs. Domestic legislation prohibits these activities.
• Modest clothing for men and women in public places in accordance with local customs and traditions is a must.
Dear Visitor:
The Saudi Commission for Tourism & Antiquities welcomes you to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and wishes you an enjoyable visit to our tourist and recreational sites, as well as our diverse shopping opportunities. We hope that you will enjoy the Kingdom’s climate, its beautiful beaches and the excellent tourist facilities that you will encounter throughout the country.
4. Resources

We appreciate your concern to help us in our unceasing efforts to conserve our natural resources, such as energy and water, through their optimal usage. We invite you to join with us in:

- Conserving water, which is a limited natural resource needed by everyone.
- Conserving energy through careful usage of air conditioning, hot water and lighting.
- Conserving other primary resources through wise usage and recycling.

5. Preserving the natural environment

Avoid actions which are detrimental to plant and animal life, and which may degrade the natural environment.

- Waste materials are a burden to the environment; dispose of waste in a proper manner by depositing it in the designated places.
- Do not disturb or feed wild animals, as that may have a negative effect on their behavior.
- The forests and deserts of the Kingdom are sensitive natural environments. Please refrain from harming any plant or animal life you encounter during your visits to these areas.
- Desert plants are extremely sensitive. Please do not interfere with them in any way.
- Try to enjoy wild flowers and fruits without plucking them.
2. Values, customs and traditions

You are invited to experience the traditional warm welcome and hospitality of our homeland, and to participate in maintaining this tradition by making yourself aware of the customs and traditions of our local societies and respecting them. Among these we can mention:

- The importance of inquiring about the time and nature of visiting hours in public places such as museums, parks and zoos in advance, as there are different visiting times for families, women and bachelors.
- It is necessary to ask permission before photographing men, women or children.
- Tipping is not necessary in Saudi society, and is left to your own judgment.

3. Antiquities and cultural heritage

You are invited to enjoy the Kingdom’s cultural heritage and to help preserve it for future generations; you can do this in the following ways:

- Visit local museums and historic sites in order to become acquainted with the local heritage and antiquities.
- Show your appreciation of the culture, arts and handicrafts of local societies, and you will bolster local efforts to preserve them and present them to visitors in a better way.
- Your appreciation of our heritage will gain you respect wherever you go, whether the sites you visit are protected or not.
- Attendance at different cultural festivals will give you the opportunity to experience local cultures and folklore groups.
- Photography is prohibited wherever expressly stated.
- Please be careful regarding your purchases, so that you do not buy an antique or archeological artifact. Follow relevant regulations in this regard.