## **WELCOME TO ERBIL**

Erbil, also known as Hawler, is the capital city of the Kurdistan Region in Iraq. It's one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world, with a rich history that dates back over 6,000 years. The city is known for its historical sites, including the Erbil Citadel, which is a UNESCO World Heritage site. Erbil is also a vibrant cultural and economic hub, with a mix of modernity and tradition. Have you visited Erbil or are you planning to? There's a lot to explore and experience in this fascinating city!

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## IRAQI KURDISTAN





















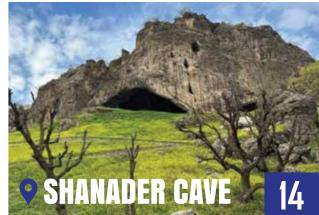
















### **Erbil Archaeological museums**

Located in the city center, opposite City Hall, the museum is divided into three sections and artifacts all are exhibited chronologically, according to era. The origin of some exhibits goes back to 5,000 B.C.; the collection offers an insight into the ancient culture and traditions of Kurdistan and Iraq An extensive library, one of the most prestigious historical libraries in the city, is next door to the museum.



### Erbil citadel

Erbil Citadel represents a distinct urban entity and should be treated as such. It is not simply an agglomeration of a number of houses and other buildings located within a complex system of narrow alleyways. The citadel is the unique heritage of human experience and genius of thousands of years. It tells the story of how hundreds of past generations interacted with their natural environment and how they developed their way of life based on their cultural norms.

## Qaisary bazaar

he Qaisary bazaar is located southeast of the Erbil Citadel, opposite its main gate. It was constructed at the time of the Ottomans and was built in the form of a bow, with many long corridors, each lined with shops. The Kurdistan Regional Government recently renovated the bazaar, revitalizing the busy commercial area. Tourists visit the Qaisary bazaar to buy presents and food, and to enjoy its attractive surroundings.

### **Choli Minare**

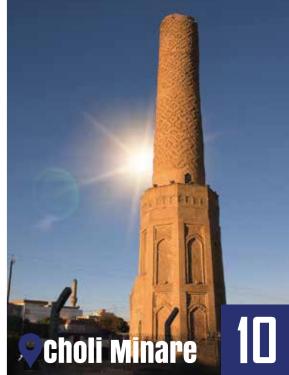
is one of Erbil city's most famous landmarks. Built in 1128-1138 A.D., during the rule of Sultan Mudhaffar al-Din Called, it is also known as al-Mudhafariah Minaret. Local inhabitants refer to it as 'Choli because it was far from the cit



## Minarah park

Minarah Park is one of the most beautiful recreational grounds in the region. Located opposite Shanadar Park, it is named Manarah after the Choli Minaret housed in the park grounds. Minarah Park can be visited daily and national activities and celebrations are often held here





### **Kurdish Textile Museum**

Kurdish textile The museum is located inside the Erbil Citadel and exhibits artifacts that demonstrate. Kurdistan's ancient traditions of spinning and weaving. Exhibits include carpets, clothing, raw materials, and wool dyed naturally using wild plants and flowers.

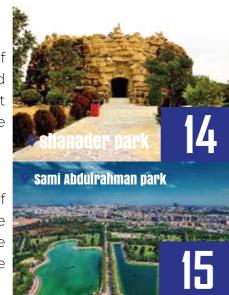


### **Shanadar Park**

Shanadar Park is south of the Erbil Citadel, behind al-Sawwaf Mosque. It was constructed according to a modern design and contains several play areas for children. A hall for local art exhibitions built in the form of the renowned Shanadar Cave lies at the center of the park.

### Sami Abdul-Rahman Park

Sami Abdul-Rahman Park was built on the site of one of Saddam Hussein's infamous detention centers. Today the peaceful oasis covers several hectares and contains a lake, rose garden, running track, climbing wall, restaurant, as well as the city's Martyrs' Memorial







# 18 Kharand

### **Beston Cave**

This cave has an impressive history, dating back to the Stone Age. It is believed that the Neanderthal people used to reside within this cave. To access this site, one must drive either on the road through Spilk Mountain towards Khallan or from the Kali Ali Bag Strait by the westbound road between Hawdian and Sardaw. This cave has not been excavated to date.



### **Kharand**

At an altitude of 980 m, Kharand is a natural site located west of Rawanduz on the road to Soran.

The section of road that passes through the village of Kawlokan is named Kali Kharand, while the section lying to the side of Rawanduz is called Kharand. A must-see for its stunning scenery.





### **Shanadar Cave**

(Kurdish: Saneder or Zew Semi Saneder) is an archaeological site located on Bradost Mountain in Erbil Covernorate. The remains of ten Neanderthals, dating from 35,000 to 65,000 years ago, have been found within the cave.

The cave also contains two later "proto-Neolithic" cemeteries, one of which dates back about 10,600 years and contains 35 individuals.

### Choman

Set in the frontier district of the Hallgurd-Sakran mountain chain, Choman is an important agricultural and cattle-breeding region. The area attracts many tourists and offers a wide range of facilities and recreational areas, including summer resorts, parks, rivers, green pastures and waterfalls.



## **Halgurd Mountain**

A trip to Halgurd Mountain is the ultimate experience for the adventurous! With a peak altitude of 3,607m, Halgurd is the tallest mountain in Iraq and is sure to take your breath away!







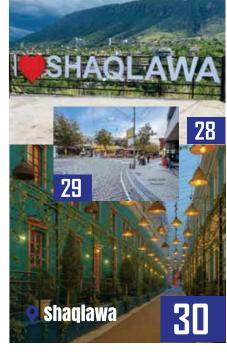
## **Korek Mountain**

Korek Mountain is one of the most beautiful mountains in Kurdistan and Iraq. Every year, it is covered with snow during winter and spring. The new resort is the first of its kind in Iraq and the first step to develop winter tourism in the Kurdistan Region.

The cable car makes it easy to get to the top of the mountain, where a tourist resort has been built to receive visitors year round, especially during the winter season.







## **Bekhal**

Bekhal waterfall spreads horizontally as it descends while remaining in contact with bedrock; the large stream issues from the mountain. Near the base of the mountain visitors can find a bazaar and food stalls. You can also climb up the fairly precarious and slippery steps to the top of the waterfall to experience the stunning view and drink the refreshing and sweet mineral

## Gali Ali Bag

Situated about 95 kilometers from Erbil, on the road to Soran, this valley dips between the Korek and Bradost mountains. It is 12 kilometers long and contains many beautiful sites, including springs and waterfalls. The famous Gali Ali Begg waterfall is located in this valley, which is a popular site for tourists from all around the country.

## Shaqlawa

is a popular holiday destination located between the Safeen and Sork mountains. Known as the Pride of Kurdistan, Shaqlawa has an abundance of waterfalls, springs, trees, and greenery Its beautiful nature and climate attract tourists from across Iraq and abroad most weekends and by dusk the streets are full of visitors strolling through the peaceful streets, window shopping