



AN INDEPENDENT KURDISTAN

3 - 9 JULY 2017

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Often called 'America's reward', Iraqi Kurdistan emerged from the 2003 invasion of Iraq as a remarkably stable, prosperous and democratic region. Its relatively progressive social values, good foreign relations and central role in the war on ISIL has created popular support throughout the world for transforming the region into its own country.

In a 2005 referendum, the Kurds voted to leave Iraq with 99% of voters in favour of independence. While the result was never implemented, the Kurdish regional government continues to hope that developments over the past 12 years will carry enough momentum to force a final breakaway from Baghdad.

But what would the partition of Iraq mean, and what would this new country look like? Through cultural and language exchanges, political party meetings and collaborative projects, the Kurdish Independence Forum has been created to give delegates a window into the rapidly changing Middle East.



PROGRAMME DATES

**START: 3 JULY 2017
ERBIL, IRAQ**

**END: 9 JULY 2017
ERBIL, IRAQ**

FEES AND APPLICATION

**EUR 1,150/
GBP 980**

More information on programmes
fees can be found on page 15

**APPLICATION
DEADLINE:
20th MAY 2017**

APPLY

**PROGRAMME
DETAILS**



ERBIL



KURDISTAN'S CAPITAL AND SEAT OF GOVERNMENT FOR RULING PARTY KDP. WE WILL MEET OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS THEIR INDEPENDENCE PLANS. ALSO THE HOME OF A LARGE CHRISTIAN AND ASSYRIAN COMMUNITY, WE WILL MEET LEADERS OF MINORITY COMMUNITIES TO DISCUSS THEIR PLACE IN KURDISTAN

SULAYMANIYAH



HOME OF THE PUK - THE MAIN OPPOSITION PARTY TO KDP WITH A DIFFERENT VISION FOR KURDISTAN'S FUTURE. WE WILL MEET OFFICIALS HERE TO DISCUSS THIS, AND TOUR THE HISTORIC RUINS OF SADDAM'S BRUTAL RULE.

HALABJA



SIGHT OF HISTORIC GAS ATTACKS, PART OF SADDAM'S ANFAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE KURDS. WE MEET SURVIVORS OF THE ATTACK AND DISCUSS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HALABJA FOR KURDISH NATIONAL IDENTITY

WHERE WE GO

This is an example schedule and subject to change. A detailed schedule outlining activity objectives as well as speaker profiles will be provided to participating delegates.

03 JULY 2017

Delegates will meet at Erbil hotel (location to be specified) where we will hold formal introductions, discussion rounds and a Sorani language class. We will share a welcome dinner and drinks at the marina.

04 JULY 2017

The programme will begin with a tour of Erbil Citadel and souk. After lunch in the city, we will meet with KDP officials to discuss Kurdish politics. An afternoon visit to Erbil's new shopping complex and talks at the hotel by experts will follow. Dinner at the hotel.

05 JULY 2017

After breakfast we will drive to Sulaymaniyah and check in to our hotel. After lunch, we meet PUK officials and discuss the opposition party's stance on Kurdish independence. A meeting with representatives of Baha'i faith. A trip to Saddam's 'Red Prison' and tour of the city will follow. Evening dinner and drinks in the city.

06 JULY 2017

After breakfast we drive to Halabja. Tour of Anfal museum and cemetery and discussions with survivors of the attacks. Lunch in Halabja and journey back to Erbil (4 hours). Dinner in Erbil city.



This is an example schedule and subject to change. A detailed schedule outlining activity objectives as well as speaker profiles will be provided to participating delegates.

07 JULY 2017

Early breakfast and drive along the Hamilton Road towards Shaqlawah. Known as 'Pride of Kurdistan' the town is nestled in the mountains and surrounded by waterfalls, springs and woods. This is a day to hike swim, relax and enjoy Kurdish nature! We return to Erbil after dinner.

09 JULY 2017

Final breakfast and goodbye - we will accompany delegates to Erbil airport.

08 JULY 2017

Final full day. We will visit the Peshmerga and discuss the war on ISIL. We will visit the Baha'i and Assyrian community leaders for further discussions. After this we will meet local Kurdish students and have further discussions about the trip, including further expert talks (live or via Skype). Goodbye dinner and drinks in bar or nightclub.

DELEGATION SIZE



The delegation will consist of a minimum of 08 and maximum of 16 delegates.

APPLICATION PROCESS

WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

Application to Delegations For Dialogue's programmes are competitive and we employ a rigorous election process to build each delegation. Requirements for the Kurdish Independence Forum are the following:

- Hold a passport eligible for entry to Iraqi Kurdistan
- Currently enrolled student at university level (preferable but not mandatory)
- Fluent in English
- A clear sense of social responsibility
- An open-mind and genuine curiosity to learn about other cultures
- A demonstrable interest in journalism and story telling
- Interest in Middle Eastern politics and travel
- Ability to remain composed

NOTE: Delegates should be aware that Delegations for Dialogue is working with the local Kurdish government for the most up to date safety advice at the time of the programme, and receive protection if necessary. However, this is still technically a war zone and delegates join at their own risk.

FOUR-STEP APPLICATION PROCESS



APPLICATION FORM

Applicants must first submit a 250 word statement of interest via Delegations For Dialogue's website: <http://www.delegations.org/apply/>



REVIEW PERIOD

Delegations For Dialogue will review all applicants and provide a response within 14 days.



ONLINE INTERVIEW

Selected applicants will be invited for a 30-minute Skype interview with staff from Delegations For Dialogue. Interviews will be conducted in English.



OFFER AND DEPOSIT

APPLY

PROGRAMME FEE

TOTAL FEE

GBP 985
(EUR 1,100)

PROGRAMME FEE COVERAGE

Delegations For Dialogue is a self-sustaining non-profit organisation and, receives no external funding from governments or third-party organisations. As such, participation in any of our overseas programmes carries a programme fee.

The programme fee includes the following:

- Double occupancy accommodation for the duration of the programme
- Three meals per day
- All domestic transportation
- All entry tickets.

The programme fee does not include the following:

- Travel to and from Erbil
- Visa fees (if applicable)
- Alcoholic drinks
- Travel insurance
- Personal spending on souvenirs and anything not mentioned under included.

**PROGRAMME
ORGANIZERS**



DELEGATIONS FOR DIALOGUE

Delegations For Dialogue is a UK-based non-profit, non-partisan, non-religious organisation that equips future generations of global leaders with the knowledge and skills necessary to understand the causes of conflict. Each year they organise a series of "travelling symposiums", fact-finding programmes and sports and cultural diplomacy missions within contentious regions divided by conflict. They also organize conferences and events locally within a growing network of university campus associations located around the world. Delegations For Dialogue was established in 2015 and has since nine global dialogue programmes engaging over 114 students and professors from 29 different countries.

More information: www.delegations.org

LOUIS GORE-LANGTON

FOUNDER, DELEGATIONS FOR DIALOGUE

Founder and Middle East Coordinator

Louis obtained his BA degree in Liberal Arts from Maastricht University in the Netherlands, before joining the Delegations For Dialogue co-founding team in 2015. He has a strong interest in the politics of the Middle East and has coordinated programmes in Lebanon and North Korea. Louis is currently based in Montpellier, France where he works as an Industry Reporter for William Reed Business Media.



**PROGRAMME
STAFF**

ALI TAHA

Middle East Coordinator

Ali is a graduate student and entrepreneur originally from the south of Lebanon; he has worked in the Republic of Congo and holds a Bachelors degree in International Relations and Political Science from the Lebanese American University in Byblos. Ali is currently pursuing his MA degree at the University of Amsterdam. After joining Delegations for Dialogue's first ever programme to North Korea, Ali joined the team and organised programmes in Lebanon and Iraq. Ali is based between Lebanon and Amsterdam. He speaks Arabic, English and French.



**PROGRAMME
STAFF**

QUESTIONS?

CONTACT US AT INFO@DELEGATIONS.ORG

WWW.DELEGATIONS.ORG

