



Iraq

CAPITAL

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OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

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CURRENCY

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Last verified: June 2026 | Guide version: 2.0

Disclaimer

This Country Guide reflects information believed to be correct at the time of publication. Regulations, procedures and charges are subject to change. IAM does not accept liability for errors, omissions, inaccuracies or misinterpretations in this guide. The information provided should not be considered as having been provided or sanctioned by the customs authorities of the country or territory concerned.

Important Note

Important -- Security and Operational Context: Iraq remains a complex operating environment with significant regional variations in security, governance, and customs enforcement. The Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), governed by the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), operates with substantial autonomy and may apply different procedures at its ports of entry (particularly Erbil and Sulaymaniyah). Customs regulations may differ between Baghdad-controlled areas and the KRI. Always coordinate closely with the destination agent for the specific city of destination.

Overview

Duty-Free Eligibility

Duties and taxes: Returning Iraqi citizens must pay duties and taxes of approximately 8 to 10% of the declared customs value based on the pro-forma invoice. This applies to household goods; Iraq does not offer a general duty-free transfer-of-residence exemption for its own nationals.

Diplomatic exemption: Diplomats can receive a diplomatic exemption from duties and taxes if their country has an embassy in Iraq.

Documents

Required Documents

- **Copy of passport**
- **Copy of bill of lading (OBL) or air waybill (AWB)**
- **Packing list**
- **Pro-forma invoice**
- **Authorization letter from the owner (required for shipments to Erbil)**

Household Goods — Specific Information

Erbil shipments: An authorization letter from the owner is required for shipments destined for Erbil. Customs procedures in the Kurdistan Region may differ from those in Baghdad and southern Iraq.

Customs interpretation varies by city: This is a critical operational point. Customs regulations may be interpreted and enforced differently between cities. Contact the destination agent for the specific destination city before importing.

All goods subject to customs inspection.

ISPM 15: Wood packaging materials should comply with ISPM 15 standards.

Prohibited / Restricted Items

Prohibited Items

- Weapons (without authorization) PERMIT REQUIRED
- Illegal drugs and narcotics
- Pornographic materials
- Tactical gear
- Products of taxidermy (stuffed animals)

- Israeli currency
- Nuclear material (except for legitimate industry or medical purposes)
- Meat and milk products (per VisaHQ)
- Artifacts of important religious or historical importance
- Antique carpets
- Magazines, films, and other material against the public interest
- Counterfeit goods

Restricted / Dutiable Items

Personal duty-free allowances (per VisaHQ):

- 200 cigarettes, or 50 cigars, or 250 grams of tobacco
- Up to 1 litre of wine or spirits
- 500 ml of perfume (in two small opened bottles)
- All local and foreign currency must be declared on arrival

Alcohol in household goods: Only diplomats may import alcohol. Non-diplomatic alcohol imports are restricted.

Tobacco in household goods: Only diplomats may import tobacco (limited to 1 carton per the IAM guide).

Other restricted items:

- Firearms and ammunition (authorization required) PERMIT REQUIRED
- Material used in the creation of explosives, including fertilizers (license from Ministry of Trade required) PERMIT REQUIRED
- Plants and plant products (permission from Ministry of Trade required)
- Fowl and poultry products from countries with bird flu outbreaks (permission required)
- Dogs, cats, and other pets (must be cleared by the veterinary department with proper documentation)

Vehicles

Vehicle Documents

- Copy of passport

- **Copy of bill of lading (OBL)**
- **Ownership paperwork**
- **Certificate of title**
- **Pro-forma invoice**

Specific Information

Vehicle age limit: Non-armored vehicles must be less than 2 years old for import.

Duties and taxes: 8 to 10% duties and taxes apply, calculated on the declared customs value from the pro-forma invoice, unless a diplomatic protocol is received from the owner's embassy.

Diplomatic exemption: Diplomats with a protocol from their embassy are exempt from duties and taxes on vehicle imports.

Pets

Requirements

- **Import permit from the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture**
- **Veterinary health certificate (issued within 10 to 14 days of travel; endorsement may be required depending on country of origin)**
- **Vaccination record (rabies + species-specific vaccinations)**
- **Microchip documentation (recommended)**

Specific Information

Discrepancy on Erbil: The IAM guide (2016) states that pets cannot be imported to Erbil.

PetTravel (2026) states that Erbil International Airport is the preferred port of entry for personally owned dogs and cats. This is a significant contradiction. The situation may have changed since 2016, or the restriction may apply specifically to certain categories of imports. Confirm with the destination agent before making any arrangements.

Quarantine: No quarantine if all regulations are met. Non-compliant pets may be quarantined, returned, or euthanized.

Import permit: Required from the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture for pets entering from any country.

Microchip: Recommended. A 15-digit ISO 11784/11785 compliant microchip is the most accepted standard.

Rabies vaccination: Required for all dogs and cats over 3 months of age. Must be administered between 30 days and 11 months before entry. Multi-year rabies vaccinations are not recognized unless administered within 11 months of import.

Rabies titer test: Not required to enter Iraq. However, Iraq is classified as a high-rabies-risk country by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), so a titer test may be required for the pet to return to the country of origin.

Other vaccinations (dogs): Distemper, hepatitis, parvovirus, and leptospirosis.

Other vaccinations (cats): Feline viral rhinotracheitis, calicivirus, and panleukopenia.

Parasite treatments: Required. Must be administered by a licensed veterinarian in the country of origin just before travel.

Health certificate: Must be issued within 10 to 14 days of travel by a licensed veterinarian. No endorsement required from the United States, but PetTravel recommends contacting the Iraqi embassy for current restrictions. Endorsement may be required as part of export procedures from the country of origin.

No banned breeds: Iraq does not publish a list of banned breeds.

Entry by air: PetTravel identifies Erbil International Airport as the preferred port of entry. Security can be provided for dogs entering at Baghdad. Veterinary officials should be notified in advance.

CDC high-rabies-risk country: Iraq is on the U.S. CDC list of high-risk countries for dog rabies. Dogs entering the United States from Iraq are subject to enhanced CDC import requirements. Plan for these re-entry requirements before departure.

Common Mistakes

- Assuming pets can or cannot be imported to Erbil without confirming with the destination agent (conflicting information between sources)
- Not obtaining the Ministry of Agriculture import permit before travel
- Not administering parasite treatments before departure (required, not optional)

Sources Consulted

1. **IAM Country Guide: Iraq** (November 21, 2016) -- primary source for document requirements (including Erbil authorization letter), duty rates (8-10%), vehicle age limit (2 years for non-armored), diplomatic exemptions, pet restriction for Erbil, alcohol/tobacco diplomat-only

restriction, prohibited items (tactical gear, taxidermy)

2. **FIDI Global Alliance** -- no dedicated Iraq customs guide found (404)
3. **VisaHQ Iraq Customs** -- duty-free personal allowances (tobacco, 1L alcohol, perfume), currency declaration requirement, prohibited items (Israeli currency, nuclear material, meat/milk, artifacts, antique carpets), restricted items (explosives materials, plants, bird flu-affected poultry), health screening requirements
4. **PetTravel.com Iraq Pet Import Requirements** (updated 2026) -- 6-step import process including microchip, vaccinations (rabies 30 days to 11 months), titer test not required, parasite treatments required, health certificate (10-14 days), import permit from Ministry of Agriculture, no banned breeds, Erbil as preferred port of entry, security for Baghdad
5. **Trade.gov Iraq Import Requirements and Documentation** -- general import framework
6. **CDC High-Risk Countries for Dog Rabies** -- Iraq confirmed on the list

Discrepancies

- **Pets in Erbil:** The IAM guide (2016) states "Pets cannot be imported to Erbil." PetTravel (2026) states "Erbil International Airport is the preferred port of entry for personally owned dogs and cats." This is a direct contradiction. The most likely explanation is that the restriction was lifted between 2016 and 2026, or that it applied to a specific category of import. This must be confirmed with the destination agent before any pet shipment is arranged.
- **Rabies vaccination validity:** PetTravel states "between 30 days and 11 months." Most other countries use a 12-month window. The 11-month figure may reflect an Iraqi-specific requirement or a conservative estimate. Confirm with the destination agent.
- **Alcohol for travelers vs. shipments:** VisaHQ lists 1 litre of wine or spirits as a personal duty-free allowance for travelers. The IAM guide restricts alcohol imports in household goods to diplomats only. These are consistent: the personal traveler allowance applies to accompanied luggage, not household goods shipments.

Unverified Items

- The 8-10% duty rate (from the 2016 IAM guide) could not be verified against a current Iraqi government source because the customs website is unreliable. This rate should be confirmed with the destination agent.

- The 2-year vehicle age limit for non-armored vehicles (from the 2016 IAM guide) could not be independently verified and may have changed.
- Whether the Erbil pet import restriction has been formally lifted could not be confirmed through official sources.
- The VisaHQ note about mandatory AIDS testing for all travelers entering Iraq could not be independently verified and may reflect outdated information. Confirm with the Iraqi embassy.

Consignment Instructions

Recommended: Contact the destination agent to ensure all requirements have been met prior to import, especially for differences regarding air and sea shipments.

Regional differences: Iraq effectively operates two customs regimes: federal Iraq (Baghdad and southern/central governorates) and the Kurdistan Region (Erbil, Sulaymaniyah, Duhok). Procedures, enforcement intensity, and documentation requirements may differ between these areas. The destination agent must be consulted for the specific destination city.

Pro-forma invoice: Required for all shipments. The declared customs value on the pro-forma invoice is the basis for duty and tax calculations (8-10%).

Security considerations: Iraq's security environment affects logistics, delivery timelines, and costs. Armed escorts may be required for certain routes. The destination agent should advise on current security requirements for the specific delivery location.

Ports of entry: Sea cargo typically arrives at Umm Qasr port (near Basra). Air cargo clears through Baghdad International Airport or Erbil International Airport. Land shipments may enter through border crossings with Jordan, Turkey, or Kuwait depending on the destination.

Alcohol and tobacco: Non-diplomatic shipments must not contain alcohol or tobacco.

Cultural & Other Information

- **OpenFactBook (replaces CIA World Factbook):**
<https://www.openfactbook.org/countries/iraq/> (verified 200)
- **Wikipedia -- Iraq:** <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq> (verified 403 to bots; works in browser)
- **Iraqi Customs Authority:** <https://customs.mof.gov.iq/> (returns 403 "Secure Gateway" WAF -- browser-accessible; resolved from May 2026 error state)

- **Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs:** <https://mofa.gov.iq/> (verified 200; Arabic-language; resolved from May 2026 530 error)
- **Trade.gov -- Iraq Import Requirements and Documentation:** <https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/iraq-import-requirements-and-documentation> (verified 200)
- **PetTravel.com -- Iraq:** <https://www.pettravel.com/information/pet-passports/iraq-pet-import-requirements/> (verified 200)
- **VisaHQ -- Iraq Customs:** <https://www.visahq.com/iraq/customs/> (verified 200)
- **CDC High-Risk Countries for Dog Rabies:** <https://www.cdc.gov/importation/dogs/high-risk-countries.html> (verified 200)

Note: Iraqi government websites are more accessible in June 2026 than in May: customs.mof.gov.iq now returns a WAF block (browser-accessible) rather than an error page; mofa.gov.iq is now confirmed live at 200 with Arabic content. The destination agent remains essential for current regulatory details given the dynamic operating environment.

Quick Links & Resources

- [Find Movers in Iraq](https://iamovers.mobilityex.com/index.html#/search?loc=Iraq&lat=33.2232&lng=43.6793&range=50&assocs=800&fvw=c&ctry=Iraq)
<https://iamovers.mobilityex.com/index.html#/search?loc=Iraq&lat=33.2232&lng=43.6793&range=50&assocs=800&fvw=c&ctry=Iraq>
 - [Foreign Embassies in Iraq](https://www.embassypages.com/iraq)
<https://www.embassypages.com/iraq>
 - [Iraqi Customs Authority](https://customs.mof.gov.iq/)
<https://customs.mof.gov.iq/>
 - [Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs](https://mofa.gov.iq/)
<https://mofa.gov.iq/>
 - [OpenFactBook \(replaces CIA World Factbook\)](https://www.openfactbook.org/countries/iraq/)
<https://www.openfactbook.org/countries/iraq/>
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