

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES ON SAUDI ARABIA

1. **Membership in UNESCO:** since 1946
2. **Membership on the Executive Board:** not currently (Saudi Arabia was elected to the Executive Board in 2011 and conceded the seat to Oman in 2013, which was not elected).
3. **Membership on Intergovernmental Committees, Commissions, etc.:**
 - Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Country of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation (term expires in 2019)
 - Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
 - Governing Board of the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (former UNESCO Institute for Education, UIE) – H.E. Faisal Bin Abdulrahman Bin Muaammar
 - Intergovernmental Council of the “Management of Social transformations” Programme
 - Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Department of Communication (term expires in 2021)
 - Legal Committee (2019-2021)
4. **Former Director-General visits to Saudi Arabia: 7**
 - 21 May 2017: Arab-Islamic-American Summit in Riyadh
 - 4 May 2017: 7th International Forum of NGOs – Meeting with the King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.
 - 20-22 January 2013: Youth Volunteering and Dialogue International Conference of Jeddah.
 - 2-5 December 2013: International Youth Conference on Volunteering and Dialogue, within the cooperation agreement between UNESCO and the Abdulla Bin Abdulaziz International Programme for a Culture of Peace and Dialogue.
 - 20-23 April 2012: Visit of the first women’s university in Saudi Arabia, Princess Nora bin Abdulrahman University.
 - 11-12 December 2011: 9th Learning and Technology Conference, Learning by Design: Purpose, Art and Motion.
 - 16-17 March 2010: Festival of Al Janadriyah.
5. **Permanent Delegation to UNESCO:**
 - Ambassador, Permanent Delegate: H.E. Mr Ibrahim Albalawi
 - H.E. Mr Ziad Aldrees was Ambassador, Permanent Delegate from 21 April 2006 to December 2016
 - Mr Abdulmohsen Alkhatib was the Chargé d’affaires until appointment of new Permanent Delegate
6. **UNESCO Office:** Saudi Arabia is covered by UNESCO Office in Doha (Qatar)
 - Date of establishment: 1976
 - Member States serviced: Qatar, Oman, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait and Yemen
 - Name of Head: Ms Anna Paolini
7. **National Commission for UNESCO:**
 - Date of establishment: 1964
 - Chairman: Dr. Ahmed bin Mohammed Al-Issa (since January 2016)
 - Secretary-General: Mr Ghormallah Al Ghamdi (since December 2012)
8. **Personalities linked to UNESCO’s activities: 2**

- His Royal Highness Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz: UNESCO Special Envoy for Water:, President of the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND).
- Dr Hayat Sindi: Goodwill Ambassador, since 1 October 2012.

9. UNESCO Chairs: 2

- UNESCO Chair on Desertification Studies, established in 2013 at King Abdulaziz University (Jeddah)
- UNESCO Chair for Research on Giftedness, Creativity and Learners with Special Needs, established in 2014 at King Faisal University (Hofuf)

10. Associated schools: 4

11. Category 2 Centres: 1

- Regional Centre for Quality and Excellence (RCQE), Riyadh

12. Biosphere Reserves: none

13. UNESCO Global Geoparks: none

14. World Heritage sites: 4 cultural sites

- Al-Hijr Archeological Site (Mada'in Saleh) (2008)
- At-Turaif District in ad-Dir'iyah (2010)
- The Historic City of Jeddah, the Gate to Makkah (2014)
- Rock Art in the Hail Region of Saudi Arabia (2015)

15. Tentative list: 10 properties

- Darb Zubayda (Pilgrim Road from Kufa to Makkah) (2015)
- Hejaz Railway (2015)
- Syrian Hajj Road (2015)
- Egyptian Hajj Road (2015)
- Al-Faw Pre-Islamic City in Central Arabia (Qariah) (2015)
- Rijal Almaa Heritage Village in Assir Region (2015)
- Zee Ain Heritage Village in Al-Baha Region (2015)
- Al-Ahsa Oasis Cultural Heritage Landscape (2015)
- Hima a rock art site in Najran (2015)
- Dûmat Al-Jandal Historical Oasis in Al-Jawf Region (2015)

16. Intangible Heritage lists: 5 elements

- 2016: Falconry, a living human heritage, jointly with United Arab Emirates, Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Hungary, Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Morocco, Qatar, Austria, Spain, and Syrian Arab Republic
- 2016: Al Mezmar, drumming and dancing with sticks
- 2015: Arabic coffee, a symbol of generosity
- 2015: Majllis, a cultural and social space
- 2015: Alardah Alnajdiyah, dance, drumming and poetry in Saudi Arabia
- Ongoing nominations:
 - 2017: Al-Qatt Al-Asiri, a female traditional interior wall decoration in Asir, Saudi Arabia
 - 2018: Al-Janadria, national festival of Heritage and Culture (on-going nomination)

17. Memory of the World Register: 1 inscription

- Earliest Islamic (Kufic) Inscription (2003)

18. Creative cities: 1

- Al-Ahsa – Artisanat et arts populaires

19. Legal instruments: 14 ratified, 25 non-ratified

- Convention on the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage: ratified on 10 January 2008
- Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions: non-ratified
- International Convention against Doping in Sport: ratified on 22 May 2008
- Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage: ratified on 13 November 2015

20. Anniversaries with which UNESCO is associated in 2016-2017: none

21. Participation Programme:

- 2016-2017: no projects were submitted.
- 2014-2015: no projects were submitted.
- 2012-2013: no projects were submitted.
- 2010-2011: 7 projects were submitted and none were approved.

22. Fellowships: no fellowships since 2010.

23. Intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) maintaining relations with UNESCO: 7

- Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States
- Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations
- Arab Satellite Communications Organization
- Co-operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf
- Islamic Development Bank
- Islamic States Broadcasting Services Organisation
- Organization of Islamic Cooperation (formerly Organization of the Islamic Conference)

24. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) maintaining relations with UNESCO: 3

- Multi-Purpose Women's Cooperative In Qassim (HERFAH), NGO in official partnership with UNESCO with consultative status (2011).
- Saudi Heritage Preservation Society (SHPS), NGO in official partnership with UNESCO with consultative status (2016).
- Mohammed Bin Salman Bin Abdulaziz Foundation (MiSK) maintains official relations with UNESCO since 2015. (NB. MiSK has expressed the wish to host an international forum of NGOs in Riyadh in 2017)
- In addition, the request of the Muslim World League is presently under evaluation.