



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
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pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

World Heritage

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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Forty-second session

**Manama, Bahrain
24 June – 4 July 2018**

GENERAL INFORMATION

SUMMARY

This document provides important information regarding the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee that will be held in Manama (Bahrain) from 24 June to 4 July 2018 (registration, visas, travel and accommodation, etc..).

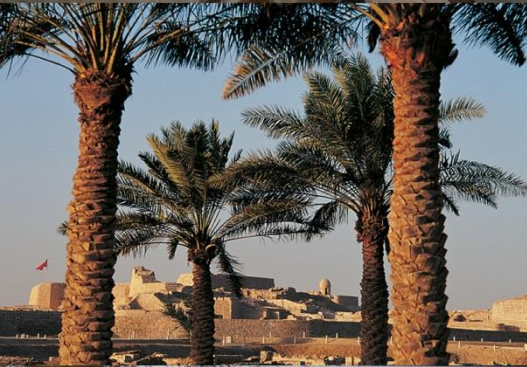
All information on the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee are also available at the following webpage: www.42whcbahrain2018.bh



42nd Session of World Heritage Committee

Manama

Kingdom of Bahrain



General Information Document



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture



World
Heritage
Convention

Convention
du patrimoine
mondial



الجمعية الوطنية للتراث
البحريني 2018

42nd Session of the
World Heritage Committee
Bahrain 2018
42e Session du
Comité du Patrimoine Mondial
Bahreïn 2018



هيئة البحرين
للثقافة والأثار
Culture & Antiquities

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Kingdom of Bahrain has the pleasure of hosting the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee. The Committee Session will take place in Manama, Bahrain, from 24 June to 4 July, 2018.

The information document is hereby presented to give a general introduction to the participants of the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee. The practical information included in the document intends to ensure that the participants have all the required knowledge to conveniently plan and realize their visit to the Host Country, Bahrain. Kindly be reminded that the official website www.42whcbahrain2018.bh and the organizers of the 42nd Session of the Committee are ready to assist you, if you may have any further questions.

2. PURPOSE

The World Heritage Committee is comprised of representatives from 21 States Parties to the *Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* elected by the General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention.

The current composition of the Committee is as follows:

Angola, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, China, Cuba, Guatemala, Hungary, Indonesia, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Norway, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Spain, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe.

For further information, please visit <http://whc.unesco.org/en/committee/>.

The essential functions of the Committee are:

- i. To identify, on the basis of nominations submitted by States Parties, cultural and natural properties of Outstanding Universal Value which are to be protected under the Convention, and to inscribe those properties on the World Heritage List;
- ii. To monitor the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List, in liaison with States Parties; decide which properties included in the World Heritage List are to be inscribed on or removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger; decide whether a property may be deleted from the World Heritage List;
- iii. To examine requests for International Assistance financed by the World Heritage Fund.

The 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee will be held in Manama from 24 June to 4 July 2018 at the UNESCO Village within Ritz Carlton Hotel premises.

3. SESSION ORGANIZERS

The 42nd session is organized by UNESCO with the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities is the main organizer of the session with the support of Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other governmental agencies.

For general logistical and organizational information regarding the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee, please contact the organizers at the following email address: info@42whcbahrain2018.bh

3.1. CONTACT DETAILS OF THE ORGANIZERS

For specific requests to the organizers, please find below a list of relevant contacts:

Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities

Mr Khalifa Ahmed Al Khalifa

Director of Museums at Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities

Focal Point on the Official Level

00973 17298714/15, k.alkhalifa@culture.gov.bh

Ms Miray Hasaltun Wosinski

UNESCO Liaison and Cultural Heritage Specialist at Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities

Focal Point on the Operational Level

00973 17299837, miray.wosinski@culture.gov.bh

3.2. SERVICE CONTACTS AND SIDE EVENTS

Side Events and Exhibitions, including Catering Requests

If you wish to organize a side event or an exhibition, kindly submit your request to the UNESCO Secretariat focal point, Mr David Martel (d.martel@unesco.org), by 4 May 2018 at the latest.

You will receive a form to fill in with details regarding the type of event or exhibition your country would like to organize, indicating the characteristics of the required space as well as catering and technical needs.

Further to the review of your request, you will be put in contact with the Host Country organizers for any relevant information and details concerning the organization of the event (, technical assistance, catering, etc.). Please note that the organizers reserve the right to indicate the space in which the requested event will take place. Though diverse, the space available at the UNESCO Village within Ritz Carlton Hotel premises is limited and it may occur that the organizers may not be able to accept all the applications.

For logistical queries, you may contact the organizers of the session as below:

Mr Michal Wosinski, Focal Point for Venue and Side Events

00973 17299836, michal.wosinski@culture.gov.bh

Ms Huda Al Alawi, Focal Point for Logistics

00973 1729 8796, huda.alalawi@culture.gov.bh

Ms Noora Lori, Focal Point for Logistics

00973 1729 8760, noora.lori@culture.gov.bh

Tours and Excursions

Guided tours will be offered throughout the Committee session. For any inquiries and further information, please refer to www.42whcbahrain2018.bh or contact tours@42whcbahrain2018.bh.

4. PARTICIPANTS AND REGISTRATION

4.1. PARTICIPANTS

The main participants of the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee are the **21 members of the Committee**.

The **States Parties to the Convention**, which are not members of the Committee, may attend the sessions of the Committee and its Bureau as Observers.

Non States Parties to the Convention who are Member States of UNESCO or of the United Nations may also be permitted by the Committee, upon written request, to attend the sessions of the Committee and its Bureau as Observers.

Representatives of the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) will attend the sessions of the Committee in an advisory capacity.

The United Nations and organizations of the United Nations system as well as, upon written request and at least 15 days prior to the date of the session of the Committee, other international governmental and non-governmental organizations, permanent observer missions to UNESCO and non-profit-making institutions having activities in the fields covered by the Convention, according to criteria defined by the World Heritage Committee, may be authorized by the Committee to participate in the sessions of the Committee as Observers.

4.2. REGISTRATION

Please note that all requests to participate in the 42nd session of the Committee must be submitted online through the official website: www.42whcbahrain2018.bh.

All delegates and those who wish to attend the 42nd session as observers are kindly requested to register as soon as possible and preferably before 20 May 2018. This will allow the session organizers sufficient time to process the information and make the necessary arrangements. Please see further details under 7.2. Visa Requirements section.

To register, please use the registration code provided in the invitation letter addressed to either the Permanent Delegation, National Commission or your organization. If you have not received the registration code, please contact your Permanent Delegation or National Commission. Contact details are available at: <https://en.unesco.org/countries>.

Once you have registered online and your accreditation has been granted, you will receive an email confirming your registration. Should you require any assistance, please contact the organizers at: registration@42whcbahrain2018.bh. If you encounter any technical problems during your registration, kindly contact: helpdesk@42whcbahrain2018.bh.

For Media registration please refer to paragraph 9.

5. PROTOCOL

The Host Country is in charge of all matters relating to protocol and the reception of VIPs. For further information and necessary arrangements, please send an e-mail at protocol@42whcbahrain2018.bh. Please make sure to contact us as soon as possible to ensure we can meet your requests.

6. ACCOMMODATION

Ritz Carlton Hotel is suggested as the main accommodation option. Kindly note that the venue of the meeting is located within the premises of Ritz Carlton Hotel.

Kindly be informed that the participants are responsible for arranging their accommodation. For your convenience, organizers have agreed on special rates with a list of hotels and have reserved a certain number of rooms for the duration of the Committee meeting. The list of hotels and room options can be found in the Annex 1 to this document and at www.42whcbahrain2018.bh. You are advised to book your accommodation as soon as possible. Shuttle buses will be provided between the listed hotels and the venue on a regular basis. For further information, please refer to section 8.2. *Local Transportation and Transfers to the Conference Venue*.

The hotel rates are based on Bed & Breakfast basis. If you are interested in full board option, the organizers ensure that your selected hotel provides a special deal to include breakfast, lunch and dinner. Kindly visit the official website (<http://42whcbahrain2018.bh/accommodation/>) for further details. If you face any problems or you have any questions, please contact: accommodation@42whcbahrain2018.bh.

7. PASSPORT, VISA AND OTHER TRAVEL INFORMATION

7.1. PASSPORT REQUIREMENTS

International delegates from the Gulf Cooperation Council ("GCC") are allowed to enter Bahrain by presenting either a passport or a valid Civil Identity Card, with a recent photograph. All other international visitors must be in possession of a valid national passport and a visa to enter Bahrain. The validity of the passport should extend at least six months after the intended date of departure.

7.2. VISA REQUIREMENTS

To ensure that visas are issued on time, participants are strongly encouraged to complete their registration as soon as possible. For media, please refer to paragraph 9.

Diplomatic Passports

Diplomatic passport holders of a majority of States Parties do not require a visa for entry to Bahrain. Kindly contact us to confirm the visa requirements if you possess a diplomatic passport.

Participants who register before 20 May 2018

Please note that visas will be issued free of charge for all participants who register before 20 May 2018.

Participants who register after 20 May 2018

Participants who register after 20 May 2018 should follow the official rules of obtaining an entry visa to the Kingdom of Bahrain, *i.e.* on arrival, online or via a Bahraini Mission Abroad. Please note that the UNESCO World Heritage Centre will be unable to intervene in any visa decisions taken by the Bahraini authorities.

To check the list of countries eligible for e-visa please see https://www.evisa.gov.bh/image/115_countries.pdf.

To check if your country is eligible for obtaining visa on arrival at the Bahrain International Airport, please refer to the official website of the Host Country at the following address <https://www.evisa.gov.bh/> under 'Check your eligibility for a Bahrain visa'.

Delegates from countries which are not eligible for e-visa or for obtaining visa on arrival at the Bahrain International Airport are strongly advised to register before 20 May 2018. After this date, these delegates are kindly requested to obtain their visas via the Bahraini Missions Abroad. A list of the Bahraini Missions, and Accredited Foreign Missions to Bahrain, can be found at the Bahraini Ministry of Foreign Affairs website: <http://www.mofa.gov.bh/Default.aspx?tabid=77&language=en-US>.

7.3. TRAVEL TO BAHRAIN AND TO MANAMA

The main points of entry to the Kingdom of Bahrain are: Bahrain International Airport (BAH), Mina Salman port, and the only land connection with Saudi Arabia, via King Fahd Causeway. The Kingdom of Bahrain has good international flight connections to major destinations worldwide notably through Gulf Air, its national airline company. For more information visit Gulf Air's website: www.gulfair.com. A list of all the airlines that fly to Bahrain is available on the Bahrain International Airport's website: <http://www.bahrainairport.com/flight-details/operating-airlines.html>.

The Bahrain International Airport (BAH) is located in Muharraq, an island on the north-east of the country, about 7 km of the capital Manama and 12 km to the session venue in Ritz Carlton Hotel. A reception and welcome desk will be available at the Bahrain International Airport as of 20 June 2018 to assist delegates upon arrival. Protocol officers will be present at the airport to receive the VIP guests. Session organizers will also be present at the airport to assist participants upon their departure.

Shuttle services will be provided to participants from the airport to all the recommended hotels starting from 20 June 2018. Kindly confirm your arrival hour with your hotel. For those participants wishing to arrange for their own private airport transportation, the best options are:

- to take a metered taxi which is readily available at the ground floor entrance to the terminal;
- to use one of several available mobile app / internet taxi providers (careem, uber).

It should take approximately 20 minutes to reach any of the recommended hotels in Manama.

7.4. MEDICAL INSURANCE

An ambulance and a first-aid medical staff will be present at the session venue at all time. All session participants will be expected to assume the costs of any medical treatment that they might receive while in Bahrain. It is strongly recommended that medical insurance is purchased in the home country to cover you in Bahrain as well as any other destinations on your journey. Bahrain public health sector is available free of charge only to the citizens and residents, therefore any medical need of a foreign participant will have to be covered directly by her/him at a nominal cost. More information related to medical, dental and other health related issues can be obtained at the session venue information desk. Medical emergency number is: 999.

8. THE MEETING

8.1. CONFERENCE VENUE

The official venue of the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee is a newly constructed tent complex within Ritz Carlton Hotel premises. Plenaries and Bureau sessions, working groups and side events will take place in this area. The venue is located at the northern coast of Bahrain in the Seef district of the capital Manama. Seef district is situated on a reclaimed land and constitutes a thriving business, financial and commercial centre of Bahrain. Participants may find many hotels, restaurants and shopping malls within short driving distance from Ritz Carlton Hotel. The detailed location and a plan of the venue will be available on the website. Bahrain International Airport is within approximately 20 minutes' driving distance from the venue session within the Ritz Carlton.

8.2. LOCAL TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSFERS TO THE CONFERENCE VENUE

All participants of the 42nd session of the Committee are entitled to free of charge transportation with the designated buses, upon showing their registration badge. The buses will circulate between the airport and the session venue as well as between the recommended hotels and the session venue. A detailed timetable of buses will be available on the website beginning of June 2018, as well as at the session venue and at the airport information desk from 20 June 2018. Participants who prefer to rent their own vehicle should arrange it by themselves with one of many international or local transportation companies.

8.3. REGISTRATION DESK AND DISTRIBUTION OF BADGES AT THE MEETING PLACE

Registration is mandatory for all participants.

The on-site registration desk, situated at the entrance of the session venue, will be open on 21 June until 24 June from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm, and from 25 June until 4 July between 8:00 am and 6:00 pm. All participants are encouraged to present themselves at the on-site registration desk before the Opening Ceremony of the World Heritage Committee on 24 June

in order to allow a smooth registration process. A welcome package with an information dossier about the 42nd session will be provided at the time of registration. Please note that, due to safety reasons and the expected number of visitors, the registration process and receiving your badge may be time consuming. For this reason, an early registration is strongly encouraged.

The Opening Ceremony will take place on 24 June 2018 in the National Theatre, which is approximately a 20-minutes' drive from the session venue. Only registered participants with a badge and invitation will be allowed to take part in the Opening Ceremony. Please collect your invitation beforehand at the on-site registration desk in Ritz Carlton Hotel.

8.4. BADGES

Every participant must be in possession of a personal security photo identification badge (ID), which can be obtained at the registration desk. The ID badges are not transferable. For security purposes, the badge must be worn in a visible way at all time to access the session venue, to attend meetings and to participate in other activities, such as opening and closing ceremonies. Access to the meeting will be denied to any individual who is not officially accredited or who uses the ID badge in an inappropriate manner.

8.5. SERVICE AREA FOR PARTICIPANTS

Various participants' lounges with computers, internet access and printing facilities will be available at the session's venue. Technical staff will be on site to assist participants. Free wireless Internet connection will be provided in the entire venue at all times.

Each Committee member delegation will be provided with one paper copy of all session documents. All delegates are kindly requested to make use of the memory stick containing all relevant documents for the session, which will be provided upon registration. Documents will also be accessible online as soon as they are available.

8.6. MEALS AND REFRESHMENTS

During the session, coffee, tea, water and small refreshments will be offered outside the main plenary room free of charge. Lunch and snacks can be purchased in the cafeteria adjacent to the tent complex. Participants are advised to check the possibility of having their meals delivered from their hotels to the venue, in case of renting a room with full board.

8.7. PRAYER AND MEDITATION ROOM

A Prayer Room will be at participants' disposal during the entire Committee session.

Islam has been the main religion of Bahrainis since its advent in the region. Bahrain is proud of its long tradition of tolerance between religions, elevating coexistence between different beliefs. This can be seen today through the churches, Hindu temples, Sikh Gurdwara and a Jewish synagogue that can be found alongside the mosques. Participants can obtain additional information about the prayer and worship locations on the official website and at the registration desk.

9. MEDIA

9.1. ACCREDITATION, VISA AND CUSTOMS

Accreditation is mandatory for media representatives who wish to cover the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee. To be accredited, the following steps should be followed: Kindly send an email with the full name of each person and the name of the media organization seeking accreditation to media@42whcbahrain2018.bh. In reply to your email, you will receive a registration code and a letter, which will be required to complete your visa application. All media representatives must apply for a visa by filling an online form through the registration system on the website: www.42whcbahrain2018.bh. All media representatives who wish to cover the session are kindly asked to register before 20 May 2018. Please note that after 20 May 2018, the session organizers will not be in a position to facilitate visas for media representatives free of charge.

Please take note of the need to declare all media equipment at Customs upon arrival. Please follow the instructions on the website to facilitate Customs' procedures. Additionally, certain items such as drones or walkie-talkie may not be brought to Bahrain without additional permission from the Ministry of Interior. The organizers will not be in a position to facilitate the permission process for these items. Please visit <http://www.bahraincustoms.gov.bh> for the list of all prohibited items.

9.2. MEDIA REGISTRATION AND SECURITY MEASURES

A special desk will be reserved for the registration of media representatives in the main registration area at the venue. The hours of registration will be the same as for all other participants, (please see point 8.3). Please note that your application for accreditation must be received and approved before you register on site. Part of the registration procedure will be to obtain your personal accreditation/security badge at the media registration desk. Accreditation badges are to be worn visibly at all times to gain access to the venue and must be presented upon request to security personnel. Accreditation badges are not transferable. Access to the session venue will be denied to any individual who uses the badge improperly. Please be advised that security personnel may verify that equipment taken into the session venue is used for its intended purpose. Kindly allow sufficient time in your schedule to pass the security checks.

9.3. MEDIA CENTRE

A Media Centre will be made available as a space with work stations for the media to cover the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee. Journalists will also have access to the Internet and a printer.

9.4. PRESS CONFERENCES

Press Conferences will take place in a dedicated space nearby the main plenary room of the session venue. Only accredited media will have access to the room.

9.5. PRESS MATERIAL

Official press releases, photographs and live streaming of the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee will be available on the meeting website. Press releases and photos will be regularly updated and available to download. Media briefings will be held to provide

information on proceedings or decisions taken by the Committee and press releases will be issued regularly during the session. A team responsible for media relations will be present at the Media Centre during the session.

9.6. MEDIA ACCESS TO THE SESSION OR MEDIA ASSISTANCE ON THE SPOT

A technical briefing for media representatives will be held prior to the session in order to review media protocols and conduct of business of the World Heritage Committee. The proceedings will also be live-streamed on the website of the session. A UNESCO-WHC press office will also provide assistance to press as needed. In case of additional questions related to media and media visa, you may contact the following email address: media@42whcbahrain2018.bh.

10. RECEPTION PROGRAMME AND RELATED EVENTS

All registered participants are cordially invited to attend the social events and side-events that will be held during the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee. Delegates who wish to attend the Opening and/or the Closing Ceremony are kindly requested to indicate explicitly their participation when registering online.

The Opening Ceremony of the 42nd session will be on 24 June 2018 in the Bahrain National Theatre. The ceremony will begin at 7:00 pm and will be followed by a cultural performance and refreshments. Formal dress is recommended for this event.

The Closing Ceremony for the session will be held on 3 July 2018 at Arad Fort. The event will begin at 7:30 pm and will include cultural performances and a reception.

Further details on the Opening and Closing Ceremonies can be found on the website: www.42whcbahrain2018.bh.

10.1. GUIDED TOURS AND DAY TRIPS

Session participants and their accompanying family or guests will have opportunity to participate in complimentary guided tours of the cultural and natural heritage sites as well as some other destinations in Bahrain.

Full list of the tours and their timetable will be available on the website. Registration for tours will be possible at the tours desk located at the meeting venue. Please note that the availability for each tour is limited. You are therefore encouraged to book early to avoid disappointment. Additional information can be obtained by contacting a focal point for the tours at: tours@42whcbahrain2018.bh.

11. WORLD HERITAGE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS FORUM

In conjunction with the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee, and in line with the UNESCO World Heritage Education Programme, the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities will be hosting the World Heritage Young Professionals Forum 2018 under the theme of 'Protecting Heritage in an Ever-changing World' from the 17 to 26 June 2018 in Manama.

The Forum aims to transmit the values of World Heritage, highlighting the potential that World Heritage education may have for facilitating sustainable development. It is addressed to young professionals who will be invited to reflect upon the complexity of preserving heritage in a constantly evolving world, with the help of international experts.

At the end of the Forum, a declaration to convey the message of the young professionals to the international community will be produced and presented to the World Heritage Committee.

Detailed information and call for participation for the World Heritage Young Professionals Forum are available on the official website of the session: www.42whcbahrain2018.bh

12. WORLD HERITAGE SITE MANAGERS FORUM

Considering that the World Heritage List includes over 1.000 properties and a global territory of over 276 million hectares under its protection, increased understanding of the World Heritage decision-making processes among site managers has become crucial in order to achieve more effective protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of World Heritage properties. It will allow the Convention to fulfil its potential as a tool and catalyst for World Heritage protection and heritage protection in general. At the same time, future improvements to the World Heritage decision-making procedures must build on and respond to greater engagement of those dealing with World Heritage on a day-to-day basis. Stronger bridges should be built between the procedural core of the World Heritage system and its outer segments – those in the field whose ongoing work to safeguard OUV constitute the real expression of the Convention. In this context, the Host Country will continue the “World Heritage Site Managers Forum” initiated by Poland during the 41st session of the Committee in 2017, to unite representatives from World Heritage properties with those at the heart of World Heritage procedures.

The Site Managers Forum will be held in Manama, from 21 to 28 June 2018.

Detailed information and call for participation for the WH Site Managers Forum are available on the official website of the session: www.42whcbahrain2018.bh.

13. INFORMATION ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

13.1. THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

Bahrain is an archipelago located in the Arabian Gulf midway between the Qatar peninsula and Eastern Saudi Arabia. Bahrain landscape is generally flat consisting of a low desert plain rising gently to a low central escarpment. The highest point is the 134 m; Jabal ad Dukhan. The area of the main island is approximately 700 km². Bahrain has a 161 km coastline and is connected to Saudi Arabia by a 23 km causeway, one of longest causeways in the world. Bahrain's largest islands are Bahrain, Muharraq, Sitrah, Umm an Nassan and Hawar. As a small island state, Bahrain is one of the most densely populated countries in the world with approximately 90% of the 1.5 million inhabitants living in the two principal islands of Bahrain

and Muharraq. Manama is the capital of Bahrain and is located in North-east of the Bahrain island.

The name of Bahrain derives from an Arabic word meaning "Two Seas", and refers to two facts, one that the islands contain two sources of water, sweet water springs and salty water in the surrounding seas. During the ancient Bronze Age civilization of Dilmun, Bahrain was an important centre linking trade routes between Mesopotamia to the north and the Indus Valley to the east as early as 5,000 years ago. Dilmun's capital was a major port whose remains are visible today at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Qal'at al-Bahrain – Ancient Harbour and Capital of Dilmun. One of the world's oldest and most enduring pieces of literature, the Epic of Gilgamesh, discovering the source of eternal youth is thought to be referring to Bahrain. The tale is believed to refer to the pearls from the shallow gulf waters around Bahrain, which were one of Bahrain's biggest exports for generations and its major source of economic prosperity.

The inhabitants of Bahrain converted to Islam during the 7th century. A regional pearling and trade centre, Bahrain came under the control of the Umayyad Caliphs of Syria, the Abbasid Caliphs of Baghdad, Persian, Omani and Portuguese forces at various times from the 7th century until the establishment of the Al Khalifa family, a branch of the Bani Utbah tribe that have ruled Bahrain since the 18th century. The country was also a British protectorate from the 1830s up to independence in 1971.

The political system today is a constitutional monarchy headed by King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. The Government of Bahrain is led by the Prime Minister, Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa. Bahrain has a bicameral legislature with a National Assembly comprised of two chambers; the Parliament which is elected and the Shura Council which is appointed by the King. Both chambers have forty members. Islamic ideals and beliefs provide foundation of the country's customs, laws, and practices.

The official language is Arabic. English is very widely spoken and is the principal language of commerce. As the first Gulf state to discover oil in 1932, but with limited reserves, Bahrain has worked to diversify its economy over the past decade. Revenues from oil and natural gas are well below those of banking, finance and business, which have been the most widely heralded aspect of its diversification effort. Bahrain is a regional financial and business centre with large international financial institutions operating and having their regional headquarters in Manama.

13.2. CLIMATE

Bahrain's climate is arid with two distinct seasons, a moderate winter and a hot summer. It is usually quite humid throughout the year. In the period between April and October (which are the summer months) the average temperature is 40° C. Bahrain receives little precipitation with the average annual rainfall is approximately 80 millimeters, usually confined to the winter months. Due to the weather at this period of year you are advised to:

- Always use protective sun lotions and hydrating cream on the skin;
- Drink sufficient water: approximately 2 liters during the day;
- Avoid sunbathing and outdoor physical activity in the hottest hours of the day.

The majority of all public spaces are air-conditioned at 18-21° C and therefore participants should take the temperature difference between the outdoor and indoor spaces into consideration. It is therefore recommended to foresee light airy clothes to go outside and a heavier item of clothing (scarf, light jacket, etc.) when indoors. There are no particular constraints in terms of dress. Both western and traditional clothing are equally accepted in all areas except in religious spaces.

13.3. CURRENCY & EXCHANGE

The currency in Bahrain is the Bahraini Dinar, abbreviated to BD or BHD. Bahrain has a decimal currency system with one Dinar equalling 1000 fils. Banknotes are in denominations of 20, 10, 5, 1 and 1/2 Dinar. There are five different coins in circulation: 5, 10, 25 and 50 and 100 fils.

In practice, Bahraini Dinar is fixed with U.S. Dollar at rate: USD = BD 0.378, with a reverse conversion of BD1 = 2.65 USD. Exchange rates with other currencies may be subject to frequent change. For up-to-date information on currency conversion, please see the Bahrain Central Bank's Website at: <http://www.cbb.gov.bh/>.

Currency can be exchanged in numerous outlets of various companies and banks:

- National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) www.nbbonline.com;
- Bank of Bahrain & Kuwait (BBK) www.bbkonline.com;
- HSBC www.hsbc.com.bh;
- Bahrain Financing Company (BFC) <http://www.bfc.com.bh>;
- Zenj Exchange www.zenjex.com.

Due to proximity of Saudi Arabia, the Saudi Arabian currency - Riyal is widely circulated and accepted in Bahrain and you may be given Saudi Riyals notes as change during a cash transaction: 1 Bahraini Dinar is approximately equivalent to 10 Saudi Riyals. The most widely used credit cards (Visa, Mastercard and American Express) are accepted in most shops, restaurants, cafes and hotels throughout Bahrain. Commercial establishments usually have stickers with the accepted credit card symbols at the entrance of stores or at cashier points.

13.4. GRATUITIES

Tipping is not mandatory, however it is customary to offer a gratuity to all restaurants and cafes that do not include a service charge on the billed amount. All top rated restaurants, cafes and those found in hotels will automatically add the 15% service charge to the bill. Customary gratuity for bellhops or baggage porters is around BD1.

13.5. ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

Bahrain's electrical supply voltage is 220-240 Volts with "Type G" British BS-1363 electrical sockets (outlets) that fit plugs with three flat pin prongs. If your appliance's plug does not match the shape of these sockets, you will need a travel plug adapter in order to safely plug it in. Hotels will have a limited number of adapters for guest use, so it is recommended that you obtain your own if you think you will need them during your stay.

13.6. SMOKING

In Bahrain, the use of cigarettes, cigars, pipes or any other smoking device, tobacco derived or otherwise is prohibited in all public spaces (including the airport, hotels, restaurants, banks,

etc.). Smoking is permitted, however it is usually confined to a specific area. Individual hotels may offer their guests the choice of a smoking room. It is necessary to verify this with your hotel. Smoking of the 'Sheesha' also referred to as a Narjila, Argila or Hooka, a single or multi-stemmed instrument used for smoking tobacco is very common. There are many cafes that are exclusively for Sheesha smokers.

13.7. TIME ZONE

Kingdom of Bahrain is in the Arabic Standard time zone, three hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT + 3) with no hour change in the winter.

13.8. DRINKING WATER

Tap water is suitable for domestic and industrial use but not recommended for drinking. Bottled mineral water is readily available in all stores and hotels.

13.9. TELEPHONE, MOBILE & USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

If you wish to make a call to Bahrain from overseas, dial +973 (the code for Bahrain) and the telephone number (8 digits). Please note there are no city codes. If you wish to make local calls dial the telephone number, regardless of whether it is a landline or mobile. Depending on the technology used and the service provider, foreign mobile phones may or may not work in Bahrain. The main mobile phone providers in Bahrain are Batelco, Zain and Viva. Pre-paid mobile packages (referred to as 'SimSim cards') are also an option and are readily available at phone company outlets, at the Bahrain International Airport, shopping malls and in other locations.

Batelco: <http://www.batelco.com>
Zain: <http://www.zain.com.bh>
Viva: <http://www.viva.com.bh>

National emergency number in Bahrain is 999.

- For police, dial: 999
- For traffic police, in case of a car accident, dial: 199.

13.10. MEDICAL CARE

There are several government hospitals, and numerous private hospitals and clinics located throughout the country which offer a wide range of medical services. Pharmacies are common throughout Bahrain and carry a wide range of medicine. Prescriptions are normally required. Payment at all medical facilities is due at the time of service. The recommended health centre for the participants of 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee is King Hamad Hospital located in Muharraq near Shaikh Isa bin Salman Causeway, connecting Muharraq and Manama (main airport connection avenue). For Information about the health insurance please refer to the point 7.4.

14. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For further information about the World Heritage Committee and the World Heritage Convention, please see the UNESCO World Heritage Centre's website at the following link: <http://whc.unesco.org>.

For all questions of an organizational nature concerning the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee, please do not hesitate to contact the session organizers: info@42whcbahrain2018.bh.

ANNEX 1: RECOMMENDED 4* AND 5* HOTELS

5* HOTELS IN SEEF AREA

No	Hotel name	Hotel Location	Room Type	Room Rate (in BHD) PER NIGHT				Room Allocation	Distance to Ritz-Carlton
				Room + Breakfast	Room+ breakfast+ Lunch	Room+ breakfast+ Dinner	Room+ Breakfast+ Lunch + Dinner		
1	FRASER SUITES SEEF	SEEF	Single Studio Deluxe	61	70	72	82	5 rooms	1.5KM
			Double Studio Deluxe	68	87	90	110		
			Single One Bedroom Deluxe	74	83	84	94	20 rooms	
			Double One Bedroom Deluxe	80	100	102	122		
2	LE MERIDIEN CITY CENTRE BAHRAIN	SEEF	Single Superior Room	56	69	69	82	130 rooms	2.8 KM
			Double Superior Room	69	95	95	121	10 rooms	
			Single Club Room	87	100	100	114		
			Double Club Room	87	114	114	140		
			Single Junior Suite	147	160	160	174	8 rooms	
			Double Junior Suite	147	173	173	200	4 rooms	
			Single Oriental Suite	202	215	215	228		
Double Oriental Suite	202	228	228	255					
3	THE WESTIN CITY CENTRE BAHRAIN	SEEF	Single Deluxe Room	62	75	75	89	100 rooms	2.8 KM
			Double Deluxe Room	75	101	101	127		
			Single Executive Room	97	110	110	124	10 rooms	
			Double Executive Room	97	124	124	150		
			Single The Westin Suite	232	245	245	260	5 rooms	

			Double The Westin Suite	232	258	258	285		
4	RAMEE GRAND HOTEL & SPA	SEEF	Single Premier Room	46	56	57	66	40 rooms	1.1KM
			Double Premier Room	54	73	75	93		
			Single Deluxe Room	57	66	67	76	20 rooms	
			Double Deluxe Room	65	83	85	104		
5	THE RITZ-CARLTON	SEEF	Single Deluxe Room	134	150	153	169	20 rooms	0 KM
			Double Deluxe Room	147	179	183	214		
			Single Club Room with club lounge access	165	181	183	199	20 rooms	
			Double Club Room with club lounge access	177	208	213	245		
			Single Club Suite	219	235	237	253	20 suites	
			Double Club Suite	219	251	256	288		
			Single Executive Suite	292	308	310	326	1 suite	
			Double Executive Suite	292	323	328	360		
			Single Diplomatic Suite	365	380	383	399	1 suite	
			Double Diplomatic Suite	365	397	402	435		
			Single Villa	849				1 Villa (6 people)	
			Double Villa	849					
6	JUMEIRAH ROYAL SARAY BAHRAIN	SEEF	Single Arabian Deluxe Room	148	169	169	190	5 rooms	600 M
			Double Arabian Deluxe Room	148	190	190	232		
			Single Ocean Deluxe Room	180	200	200	221	3 rooms	
			Double Ocean Deluxe Room	180	220	220	263		
			Single Ocean Suite	333	353	353	374	2 rooms	
			Double Ocean Suite	333	373	373	415		

4* HOTELS IN SEEF AREA

No	Hotel name	Hotel Location	Room Type	Room Rate (in BHD) PER NIGHT				Room Allocation	Distance to Ritz-Carlton
				Room + Breakfast	Room+ breakfast+ Lunch	Room+ breakfast+ Dinner	Room+ Breakfast+ Lunch + Dinner		
1	HANI ROYAL HOTELS	SEEF	Single Standard Room	32	38	38	44	10 rooms	2.5 KM
			Double Standard Room	37	48	48	52		
			Single Deluxe Room	44	46	46	55	40 rooms	
			Double Deluxe Room	49	57	57	68		
2	HANI SUITES & SPA APARTMENT	SEEF	Single One Bedroom Suite Arabic Style	46	54	54	60	8 rooms	2.5 KM
			Double One Bedroom Suite Arabic Style	52	62	62	72		
			Single Two Bedroom Suite Arabic & Italian Style	63	67	67	72	32 rooms	
			Double Two Bedroom Suite Arabic & Italian Style	67	77	77	87		
3	GULF COURT HOTEL	SEEF	Single Premier Suite	36	42	42	47	125 rooms	4.1 KM
			Double Premier Suite	40	52	52	62		
4	SWISS-BELHOTEL	SEEF	Single Superior Room	37	42	42	47	7 rooms	900 M
			Double Superior Room	42	52	52	62		
			Single Deluxe Room	42	47	47	52	16 rooms	
			Double Deluxe Room	47	57	57	67		
			Single Junior Suite	52	57	57	62	7 rooms	
			Double Junior Suite	57	67	67	77		

5	MERCURE GRAND	SEEF	Single Executive One Bedroom Suite	39	47	47	56	50 Suites	2 KM
			Double Executive One Bedroom Suite	44	60	60	76		
6	ELITE GRANDE	SEEF	Single 1 Bedroom suite	40	46	46	53	18 suites	1 KM
			Double 1 Bedroom suite	44	56	56	69		
			Single 2 Bedroom suite	76	82	82	89	10 suites	
			Double 2 Bedroom suite	76	88	88	100		
7	ASDAL GULF INN	SEEF	Single Standard Room	34	40	40	45	10 rooms	850 M
			Double Standard Room	40	55	55	60		
			Single Deluxe Room	37	41	41	47	18 rooms	
			Double Deluxe Room	42	56	56	62		
8	IBIS SEEF	SEEF	Single standard Room	24	29	30	36	150 rooms	2.6 KM
			Double standard Room	28	38	40	50		

5* HOTELS IN MANAMA AREA

No	Hotel name	Hotel Location	Room Type	Room Rate (in BHD) PER NIGHT				Room Allocation	Distance to Ritz-Carlton
				Room + Breakfast	Room+ breakfast+ Lunch	Room+ breakfast+ Dinner	Room+ Breakfast+ Lunch + Dinner		
1	CROWNE PLAZA	MANAMA	Single Standard Room	47	54	56	64	180 rooms	2.8 KM
			Double Standard Room	52	66	70	84		
2	GULF HOTEL	MANAMA	Single Superior	67	80	82	95	100 rooms	2.8 KM
			Double Superior	72	98	103	129		
3	THE DIPLOMAT RADISSON BLU HOTEL, RESIDENCE & SPA	MANAMA	Single Standard Room	67	80	80	93	117 rooms	2.8 KM
			Double / Twin Standard Room	72	98	98	125	83 rooms	
4	SHERATON BAHRAIN	MANAMA	Single Traditional Room	62	76	74	88	100 rooms	6.2 KM
			Double Traditional Room	68	96	92	120		
			Single Preferred Room	68	82	80	94	30 rooms	
			Double Preferred Room	75	102	98	126		
			Single Club Room	85	99	97	112	20 rooms	
			Double Club Room	92	120	116	145		
5	DOWN TOWN ROTANA	MANAMA	Single Classic Room	49	52	52	58	100 rooms	5.5 KM
			Double Classic Room	57	67	67	78		
6	THE DOMAIN HOTEL AND SPA	MANAMA	Single Deluxe Room	46	55	57	66	66 rooms	7.8 KM
			Double Deluxe Room	52	69	73	90		

			Single Deluxe Suit	67	75	77	86	17 rooms	
			Double Deluxe Suite	66	84	88	106		
7	INTERCONTINENTAL REGENCY	MANAMA	Single Classic Room	56	69	69	81	209 rooms	5.2 KM
			Double Classic Room	67	91	91	115		
			Club Room Single	97	109	109	122		
			Club Room Double	118	142	142	166		
8	FOUR SEASONS HOTEL BAHRAIN BAY	MANAMA	Single on Run of House	110	130	134	154	20 rooms	7.3 KM
			Double on Run of House	123	161	171	210		

4* HOTELS IN MANAMA AREA

No	Hotel name	Hotel Location	Room Type	Room Rate (in BHD) PER NIGHT				Room Allocation	Distance to Ritz-Carlton
				Room + Breakfast	Room+ breakfast+ Lunch	Room+ breakfast+ Dinner	Room+ Breakfast+ Lunch + Dinner		
1	ELITE RESORT & SPA	MANAMA	Single 1 Bedroom suite	43	49	49	55	18 suites	9 KM
			Double 1 Bedroom suite	47	59	59	71		
			Single 2 Bedroom suite	81	87	87	93	10 suites	
			Double 2 Bedroom suite	81	93	93	105		
2	GOLDEN TULIP BAHRAIN	MANAMA	Single Standard Room	27	33	33	42	160 rooms	6.3 KM
			Double Standard Room	32	38	38	47		
3	NOVOTEL BAHRAIN AL DANA RESORT	MANAMA	Single Superior Room	44	51	51	59	100 Rooms	9 KM
			Double Superior Room	49	64	64	79		
			Single Junior Suite	55	62	62	70	20 Rooms	
			Double Junior Suite	60	75	75	90		