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Currency

The official unit of currency is the Bahrain dinar, consisting of 1,000 fils.

Firing Areas

Naval firing practices (surface-to-surface and surface-to-air) take place within an exercise area enclosed by the following:

- a. 26°34'N, 50°50'E.
- b. 26°34'N, 50°36'E.
- c. 26°40'N, 50°36'E.
- d. 26°40'N, 50°50'E.

General

Bahrain is comprised of a group of islands in the Persian Gulf lying midway between Qatar and the mainland of Saudi Arabia. Bahrain, the largest and highest island of the group, is about 30 miles long and 10 miles wide. Al Muharraq, lying close NE, is about 4 miles long and 1 mile wide; it is connected to Bahrain by a causeway. The country also includes the islands of Sitrah, Umm Nasan, Jiddah, and several other small islets. Bahrain has a dispute with Qatar concerning territorial claims over the Hawar Islands.

The terrain is formed by mostly low, desert plain.

The climate is hot and humid during the summer, with somewhat mild winters.

Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region A) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

Government



Flag of Bahrain

Bahrain, which received independence from the United Kingdom in 1971, is a traditional monarchy and is ruled by an

Amir. The Amir appoints members of the Cabinet and a Prime Minister to assist.

The legal system is based on Islamic law and English common law.

The capital is Manama (Al Manamah), on the island of Bahrain.

Holidays

The following holiday is observed:

Bahrain National Days December 16-17

Islamic holidays, which are subject to the appearance of the moon, include Eid Al-Fitr (End of Ramadan), Eid Al-Adha (End of Pilgrimage), Hijrah (Islamic New Year), Ashoora, and the Prophet's Birthday.

Industries

Crude oil production and refining are the major industries. Other industries include aluminum smelting, ship repair, off-shore banking, fishing, and the manufacture of furniture, building materials, and consumer goods. Agriculture includes dates, fruits, vegetables, poultry, and livestock.

Languages

The official language is Arabic. English, Farsi, and Urdu are also widely spoken.

Mined Areas

Vessels are advised that Mined Areas exist in the N part of the Persian Gulf. Further information should be obtained from the local authorities. Mine sightings should be reported to the naval authorities by INMARSAT (150 5612) or to Coalition

naval vessels on VHF channel 13 or 16. Details of areas reported to be dangerous due to mines are also promulgated by Notice to Mariners issued by the Middle East Navigation Aids Service (MENAS) and by MARAD advisories.

Regulations

General

Liquor trafficking between vessels alongside wharves or between vessels and the shore is strictly prohibited.

Notification

It is compulsory for all ships entering Bahrain waters for reasons other than berthing at Mina Salman, ASRY, BAPCO, ALBA, or any other private jetties to obtain prior written permission from the Port Director before anchoring in Bahrain waters.

Time Zone

The Time Zone description is CHARLIE (-3). Daylight Savings Time is not observed.

World Time Zone Chart

<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/ref/pdf/802801.pdf>

U.S. Embassy

The U.S. Embassy is situated at Building 979, Road 3119 (next to Ali-Ahli Sports Club), Zinj District, Manama (Al Manamah). The mailing address is F.P.O. AE 09834-5100, P.O. Box 26431, Manama.

U. S. Embassy Bahrain Home Page

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