



Kiki S



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our trip to Iraqi Kurdistan - review

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Me and my husband traveled to Kurdistan in July 2016 and it truly was an amazing experience. Traveling freely around the Iraqi Kurdistan region was not as easy as we expected, though. Normally you just ask anyone in your hotel if they know a tour guide or a tourist office, but the tourist infrastructure is (understandably) not fully developed in Iraq yet. Many people also speak very little English and randomly taking the bus did not seem like the best idea (you could end up passing through Kirkuk, for instance, which is not the safest place at the moment). Erbil was interesting, but after two days we had seen most of its highlights. After a trip to the Gali Ali Beg waterfalls with our hotel manager (who did not speak much English) we were a little lost on how to travel this country. I Googled for tour guides and came across a guy called Karwan Wahed, and having a personal tour guide who actually speaks English and knows his way around the country (including its many checkpoints) was, to say the least, a vast relief. So yes, I would recommend traveling to Kurdistan. It is not unsafe, there are many extremely interesting historical sites (Alqosh, Lalish, Marmatai, and so on) and the people are really, really nice, but I would also recommend taking a personal tour guide along, to make sure you end up at safe places and to make sure that you actually know what you're looking at (English signs and information is currently largely absent). Also, travel in spring or autumn. We were there in summer, and temperatures were incredibly high. Our tour guide and everyone else recommended us to come back again in spring, and we are truly wish to do so one day.

One destination mentioned in this post



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Iraq