

# KURDISTAN

## TOUR GUIDE

A new guide presents the tourist side of  
**Kurdistan**

**What if a little-known area in the Middle East was one of the best tourist destinations in the near future?**

Dr. Douglas Layton, an American scholar and tour operator, has released a guide intended to help change people's perceptions and show that the Kurdistan region, located in between Turkey, Iraq and Iran, shouldn't suffer because of the area's geopolitics. On the contrary, this region offers curious travelers a wide range of interesting historical sites. Layton's company Kurdistan Iraq Tours wants you to know: Kurdistan is one of the safest regions in the Middle East, not to be lumped in with the headlines of chaotic occurrences taking place in Iraq. Because of its geographical location, bordering Turkey, Iraq and Iran, it's constantly in the spotlight because of the current events affecting the general area, despite the fact that a future in tourism could be on the horizon.

And so Layton decided to reveal what the area has to offer in book form. It took four hundred pages to cover all the riches of the region, from river landscapes to snowy mountaintops.

The 400 page Guide contains everything from how to get there to the photographically illustrated histories of nearly two hundred enchanting sites. There are fascinating articles by famous Kurds and International friends of the Kurds dealing with subjects such as the emerging Kurdish film industry, music, art, literature and even recipes for Kurdish food.



The book is also a collection of photos and presents more than 200 historical sites to discover.

The tome covers the musical and artistic culture of Kurdistan and even looks at the recent emergence of the Kurdish film industry.

But the volume is first and foremost a guidebook, and true to form, it gives all the necessary information on getting to Kurdistan and how to organize your vacation.

The book also provides information on Kurdish cuisine and details the specialties that tourists can order in restaurants.

From AFPrelaxnews

# Douglas Layton

He is the founder of several International humanitarian organizations, an American author, businessman, and champion of human rights in the Middle East. He has lived and worked for many years in countries such as India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and Sri Lanka.

He has spent much of his last 25 years working in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). He has worked for the US State Department as Country Director of one of the largest healthcare projects ever undertaken in Kurdistan. He also served as Country Director of Kurdistan Development Corporation under the auspices of the Prime Minister's Office.

He is a pioneer of modern day tourism in Kurdistan as co-founder of the first inwardly focused tour company in the region ([www.kurdistaniraqtorus.com](http://www.kurdistaniraqtorus.com)). He helped organize and testified at the US Senate hearings on Saddam's genocide against the Kurds (1993).

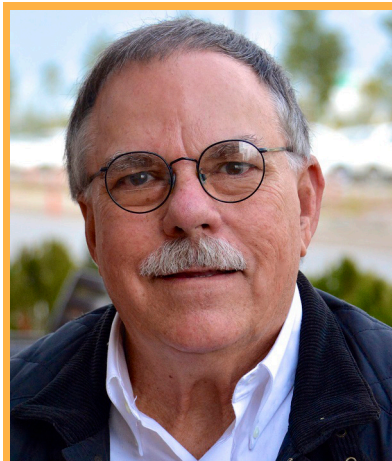
He is considered an expert on current and past political issues in the region as well as one of the foremost experts on the historic and archeological sites of Kurdistan.

He recently published the first comprehensive guide to Kurdistan ([www.kurdistantourguide.com](http://www.kurdistantourguide.com)). He founded the first American/English school in Kurdistan of Iraq - Classical School of the Medes.

He was also was the initiator of the highly successful Kurdistan: The Other Iraq public relations campaign aired in 2006 on CNN, FOX, CBS, BBC and nearly every major media outlet in the USA, Britain, Australia and even Japan.

He has a doctorate in theology with an emphasis on Islamic Studies and often lectures in various parts of the world including the USA, Europe, and the Middle East.

He has traveled to more than 100 countries. He now resides in Florida and travels to Kurdistan on a regular basis.



Douglas Layton - CEO

## What Mr. Layton says about his new book?

The people who follow CNN fact news or any other major media out of the world most have heard about the Kurd in Iraq particularly because crisis with ISIS, but most don't know that many of events they are watching on the news are happening outside of Kurdistan region of Iraq.

In fact, Kurdistan is one of the safest and most secured regions in the entire Middle East.

This guide is not dist history or beautiful pictorial of an amazing land, but it is a statement to the world is not intermitted by ISIS, that they are spend for business and as always ready to receive guests from around the world.

About ten years ago my partner from a company called Kurdistan-Iraq tours which is first broadly focusing tour company in the region, now a lot of people a little bit crazy quite frankly they told me wow nobody will ever come to Iraq as a tourist, but I quite frazed ten years ago the other Iraq and I said as a director, the people will not come to Iraq but they are going to come to the other Iraq.

## In 2011 national geographic magazine named top 20 places in world of visits

and we proved to the travellers and lovers of history will come to Kurdistan and that will be one most tour destinations in the world.

Some time ago I have had sharing with my American friends about republish a tour guide of Kurdistan region and I got a few strangers looks that time as well people said why you are doing that in the middle of crisis, I said well the answer is simply ISIS is done a great ill to Kurdistan but on the other hand it have also done for us a favor, everybody in the world now knows what the Kurd is , and what they find out wonderful and amazing thing, Kurdistan has the offer and great wonder of history in Kurdistan is they will come they will take a line but they will.

The history of Kurdistan has been tragic one Saddam Husain tried to destroy Kurds but he failed.

Now we have ISIS knocking on the door but quite frankly they have not accomplished anything.

And in time as all other enemies of Kurdistan have passing trash of history, and Kurdistan will not only survive but also passing of.

I hope you will enjoy this 400 pages guide with nearly 600 colored photographs history both ancient and modern, and interesting articles by famous Kurds and international friends of Kurds and subjects diverse in literature art, history and even how Kurds are cooking food. And has something for everyone.

I would like to invite you to cover with me the unbelievable Kurdistan.

For more information please visit [www.kurdistantourguide.com](http://www.kurdistantourguide.com)  
Also To obtain your copy visit [AMAZON.com](http://AMAZON.com)





# KURDISTAN TOUR GUIDE

# About Kurdistan

[www.kurdistantourguide.com](http://www.kurdistantourguide.com)

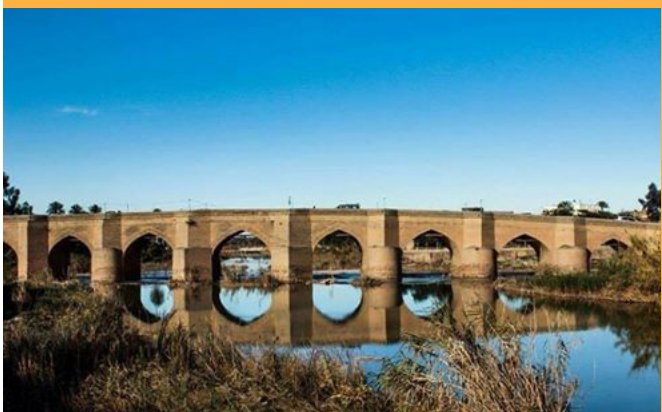
- With a population of 5.2 million and increasing, the three governorates of Erbil, Slemani, and Duhok cover approximately 40,000 square kilometres - larger than the Netherlands and four times the area of Lebanon.
- The Region is geographically diverse, from hot and dry plains to cooler mountainous areas with natural springs and snowfall in the winter.
- Foreign visitors are warmly welcomed. Among the growing number of visitors are international media and business people as well as those returning from the Kurdish Diaspora.
- The capital and the seat of the Kurdistan Regional Government is Erbil, a city known in Kurdish as Hawler. The Citadel in Erbil is considered the world's oldest continuously inhabited settlement. The next largest cities are Slemani and Dohuk. Please note that Slemani is the KRG's official English spelling, but it can also be found with other spellings such as Sulaimani, Suleimani, Sulaimaniyah, and Suleimaniah.
- The Kurdish language is of Indo-European origin and is among the family of Iranian languages, such as Persian and Pashto, and is distinct from Arabic. The two main dialects are Sorani and Kurmanji.

“ Kurdistan has more  
Archeological and historic sites  
than any region in the world ”

- The Kurdistan Region has 11 public universities and several licensed private universities. Some of them use English as the main language of teaching and examination, most notably the University of Kurdistan Hawler (UKH) and the American University of Iraq – Sulaimani (AUI-S).
- A new, liberal foreign investment law was ratified in June 2006, providing incentives for foreign investors such as the possibility of owning land, up to ten-year tax holidays, and easy repatriation of profits.
- The Kurdistan Region has international airports in Erbil and Slemani, with direct flights to and from Europe and the Middle East. A new international airport is under construction in Duhok.

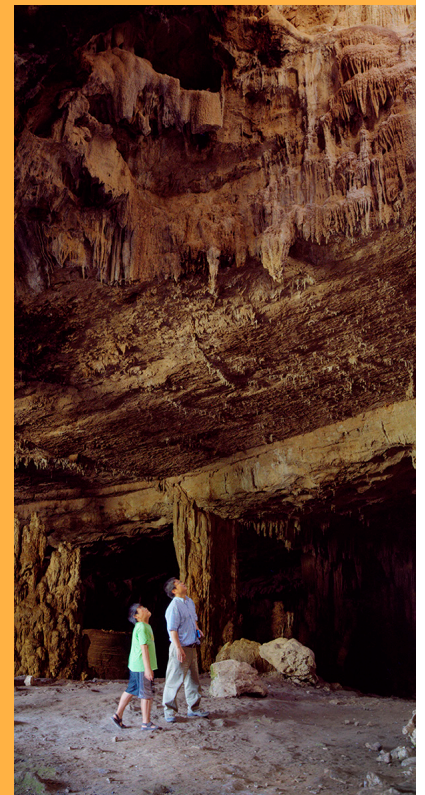


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