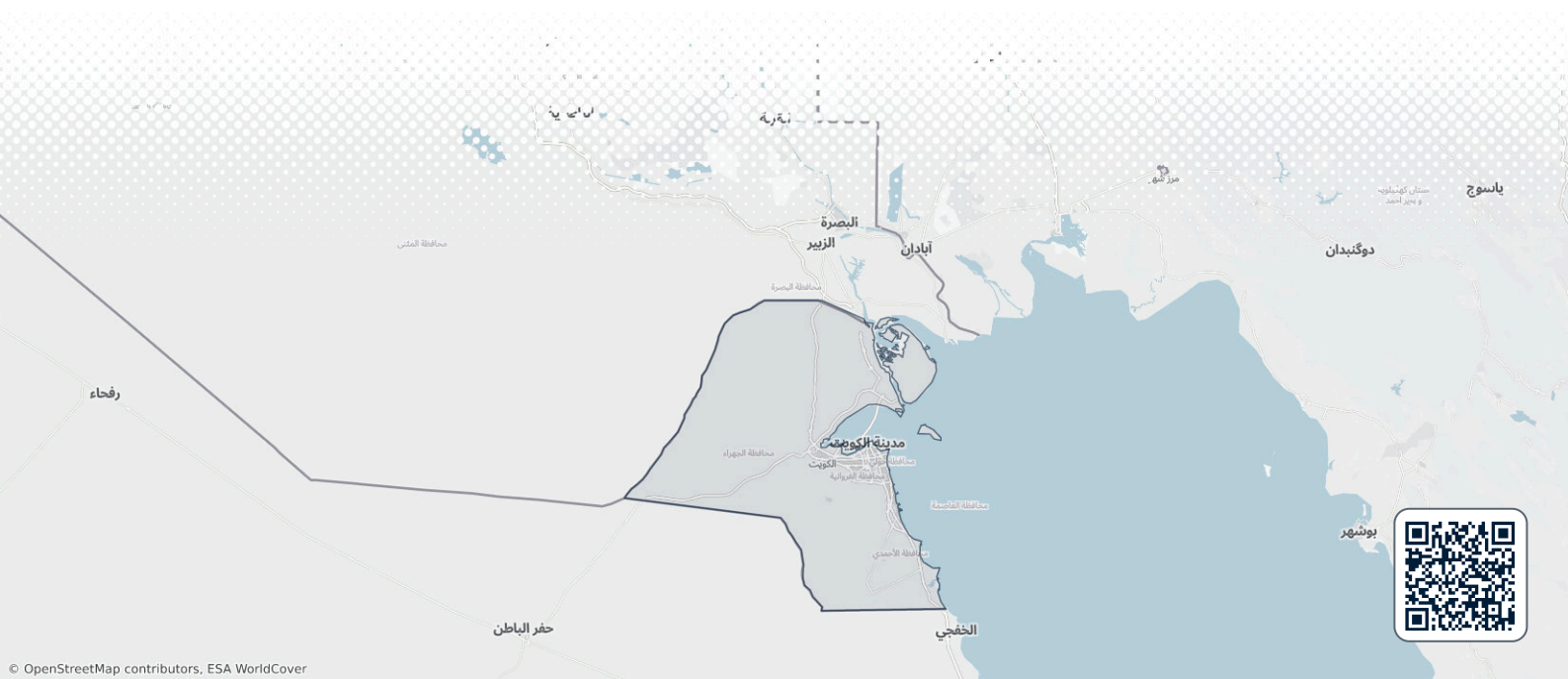




Kuwait

TRAVEL GUIDE



Overview

Kuwait is a small, wealthy Gulf nation wedged between Iraq and Saudi Arabia. Its entire population and skyline are concentrated around Kuwait Bay. Oil funds the country's modern development. Its story runs deeper, though: centuries as a trading and pearl-diving port shaped a maritime culture that predates the oil boom. The waterfront skyline, topped by the landmark [Kuwait Towers](#), mixes ultramodern towers with restored historic courtyard houses.

The 1990 Iraqi invasion and the 1991 liberation remain the defining modern event, commemorated by structures like [Liberation Tower](#). Kuwait suits travelers who want a quieter, less touristy alternative to Dubai or Doha. It works well for a short stopover, a business trip extension, or a deep dive into Gulf history and cuisine — not for nightlife or beach resorts.

Money & payments

Currency

 CURRENCY KD KWD	 1 KWD 2.895 EUR 1 EUR = 0.3455 KWD	 1 KWD 3.237 USD 1 USD = 0.3089 KWD
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 Cards widely accepted

Kuwait's dinar is one of the world's highest-valued currencies, so prices can look deceptively low in the numbers alone. Carry a little cash for small traditional shops and some taxis. ATMs are common in malls and near banks.

Typical costs

Rough prices in touristic areas, per person

 Hotel (double room, per night) mid-range hotel, room for two	25 – 70 KD €72 – €203
 Dinner (mid-range restaurant) mid-range restaurant, per person	8 – 20 KD €23 – €58
 Inexpensive meal	1.5 – 4 KD €4 – €12
 Coffee	1 – 2.5 KD €3 – €7
 Water	0.15 – 0.3 KD €0 – €1
 Transit ticket	0.25 – 0.5 KD €1 – €1
 Taxi (per km)	0.3 – 0.5 KD €1 – €1

Tipping

Tipping is not a fixed custom in Kuwait, but a modest gesture is always welcomed. Restaurants sometimes add a service charge to the bill already; if not, rounding up is common. Hotel staff and private tour guides appreciate a tip more than taxi drivers, who rarely expect one.

Restaurant
round up or ~10%

Optional

Hotel
small tip for bellhop/housekeeping

Optional

Taxi
round up

Optional

Tour guide
10-15% for private tours

Expected

Electricity

Kuwait mainly uses type G plugs, the same three-pin design used in the United Kingdom. Travelers from North America, mainland Europe, or Asia will need an adapter.

⚡ ELECTRICITY



Type C

⚡ 240 V · 50 Hz

⚡ ELECTRICITY



Type G

Language

Arabic is the official language, but English is spoken widely — in hotels, malls, and most restaurants — because a majority of Kuwait's residents are foreign workers. Street signs and menus in central Kuwait City are commonly bilingual, so getting around without Arabic is manageable.

Useful phrases

Hello	مرحبا marhaba
Thank you	شكرا shukran
Please	من فضلك min fadlik
Yes	نعم na'am
No	لا la
Goodbye	مع السلامة ma'a as-salama
Excuse me	لو سمحت law samaht
How much?	كم السعر kam al-si'r

Staying connected

Buying a local SIM or eSIM requires showing a passport, and providers register a fingerprint at the point of sale — plan for a short visit to a telecom shop rather than an instant purchase. Coverage is strong across the country, including 5G in Kuwait City.

Safety & emergencies

Kuwait is one of the safer countries in the region for visitors, with low rates of violent crime and petty theft. The most common risk for travelers is the roads. Drivers speed and change lanes aggressively, so take extra care crossing streets and riding in taxis. Drug offenses carry severe penalties, including for small amounts found by customs.

Emergency numbers

* GENERAL EMERGENCY

112

Health

Tap water is treated to safe standards, but the taste puts off most residents, who drink bottled or filtered water instead — do the same for a more pleasant stay. Pharmacies are widespread and well stocked, and pharmacists can advise on minor ailments without a doctor's visit.

No special vaccinations are required, but summer heat is the real health hazard: daytime temperatures regularly pass 45°C from May to September. Limit outdoor activity around midday and drink water constantly.

Visas & entry

Many nationalities, including the United States, the United Kingdom, and the EU, can get an e-visa online before arrival. A visa on arrival is also available at Kuwait International Airport. GCC citizens enter without a visa, and residents of GCC countries holding a valid residence permit qualify for a visa on arrival too. Other nationalities may need to apply in advance through a Kuwaiti embassy.

Visa and entry requirements change frequently. Verify current requirements with the official immigration authority or your country's embassy before travel.

Etiquette

- Dress modestly in public: shoulders and knees covered for both men and women. Women should carry a scarf for mosque visits, including to [Grand Mosque](#), which welcomes non-Muslim visitors outside prayer times.
- Alcohol is completely illegal in Kuwait — unlike Dubai or Doha, there are no bars or hotel exceptions. Do not bring alcohol into the country.
- During Ramadan, avoid eating, drinking, or smoking in public during daylight hours, even if you are not fasting.
- Ask before photographing people, especially women, and avoid photographing government or military buildings.
- Public displays of affection between couples are frowned upon.

Holidays & opening hours

The weekend falls on Friday and Saturday, not Saturday and Sunday, so government offices and some businesses close then. During Ramadan, working hours shorten and many restaurants open only after sunset.

Getting around

- **By taxi and ride-hailing:** the main way to get around for visitors without a car. Official taxis are metered.
- **By bus:** Kuwait Public Transport Company runs an extensive but slow network — useful for budget travel, though not really designed with tourists in mind.
- **On foot:** Kuwait City is spread out and built for cars. Summer heat makes walking impractical outside the cooler months.

Driving

- **Speed limits:** 45 km/h in cities, 50–80 km/h on roads between towns, up to 120 km/h on motorways.
- **Key rules:** seatbelts are mandatory for all occupants; driving under the influence carries severe penalties given the nationwide alcohol ban.
- **Tolls:** Kuwait has no toll roads or vignettes.
- **Parking:** mostly free and informal outside the city center, where some streets use paid meters.
- **Fuel:** among the cheapest in the world; stations are usually attended, and both cash and card are accepted. Pumps are labeled Ultra 98, Super 95, or Special 91 for petrol, and Diesel.
- **Electric vehicles:** charging points are still limited outside a handful of malls in Kuwait City — plan ahead if renting an EV.

📍 URBAN

45 km/h

📍 RURAL

80 km/h

📍 MOTORWAY

120 km/h

🛢 PETROL

**Ultra 98, Super 95,
Special 91**

🛢 DIESEL

Diesel

🚗 Drive on the right

🚫 No motorway vignette needed

Food & drink

Kuwaiti food centers on rice, fish, and meat, seasoned with spices brought home by generations of maritime traders. The national dish, machboos, is rice slow-cooked with chicken, lamb, or fish. Warm balaleet — sweet vermicelli with egg — is a common breakfast. Fresh Gulf fish like hammour and zubaidi appear grilled or in stews at family restaurants across the city.

Non-alcoholic tea culture runs deep. Karak, spiced milk tea, and Arabic coffee flavored with cardamom and served with dates, are offered as a sign of hospitality nearly everywhere. For street food and spices, visit [Souk Al-Mubarakiya](#), where traditional stalls sell samboosa pastries and date-syrup luqaimat. Alcohol is not served anywhere in the country, so evenings revolve around cafes, shisha lounges, and late-night dessert spots instead.

What to eat & drink

BREAKFAST

Balaleet · بلاليط

Sweet vermicelli noodles with cardamom and saffron, topped with a savory omelet.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Samboosa · سمبوسة

Fried pastries filled with spiced meat, cheese, or vegetables.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Luqaimat · لقيمات

Deep-fried dough balls drizzled with date syrup.

DRINKS

Karak · كرك

Strong spiced milk tea, a favorite everyday drink.

Arabic coffee · قهوة عربية

Light, cardamom-flavored coffee, traditionally served with dates as a gesture of hospitality.

SIGNATURE DISHES

Machboos · مجبوس

Kuwait's national dish: rice slow-cooked with spiced chicken, lamb, or fish.

Mutabbaq Samak · مطبق سمك

Spiced fish layered with rice, a classic coastal dish.

Kuwait – Plan Your Trip

Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.

3M+ downloads · 4.6 stars · 15 years of trip planning

App Store · Google Play



Scan to download
the app

Where to explore

Most visitors base themselves in Kuwait City, but a few destinations are worth the trip beyond it. [Failaka Island](#), reached by a short ferry ride, holds Bronze Age ruins from the ancient Dilmun civilization alongside quiet beaches — a popular weekend escape for Kuwaitis. South of the capital, the coastal

towns of [Fahaheel](#) and [Mangaf](#) grew up around the oil industry. Today they offer a laid-back seafront, family beach clubs, and a large expat community.

Kuwait's Unmissable Treasures

Kuwait's landscape features the iconic Kuwait Towers and the Grand Mosque, the nation's largest place of worship spanning 45,000 square meters. Historical sites include the Seif Palace with its distinct watchtower and the Kuwait National Museum. For modern exploration, The Avenues stands as one of the Gulf's largest shopping malls, while Al-Shaheed Park offers extensive urban greenery. Traditional commerce thrives at Al-Mbarkiya Marketplace and Souq Sharq, while the Al-Hashemi-II represents maritime history as the world's largest wooden dhow.



A Kuwait Towers

The Kuwait Towers are a group of three thin towers in Kuwait City, standing on a promontory into the Persian Gulf.

مدينة الكويت (29.38987, 48.00328)



B Grand Mosque

The Grand Mosque is the largest mosque in Kuwait. Its area spans 45,000 square metres, out of which the building itself covers 20,000 square...

(29.37940, 47.97503)





C Seif Palace

Seif Palace is a palace in Kuwait City, Kuwait. Located opposite the Grand Mosque, one of Seif Palace's best-known features is the watch...



The Sea Front, Kuwait (29.38011, 47.97013)



D The Scientific Center Kuwait

The Scientific Center of Kuwait, located in Salmiya, Kuwait, serves as a center for environmental education in the Persian Gulf region.



Al Blajat St, Salmiya 22036, Kuwait (29.34967, 48.08931)

Mo–Th	09:00–21:30, 09:00–22:00
Fr	14:00–22:00
Sa–Su	09:00–21:30, 09:00–22:00

tsck.org.kw, +9651848888

E Kuwait National Museum

The Kuwait National Museum is the national museum of Kuwait, located in Kuwait City.



شارع الخليج العربي, مدينة الكويت (29.37331, 47.96685)



F Al-Shaheed Park

The largest urban park in Kuwait, featuring botanical gardens, two museums, and a lake. It occupies a significant portion of the historic green belt that once protected the old city.



(Unnamed Road), The Green Belt, Kuwait
(29.36979, 47.99384)

e.gov.kw/sites/kgenglish/Pages/Visitors/..., +96522461267



G The Avenues

The Avenues Mall is the second largest shopping mall in the Persian Gulf region.

طريق الشيخ زايد بن سلطان آل نهيان 1873, الري - قطعة 5
(29.30286, 47.93589)

Mo-Su

10:00-22:00

the-avenues.com, +965 1810004



H Souq Sharq

A major waterfront shopping mall that combines modern retail with traditional architectural elements. It houses an active fish market and a marina overlooking the Persian Gulf.

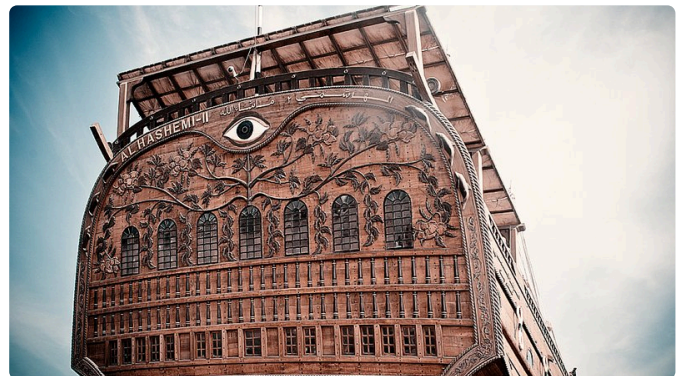
شارع الخليج العربي 2 (29.38938, 47.98108)



I Al-Mbarkiya Marketplace

One of Kuwait's oldest traditional markets, established over 200 years ago. It features authentic architecture and stalls selling Persian carpets, traditional costumes, dates, and aromatic spices.

القبلة, KW (29.37516, 47.97414)



J Al-Hashemi-II (Ship)

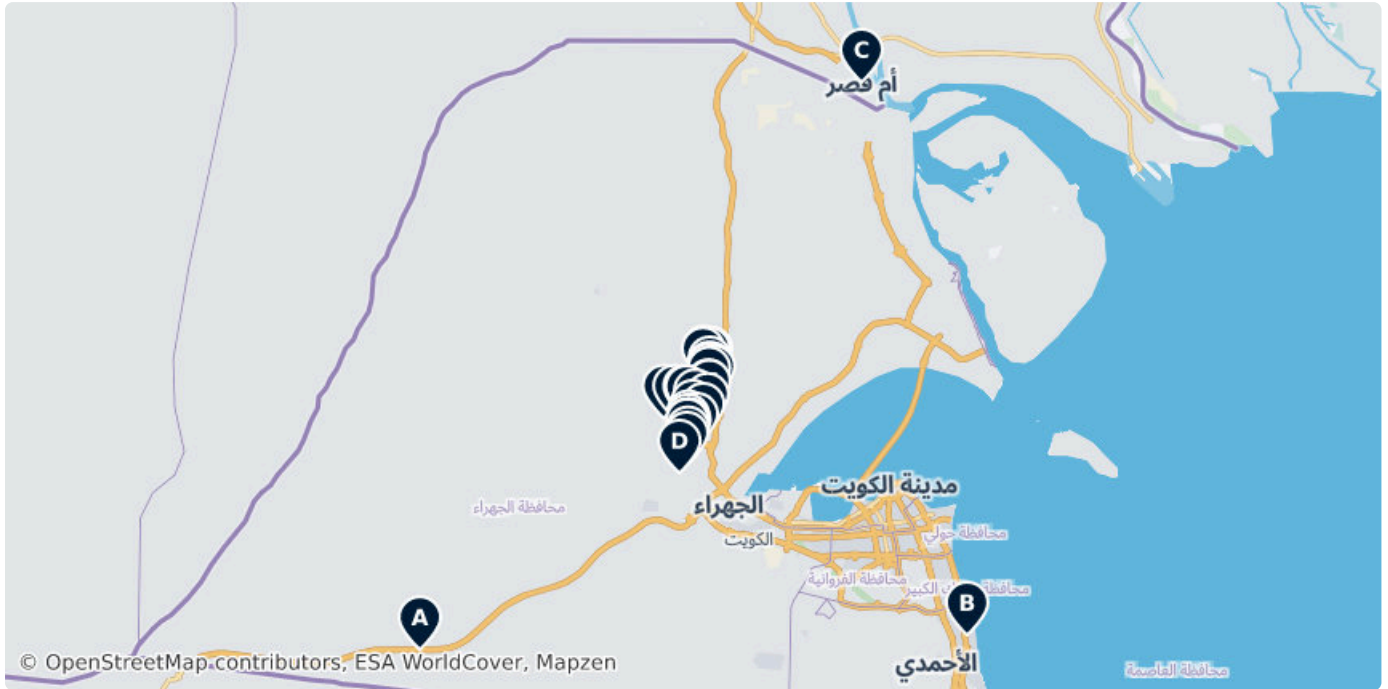
Al-Hashemi-II is the largest dhow ever built, and is one of the largest wooden ships in the world today.

Coast Strip A, Kuwait (29.30165, 48.08943)



Scenic Viewpoints

This collection features a series of vantage points and navigation markers primarily located along the Jal al-Zour ridge and the northern desert regions of Kuwait. These spots offer elevated views of the limestone escarpments and desert plains, providing clear lines of sight across the arid landscape. The list includes cultural heritage sites and specific waypoints used for desert exploration and landscape photography.



A Almwrwth alshby

Heritage site in the desert used for cultural events and observing the surrounding landscape.

(29.11240, 47.09394)



B Home

(29.13611, 48.11924)

C انكليزي

Travel and tourism service office located in the northern desert region.

(30.03631, 47.92163)



D ROAD - M

(29.40076, 47.58018)

E ROAD-H

(29.49043, 47.55117)

F ROAD-H

(29.48975, 47.58967)

G ROAD-H

(29.49009, 47.57102)

H ROAD-T

(29.46078, 47.62486)

I ROAD-T
(29.44475, 47.61278)

J ROAD-T
(29.49956, 47.63453)

K ROAD-B
(29.49832, 47.63605)

L ROAD-H
(29.48941, 47.59375)

M ROAD-T
(29.52522, 47.63616)

N ROAD-T
(29.52822, 47.63637)

O ROAD-T
(29.51945, 47.63577)

P ROAD-AI
(29.44844, 47.59688)

Q ROAD-R
(29.48329, 47.61003)

R ROAD-T
(29.47696, 47.63296)

S ROAD - E
(29.41374, 47.59430)

T ROAD-T
(29.43499, 47.59509)

U ROAD-AI
(29.43642, 47.59704)

V ROAD-T
(29.43525, 47.59907)

W ROAD-AI
(29.44287, 47.59668)

X ROAD - E
(29.42253, 47.59633)

Y ROAD-R
(29.46588, 47.60523)

Z ROAD-U
(29.52206, 47.64477)

AA ROAD-U
(29.52689, 47.64101)

AB ROAD-AA
(29.55432, 47.62626)

AC ROAD-C
(29.55211, 47.63947)

AD ROAD-T
(29.53666, 47.63713)

AE ROAD-E Finish point

Terminal point for a specific desert driving route.

(29.55140, 47.62471)

**AF ROAD-C**

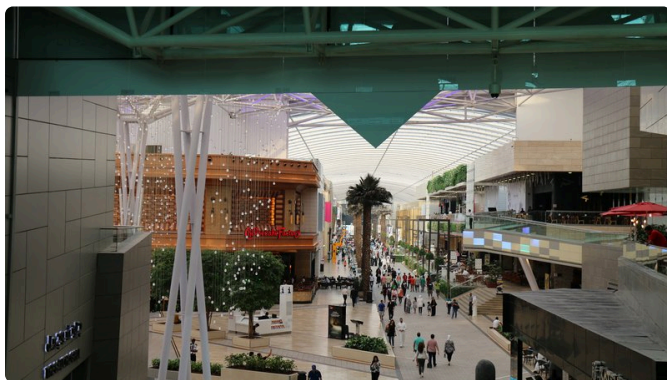
(29.55192, 47.63544)

AG ROAD-C

(29.55225, 47.62839)

Kuwait's Top Shopping Destinations

Kuwait's retail landscape ranges from the massive Avenues Mall, the second largest in the Gulf region, to the historic Al-Mubarakia, one of the country's oldest traditional markets. Modern centers like 360 Mall and Marina Mall offer waterfront dining and high-end luxury brands, while the Al Kout development in Fahaheel integrates a musical fountain with retail. This selection covers major commercial hubs in Kuwait City, Salmiya, and Egaila, including specialized centers for home goods and children's education.



A The Avenues

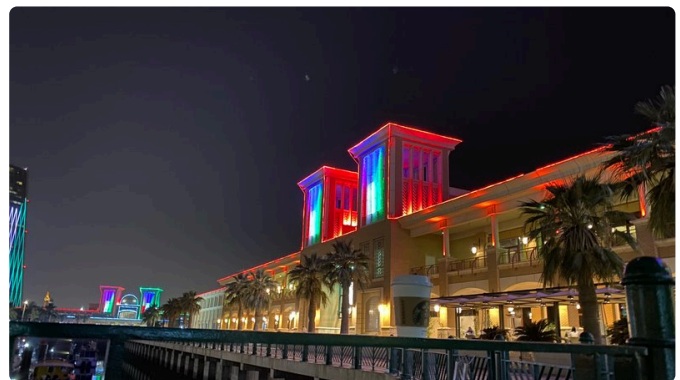
The Avenues Mall is the second largest shopping mall in the Persian Gulf region.

طريق الشيخ زايد بن سلطان آل نهيان 1873, الري - قطعة 5
(29.30286, 47.93589)

Mo-Su

10:00-22:00

the-avenues.com, +965 1810004



B Souq Sharq

Waterfront mall featuring a marina and a traditional fish market.

شارع الخليج العربي 2 (29.38938, 47.98108)



C Al-Mbarkiya Marketplace

One of Kuwait's oldest traditional markets, specializing in dates, spices, honey, and handmade crafts.

KW, القبلة (29.37516, 47.97414)



D mall awtad

Shopping center located in the Jahra district.

شارع محمد ضيف الله القحص
(29.34723, 47.67378)

Mo-Su



09:30-22:30

E مول مجمع الصالحية

High-end shopping complex in Kuwait City specializing in luxury fashion brands and designer boutiques.

Fahad Al Salem Street, القبلة, KW (29.36406, 47.96733)



F Home Centre

Large retail store specializing in furniture, home furnishings, and interior decor.

(29.36964, 47.98819)



G Discovery Mall

Shopping center focused on children's education and entertainment, featuring indoor play areas.

(Unnamed Road), The Green Belt, Kuwait
(29.36046, 47.98230)



H 360 Mall

Circular-designed shopping center featuring a luxury department store, a 15-screen cinema, and the Rafa Nadal Tennis Academy.

(29.26776, 47.99295)



I City Centre

Large retail complex in Salmiya housing a hypermarket and diverse international clothing brands.

Al Salmiyah, Kuwait (29.32829, 48.08091)



J مارينا مول

Waterfront shopping destination in Salmiya connected to a seaside promenade and marina.

Al Salmiyah, Kuwait (29.33905, 48.06586)



K Al Kout Mall

Large waterfront mall in Fahaheel featuring a musical fountain and views of the marina.

KW (29.08058, 48.14182)

Mo-Su



10:00-22:00

L Gate Mall

Modern multi-story shopping center in Egaila featuring international fashion brands and dining.

(29.17460, 48.09821)



M Al Kout Mall

Part of the Al Kout waterfront development in Fahaheel.

(29.07835, 48.13947)



N Ajial Mall

Retail center in Fahaheel featuring a multi-screen cinema and international fashion outlets.

(29.08269, 48.13621)



Yaal Mall

Commercial and retail complex located in the Fahaheel district.

(29.07942, 48.13782)

**Kababji CRE Mall**

Commercial shopping center.

(29.14000, 48.13035)

**Nokhitha 4 Mall**

Shopping center located in the Egaila retail district.

(29.17016, 48.09936)

**Al-Bairaq Mall**

Multi-story shopping mall in Egaila featuring international retail brands and a cinema.

(29.17347, 48.09869)

**Al Dorah Mall**

Retail center located in the Egaila shopping area.

(29.17429, 48.09388)

**Al Liwan Mall**

Shopping complex in Egaila featuring various retail shops and services.

طريق 2 104 (29.17442, 48.09522)



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