

# Information note for participants attending the Middle East and North Africa Climate Week 2023

## Attending the Middle East and North Africa Climate Week (MENACW)

When will registration for participants open?

- Registration for participants will open on 5 September 2023. Please check [this website](#) for more information.

How do I register?

- Please click [here](#) for information on how to register as a participant for the MENACW 2023

How much does participation cost?

- Registration **is free of charge**. Each participant is responsible for their own travel arrangements and related costs, including flight, visa, food, and accommodation.

Can I participate virtually?

- Many events will allow speakers to connect remotely. Some events at MENACW may also be **live-streamed** on the [unfccc.int](#) website. Follow #MENACW2023 on social media to be a part of the conversation.

Does the UNFCCC provide certificates of participation?

- The UNFCCC **does not provide certificates of participation**. Participants are welcome to keep their badges as proof of attendance.

## Location

Where is the MENACW located?

- MENACW 2023 will take place at the [Boulevard Riyadh City](#), located in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. A detailed program of the events with their location will be provided to you upon registration, either at the reception or at your hotel.

Are there any accessible facilities?

- Yes

## Accommodation

Where should I stay?

- The participant can select a hotel of their choice. However, the host country has negotiated discounted rates at various hotels upon availability. You may find below the process of booking at one of these hotels:
- This is the link: <https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=sqx7e2020-O2zcHIIAR3UjW5ovKHutNijEbdhQliQBUN0tEMjRNTFMxQIUwOTdMSIBTSVU5REQ5SS4>  
[u](#)
  - o Access the following Google form link to register your request.

- Fill in all the required details on the form for optimum services.
- Once the form is submitted, an auto-acknowledgment email will be received from [MOE@fursan.com.sa](mailto:MOE@fursan.com.sa) under the subject email of *Acknowledgment email for MOE Hotel Request*.
- The Fursan team will respond to any request within 2 hours (Sundays to Thursdays from 08:00 to 23:30).
- For travel within 48 hours or for urgent matters, we encourage you to contact Fursan team by phone (+966 920000948) mentioning the ticket number received in the acknowledgment email.
- Any request received beyond the working hours will be answered by the next opening hours.
- Fursan representative will send the payment link to confirm the request.
- The client will receive a secured payment link from the AL Rajhi Bank email ([no-reply@alrajhibank.com.sa](mailto:no-reply@alrajhibank.com.sa)).
- Once payment is received, a confirmation email will be received.

## Transportation

How do I travel to Riyadh?

- [King Khalid International Airport](#) is the airport of Riyadh. It is 40 km (approx. 25 mi) from the city center, and 34 km (approx. 21 mi) from Riyadh Boulevard City, where the MENACW will take place.
- Please note that the only transportation available from the airport to any destination within Riyadh is by renting a car or hiring a Taxi / UBER / Careem (Promo Code for the Careem App will be shared soon for free rides from/to airport and venue).

What is the best way to travel around Riyadh?

- **Public transport:** Riyadh has multiple bus lines. The ticket price for a two-hour ride is 4 SAR (about 1 USD). Tickets can be purchased from vending machines or through the [Riyadh bus application](#). To use the Riyadh bus app, download the app, create an account and link your method of payment. Be aware that foreign transaction fees that may apply, depending on your payment method.
- **Ride-sharing apps:** [Careem](#) and [Uber](#) are popular and also affordable options. Simply download the app and follow the same steps as already described.
- **Taxis:** Taxis are the most common mode of transportation in Riyadh. Fares are calculated using a taximeter based on time and distance. The rates remain the same for day and night trips. Typically, a taxi ride from the airport to the city center costs around 80 SAR (about 22 USD).

How do I get to the venue?

- Depending on the location of your hotel, you can use any of the above-mentioned modes of transport as well as a shuttle to the venue. More information regarding hotels that will have access to shuttles will be conveyed shortly

## Visa

Do I need a visa to visit Riyadh?

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- A visa is required to visit Saudi Arabia. For the purposes of attending the MENACW, an electronic visa system will be in place with a nominal fee of 10.50 USD.
- Upon acceptance of the registration request, a link to the e-visa platform will be received where information must be provided, and the payment can be made for the visa application.
- Once you receive your e-visa, please ensure that you carry the hardcopy print-out in A4 format to present upon arrival.
- For all visa-related issues, please contact: [visa\\_helpdesk@menacw2023.com](mailto:visa_helpdesk@menacw2023.com)

Can the UNFCCC help me with my visa?

- **UNFCCC is not able to support visa applications.** Participants are responsible for obtaining their own visas for travel to Saudi Arabia.

### **Cultural Trips**

There will be a variety of tours around the Kingdom during the MENACW, showcasing the history and heritage of Saudi Arabia. Registration for various tours will be made available with limited seats soon. This will include pick-up and drop-off from the Riyadh Boulevard and various hotels.

How do I register?

- By visiting the tour registration website which will be available on 15 September 2023. Once registered for the tour, you will receive a confirmation email with the itinerary.

Are the trips\ tours free?

- Trips\ tours on the registration website are free of charge

What is included in the trips\ tours?

- Transportation will be provided for trips and during tours (from pickup point)
- Itineraries will be managed by a dedicated team that will keep you informed with any updates
- The dedicated team will escort you during your tours for guidance and assistance
- Trips (destinations out of Riyadh) will include meals and all-day snacks

### **Foreign exchange**

What is the currency in Saudi Arabia?

- The currency in Saudi Arabia is the Saudi-Riyal (abbreviation SAR or SR). A riyal is divided into 100 halalas. Coins are available in 2 or 1 riyal, and 50, 10, 5 or 1 halala. Bank notes are generally in 5, 10, 50, 100, and 500 riyals.

Where can I exchange currency?

- All banks in Saudi Arabia offer currency exchange services. Exchange bureaus can also be found in airports. The exchange rate is 1 USD = 3.75 SAR. You can check the current exchange rate [here](#).

Do I need to carry cash, or can I pay with a card?

- **Cash and credit card are widely accepted forms of payment** in Riyadh. All major forms of credit card are accepted in Saudi Arabia, although it is best to travel with either Mastercard, Visa

or American Express as these accepted most widely. Please refer to your credit card company regarding transaction fees.

## **Wi-Fi and phones**

Do I need a SIM card?

- Free Wi-Fi is widely available in hotels and other venues, however, you may require a SIM card for mobile data. The **recommended** SIM cards are from: **Saudi Telecom Company (STC)**, **Mobily**, or **Zain**. These can be bought at international airports (though more expensive), mobile provider stores, convenience stores or online. It is best to check with your service provider about what you will need before undertaking any travel.

What is the telephone country code?

- The telephone country code in Saudi Arabia is +966.

Will there be Wi-Fi at the venue?

- Yes, free Wi-Fi will be provided at the venue.

## **Language**

What languages are spoken in Saudi Arabia?

- Arabic is the official language of Saudi Arabia. English serves as an informal second language and is spoken by a large section of the Saudi Arabian society. All road signs are bilingual, showing information in both Arabic and English.

## **Weather**

What is the weather like in Riyadh?

- In October, the temperature can range from an average high of 33.8°C (93°F) and an average low of 20.5°C (69°F).
- There shouldn't be any rainy days during October, and the average daily maximum UV index in Riyadh is 9. It is recommended to limit exposure to the direct sun between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., wear clothes that cover the whole body, and use sunscreen with a minimum 30 sun protection factor.

## **Time zone**

What is the time zone in Saudi Arabia?

- Saudi Arabia follows the Arabian Standard Time (AST), which is UTC+3.

## **Electrical appliances**

What plug type is used in Saudi Arabia? Will I need a travel adaptor?

- The plug type in Saudi Arabia is type G, which has three rectangular pins in a triangular shape and is typically used in the United Kingdom. Check the plug type of your country to determine whether you will need to use an adaptor.

What electrical equipment can I use in Saudi Arabia?

- The standard voltage is 230V and the frequency is 60 Hz. You can use the usual electronic equipment if the outlet voltage in your country is between 220-240V (most of Europe, Australia, and most countries in Africa and Asia use this voltage). If the voltage in your country is between 100-127V (US, Canada, and countries in South America), you may require a voltage converter.

### **Dress code**

Do I need to dress in a particular manner?

- The [Saudi Arabian law](#) provides that the dress code for visitors must be in accordance with the standards set for such purposes and prohibits wearing improper clothing in public places.
- Both men and women should dress modestly within the Kingdom in accordance with cultural norms.

### **Local laws**

- For any information regarding Saudi Laws and etiquette please visit the link below:  
<https://www.visitsaudi.com/en/help-support>

### **Emergency situations**

What do I do in case of an emergency?

- In case of an emergency, please dial this numbers: 911. Operators will respectively connect you to the Saudi emergency, the police, or request ambulance services.

I am feeling ill, but it is not an emergency. What should I do?

- Make sure your health insurance plan provides overseas coverage or coverage in other countries and visit a local doctor or hospital for medical advice.

I would like to report something that happened at the venue. What should I do?

- Visit the information desk at the venue.

**We look forward to welcoming you to Riyadh!**