Bahrain

**Full name:** Kingdom of Bahrain  
**Government:** constitutional monarchy  

**Location:** Located in the Persian Gulf, directly east of Saudi Arabia, northwest of Qatar and southwest of Iran.  
**Capital:** Manama  
**Area:** 741 sq km (286 sq miles); 3.5 times the size of Washington, DC  

**Climate:** arid; mild, pleasant winters; very hot, humid summers  
**Terrain:** mostly low desert plain rising gently to low central escarpment  
**Natural Hazards:** periodic droughts; dust storms  

**Population:** 6.8 million (July 2009 est.)  
**Ethnicity:** Bahraini 62.4%, non-Bahraini 37.6 (2001 census)  
**Major Language:** Arabic  
**Religion:** Muslim (Shia and Sunni) 81.2%, Christian 9%, other 9.8% (2001 census)  
**Life expectancy:** 74 years (men), 77 years (women) (UN)  

**Currency:** 1 Bahraini dinar = 1000 fils