

# BAHRAIN National Day

## December 16<sup>th</sup>

### Kingdom of Bahrain



Bahrain is a small island off the east coast of Saudi Arabia. Since antiquity it was famous for its pearl industry, which thrived until the 1930's. Bahrain was the first nation to discover oil within the Arabian Gulf and enjoyed many years of prosperity. After over 100 years of British rule, it declared independence in 1971. Civil unrest during the Arab Spring in 2011 revealed Bahrainis' frustrations with unemployment and lack of political development, precipitating conflicts between the Sunni ruling family and Shia Muslim majority.



Capital City:	Manama
Government:	Constitutional Monarchy
Major People Groups:	62% Arabs, 38% non-Arab expatriate
Population:	1.7 million ( <a href="http://www.worldometers.info">www.worldometers.info</a> )
Religion:	81% Muslim, 9% Christian, 6% Hindu, 4% other

**Muslims are forbidden to change their religion. Those who become Christians face imprisonment or beatings by family members. Also, those who distribute anything criticizing Islam can be imprisoned.**



Bahrain has been a cosmopolitan, free-thinking society for centuries. It was also the first country in the region to have a Christian mission hospital, church and school.

A causeway connecting Bahrain and Saudi Arabia was built in 1986. Since then, great numbers of Saudis visit the country on weekends and holidays.

Open evangelism is not allowed. However, expatriate Christians enjoy freedom to worship and serve God. This enables them to minister to Bahrainis and visitors from Saudi and other Gulf countries.

#### Prayer resources:

- <https://prayercast.com/bahrain.html>
  - <https://prayforap.com/bahrain.html>
  - <http://www.apinfo.eu>
- Pray for the royal family, opposition leaders and government officials to work together to improve social stability.
  - Pray for justice and support for foreign workers who endure abuse, harassment, poor pay, & long workhours.
  - Pray that the expatriate church will reach out to Bahrainis.
  - Pray for creative means and media to advance the Gospel.
  - Pray for courage for Bahraini believers to be lights in the darkness despite daily hostility.
  - Pray for increased opportunities for visiting Saudis and other Gulf Arabs to encounter the Gospel.



**But whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.**

**John 4:14**