

KUWAIT

Population : 4.2 million

Kuwait has 3 main cities : Kuwait-City (the capital), Jahra, Ahmadi. There are 4.2 million people including 1.4 million Kuwaitis and 2.8 million expatriates (who represent 70% of the population). Kuwait is one of the smallest countries in the world in terms of land area. Most people live in the governates of Hawalli, Asimah and Farwaniyah.

Life expectancy : 78 years old.

Spoken languages : the official language is Arabic.

Religion : Muslims (76%), Christians (17%), Hindus and others. During Ramadan, it is illegal to eat and drink in a public place, even for non-Muslims.

Traditions : Even though Kuwait is among the Middle East's freest countries in terms of civil liberties and political rights, it remains classified as a "partly free" country. Male homosexuality is illegal and punishable by up to 6 years in prison.

Economy : thanks to the oil industry and investments abroad, Kuwait is a high-income economy. The Kuwaiti dinar is the highest valued currency in the world.

Climate : Kuwait has a subtropical desert climate, with mild winters and very hot summers. The sun usually shines all year around and there are very few rainfall.

Non-working days :

Friday is the rest day, so that Muslims can go to the mosque. Saturday can be a rest day too. Generally, the maximum working time is 8 hours a day or 40 to 48 hours a week all year long (a week of work is between 5 and 6 days).

Healthcare sector : The public sector represents 80% of the healthcare system, the private 20%.

The Ministry of Health tripled its budget these last 10 years. In 2010, the Parliament implemented a five-year plan of investment in order to develop, modernize and enlarge the healthcare sector.

A lot of patients are sent abroad to be cured because the country does not have the right resources. This is why Kuwait intend to have more Kuwaiti doctors to be able to cure the population within the country, and send less patients abroad.

There is a big difference between Kuwaitis and expatriates. Expatriates and rich Kuwaitis usually go to private structures, which caused an important development of the private field these last few years and growing inequalities among the population in terms of access to healthcare.

Doctors :

- Public sector :

Eligibility :

- The scientific certificates must be approved by the Ministry of Higher Education
- The professional license from the Ministry of Health must be obtained
- The applicant must pass the personal interview at the Ministry of Health, for non-Kuwaiti doctors.

- Private sector :

Eligibility :

- The medical institution or the applicant must submit the request
- The applicant must pass a personal interview
- The applicant must pass a medical check-up
- A primary approval must be obtained from the Medical License Committee
- The scientific certificates and certificates of practical experience must be authenticated to request the professional license.

More information:

- Kuwait Medical Association:
 - <http://kma.org.kw/en-US/html.aspx?id=27>
- Kuwait Institute for Medical specialization:
 - <http://www.kims.org.kw>