

Government

Names:

conventional long form: State of Bahrain

conventional short form: Bahrain

local long form: Dawlat al Bahrayn

local short form: Al Bahrayn

Digraph: BA

Type: traditional monarchy

Capital: Manama

Administrative divisions: 12 districts (manatiq, singular - mintaqah); Al Hadd, Al Manamah, Al Mintaqah al Gharbiyah, Al Mintaqah al Wusta, Al Mintaqah ash Shamaliyah, Al Muharraq, Ar Rifa'wa al Mintaqah al Janubiyah, Jidd Hafs, Madinat Hamad, Madinat 'Isa, Mintaqat Juzur Hawar, Sitrah

Independence: 15 August 1971 (from UK)

National holiday: Independence Day, 16 December (1961)

Constitution: 26 May 1973, effective 6 December 1973

Legal system: based on Islamic law and English common law

Suffrage: none

Executive branch:

chief of state: Amir ISA bin Salman Al Khalifa (since 2 November 1961); Heir Apparent HAMAD bin Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa (son of the Amir, born 28 January 1950)

head of government: Prime Minister KHALIFA bin Salman Al Khalifa (since 19 January 1970)

cabinet: Cabinet

Legislative branch: unicameral National Assembly was dissolved 26 August 1975 and legislative powers were assumed by the Cabinet; appointed Advisory Council established 16 December 1992

Judicial branch: High Civil Appeals Court

Political parties and leaders: political parties prohibited; several small, clandestine leftist and Islamic fundamentalist groups are active

Member of: ABEDA, AFESD, AL, AMF, ESCWA, FAO, G-77, GATT, GCC, IBRD, ICAO, ICRM, IDB, IFRC, ILO, IMF, IMO, INMARSAT, INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, ISO (correspondent), ITU, NAM, OAPEC, OIC, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WFTU, WHO, WMO

Diplomatic representation in US:

chief of mission: Ambassador Muhammad ABD AL-GHAFFAR al-Abdallah

chancery: 3502 International Drive NW, Washington, DC 20008

telephone: [1] (202) 342-0741, 342-0742
consulate(s) general: New York

US diplomatic representation:

chief of mission: Ambassador David M. RANSOM

embassy: Building No. 979, Road 3119 (next to Ahli Sports Club),
Zinj District, Manama

mailing address: FPO AE 09834-5100; P.O. Box 26431, Manama
(International Mail)

telephone: [973] 273300; afterhours [973] 275-126

FAX: [973] 272594

Flag: red with a white serrated band (eight white points) on the hoist side

Defense Forces

Branches: Army, Navy, Air Force, Air Defense, Coast Guard, Police
Force

Manpower availability: males age 15-49 210,725; males fit for military
service 117,414; males reach military age (15) annually 4,346 (1995 est.)

Defense expenditures: exchange rate conversion - \$247 million, 5.5% of
GDP (1994)