

KUWAIT

In Kuwait there are 29 distinct people groups. Following are two of the groups.

Arab, Kuwait



Kuwait is a desert nation on the northeastern tip of the Arabian Peninsula. With the discovery of oil in the twentieth century, Kuwait's traditional Arab culture advanced rapidly. Unlike most Arabs, the Kuwaiti Arab now enjoy a modern, industrialized society. However, at times, the old Arab ways and values conflict with the changes demanded by modern, urban life.

Arab culture originated in the area occupied by the Kuwaiti Arab. The people once lived as tribal nomads or as town dwellers influenced by the nomads. The prophet Mohammed lived in the area, and it was there that he developed a new religion, Islam. As the Arabs emerged from the deserts and oases, they took their faith with them. Today, nearly all Arabs are Muslim.

The Kuwaiti Arab are the most numerous group in the country. Over half of them live in the capital city, which provides protection from the harsh desert climate. The language they speak is called Arabiya.

What are their lives like?

Before the discovery of oil, Kuwait's economy was based on trade and a few crops. Since the development of the oil industry, many Kuwaiti Arab are now bureaucrats, clerical technicians, industrialists, and other professionals. The oil economy has

brought new communication systems, water systems, and roads. The reformed educational system has led to one of the highest literacy rates in the region. Health care, affordable housing, and other social services have given the people comfortable lives.

Many Kuwaiti men now have the opportunity to study abroad. Since these men often marry foreign women, the number of unmarried Kuwaiti women has increased. Under Islamic law, a man may have up to four wives. Getting married in Kuwait is financially rewarding, as the government provides a "marriage loan" to men marrying for the first time. When the couple has children, the government pays them monthly for every child, with no limit to the number of children.

A Kuwaiti Arab woman's first role is as wife and mother; however, unlike many other Arab women, she has opportunity for progress. Kuwaiti Arab women have access to higher education, and many have become teachers, business women, and professionals. This freedom has resulted in higher income for the family and the ability to hire others to perform the more traditional tasks of the Kuwaiti Arab women.

Kuwait is an Islamic society, and the Kuwaiti Arab identify with Islam more than with family or country. Islam dominates their lives, and above all else, they are Muslim. The Kuwaiti government has attempted to link the state identity to Islam through public devotion, by state funding of mosques and other Muslim institutions, and by participating in Islamic conferences.

The family, however, remains important as the basis of Kuwaiti Arab society. Just as in other Arab nations, family honor is very important. Each member of the family has a defined role, according to Arab tradition. The family provides security in times of economic hardship and in old age. Health, welfare, and the happiness of family, friends, and strangers are important to the Kuwaiti Arab.

What are their beliefs?

The majority of the Kuwaiti Arab are Muslim and follow the teachings of the Muslim holy book, the Koran. The Koran forbids lying, stealing, adultery, and murder. It teaches Muslims to honor their parents, show kindness, protect the orphan and widow, and give to the poor. Muslims believe that life on earth is a period of testing and preparation for the life to come; thus, death is not feared but viewed as the gateway to eternal life. They believe that after death, all men will give an account for their actions, being judged by their works and by their knowledge of the Koran.

What are their needs?

The Kuwaiti Arab have little material or physical needs when compared to Arabs in other countries. However, like most Arabs everywhere, the Kuwaiti Arab are so devoted to Islam that they have shut the door on Christianity. Only sustained, fervent intercession can soften their hearts to the Gospel.

Prayer Points

- * Ask the Lord to soften the hearts of Kuwait's leaders to the preaching of the Gospel.
- * Ask the Holy Spirit to show the Kuwaiti Arab the emptiness of riches and the true wealth of the Gospel.
- * Pray that Jesus will supernaturally reveal Himself as Lord to the Kuwaiti Arab.
- * Ask the Lord to save key leaders among the Kuwaiti Arab who will boldly proclaim the Gospel.
- * Ask God to raise up prayer teams who will begin breaking up the soil through worship and intercession.
- * Pray that strong local churches will be raised up among the Kuwaiti Arabs.
- * Pray for translation of the Bible to begin in this people group's primary language.
- * Pray for the availability of the Jesus Film in the primary language of this people.



Country: Kuwait

Continent: Asia

Region: Middle East and North Africa

Persecution Rank: 31 (Only top 50 ranked, 1 = highest persecution ranking)

10/40 Window: Yes

Population in this Country: 1,267,000

Population all Countries: 2,237,000

Affinity Bloc: Arab World

People Cluster: Arab, Arabian

People Name General: Arab, Arabic Gulf Spoken

Primary Language: Arabic, Gulf Spoken

Primary Religion: Islam

Religion Sub-division: Sunni

% Christian Adherents: Data not available

% Evangelical: 0.60 %

Arab, Omani



What are their lives like? □ Because the overwhelming majority of Kuwait's population is urbanized, the Omani Arab have adapted to a modern way of life. For centuries, housing in Kuwait consisted of small cottages, mud huts, and a few larger homes plastered with cement or limestone. However, in recent years, housing conditions have improved tremendously. The government is using much of its oil revenues to modernize the country in other ways as well. For example, Kuwait now

has quality public health services. Free education is provided for students in kindergarten through college. This includes free meals, clothing, books, and transportation. A modern network of roads has been built, and air transportation is also highly advanced. □□Unfortunately, Kuwait has no reusable water and must rely on wells and purified sea water.

Most of the country's food must be imported. Today, there are relatively few jobs in the oil industry because most of the work is done by machines. The government is trying to provide more jobs by encouraging the growth of economic activities rather than oil production. □□The Omani Arabs in Kuwait live in extended family units. Their society is patriarchal, or male-dominated. However, the men do not abuse this authority because they believe that their families should obey them out of respect, rather than fear. The Omani Arab women have a greater role in society than most women in Kuwait. Those with specialized skills are now encouraged to go to school and work. Although the women have great influence over their husbands and sons, public life is still considered a "man's business." □□Some Omani marriages are still pre-arranged, although this practice is declining. Children are considered a family's greatest asset. While men worship at mosques, women attend religious services at home. □□Most of the Omani wear traditional Arab clothes. The men wear white robes, turbans, and knives in brightly colored sashes. The women wear long, black dresses over colorful inner clothes. Some of them also wear black masks to cover their faces. Their staple foods are rice, bread, vegetables, lamb, and fish. □□The Omani recognize strong obligations to their neighbors. This includes mutual help in times of sickness and misfortune, and mutual protection of others and their property.

What are their beliefs? □Most of the people living in Kuwait, including the Omani Arabs, are Muslims. They adhere to the five "pillars" of Islam. These include acknowledging that Allah is the only god, praying, fasting, giving alms to the poor, and making a pilgrimage to Mecca. □□The Omani standard is to accept others on their terms. For example, they view anything less than excessive generosity as rudeness. Even Christians are tolerated as long as they are not Muslim converts.

What are their needs? □There are only a handful of known Omani Arab Christians in Kuwait. Prayer is the key to penetrating these precious people with the Gospel.

Prayer Points □

- * Pray that the Lord will send forth many laborers into the harvest fields of Kuwait. □
- * Ask God to give the few known Omani believers living in Kuwait opportunities to share the Gospel with their own people. □
- * Ask God to soften the hearts of the Omani Arabs to the Gospel as it is presented to them. □

* Pray that the Lord will reveal Himself to these precious people through dreams and visions. □

* Ask God to raise up prayer teams who will begin breaking up the soil through intercession. □

* Pray that strong local churches will be raised up among the Omani Arabs in Kuwait. □

* Pray for translation of the Bible to begin in this people group's primary language. □

* Pray for the availability of the Jesus Film in the primary language of this people.

Country: Kuwait

Continent: Asia

Region: Middle East and North Africa

Persecution Rank: 31 (Only top 50 ranked, 1 = highest persecution ranking)

Population in this Country: 4,800

Population all Countries: 6,436,000

Affinity Bloc: Arab World

People Cluster: Arab, Yemeni

People Name General: Arab, Southern Yemeni

Primary Language: Arabic, Taizzi-Adeni Spoken (4,800 Speakers)

Primary Religion: Islam

Religion Sub-division: Shia

% Christian Adherents: Data not available

% Evangelical: Data not available