

TRANSPORTATION

Bahrain

Bahrain International Airport is located on Muharraq Island and has recently completed an expansion programme including an extension of cargo facilities. The primary deep-water port in Bahrain is located at Mina Sulman with fourteen berths and two container terminals. There are plans for a new port, industrial area and free-trade zone to be located at Hidd. A causeway linking Bahrain to Saudi Arabia was completed in 1986 and currently accounts for 75 percent of all Saudi and Western expatriate visitor traffic to Bahrain.

Kuwait

Kuwait City's international airport was completed in 1979, and a second runway has been subsequently built. Kuwait's two commercial ports are Shuwaikh and Shuaiba, both ports were casualties of the Gulf War, but have since been cleared for traffic. Roads in Kuwait City and to other main towns were good prior to the Gulf War, and have since been largely repaired and rebuilt to pre-war traffic levels.

Oman

Seeb International Airport was built in 1972, a major expansion programme was completed in 1985, and another will be completed this year. The Salalah airport is currently completing an expansion programme which will double its available facilities. Oman's main port is the deep-water port at Matrah {Mina Qaboos}, capable of handling two million deadweight tons of cargo annually at thirteen berths. Oman has another port at Mina Raysut, near Salalah, and there are plans for another port for an as yet undecided site. Since Sultan Qaboos's accession in 1970, Oman has embarked on a highly ambitious road construction pattern that has dramatically upgraded land transport across the country.

Qatar

There is an international airport at Doha, with plans underway to build the new Doha International Airport approximately five kilometres from the current location. At the start of 1994, plans to set up a private airline, Qatar Air, were announced. Doha's deep-water port was extended in 1977, but Umm Said port handles the bulk of industrial goods and oil. Construction of a new port at Ras Laffan has commenced and will include container and cargo berths. A network of good roads provides a ring road system and links Doha with Ruwais in the north, Dukham in the west, Umm Said and the frontiers with Saudi Arabia at Abu Samra and with the United Arab Emirates at Sauda-Nathil.

United Arab Emirates

Roads, ports, airports and aviation facilities in the United Arab Emirates have been developed by individual emirates as they see fit. Five of the seven emirates have an international airport and a sixth is under construction at Al-Ain in Abu Dhabi. Most emirates have established their own ports, with the largest at Port Rashid in Dubai. Dubai's other main port is Jebel Ali which concentrates on industrial and bulk cargoes. Road development throughout the emirates has been extensive. Links from Dubai to all the northern emirates, including Fujairah on the Gulf of Oman, are good.