

ment sets fares to and from the airport. Because most taxis do not have meters, you should fix the fare with the driver before getting in. Some taxis have signs indicating the legal fare and hotels can sometimes identify the correct fare. Change should be ready for payment because drivers rarely have change. Most drivers do not speak English, so the destination should be written in Arabic by someone in the hotel to hand to the driver.

A car can be rented by the week only, often from the hotel. You may not wish to drive, however, unless you know the city; there are few street signs, no road maps, and, if you get lost, there are few English-speaking people to help. An international driver's licence is accepted.

## **Hotels**

There are several international and first-class hotels in Baghdad. With the exception of the Basra Sheraton and the Mosul Oberoi, there are no international-class hotels outside Baghdad. Room rates are fixed by the government at Iraqi dinar 25 to 30 for a single and Iraqi dinar 30 to 35 for a double at international-class hotels. Rates at second-class hotels range from Iraqi dinar 8 to 18 for a single and Iraqi dinar 9 to 22 for a double.

It is still extremely difficult to obtain good accommodation between mid-September and mid-November. Confirmation of a room usually requires a letter from the Canadian Embassy to the hotel.

Some Iraqi hotels accept credit cards and most first-class hotels have bank branches for currency exchange.

## **Customs Regulations**

Custom duties are levied at a variety of rates ranging from 15 per cent to 300 per cent, in accordance with official instructions. Exemptions from custom duties are granted where a project is covered by Law No. 60 (1985) or Law No. 115 (1982). Most non-consumable items for a project, such as vehicles and equipment, would be entered under temporary entry permits. The items must be re-exported on project completion.

## **Health and Personal Security**

An AIDS certificate is mandatory for entry to Iraq for a period longer than four days. It may be obtained before arrival or within the first five days in Baghdad. In Baghdad