



The Pearl Of The Middle East

(NAPSA)—Many Americans may be surprised—and pleased—to learn that one of the leading countries in culture, tourism, business and standard of living is situated in the heart of the Middle East.

While the tiny island Kingdom of Bahrain has experience periods of political turmoil and protests over the last year, it has also been one of the fastest-growing economies in the region and has lately experienced one of the highest growth rates in the world. The Kingdom, a global leader in banking and finance, is also among the most well-connected, technologically advanced and modern countries in the area.

Business Is Booming

Economic growth in Bahrain has been compared favorably with that of Germany in the 1960s and Japan in the 1970s. According to the Index of Economic Freedom, published by The Heritage Foundation and The Wall Street Journal, Bahrain has the freest economy in the region.

With over 35 nationalities, it is among the most diverse countries in the world and is ranked as one of the best countries to live in as an expat. Bahrain is also one of the strongest allies of the U.S.

The government of Bahrain is committed to meeting the challenges of a fast-growing society through continual improvements in legislation, ongoing reform and through effective, visionary leadership. The country has recently restructured its court system. That, combined with enabling legislation and the prevalence of English as a business language, makes Bahrain



His Majesty the King awards Julio Iglesias the Medal of Competency after a sold-out concert during the 2012 Cultural Festival in Bahrain.

attractive for international business and tourism.

What To See And Do

While visiting Bahrain, travelers can enjoy some of the world's premier sporting events, including Formula 1, cricket, soccer and golf at world-class facilities.

If relaxing is what you'd prefer, Bahrain is also known for its coral and sand beaches. Scuba divers and snorkelers can observe beautiful underwater coral reefs, exotic fish and shipwrecks.

Visitors can enjoy both traditional markets, souks and perhaps the world's finest selection of modern shopping malls.

Bahrain also attracts the best in international culture—from ceremonial dances, to beautiful jewelry, to Khaliji music with its strong African roots. The country's recent Heritage Festival included internationally renowned singers such as Julio Iglesias and Andrea Bocelli; the Chinese folk dance troupe Little White Egret; and the Polish MozART Group.