

Are you ready to be a voice crying out in the wilderness to make a way for the Lord?

Bedouin from Saudi Arabia



Who are the Bedouin from Saudi Arabia?

The Bedouin from Saudi Arabia are traditionally pastoral nomadic people living in goat hair tents and migrating seasonally to secure water and good grazing conditions for their sheep, goats, and camels. Originating in the Arabian Desert, Bedouin Arabs have migrated back and forth over the past century across the nearby borders of the Arabian Gulf into Iraq, Egypt, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, and in large numbers to Jordan. These migration patterns have greatly diminished over the past century due to the continued modernization of nation-states and increased security through decades of wars.

Though there are many nomadic and semi-nomadic Bedouin still found in the region, many governments have encouraged the Bedouin to settle in one location in part due to taxation, a desire to increase education and social welfare, but also to decrease the tribal identity held dearly by the Bedouin Arabs.

Bedouin culture is both idealized and diminished by traditionally settled peoples of the Middle East. On the one hand, they are held up as the ideal of traditional values of honor and hospitality, on the other hand, they are viewed as simple-minded people living in the past. The simple lifestyle is admired and considered pure and unhindered though most city dwellers would never choose to live in such unpredictable and harsh conditions.

Hospitality is the most important value among Bedouin both settled and nomadic. Sweet tea is offered to visitors in abundance and often meals are served even if it is at great cost to the host. One Bedouin woman stated, "For Arabs hospitality lies at the heart of who we are. How well one treats his guests is a direct measurement of what kind of a person she or he is. Hospitality is among the most highly admired of virtues. Indeed families judge themselves and each other according to the amount of generosity they bestow upon their guests when they entertain. Whether one's guests are relatives, friends, neighbors, or relative strangers they are welcomed into the home and to the dinner table with much the same kindness and generosity.



4.5 million
yet to be reached



Quick Facts

Total population: 4,469,000
Population per country:
Saudi Arabia- 1,360,000
Jordan- 1,395,000
other Gulf countries- 196,000
other Levant countries-1,518,000
Language Arabic Bedawi
Progress- Unreached mostly
Unengaged
Language-
Bible Translation-Portions
Recordings- Limited
Radio Broadcast- none
Jesus Film- yes

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

— Isaiah 43:19 —

*A voice cries out in the wilderness,
"Clear the way for the Lord in the wilderness;
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God...
And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed."
— Isaiah 40:3,5 —*

Pray

- Pray that the Great Shepherd will draw His lost sheep from these nomadic shepherds.
- Pray the Lord would use the mobility of these nomads to spread the gospel to the far corners of the Middle East even back to the lands of their origins.
- Pray for the economic difficulties that many have had as their way of life diminishes in the modernizing world.
- Pray the Lord would bring dreams and visions and storytellers from afar to reveal the good news of the Kingdom of God.
- Pray to the Lord of the Harvest to raise up laborers for the Harvest giving them unique access to these hard to reach peoples.
- Pray for the drug addictions that have been increasing among the Bedouin.
- Pray that as they seek out ways water in a dry and scorched land that they would find the true source of Living Water.



Engage

The Bedouin from Saudi Arab have traditionally been a difficult people to access. The mobility of the nomadic and the remoteness of the settled make it difficult to live among them and learn the unique dialects of Bedawi Arabic. Modernization is driving many men to cities and this could be a possible open door to reaching these remote people.

Access to women is especially difficult but greatly needed as they are often the cornerstone of Bedouin life. They are the keepers of the next generation, often the shepherds, the weavers of the goat hair yarn for the tents, preparers of the meals, and responsible for the hospitality of the Bedouin. Women laborers who can speak Arabic are greatly needed to make an inroad with the communities.

Each of the different countries that the Bedouin reside in have different restrictions and opportunities. Though tourist visas are available in many of the countries where Bedouin are found, there usually needs to be some other form of identity that would allow outsiders to draw near to them. Each country has There are a few strategic inroads into their communities, such as in health care. Many Bedouin do not have reliable health care and are very open to medical clinics, visiting doctors, or help with special needs children and health education. Veterinary care is a great inroad especially for those that are still keeping herds. Tourism, especially adventure and eco-tourism, as well as archeological tours, has opened doors to relationships. Archeology has also been a unique access point to nomads in the Middle East.



**Is God calling you to live among the Muslim peoples of the Middle East? Contact us.
We would love to help you get there!**