

## **General Advice and notes**

**Please attempt to adhere to the following, as this should help make your trip and living in Tarim a little easier and pleasant.**

Information given hereunder is based on availability as of Sept 2012.

### **Planning to live in Tarim** **Families living outside Dar al Mustafa**

The Habaib advise where possible that one should first visit Tarim before making long term plans to move here. A good time to visit is the Summer Dowrah ([www.thedowra.com](http://www.thedowra.com)). If that's not possible then one should try their utmost to get in touch with people who live or have lived in Tarim and take advice from them. This will give one a good idea and fair insight of what to expect with regards to; environment, conditions, climate, standards of living, education, costs and expenses etc. But please ensure before actually making a move here, to have a point of contact in Tarim so that appropriate arrangements can be made for one's arrival, from visas to accommodation etc.

### **Visas**

At present, Sept 2012, ALL visa application should be carried out through the administration of Dar al Mustafa (DM). This process entails one sending a scanned colour copy of one's passport together with the application fee to the appropriate person listed below. Authorization then takes place via the Immigration Ministry in Yemen who then send the visa authorization to the Yemen embassy of the applicants country of residence. Cost of application for visa is approx \$45 US (irrespective of whether it is approved or not)

### **Tourist visas**

If one enters on a visit visa, then on entry one should hand in their passport to DM in order to be registered with the local immigration. This is very important and failure to do so within 14 days if arrival will result in financial penalties.

### **Study**

If one intends to come for the purposes of study then please make sure that this is clearly indicated at the time of application so that the correct department may organize one's entry visa through DM. This is crucial otherwise one may have to leave the country for the appropriate visa to be issued. Students entering on a visit visa WILL NOT be allowed a residence or study permit. The approximate time needed to organize a study visa is about 6 weeks.

The best time to apply is preferable during March/April in order to arrive just before the beginning of the Dowrah which is usually in July/August. Alternatively one should arrive before the end of Ramadan as the academic year officially begins on the 10th Shawwal of every year.

For any assistance with the above please contact us.

## **Housing**

**Important** – please try to organize accommodation before arriving in Yemen by contacting friends or contacts who are living in Tarim or who have contacts that have lived in Tarim etc...or by emailing the above. Please note that accommodation needs to be arranged as soon as possible as there can be very few houses/ flats available, especially with the increasing number of people coming to Tarim every year.

### **N.B**

Single students are not allowed to live outside Dar al Mustafa and Dar al Zahra respectively. Please ensure that acceptance and accommodation from Dar al Mustafa or Dar al Zahra has been approved before arriving, as places are limited. Otherwise one might be compelled to return home and arrive only the following year.

If one is already in Tarim, then please liaise with Shukri Bahraish from DM when searching for a home and agreeing to terms and conditions of rental. This not only helps one negotiate a reasonable rental deal and good terms but also plays a crucial part in not affecting the local economy. Prices of apartments and other costs will be compiled separately.

Guest accommodation for those staying for a short period of time is about 3000 YR per day. Once again, please be sure to contact someone already in Tarim to ensure that the guest accommodation is available.

When agreeing to terms of tenancy, please be sure to check all household appliances from plumbing, taps, toilets, flush systems, electrical switches, lights, plug sockets, fans, AC's etc. If problems are found then please ensure the landlord repairs everything before moving in. Alternatively, one may stipulate in the contract to withhold some rental money until the problems are fixed. If they are still not fixed within 2 weeks of moving in then the tenant will undertake the repairs at the landlords expense which can be deducted off the rental or something along these lines.

Try to negotiate in the contract that all plumbing and electrical costs are covered in the tenancy at the cost of the landlord. At the very least, for the first 6 months, if there are any faults then it should be upon the landlord to repair. Again giving the landlord about 2 weeks to repair or you may request to carry out the repairs at his expense being able to deduct the costs incurred from the rental payments.

If one is planning to stay in Tarim with family, long term, and wishes to set up a home with most of the furnishing already in place then it might be advisable to get in touch with the above mentioned contacts a few months before arriving. There is always a chance that families are leaving and their homes and belongings are for sale, so a package deal can be bargained for everything. This usually works out a lot cheaper than buying and setting up from scratch.

Upon arrival and in order obtain a residence visa, one will require, amongst other things:

a blood test (DM will arrange this), at least 10 passport size colour photos, copies of one's passport etc. Having passport photos and copies of one's passport before arriving will prove useful.

**Please refer to the Community Resource list for further assistance and information.**

**(Direct flights from Jeddah, Abu Dhabi, Dubai or Sharjah to Seiyun airport are available, each once a week. This would be a more preferable option and would save costs of having to arrive via Sana and take another flight to Seiyun. ARRIVING FOREIGNERS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO TRAVEL BY LAND FROM SANA TO SEIYUN).**

### **Arriving in Sana'a**

If one is arriving in Yemen via Sana, then accommodation will need to be booked for a night or two before a flight can be taken to Seiyun airport (which is the nearest airport from Tarim, a distance of about 30 minutes drive)

### **Taxi Driver in Sana:**

Abdul Qadir Baydhani – please mention Mohammed Ali from Tarim when arranging the transport.

Tel no- 00967 777216190

Or one may take any taxi available. The taxi ride from the airport to the city or hotel should not cost more than 3500 YR.

### **Hotel**

#### **Wadi Hadramaut,**

located in Tahrir Square, about half an hour from the airport.

(This hotel is the cheapest that can be found according to reasonable standards)

**Work:** 00967 1 480697

**Work:** 00967 1 480469

**Work:** 00967 1 480859

Single room from 2500YR

Double room from 4500YR

3 bedrooms Suite from 6000YR

The hotel has a restaurant on the top floor, with excellent cuisine.

Food not included in hotel pricing.

Traffic from the hotel between 8am to 4pm can be a headache.

One will need to take this into account when leaving for the airport.

### **Hotel Rehab**

Located very near the airport, about 10 minutes. Taxi ride to and from the airport should shouldn't be more than 1500 YR.

Prices are similar to the above hotel but according to local standards.

No restaurant, food will need to be bought from nearest outlets about 15 minutes walk away.

### **Versailles for Hotel Suites**

(luxury suites)

Located in Haddah about 40 minutes from the airport  
Very expensive, +\$100 upward per night  
Restaurant available, not included in accomodation costs  
First class service  
[www.versaillesflats.com](http://www.versaillesflats.com)

00967 1 425 973/4  
00967 1 425 970/1/2  
Mobile: 00967 735 888 068

### **Sky Home Hotel**

Official hotel of Yemenia Airways for their transit passengers.  
Located on Zubairy Street about 30 minutes from the airport.  
Prices are a little more expensive than Wadi Hadramout  
Restaurant available, not included in hotel costs, unless in transit with Yemen Airways.

00967 1 212 061/8

[www.skyhomehotel.com](http://www.skyhomehotel.com)  
Email: [info@skyhomehotel.com](mailto:info@skyhomehotel.com)

Keep in mind that the price for the taxi back to the airport is a separate cost at the same amount of approx 3500YR. All of the above hotels will organise the taxi to the airport upon request.

### **One way flight from San'a to seiyun with:**

Yemenia Airways: +- \$140 US  
Saeeda Airways: +- \$115 US

### **Cost of taxi from Seiyun airport to Tarim:**

Usually one's point of contact in Tarim will organize this.

### **Price to be paid:**

Taxi without air conditioner: +- 3500 YR  
Taxi with air conditioner: +- 5000 YR

Please be sure to keep your contact updated with the correct arrival times and especially if there are any delays...

### **Single students**

Single students arriving in Sana can be accommodated for free in the Ribat al Safa which is a branch of Dar al Mustafa in Sana. Arrangements can be made for pick-up and drop off at the airport for the same prices quoted above. In order for this to be arranged, one will need to ask their contact in Tarim to liaise with the administration of the Ribat to organize this.

Alternatively one can request the taxi from the airport to take them to Asbahi, Maqali' Street, at the "Mahattat al Asbahi qabl al suq al Maqali'" (Asbahi petrol station before the Maqali' market). If the petrol station is on your right, then the Ribat will be visible on your left, down the road. Arrangements will still need to be made prior to arriving in order for accommodation in the Ribat to be organized. Please ensure that the taxi driver at the airport knows where the place is. Many a time they will agree just to get the business and don't know where the place is, so double check the information about the street name and petrol station.

### **Traveling around in Sana**

Traveling in Sana can be done by normal taxi (between 500 YR and 1000 YR depending on distance) or mini bus service taxis (50YR) which are much cheaper. Usually one can visit the Old Sana City and the Jami' al Kabir (Big Masjid) located at Bab al Yemen. The other attraction in Sana is the 'Jami' al Salih' (Salih Masjid) located in Sab'in. These mini bus taxi's follow specific routes and one might need to take 2 or 3 different rides to get to their destination. It takes longer but can end up saving a lot of money if one requires a lot of travelling. A separate document will insha Allah be drawn up explaining these routes.

Please be aware of the political situation and safety concerns before travelling around in Sana.

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