FALLUJAH, IRAQ

Geography

Fallujah is a city in the Iraqi province of Al Anbar. It locates roughly 69 km (43 miles) west of Baghdad on the Euphrates. Fallujah is a stop on the main road across the desert west from Baghdad. Its geographic coordinates are 33°25'11"N and 43°18'45"E. The place is mostly desert, cold winters, with occasionally heavy snow, and dry, hot summers.

Culture of Fallujah, Iraq

It has one of the oldest and earliest civilizations in the world. It is rich in science, art and literature. Christians, Muslims, Kurds, Jews, and many others have contributed Iraqi Culture.

Traditional music consists mainly flutes, violins, drums, and tambourines. The common guitar evolves from the guitar of ancient Iraq. Many young artists generate pop, rap, and wider types of music.

The Quran is a difficult text to read. If the child is able to perform that reading task, there is a large celebration in the child's honor.

Marriages and Births are also the arts of Iraqi life. Usually, hundreds of people attend the weddings.

In Iraq, parents and grand parents are highly respected since they believe that the older has more wisdom.

The Iraqi cuisine is very spicy. Iraq's main food includes rice, wheat, barley, and dates. Vegetables consist of eggplant, okra, potatoes, and tomatoes. Beans are very common. Common meats are lamb and beef. The Iraqi also consumes fish, mostly fresh water fish, and poultry. Soups and stews are often prepared and served with rice and vegetables. Some of the popular Iraqi dishes are "Masgouf" and "Dolma". Some dishes are influenced by Indian cuisine such as "Biryani".

History
The area around Fallujah was inhabit in Babylonian times. The region of Fallujah was part of the Lakhmid Kingdom province of Anbar. It was the warehouse of the Lakhmids troops.

Fallujah was a minor stop on the road across the desert west from Baghdad under the Ottoman Empire. In the spring of 1920, after the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, the British sent an explorer and a senior colonial officer, Lieutenant ColGerard Leachman, to meet with leader Shaykh Dhari to waive the loan given to the sheik.

The British in a battle near Fallujah, during the Anglo-Iraqis war defeated the Iraqis in 1941.

In 1947, the population of Fallujah increased rapidly due to the influx of oil wealth.

Under Sadam Hussein, who ruled Iraq from 1979 to 2003, Fallujah became an important area of support for the regime. US military labeled it as the "Sunni Triangle." Many people in the city were Hussein's government supporters. During the Hussein time, Fallujah was industrialized. Many large factories were constructed. Among them was the one (closed down by the United Nations Special Commission in 1990) that might have been used to construct chemical weapons.

In 1991 The Fallujah bridge got bombed. About 200 civilians were killed.

Fallujah was the least affected areas of Iraq immediately after the invasion by the US led Coalition in 2003. The looters who took advantage of the collapse of Sadam Hussein's regime, targeted former government sites. Fallujah's citizens had to defend their own homes and property from these looters and criminals.

On March 31, 2004, Iraqi insurgents in Fallujah ambushed a convoy containing four American private military contractors from Blackwater USA, whom were delivering food.

The American forces allowed a few thousand Fallujah residents to return to the city in December 2004. In December 2006, there was enough control to transfer operational control of
the city from American forces to the 1st Iraqi Army Division. On May 2007, Coalition Forces are operating in direct support of the Iraqi Security Forces in the Fallujah.

Interesting Facts

- Fallujah is a city in the Iraqi province of Al Anbar, located roughly 69km (43 miles) west of Baghdad on the Euphrates.

- Fallujah was one of the most peaceful areas of the country just after the fall of Saddam. There was very little looting and the new mayor of the city - Taha Bidaywi Hamed, selected by local tribal leaders

- March 31, 2004: Four American contractors are killed in the city, and images of their mutilated bodies are broadcast around the world.