

We have been to every country of the world including North Korea and a wonderful exploration of Antarctica. We were quite concerned that we could not go to Iraq with all the uncertainty of entry, safety, and our wellbeing. A friend Bill Thanos who had traveled with us to North Korea suggested we try Spiekermann Travel Service in Detroit, Michigan and lo and behold Ihab, the director said: "I can get you to Iraq on a wonderful trip." And it was a spectacular experience, driving by private car and a wonderful driver-guide through Mesopotamia from Basra to Baghdad. From the confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, to the famous mosques and mausoleums, to Babylon (above: the Lion of Babylon), and even staying with an Iraqi family overnight in their lovely home and with the family. Breakfast was an experience with wonderful people.



From the confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, to the famous mosques and mausoleums, to Babylon (above: the Lion of Babylon), and even staying with an Iraqi family overnight in their lovely home and with the family. Breakfast was an experience with wonderful people.

We lectured in Psychiatry and Nutrition at the Medical Schools in Basra and Baghdad. We climbed the ziggurat, known since our days in high school, we canoed in the marches of the south, dressed with burkas to enter the shrines, and enjoyed the people, our guide, and our hosts on this most incredible trip through a country we had before thought impossible to visit. Ihab gave us a treat we could never have imagined and we were with the people of this incredible place. The medical school in Baghdad is one of the oldest in the world. If anyone can make this trip with Ihab's support, they will have a spectacular experience. Would we go again on one of his expeditions? Without a moment's uncertainty. He knows how to put a tour together, and he will deliver. Ihab, you made our aspirations come true: to visit EVERY country in the world.