



Australian Government

Travel warning

If you travel to Mosul district, Ninewa province in Iraq without a legitimate purpose you may be committing an offence.

More information

Regardless of your destination, the Australian Government encourages everyone to register their overseas travel plans via the **Smartertraveller** website. The act of registering however, is not a way to prove a legitimate travel purpose.

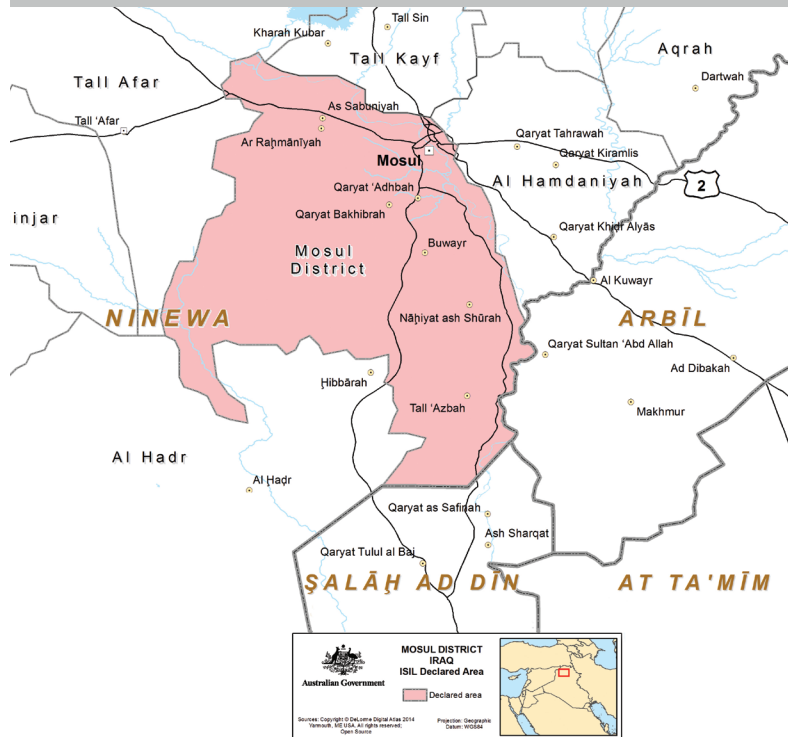
For more information about the declared area offence, including the process and requirements that apply to the declaration of an area, go to **www.nationalsecurity.gov.au**.

You can read the travel advice for Iraq and register your travel plans at **www.smartertraveller.gov.au**.



The government is concerned about **Australians who travel to conflict zones** and return to Australia with skills and intentions acquired from fighting or training with terrorist groups. There is now a **'declared area'** offence to deter people from travelling to these locations.

Mosul district, Ninewa province is an area in Iraq where listed terrorist organisation, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), is engaging in hostile activity.



Criminal offence

On 3 March 2015, it became a criminal offence (under section 119.2 of the *Criminal Code Act 1995*) for a person to intentionally enter, or remain in, Mosul district, Ninewa province in Iraq where the person is reckless that it is a declared area. The maximum penalty for this offence is 10 years imprisonment.

However, a person can enter, or remain in, Mosul district if they do so solely for a legitimate purpose or purposes.

What is a legitimate purpose?

The legitimate purposes for travelling to a declared area are set out at subsection 119.2(3) of the Criminal Code. They are:

- providing humanitarian aid
- making a genuine visit to a family member
- working in a professional capacity as a journalist
- performing official government or United Nations duties
- appearing before a court or tribunal.

Travelling to the district of Mosul to visit friends or for business or religious purposes are not legitimate purposes for travel to the area. The Australian Government strongly advises against travel to Iraq because of the extremely dangerous security situation. If you travel there, even for a legitimate purpose, you do so at your own risk. The Australian Embassy in Iraq's ability to provide consular services is extremely limited. Consular services are offered by appointment only.