



Bahrain for Islamic finance

Invest in MENA's most influential Islamic finance centre

Whether you are an early stage FinTech venture or a well-established financial institution, in Bahrain you will benefit from an advanced environment with unparalleled Islamic finance expertise.

The industry has expanded rapidly in recent years, and grew by 17% CAGR 2009-13¹. Economies in Asia and the Middle East have fuelled this growth, joined by international businesses and investors wishing to access these markets, as well as non-Muslim investors looking for ethical investment or alternative financing options.

An outstanding opportunity

One of Islamic finance's primary strengths is in managing risk and dependency. Trends show that the sector offers significant market expansion opportunities, with demand projected for at least 150 new financial institutions in the Muslim world by 2020.

Benefit from Bahrain's prominence

Bahrain has fostered the Islamic finance industry, not just locally, but globally. Led by the Kingdom's single regulator, the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB), Bahrain has pioneered many popular financial instruments and products such as sukuk (Islamic securities), which are available through regular short-term issuance.

The Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance's (BIBF) Centre for Islamic Finance was established in 1997 to help promote the growth of both Islamic finance and banking. Today, the BIBF offers degrees

and certification, and conducts training in more than 15 countries worldwide.

As a result of such leadership, more than 30 countries have looked to Bahrain for help and guidance in setting up their own Islamic financial structures and regulations.

Continuous influence over 25 years

First World Islamic Banking conference	1991
First central bank to develop/issue sukuk ..	2001
First to develop Takaful and Retakaful regulation	2005
First to launch short-term Islamic liquidity management instrument	2008
Bahrain hosts annual AAOIFI World Bank Conference	2016

Join an exceptionally developed market

Bahrain is home to the region's largest concentration of Islamic finance institutions that deal in almost every area of Islamic finance, from asset management and sukuk issuance, to Shari'a-compliant insurance and reinsurance.

There are 25 Islamic banks in Bahrain. These account for more than 13% of the Kingdom's total banking assets, and rose from USD 1.9 billion in 2000 to USD 25.3 billion in December 2015.

Professional bodies and associations that set worldwide standards for the industry choose to base themselves here in Bahrain, as have a number of centres of research and excellence.

1. EY World Islamic Banking Competitiveness Report 2014-15

Together, these bodies provide a valuable, trusted source of governance and knowledge for new entrants and established Islamic finance institutions alike.

Indeed, the ICD-Thomson Reuters Islamic Finance Development Indicator (IFDI) ranks Bahrain as the most developed Islamic financial market in the Middle East and second in the world.

Who's here?

Global Islamic bodies include: Accounting and Auditing Organisation for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI), General Council for Islamic Banks and Financial Institutions (CIBAFI), Deloitte's Islamic Finance Knowledge Centre, International Islamic Financial Market (IIFM), Islamic International Rating Agency (IIRA), Ernst & Young's Islamic Banking Centre

Islamic banks include: ABC Islamic Bank, Al Baraka Banking Group, Al Salam Bank, Bahrain Islamic Bank, Citi Islamic Investment Bank, Kuwait Finance House, GFH Financial Group Turkiye Finans

Takaful and Retakaful companies include: ACR Retakaful, Hannover Retakaful, Medgulf Takaful, Chartis Takaful Enaya, Takaful International, Solidarity General Takaful

Access our highly skilled local workforce

Bahrain's 40-year record as the GCC's financial services hub enables us to provide unbeatable depth of human capital.

Bahrainis make up more than 61%² of our 14,300-strong financial services workforce and have been superbly trained at universities and specialist institutes. Benefit from bilingual, motivated staff at all levels who are fully experienced in Islamic finance, unusual for an industry that is relatively young.

2. Labour Market Regulatory Authority, December 2015



Benefit from a burgeoning Takaful centre

Takaful (Islamic insurance) is increasingly popular in the region, and Bahrain leads the industry with regulation specific both to Takaful and Retakaful (Islamic reinsurance). Most recently, the Bahrain Bourse has introduced a dedicated stock market index for Shari'a-compliant companies.

Bahrain's reputation for innovation means that conventional insurance firms have seized the growth opportunity and added Takaful and Retakaful arms.

The industry has contributed significantly to Bahrain's economy, rising to USD 152 billion³ and representing around 21% of the Kingdom's total GDP.

What is more, the CBB has been voted 'Best Financial Centre' on three consecutive occasions, emphatically confirming its leading role in Takaful jurisdiction.

Learn more

The Bahrain Economic Development Board promotes investment into the Kingdom. We offer no-cost practical advice, consultation and information to help you set up your business quickly and smoothly.

3. Central Bank of Bahrain Insurance Market Review 2014

CONTACT US

For all investment enquiries, please email us at: investorenquiries@bahrainedb.com or visit www.bahrainedb.com. You can also call us on +973 175 89 956 for general enquiries. Business hours: Sunday to Thursday, 8am to 4pm (GMT +3hrs).

