

## ***Terre Entière opens the offices of its subsidiary Babel Tours in Baghdad, the capital of Iraq***

Terre Entière is the first French tour operator to organise trips to Iraq since the American intervention. It has now set up its subsidiary, Babel Tours, in the country. The Erbil offices were officially opened in July 2009 in Iraqi Kurdistan, then in April 2010 in Nasiriyah, in Thi-Qar province in the south of the country. The new Babel Tours offices will be opened on Wednesday 3 November in the heart of Baghdad, in the presence of Mr Boris Boillon, the French Ambassador.

This opening coincides with a significant event: on 30 October, the first direct civilian flight from Paris to Baghdad will leave with a delegation of senior corporate executives, headed by Madame Anne-Marie IDRAC, Secretary of State in charge of foreign trade. Hubert Debbasch, the CEO of Terre Entière and Babel Tours, will be a member of this delegation which will stay in Baghdad until 4 November for the Baghdad International Fair.

In opening its Baghdad offices, Babel Tours marks the end of its initial, founding period. The company now organises numerous tours to all regions in the country (except the Mosul area). It welcomes travellers of all nationalities and receives large number of requests from the four corners of the world. The latest group in the country is a small group of Japanese seeking to experience Mesopotamia.

In addition to the tours, Babel Tours proposes many other services: airport transfers, excursions of one or more days, car with driver, etc. The creation of Babel Tours, which is the first French company established in Iraq with exclusively Iraqi staff, thus aims to serve as an encouragement for other corporate heads looking to establish a company, subsidiary or branch in Iraq.

The new Babel Tours offices are in the centre of the city, in Saduun Street, just a few hundred metres from the French Embassy. The Aigle Azur airline should be offering two flights per week between Paris and Baghdad by the end of 2010.

### ***Practical information:***

✓ **Terre Entière details:**

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[www.terreentiere.com](http://www.terreentiere.com)

- ✓ We have many pictures of Iraq. You can consult them on the Terre Entière website ([www.terreentiere.com](http://www.terreentiere.com)) in the "Photo-albums" section and send us your requests.

*Terre Entière is a French tour-operator specialising in cultural cruises and tours, pilgrimages and spiritual journeys.*

### **Media contact this week**

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*Hubert Debbasch and Salam Yaseen  
Manager of the Baghdad office*



*Baghdad schoolchildren in  
front of the Lion of Babylon*



*Where the Tigris meets the Euphrates:  
the Shatt Al Arab and the Marsh region*