

*Terre Entière opens officially its subsidiary in Iraq:*

***Babel Tours***

Terre Entière, the first French tour-operator which organises touristic tours in Iraq since the American intervention of 2003, is pleased to announce the official inauguration of its subsidiary in Iraq, **Babel Tours**. The company itself was officially set up a few weeks ago and on 11 May 2009, Babel Tours received its travel agent's licence. Representatives of Iraqi and French authorities will take part to this important event.

Based in Ankawa next to Erbil, Babel Tours is an Iraqi company, an incoming agency whose aim is to enable all those who wish to discover Iraq in complete peace of mind and enjoyably, regardless of their origins and nationalities. The richness and diversity of Iraq's historical sites, and the quality of the welcome from its people mean that this country is destined for a more dignified future, following the terrible torments it has suffered.

The idea of setting up an agency in Iraq follows on from the first tours Terre Entière organised in Iraq. When we were preparing the first tour, we were unable to find any local structure able to offer us the logistics necessary to support this event and make it possible. We therefore had to work with our friends in the country and explain to them what we needed and what our requirements were. The quality of our discussions and the initial fruits of this cooperation convinced us of the need to give this organisation a more organised legal and structural format, so that we can look beyond the current short-term projects.

At present Babel Tours has three employees, all Iraqis: the chairman, Rebwar Dawood, who is a Chaldean Christian Kurd from Shaklawa. He is assisted by an Arab Christian from Mosul, Ramiz Rahemo. The cultural adviser for Babel Tours is one of the country's most highly renowned archaeologists. Her name is Narmen Ali. She's a Muslim from Kirkuk. Cultural and religious diversity of Babel Tours' staff reflects the picture of a pacified country.

Babel Tours' first customer is nowadays Terre Entière. The company also recently had the privilege of working with a French news channel which was preparing a TV news documentary. Forthcoming cooperative ventures arise, and they are already looking promising.

For more information, do not hesitate to read Hubert Debbasch's interview, the company's CEO, at the following link: <http://www.terreentiere.com/babel-iraq.aspx>



*Babel Tours' logo*

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