With its soaring mountains and vast plains, Kurdistan is the home of adventures and activities for the curious traveler. Being the language of the largest nation in the world without a state, Kurdish is the only Middle Eastern language that uses both Latin and Arabo-Persian scripts. It has between 30 to 40 million speakers worldwide.

Kurdish is an Indo-Iranian branch of an Indo-European language with multiple dialects spoken by the Kurdish peoples in the mountainous regions of Iraq, Iran, Syria, and Turkey. There are also smaller groups of Kurdish-speakers living in the Caucasus and in diasporic communities across Western Europe and the United States.

Kurds are located in a region that is massively important in terms of oil, water issues throughout Mesopotamia and the Levant, and U.S. security interests. As such, Kurdish is currently listed as one of the State Department’s 11 critical languages.

Kurdistan is an exciting mélange of religion and cultures. It is the home of Kurdish tea, the Kurdish Kangal dog, Kurdish carpets, and many other splendors of civilization.

IU is currently the only university in the US that offers Kurdish. The Department of Central Eurasian Studies (CEUS), the Centre for Language of the Central Asian Region (CeLCAR), and the Centre for the Study of the Middle East (CSME) are uniquely suited to assist you learn the Kurdish language. They provide a wealth of extra information and help interested students.

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