

abstract

KEBABS, CARBONATES & BAGGY TROUSERS: ADVENTURES OF A GEOLOGIST IN KURDISTAN



Since the end of the second Gulf War, Iraq has seen an influx of oil companies seeking to take advantage of the new political and investment climate in that country. A political and semi-constitutional dispute between the central Government in Baghdad and the government of the autonomous region of Kurdistan, in northern Iraq, has seen the major oil companies focussed on rehabilitation of the giant oil and gas fields of southern Iraq, near Basra, while Kurdistan has become the hunting ground for a number of independent operators, mainly British or Canadian. Very little petroleum exploration had taken place in Kurdistan since the 'sixties, but drilling since 2007 has seen a number of significant discoveries, including Gulf Keystone's Shaikan discovery, reported to contain several billion barrels of oil in place, and Heritage Oil's Miran discovery, thought to contain over 9 trillion cubic feet of gas in place.

Exploration in Kurdistan is made challenging by a number of factors, including the nature of the fractured carbonate reservoirs and the structural complexity of the region, which is dominated by compressional tectonics.

Given the logistical complications of working in an area where infrastructure is struggling to keep up with the pace of economic development, geological fieldwork can mean negotiating mine-fields and minor grievances or differences of opinion are often settled with an AK47, Life for the geologist working in Kurdistan is certainly not dull!

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The poster features a dark background with a landscape image of a mountain range. At the top, the title 'KEBABS, CARBONATES & BAGGY TROUSERS: ADVENTURES OF A GEOLOGIST IN KURDISTAN' is written in light blue and white. Below the title, it says 'an illustrated talk by Paul Logan' in yellow and white. At the bottom, the date and time '7.30 pm November 15' are displayed in yellow. Below that, the location 'Earth Sciences Department South Parks Road, Oxford.' is written in white. A QR code is on the left, and the Oxford Geology Group logo is on the right. The website 'www.oxgg.org.uk' is at the bottom in yellow.