**LARSA**

*"Larak" redirects here. For the administrative subdivision of Iran, see [Larak Rural District](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Larak_Rural_District%22%20%5Co%20%22Larak%20Rural%20District).*







"The Worshipper of Larsa", a votive statuette dedicated to the god [Amurru](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amurru%22%20%5Co%20%22Amurru)for [Hammurabi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hammurabi)'s life, early [2nd millennium BC](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2nd_millennium_BC), [Louvre](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louvre)

**Larsa** ([Sumerian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sumerian_language) [logogram](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Logogram): UD.UNUGKI,[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Larsa#cite_note-1) read *Larsamki*[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Larsa%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-2)) was an important city of ancient [Sumer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sumer), the center of the cult of the [sun god](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sun_god) [Utu](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Utu%22%20%5Co%20%22Utu). It lies some 25 km southeast of [Uruk](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uruk%22%20%5Co%20%22Uruk) in [Iraq](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq)'s [Dhi Qar Governorate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dhi_Qar_Governorate%22%20%5Co%20%22Dhi%20Qar%20Governorate), near the east bank of the Shatt-en-Nil canal at the site of the modern settlement**Tell as-Senkereh** or **Sankarah**.

History

According to the [Sumerian king list](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sumerian_king_list), "Larag" ([Sumerian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sumerian_language): LA-RA-AKKI[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Larsa%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-3)) was one of the five cities to "exercise kingship" in the legendary antediluvian era. The historical "Larsa" was already in existence as early as the reign of [Eannatum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eannatum%22%20%5Co%20%22Eannatum) of [Lagash](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lagash), who annexed it to his empire.

The city became a political force during the [Isin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isin%22%20%5Co%20%22Isin)-Larsa period. After the [Third Dynasty of Ur](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Third_Dynasty_of_Ur) collapsed ca. 1940 BC, [Ishbi-Erra](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ishbi-Erra%22%20%5Co%20%22Ishbi-Erra), an official of [Ibbi-Sin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibbi-Sin%22%20%5Co%20%22Ibbi-Sin), the last king of the Ur III Dynasty, relocated to [Isin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isin%22%20%5Co%20%22Isin) and set up a government which purported to be the successor to the Ur III dynasty. From there, Ishbi-Erra recaptured [Ur](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ur) as well as the cities of [Uruk](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uruk%22%20%5Co%20%22Uruk) and Lagash, which Larsa was subject to. Subsequent Isin rulers appointed governors to rule over Lagash; one such governor was an [Amorite](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amorite) named [Gungunum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gungunum%22%20%5Co%20%22Gungunum). He eventually broke with Isin and established an independent dynasty in Larsa. To legitimize his rule and deliver a blow to Isin, Gungunum captured the city of Ur. As the region of Larsa was the main center of trade via the [Persian Gulf](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persian_Gulf), Isin lost an enormously profitable trade route, as well as a city with much cultic significance.

Gungunum's two successors, [Abisare](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abisare%22%20%5Co%20%22Abisare) (ca. 1841 - 1830 BC) and [Sumuel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sumuel%22%20%5Co%20%22Sumuel) (ca. 1830 - 1801 BC), both took steps to cut Isin completely off from access to canals. After this period, Isin quickly lost political and economical force.

Larsa grew powerful, but it never accumulated a large territory. At its peak under king [Rim-Sin I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rim-Sin_I) (ca. 1758 - 1699 BC), Larsa controlled only about 10-15 other city-states — nowhere near the territory controlled by other dynasties in Mesopotamian history. Nevertheless, huge building projects and agricultural undertakings can be detected archaeologically. After the defeat of Rim-Sin I by Hamurabi of Babylon, Larsa became a minor site, though it has been suggested that it was the home of the 1st Sealand Dynasty of Babylon.[[4]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Larsa#cite_note-4)

**Kings of Larsa**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Ruler** | **Reigned (**[**short chronology**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Short_chronology)**)** | **Comments** |
| [Naplanum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naplanum) | ca. 1961—1940 BC | Contemporary of [Ibbi-Suen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibbi-Suen%22%20%5Co%20%22Ibbi-Suen) of [Ur III](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ur_III) |
| [Emisum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emisum) | ca. 1940—1912 BC |  |
| [Samium](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samium) | ca. 1912—1877 BC |  |
| [Zabaia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zabaia) | ca. 1877—1868 BC | Son of Samium, First royal inscription |
| [Gungunum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gungunum) | ca. 1868—1841 BC | Gained independence from [Lipit-Eshtar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lipit-Eshtar%22%20%5Co%20%22Lipit-Eshtar) of [Isin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isin%22%20%5Co%20%22Isin) |
| [Abisare](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abisare) | ca. 1841—1830 BC |  |
| [Sumuel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sumuel) | ca. 1830—1801 BC |  |
| [Nur-Adad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nur-Adad) | ca. 1801—1785 BC | Contemporary of [Sumu-la-El](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sumu-la-El%22%20%5Co%20%22Sumu-la-El) of [Babylon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babylon) |
| [Sin-Iddinam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sin-Iddinam) | ca. 1785—1778 BC | Son of Nur-Adad |
| [Sin-Eribam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sin-Eribam) | ca. 1778—1776 BC |  |
| [Sin-Iqisham](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sin-Iqisham) | ca. 1776—1771 BC | Contemporary of [Zambiya](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zambiya%22%20%5Co%20%22Zambiya) of [Isin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isin%22%20%5Co%20%22Isin), Son of Sin-Eribam |
| [Silli-Adad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silli-Adad) | ca. 1771—1770 BC |  |
| [Warad-Sin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warad-Sin) | ca. 1770—1758 BC | Possible co-regency with [Kudur-Mabuk](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kudur-Mabuk%22%20%5Co%20%22Kudur-Mabuk) his father |
| [Rim-Sin I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rim-Sin_I) | ca. 1758—1699 BC | Contemporary of Irdanene of [Uruk](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uruk%22%20%5Co%20%22Uruk), Defeated by [Hammurabi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hammurabi) of [Babylon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babylon), Brother of Warad-Sin |
| [Hammurabi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hammurabi) of [Babylon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babylon) | ca. 1699—1686 BC | Official Babylonian rule |
| [Samsu-iluna](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samsu-iluna) of [Babylon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babylon) | ca. 1686—1678 BC | Official Babylonian rule |
| [Rim-Sin II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rim-Sin_II) | ca. 1678—1674 BC | Killed in revolt against [Babylon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babylon) |

Archaeology



List of the kings of Larsa, 39th year of[Hammurabi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hammurabi)'s reign, [Louvre](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louvre)

The remains of Larsa cover an oval about 4.5 miles in circumference. The highest point is around 70 feet in height.

The site of Tell es-Senkereh, then known as Sinkara, was first excavated by [William Loftus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Loftus) in 1850 for less than a month.[[5]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Larsa#cite_note-5) In those early days of archaeology, the effort was more focused on obtaining museum specimens than scientific data and niceties like site drawings and findspots were not yet in common usage. Loftus recovered building bricks of [Nebuchadnezzar II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nebuchadnezzar_II) of the [Neo-Babylonian Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neo-Babylonian_Empire) which enabled the sites identification as the ancient city of Larsa. Much of the effort by Loftus was on the temple of [Shamash](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shamash), rebuilt by Nebuchadnezzar II. Inscriptions of [Burna-Buriash II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burna-Buriash_II%22%20%5Co%20%22Burna-Buriash%20II) of the[Kassite dynasty](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kassite_dynasty) of [Babylon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babylon) and [Hammurabi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hammurabi) of the [First Babylonian Dynasty](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Babylonian_Dynasty) were also found. Larsa was also briefly worked by Walter Andrae in 1903. The site was inspected by [Edgar James Banks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edgar_James_Banks) in 1905. He found that widespread looting by the local population was occurring there.[[6]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Larsa#cite_note-6)

The first modern, scientific, excavation of Senkereh occurred in 1933, with the work of Andre Parrot.[[7]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Larsa#cite_note-7)[[8]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Larsa#cite_note-8) Parrot worked at the location again in 1967.[[9]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Larsa#cite_note-9)In 1969 and 1970, Larsa was excavated by Jean-Claude Margueron.[[10]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Larsa#cite_note-10)[[11]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Larsa#cite_note-11) Between 1976 and 1991, an expedition of the Delegation Archaeologic Francaise en Irak led by J-L. Huot excavated at Tell es-Senereh for 13 seasons.