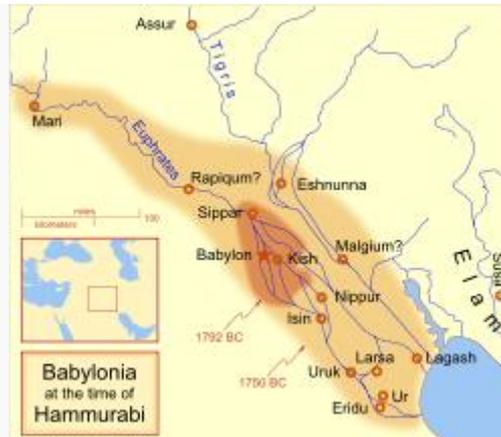


LARSA

"Larak" redirects here. For the administrative subdivision of Iran, see [Larak Rural District](#).



"The Worshipper of Larsa", a votive statuette dedicated to the god [Amurru](#) for [Hammurabi](#)'s life, early [2nd millennium BC](#), [Louvre](#)

Larsa ([Sumerian logogram](#): UD.UNUG^{K1},^[1] read *Larsam*^{K1[2]}) was an important city of ancient [Sumer](#), the center of the cult of the [sun god Utu](#). It lies some 25 km southeast of [Uruk](#) in [Iraq](#)'s [Dhi Qar Governorate](#), 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](#), "Larag" ([Sumerian](#): LA-RA-AK^{K1[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](#) of [Lagash](#), who annexed it to his empire.

The city became a political force during the [Isin-Larsa](#) period. After the [Third Dynasty of Ur](#) collapsed ca. 1940 BC, [Ishbi-Erra](#), an official of [Ibbi-Sin](#), the last king of the Ur III Dynasty, relocated to [Isin](#) and set up a government which purported to be the successor to the Ur III dynasty. From there, Ishbi-Erra recap-

tured [Ur](#) as well as the cities of [Uruk](#) and Lagash, which Larsa was subject to. Subsequent Isin rulers appointed governors to rule over Lagash; one such governor was an [Amorite](#) named [Gungunum](#). 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](#), Isin lost an enormously profitable trade route, as well as a city with much cultic significance.

Gungunum's two successors, [Abisare](#) (ca. 1841 - 1830 BC) and [Sumuel](#) (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](#) (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]

Kings of Larsa

Ruler	Reigned (short chronology)	Comments
Naplanum	ca. 1961—1940 BC	Contemporary of Ibbi-Suen of Ur III
Emisum	ca. 1940—1912 BC	
Samium	ca. 1912—1877 BC	
Zabaia	ca. 1877—1868 BC	Son of Samium, First royal inscription
Gungunum	ca. 1868—1841 BC	Gained independence from Lipit-Eshtar of Isin
Abisare	ca. 1841—1830 BC	
Sumuel	ca. 1830—1801 BC	
Nur-Adad	ca. 1801—1785 BC	Contemporary of Sumu-la-EI of Babylon

Sin-Iddinam	ca. 1785—1778 BC	Son of Nur-Adad
Sin-Eribam	ca. 1778—1776 BC	
Sin-Iqisham	ca. 1776—1771 BC	Contemporary of Zambiya of Isin , Son of Sin-Eribam
Silli-Adad	ca. 1771—1770 BC	
Warad-Sin	ca. 1770—1758 BC	Possible co-regency with Kudur-Mabuk his father
Rim-Sin I	ca. 1758—1699 BC	Contemporary of Irdanene of Uruk , Defeated by Hammurabi of Babylon , Brother of Warad-Sin
Hammurabi of Babylon	ca. 1699—1686 BC	Official Babylonian rule
Samsu-iluna of Babylon	ca. 1686—1678 BC	Official Babylonian rule
Rim-Sin II	ca. 1678—1674 BC	Killed in revolt against Babylon

Archaeology



List of the kings of Larsa, 39th year of [Hammurabi](#)'s reign, [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](#) in 1850 for less than a month.^[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](#) of the [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](#), rebuilt by Nebuchadnezzar II. Inscriptions of [Burna-Buriash II](#) of the [Kassite dynasty](#) of [Babylon](#) and [Hammurabi](#) of the [First Babylonian Dynasty](#) were also found. Larsa was also briefly worked by Walter Andrae in 1903. The site was inspected by [Edgar James Banks](#) in 1905. He found that widespread looting by the local population was occurring there.^[6]

The first modern, scientific, excavation of Senkereh occurred in 1933, with the work of Andre Parrot.^{[7][8]} Parrot worked at the location again in 1967.^[9] In 1969 and 1970, Larsa was excavated by Jean-Claude Margueron.^{[10][11]} Between 1976 and 1991, an expedition of the Delegation Archéologique Française en Irak led by J-L. Huot excavated at Tell es-Senereh for 13 seasons.