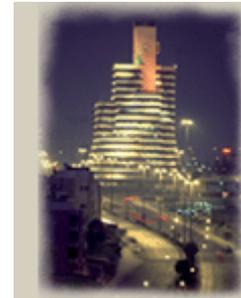


## ■Geographical Information

Jordan is a relatively small country situated at the crossroads of the Middle East. Comprising some 92,300 square kilometers (57,354 square miles), it is bordered on the north by Syria at the east by Iraq, and by Saudi Arabia on the East and South. Also, to the south one finds the Gulf of Aqaba and the Red Sea, while Israel and Palestine lie to the west. Jordan's diverse terrain and landscape belie its actual size, demonstrating a variety usually found only in large countries.



## ■Currency

The local currency is the Jordanian Dinars, symbol D. The Dinar is divided into 100 Piasters (pronounced "pee-aster") or 1000 fils ("fills"). The local currency is the Jordanian Dinar, symbol D, which is often called "JD". There are 5, 10, and 20 JD notes commonly used, and you will usually see prices written as 4.750, that is 4 JD and 750 fils. Coins come in the following denominations: 5, 10, 25, 50 and 100 piasters; and in 5 and 10 fils.

It is useful to carry some coins and low denominations (2 and 1 JD notes), since Jordanians rarely carry enough change for larger denominations. Currency can be exchanged at major banks and at most hotels. Street moneychangers are best avoided. The Jordanian Central Bank sets exchange rates daily.

## ■Time

From October through March, Jordan is two hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time; the rest of the year, it is three hours ahead of GMT. Jordan is seven hours ahead of US Eastern Time.

## ■Business Hours

Most Jordanians work a five and half-day week with Thursday afternoon and all day Friday off, but business and shopping hours are flexible. Some establishments are open from 09:30 - 13:30 and again from 15:30 - 18:00; others may be open straight through the day, from 08:00 - 20:00.

Government offices are open from 08:00 - 15:00. All businesses and most shops, other than those in the souqs, are closed on Fridays. Banks are open from 08:00 - 15:30. Having Friday and Saturday off.

Airlines, travel agencies and many shops close for the afternoon, although department stores and supermarkets remain open. Some businesses and shops are closed for part of the day on Sunday. Shopping hours are flexible. Some shops are open from 9:30-13:30 and 15:30-18:00. Others may be open long hours, from 8:00-20:00. Shorter hours prevail during the Holy Month of Ramadan.

### ■Climate

Jordan is blessed with a Mediterranean climate for pleasurable year-round travel. Amman is sunny and cloudless from May to October, with average temperatures around 23°C (73°F). Springtime brings optimal weather, lush with greenery, and autumn equally mild and pleasant. July and August are hot and dry but not oppressive. Because of the capital city's elevation, evenings are cool. Aqaba and the Jordan Valley are ideal winter resorts, with temperature averaging 16-22°C (61-72°F) between November and April. There is very little rain in the Aqaba area and in the desert.



### ■Clothing

Even in summer, evenings can be cool, so a sweater or shawl is advisable. Winters can be extremely cold, especially in Amman and the east; you will need a raincoat. Walking shoes are advisable since Petra and most of the archeological sites are unpaved and sandy.

### ■Language

A visit to Jordan would provide an ideal opportunity to brush up on your Arabic! Arabic has been one of the world's dominant languages for the last 14 centuries. Over 200 million people in over twenty countries speak this rich and enduring language. In addition to that of Jordan, Arabic is the official language of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Sudan, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco. It is the language of the Qur'an, the holy book of Islam and, as such, Muslim followers study it all over the world. Therefore, while spoken Arabic consists of various dialects, the written language as preserved through the holy Qur'an remains constant throughout the years. Speakers of different Arabic dialects may experience problems understanding one another; however they all understand its classical form as exemplified in its textual representation. A Semitic language, Arabic is written from right to left. Arabic numbers are easy to read - indeed, Western numerals are derived from the Arabic system. Unlike the words, Arabic numbers read from left to right.

### ■Religion

The state religion is Islam, as indicated in the Constitution. The majority of the population (92%) is Sunni Muslim. Those include other non-Arab minorities such as the Circassians and the Chechen who, towards the end of the last century, fled their homeland in Caucasia. The rest of Jordan's population is Arab Christians and Armenians of different denominations whose freedom of worship, opinion and association are guaranteed by the constitution.

### ■Sports Facilities

Amman has several sports clubs; visitors are usually permitted to play for a fee.

Outside Amman, sports facilities are scarce. Amman offers a wide range of facilities: indoor and outdoor swimming pools, tennis, squash courts, basket and volleyball grounds, bowling, gliding, golf, jogging clubs, horse-back riding, horse and camel-racing, snooker.

### ■Holidays

Friday and Saturday are the official weekly days of rest, though many Christian shopkeepers close on Sunday instead. Several national holidays are observed on the same day every year: New Year's Day (January 1), King Abdullah his Birthday (January 30), Labor Day (May 1), Independence Day (May 25), the late King Hussein's Birthday Anniversary (November 14), and Christmas Day (December 25). Several Islamic religious holidays are observed, but their precise dates vary by about two weeks every year in line with the Islamic lunar calendar that is used to determine religious holidays.



### ■Tipping

Most restaurants include a service charge in their bill, in which case it is not necessary to tip waiters. If service charge is not included, waiters should be tipped around ten percent of the bill. It is also customary to offer a tip to housekeeping personnel in hotels. Taxi drivers do not expect tips but one should agree on the fare before entering the taxi, if its is not metered

### ■Weather

Amman Aqaba

January 8.1 (46.5) 15.6 (60.0)

April 16.0 (60.8) 24.3 (75.7)

July 25.1 (77.2) 32.5 (90.0)

November 15.3 (59.5) 22.1 (71.7)

Centigrade (Fahrenheit)

Spring and autumn are long and pleasant throughout Jordan. Rain falls from November to March in the north, but Aqaba on the Red Sea is a warm and sunny winter resort.

### ■Communications

Excellent direct telephone, fax and telex communication is available internationally. Arabic and English Jordanian newspapers, as well as foreign publications, are available at many newsstands.

Postage stamps can be purchased at hotels and post offices.

### ■Electricity

220 volts AC, 50 cycle.

## ■Weights and Measures

Metric System.

## ■Time

Plus two hours Greenwich Mean Time. Seven hours ahead of U.S. Eastern Standard Time.

## ■Food and Drink



Eating well and heartily is part of the Jordanian tradition, and there are many fine restaurants that offer a wide selection of authentic Arabic food at reasonable prices. Hotels offer a mixed menu of Arabic and continental cuisine. Dishes to try are the national dish, mansaf, a whole stewed lamb with cooked yogurt sauce served on a bed of rice; musakhan, chicken with onions, olive oil, pine seeds and seasoning cooked in an oven on a thick loaf of Arabic bread; ma-glouba, a meat or fish and vegetable stew served with rice; and, of course, the basic shish kabab, pieces of lamb, marinated chicken and patties of minced and spiced lamb meat all cooked over a charcoal fire with onions and tomatoes. Locally produced beer, wine and spirits are available throughout the country, as are imported drinks. The local drink that is popular with Arabic dishes is arak, anise-flavored liquor that is mixed with water and ice.

## ■Travel

The Royal Jordanian Airline links Amman with many of the capitals of Europe, South Asia and the Arab World, and operates wide-body jets to New York, Chicago and Detroit. Many other international air carriers also operate regularly to Amman. The Queen Alia International Airport south of Amman is one of the most modern facilities in the Middle East.

Surrounding countries: Daily bus service and weekly Hejaz Railway trains connect Amman with Damascus. Taxi service is also available.

Travel within Jordan is efficient and enjoyable. A good road system is constantly being expanded and upgraded, and most of the sites a visitor would want to see are at most within a few hours drive from Amman. Jordan's road signs are marked in English and Arabic, and there are petrol stations and rest houses at regular intervals throughout the country.



## 📌 Helpful Facts About JORDAN

### Location

Jordan is located in the heart of the Middle East, Northwest of Saudi Arabia, South of Syria, Southwest of Iraq, and East of Israel and the Palestinian National Authority. Jordan has access to the Red Sea via the port city of Aqaba, located at the northern end of the Gulf of Aqaba.

**Geographic co-ordinates:** 29 - 34 00 N, 35 - 39 E

**Official Name:** The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

**Population:** 5 million (est.).

**Capital:** Amman.

**Main Cities:** Amman, Zarqa, Aqaba, Irbid, Salt.

**Official Language:** Arabic, although English is used in commerce and by many Jordanians.

**Total:** 89,213 sq. km (34, 445 sq. miles)

**Land:** 88,884 sq. km (34, 318 sq. miles)

**Water:** 329 sq. km (127 sq. miles)



### ■ Entry and Visa Requirements

Any non-Arab visitor to Jordan, whether for business or tourism, needs an entry visa. The required fee for a visa in addition to the granted stay duration depends on the visitor's nationality.



Although entrance visas are obtainable at the airport for visitors arriving by airplane, those arriving by land must get a visa prior to arrival. These are obtainable from any Jordanian diplomatic mission abroad, where they generally take a day to be received. Visas cannot be obtained at Jordan's land border crossings.

Visas obtained in Jordanian consulates are valid for 3-4 months from the date of issue, and can be issued for multiple entries. Tourist visas allow a stay of up to one month initially.

However, this period can easily be extended for up to another two months.

After that date you must exit and re-enter the country, or undergo immigration

procedures. If your visa has not been renewed properly by the time you leave Jordan you will have to pay a fine at the border. If you plan to stay for more than two weeks in Jordan, you will need to register at the nearest police station.

### ■ Health Requirements and Recommendations

Inoculations are not required unless you are traveling from an infected location. If you come from a country where diseases such as cholera and yellow fever are prevalent, you will have to show a certificate of inoculation at your point of entry into Jordan. Although not required, it is preferable to have preventative shots against polio, tetanus and typhoid.

Jordan is one of the cleanest and safest countries, but it is nonetheless advisable to take some precautions until your digestive system adjusts. Hotels rated four-star and up have their own filtering systems, and their tap water is safe to drink. In other places, bottled water is recommended. All fruit and vegetables should be washed thoroughly, and salads and cold meats, which have been sitting out for a long time, should be avoided, especially during summer months. All Jordanian dairy products are pasteurized and safe.

Medical services are well developed throughout Jordan, with a medical centre or clinic in every town and village. There are hospitals in Amman, Aqaba, Ma'an, Karak, Madaba, Zarqa, Irbid and Ramtha. In the larger towns and cities many of the doctors have been trained overseas and speak English. Antibiotics and other drugs normally sold on prescription in the West are often available over-the-counter in Jordan. You should carry prescriptions of any medicaments you may need, making sure you have the generic name as your specific brand may not be available. If you wear glasses, bring a spare pair and a copy of the prescription as well.

### 📍 Main Attractions In Jordan

#### ■ Amman

The current and ancient capital of Jordan, Amman is a modern city with many conveniences. It is a good base for touring Jordan, Visit both the old (Amphitheater, Citadel and Souq) and new parts of the city known as west Amman.



#### ■ Ajlun

The main attraction at Ajlun is a castle, Qala' Al-Rabad which sits atop a hill covered with pine forests and olive groves. The castle was built in 1184-1185, and is an excellent example of Islamic military architecture.

### ■Aqaba

Jordan's aquatic playground, Aqaba offers the clear, warm waters of the Red Sea for water sports and an abundance of restaurants, one can also visit old Aqaba, the medieval port city, a small fort and the aquarium, or take a short boat trip to Pharaoh's Island Egyptian waters.



### ■Al-Barid

More commonly known as little Petra, it has its own siq and treasury like building (tomb-temple). One of the most interesting features of Al-Barid is the insight it provides into the daily lives of the Nabataeans.

Within walking distance of Al-Barid are the ruins of Al-Baidha, an extensive Neolithic city dated to 7000 BC one of the oldest archaeological sites in Jordan.

### ■Baptism Site

Also known as Bethany, this is where Jesus entered the Jordan River, and was baptized by John the Baptist, recently it was visited and blessed by the Pope, it's located in the Jordan Valley opposite Jericho at the east bank of Jordan.

### ■Cave of the Seven Sleepers

This cave, one of Jordan's holy Islamic sites, is the subject of a chapter in the Holy Qur'an located 20km to the south east of the capital Amman's.

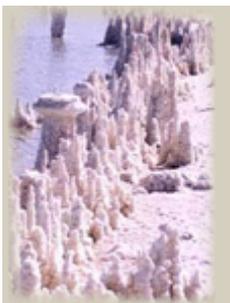


### ■Dana Nature Reserve

The Dana Nature Reserve is a system of Wadis and mountains run by the Royal Society for the conservation of nature in order to protect endangered species, such as ibex, mountain gazelle, badgers, red fox and wolf. Visitors to Dana can experience the beauty of Roman Mountain, the mystery of the ancient archaeological ruins of Feinan and the tranquility of Dana Village.

### ■Dead Sea

The lowest point on the surface of the earth, the Dead Sea at 400 meters below sea level has a 33% salt content, which makes any plant or animal life impossible, take a dip in its waters for a very unusual experience, or opt for a spa treatment, with Dead Sea mud and minerals at one of the area hotels.



### ■Desert Castles

The Desert Castles, Amra, Kharaneh, Azrak and Mushata lie just east of Amman and can easily be seen in one day with the exception of Azraq, which was built by the Romans, most castles in this area were built or taken over

by the Damascus-based Omayyad rulers in the late 7th and early 7th centuries.

### ■Jerash

One of the 10 commercial cities of the Decapolis in the 1st Century, this ancient city is the best example in the Middle East of a Roman provincial city, and is remarkably well preserved. It is 51 Km North of Amman and is Jordan's second most important tourist attraction.



### ■Kerak Castle

Positioned on the routes of the ancient caravans that used to travel from Egypt to Syria, Kerak Castle, in its day, was a strategic asset of great importance due to its impressive defense fortifications and commanding position, 1000 meters above the Dead Sea Valley.

### ■Madaba

Only 30 Km. south of Amman, this lively town is home to St. George's Church which houses the Madaba, Map, a 6th century Byzantine mosaic map showing ancient Palestine, Egypt, Jerusalem and other holy sites.

### ■Mount Nebo

The most revered site in Jordan, Mount Nebo is presumed to be the site of Moses's death and burial place, one a clear day, Mount Nebo offers breath taking views of the Jordan Valley, Dead Sea and roof tops of Jerusalem and Bethlehem, a top Mount Nebo is a Franciscan church with beautiful 4th and 6th century mosaics.

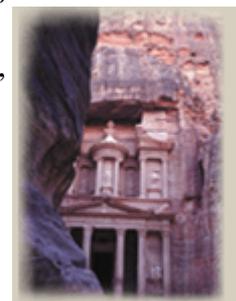


### ■Mukawir

Located by this village is Herod the Great's ancient fortress, Marchers, There, it is said, the beautiful Salome, danced for Herod Antipas, who presented her with the head of John the Baptist.

### ■Pella

Lying in apicuresque area of north west Jordan are the ruins of Pella, an ancient city inhabited as early as 5000 B.C. structures still visible are the West Church, the main mount, the Civic complex church, the theater, the baths, East church and a Byzantine Fort.



### ■Petra

The Most famous tourist site in Jordan, Petra is the ancient capital of the Nabataeans who built their city by carving magnificent buildings and tombs from the towering red-rose rock walls, Petra is approximately 262 Km south of

Amman.

■ **Umm Qais**

Located in north West Jordan, Umm Qais overlooks the Golan Heights and the Sea of Galilee, the area, which is reputed to have the oldest olive trees in the region, is the site of the ancient Greco-roman town of Gadara one of the cities of the Decapolis.



■ **Wadi Rum**

Wadi Rum offers extraordinary Desert scenery, colorful hills and canyons and challenging climbs for novice or serious hikers. One can tour Rum's attractions including Lawrence of Arabia's well, by four wheel drive vehicles, camel and foot.