Welcome to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, a land of mesmerizing beauty and contrasts. Jordan, which once captivated ancient travellers, continues to enthral a whole new generation as a modern, vibrant nation.

From the haunting, primeval starkness of Wadi Rum, to the teeming centre of urban Amman; from the majestic ruins of bygone civilizations to the timeless splendour of the Dead Sea, Jordan is unveiled as a unique destination offering breathtaking and mysterious sights, high standard accommodations, exquisite cuisine and countless activities that can provide visitors with inspiration, motivation, and rejuvenation.

Amman

Amman, the capital of Jordan, is a fascinating city of contrasts – a unique blend of old and new, ideally situated on a hilly area between the desert and the fertile Jordan Valley.

In the commercial heart of the city, ultra-modern buildings, hotels, smart restaurants, art galleries, and boutiques rub shoulders comfortably with traditional coffee shops and artisan's workshops. Everywhere there is evidence of the city's much older past. Amman is crowned by the Citadel, a hill with ruins of the Temple of Hercules, an Ummayyad Palace, and a Byzantine Church. At the foot of the Citadel lies the 6,000 seat Roman Theatre.

Due to the city's modern-day prosperity and temperate climate, almost half of Jordan's population is concentrated in the Amman area. The residential suburbs consist of mainly tree-lined streets and avenues flanked by elegant, almost uniformly white houses. The downtown area is much older and more traditional with smaller businesses producing and selling everything from fabulous gold and silver jewellery to everyday household items.

No more than four hours drive from anywhere in the country, Amman is also a perfect base for exploring further a field.

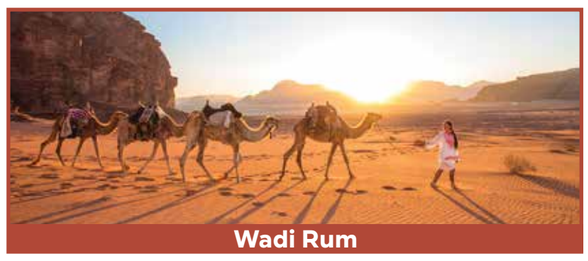
Petra

Although much has been written about Petra, nothing really prepares you... It really does need to be seen to be believed.

Petra chosen as one of the 7 world wonders, it is without doubt Jordan's most valuable treasure and the greatest tourist attraction. It is a vast, unique city, carved into the cheer rock face by the Nabataeans, an industrious Arab people who settled here more than 2000 years ago, turning it into an important junction for the silk, spice and other trade routes that linked China, India, and southern Arabia with Egypt, Syria, Greece, and Rome.

By the 16th century, Petra was completely lost to the West, and so it remained for almost 300 years. Then in 1812, a Swiss traveller named Johann Ludwig Burckhardt persuaded his guide to take him to the site of the rumoured lost city. Secretly making notes and sketches, he wrote, "It seems very probable that the ruins at Wadi Musa are those of the ancient Petra".

Now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, in order to preserve the area, all tourists' facilities have been located in the town of Wadi Musa, next to the entrance of Petra.



Wadi Rum

"Vast, echoing and God-like" - these are the words T. E. Lawrence used in describing Wadi Rum. The largest and most magnificent of Jordan's desert landscapes; this is a stupendous, timeless place, virtually untouched by humans.

A maze of monolithic rocks capes rise up from the desert floor to heights of 1,750 metres creating a natural challenge for serious mountaineers. Hikers can enjoy the tranquillity of the boundless empty spaces, explore the canyons and water holes to discover 4000-year-old rock drawings and the many other spectacular treasures this vast wilderness holds in store.

Madaba

This town is one of the most memorable places in the Holy Land - Madaba, "the City of Mosaics". Amongst them the chief attraction - in the contemporary Greek Orthodox church of St. George - is a wonderfully vivid, 6th century Byzantine mosaic map showing Jerusalem and other holy sites. With two million pieces of coloured stone and a full 25x5 metres in its original state - most of which can still be seen today - the map depicts hills and valleys, villages and towns, as far away as the Nile Delta. This masterpiece is unrivalled in Jordan, but there are literally dozens of other mosaics from the 5th through the 7th centuries, scattered throughout Madaba's churches and homes.

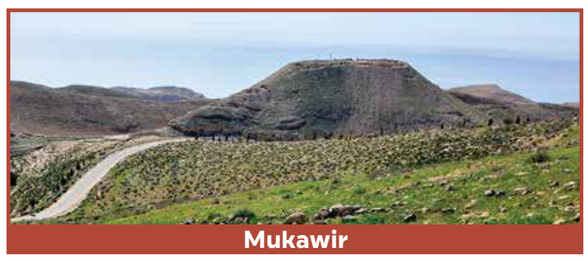
In line with Jordan's commitment to restoring and preserving its mosaic masterpieces, Madaba's extensive archaeological park and museum complex encompasses the remains of several Byzantine churches, including the outstanding mosaics of the Church of the Virgin and the Hyppolytus Hall, part of a 6th century mansion.

Mount Nebo

Mt. Nebo is believed to be the place where Moses was buried and the most revered holy site in Jordan. When you stand at the top of this mountain, you can see, as Moses did, the vast panorama that encompasses the Jordan River Valley, the Dead Sea, Jericho, and Jerusalem.

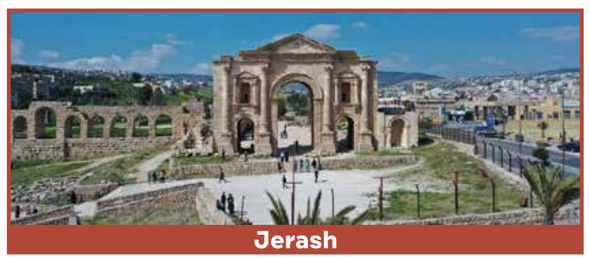
It was a place of pilgrimage for early Christians and Mount Nebo's first church was built in the late fourth century to mark the site of Moses' death. Six tombs, from different periods, have been found hollowed out of the rock beneath the mosaic-covered floor of the church. In the present presbytery you can see remnants of mosaics.

The Serpentine Cross, which stands just outside the sanctuary, is symbolic of the brass serpent taken by Moses into the desert and the cross upon which Jesus was crucified.



Mukawir

Machaerus (Mukawir in Arabic) was the hilltop stronghold of Herod the Great. Upon Herod's death, his son Herod Antipas inhabited the fortress, and it is here that he ordered John the Baptist to be beheaded.



Jerash

The ancient city of Jerash boasts as unbroken chain of human occupation dating back more than 6,500 years.

The city's golden age came under Roman rule and the site is now generally acknowledged to be one of the best preserved Roman provincial towns in the world. Hidden for centuries in sand before being excavated and restored over the past 70 years, Jerash reveals a fine example of the grand, formal provincial Roman urbanism that is found throughout the Middle East, comprising paved and colonnaded streets, soaring hilltop temples, handsome theatres, spacious public squares and plazas, baths, fountains and city walls pierced by towers and gates.

Beneath its external Greco-Roman veneer, Jerash also preserves a subtle blend of east and west. Its architecture, religion and languages reflect a process by which two powerful cultures meshed and coexisted, The Greco-Roman world of the Mediterranean basin and the ancient traditions of the Arab Orient.

Jordan Valley & The Dead Sea

Without doubt one of the world's most amazing places, the Jordan Rift Valley is a dramatic, beautiful landscape with the Dead Sea dropping more than 400 metres (1,312 ft.) below sea level. The lowest point on the face of the earth, this vast, stretch of water receives a number of incoming rivers, including the River Jordan. Once the waters reach the Dead Sea they are land-locked and have nowhere to go, so they evaporate, leaving behind a dense, rich, cocktail of salts and minerals that supply industry, agriculture and medicine with some of its finest products.

One of the most spectacular natural and spiritual landscapes in the world, the Jordanian east coast of the Dead Sea has evolved into both religious and health & wellness tourism hub of the region. A series of good roads, excellent hotels with spa and fitness facilities, as well as archaeological and spiritual discoveries make this region as enticing to today's international visitors as it was to kings, emperors, traders, prophets, and pilgrims in antiquity.

Bethany Beyond The Jordan

The Jordan Valley has profound meaning for religious travellers. The area opposite Jericho has been identified for nearly two millennia as the area where Jesus Christ was baptized by John the Baptist. Stunning archaeological discoveries between the Jordan River and Tell al-Kharrar since 1996 have identified this area as biblical 'Bethany beyond the Jordan', where John was living when he baptized Jesus. Tell al-Kharrar's other name, Tell Mar Elias ('St. Elijah's Hill'), is reminiscent of the Prophet Elijah, who ascended to heaven from here.

Karak

An ancient Crusader stronghold, Karak sits 900 metres above sea level and lies inside the walls of the old city. The city today continues to boast a number of restored 19th century Ottoman buildings and restaurants. But it is undoubtedly Karak Castle which dominates.

Aqaba

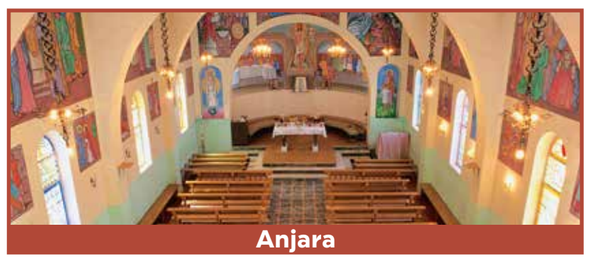
Greatly prized as Jordan's window to the sea, Aqaba brings a refreshing release from the rose-coloured desert to the north. Its sandy beaches and coral reefs are the most pristine on the Red Sea, and Jordanians hope to preserve them through careful planning.

Indigo-coloured deep water lies just off shore in Aqaba, bringing kaleidoscopic marine life within easy reach.

Aqaba's reef is thriving, adorned with untold variety in its coral and fish. Aqaba boasts some of the world's best scuba diving by day or night. There is snorkelling, fishing and sailing to pass the time or glass-bottomed boats for those who prefer their marine life at arm's length.

Umm Qays

Site of the famous miracle of the Gadarene swine, Gadara (known today as Umm Qays) was renowned in its time as a cultural centre. It was the home of several classical poets and philosophers. Perched on a splendid hilltop overlooking the Jordan Valley and the Sea of Galilee, Umm Qays boasts an impressive colonnaded terrace and the ruins of two theatres. You can take in the sights and then dine on the terrace of a fine restaurant with a breathtaking view of three countries.



Anjara

The ancient town of Anjara is located in the hills of Gilead east of the Jordan Valley. The town is mentioned in the Bible as a place where Jesus, his mother Mary and his disciples, passed through and rested in a nearby cave. The cave, which has long been a Holy place for pilgrims, has now been commemorated with a modern shrine/church to Our Lady of the Mountain. The cave was also designated by the Catholic Churches of the Middle East, as one of the five pilgrimage sites for the Year 2000.

Pella

Pella is a favourite of archaeologists as it is exceptionally rich in antiquities, some of which are exceedingly old. Besides the excavated ruins from the Graeco-Roman period, including an Odeon (theatre). Pella offers visitors the opportunity to see the remains of a Chalcolithic settlement from the 4th millennium BC, the remains of Bronze and Iron Age walled cities, Byzantine churches and houses, an Early Islamic residential quarter, and a small medieval mosque.

Dana Nature Reserve

Dana Nature Reserve covers 308 square kilometres and is a world of natural treasures. It is composed of a chain of valleys and mountains which extend from the top of the Jordan Rift Valley down to the desert lowlands of Wadi Araba. The visitor to this area will be awed by the beauty of the Rummana Mountain, the mystery of the ancient archaeological ruins of Feinan, the timeless serenity of Dana Village and the grandeur of the red and white sandstone cliffs of Wadi Dana. The Reserve contains a remarkable diversity of landscapes, which range from wooded highlands to rocky slopes and from gravel plains to dunes of sand. Moreover, Dana supports diverse wildlife which includes a variety of rare species of plants and animals; Dana is home to about 600 species of plants, 37 species of mammals and 190 species of birds.

“calendar.jo” provides you with an updates calendar of events and happenings taking place in Jordan!

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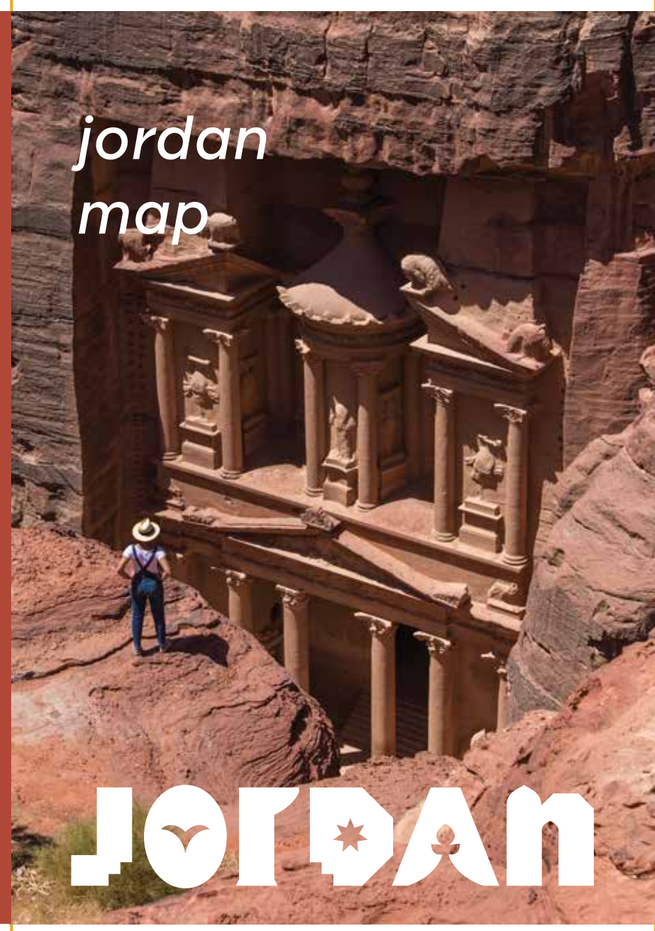


Desert Castles

Jordan's desert castles, beautiful examples of both early Islamic art and architecture, stand testament to a fascinating era in the country's rich history. Their fine mosaics, frescoes, stone and stucco carvings and illustrations, inspired by the best in Persian and Graeco - Roman traditions, tell countless stories of life as it was during the eighth century.

Called castles because of their imposing stature, the desert complexes actually served various purposes as caravan stations, agriculture and trade centres, resort pavilions and outposts that helped distant rulers forge ties with local bedouins. Several of these preserved compounds, all of which are clustered to the east and south of Amman, can be visited on one - or two - day loops from the city.

Qusair Amra, one of the best preserved monuments, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its interior walls and ceilings are covered with unique frescoes, and two of the rooms are paved with colourful mosaics.

Qasr Mushatta, Qasr al - Kharrana, Qasr at -Tuba and Qasr al - Hallabat have been restored and are all in excellent condition. The black basalt fort at Azraq, in continuous use since Late Roman times, was the headquarters of Lawrence of Arabia during the Arab Revolt.

Fun & Adventure in Jordan

A small group of people in 4-wheel-drive vehicles can retrace the journey of the Emperor Hadrian from north to south Jordan, taking in biblical cities and legionary fortresses. Or, a caravan of 25 people on camels or donkeys can set off to retrace the journeys of Lawrence of Arabia in the central highlands and eastern deserts of Jordan, spending a week en route and camping in a different place every night. Parts of these itineraries can be done along the edge of the desert in steam-powered World War One vintage trains, the same as those that were attacked by the forces of the Great Arab Revolt and Lawrence nearly a century ago.

Other ways to spend your holiday can include cooling off at the fun and fresh atmosphere in Jordan's water parks or ballooning and gliding over the magnificent landscape of Wadi Rum. Make sure to also fit in some time for activities such as paintball, hiking, trekking, golfing, and horseback riding in the luscious green hills spread all over Jordan.

Tracing Islam in Jordan

Islam's first expansion beyond the Arabian Peninsula was northwards into Jordan. Here the first contact between Islam and the non-Arab/Byzantine world occurred.

Consequently, several strategic 7th century battles took place: the Battles of Mutah, Yarmouk and Fahl (Pella).

Many of Prophet Mohammad's companions and military leaders were martyred and buried in Jordan (PBUH), and their tombs and shrines today are important destinations for pious Muslims.

Mujib Nature Reserves

The Mujib Reserve is the lowest nature reserve in the world, with a spectacular array of scenery near the east coast of the Dead Sea. The reserve is located within the deep Wadi Mujib gorge, which enters the Dead Sea at 410 metres below sea level. The Reserve extends to the Kerak and Madaba mountains to the north and south, reaching 900 metres above sea level in some places. This 1,300 metre variation in elevation, combined with the valley's year-round water flow from seven tributaries, means that Wadi Mujib enjoys a magnificent bio-diversity that is still being explored and documented today.

Ma'in Hot Springs

Located south-west of Madaba, the Ma'in Hot Springs oasis has been healing people since the days of rome. The water, emerging at over 60 degrees Celsius, descends from the rocks above to form natural thermal pools, high in minerals, to maximize their therapeutic powers. With world-class accommodations, Ma'in is a must see (and a must-soak!) for visitors after long treks across Jordan.

Shawmari Wildlife Reserve

The Shawmari Reserve was created in 1975 by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature as a breeding centre for endangered or locally extinct wildlife. Today, following breeding programmes with some of the world's leading wildlife parks and zoos, this small, 22-square-kilometre reserve is a thriving protected environment for some of the most rare species in the Middle East. Oryx, ostriches, gazelles and onagers, which are depicted on many 6th century Byzantine mosaics, are rebuilding their populations and reasserting their presence in this safe haven, protected from the hunting and habitat destruction that nearly wiped them out.

Jordan offers a multitude of destination choices in addition to those mentioned in this map. Destinations to name few, As- Salt, Um Ar-Rassas, Pella, Shawbak,Umm Al Jimal. Make sure to visit our website to learn more about such destinations.

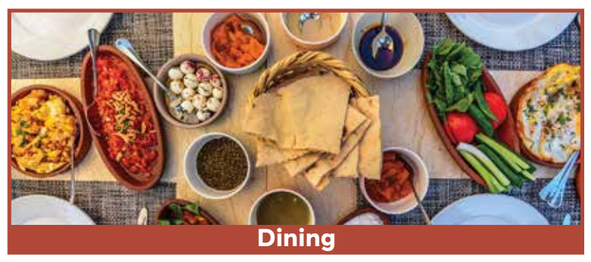
Shopping

Jordan is renowned as a shopping destination and presents a lively blend of modern and traditional items. Indeed, browsing through souqs as well as big malls in Jordan can be a lot of fun, and may turn into something of a social occasion.

In small shops particularly, it is not unusual to be offered a cup of coffee or tea before getting down to business. Souq is also one of the remaining places where the tradition of bargaining or haggling over the price is still observed.

So practice your negotiating skills and pick up a bargain!

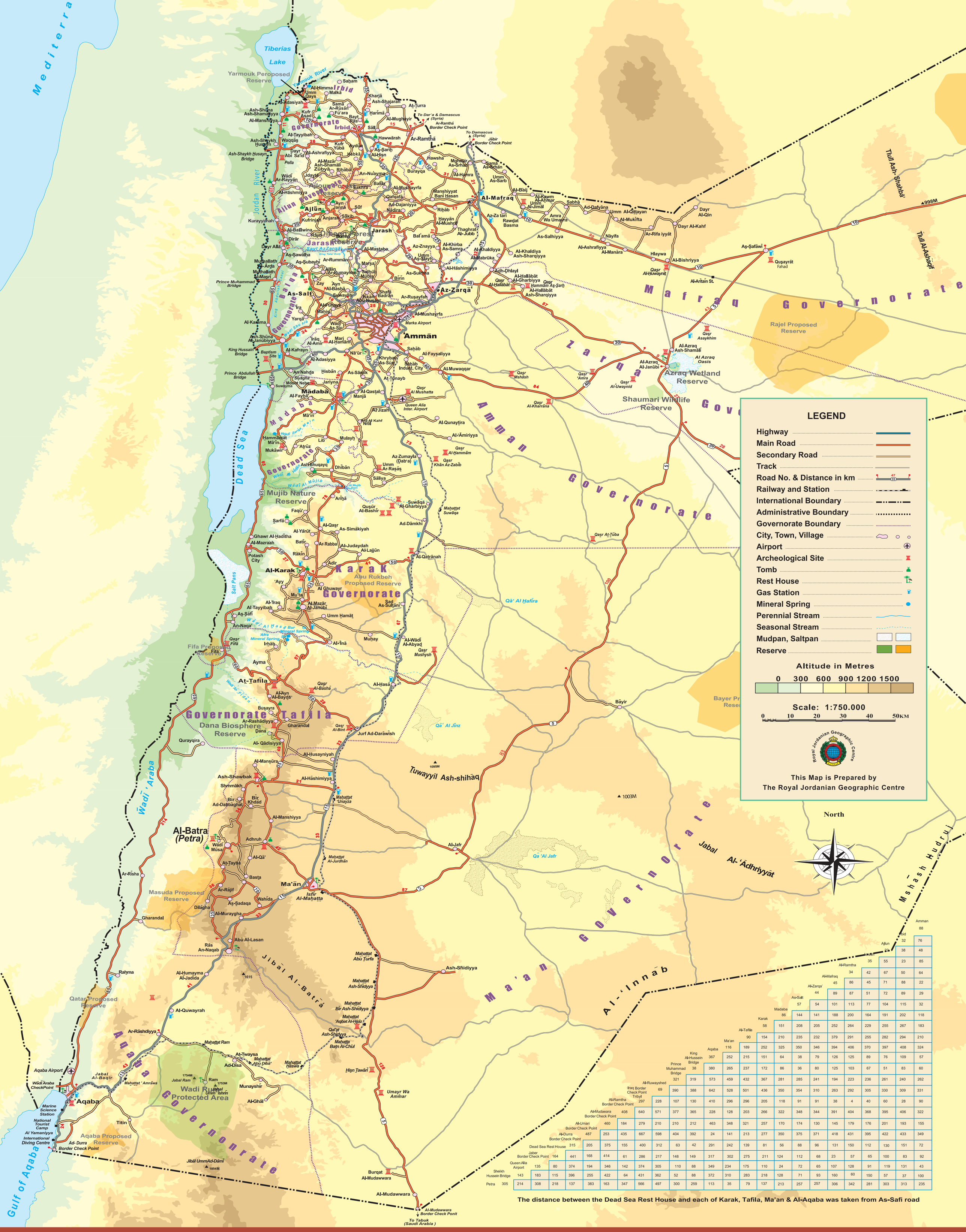
Please also note that while Jordan has a sizeable handicrafts industry, it also boasts many modern, high-tech shopping outlets, offering the very latest trends in fashion and technology.



Dining

Visitors to Jordan are offered a wide variety of choices when it comes to their restaurant preferences. Restaurants across the Kingdom range from traditional Arabic food and mezze (Arabic starter) to a wide array of international cuisine. Visitors should be sure to try the local food and there are a lot of good traditional restaurants to choose from, many of which also provide live entertainment.

Coffee shops, both traditional and modern, are popular meeting places, and seem to appear on almost every street. Several international fast food chains are also represented throughout Jordan.


Mediterranean
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Yarmouk Peroposed Reserve
Yarmouk River
Irbid Governorate
Jordan River
Ajlun Governorate
Ajlun Forest Reserve
Dibeen Forest Reserve
Jarash Reserve
Balqa Governorate
Dead Sea
Salt Pans
Madaba Governorate
Mujib Nature Reserve
Karak Governorate
Abu Rukbeh Proposed Reserve
Fifa Proposed Reserve
Tafila Governorate
Dana Biosphere Reserve
Wadi 'Araba
Masuda Proposed Reserve
Qatar Proposed Reserve
Aqaba Governorate
Wadi Rum Protected Area
Aqaba Proposed Reserve
Gulf of Aqaba
Amman Governorate
Zarqa Governorate
Mafraq Governorate
Rajel Proposed Reserve
Azraq Wetland Reserve
Shaumari Wildlife Reserve
Ma'an Governorate
Al-'Innab
Jabal Al-'Adhriyyat
Mshash Hudruj
Tuwayyil Ash-shihaq
Jibal Al-Batra
Al-Batra (Petra)
Amman
Jarash
Ajlun
Az-Zarqa'
Al-Mafraq
Ar-Ramtha
As-Salt
Madaba
Al-Karak
At-Tafila
Ma'an
Aqaba
Aqaba Airport
Wadi 'Araba CheckPoint
Marine Science Station
National Tourist Camp
Al Yamaniyya International Diving Centre
Ad- Durra Border Check Point
Al-Mudawwara
Burqat Al-Mudawwara
Al-Mudawwara Border Check Ponit
To Tabuk (Saudi Arabia)
To Dar'a & Damascus (Syria)
Ar-Ramtha Border Check Point
To Damascus (Syria)
Jabir Border Check Point
Al-Azraq Ash-Shamali
Al-Azraq Al-Janubi
Al Azraq Oasis
Marka Airport
Queen Alia Inter. Airport
Baptism Site
King Hussain Bridge
Prince Abdullah Bridge
Prince Muhammad Bridge
Ash-Shaykh Husayn Bridge
Pella
Mount Nebo
Madaba
Mujib Dam
Al Mujib
Wadi Zarqa Main
Wadi Al Hidan
Wadi Al Mujib
Wadi Shu'aib
King Abdullah Canal
Sayl AzZarqa
King Talal Dam
Wadi Al Hasa
Bur 'Afra Mineral Spring
Wadi Al Fidan
Wadi Zerqa Main
Wadi Al Hasa
Wadi Ishrin
Wadi Musa
Wadi Al Jurdhan
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Qasr Al-Bint
Jurf Ad-Darawish
Al-Husayniyah
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Ash-Shidiyya
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Al-Wadi Al-Abyad
Qasr Mushysh
Muhay
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Ayma
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Al-Ayn Al-Bayda'
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Al-Tayyibah
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An-Naqa'
Umm Hamat
Sad As-Sultani
Al-Qatranah
Al-Lajjun
Al-Judaydah
Ar-Rabba
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Al-Qastal
Manja
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Shafa Badran
Ar-Rusayfah
Iskan Abu Nusayr
Al-Mushayrfa
Marka Airport
Birin
As-Sukhna
Salhub Mubis
Marsa
Al-Khirba As-Samra
Az-Znayya
Umm As-Slayr
Bal'ama
Thaghrat Al-Jubb
Hayyan Al-Mushrif
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Nadira
Al-Mushayrfa
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An-Nu'ayma
Buraqa
Hawsha
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Aydun
Habka
Kufr Yuba
Dayr Abi Sa'id
Al-Ashrafiyya
Waqqas
Al-Tayyibah
Al-Manshiyya
Ash-Shuna Ash-Shamaliyya
Kufr Asad
Samā Ar-Rusan
Fu'ara
Bayt Ras
Harima
Sal
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Al-Mughayir
At-Turra
Kharja
Ash-Shajarah
Saham
Al-Himma
Umm Qays
Malka
Al-Adasiyah
Al-Mafraq
Al-Kawm
Al-Ahmar
Umm Al-Jimal
Al-Baij
Sabha
Ad-Dafyana
Umm Al-Qittayan
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Ar-Rifa iyyat
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As-Salhiyya
Amra Wa Umayra
Rawdat Basma
Az-Za tari
Samā As-Sirhan
Umm As-Sarb
Al-Hamra
Mqhayir As-Srhan
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