

visitors' guide

JORDAN

Ahlan Wa Sahlan

أهلاً وسهلاً في الأردن



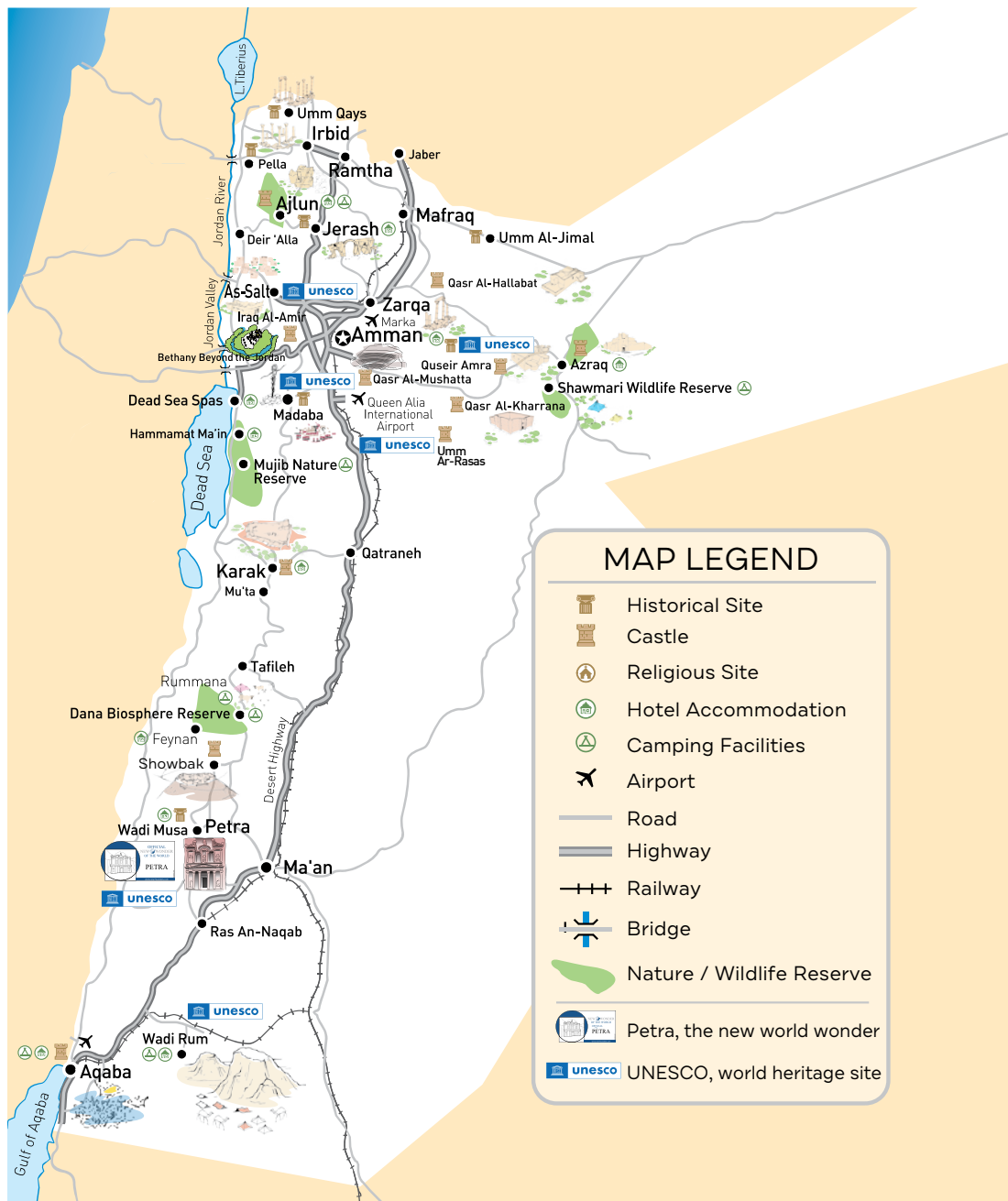
Welcome to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, founded by King Abdullah I, and currently ruled by King Abdullah II son of the late King Hussein. Over the years, Jordan has grown into a stable, peaceful and modern country.

While Jordan is known for the ancient Nabataean city of Petra, carved from rock over 2000 years ago, it also offers much more for the modern traveller, from the Jordan Valley, fertile and ever changing, to the remote desert canyons, immense and still. Whether you are a thrill seeker, a historian, or you just want to relax, Jordan is the place for you.

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Jordan Tourism Board:
Is open Sunday to Thursday (09:00-17:00).



Amman, The Capital of Jordan



Amman, the Capital of Jordan, is a fascinating city of contrasts ideally situated on a hilly area between the desert and the fertile Jordan Valley, a perfect base to delve deep into Jordan as it is no more than a four hour drive from anywhere in the country.

As a modern and prosperous city, almost half of Jordan's population is concentrated in the Amman area. There is evidence of the city's much older past everywhere you turn, you can find modern buildings rubbing shoulders with traditional coffee shops and old souqs.

The downtown area is much older and more traditional, with smaller businesses producing and selling everything from intricate gold and silver jewellery, to everyday household items.

You can find art galleries, coffee shops and a diversity of artisan shops along Rainbow Street, which truly embodies the unique blend of old and new that this city manifests.

The city is an ideal family location, also offering its visitors plenty of lively nightlife, with everything from cultural and theatrical events, to traditional Arabic entertainment, modern restaurants and clubs for kids.

For more information on what you can do in Amman:
www.visitjordan.com/99things/



Citadel



The Royal Automobile Museum



Jordanian feast

Amman is a large cosmopolitan city and offers an extensive range of restaurants. Where the options are various and international, visitors are encouraged to try some of the diverse and delicious local and traditional food.

Make sure to visit our website, www.VisitJordan.com, to learn more about culture, art, theaters, cinemas, and shopping. Also, get the latest news and events happening in Jordan by visiting www.calender.jo.

Historical Sites

The Citadel is the site of ancient Rabbath-Ammon, and excavations there have revealed numerous Roman, Byzantine, and early Islamic remains. Located on a mountain, it not only gives visitors a perspective of the city's incredible history, but also provides stunning views of the entire area.

What To See:

- Jordan Archaeological Museum
- Children's Museum
- Jordan Museum
- Jordan Folklore Museum
- Jordan Museum of Popular Traditions
- Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts
- Martyr's Memorial and Military Museum
- The Royal Automobile Museum
- Jordan Hejaz Railway Station

Accommodation

Amman has a range of hotels that cater to any budget from 1 to 5 star hotels, whether you are in the very authentic downtown area, or the very center of the city.

Madaba Mount Nebo



St. George's Church



Mosaics in Madaba



Serpentine Cross/Mount Nebo

Madaba

Is one of the most memorable places in the Holy Land. Dubbed “the City of Mosaics,” Madaba offers many sites to explore. From the contemporary Greek Orthodox Church of St. George, home of a wonderfully vivid 6th century Byzantine mosaic map showing Jerusalem and other holy sites, to the Archaeological Park where the Madaba Institute for Mosaic Art and Restoration trains artisans in the art of making, repairing and restoring mosaics.

What To See

- St. George's Church
- Madaba Archaeological Museum
- Madaba Folkloric Museum
- Madaba Archaeological Park
- Church of the Apostles
- Madaba Institute for Mosaic Art and Restoration

Mount Nebo

It is believed that it is the place where Moses was buried and the most revered holy site in Jordan. When atop this mountain, one can see as Moses did the vast panorama that encompasses the Jordan River Valley, the Dead Sea, Jericho, and Jerusalem, often referred to as the Holy Land. Mount Nebo's first church was built in the late 4th century to mark the site of Moses' death. It remains a place of pilgrimage for Christians as designated by Pope John Paul II.

What To See

Six tombs, from different periods, have been found hollowed out of the rock beneath the mosaic-covered floor of the church. The Moses Memorial Church at Mount Nebo displays a large number of beautiful 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.

Bethany Beyond The Jordan, Mukawir



Bethany Beyond the Jordan



Mukawir



Baptizing at Bethany Beyond the Jordan

Mukawir

Another designated pilgrimage site, Mukawir is within an hour's drive from Madaba along the picturesque Kings' Highway, the hilltop stronghold of Herod the Great. Upon Herod's death, his son Herod Antipas inherited the fortress and it is from here that he ordered John the Baptist to be beheaded after Salome's fateful dance of the seven veils.

Bethany Beyond The Jordan

Two millennia ago, the area opposite Jericho has been identified as the place where Jesus Christ was baptized by John the Baptist, making it one of the focal Christian pilgrimage sites. The area known as "Bethany Beyond the Jordan" has been discovered between the Jordan River and Tal Al-Kharrar (St. Elijah's Hill). A cave was discovered where John was living when he baptized Jesus. It is from this hill that he ascended to heaven in a chariot of fire. Findings from the early 1st century AD confirm the site was inhabited during the lives of Jesus and John the Baptist.

What To See

St. Elijah's Hill, another one of the designated pilgrimage sites, is now the focal point of the Baptism Site and is covered with the remains of a Byzantine monastery with churches, large baptism pools and a water storage system. These facilities were mentioned in texts by Byzantine writers, who linked them with the tradition of Jesus' baptism. One of the earliest Christian prayer facilities discovered in the world, can be found in a 3rd century building with a white mosaic pavement. You can also find five plots of Church including: The Anglican Church, The Catholic Church, The Armenian Church, The Coptic Church and The Russian Pilgrims' House.

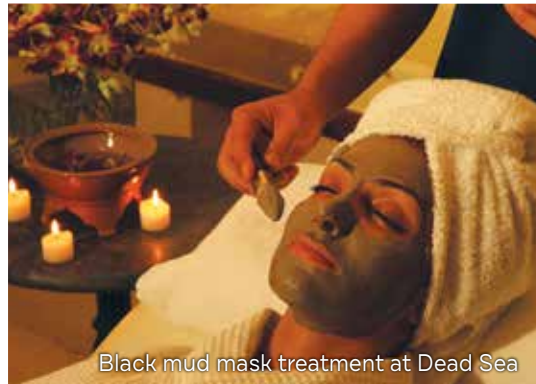
Ma'in Hot Springs Jordan Valley



Floating in Dead Sea



Ma'in Hot Springs



Black mud mask treatment at Dead Sea

Ma'in Hot Springs (Hammamat Ma'in)

Since the old days of Rome, people have come to the thermal mineral springs of Hammamat Ma'in for thermal treatments, or simply to enjoy a hot soak.

Situated in this exquisite spot is an excellent spa and resort, offering a wide range of professional and luxurious services from mud wraps to underwater massages and much more.

Jordan Valley

The lowest point on the face of the earth, this vast, stretch of water receives a number of incoming rivers, including the River Jordan. The area is believed to have been home to five Biblical cities: Sodom, Gomorrah, Adman, Zeboiim and Zoar (Bela).

The Dead Sea



Pool side at Dead Sea



Salt formations at Dead Sea

The Dead Sea

Relax in the gently lapping waters and be amazed that you can't sink! You will be in the largest natural spa on earth where you can treat yourself to a soothing massage, or try the well-known healing powers of minerals from the sea's muddy floor to treat many skin diseases or simply rejuvenate your skin. If you would like a more leisurely stay, spend the night at a comfortable world class hotel where you can enjoy the day sunbathing, swimming, or dining. For the more modest traveller, the Amman Touristic Beach withholds none of the Dead Sea magic.

What To See

Lot's Sanctuary, one of the most significant archaeological discoveries in Jordan, is located near modern Ghor Al Safi. A dried pillar of salt nearby is said to be the remains of Lot's wife, who disobeyed God's warning not to look back as she fled Sodom. For a more enriched memory of this ancient story, visit the "Museum at The Lowest Point on Earth" that showcases the series of cultures and activities that has surrounded this area for the past 10,000 years.

Karak, Shawbak



Shawbak Castle



Karak Castle



Karak Castle

Karak

Karak sits 900m above sea level and lies inside the walls of the old city, where consequently, several strategic 7th century battles took place: the battles of Mu'ta, Yarmouk and Tabaqet Fahl. Many of Prophet Mohammad's (PBUH) venerable companions and military leaders were martyred and buried in Jordan, and their tombs and shrines today are important destinations for pious Muslims such as Al-Mazar Aj-Janubi, just 25 minutes south of Karak.

Shawbak

Once called "Le Krak de Montreal", Shawbak refers to the castle as well as to its surrounding group of ten villages. The castle is located less than an hour's drive north of Petra, and was inhabited till the 1950s. It is perched on the side of a mountain, with a grand sweep of fruit trees below. Built during the crusader times, 894 years ago, Shawbak castle appears as a natural extension of a dramatic hill.

Walking in the ruined parts of the castle, you can notice some architectural elements of European, almost Gothic style. At the castle entrance, on the eastern elevation, is one of the towers with beautiful Arabic calligraphy, using big size letters branded in the Mameluke style and dated to the later rebuilding works of 1290s.

Karak Castle is a dark maze of stone-vaulted halls and endless passageways. More imposing than beautiful, the castle is nevertheless an impressive insight into the architectural military genius of the crusaders.

What To See

- Karak Castle
- Karak Archaeological Museum
- Mazar Islamic Museum

Desert Castles



Qasr al-Kharraneh



Quseir Amra



DID YOU KNOW?

Karak's best-preserved halls and passageways are located underground and can only be reached through a massive door - ask at the ticket desk. The city of Karak was the ancient capital of Moab. During Roman times it was known as Characmoba.

Desert Castles

Jordan's desert castles are beautiful examples of both early Islamic art and architecture. 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 8th century. Quseir 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. The black basalt fort at Azraq was the headquarters of Lawrence of Arabia during the Arab Revolt and is still in use since Late Roman times. Other castles of interest include Qasr Al-Hallabat, Qasr Al-Tuba and Qasr Al-Kharraneh.

Jordan's Nature Reserves



Azraq Wetland Reserve

Nature lovers will find lots to enjoy and discover in Jordan, with a number of major nature reserves that are managed by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN).

Azraq Wetland Reserve

Azraq is a unique wetland oasis located in the heart of the Jordanian eastern desert, where a wide variety of birds stop each year for a rest during their migration routes between Asia and Africa. Some stay for the winter or breed within the protected areas of the wetland. Its attractions include several natural and ancient-built pools, a seasonally flooded marshland, and a large mudflat known as Qa'a Al-Azraq.



Mujib Nature Reserve



Oryx in Shawmari Wildlife Reserve

Shawmari Wildlife Reserve

The Shawmari Reserve was created by the RSCN as a breeding center for endangered or locally extinct wildlife. Oryx, ostriches, gazelles and onagers are rebuilding their populations and reasserting their presence in this safe haven. This small, 22 sq. km reserve is a thriving protected environment for some of the rarest species in the Middle East.

Mujib Nature Reserve

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 extends to the Karak and Madaba mountains to the north and south, reaching 900m above sea level in some places. This 1,300m variation in elevation, combined with the valley's year-round water, means that Wadi Mujib enjoys a magnificent biodiversity that is still being explored and documented today.



Dana Biosphere Reserve

Dana Biosphere Reserve

Dana Biosphere Reserve is composed of a chain of valleys and mountains that 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 timeless serenity of Dana Village and the grandeur of the red and white sandstone cliffs of Wadi Dana, and the mystery of the ancient archaeological ruins of Feynan, where the stars shine brighter than any other place. You can stay in the eco-lodges to experience the wilderness, meet locals and explore the ancient history. Dana supports diverse wildlife that includes a variety of rare species of plants and animals.



Ajlun Nature Reserve

Ajlun Nature Reserve

Ajlun Nature Reserve is an area of hills covered by dense woodlands of evergreen oak, interspersed with pistachio, carob, and strawberry trees. In spring, the woodland floor is carpeted with drifts of multi-colored anemones, rockroses, and a host of other wild flowers.

Dibeen Forest Reserve

Dibeen Forest Reserve is the latest nature reserve, it covers an area of 60 km², of pristine pin-oak habitat. The entire forest of Dibeen is spread over steep to very steep slopes of limestone or chalky limestone rock types. Filled with trees and always green, Dibeen is a wonderful site to visit all year round.



Dibeen Forest Reserve



الجمعية الملكية
لحماية الطبيعة
RSCN

DID YOU KNOW?

The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) is deeply involved in the protection of wildlife and habitats throughout Jordan and has received international acclaim for its pioneering work in developing nature-based businesses for local people. For more information about RSCN, visit: www.rscn.org.jo

Ajlun, Umm Qays



Ajlun

Ajlun Castle (Qal'at Ar-Rabad) was built by Saladin's general in 1184 AD to control the iron mines of Ajlun, and to counter the progress of the Crusaders by dominating the three main routes leading to the Jordan Valley and protecting the communication routes between Jordan and Syria. It is a fine example of Islamic architecture dominating a wider stretch of the northern Jordan Valley.

Close to Ajlun is Anjara, a Christian pilgrimage site where Jesus Christ, his mother Mary, and his disciples passed through and rested in a nearby cave now commemorated with the Church of Our Lady of the Mountain.

Umm Qays

Renowned in its time as a cultural center, Gadara (known today as Umm Qays), was the home of several classical poets and philosophers, including Theodorus, founder of a rhetorical school in Rome.

Known for its black stone basalt, it is 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 theaters. Find yourself on the magnificent terrace of a fine restaurant with a breathtaking view of three countries.

What To See

The main sites are the ruins of the Roman city, with its Western Theater, colonnaded street, mausoleum and baths. The Umm Qays Museum contains artefacts, mosaics and statues.

Jerash



Jerash Ruins



Hadrian's Arch



Jerash Festival

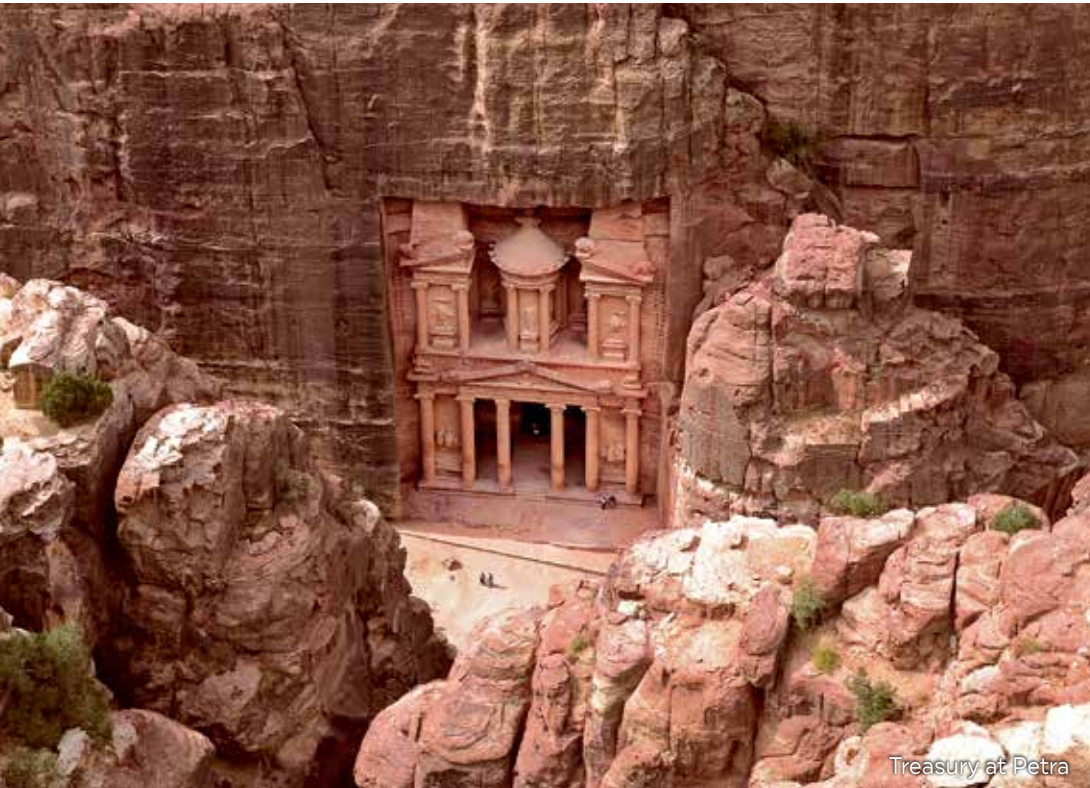
Jerash

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 paved and colonnaded streets, soaring hilltop temples, handsome theaters, spacious public squares and plazas, baths, fountains and city walls pierced by towers and gates.

What To See

- Hadrian's Arch.
- Hippodrome.
- Colonnaded Street.
- Cathedral.
- North Theater.
- South Theater.
- Jerash Archaeological Museum.

Petra



What To See

Petra's most famous monument, the Treasury or Al-Khazneh, appears dramatically at the end of the Siq. Used in the final sequence of the film "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade", this towering façade is only the first of Petra's secrets. A climb of over 900 rock-cut steps will bring you to what most visitors consider their highlight - a gigantic 1st century Monastery (Deir).

To visit Petra during daylight is awe-inspiring; to experience it at night by the light of 1,800 candles is truly out-of-this-world! Walk through the Siq to the Khazneh

A world wonder, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and Jordan's most valuable treasure, Petra is Jordan's greatest tourist attraction. It is a vast and unique city, carved into the sheer rock face by the Nabataeans, an industrious Arab civilization, 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.

The Nabataean Kingdom existed for centuries, and Petra became widely admired for its refined culture, massive architecture and ingenious complex of dams and water channels. Ultimately, however, the Roman Emperor Trajan annexed the Kingdom.

By the 14th century, Petra was completely lost to the West, and so it remained for almost 300 years. Then in 1812, a Swiss traveller, Johann Ludwig Burckhardt, persuaded his guide to take him to the site of the rumored 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."

following a candle-lit path and enjoy the haunting music of the Bedouins at the Treasury. Tours start at 8.30pm and finish at 10.00pm every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

A modest shrine commemorating the death of Prophet Aaron (PBUH), brother of Prophet Moses (PBUH), was built in the 13th century by the Mameluk Sultan, high atop Mount Aaron (Jabal Haroun) in the Sharah mountain range.

Do not miss the Petra Archaeological Museum, and Petra Nabataean Museum.



The Monastery at Petra



Beadwork jewelry



Petra Tombs



Petra by Night



DID YOU KNOW?

Petra is sometimes called the “Lost City,” in spite of its being such an important city in antiquity, after the 14th century AD, Petra was completely lost to the western world. It was rediscovered in 1812 by the Swiss traveller, Johann Ludwig Burckhardt, who tricked his way into the fiercely guarded site by pretending to be an Arab from India wishing to make a sacrifice at the tomb of the Prophet Aaron.

Accommodation

An extensive range of accommodation to suit all budgets is available in and around the town of Wadi Musa, just outside the site of Petra, including excellent 4 and 5 star hotels.

Dining

Local hotels have delicious international restaurants. Inside the town are several restaurants that serve traditional cuisine, as well as several street food vendors.

Shopping

Apart from the artisans’ stalls inside the Petra site, there are many shops in Wadi Musa that sell local products, such as Nabataean-style pottery, silverware, sand bottles and bead work jewelry. These are mainly produced locally by the Bedouins.

Aqaba



Aqaba Fort



Aqaba



Water Skiing in Aqaba

Contrasting the rose-coloured desert to the North, the indigo-coloured deep water lies just off shore in Aqaba, offering kaleidoscopic marine life within easy reach, and an array of fish darting through the ocean.

Common species are branch coral, fungia, and montipora, and the rare archelia - a black, tree-like specimen found at great depths and first discovered by the late King Hussein himself.

There is snorkelling, fishing and sailing, or glass-bottomed boats for those who prefer to keep marine life at arm's length. There is a Mameluk Fort (now known as Aqaba Fort) at the end of the corniche and, on an island in the middle of the Gulf, the castle of Saladin, foe of Richard the Lion heart and Reynald de Chatillon. In this century, Arab forces with T. E. Lawrence of Arabia, wrestled the port from the Ottomans in one of the most dramatic victories of the Arab Revolt.

What To See

- Aqaba Marine Science Station
- Aqaba Birds Observatory
- Aqaba Archaeological Museum
- Aqaba Fort



Diving in Aqaba



Hotel in Aqaba



Underwater Aqaba



DID YOU KNOW?

Some of the world's earliest known churches have been recently discovered in Jordan. The remains of a mud brick building in Aqaba may be the world's oldest known purpose built church. This early church dates from the late 3rd or early 4th century AD.

Accommodation

Aqaba offers a wide range of accommodation, including excellent 3, 4 and 5 star hotels, most of which are well-equipped with all facilities necessary for meetings and conferences. The top hotels are located alongside the beaches and offer a full range of water-sports and holiday activities, spa and fitness centers, boutiques and beauty shops. More modest accommodation is also available.

Dining

Aqaba has a wide range of international and traditional restaurants, whether you are looking to stay in your luxurious hotel, or wander around the streets of this beautiful town.

For more info:  VisitAqaba | aqaba.jo

Wadi Rum



Hot air balloon in Wadi Rum



Desert campsite in Wadi Rum



Sand bottles

T. E. Lawrence of Arabia and Sharif Faisal Bin Huessin based their headquarters in Wadi Rum during the Arab revolt against the Ottomans in World War I. It joined the UNESCO World Heritage Site List, under both the natural and cultural significance categories. A maze of monolithic rockscapes rises up from the desert floor to heights of 1,750m creating a natural challenge for serious mountaineers. Hikers can enjoy the tranquillity of the boundless empty spaces.

What To See

Visitors should head for the Visitors' Center where, apart from visitors' facilities, they can hire a 4x4 vehicle, together with driver and/or guide, and then drive for two or three hours to explore some of the best known sites. Alternatively, they can hire a camel and guide. The duration of the trip can be arranged beforehand through the Visitors' Center. For those looking for an adventure, there are various aero sports activities, such as experiencing the breathtaking natural rock formations from a hot air balloon, or one of the many different aircrafts. For more information you can go to www.royalaerosports.com.

Accommodation

There are two types of accommodation available in the Wadi Rum area: camping, and bed and breakfast. Campers can choose either the 'wild campsites', which are without facilities and visitors must bring their own tents and equipment, alternatively, there are Bedouin-style campsites with all facilities and entertainment. Bed and breakfast facilities are available in Rum Village.



Repelling in Wadi Rum



DID YOU KNOW?

Much of David Lean's epic 1962 movie, "Lawrence of Arabia," starring Peter O'Toole, Alec Guinness and Omar Sharif was filmed on location in Wadi Rum.

Dining

Because Wadi Rum is a nature reserve, there are no facilities available within the site. However, there are many opportunities to experience our famous hospitality and eat with the locals. There are also shops and a restaurant at the Visitors' Center.

Other Attractions in Jordan



You would not want to miss a visit to As-Salt, known for its old Ottoman houses and buildings. The ancient town was once the most important settlement in the area between the Jordan Valley and the eastern desert.

Irbid is Jordan's second largest city and is a bustling community with a large university.

Umm Ar-Rasas, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is a historic, rectangular walled city boasting four churches. The main attraction, however, is Church of St. Stephen located just outside the city's wall, containing a perfectly preserved mosaic floor.

Pella (Tabqit Fahl), is a favourite of archaeologists as it is exceptionally rich in antiquities that include ruins from the Graeco-Roman period, including an Odeon (Theater), and should not be missed by any historians. It offers the opportunity to see the remains of the Chalcolithic settlement from the 4th millennium BC.

Umm Al-Jimal, dubbed "Black Gem of the Desert," was once a town on the margins of the Decapolis League.



Iraq Al-Amir

Do not miss the history and nature that is found in Iraq Al-Amir and Qasr Al-Abed which dates back to the Hellenistic period, dating from approximately 200 BC. The olive trees alone will take you to a different time and place.

Jordan Valley

Visit the tombs of the Prophet Mohammad's (PBUH) venerable companions and military leaders Zaid bin Harithah, Ja'far bin Abi Talib, and Abdullah ibn Rawahah, who fell in battle or became victims of the Great (Amwas) Plague in the 18th year after the Hijra.

Do not miss Abu Ubeida Amer bin Al-Jarrah's center, where you will find his tomb, a mosque and library. Abu Ubeidah was a relative of the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH), and one of the first to convert to Islam.

Entry Into Jordan



Aqaba



Royal Jordanian/ National Carrier

By Road

Syria: Coming to Jordan by road from Syria, you can cross into Jaber or Ramtha.

Jaber is 80km away from Amman and is most commonly used by visitors, while Ramtha is 90km away and is mainly used for cargo transport.

Israel: There are three border crossings between Jordan and Israel:

- The Allenby / King Hussein Bridge, 57km away from Amman.
- Sheikh Hussein Crossing / North Border, 90km away from Amman.
- Wadi Araba Crossing / South Border, 324km away from Amman.

Iraq: Coming to Jordan by road from Iraq through Al-Karamah Border Crossing is 331km away from Amman.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: There are three border crossings with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from the east:

- Umari Border Crossing, 155km away from Amman.
- Mudawara Border Crossing, 322km away from Amman.
- Durra Border Crossing, located in the south, 349km away from Amman.

By Sea

Egypt: A ferry service operates from Nuweiba to Aqaba.

By Air

Royal Jordanian, Jordan's national carrier, is one of many international air carriers that fly regularly into Queen Alia International Airport, located 35km south of Amman. The average flying time from the major European cities is four hours. The easiest way to get to downtown Amman from the Airport is by taxi; the journey takes 30-45 minutes and the fare is about 22 JD (approximately \$31). However, shuttle buses to the city center bus station are also available, leaving the airport every half-hour.

GETTING AROUND

As opposed to giving street addresses, it is customary to ask about the area or a nearby landmark (a large hotel, ministry building or supermarket, for example) and then continue with instructions to your destination. This works more efficiently than it sounds.

Visa Requirements

The cost of one entry visa for all nationalities is 40 JD (approximately \$56) and can be easily obtained at all airports. Multiple entry visas are valid for 6 months and cost 120 JD (approximately \$170); they can be obtained at the embassy or consulate. Certain nationalities require that an entry visa be obtained prior to travel. It is recommended that you check with the Jordanian diplomatic mission in your country prior to travel to ensure that you have all the necessary paperwork for travel, or visit www.VisitJordan.com for more information.

General Information



Mansaf



Hotel in Jordan



A café in rainbow street

Food

Food is a cornerstone of Jordanian society, whether you are having mansaf with the Bedouins, or exploring the souqs with their aromas of cardamom, cumin and za'atar, whether you are having knafeh or baklava pastries in any of their myriad forms, you will not grow hungry with any passing day. If you bump into a Bedouin in the remotest corner of Wadi Rum, you will doubtless be talking about food and end up with him inviting you to his tent to eat and drink sweet tea with sage or mint. Make sure not to leave Jordan without experiencing some of the following: mansaf, magloubeh, falafel, shawerma, famous mezza and knafeh.

Taxis

Taxis are inexpensive and often the most convenient form of transportation in Jordan. The white-painted “service taxis” offer transportation between fixed routes and are to be shared with other passengers. Private taxis are yellow and have meters.

Uber and Careem are two of the main players in the ride-hailing industry in Jordan, providing convenient and efficient transportation solutions. Both are multinational transportation networks connecting riders and drivers in Jordan.

Buses

Several companies offer charter buses and regular tours in a fleet of modern, air-conditioned coaches. For more information about buses and schedules, please visit www.VisitJordan.com.

Car Rental

Jordan has an excellent and expanding road network, and renting a car can be a good way to see the country. A driving license valid in your country of origin is acceptable, provided it has been valid for at least one year. Driving is right-sided. Road signs on the highways are in Arabic and English. Please note that brown signs indicate a tourist site.

Accommodation

Plenty of accommodation is available in Jordan, from 5 star hotels on the coast to campsites in the desert! For a complete list of hotels, visit www.VisitJordan.com.

Clothing

A warm top is recommended for the cool summer evenings. Amman and the East are rather cold during the winter time, so it is advisable to bring warm coats and raincoats.



Citadel Nights



Shopping mall in Amman



Jordanian woman in her traditional dress

Gold & Silver

Jordan is famous for its dazzling variety of handmade gold and silver items, much of them 24-karat and generally sold by weight at prices much lower than any other country. Look for bargains in more than 50 shops in Amman's Gold Souq, downtown.

Language

While Arabic is the official language in Jordan, English is also widely spoken.

Cultural Considerations

Whilst Muslim women's clothing often covers their legs, arms, and hair, Western women are not subject to these customs. However, very revealing clothing is discouraged, and dressing conservatively around the old part of Amman and outside of the cities is advisable for both men and women.

Shopping

Jordan presents a lively blend of modern and traditional shopping, from big malls offering the latest trends in fashion and technology to small souqs and shops offering more traditional handicrafts. It is not unusual to be offered a cup of coffee or tea, turning your experience into something of a social occasion.

The souq, in the downtown area, is one of the remaining places where you can practice the art of negotiating and the tradition of picking up a bargain. You can also buy traditional crafts including: weaving, embroidery, Dead Sea products, jewelry, mosaics, ceramics, pottery, sand bottles and handmade glass.

Ramadan

Ramadan is a holy month of fasting, the date of which varies according to the Islamic lunar calendar. During Ramadan, alcohol is not sold, except in larger hotels. Eating, drinking, and smoking in public is discouraged during the hours of daylight. Most stores, banks and offices open late at 09:00, and close early at 14:00.

Weather

Jordan is blessed enough to have the beautiful colors of all seasons, while maintaining a moderate climate that is welcoming all year round.

General Itineraries

Five Day Itinerary:

- Day 1. Amman City Tour, Jerash and Ajlun - Overnight in Amman
- Day 2. Madaba, Mount Nebo and Dana Biosphere Reserve - Overnight at Dana Biosphere Reserve
- Day 3. Petra and Wadi Rum - Overnight at Wadi Rum
- Day 4. Wadi Rum and the Dead Sea - Overnight at the Dead Sea
- Day 5. The Dead Sea and Bethany Beyond the Jordan

Eight Day Itinerary:

- Day 1. Amman City Tour and The Royal Automobile Museum - Overnight in Amman
- Day 2. Jerash, Ajlun and Umm Qays - Overnight in Amman
- Day 3. Madaba, Mount Nebo and Mukawir - Overnight in Amman
- Day 4. Karak and Dana Biosphere Reserve - Overnight at Dana Biosphere Reserve
- Day 5. Petra - Overnight in Petra
- Day 6. Wadi Rum and Aqaba City Tour - Overnight in Aqaba
- Day 7. Aqaba and the Dead Sea - Overnight at the Dead Sea
- Day 8. The Dead Sea and Bethany Beyond the Jordan

Eleven Day Itinerary:

- Day 1. Jerash, Ajlun and Umm Qays - Overnight in Amman
- Day 2. Amman City Tour and the Desert Castles - Overnight in Amman
- Day 3. Madaba, Mount Nebo and Mukawir - Overnight in Amman
- Day 4. Mujib Nature Reserve - Overnight in Amman
- Day 5. Karak and Dana Biosphere Reserve - Overnight at Petra
- Day 6. Petra - Overnight in Wadi Rum
- Day 7. Wadi Rum and Aqaba City Tour - Overnight in Aqaba
- Day 8. Aqaba and the Dead Sea - Overnight at the Dead Sea
- Day 9. The Dead Sea and Bethany Beyond the Jordan - Overnight in Amman
- Day 10. As-Salt and Pella - Overnight in Amman
- Day 11. Amman Royal Automobile Museum and Children's Museum

For more itineraries, please check our website www.VisitJordan.com



DID YOU KNOW?

In Bedouin jewellery, silver beads are often combined with glass beads and semi-precious stones and are used as amulets: Blue glass from Syria is protection from the evil eye; green malachite from Aqaba or green agate is for good health; brown agate is to ward off bad spirits; and white agate ensures a husband's enduring love.



Monastery at Petra

JORDAN

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