

ASIA · HISTORY · DESERT · HIKING · ADVENTURE · DIVING · SACRED SITES



Jordan

Watching Petra's Treasury emerge from the narrow Siq is one of travel's genuine goosebump moments, and camping in Wadi Rum's red desert under a clear sky follows close behind. Add Roman Jerash, a float in the Dead Sea and the Red Sea reefs at Aqaba, all within a few hours' drive of each other.

 **The UK Foreign Office (FCDO) advises against all travel to parts of Jordan.**
Read the latest FCDO travel advice before planning a trip. Your travel insurance may be invalid if you travel against FCDO advice.
FCDO advice last updated 10 September 2026.

 CAPITAL Amman	 CURRENCY Jordanian dinar (JOD) £1 ≈ JOD 0.95	 LANGUAGE Arabic, English	 BEST TIME Mar–May, Sep–Nov
 DAILY BUDGET £45–£230 ££ Moderate	 PLUGS Type C, D, F, G, J 230V · UK plugs fit	 FLIGHT FROM LONDON 5h direct ~£350–£700 return	 TIME ZONE UTC+3 standard time

Jordan packs an extraordinary amount into a country you can drive from end to end in about five hours. Most first trips run a week to ten days along a north–south spine: Amman and Roman Jerash, a night at the Dead Sea, then down the King's Highway past Madaba's mosaics, Kerak's crusader castle and the Dana reserve to Petra. Wadi Rum's desert follows, and Aqaba's Red Sea reefs make a fitting finish before flying home or taking the ferry across to Egypt's Sinai.

It is not a cheap destination – Petra's entry fee alone is steep – though the Jordan Pass softens the blow. Distances are short, roads are good and many visitors hire a car. Hospitality is famous: expect tea pressed on you in shops and Bedouin camps. Petra deserves at least two full days, with the climb to the Monastery best tackled early. Spring and autumn are ideal; summer is fierce in the south, while winter can bring cold, rain and even snow to Amman and Petra.

Top 5 highlights

- 1

HISTORY

Petra

The Nabataean capital is carved into rose-red sandstone: walk the Siq to the Treasury, explore the Royal Tombs, then climb some 800 steps to the Monastery. Allow two days and enter at opening time.
- 2

ADVENTURE

Wadi Rum

A protected desert of sandstone and granite mountains and red dunes, the setting for Lawrence of Arabia and several Mars films. Take a jeep tour with a Bedouin guide, then sleep at a camp under the stars.

3

HISTORY

Jerash

One of the best-preserved Roman provincial cities anywhere: an oval plaza ringed by columns, a colonnaded street still rutted by cart wheels, temples and two theatres, under an hour's drive north of Amman.

4

NATURE

Dead Sea

At over 400 metres below sea level, this is the lowest point on land. Float effortlessly in the dense, salty water, coat yourself in mud, and stay at a resort or visit a beach for the day from Amman.

5

NATURE

Dana Biosphere Reserve

Jordan's largest nature reserve tumbles from the stone village of Dana down to the desert lowlands at Feynan. Hike the Wadi Dana trail, stay at the candlelit Feynan Ecolodge, or trek onwards to Petra.

Biggest cities

LARGEST CITY

Amman

≈ 4 million people

A sprawling, hilly capital that grows on you: the Citadel and Roman Theatre downtown, Rainbow Street's cafés, Hashem's falafel, and a handy base for Jerash and the Dead Sea.

2ND LARGEST CITY

Zarqa

≈ 640,000 people

An industrial city just north-east of Amman with little to detain visitors; it is mainly passed through on the way to Qasr al-Hallabat and the oasis of Azraq.

3RD LARGEST CITY

Irbid

≈ 500,000 people

A lively university city in the north, handy for the Greco-Roman ruins of Umm Qais and Pella, with cheap eats along University Street and a good heritage museum.

Zarqa and Irbid figures are 2015 census city populations. UN urban-area estimates treat Zarqa as part of Greater Amman, which would put Irbid second.

When to go to Jordan

Best time: **Mar–May, Sep–Nov.**

Jan

Feb

Mar

Apr

May

Jun

Jul

Aug

Sep

Oct

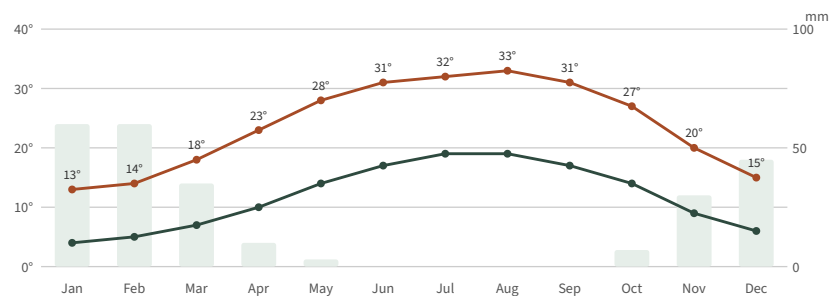
Nov

Dec

■ Best ■ Good ■ Mixed ■ Poor

Average climate in Amman

— High °C — Low °C ■ Rain (mm)



Festivals & events

Feb–Mar	Ramadan The holy month changes the country's rhythm: quieter days, then streets and cafés come alive after the sunset iftar meal, with seasonal sweets such as qatayef sold everywhere.
Jul–Aug	Jerash Festival For about ten days each summer, Jerash's Roman theatres and colonnaded streets host Arab and international music, folk dance and poetry, a tradition running since 1981.

How much does Jordan cost?

SHOESTRING £45 per person / day ≈ JOD 42.63 hostels, street food, buses	MID-RANGE £100 per person / day ≈ JOD 94.74 3-star hotels, restaurants, some taxis	COMFORTABLE £230 per person / day ≈ JOD 218 4-star+, guided trips, private transfers
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Estimates per person per day, excluding flights. Prices vary by season and city.

Food to try

Mansaf Lamb cooked in jameed, a tangy sauce of dried fermented yoghurt, piled on rice and thin shrak bread with almonds and pine nuts; traditionally eaten with the right hand.	Maqluba Literally 'upside down': rice, chicken and fried aubergine or cauliflower cooked in one pot, then flipped onto a platter at the table.	Zarb The Bedouin barbecue of Wadi Rum: chicken, lamb and vegetables slow-cooked on racks in a pit oven buried under hot sand.
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Getting around

JETT coaches run from Amman to Petra (Wadi Musa) and Aqaba, and minibuses leave Amman's South Bus Station when full. There is no passenger rail network, so many visitors hire a car: roads are good, signs are in English and Arabic, and the King's Highway is a classic drive. Uber and Careem work in Amman, yellow taxis are metered, and Royal Jordanian flies between Amman and Aqaba.

Practical information

PLUGS & VOLTAGE  C D F G J 230V — UK plugs fit	EMERGENCY NUMBERS Telephone: 911 (ambulance, fire, police) Source: FCDO “Getting help”
DIALLING CODE +962	TIME ZONE UTC+3 (standard time)
TAP WATER Not safe — drink bottled or treated water	DRIVING On the right
TIPPING Restaurants often add a 10 per cent service charge; otherwise leave about 10 per cent. Tip guides, drivers and camp staff, and round up taxi fares.	

ETIQUETTE

Dress modestly, covering shoulders and knees outside resorts. Accept offered tea or coffee with your right hand; with Bedouin coffee, gently shake the cup when you have had enough.

MAIN AIRPORTS

Queen Alia International Airport (AMM), Amman; King Hussein International Airport (AQJ), Aqaba

Visas & entry for Jordan

Shown for a British passport.

Visa required — apply before you go

You must have a visa to visit Jordan.

If you wish to also visit Israel or Palestine and re-enter Jordan, you can get a multiple-entry visa from the Jordanian Embassy in the UK.

From the UK government's FCDO entry requirements for British passport holders — read the full page for passport validity, permits and exceptions.

Health & vaccinations

See a travel health nurse, GP or travel clinic **6–8 weeks before you go**. Make sure routine UK vaccinations (such as MMR and diphtheria-tetanus-polio) are up to date.

RECOMMENDED FOR MOST TRAVELLERS

Hepatitis A Tetanus

SOMETIMES ADVISED — DEPENDS ON YOUR TRIP, ACTIVITIES AND HEALTH

Hepatitis B Measles Rabies Typhoid

YELLOW FEVER CERTIFICATE

No yellow fever certificate is required to enter.

MALARIA

No malaria risk

Source: TravelHealthPro (National Travel Health Network and Centre), checked 21 October 2026. This is a summary, not medical advice.

Public holidays in Jordan

The next 12 months. Banks, offices and some sights may close, and transport and hotels get busy around these dates.

Fri 25 Dec 2026	Christmas Day
Fri 1 Jan 2027	New Year's Day
Tue 5 Jan 2027	Isra' and Mi'raj (date may shift)
Tue 9 Mar 2027	Eid al-Fitr (date may shift)
Wed 10 Mar 2027	Eid al-Fitr Holiday (date may shift)
Thu 11 Mar 2027	Eid al-Fitr Holiday (date may shift)

Sat 1 May 2027	Labour Day
Sat 15 May 2027	Day of Arafah (date may shift)
Sun 16 May 2027	Eid al-Adha (date may shift)
Mon 17 May 2027	Eid al-Adha Holiday (date may shift)
Tue 18 May 2027	Eid al-Adha Holiday (date may shift)
Tue 25 May 2027	Independence Day
Sun 6 Jun 2027	Islamic New Year (date may shift)
Sat 14 Aug 2027	Prophet's Birthday (date may shift)

National holidays only. Dates based on lunar calendars can move by a day or two depending on official announcements.

Useful phrases in Arabic

ENGLISH	ARABIC	SAY IT
Hello	مرحبا	MAR-ha-ba
Thank you	شكراً	SHUK-ran
Please	من فضلك	min FAD-lak
Excuse me	لو سمحت	law sa-MAHT
How much is this?	بكم هذا؟	BI-kam HA-tha

Know before you go

- Buy the Jordan Pass online before you travel; it bundles entry to more than 40 sites, including Petra, Jerash and Wadi Rum. Read its current terms carefully, as the conditions change.
- Friday is the main day off: many shops and offices close and buses run less often, while midday prayers quieten city centres.
- Start Petra at the early-morning opening to beat heat and tour groups, carry plenty of water, and avoid donkey or camel rides if the animals look overworked.

Visa, health and safety rules change. Before you book or travel, check the FCDO travel advice (gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice) and TravelHealthPro (travelhealthpro.org.uk). Costs are estimates. © 2026 Pick My Trip.