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Amman

Photo: sebas Nut/pexels



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Popova Tetiana/shutterstock



marcociannarel/shutterstock

Amman was first mentioned as Rabbath Ammon in the Hebrew Bible around the 10th century BCE. Although the Jordanian capital has its fair share of ancient remnants, it is the way Amman experiences modernity that fascinates the most. Often listed among the most progressive cities in the Middle East, Amman is a flourishing capital growing by the hour, inhabited by a culturally diverse and rather liberal populace.

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THE CITY



Ayman Alakhras/shutterstock

Although things have been rough for some of Jordan's immediate neighbours, the country itself has managed to largely avoid political unrest in recent history, making today's Amman a pleasant and perfectly safe city to visit. The locals are famously welcoming, and many speak English, but a surprising few identify as originally Jordanian, belonging rather to various other ethnicities, such as Iraqi, Circassian or Palestinian.

Nowhere is Amman's eclectic mix of cultures and youthful spirit more apparent than on Rainbow Street, one of the city's most happening locations lined with restaurants, bars, and shops, playing host to the weekly open-air Jara Souk during the summer. There is plenty to do and see in the city itself, but Amman also makes for an excellent base from which to explore the country further.

DO & SEE



mbrand85/shutterstock

There is a surprising lot to do in the Jordanian capital, from remnants of Roman (and even pre-Roman), Byzantine and Umayyad presence, to a couple of well-regarded galleries and cultural centres showcasing what Amman's cultural scene has to offer. Throw in affordable, delicious dining and a plethora of bargain shopping opportunities, and you'll be set for an eventful few days.

Citadel Hill



The capital's most important historic landmark is an entire area known as the Citadel, perched on top of Amman's highest elevation — the Jabal al-Qal'a hill. Its story dates back to as early as the Bronze Age, with various epochs bringing cultures and peoples who have all left their mark here. The Citadel's two primary attractions are the ancient Temple of Hercules (162-166 AD) and the Ummayad Palace dating back to the 8th century.

Photo: Checco2/shutterstock
Internet: www.touristjordan.com/amman-citadel

Roman Temple of Hercules



The so-called Temple of Hercules (AD 162–166) dominates Amman's Citadel. These days, archaeologists prefer to call it the Great Temple of Amman, since its dedication remains uncertain. Only six Corinthian columns stand reconstructed today. The rest lie as fragmented drums, their dowel holes revealing Roman engineering techniques. A colossal marble statue once graced the site. All that survives is a weathered elbow and fingers, suggesting a figure over 13 metres tall, likely toppled in the 8th-century earthquake.

The temple's platform doubles as Amman's premier viewpoint, framing the modern city against the 150-metre Jordanian flag. Excavations nearby expose layers of civilisation: Umayyad palaces, Byzantine churches, and Roman baths intertwine with older Bronze Age ruins.

Though the Hercules name persists thanks to the sculptural remnant, archaeologists emphasise the temple's civic importance. Its sheer scale reflects Amman's status as a regional hub. Guides prove invaluable for deciphering 9,000 years of history compressed into a single hilltop.

Photo: Maurizio De Mattei/shutterstock
Address: Amman Citadel, Museum Street 132, Amman
Internet: www.touristjordan.com/amman-citadel

Darat Al Funun



Darat Al Funun unites contemporary Arab art with layered history. Housed in a gracefully restored 1920s complex, its rotating exhibitions unfold alongside Byzantine ruins, including a 6th-century church at the entrance. The hillside gardens frame panoramic views of Amman, making this as much an architectural pilgrimage as an art destination.

Photo: Mashhour/shutterstock
Address: Nadim Al-Mallah Street 13, Amman
Opening hours: Sat–Thu 10am–7pm. Open until 3pm during Ramadan. Closed in August
Phone: +962 6 464 3251
Internet: daratalfunun.org

Royal Automobile Museum



One of Amman's most entertaining attractions is the Royal Automobile Museum, mostly containing (nearly a hundred!) vehicles from the collection of late King Hussein of Jordan. Models spanning the second half of the 20th century make for an interesting look around, the latest hit addition being the very vehicle used in the filming of acclaimed "The Martian".

Photo: poemnist/shutterstock
Address: King Hussein Park, Amman
Opening hours: Wed–Mon 10am–7pm, Tue closed
Phone: +962 6 541 1392
Internet: www.instagram.com/royalautomobilemuseum

Roman Theatre



The spectacular Roman Theatre, although restored in the late 20th century, remains largely true to the way it was once conceptualised in as early as 2nd century AD. It's a highlight for most visitors to Amman, used as a venue to house open-air concerts and shows in the summer.

Photo: xamnesiacx84/shutterstock
Address: Taha Al-Hashemi Street, Amman
More Info: You'll find the Jordanian Museum of Popular Traditions next to the Roman Theatre.

King Abdullah I Mosque



The iconic blue-domed mosque is one of the country's most recognisable attractions, a place of worship as much as a national landmark and even somewhat of a museum: a few archaeological finds and personal items of King Abdullah, who inaugurated the mosque, are also displayed here. Unlike at most other mosques, non-Muslim visitors are welcome inside, provided they follow the rules of attendance.

Photo: Richard Yoshida/shutterstock
Address: Suleiman Al Nabulsi Street, Amman
Opening hours: Daily 3:20am–10pm
Phone: +962 7 9806 2939

Rainbow Street



The Rainbow Street is in close proximity to some of the city’s must-see sites and acts as the tourist hub of Jordan. The sidewalks are wide enough for to accommodate long walks. It is an excellent destination for shops, cafes and restaurants, as well as delicious, quick bites. The weekend starts Thursday night here, with slowly cruising cars and strolling pedestrians.

The street runs east from the First Circle to Mango Street, opposite the neighbourhood of Lweibdeh. Friday during the summer, Fawzi Al Maalouf Street, just off Rainbow street, becomes the Souk Jara.

Photo: Cila Photography/unsplash
Address: Jebel Amman hill, Amman

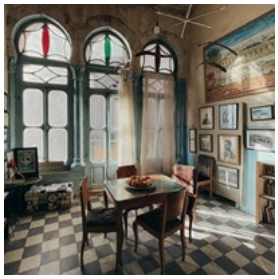
King Faisal Street



King Faisal Street is one of the main thoroughfares of Amman. On this palm-fringed strip, gold dealers from the Gold Souq weigh bracelets under neon lights, while juice vendors press pomegranates nearby and old men play backgammon at pavement cafés. The street’s charm lies in its contrasts: the 1924 post office (now The Duke’s Diwan) overlooks a row of buzzing local businesses, and the call to prayer from Al Hussein Mosque competes with taxi horns. At night, the air thickens with the scent of sizzling lamb from decades-old shawarma stands, and crowds gather at Habibah Sweets for knafeh so fresh it crackles.

Photo: Matyas Rehak/shutterstock
Address: King Faisal Street, Amman
More Info: The wide street is sometimes also known as Faisal Square.

The Duke's Diwan



The Duke’s Diwan is a time capsule of early 20th-century Amman, hidden in plain sight on the busy King Faisal Street. Built in 1924 as the city’s first post office, this Ottoman-era stone house later became the Haifa Hotel before heritage activist Mamdouh Bisharat ("The Duke of Mukheibeh") rescued it from demolition in 2001. Today, its creaking wooden floors lead through rooms frozen in Jordan’s past, complete with antique typewriters, sepia photos of camel caravans on dusty roads, and a balcony overlooking downtown’s metamorphosis.

More than a museum, it’s a living diwan (gathering space): poets hold readings at the carved oak table, while artists riff under the Arabian archways. Admission is free, and the duke himself sometimes holds court, spinning tales of old Amman over cardamom coffee. Don’t miss the upstairs gallery, where rotating exhibits spotlight Jordan’s underground creatives.

Photo: Florin Gorgan/unsplash
Address: King Faisal Street, Amman, Jordan
Phone: +962 6 477 5804

Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts



The Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts offers a refreshing counterpoint to Amman’s ancient ruins. It showcases contemporary works from across the Islamic world in two airy buildings that flank a sculpture-dotted park. Founded in 1980 under royal patronage, its collection spans 2,000 pieces: from provocative Palestinian installations to delicate Sudanese weavings. Be sure to check the rotating exhibitions in Building 1.

Building 2 anchors the experience. Start at the ground-floor, then work your way up through bold Jordanian abstracts before rewarding yourself at the top-floor café. Its terrace overlooks Jabal al-Luweibdeh’s artsy rooftops, perfect for reflecting over mint tea after browsing the art library’s curated books. Free from crowds (and mercifully air-conditioned), it’s where Amman’s creative pulse feels most immediate.

Photo: Sorapop Udomsri/shutterstock
Address: Jabal Al-Luweibdeh, Amman
Phone: +962 6 463 0128
Internet: www.nationalgallery.org

Royal Tank Museum



The Royal Tank Museum rolls into Amman’s cultural scene with unexpected swagger, its 150 armoured beasts (from WWI relics to Jordan’s homegrown modifications) displayed with cinematic flair. Architect Zaid Daoud’s sleek 2018 design lets you circle Soviet T-34s and hulking Challengers like a battlefield rubbernecker, while interactive displays appeal to kids and military buffs alike.

Displayed chronologically, the exhibits trace Jordan’s martial legacy from the Arab Revolt’s camel cavalry to 1967’s Battle of Karamah, though the real stars are the machines. German Panzers stand next to locally retrofitted Centurions, their spec in English and Arabic. Recharge your batteries at the café on the top floor. Budget an hour, ignore the jingoistic plaques, and don’t miss the outdoor arena where

(select weekends) engines roar to life.

Photo: zef art/shutterstock
Address: As-Sakhrah Al-Musharrafah Street 88, Amman
Phone: +962 6 438 1881
Internet: www.rtm.jo

Children's Museum



Amman's Children's Museum is surprisingly delightful. There are plenty of interactive exhibits allowing the young ones to get a hands-on approach to learning about the world, from the inner workings of the human digestive system to the mechanics of a car. Adults will enjoy continuing on to the Royal Automobile Museum next door.

Photo: legenda/shutterstock
Address: King Abdullah II Street, Amman
Phone: +962 6 541 1479
Internet: www.cmj.jo

Qasr al-Abd



As opposed to the omnipresent in Jordan remains of Roman and Umayyad structures, Qasr al-Abd is a rare example of architecture pre-dating the Roman era. Its exact origins remain unknown, which only adds to the fascination. Qasr al-Abd is usually described as a large Hellenistic palace from the first quarter of the second century BCE. Not too far from here are the ancient caves dating back to roughly the same time period.

Photo: Anton_Ivanov/shutterstock
Phone: +962 6 460 3360
Internet: www.madainproject.com/qasr_al_abd

The Cave of the Seven Sleepers (Ashabul Kahf)



The Cave of the Seven Sleepers in ar-Rajib village ties Islamic tradition to physical geography. According to the Quran, devout youths fleeing Roman persecution around AD 250 took refuge here, awakening 309 lunar years later in a testament to divine protection. The site, rediscovered in 1951, now includes a mosque built above the cavern, where an imam often explains the story's theological importance.

Visitors enter through the mosque (head cover required for women) to see the rock-hewn cave and adjacent Byzantine-era tombs. Unlike ornate shrines, the site's power lies in its simplicity: the low-ceilinged grotto and quiet courtyard encourage reflection. While Jordan isn't the only country claiming this legend (others exist in Turkey and Syria), the presence of 3rd-century Christian graves lends archaeological weight.

Photo: Munzir Rosdi/shutterstock
Address: Kahf ar-Raqīm, Ahl Al-Kahf Street, Amman, Jordan

Jordan Museum



The Jordan Museum offers a chronological journey through 1.5 million years of history, from Paleolithic tools to modern Jordanian culture. As the country's premier cultural institution, it houses globally significant artefacts like the 9,700-year-old 'Ain Ghazal statues — the world's oldest human figurines — and fragments of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Exhibits pair these treasures with bilingual (English/Arabic) narratives that contextualise Jordan's

archaeological legacy without overwhelming casual visitors.

The museum’s modern galleries balance education and aesthetics, with interactive displays and temporary exhibitions ensuring fresh perspectives. Allot two hours to appreciate its dual role as research hub and national showcase.

Photo: Chubykin Arkady/shutterstock
Address: Ali Ben Abi Taleb Street 10, Amman
Opening hours: Sat–Mon, Wed & Thu 9am–6pm; Fri 3pm–7pm; Tue closed
Phone: +962 6 462 9317
Internet: www.jordanmuseum.jo

Archaeological Site of Jerash



Jerash (Ancient Gerasa) looks like Rome in the Middle East. It's a sprawling Greco-Roman city where chariot ruts still groove the 800-metre Colonnaded Street. Start at Hadrian’s Arch (AD 129), then explore the Oval Plaza, ringed by 56 Ionic columns, and the Temple of Artemis looming above. Don’t miss the South Theatre: climb to the top tiers to test acoustics so sharp you’ll hear coins drop on stage.

Unlike Petra, Jerash feels blissfully crowd-free. Expert guides help decode the ruins, telling you stories of chariot races, temple intrigues and bubbling marble fountains.

Photo: NavinTar/shutterstock
Internet: international.visitjordan.com/Wheretogo/Jerash
More Info: About 50 minutes away from Amman.

DINING



Piccia Neri/shutterstock

The historic crossroads of cultures finds its reflection in local cuisine, which bears clear traces of Mediterranean, North African, Bedouin, general Middle Eastern and Levantine influence. Jordanian falafel is held in high esteem, and there are plenty of opportunities to discover why that is in Amman. Some must-eats include the national mansaf (tender yoghurt-cooked lamb on rice, traditionally eaten with hands), shish kebab, and a meze spread containing hummus and other "dips".

Hashem



This wildly popular local eatery gathers ravenous crowds no matter the time of day, but securing a seat is most likely to happen outside of peak hours of lunch and dinner. Hashem's absolute must is the falafel, accompanied by hummus, fava bean paste, and freshly baked bread. Prices are startlingly low.

Photo: Barnuti Daniel Ioan/shutterstock
Address: King Faisal Street, Amman
Phone: +962 6 585 8101
Internet: www.hashemrestaurants.com/en
More Info: Hashem has three locations in Amman

Sufra



Sufra is synonymous with fine, yet affordable, Jordanian dining. Apart from staples like fukharat (clay pots with slow-cooked meat and vegetables) and mansaf (a traditional dish of lamb cooked in yoghurt on rice), there is a traditional special which varies by day.

Photo: Waleed Hammoudeh/shutterstock
Address: Al Rainbow Street 26, Amman
Phone: +962 7 7843 2222
Internet: www.romerogroup.jo/sufra

Pizza Roma Cafe



One of international visitors' hangout spots of choice, Pizza Roma is a rooftop space stylised to resemble a Bedouin tent, with a scenic breezy terrace and guest musical performances by talented local youths. The cafe serves far more than just pizza, extending its offerings to dishes likely to appear rather extraordinary to some, such as the lesser-consumed parts of a sheep: the head, stomach, and even testicles.

Photo: Bignai/shutterstock
Address: Amman Pasha Hotel, Al-Shabsough Street 4, Amman
Phone: +962 6 461 8262
Internet: www.ammanpashahotel.com

Tawaheen al-Hawa



A word of advice: do not go all in with the scrumptious starters and home-baked bread, and leave some room for Tawaheen al-Hawa's Middle Eastern/Jordanian mains, including the mansaf and varied grilled meats. This one is popular with both visitors and locals, the latter often seen enjoying a leisurely shisha pipe in the evenings.

Photo: Yulia Gust/shutterstock
Address: Wasfi al-Tal Road, Amman
Opening hours: Daily noon–midnight
Phone: +962 6 534 9986
Internet: www.instagram.com/tawaheen_alhawa

Fakhreldin



Occupying the building once owned by Jordan's first prime minister, Fakhreldin is an upscale affair — a reputable Lebanese restaurant serving a variety of dishes developed from the Levantine cuisine. There is a spacious outdoor seating area with elegant white-tableclothed tables.

Photo: frantic00/shutterstock
Address: Taha Hussein Street 40, Amman
Opening hours: Daily 1pm–midnight
Phone: +962 79 543 0055
Internet: fakhreldin.com

Chestnut Restaurant & Pub



One of the latest additions to Amman's dining and nightlife scenes, Chestnut is a well-liked pub run by an enthusiastic, warm team that brought in expertise from businesses local and international. Evening vibes are conducive to a great night, and food restaurant-worthy, not limited to pub grub alone. Happy hour brings 50% discounts on selected menu items and drinks.

Photo: DGLimages/shutterstock
Address: Abu Salma Al-Khelal Street, Amman
Opening hours: Daily noon–midnight
Phone: +962 7 7500 0075
Internet: www.instagram.com/chestnut_pub

District Urban Rooftop



District belongs somewhere on the bar/restaurant spectrum, and, along with serving excellent international fusion cuisine, is also a pleasant place to spend the evening having drinks in good company. It's a conceptually one-of-a-kind establishment in Amman, with a welcoming outdoor terrace and views to die for.

Photo: Nick Starichenko/shutterstock
Address: Zaid Ben Al Harith Street, Amman
Opening hours: Daily 1pm–1am
Phone: +962 7 7001 7517
Internet: www.instagram.com/districtamman

CAFES



Ahmad Diranieh/shutterstock

Traditional sweets shops and tea houses mingle with a growing number of hip cafes worthy of a modern capital in the streets of Amman. Those looking to savour a traditional dessert must absolutely try the kanafeh (spelling varies) — a sweet syrup-drenched pastry with delicious, gooey cheese at its heart.

Habibah Sweets



Local tour guides consider a visit to Habibah a city tour essential, and for good reason: this legendary sweets shop, originating in 1947 Jerusalem, has made its way across to Jordan, where it continues to sell and serve some of the finest Palestinian Kunafa (cheese pastry drenched in sweet syrup) for miles around.

Photo: Alp Aksoy/shutterstock
Address: Marwan Madi Complex, Al-Azhar Street 2, Amman
Opening hours: Daily 8am–1am
Phone: +962 6 553 1555
Internet: www.habibahsweets.com

Shams El Balad



The delightful hip cafe is a rare find in Amman. Set on a hilltop overlooking the downtown's cream-coloured buildings, Shams El Balad is much more than its scenic location. The dishes served here are deliciously experimental twists on Middle Eastern classics, and quite possibly warrant a cook book of their own.

Photo: Nuchylee/shutterstock
Address: Mu'ath Bin Jabal Street 69, Amman
Phone: +962 6 465 1150
Internet: www.shamselbalad.com

Rumi Cafe



Rumi is as close as it gets to an Ammani take on a hipster coffee shop. This gem of a cafe attracts with-it locals, who thoroughly enjoy the shaded outdoor seating and Rumi's extensive

selection of international teas. Snacks and breakfasts are also on offer; you can always opt for the excellent coffee.

Photo: Alpha_7D/shutterstock
Address: Al-Shariaah College Street 14, Amman
Opening hours: Daily 7am–late. Closed 12:30pm–1:30pm on Fridays
Phone: +962 6 464 4131
Internet: www.instagram.com/rumi.amman

Books@cafe



Books@cafe carved history as the Middle East's first internet café, blending literary culture with progressive ideals. This café-bookshop hybrid became a haven for dialogue, bridging Amman's diverse communities, from expatriates to LGBTQ patrons, through its shelves of curated titles and egalitarian ethos. By night, Books@cafe becomes a low-key bar where conversations outlast drinks.

Photo: Yulia Grigoryeva/shutterstock
Address: Omar Bin Al-Khattab Street 12, Amman
Opening hours: Daily 9am–1am
Phone: +962 6 465 0457
Internet: www.booksatcafe.com
Email: info@booksatcafe.com

Blue Fig



Blue Fig delivers where it counts: solid brunches and lively nights. Morning regulars swear by their fluffy omelettes, served with proper sourdough toast, avocado toast, pizzas and baguettes. When the sun sets, DJs and live bands take over — a well-executed transition from café to nightspot.

Photo: Anna Shepulova/shutterstock
Address: Taj Lifestyle Center, Irbid Street 30, Amman
Opening hours: Daily 8am–1am
Phone: +962 6 592 8800
Internet: www.bluefig.com
Email: info@bluefig.com

Fann Wa Chai



Fann Wa Chai art gallery and tea bar is a tranquil hideaway in the hip, bohemian Jabal Al Weibdeh district. The establishment has been serving tea, coffee and small bites in the art-filled environment since 1988. Enjoy a quiet afternoon on the terrace or in the garden.

Photo: Anna Urlapova/pexels
Address: Al Rabad, Amman
Opening hours: Daily 9am–11pm
Phone: +962 6 565 0114
Internet: www.instagram.com/fannwachai

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



DalDaFoTo/shutterstock

Although alcohol vending is most often paused for the month of Ramadan, many Jordanians do enjoy a drink, and alcohol consumption isn't generally frowned upon. There are a few great haunts across the city and several bars with seriously impressive night views from their hillside locations.

Carakale Brewing Company



It's worth finding your way to Jordan's own craft brewery hidden amidst the rolling hills west of the city. Visitors will get the chance to try several drafts (full glasses or samplers, varieties from IPA through porter) and peek at the factory floor below. The brewery doesn't serve food but bringing in your own is allowed. There are grilling facilities outside that guests are encouraged to make use of.

Photo: FXQuadro/shutterstock
Address: Fuhais, Amman
Opening hours: Daily 2pm–10pm
Phone: +962 7 9306 0609
Internet: www.carakale.com

Murphy's — House of Rock



Murphy’s packs in crowds nightly with its winning formula: loud rock bands (Tuesdays), a battered but beloved pool table, and some of the cheapest pints in town. The beer garden offers respite when the indoor revelry gets too boisterous. Happy hour turns the volume up further — expect sticky floors, shout-along choruses, and zero pretension.

Photo: Dean Drobot/shutterstock
Address: The Conroy Boutique Hotel, Shatt Al-Arab Street 17, Amman
Opening hours: Daily noon–midnight
Phone: +962 7 7716 5008
Internet: www.theconroyboutiquehotel.com

Sekrab



Sekrab is a creative hangout spot in every way out of the ordinary, with a VW hippy van perched on its top, and an interior dominated by recycled car parts and other creatively re-purposed pieces. The rooftop offers fantastic views, and there are a few things to choose from in terms of drinks.

Photo: jirawatfoto/shutterstock
Address: Rainbow Street, Amman
Opening hours: Daily noon–1am
Phone: +962 7 9108 6111
Internet: www.instagram.com/sekrabjo

Cantaloupe Gastro Pub



Cantaloupe's swanky rooftop is one of the city's finest vantage points, affording views of the entire city and the environs, including the Jabal al-Qal'a with the Citadel perched on its top. The first floor is given over to an Italian-leaning restaurant, while the open-air second floor is arguably the location of Amman's best open-air bar.

Photo: Sergey Mironov/shutterstock
Address: Rainbow Street, Amman
Opening hours: Daily 5pm–1am
Phone: +962 7 7000 0717
Internet: www.instagram.com/cantaloupegastropub
More Info: Happy Hour 5pm–8pm

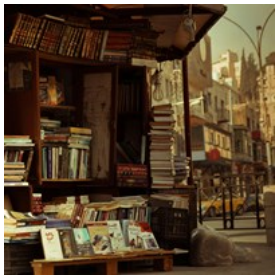
SHOPPING



IKostiuchok/shutterstock

There is some serious shopping to be done in the capital, and some incredible bargains to be had. For those interested in purchasing gold, the Gold Souq in Ali Ben Abi Taleb Street is the place. Jewellery is often sold by weight, and prices can be brought down if you haggle. To support local social initiatives, shop at one of the several establishments across Amman that forward profits to craftspeople and rural communities that produce goods: textiles, pottery, cosmetics, herbs, spices and more.

Al Balad



The downtown, or Al Balad, is one's best bet for finding great bargains in Amman. The area is packed with all manner of shops and businesses, selling clothing, accessories, intricate jewellery, herbs, and various edibles. Haggling is expected — count on bringing the original price down by at least half, unless the specific locale has a fixed-price policy.

Photo: Ayman Yusuf/unsplash

Jordan River Designs Showroom



The Jordan River Foundation Design showroom stocks exquisite home decor pieces, rugs, accessories and Dead Sea cosmetics, along with a plethora of other pieces, all of the highest quality. Prices here are steep for good reason: the foundation supports women and youths from local communities, and all profits made are put towards development projects.

Photo: DM-Studio/shutterstock
Address: Mawloud Mukhles Street, Amman
Phone: +962 6 461 2169
Internet: www.jordanriverdesigns.com
Email: info@jrf.org.jo

Souq Jara



Souq Jara enlivens Fawzi Malouf Street, adjacent to Rainbow Street's terminus, every Friday from May to September. This weekly market channels profits back into the community while showcasing Jordanian crafts. Under canvas awnings, vendors display handwoven textiles, olive-wood carvings, and aromatic spice blends — all ripe for good-natured bargaining.

The souq's magic lies in its convivial rhythm: live oud music accompanies haggling, while sizzling shawarma and sesame-studded kaek bread scent the air. Families gravitate toward the children's play area or evening film screenings projected between stalls. Arrive by mid-morning to browse at leisure, or stay past sunset when cultural performances animate the cobbled street. Cash remains king for securing those one-of-a-kind finds, from silver Bedouin jewellery to

hand-painted ceramics.

Photo: Pen Sinclair/shutterstock
Address: Fawzi Al Maalouf Street, Amman
Opening hours: Fri 10am–10pm

Al Afghani Bazaar



This long-standing souvenir store's roots go back to late 19th century Palestine, where the owning family first established a shop. It's packed to capacity with ceramics, jewellery, lamps, and all manner of tinkles born to make excellent gifts; a trip out of downtown to come here is certainly in order.

Photo: Peppy Graphics/shutterstock
Address: Princess Rahmah Bint Al-Hasan Street, Amman
Opening hours: Sat–Thu 10am–10pm, Fri 5pm–10pm
Phone: +962 7 9665 8021
Internet: www.instagram.com/alafghani_bazaar

Soap House Trinitae



Trinitae's cosmetics offering extends beyond soaps to include a few other skincare products, all made with organic local ingredients, from plants and oils to salts of the Dead Sea. It's a heaven of luxurious organic goods of the highest quality. Gift sets are available.

Photo: sebra/shutterstock
Address: Rainbow Street B8, Amman
Opening hours: Sat–Thu 9am–7:30pm, Fri 10am–7:30pm
Phone: +962 6 463 3953
Internet: www.trinitae.com

TOURIST INFORMATION



ra66/shutterstock

Queen Alia International Airport (AMM)



The Queen Alia International Airport is Jordan's primary international air hub. Passengers can take the Sariyah shuttle bus connecting the airport to Tabarbour (North) Bus Station via the Seventh Circle. These buses run every half hour from 6am to 6pm and every hour from 6pm to midnight. Journey time is normally somewhere between 45 and 60 minutes.

Taxis operate on a 24/7 basis and may be easily hired at the airport. Fares are fixed and current prices displayed at the taxi park.

Photo: Adrien Olichon/unsplash
Phone: +962 6 500 2777
Internet: www.qaiairport.com

Passport & Visa



Nationals of most countries are eligible for a single-entry visa upon arrival. The visa process is normally quick and uncomplicated, with no

paperwork involved. The upon-arrival visas are not issued at King Hussein Bridge or Wadi Araba land border crossing points. Having Israeli border crossing stamps can possibly complicate coming into or leaving Jordan. The Jordan Pass is recognised universally, and entitles the holder to a waiving of the visa fee.

For multiple-entry visas, travellers will need to apply in advance prior to travel. Consult the link below to find out whether a visa is required for you.

Photo: maramade/shutterstock
Internet: www.touristjordan.com/need-visa-visit-jordan

Best Time to Visit



The summer months of July and August tend to get quite hot and heavy, so if avoiding extreme heat is something you're interested in, we recommend planning your visit for some time during the spring (March to May) or autumn (October to November).

Photo: Zaid Haddad/unsplash

Public Transport



Amman's public transport system operates through a combination of service taxis, microbuses, and intercity buses. Yellow service taxis follow fixed numbered routes with standard fares, stopping informally at the base of hills. They offer the most efficient urban transport but lack marked stops.

For longer journeys, JETT buses provide affordable and comfortable connections to major cities, though departures are limited to a few daily trips.

Within the city, microbuses (shared minivans) are the cheapest option. Unfortunately, they run unpredictably, departing only when full.

Since 2023, Amman's Bus Rapid Transit system has introduced two routes: the Red Line from Sweileh to Ras Al-Ain downtown, and the Blue Line from Sweileh to Mahatta Terminal, intersecting at Sports City. The BRT offers air-conditioned reliability, though microbuses remain essential for local routes.

Photo: Ant Rozetsky/unsplash
Internet: www.ammanbus.jo

Taxi



There are plenty of yellow cabs circulating around the city. You can easily flag them down, and they are generally inexpensive. That said, it is important that you take note of the cab meter being reset and functioning when you get in. There have been reports of drivers trying to avoid turning the meter on for reasons of heavy traffic or bad weather, so do insist the meter be used regardless of any possible circumstance.

Uber is widely used in Amman, and so is its Middle Eastern counterpart Careem.

Photo: John Grummitt/shutterstock

Pharmacy



Pharmacy One is a drug store chain with several branches across the city, which all operate on a round-the-clock basis. Drug Center Pharmacy is also well-reputed.

Photo: DJ Creative Studio/shutterstock
Address: Drug Center Pharmacy, Al-Madina Al-Monawara Street, Amman
Phone: +962 7 8596 8688

Post



There are several post offices across the city, but stamps can be bought at most souvenir shops without the need to locate one. For shipping valuables, using a private postage service like DHL or FedEx is recommended.

Photo: Simona Sergi/unsplash
Address: Jordan Post Office, 2nd Circle, Amman
Phone: +962 6 429 3000
Internet: www.jordanpost.com.jo

Telephone



Country code: +962 Area code: 6

Photo: Wesley Hilario/unsplash

Electricity



Jordan uses a mix of socket types (both two- and three-pin plugs). The standard voltage is 230V and the frequency is 50Hz, but actual numbers are rather inconsistent. Bringing a power plug adaptor and voltage converter is recommended.

Photo: Mike Winkler/unsplash

Population
4 million

Currency
1 Jordanian Dinar = 100 qirsh (also called piastres)

Opening hours
In Jordan, Friday and Saturday are weekends, which means businesses may be closed or have shorter days. Opening hours may vary, but most businesses operate between roughly from 9:30am to 1:30pm and from 3:30pm to 6pm. Mind that the month of Ramadan often brings schedule changes and business hours may be affected (shortened).

Internet
www.visitjordan.com

Newspapers
The Jordan Times: www.jordantimes.com

Emergency numbers
Fire/Medical: 199
Police: 191
Tourist Police: 196 ext. 4661
Traffic: 190

Tourist information
Ministry of Tourism
Off Zahran Street, Amman
+962 6 460 3360
Open Sun–Thu 8:30am–3:30pm, Fri & Sat closed