



Amman

Photo: sebas Nut/pexels.com

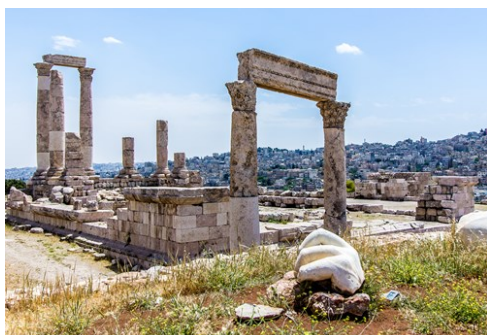


VLADJ55/Shutterstock.com

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.



Popova Tetiana/Shutterstock.com



marcociannarel/Shutterstock.com

Featured



Qasr al-Abd

As opposed to the omnipresent in Jordan remains of Roman and Umayyad structu...



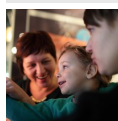
Rainbow Street

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Children's Museum

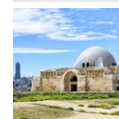
Amman's Children's Museum is surprisingly delightful. There are plenty of in...



Jordan Museum

The country's largest museum containing some of its most important archaeolo...

Top 5



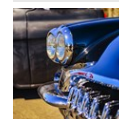
Citadel Hill

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Darat Al Funun

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Royal Automobile Museum

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King Abdullah I Mosque

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THE CITY



Ayman alakhras/Shutterstock.com

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 in 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.

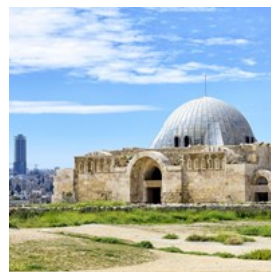
DO & SEE



mbrand85/Shutterstock.com

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 Umayyad Palace dating back to the 8th century.

Photo: Francesco Dazzi/Shutterstock.com

Darat Al Funun



An art centre and architectural landmark in its own right, Darat Al Funun contains a frequently updated selection of exhibitions.

Its serene setting making for a pleasant excursion, and hillside location affording panoramic city views. Archaeological remains of a 6th century Byzantine church can be observed at the entry.

Photo: Mashhour/Shutterstock.com

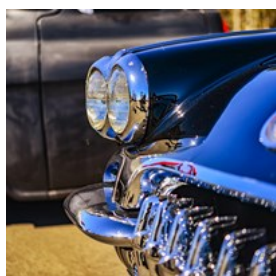
Address: Nadim Al-Mallah Street 13, Amman

Opening hours: Sat-Thu 10am-7pm. Open until 3pm during Ramadan. Closed in August

Phone: +962 6 464 3251

Internet: www.daratafunun.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.com

Address: King Hussein Park, Amman

Opening hours: Wed-Mon 10am-7pm, Tue closed

Phone: +962 6 541 1392

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: Leonid Andronov/Shutterstock.com

Address: Taha Al-Hashemi Street, Amman

More Info: Folklore Museum & Museum of Popular Traditions on site

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.com

Address: Suleiman Al Nabulsi St, Amman

Opening hours: Daily 3:20am-10pm

Phone: +962 7 9806 2939

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.com

Address: King Abdullah II St, Amman

Phone: +962 6 541 1479

Internet: www.cmj.jo/en

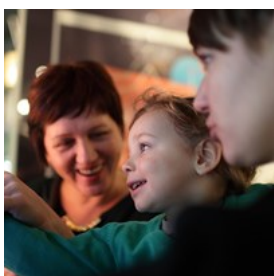
Qasr al-Abd



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.com

Jordan Museum



The country's largest museum containing some of its most important archaeological artefacts is certainly worth a visit. Exhibits are accompanied by both English- and Arabic-language explanations, making for an informative excursion into the country's ancient and recent past.

Photo: Chubykin Arkady/Shutterstock.com

Address: Ali Ben Abi Taleb Street 10, Amman

Phone: +962 6 462 9317

Internet: www.jordanmuseum.jo

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: Franzium/cc by-sa 2.0/Flickr

Address: Jebel Amman hill, Amman

DINING



Piccia Neri/Shutterstock.com

The historic crossroads of cultures Jordan was built on finds its reflection in local cuisine, which bears clear trace 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 yogurt-cooked lamb on rice, traditionally eaten with hands), shish kebab, and a mezze 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.com

Address: King Faisal Street, Amman

Phone: +962 6 463 6440

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 yogurt on rice), there is a traditional special which varies by day.

Photo: Waleed_Hammoudeh/Shutterstock.com

Address: Al Rainbow Street 26, Amman

Opening hours: Daily 9am-midnight

Phone: +962 6 461 1468

Internet: www.romero-jordan.com/sufra.html

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.

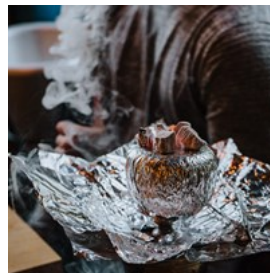
Photo: Bignai/Shutterstock.com

Address: Amman Pasha Hotel, Al Shabsugh 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: shafiga baghirova/Shutterstock.com

Address: Wasfi al-Tal Road, Amman

Opening hours: Daily noon-midnight

Phone: +962 6 534 9986

Fakhreldin



Occupying the building once owned by Jordan's first prime minister, Fakhreldin is an upscale affair — a reputable Lebanese restaurant

servicing a variety of dishes developed from the Levantine cuisine. There is a spacious outdoor seating area, tables laid with crisp white table cloths and elaborate appointments.

Photo: [frantic00/Shutterstock.com](#)

Address: Taha Hussein Street 40, Amman

Opening hours: Daily 1pm-midnight

Phone: +962 79 543 0055

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 (1-6pm daily at the time of writing) brings 50% discounts on selected menu items and drinks.

Photo: [DGLimages/Shutterstock.com](#)

Address: Abu Salma Al-Khelal Street, Amman

Opening hours: Daily noon-midnight

Phone: +962 7 7500 0075

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.com](#)

Address: Zayd Bin Harethah Street, Amman

Opening hours: Daily 1pm-1am

Phone: +962 7 7001 7517

CAFES



[Ahmad Diranieh/Shutterstock.com](#)

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.com](#)

Address: Al Hazar Street 2, Amman
Opening hours: Daily 9am-12am
Phone: +962 6 553 1555
Internet: www.habibahsweets.com
More Info: Marwan Madi Complex

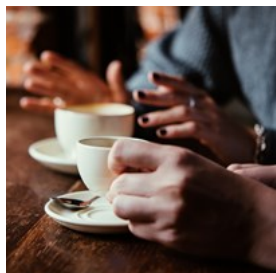
Pizza Roma Cafe



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.com](https://www.shutterstock.com)
Address: Amman Pasha Hotel, Al Shabsugh Street 4, Amman
Phone: +962 6 461 8262
Internet: www.ammanpashahotel.com

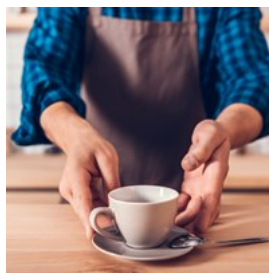
Shams El Balad



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 — dishes served here are deliciously experimental twists on Middle Eastern classics, and quite possibly warrant a cook book of their own.

Photo: [Yulia Grigoryeva/Shutterstock.com](https://www.shutterstock.com)
Address: Mu'ath Bin Jabal Street 69, Amman
Phone: +962 6 465 1150
Internet: www.shamselbalad.com

Rumi



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: [LightField Studios/Shutterstock.com](https://www.shutterstock.com)
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 set out to create a space of intellectual enrichment (hence the concept of cafe cum bookshop) and mutual understanding, whether it be between cultures - of which there are many in Amman, permanent and visiting - or people of different sexual orientations (it's a welcoming gay cafe/bar known well to insiders).

Photo: [Yulia Grigoryeva/Shutterstock.com](https://www.shutterstock.com)
Address: Omar Bin Al-Khattab St 12, Amman
Opening hours: Daily 9am-1am
Phone: +962 6 465 0457
Internet: <https://booksatcafe.com>
Email: info@booksatcafe.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

servicing 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.com

Address: Al Rabad, Amman

Opening hours: Daily 9am-10pm

Phone: +962 6 565 0114

Internet: www.instagram.com/fannwachai

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



DalDaFoTo/Shutterstock.com

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.com

Address: Fuhays, Jordan

Opening hours: Daily 2pm-9pm

Phone: +962 7 9667 7650

Internet: www.carakale.com

Blue Fig



Although the trendy Blue Fig is a successful dining venue in its own right-their breakfasts are highly praised and so is the eclectic international

menu-what makes it especially appealing come sundown are the frequently held live music nights, which feature both live bands and DJs.

Photo: DisobeyArt/Shutterstock.com

Address: Irbid Street 30, Amman

Opening hours: Daily 8am-1am

Phone: +962 6 592 8800

Email: info@bluefig.com

Murphy's - House of Rock



One of the city's most popular pubs can get a bit rowdy, which only adds to the good fun had here on a nightly basis. There is a pleasant beer garden

outside; live rock bands play every Tuesday, and there is a pool table for further entertainment. Drinks come at rock-bottom prices, especially so during happy hour.

Photo: Dean Drobot/Shutterstock.com

Address: The Conroy Boutique Hotel, Sahat 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: jirawafoto/Shutterstock.com

Address: Rainbow Street, Amman

Opening hours: Daily noon-1am

Phone: +962 7 9173 5722

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.com

Address: Rainbow Street, Amman

Opening hours: Daily 5pm-1am

Phone: +962 7 7000 0717

More Info: Happy Hour 5pm-8pm

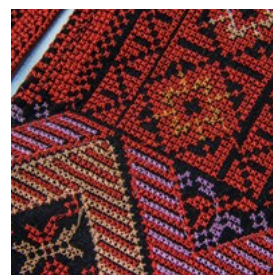
SHOPPING



IKostiuchok/Shutterstock.com

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 Souk 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 abundantly dotted with all manner of shops and

stores, selling clothing, accessories, intricate jewellery, herbs, and various edibles. Haggling is expected — count on bringing the original price down by at least its half, unless the specific locale has a fixed-price policy.

Photo: Andrew Moore/cc by-sa 2.0/Flickr

Wild Jordan Centre



The Centre sets out to support communities of Jordan's 8 natural reserves, protected areas inhabited by families who produce the merchandise sold at the on-site shop. Profits from crafts, jewellery, herbs, and jams (and all other pieces) constitute the communities' incomes. Wild Jordan Centre also houses an esteemed cafe with splendid city panoramas.

Photo: Ksenija Toyechkina/Shutterstock.com
Address: Othman Ben Affan Street 36, Amman
Opening hours: Daily 9am-11pm
Phone: +962 6 463 3542
Internet: www.wildjordancenter.com

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: Corsair Marine/Shutterstock.com
Address: Mawloud Mukhles Street, Amman
Phone: +962 6 461 2169

Internet: www.jordanriver.jo
Email: info@jrf.org.jo

Souk Jara



The weekly Souk Jara is an open-air market with food, live music, and an abundance of wares produced predominantly by local craftsmen. It's a weekly affair organised by the Jebel Amman Residents' Association, and profits go to support the community.

Photo: Ali Al-Awartany/Shutterstock.com
Opening hours: Fri 10am-10pm

Al Afghani Bazaar



This longstanding souvenir store's roots go back to late 19th century Palestine, where the owning family first established 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.com
Address: Princess Rahmah Bint Al-Hasan Street, Amman
Opening hours: Sat-Thu 10am-10pm, Fri 5pm-10pm
Internet: www.alafghanibazaar.com/en

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.com

Address: Al Rainbow Street B8, Amman

Opening hours: Sat-Thu 9am-7:30pm, Fri 10am-7:30pm

Phone: +962 6 463 3953

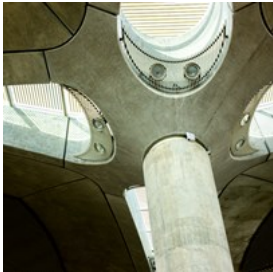
Internet: www.trinitae.com

TOURIST INFORMATION



ra66/Shutterstock.com

Queen Alia International Airport (AMM)



The Queen Alia International Airport is Jordan's primary international air hub.

Passengers can take the Airport Express Bus

connecting the airport to Tabarbour Bus Station via the Seventh Circle. These busses 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. Car hire is also available at the airport.

Photo: Colin Tsoi/cc by-nd 2.0/Flickr

Phone: +962 6 500 2777

Internet: www.qaiairport.com

Passport / Visa



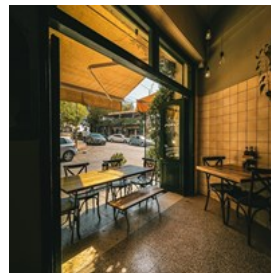
Nationals of most countries are eligible for a single-entry visa upon arrival. The visa process is normally quick and uncomplicated, with no paperwork involved. The upon-arrival visas are not issued at King Hussein Bridge or Wadi Araba land border crossing points. Having Israeli border crossing stamps 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: ConvertKit/unsplash

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-May) or autumn (October-November).

Photo: Zaid Haddad/unsplash

Public Transport



The public transportation system of Amman comprises busses, mini-busses, and service taxis. The service taxis are the most efficient

means of transportation of the three; they stick to fixed routes (and are therefore numbered) and only run within the city. There is a fixed ride price regardless of journey duration. There often aren't clear indications of stops, but these tend to be located at the bottoms of hills. Lines may form during rush hour.

Photo: Jean Housen/cc by-sa 3.0/Wikimedia (cropped)(image cropped)

Internet: www.ammanbus.jo/en

Taxi



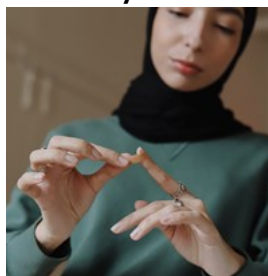
There are plenty of yellow cabs circulating around the city. You can easily flag them down, and they are generally inexpensive. That said, it

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: Paul Keller/cc by 2.0/Flickr

Pharmacy



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

Photo: Good Faces/unsplash

Address: Pharmacy One, Muta Complex, Suliman Al Nabulsi Street 53, Amman

Opening hours: Sat-Thu 8am-11pm, Fri closed

Phone: +962 7 9125 9567

Internet: www.pharmacy-one.com

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: High Contrast/cc by 3.0/Wikimedia (cropped)(image cropped)

Address: 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 (2021)

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 9:30 am to 1:30 pm and from 3:30 to 6 pm. 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

Sun–Thu 8:30am–3:30pm

Fri & Sat closed