



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Jordan - Amman

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Amman
- ✓ **Language:** Arabic
- ✓ **Population:** 4 mln (Amman)
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 1.680
- ✓ **Currency:** Jordan Dinar (JD)
- ✓ **Phone code:** +962
- ✓ **Visa:** Most countries, [check!](#) Free if you enter and leave via [Aqaba](#) and stay less than 1 month.
- ✓ **Emergency phone:** 911
- ✓ **Vaccinations:** Hep-A, Hep-B, Typhoid, Yellow Fever, (Rabies).



History Recap Over 1 Drink

1922: Transjordan state under British supervision. Shortly after: home to 100,000s Palestinian refugees. '46: Independent sovereign kingdom (UN). '48: State of Israel created → more Palestinian refugees. '50: Jordan annexes West Bank. '51: King Abdullah (1st monarch) assassinated by Palestinian gunman for apparent collusion with Israel. '57: UK complete withdrawal. '67: Six-Day-War Israel: more refugees. '70: Clashes between Palestinian guerillas and government: Black September – civil war. '89: 1st general election since '67. '94: Peace treaty with Israel, ending 46-year of official state of war. '96: Food price riots. 2000: Death sentence for men plotting attacks against Israeli & US targets. '01: Electricity line between Jordan/Egypt/Syria. '02: Riots Ma'an. Jordan & Israel joint project to pump water from Red Sea into Dead Sea. Start of 'Al Quada' attacks. '03: King Abdullah 'wins' parliamentary elections. '05: Suicide bombings in international hotels Amman – 60 killed, mostly Jordanians. '11: Tunisian protests unseating president encourage protest in a.o. Jordan. Thrice new Prime Minister. Syrian refugee camps in Jordan. '14: US+Jordan+3 other Arabic states: Air strikes against Syrian Islamic State (*back and forth attacks IS-Jordan*). Arrest of leader Muslim Brotherhood. Jordan against IS.

Travel Seasons

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Winter												
Spring												
Summer												
Autumn												
Best												

Altitude: 773m. Climate: Tropical Climate (Am).

Bucket List For Free

☺ **Sights:** Roman Amphitheater (*paid entry, but can be entirely seen from the outside for free*), Rainbow Street, Souk Jara, Al Balad (*downtown*), [National Library of Jordan](#), Ahl Al Kahf, Qasr al-Kharrana (*fortress*), Iraq al Amir / Qasr al-Abad (*castle*), Qasr Hraneh, Panorama Art Gallery, [Nabad Art Gallery](#), Orient Gallery.

☺ **Mosques (*from the outside*):** King Abdullah Mosque (*the only one open to visitors*), Abu Darwish, Grand Hussein King Hussein Bin Talal.

Worth The Extra \$€¥

Get the Jordan Pass! I regretted not taking it every second of my visit, as it also includes your visa fee and entrance to Petra.

👍 **Paid Sights:** The Citadel, [Royal Automobile Museum](#), Roman Amphitheater, [Jordan Museum](#), National Archaeological Museum, [Children's Museum](#), [Royal Tank Museum](#), [Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts](#), Jordanian Museum of Popular Tradition, Jordan Folklore Museum, Museum of Parliamentary Life, Martyr's Memorial, [Tiraz Centre](#), Anthropological Museum (*University of Jordan*), Exhibition of Arab and Recent Discoveries.

The Earth Becomes My Throne

Budget Bites

- ⌘ **Supermarkets:** Awni, Al Salaymah, Essa, Haboob & plenty of mini-markets.
- ⌘ **Markets:** Souk Jara, Souk el-Khodra, Souk el-Atareen, Souk el-Sagha, Souk el-Bukharia, Souk Mango & More.
- ⌘ **Local food:** Falafel, Moutabel (*eggplant dip*), Hummus, Mansaf (*rice with lamb/yoghurt*), Labneh (*thick yoghurt*), Galayet Bandora (*stewed tomatoes*), Za'atar (*thyme spread*), Kanafeh (*sweet cheese dessert*), Mezze (*tapas*), Maqluba (*communal plate – pile of rice/potatoes/cauliflower/ chicken etc.*), Manakish (*Jordan version of pizza bread*), Zarb (*underground BBQ*), Warek Enab (*stuffed wine leaves*), Kousa Mahshi (*stuffed zucchini*), Bazarek (*sesame cookie*), Mujadara (*rice, lentils and cumin*), Ara'yes (*lamb pita*), Goat Organs, Maftul (*couscous balls with garbanzos and chicken*), Mo'ajanat (*cheese/spinach/ beef pie*), Sambusak (*fried dough balls stuffed with cheese, meat, pine nuts and onions*).
- ⌘ **Go vegan:** Being vegan is very easy and cheap in Jordan, be it monotonous. You'll eat mainly hummus, falafel and moutabel your entire stay. Try to find vegan Galayet Bandora, Mujadara and Tabbouleh.

Mama Said

- ☠ Jordan is generally safe, and people are welcoming and friendly. Take common-sense precautions like you would everywhere else in the world, but don't be paranoid.
- ☠ Jordan is an Islamic country, so dress slightly appropriate. Harassment is uncommon, people are understanding, but respect their culture.
- ☠ As a non-local you can be regarded as a 'wallet on legs' on certain occasions. Always check the local price and negotiate in advance if the price isn't quoted. Be prepared to negotiate with the same person for the same product/service on several occasions, as they might try again when the moment of payment comes.
- ☠ Tap water is not drinkable.
- ☠ Most mosques aren't accessible for visitors. Only the King Abdullah Mosque is. Women are separated.

Sleep Cheap

- ❖ Hostels and alternative accommodation are pretty affordable in Jordan. (*Wild*) Camping is another option, but make sure you do this outside of Amman.
- ❖ Go [Couchsurfing](#) or [Housesitting](#). Also check [WorkAway](#) or [HelpX](#) for work-exchanges.

Festivals

- ☼ **Amman International Theatre Festival:** Jan.
- ☼ **Baladk:** Apr-May.
- ☼ **Jerash Festival:** July.

Nights Best Spent

- ◆ **Nightlife areas:** Rainbow Street.
- ◆ **Theatres:** Ammon Theatre, Rainbow Theatre, مسرح المشيني.

Free-Riding?

- Walking is an option if you're well prepared for the heat and carry plenty of water.
- Downtown you can stop any bus, which will drive to the destination displayed on the front (*usually in Arab though*). To go out of Amman: The [Jett Bus](#) stations are located in Abdali and 7th Circle. They go only once or twice a day on set times to the main tourist attractions, packages available. Local buses leave from Amman Whidat South Bus Station or Tabarbour North Bus Station (*airport-bound*), destination-dependent. [Other airport buses](#) also leave from 4th/5th/6th/7th circle. From these terminals you can also take a shared taxi, but they wait until the cab is full (*can take hours a while*).
- Uber or [Careem](#) (*the Jordanian version of Uber*) are more hassle-free than cabs. In a cab, insist on turning in the meter.
- **Airport:** Queen Alia International Airport (AMM).
- **Hitchhiking** is possible, but uncommon. Locals will consider it dangerous, and possibly ask you for money afterwards. I did it as a woman by myself though, without problems.

Next?

- ➔ **In Jordan:** Petra, Dead Sea, Wadi Hessa, Wadi Numeira, Wadi Bin Hamad.
- ➔ **International destinations close by:** Israel, Saudi-Arabia, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon. (*check current politics!*)