



# Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

## Jordan - Wadi Rum

### Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Amman
- ✓ **Language:** Arabic
- ✓ **Population:** Few hundred Bedouins
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 720
- ✓ **Currency:** Jordan Dinar (JOD)
- ✓ **Country code:** +962 (3 for Aqaba)
- ✓ **Visa:** Few countries, [check!](#)
- ✓ **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 (1<sup>st</sup> 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: 1<sup>st</sup> 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					Rama	dan						
Autumn												
Best												

Altitude: 1750m. Climate: Tropical Climate (Am).

### Bucket List For Free

☺ **Hiking:** The entire Wadi Rum can be hiked, although that isn't recommended due to the extreme heat. If you decide to hike, be well-prepared and bring plenty of water and sun protection. Alternatively, a tour can be booked by any Bedouin guide. (*fill in the contact form in the blog, so I can book it for you at a discounted rate*).

☺ **Sights:** Jebel Khazali (*canyon*), Lawrence's Spring, Burdah Rock Bridge, Al Hasany Dunes, Jebel Umm Al Ishrin, Barrah Canyon, Ain Abu Aineh (*spring*), Jebel Rum, Alameleh inscriptions, Kharazeh Canyon.

### 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:** Wadi Rum has an entry fee. It's included with the Jordan Pass. If you say you're meeting your guide they probably just let you in without paying. Guides will drive you to all the main sights, which is recommended due to the extreme heat which makes walking a challenge.

The Earth Becomes My Throne

## Budget Bites

⌘ **Supermarkets:** The village has a few minimarkets. In the camps meals will be provided and you won't have the opportunity to cook your own meals.

⌘ **Markets:** None.

⌘ **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. The camps will provide vegan food if requested in advance.

## 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 payment moment comes.

☠ Tap water is not drinkable.

☠ Bring enough cash! There are no ATM's in Wadi Rum.

## Sleep Cheap

❖ In Wadi Rum you'll stay in a tent camp, which generally has a shower, comfortable beds and a few hours of electricity. Don't expect Wi-Fi. Food and water are provided. I recommend Rum Road, and I can book it cheaply for you via the contact form on the blog page.

## Festivals

⚙ **Aqaba Traditional Arts Festival:** Feb.

⚙ **Electro Festival:** March (*not yearly – check!*)

⚙ **Ultra X Jordan Marathon:** Oct (*not yearly – check!*)

## Free-Riding?

■ In the desert walking is an option if you're well prepared and carry plenty of water. However, a jeep tour is recommended due to the intense heat.

■ It's highly complicated to travel to Wadi Rum with public transport. Jett Bus operates the connections Amman – Aqaba (*from where you need another local bus to Petra, Al Qweira, Shakria or Disa that drops you off at the Wadi Rum intersection*), and Petra – Wadi Rum (*prices subject to constant change*). They go only once or twice a day on set times. From Amman Southern Terminal you can also take a shared taxi to the Wadi Rum intersection for about 12-14jd, but they wait until the cab is full (*can take hours if you're unlucky*). From there you need to hitchhike.

■ Cabs are rather expensive. In this area there is no Uber or Careem (*the Jordanian version of Uber*).

■ **Airport:** King Hussein International Airport Aqaba (AQJ), 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:** Aqaba, Ma'an, Petra, Amman, Dead Sea.

➔ **International destinations close by:** Israel, Saudi-Arabia, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon.