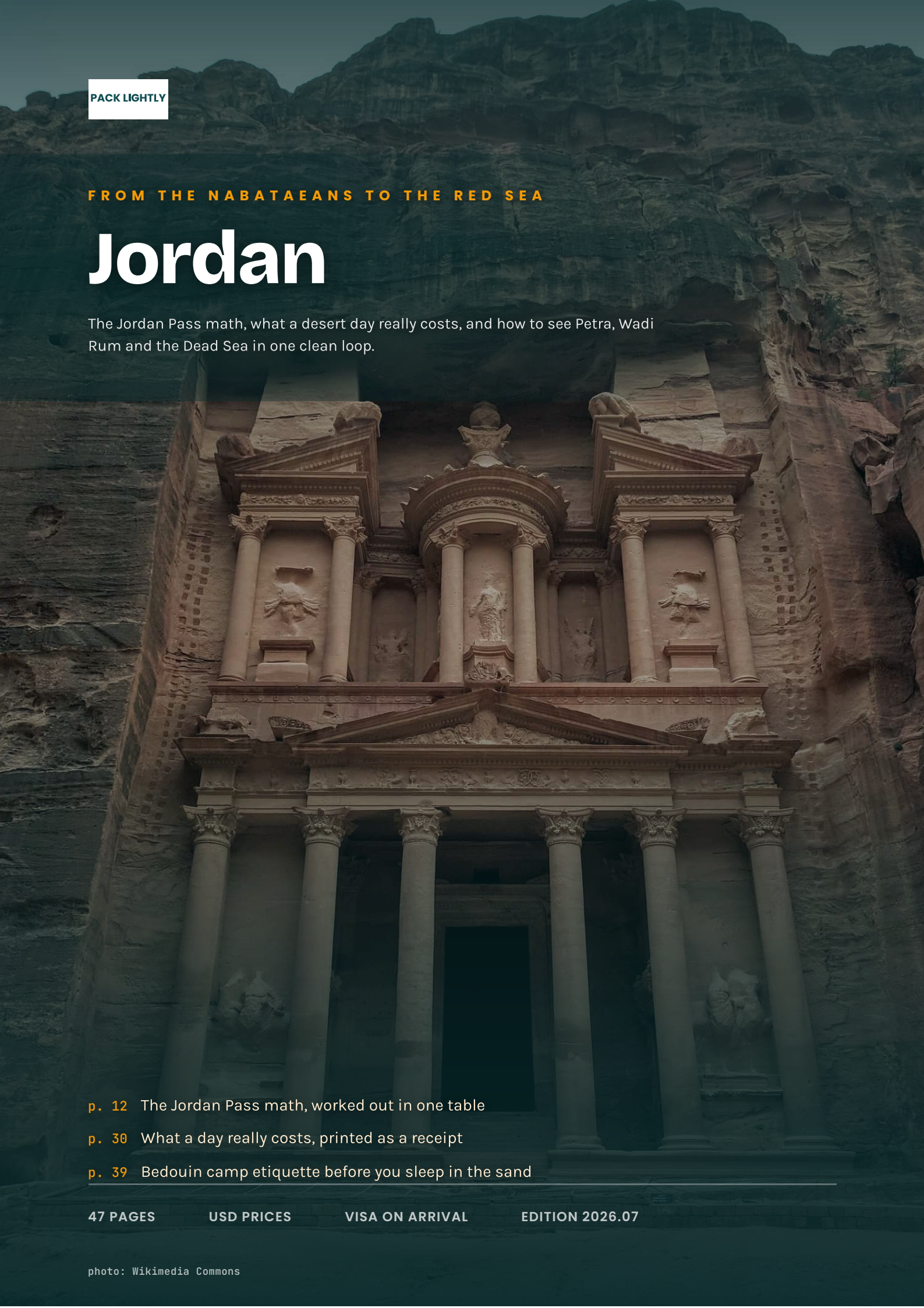
PACK LIGHTLY

FROM THE NABATAEANS TO THE RED SEA

Jordan

The Jordan Pass math, what a desert day really costs, and how to see Petra, Wadi Rum and the Dead Sea in one clean loop.



p. 12 The Jordan Pass math, worked out in one table

p. 30 What a day really costs, printed as a receipt

p. 39 Bedouin camp etiquette before you sleep in the sand

47 PAGES USD PRICES VISA ON ARRIVAL EDITION 2026.07

photo: Wikimedia Commons

Start here

the shape of a Jordan trip, what it costs, what to sort first



Jordan is small enough to cross in a day and dense enough to fill two weeks. The country lines up along one spine: Amman and the Roman north, the Dead Sea rift dropping to the lowest land on earth, Petra carved into the southern sandstone, and Wadi Rum's red desert running down to the Red Sea at Aqaba. This guide is built around that spine: what each stretch costs, whether the Jordan Pass pays off, and the handful of things to lock in before you fly. All of it offline, in your pocket.

The shape of a trip

Most first trips run Amman to the Dead Sea to Petra to Wadi Rum over a week, adding the King's Highway and Aqaba for ten days or more. Short country, long history: drive it, do not rush it.

What a day costs

Backpacking runs about 40 USD a day, mid-range around 90, comfort near 200. The full receipt, bed to mint tea, is itemised on page 30.

Sort before you fly

A visa on arrival is simple, but the Jordan Pass often beats it: it waives the visa fee and covers Petra. Add insurance and an eSIM. Page 32 lists the order.





HOW THE LINKS WORK

Some booking links earn Pack Lightly a commission, at no extra cost to you. Full disclosure is on the last page.

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tap a line to jump straight there

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Your trip on one page

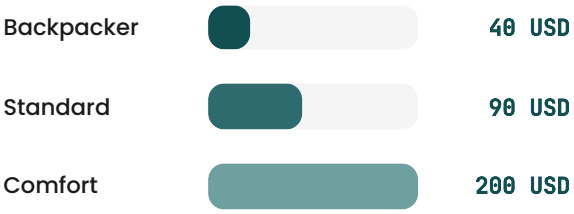
7 to 10 days · 40 to 200 USD/day · best Mar to May and Sep to Nov

If you read nothing else, this page is the trip. The classic first loop runs Amman down the rift to the Dead Sea, on to Petra, into Wadi Rum, and out at Aqaba on the Red Sea. Budget from the bars below, not from resort rack rates. Buy the Jordan Pass before you fly if you plan to see Petra; it covers the visa fee and the ticket in one move. Everything else is easier and cheaper to arrange once you are in the country.

THE ROUTE



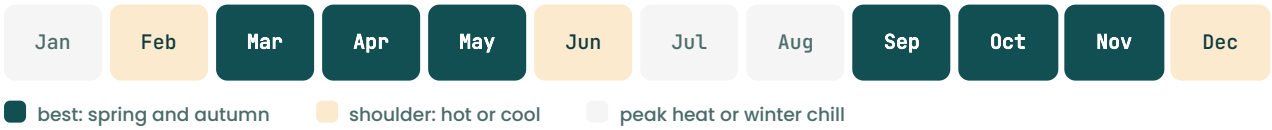
BUDGET PER DAY



BOOK FIRST

01	International flights, 6 to 8 weeks out	Aviasales
02	Jordan Pass and entry rules, before you fly	Sherpa
03	eSIM, install before departure	Saily

BEST MONTHS



Jordan at a glance

scores 0-100 · pack-lightly country-comparison data

SCORECARD

Culture	90
Nature	75
Adventure	75
Safety	75
Food and drinks	70
Budget friendly	55

Budget travel	40 USD/day
Mid-range	90 USD/day
Luxury	200 USD/day

CULTURE · ADVENTURE · NATURE · COUPLES · SOLO · FAMILIES

source: country-comparison tool, 2026-07 · Middle East region avg 65

SIX FRAMES OF THE TRIP













01

The country

What Jordan is, what it is not, who goes, and the four regions you actually need to know before you pick dates.

IN THIS CHAPTER

One country, four regions, four readers 07

What Jordan is

11M people · 4 regions · the calm heart of the Middle East

A constitutional monarchy of about eleven million people, wedged between Israel and the West Bank, Syria, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. Amman is the capital and the arrival point: a hilly, modern city of roughly four million where almost every trip starts. Jordan is the easy Middle East entry. It is stable and welcoming, English runs through the tourism trade, the sites sit close together, and one rental car or a couple of bus legs connects the whole country in a day. The flip side is scale and price: the headline sights are compact, Petra tickets are steep without the Jordan Pass, and a car plus fuel adds up. This guide shows you the version that works in 2026.

CAPITAL
Amman
~4M people

POPULATION
11M
mostly Muslim

CURRENCY
JOD
1 JOD = ~1.41 USD

BEST MONTHS
Mar-May
and Sep-Nov

FOUR REGIONS, FOUR CHARACTERS



North: Amman and the Roman cities

hub · hills · cool winters

Where every trip starts. Amman plus day trips to Jerash and the green Ajloun hills. The country's restaurant scene and its late-night energy.



The rift: Dead Sea and King's Highway

lowest land on earth · biblical sites

The Jordan Valley drops below sea level: float in the Dead Sea, wade Wadi Mujib, and thread Madaba, Mount Nebo and Kerak on the old road south.



The south: Petra and the Nabataeans

rose-rock city · two full days

The reason most people come. A whole rock-cut city carved by desert traders, best given two days rather than the rushed one most tours allow.



Desert and sea: Wadi Rum and Aqaba

red sand · Red Sea reefs

Sleep under the stars in Wadi Rum, then drop an hour south to Aqaba for warm water and coral, the one place Jordan touches the sea.

WHO THIS GUIDE IS WRITTEN FOR

First-time visitor
7 days, mid-range, the Amman to Petra to Wadi Rum loop by rental car.

Culture and history
10 days, the full King's Highway, Nabataean and Roman ruins end to end.

Adventure traveler
Wadi Rum climbs, the Dana to Petra trek, canyoning in Wadi Mujib.

Couple or family
A week of headline sights plus a Dead Sea and Aqaba wind-down.

photos: Wikimedia Commons

02

Where to go

Nine places carry the country: two Roman cities, two days of Petra, a red desert, the lowest sea on earth, and the road that ties them together.

IN THIS CHAPTER

Amman 09

Jerash, the Roman city 10

Petra: the walk in 11

Petra: tickets and the Jordan Pass 12

The Nabataeans, in one page 13

Wadi Rum 14

The Dead Sea 15

Aqaba and the Red Sea 16

The King's Highway road-trip 17

Amman

capital · 2 nights · year-round base


THE CITADEL, JABAL AL-QAL'A

Careem and Uber both work in Amman and beat street taxis on price and hassle. Metered taxis are fine if the driver starts the meter.

The Citadel and Roman Theatre are both free with the Jordan Pass. Go to the Citadel late afternoon for the light over the hills.

Amman is not a postcard city and it is better for it. Built over a run of steep hills in cream limestone, it stacks Roman ruins, an old downtown of coffee houses and gold souks, and a hip cafe scene on Rainbow Street into a working capital that most travelers use as a launch pad. Two nights is right: one to arrive and eat, one to see the sights and day-trip north.

The set pieces are close. The Citadel crowns the highest hill with the Temple of Hercules columns and an Umayyad palace, looking straight down onto the 6,000-seat Roman Theatre cut into the slope below. Downtown (al-Balad) is the old heart: the Friday souk, a knafeh counter that has run for decades, and the call to prayer bouncing between the hills at dusk.

The Citadel

Hercules columns, the Umayyad palace, and the best view over the whole city.

Downtown (al-Balad)

Roman Theatre, the gold and spice souks, and knafeh at Habibah.

Rainbow Street

Cafes, rooftop views over Jabal Amman, and the Friday morning Souk Jara.

Ajloun day trip

A 12th-century Muslim castle in green hills, 90 minutes north with Jerash.

GO DEEPER

The full Amman city guide ranks the top picks, the Citadel visit page maps the hilltop ruins, and the green north sits in the Ajloun Castle page.

Jerash, the Roman city that stayed standing

45 min from Amman · half day · year-round


THE OVAL PLAZA, JERASH

Rome built provincial cities all over this region and let most of them fall to rubble. Jerash is the exception: buried by earthquake and sand, then dug back out almost intact. You walk in under Hadrian's Arch, cross the vast oval forum ringed by columns, and follow the colonnaded Cardo, its paving still grooved by chariot wheels, past temples and two theatres for the better part of a kilometre.

It is a half-day from Amman and pairs naturally with Ajloun Castle in the hills beyond. Come early or late to dodge the tour-bus middle of the day; the low sun is what makes the columns glow. The bagpipe-and-drum shows at the South Theatre are a curiosity, a leftover from the British-era army bands.

Jerash entry is free with the Jordan Pass. Without it, tickets run about 10 JOD at the gate.

Give it two to three hours on foot. There is little shade on the Cardo, so carry water and a hat in summer.

The Oval Plaza

A forum ringed by 56 standing columns, unusual and photogenic at any hour.

Temple of Artemis

Push a spoon under a column base and feel it sway in the wind. It has for centuries.

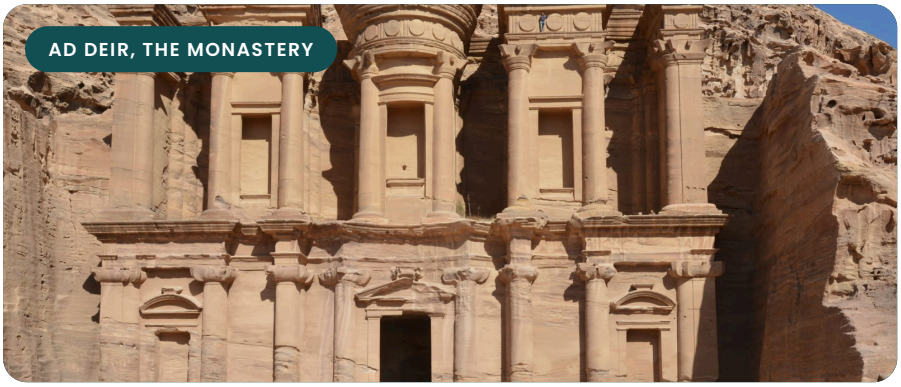
Umm Qais add-on

Ruins over the Sea of Galilee, further north, for a longer day of Decapolis cities.

READ ON The walking route in the Jerash ruins page, more of the town in the Jerash rundown, and the northern viewpoint in the Umm Qais page.

Petra: the walk in

the south · 2 full days · the reason you came



Start at gate opening (6am). You get the Siq near-empty and the Treasury before the day-tour crush from Amman lands at ten.

←

Decline the child touts pushing donkey and camel rides near the Treasury. The animals are worked hard; the walk is the point.

Petra earns the hype and then some. The approach is a mile-long walk through the Siq, a slot canyon so narrow the walls nearly touch, until it splits open on the Treasury: a temple facade carved straight into a rose-pink cliff, forty metres tall, glowing when the morning light reaches it. That first reveal is the photograph everyone comes for, and it lands.

The mistake is stopping there. The Treasury is the doorway, not the city. Beyond it opens a whole Nabataean capital: a colonnaded street, a Roman theatre cut into the rock, royal tombs stacked up the cliffs, and 800 rock steps climbing to the Monastery, bigger than the Treasury and far quieter. Two days lets you do the main valley one day and the climbs, the High Place of Sacrifice and the Monastery, the next.

The Siq and Treasury

The mile-long gorge and the reveal at the end. Walk it slowly, look up.

The Monastery (Ad Deir)

800 steps up, larger than the Treasury, with a tea shack facing it. Go late.

High Place of Sacrifice

A stiff climb to a sacrificial altar and the widest view over the whole basin.

Petra by Night

The Siq by candlelight, Mon, Wed and Thu. Touristy, quiet, and still worth it.

THE LONG VERSION

The full site in the Petra rundown, the facade itself in the Treasury page, and how it compares in the most beautiful places page.

Petra tickets and the Jordan Pass math

buy the pass before you fly · it pays off for almost everyone

Petra is the single most expensive ticket in the country, and the Jordan Pass is built around it. The pass bundles the tourist visa fee (worth 40 JOD on arrival) with entry to Petra and 40 other sites, including Jerash, Wadi Rum and the Amman Citadel. The one condition: you must buy it before you arrive and stay at least three nights in Jordan. For any trip that includes Petra, the sums below almost always land in its favour.

WHAT YOU PAY	PAY AS YOU GO	JORDAN PASS (EXPLORER)
Tourist visa on arrival	40 JOD	0 (waived)
Petra, 2-day ticket	55 JOD	included
Jerash	10 JOD	included
Wadi Rum entry	5 JOD	included
Amman Citadel	3 JOD	included
Running total	**113 JOD**	**75 JOD**

Jordan Pass tiers by Petra days: Wanderer (1 day) 70 JOD · Explorer (2 days) 75 JOD · Expert (3 days) 80 JOD. Prices from jordanpass.jo, captured 2026-05-15.

WHICH TIER TO BUY

- [ ] **Explorer (75 JOD)** is the default: two days in Petra is the right amount of time.
- [ ] **Wanderer (70 JOD)** only if you truly have one Petra day and a tight schedule.
- [ ] **Expert (80 JOD)** for hikers doing the back-route trails or Petra by Night across three days.

The pass is a QR code on your phone. Buy it at jordanpass.jo, show it at the airport for the visa and at every gate.

Skip the pass only if you enter overland with a visa already sorted and are not visiting Petra. That is a rare case.

Confirm your nationality's exact entry rule and whether the visa fee applies before you buy the pass.

Check entry rules on Sherpa

ON THE WEBSITE The full entry walk-through in the Jordan visa guide, and Petra day plans in the Petra rundown.

The Nabataeans, in one page

who carved Petra, and why it sits where it does



Licensed guides wait at the visitor centre, around 50 JOD for a group. Two hours with one changes how you read every facade.

Little Petra (Siq al-Barid), 15 minutes north, is a free Nabataean suburb with painted ceilings and almost no crowd.

Petra reads differently once you know who built it. The Nabataeans were Arab traders who, from around the fourth century BC, controlled the incense and spice routes running from southern Arabia to the Mediterranean. Petra sat at the pinch point, and the tolls made them rich. Their real genius was water: in a desert that gets a few centimetres of rain a year, they cut channels, dams and cisterns that turned flash floods into a year-round supply for a city of tens of thousands.

The architecture is a mash-up on purpose. Facades borrow Hellenistic columns, Egyptian cornices and Mesopotamian steps, because the Nabataeans traded with all of them. Their script became an ancestor of written Arabic. Rome annexed the kingdom in 106 AD, the trade routes shifted to the sea, and the city slowly emptied. What is left is a whole civilisation carved into rock, best understood with a licensed guide at the gate.

The water system

Rock-cut channels still line the Siq. Follow them and you follow the engineering.

Little Petra

A free Nabataean way-station with rare painted frescoes, best in early morning.

The Petra Museum

At the visitor centre, free, a 20-minute grounding before you walk in.

WORTH A READ The carved highlights in the Petra top places page, and the wider archaeology in the landmarks breakdown.

Wadi Rum

the south desert · 1 night minimum · best spring and autumn



WADI RUM, RED SAND AND SANDSTONE

Book the camp and jeep as one package direct with a Rum-based operator. It is cheaper than the Aqaba middlemen and the money stays local.

Summer days hit 40C and nights can drop near freezing in winter. Bring a layer whatever the season.

Wadi Rum is the desert everyone pictures: red sand between sandstone and granite mountains that rise straight off the valley floor, so cinematic that it stands in for Mars in half the films you have seen. It is a protected wilderness run by the local Bedouin, and the only way to see it is with them. Spend a day crossing it by 4x4, then stay the night, because the desert is a different place at dusk and under the stars.

A standard jeep day hits the natural arches, the narrow canyons with Nabataean and Thamudic inscriptions, Lawrence's Spring, and a dune to run down at sunset. Scramble Burdah Rock Bridge if you have the nerve, or hire a Bedouin guide for a real climb on Jebel Rum. Camps range from basic goat-hair tents to the glass domes marketed for the stargazing; both put you under a sky with no light for a hundred kilometres.

Jeep safari

Arches, canyons, inscriptions and a sunset dune. The half-day covers the classics.

Overnight camp

Goat-hair tents or glass domes. Zarb dinner, a fire, and the whole Milky Way.

Rock scrambles

Burdah Bridge and Um Frouth arch for the brave; Jebel Rum with a guide.

Camel and balloon

A slow camel hour at dawn, or a sunrise hot-air balloon over the valley.

MORE DETAIL

The eight best stops in the Wadi Rum rundown, the drive itself in the jeep safari page, and desert peaks in the mountains write-up.

The Dead Sea

the rift · half a day or one night · lowest land on earth



The Dead Sea is a genuine oddity: a lake so salty, more than a third mineral, that you cannot sink in it. You wade out, lean back, and the water pushes you up to bob like a cork, usually with a paperback for the photo. The shoreline sits about 430 metres below sea level, the lowest dry land on the planet, and the air down here is thick, warm and hazy against the hills of the West Bank across the water.

You do it from the northern shore at Sweimeh, either at a resort with beach access and pools or at the public Amman Beach for a day-use fee. Slather on the black mineral mud, let it dry, rinse it off, and you are done inside a couple of hours. Half a day is plenty on the way between Amman and the King's Highway; one night buys a sunset and a spa.

Do not shave the day before and keep the water out of your eyes and mouth. A tiny cut in this brine is a real sting. Rinse in fresh water after.

Bring sandals you can wade in. The salt crust on the seabed is sharp underfoot at most entry points.

Float and mud

The whole ritual: bob, coat yourself in mineral mud, rinse, repeat once.

Amman Beach

The public option with showers and pools if you skip the resort day-pass.

Wadi Mujib add-on

The Siq Trail canyon wade starts nearby, open spring to autumn. See page 21.

KEEP READING The float itself in the Dead Sea floating page, the wider shore in the Dead Sea rundown. Check live shore-side rooms on Stay22.

Aqaba and the Red Sea

the only coast · 1-2 nights · warm water year-round



No flying for 18 to 24 hours after diving. Put the dive day before Wadi Rum, not on the way to the airport home.

A domestic flight or the JETT bus links Aqaba to Amman, so you can fly home from the south without doubling back.

Aqaba is the whole of Jordan's coastline, a single warm-water city at the tip of the Red Sea where the borders of four countries meet across the gulf. It is the winter-sun corner of the country and the natural place to end a trip: an hour from Wadi Rum, two from Petra, and a tax-free zone that makes it the cheapest place to stock up. The town itself is low-key, more working port than resort strip, with a fort, a fish-souk dinner scene, and a relaxed Gulf-of-Aqaba pace.

The reason to linger is underwater. The reefs start metres off the shore, so this is rare shore-access diving and snorkelling: the Japanese Garden reef, the Cedar Pride wreck deliberately sunk as an artificial reef, and an underwater military museum of tanks and vehicles. Beaches are modest by Red Sea standards, so treat the sea as the activity, not the sunbathing.

Shore snorkelling

The Japanese Garden and the Cedar Pride wreck, both reachable from the beach.

Diving

Coral walls, the wreck, and a sunken tank museum, all at gentle recreational depths.

Town and souk

Aqaba Fort, the fish market, and a tax-free strip for a last-night restock.

SEE ALSO The city in the Aqaba rundown, reefs from the beach in the snorkelling page, and the dive sites in the diving write-up.

The King's Highway road-trip

Amman to Petra the slow way · one long day or two


DANA RESERVE, ON THE KING'S HIGHWAY


WADI MUJIB

A rental car is the only sensible way to drive the King's Highway. Buses skip most of it and take the fast road instead.

Two roads run south from Amman to Petra. The Desert Highway is the fast, dull one. The King's Highway is the ancient one, a winding route that has carried caravans and pilgrims for three thousand years, and it strings together most of central Jordan's smaller sights in a single drive. Take it with a rental car and it becomes the trip, not the transfer.

The classic stops line up in order: Madaba for its sixth-century mosaic map of the Holy Land, Mount Nebo for the view Moses is said to have seen over the Promised Land, the vast canyon of Wadi Mujib, the Crusader stronghold at Kerak, and the eco-lodges of the Dana Biosphere Reserve. Do it as one long day if you must, or break it with a night at Dana or Kerak and arrive in Petra unhurried.

Madaba

The mosaic map of the Holy Land in St George's Church, plus a mosaic-craft old town.

Mount Nebo

Moses's viewpoint over the Jordan Valley, a memorial church, and clear-day West Bank views.

Kerak Castle

A hulking Crusader fortress with dark stone passages, halfway to Petra.

Dana Biosphere

Jordan's largest reserve: cliff-edge eco-lodges and the trail that walks down to Petra.

THE FULL PICTURE

The mosaic map in the Madaba page, the viewpoint in the Mount Nebo page, the fortress in the Kerak Castle page, and the trail in the Dana hike page.

03

What to do

Hike a canyon, dive a reef, eat the national dish with your hands, and pick where to sleep in each region with the tours worth paying for.

IN THIS CHAPTER

What Jordan asks of your days 19

Food, the plates to order 20

Stay: Amman and Petra 21

Stay: Wadi Rum and Aqaba 22

What Jordan asks you to do with your days

walk the ruins · wade the canyons · sleep in the desert



Jordan is an active country dressed as a cultural one. Yes, the days are built around ruins and you will walk more of them than you expect, Petra alone is ten kilometres if you do it properly. But the landscape keeps handing you something more physical: a canyon to wade, a desert to climb, a reef to drop into.

The threshold activity that defines most trips is one of three. Wading the Wadi Mujib Siq Trail, swimming and scrambling up a river gorge to a waterfall. The Dana-to-Petra trek, a multi-day walk that arrives at the Monastery from the back. Or a first Red Sea dive off the Aqaba shore. Pick one and build a day around it; the ruins are the glue between.

The Wadi Mujib Siq Trail runs roughly April to October only; it closes when flash-flood risk is high. Check before you drive out.

The Dana-to-Petra trek needs a guide and a night out. The Jordan Trail association lists vetted operators for the section.

Wadi Mujib Siq Trail

A wet scramble up a river canyon to a waterfall, life jacket provided. Summer only.

Dana hikes

Day trails from the eco-lodges or the multi-day walk that ends at Petra's Monastery.

Red Sea diving

Shore-access reefs and wrecks off Aqaba, gentle enough for a first open-water dive.

A Bedouin night

A camp in Wadi Rum with a zarb dinner and no light for a hundred kilometres.

KEEP READING The reserve trails in the national parks page, the canyon in the waterfalls write-up, and the wildlife you might meet in the wildlife breakdown.

Food: the plates to order

mezze culture · shared plates · 2 to 12 USD a dish

Jordanian food is generous by design: mezze spreads meant for sharing, bread as a utensil, and a national pride in feeding a guest more than they can finish. Street eating is cheap and excellent, falafel, hummus and shawarma for a couple of dollars, while the sit-down dishes reward a table of people. Order mansaf at least once, ideally in someone's home or a Bedouin camp, and eat it the local way with your right hand. These six are the shortlist.



Mansaf mansaf

USD 7-35 · the national dish

Lamb slow-cooked in jameed, a tangy dried-yogurt sauce, over rice and flatbread. Served on a shared platter and eaten with the right hand. The plate to build a trip around.

Falafel

Falafel falafel

USD 2-5 · everywhere

Fried chickpea fritters, crisp outside and green inside, stuffed into fresh bread with pickles and tahini. The default breakfast and the cheapest good meal in the country.

Hummus

Hummus hummus

USD 3-6 · with any meal

The benchmark dip: chickpeas, tahini, lemon and olive oil, wiped up with warm bread. Order it with a spoon of foul (fava beans) for the full local breakfast.

Shawarma

Shawarma shawarma

USD 2-5 · lunch on the go

Chicken or lamb shaved off the spit and rolled with garlic sauce and pickles. A busy shop with a fast-turning spit is the safe, good one; the empty one is neither.

Zarb

Zarb zarb

USD 15-35 · Wadi Rum camps

A Bedouin barbecue cooked in a sand oven: meat and vegetables buried over coals for hours, then lifted out at the camp. Part dinner, part ceremony. Worth the desert night.

Maqluba

Maqluba maqluba

USD 6-12 · family tables

Literally upside-down: rice, meat and fried vegetables cooked in one pot, then flipped onto a platter at the table. A home dish you find in the better local restaurants.

Finish with knafeh, a warm cheese-and-syrup pastry under orange semolina. Habibah in downtown Amman is the standard everyone measures against.

Mint tea and cardamom-spiced Arabic coffee arrive constantly and are usually a gift. Accepting is the polite move, not a purchase.

ON THE WEBSITE

Dishes, drinks and where to eat them in the food and drinks guide, and the words to order them in the language page.

Where to stay: Amman and Petra

prices per night, double room · location beats stars

Two rules cover most of Jordan. First: in Amman, sleep in Jabal Amman or downtown so the Citadel, souk and Rainbow Street are on foot. Second: at Petra, stay in Wadi Musa, the town at the gate, and pick a place within walking distance of the entrance so you can be first through at 6am and walk back for a nap at midday.

Amman

hostel 12 USD **mid 45 USD** **comfort 110 USD**

Jabal Amman and downtown put the sights on foot and the best cafes at the door. Rates swing with the season, so pull up live prices around the centre on Stay22 before you commit; backpackers run the social scene through Hostelworld.

Petra (Wadi Musa)

hostel 13 USD **mid 50 USD** **comfort 130 USD**

Wadi Musa climbs a hillside above the gate; the closer to the visitor centre, the shorter the pre-dawn walk. Compare hillside rooms on Stay22, or find a dorm bed on Hostelworld.

Mid-range and up across both towns, with free cancellation while your route is still moving.

Find Stays on Booking.com

TOURS WORTH PAYING FOR

Petra and Dead Sea day trip from Amman

from 80 USD
5.0 (25 reviews)
12 hours

Authentic Jordanian cooking with a Petra family

from 28 USD
5.0 (15 reviews)
2 hours

Discover Petra highlights, guided full day

from 150 USD
5.0 (20 reviews)
8 hours

Live Viator tours, prices captured July 2026, ratings from verified bookings. Tap a card to book.

Where to stay: Wadi Rum and Aqaba

prices per night, double room · a camp then a coast

The south is a two-night pairing: one under canvas in Wadi Rum, one on the water in Aqaba. In the desert the choice is the camp, not the hotel, and it comes bundled with your jeep tour and meals. In Aqaba the calculus is beach or reef access; anywhere central puts the dive shops and the fish souk in reach.

Wadi Rum (desert camps)

basic camp **35 USD** mid **70 USD** bubble dome **180 USD**

Camps sit inside the protected area and include dinner, a jeep tour and breakfast. Basic goat-hair tents share bathrooms; glass domes sell the stargazing at a premium. Compare camps and lodges on Stay22, or book a bed through Hostelworld.

Aqaba

hostel **12 USD** mid **45 USD** comfort **120 USD**

Central Aqaba keeps the dive shops, the souk and the ferry in walking reach; the beach resorts sit south along the shore. See live rooms on Stay22, or the dorm scene on Hostelworld.

Hotels and resorts across Aqaba and the desert lodges, cancellable until a few days before check-in.

Find Stays on Booking.com

TOURS WORTH PAYING FOR

Wadi Rum jeep tour and overnight under the stars

from 75 USD
5.0 (40 reviews)
overnight

Wadi Rum jeep tour with a Bedouin camp night

from 65 USD
5.0 (39 reviews)
overnight

Wadi Rum full-day jeep tour

from 70 USD
5.0 (24 reviews)
8 hours

Live Viator tours, prices captured July 2026, ratings from verified bookings. Tap a card to book.

04

Routes

Eight ways through the country, the week worth building around, a longer loop for the north, and the drive drawn as a transit map.

IN THIS CHAPTER

Pick your trip, 8 paths 24

7 days, day by day 25

10 days with the north 26

The loop as a transit map 27

Pick your trip

three dimensions, eight paths · find yours, jump to the matching itinerary

Who you travel with, how long you have, and what you spend per night decide the route before any list of sights does. Find your row below; the seven-day loop on the next spread covers the two most common paths in full.

SOLO · 3D · FAST

Amman, Petra, Wadi Rum

USD 380 · buses + one camp

- Amman 1: Citadel + downtown
- Petra 1: full day
- Wadi Rum 1: jeep + camp

FIRST-TIMER · 7D · MID

The classic rift-to-sea loop

USD 900 · rental car

- Amman 2 · Dead Sea 1
- Petra 2 · Wadi Rum 1
- Aqaba 1: fly home south

COUPLE · 7D · COMFORT

Slow south, no buses

USD 2,600 for 2 · driver

- Amman 2: boutique Jabal
- Dead Sea 1: resort + spa
- Petra 2 · Wadi Rum dome 1

CULTURE · 10D · MID

The full King's Highway

USD 1,400 · rental car

- Amman + Jerash 3
- Madaba, Kerak, Dana 3
- Petra 2 · Wadi Rum 2

FAMILY · 8D · MID

Headline sights, relaxed pace

USD 3,400 · family of 4

- Amman 2 · Dead Sea 1
- Petra 2: split easy days
- Wadi Rum 1 · Aqaba 2

ADVENTURE · 10D · MID

Canyons, treks, and climbs

USD 1,600 · guided sections

- Wadi Mujib Siq Trail
- Dana-to-Petra trek 3
- Wadi Rum climbs 2

TWO WEEKS · 14D · MID

Everything, north to sea

USD 2,000 · rental car

- North: Jerash, Ajloun, Umm Qais
- Rift + King's Highway
- Petra 2 · Wadi Rum 2 · Aqaba 2

BUDGET · 7D · BACKPACKER

JETT buses and hostels

USD 500 · public transport

- Amman 2 · JETT to Petra
- Petra 2 · shared to Rum
- Wadi Rum 1 · Aqaba 1

READY-MADE ROUTES

The short version in the 3-day itinerary, the full week in the 7-day itinerary, and the grand loop in the 14-day itinerary.

7 days, the essential loop

Amman to Aqaba · rift, Petra, desert, sea

The week most first-timers should do, built around a rental car so you can drive the King's Highway and stop where you like. Buy the Jordan Pass before you fly and fly home from Aqaba to avoid backtracking north. The full version, with alternatives, is the 7-day itinerary on the site.

1 Arrive Amman
airport · day zero

Land, pick up the car or a taxi to Jabal Amman. Downtown dinner, knafeh at Habibah, an early night.

2 Amman and Jerash
Citadel + Roman city

Citadel and Roman Theatre in the morning, drive to Jerash for the afternoon light on the Cardo.

3 Dead Sea and Madaba
float + King's Hwy

Float and mud at the Dead Sea, then Madaba mosaics and Mount Nebo on the drive toward Petra.

4 Petra, the main valley
6am gate start

Siq at opening, the Treasury near-empty, then the street, theatre and royal tombs. Rest at midday.

5 Petra, the climbs
Monastery + High Place

800 steps to the Monastery early, the High Place of Sacrifice after. Drive to Wadi Rum by evening.

6 Wadi Rum
jeep + camp night

Half-day jeep across the arches and canyons, sunset on a dune, zarb dinner and stars at the camp.

7 Aqaba, then home
1h drive · fly out

A morning reef swim off the Aqaba shore, a last fish-souk lunch, and the flight home from the south.

No car? JETT runs a daily Amman to Petra bus and a Petra to Aqaba link. You lose the King's Highway stops but keep the loop.

If a dive is on the list, do it on day 7 morning only if you are not flying that day. Otherwise swap Aqaba earlier.

10 days, adding the north

the same loop plus the Roman north and a slower rift

Three extra days turn the essential loop into the trip Jordan really deserves: the green north, the whole King's Highway at a human pace, and time to trek out of Dana. It scales up cleanly to the full 14-day itinerary if you have two weeks.

1	**Amman** Citadel + downtown	Arrive, settle in Jabal Amman, walk the Citadel and the souk, dinner downtown.
2	**Jerash and Ajloun** Roman + Crusader north	The colonnaded city in the morning, the hilltop castle and green hills in the afternoon.
3	**Umm Qais** views over the valley	Decapolis ruins over the Sea of Galilee, then back toward the rift for the night.
4	**Dead Sea and Mount Nebo** float + Madaba	Float and mud, then Madaba's mosaic map and the view from Mount Nebo.
5	**Kerak and Dana** the King's Highway south	The Crusader fortress at Kerak, then a cliff-edge eco-lodge at Dana for the night.
6	**Dana and Little Petra** hike + Nabataean suburb	A reserve trail in the morning, Little Petra's painted ceilings on the way to Wadi Musa.
7	**Petra, main valley** 6am gate start	Siq at opening, Treasury, street and tombs, a midday rest, tombs again for the light.
8	**Petra, the climbs** Monastery + High Place	The Monastery early, the High Place after, Petra by Night if it falls on a Mon, Wed or Thu.
9	**Wadi Rum** jeep + camp night	A full desert day, a scramble or a camel hour, and a night under the stars at a Bedouin camp.
10	**Aqaba, then home** reef + fly out	A last morning on the reef, a fish lunch, and the flight home from the Red Sea.

The loop as a transit map

one road down the spine of the country

Jordan is really one line. The country runs north to south, and so does almost every trip: Amman at the top, the rift and the King's Highway down the middle, Petra and Wadi Rum near the bottom, and Aqaba at the tip. A rental car drives the whole thing in a relaxed week; JETT buses cover the main legs if you would rather not drive.



rental car · JETT bus · domestic flight

The Amman to Aqaba flight, explained

WHAT EACH LEG COSTS

Amman to Jerash minibus or car · 45 min **~5 USD**	**Amman to Dead Sea** taxi or tour · 1h **~25 USD**	**Amman to Petra** JETT bus · 4h **~15 USD**
Petra to Wadi Rum shared transfer · 1.5h **~15 USD**	**Wadi Rum to Aqaba** transfer · 1h **~12 USD**	**Amman to Aqaba** domestic flight · 1h **~50 USD**

fares: operator snapshot, 2026 · indicative one-way per person · a rental car runs 30 to 45 USD a day plus fuel

05

When to go

Two clean windows, a brutal desert summer, and a cool wet winter. Plus what a day actually costs, printed the way the day spends it.

IN THIS CHAPTER

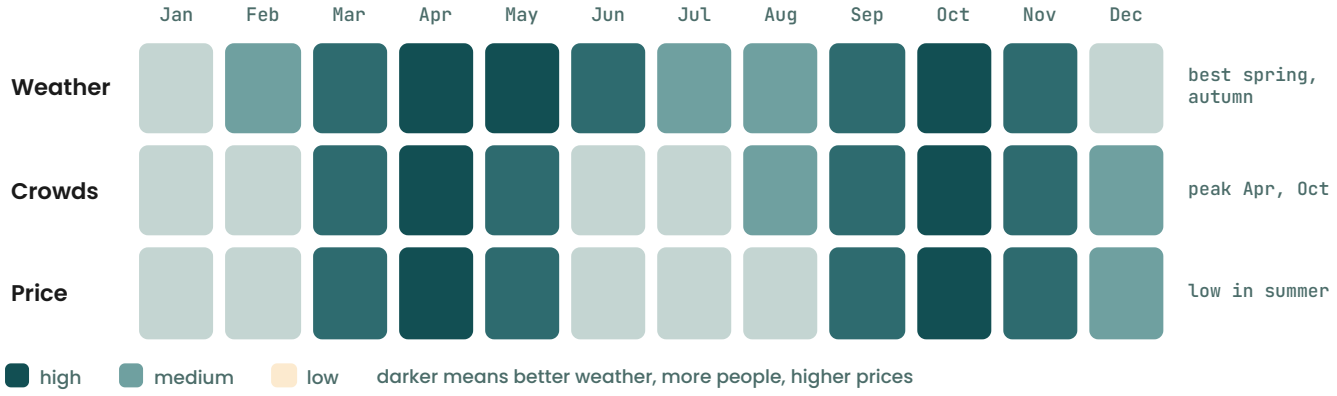
Weather, crowds, price 29

What a day costs 30

Weather, crowds, price

12-month calendar · spring and autumn win

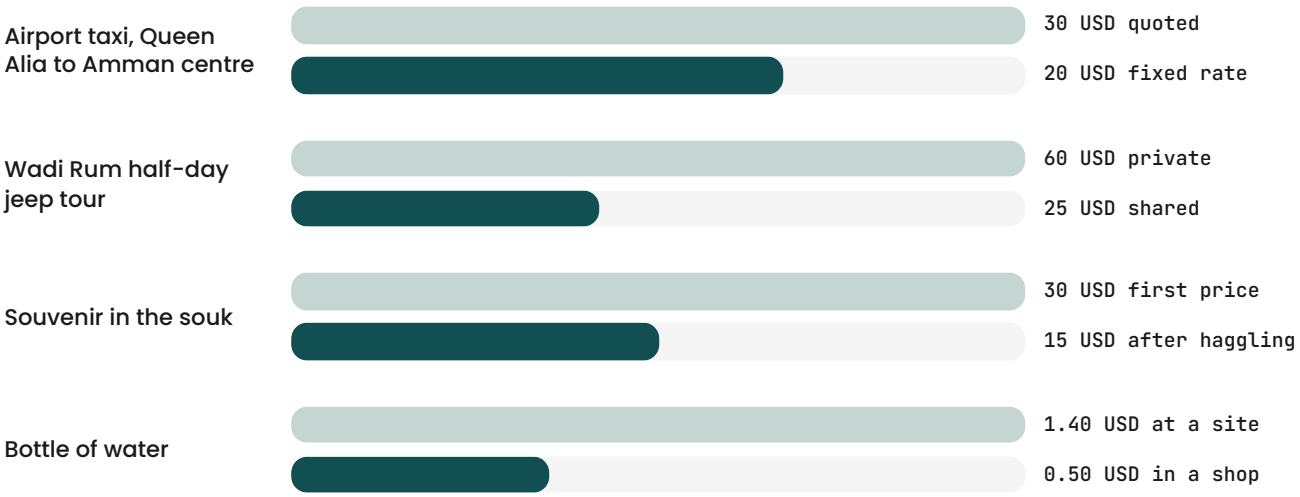
Jordan has two comfortable windows and two to plan around. Spring, March to May, and autumn, September to November, are the sweet spots: warm days, cool nights, wildflowers or clear light. Summer bakes the desert and the Dead Sea past 40C, though Amman's altitude keeps it bearable. Winter is cool and wet in the north, cold enough to snow in Petra, but quiet and cheap. The shoulder weeks either side of the peaks are the value play.



source: best-travel-time dataset · captured 2026-05-17

WHAT THINGS COST: QUOTED VS PAID

SAMPLE DATA



05

What a day costs

three travel styles · printed the way the day spends it

Daily budgets hide in averages, so here is the day itemized instead: a bed, three meals, getting around, one thing worth doing, and the tea at the end. Three real versions of the same Tuesday in Jordan. The Jordan Pass and a rental car are trip-level costs, spread across the whole visit, not shown here.

A DAY IN JORDAN

* backpacker *

hostel dorm	13.00
falafel breakfast	2.00
shawarma lunch	3.00
mezze dinner	6.00
service taxi + walk	3.00
site entry (pass, per day)	6.00
water + snacks	2.00
mint tea	1.00
TOTAL / DAY	**~40 USD**

country-comparison data · 2026-07

A DAY IN JORDAN

* standard *

3-star double, half	35.00
cafe breakfast	5.00
restaurant lunch	8.00
dinner with a drink	14.00
Careem rides	8.00
site entry (pass, per day)	6.00
tea + snacks	4.00
TOTAL / DAY	**~90 USD**

country-comparison data · 2026-07

A DAY IN JORDAN

* comfort *

4-star double, half	110.00
hotel breakfast	incl.
restaurant lunch	15.00
dinner, good table	28.00
private driver, half day	25.00
spa or Dead Sea day	15.00
drinks + tea	12.00
TOTAL / DAY	**~200 USD**

country-comparison data · 2026-07

Run the same numbers for your own dates, group size and currency in the free budget calculator on pack-lightly.com.

Open the Budget Calculator

The gap between tiers is the room and the car, not the food. Eating well is cheap at every level; the bed and the wheels drive the budget.

Carry dinars in cash for camps, service taxis and small sites. Cards work in Amman hotels and malls, less so in the desert and Wadi Musa.

06

Practical

Pass, money, driving, eSIM, health, packing. The boring parts you only read once. Done right, you never think about them again.

IN THIS CHAPTER

Book in this order 32

Money and getting around 33

Bed, bag, signal 34

Health basics 35

Common questions 36

Book in this order

four things before you fly · everything else on the ground

Jordan rewards a little planning up front and punishes over-planning after. Four things genuinely pay to sort ahead, and they have a natural order. The Jordan Pass is the one that matters most: buy it before departure and it doubles as your visa.

8 wk before

International flights

Fares to Amman (Queen Alia) bottom out six to eight weeks ahead. Compare an open-jaw ticket home from Aqaba so you do not backtrack north.

Compare fares on Aviasales

4 wk before

Jordan Pass, insurance, visa check

Confirm your entry rule, then buy the Jordan Pass at jordanpass.jo (it waives the visa fee and covers Petra, as long as you stay three nights). Add travel insurance with medical cover and, if you plan to dive or hike, an activity clause.

Check entry rules per passport

2 wk before

First nights and the car

Book your first two nights in Amman and reserve a rental car, the best way to drive the King's Highway. The rest of the beds can wait until you are there.

Book the first nights on Booking.com

1 wk before

eSIM

Install before departure, activate on landing. A 5 GB plan covers a week; 10 GB covers two, plenty for maps and uploads across the desert stretches with coverage.

Set up a Saily eSIM

Passport rule: six months validity beyond arrival. Check it now; renewals run slow in peak season.

The three-night rule for the visa waiver is real. A quick one-night stopover does not qualify for the free-visa part of the pass.

Money and getting around

cash + card · rent a car, or bus the main legs

The dinar (JOD) is worth more than the dollar, so the numbers feel small and add up fast. Carry cash for camps, service taxis, small sites and tips; cards work in Amman hotels, malls and bigger restaurants. Pull dinars from a bank ATM rather than the airport exchange desk, and tell your bank the dates so a card is not blocked on day one.

ITEM	BACKPACKER	MID	COMFORT
Hostel dorm / private 3-star	USD 13	USD 35	USD 110
Street meal / restaurant	USD 3	USD 12	USD 30
Mint tea / coffee out	USD 1	USD 3	USD 6
Wadi Rum camp, per night	USD 35	USD 70	USD 180
Careem across Amman	USD 3	USD 5	USD 10

verified 2026-05 · indicative per-person USD · rates track jordanpass.jo and Booking snapshots

GETTING AROUND: WHAT BEATS WHAT

A rental car is the winning move for most trips: it unlocks the King's Highway, the reserves and the flexibility to stop, and it runs 30 to 45 USD a day plus cheap fuel. Roads are good and signposted in English, though Amman traffic and aggressive overtaking take a day to adjust to. No car? The JETT bus runs comfortable daily services on the main legs, Amman to Petra and Amman to Aqaba, and cheap shared service taxis link smaller towns. In Amman, Careem and Uber beat street taxis on price and the meter argument. A one-hour domestic flight connects Amman and Aqaba if you want to skip the drive back north. Border crossings to Israel and the Aqaba ferry to Egypt exist but sit outside this guide.

Always pay in dinars when a card terminal offers "your" currency; the dynamic-conversion rate quietly adds 4 to 7 percent.

Fuel up before the desert and reserve stretches; stations thin out south of Petra and around Dana.

THE FULL PICTURE

Notes and rates in the currency rundown, the road rules and permit in the driving page, and cheap savings in the budget breakdown.

Bed, bag, signal

hotels · packing for heat and culture · eSIM

BED

For hotels and guesthouses, Booking.com wins on free-cancellation and depth; for social hostels in Amman and Wadi Musa, Hostelworld has the deeper review pool. Wadi Rum camps are best booked direct with the operator, since the price bundles your jeep tour and meals.

BAG: THE ONE-WEEK LIST FOR HEAT AND CULTURE

- [ ] Light layers that cover shoulders and knees (sites and mosques)
- [ ] One warm layer for desert nights and Amman winters
- [ ] Sturdy trainers for Petra; sandals you can wade in for the Dead Sea
- [ ] A scarf or shawl (women, for mosque visits and cool evenings)
- [ ] SPF 50, sunglasses, and a wide hat for the exposed ruins
- [ ] Reusable water bottle and electrolyte sachets
- [ ] Dry bag for the Dead Sea and Wadi Mujib
- [ ] Type C/D/G plug adapter and a power bank
- [ ] Two cards in separate pockets, plus cash in dinars
- [ ] Small first-aid kit: blister plasters, paracetamol, loperamide

Signal. Buy the eSIM before you fly and activate on landing. A 5 GB plan covers a week (~8 USD); 10 GB covers two. Coverage is strong in the cities and along the highway, patchy deep in Wadi Rum, which is part of the point. A local Zain or Orange SIM is cheaper for longer stays.

Set up a Saily eSIM

GO DEEPER The full seasonal list in the packing list, what to wear where in the dress code page, and data plans compared in the eSIM write-up.

Health basics

low-drama · the desert heat is the real risk

Jordan is an easy health destination. There is no malaria, pharmacies are everywhere and competent, and Amman's private hospitals are good enough that people fly in for treatment. The genuine risks are heat, dehydration and the sun at exposed sites, plus the usual traveller's stomach. The list below is everything that actually needs doing, in order.

THE SHORT LIST

- [ ] **Six weeks before:** travel-clinic check. Confirm routine vaccines (MMR, DPT, polio) are current.
- [ ] **Recommended:** Hepatitis A and typhoid for street-food trips; Hep A is a two-shot series, so start early.
- [ ] **Skip:** malaria pills. Jordan is malaria-free.
- [ ] **Heat plan:** two litres of water a day minimum in the desert, a hat, and electrolytes. Heatstroke is the number-one traveller problem in summer.
- [ ] **Pack:** loperamide, paracetamol, blister plasters and rehydration sachets. Pharmacies restock all of it.
- [ ] **Insurance:** medical cover with an activity clause if you dive Aqaba, canyon Wadi Mujib, or climb Wadi Rum.

IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG

Dial 911 for any emergency, the unified number for police, fire and ambulance. Private hospitals in Amman, including the Jordan Hospital and Abdali, are English-speaking and used to insurance paperwork; for anything serious, head there rather than a rural clinic. For small stuff, any pharmacy handles stomach upsets, sunburn and minor wounds over the counter, often without a prescription.

Tap water is chlorinated and broadly safe in cities, but most travellers stick to bottled or a filter bottle to be sure.

Petra done properly is 10 kilometres on hard ground. Good shoes and an early start beat the midday heat and the sore feet.

READ ON The shot-by-shot schedule in the vaccinations breakdown, hospital picks in the hospitals page, and cover compared in the travel insurance rundown.

Common questions

the eight most-asked, answered straight

Is Jordan safe to visit?

Yes. Jordan is one of the safest countries in the region, with very low crime against tourists and a stable, welcoming feel. The unrest in some neighbouring countries does not spill into the tourist areas, which sit far from any border of concern.

Do I need a visa, or is the Jordan Pass enough?

Most nationalities get a visa on arrival. If you buy the Jordan Pass before you fly and stay at least three nights, it waives the visa fee and covers Petra and 40 other sites, which is cheaper for almost any trip that includes Petra.

How many days do I need?

Seven days covers the essential loop: Amman, the Dead Sea, two days at Petra, Wadi Rum and Aqaba. Ten gives you the Roman north and the full King's Highway at a human pace. Three is the bare minimum for Petra and Wadi Rum only.

Rent a car or take buses?

Rent a car if you want the King's Highway, the reserves and the freedom to stop. Take the JETT bus if you prefer to sit back: it covers Amman to Petra and Amman to Aqaba comfortably, but skips the scenic middle.

What should women wear?

Jordan is relaxed for the region, but modest dress is respected: shoulders and knees covered at sites and in towns, a scarf handy for mosques. Amman and the resorts are more liberal; the desert and small towns are more conservative.

Can I visit during Ramadan?

Yes, and it has its own atmosphere, but daytime eating and drinking in public are limited and many restaurants close until sunset. Sites stay open, tourists can eat in hotels, and the evening iftar meals are a highlight. Expect shorter hours.

Is Petra worth two days?

Yes. One day sees the Siq, the Treasury and the main valley; the second frees you for the Monastery climb, the High Place of Sacrifice and the back trails, without the exhaustion of cramming it all into a single ten-kilometre push.

Can I drink the tap water?

It is chlorinated and generally safe in the cities, but most visitors drink bottled or use a filter bottle, both to avoid an upset stomach and because Jordan is a water-scarce country where refilling responsibly matters.

06

MORE ANSWERS The safety picture in the safety breakdown, culture and etiquette in the culture page, and the holiday calendar in the public holidays page.

07

Safe and smart

A very safe country with a few soft hustles, the etiquette that is load-bearing, a night in a Bedouin camp done right, and the words that change how locals respond.

IN THIS CHAPTER

Safe, with a few soft hustles 38

Bedouin camp etiquette 39

Etiquette: do and do not 40

Emergency numbers + phrases 41

Safe, with a few soft hustles

no real danger · a handful of tourist-zone hustles to shrug off

Jordan is genuinely safe. Violent crime against tourists is rare, and the biggest risk on the trip is the road and the sun, not people. What you will meet is a small set of gentle hustles clustered around the tourist sites, none of them dangerous and all of them easy to sidestep once you know the shape of them.

01

The "meter is broken" taxi

At the airport or a tourist rank, a driver waves off the meter and names a fixed price two or three times the real fare. It is the oldest one in the book.

The fix: ask for the meter, or use Careem and Uber in Amman where the price is fixed in the app before you ride.

02

The Petra donkey and camel push

Children and young men press rides near the Treasury and along the trails, sometimes starting a "free" ride that ends with a demand for cash, and the animals are often overworked.

The fix: a firm "la, shukran" and keep walking. If you do ride, agree the price and the destination out loud first.

03

The "special price, my friend" shop

A warm welcome, endless tea, and a first price for a rug or a keffiyeh that is wildly inflated because you are expected to haggle it down.

The fix: enjoy the tea with no obligation, and open at roughly half. Walking away usually finds the real price.

BONUS

The unofficial "guide"

Someone attaches themselves at a site, narrates for a while, then asks for a large tip. Fine if you wanted a guide, annoying if you did not.

The fix: hire a licensed guide from the visitor centre if you want one, and politely decline the freelancers up front.

07

MORE ON THE SITE

The full safety picture in the safety breakdown, and driving rules in the roads page.

Bedouin camp etiquette

before you sleep in the sand · a guest, not a customer





⚠ Alcohol is not part of Bedouin culture and many camps are dry. Ask quietly rather than assume, and never bring it out uninvited.

A night in a Wadi Rum camp is one of the best things Jordan offers, and it works best when you treat it as being hosted rather than serviced. The Bedouin who run the desert are famous across the Arab world for hospitality: you will be handed tea before you have unpacked, fed more than you can finish, and folded into the evening around the fire. A little awareness of how that hospitality works makes the whole night warmer.

The rhythm is slow and social. Tea and cardamom coffee arrive constantly and are a gift, not a bill, so accept at least the first cup. Dinner is often zarb, meat and vegetables lifted from a sand oven, and it is shared from communal platters. Eat with your right hand, or a spoon, and pace yourself, because refusing food too early can read as a slight. Photograph the landscape freely, but ask before photographing people, especially women.

DO

Accept the tea

The first cup is the welcome. Taking it, and taking your time, is the whole ritual.

DO NOT

Photograph people uninvited

Ask first, especially with women. A smile and a gesture at the camera is enough.

DO

Eat with your right hand

From the shared platter, or use a spoon. The left hand stays out of the food.

DO NOT

Dress for a beach party

Covered shoulders and knees at camp; it gets cold after dark anyway, so layer up.

READ ON The desert itself in the Wadi Rum rundown, and the wider customs in the culture write-up.

Etiquette: the short list

first four are load-bearing · the rest smooth every interaction

Jordan is warm and forgiving, and a little respect goes a long way. Eight things matter most: dress, faith, hospitality and the two hands. Get these right and doors open, tea appears, and prices soften. Everything else is atmosphere.

DO

Dress modestly at sites and in towns

Shoulders and knees covered. Amman and resorts are relaxed; small towns and the desert less so.

DO NOT

Eat or drink in public during Ramadan daytime

Out of respect for those fasting. Eat in your hotel or discreetly indoors instead.

DO

Accept the tea and coffee

Hospitality is a point of pride. Taking at least one cup is the polite move, not a purchase.

DO NOT

Eat or hand things with the left hand

The right hand is for food and greetings. The left is considered unclean across the region.

DO

Cover up and remove shoes in mosques

Women cover the hair; both cover arms and legs. Most mosques lend robes at the door.

DO NOT

Photograph people or the military uninvited

Ask before shooting portraits, especially of women, and never point a lens at checkpoints.

DO

Greet with as-salaamu alaykum

A little Arabic changes the room. The reply is wa alaykum as-salaam. Try it everywhere.

DO NOT

Show public affection

Hand-holding is fine; more than that reads as rude. Keep it low-key in public.

Anger loses every exchange here. A calm smile and patience get you further than raising your voice ever will.

Tipping is welcome but modest: round up a taxi, leave a little at restaurants, a few dinars for a good guide.

07

KEEP READING Religion, customs and the fuller context in the culture write-up, and what to wear where in the dress code page.

Emergency numbers and eight phrases

save the numbers now · the phrases change how locals respond

EMERGENCY (ALL)
911
police, fire, ambulance

TOURIST POLICE
911
English, at sites

AMBULANCE
911
nationwide

US EMBASSY AMMAN
+962 6 590 6000
citizen services

JORDAN HOSPITAL
+962 6 560 8080
Amman, private

CIVIL DEFENSE
911
rescue, fire

EIGHT PHRASES THAT CHANGE HOW LOCALS RESPOND

ENGLISH	ARABIC (PHONETIC)	NOTES
Hello	marhaba	the everyday greeting
Peace be upon you	as-salaamu alaykum	reply: wa alaykum as-salaam
Thank you	shukran	add "jazeelan" for very
Yes / No	na'am / la	"la, shukran" declines politely
How much?	bikam?	essential in every souk
Please	min fadlak / fadlik	fadlak to a man, fadlik to a woman
Where is the bathroom?	wayn al-hammam?	"hammam" is bathroom
Sorry / excuse me	'afwan	also means you are welcome

Save 911 and your hotel's name in Arabic in your phone before the first night out. Reception will write it for you.

These same phrases print as a wallet card on page 44; cut it out and keep it with your room key.

pack-lightly.com

08

Tools and reference

The live tools this guide was built from, the cut-out cards for your wallet, and the sources behind every number.

IN THIS CHAPTER

Take the live tools with you 43

Print cards: cut, fold, take 44

Sources and methodology 45

Image credits 46

A note on the links 47

Take the live tools with you

scan to open · data updates after this PDF was printed

This guide is a snapshot; the tools behind it keep updating. Scan a code or type the short URL. Each one is preloaded with the same Jordan data this guide was built from.

Trip Budget Calculator

Jordan: 40 USD/day backpacker, 200 USD/day comfort.

pack-lightly.com/
tool/budget-calculator/

Country Map

Jordan spots mapped, from Jerash to Wadi Rum.

pack-lightly.com/
tool/country-map/

Best Time to Travel

Best: Mar-May and Sep-Nov. Month-by-month weather worldwide.

pack-lightly.com/
tool/best-travel-time-worldmap/

What to Eat and Drink

Mansaf, zarb, maqluba and more, with prices.

pack-lightly.com/
tool/local-food-and-drinks/

Print cards: cut, fold, take

print at 100% scale · credit-card size, 85 x 54 mm

Print this page on A4 or US Letter at 100 percent (no fit-to-page), cut along the dashed lines, and the two cards live in your wallet for the trip. The form fields are interactive in Acrobat and iOS Preview if you would rather type than write.

ARABIC · ESSENTIALS

Hello	marhaba
Peace be upon you	as-salaamu alaykum
Thank you	shukran
Yes / No	na'am / la
How much?	bikam?
Please	min fadlak / fadlik
Where is bathroom?	wayn al-hammam?
Sorry	'afwan

pack-lightly.com

EMERGENCY · JORDAN

Emergency (all)	911
Tourist Police	911
Ambulance	911
US Embassy (Amman)	+962 6 590 6000
Jordan Hospital	+962 6 560 8080

My hotel: _____

Address: _____

Insurance #: _____

Left card front, right card back: print double-sided on the short edge and they fold into one.

Lost the guide, kept the card? The QR opens the live Jordan hub with every page this guide links to, plus updates published after this edition went to print.

pack-lightly.com/jordan/

Photograph both cards before you cut. A phone copy of the emergency card still works when the wallet is back at the hotel.

Ask reception to write your hotel name and address in Arabic on the back. Taxi drivers read it in one glance.

Sources and methodology

every number traces to a dated source



WRITTEN BY

Wouter van Kemenade

Founder of Pack Lightly. Twenty-plus countries on the ground, a performance-marketing background, and data-led travel writing. Every number in this guide is checked against a source listed below; if a price moves more than 15 percent, the next edition flags it.

SOURCES USED IN THIS EDITION

1. Hotel and hostel pricing: Booking and Hostelworld snapshot 2026-05, Amman and Wadi Musa.
2. Currency rates: ECB reference rates, 2026-05-25.
3. Visa and Jordan Pass: the official jordanpass.jo portal, retrieved 2026-05-15.
4. Tour data and prices: Viator Partner API, captured July 2026.
5. Travel advisories: FCDO and US State Department, last update 2026-04-30.
6. Climate: best-travel-time dataset and Open-Meteo 10-year averages, captured 2026-05-17.
7. Pack Lightly Jordan cluster pages, retrieved 2026-07: visa · budget · safety · best travel time · eSIM

Methodology. Pack Lightly's country scores aggregate eleven dimensions into the 0-100 scorecard on page 5, benchmarked against the Middle East regional average. Budget figures come from the country-comparison dataset, climate verdicts from the best-travel-time dataset, both stamped with their capture date where they appear.

What changed in edition 2026.07: first release on the v2 design standard. Next planned update: January 2027. Not covered here: overland border crossings, the Aqaba to Egypt ferry, and medical tourism.

Photo credits. Every photograph is sourced from Wikimedia Commons under a Creative Commons or public-domain license. The full per-image list, with each photographer and license, is on the next page. The cover shows the Treasury at Petra. Tour data and prices come from the Viator Partner API, captured July 2026.

Image credits

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The pick comes before the partner. A place to stay, a tour, or a transport option is chosen for the trip it makes, and where a partner link exists for it that link is used; where none does, the plain link still points there. An overrated sight is still called overrated, and a cheaper option that beats the famous one keeps the slot. The commission funds the guide, it does not choose for it.

Questions, corrections, or a place you tested that belongs in the next edition: write to hello@pack-lightly.com.

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This file is versioned; the edition is on the cover. The next planned update lands January 2027 and replaces this file at the same download.