

A GUIDE TO FAMILY ADVENTURES IN JORDAN

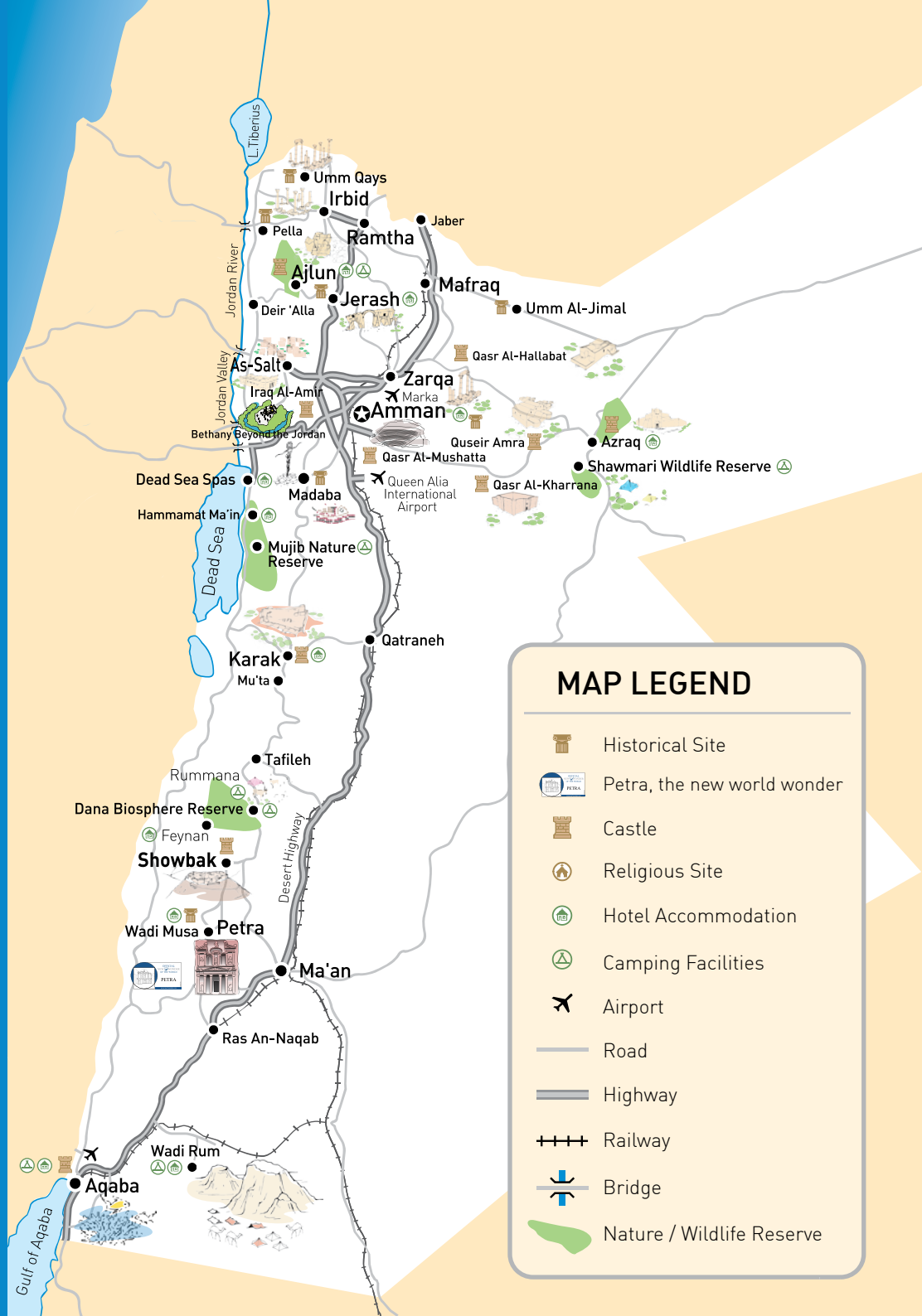


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




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Jordan Tourism Board:
 Tel: +962 6 5678444. It is open daily (08:00-16:00) except on Fridays.
 You can also visit the Jordan Tourism Board's website:
www.VisitJordan.com



MAP LEGEND

-  Historical Site
-  Petra, the new world wonder
-  Castle
-  Religious Site
-  Hotel Accommodation
-  Camping Facilities
-  Airport
-  Road
-  Highway
-  Railway
-  Bridge
-  Nature / Wildlife Reserve



Western travellers have been exploring the Middle East for well over a century, but Jordan remains a newcomer to tourism. The country's popular image abroad encompasses not much more than camels, deserts and Bedouins. The reality of this extraordinary country lies in its mountains and beaches, castles and ancient churches, the urbanity of its people, and the richness of its culture. It is the ideal place for a family vacation!

Jordan is well-known for the warmth and friendliness of its people. Anywhere and everywhere you go you will always find someone to assist you. Jordanians have always been eager to open their doors and welcome visitors to experience their remarkable country.

Jordan caters to the more traditional vacationer who likes to combine a visit to an ancient site with a relaxing swim, but exciting new developments keep opening the doors to this lovely country. The vast activities and tourist



locations make Jordan a country well-suited for tourism. From visiting an ancient site like Petra; camping in Wadi Rum; snorkelling in the Red Sea; floating in the Dead Sea; mountain climbing in Wadi Mujib; to just shopping and watching a movie; these are just a glimpse of the complete set of activities available in Jordan.

The country is blessed with a fantastic climate all year round, with guaranteed sunshine for eight months of the year. Autumn and spring are especially pleasant.

This guide will help direct you and your family to some of the best and most authentic experiences Jordan has to offer. Jordan is an easy country to explore and get close to, and we hope to lead you to experiences that will be both personal and rewarding. Enjoy!



Amman:

Amman, the capital of Jordan, is a fascinating city of contrasts – a unique blend of old and new, ideally situated on a hilly area between the desert and the fertile Jordan Valley. Amman can provide you with diverse activities and is a good base to move around Jordan as it is strategically located within the Kingdom.

1. King Hussein National Park

The Park, which overlooks Amman, has outstanding themed gardens and an auditorium where various events and festivals regularly take place. Within the park is the Cultural Village, which highlights Jordan's heritage through its handicrafts and culture. The park boasts a large sports training facility, as well as a children's playground and the following museums:

- The Children's Museum

Designed for children aged 14 and under, the facilities provided by the museum include an exhibit hall, a multipurpose hall, a children's library and IT centre, an activity room, an outdoor exhibit area, an outdoor theatre, a museum shop, a birthday room, a cafe and a planetarium - a must see for all visitors coming to Jordan with their families.



↑ The Children's Museum.



↑ The Royal Automobile Museum.

- The Royal Automobile Museum

The Royal Automobile Museum was the first building constructed in the Park and it houses the unique, vast, and impressive car collection used by His Majesty the late King Hussein Bin Talal in official and private capacities. From the arrival plaza, visitors are able to see the museum's souvenir and coffee shop.



↑ Rainbow Street.



↑ Art Gallery.



↑ The Jordan Museum of Popular Traditions.

← Al-Wakalat Street.

2. The Jordan Archaeological Museum

Located at the Citadel, this museum showcases an excellent collection of antiquities ranging from prehistoric times to the 15th century.



↑ The Jordan Archaeological Museum.

3. The Jordan Folklore Museum

At the end of the Roman Theatre stage in the Coliseum, this museum displays the traditional costumes of Jordan's citizens. Displayed here is lovely embroidery, beautiful antique jewellery, domestic utensils, and a collection of mosaics from churches in Jordan.



4. Jordan Museum of Popular Traditions

This museum displays the traditional costumes of Jordan's people, including lovely embroidery and beautiful antique jewellery. It also houses a collection of mosaics from Madaba and several Byzantine churches. It is located at the end of the Roman Theatre.



5. The Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts

This gallery hosts a superb collection of paintings, sculptures, photographs, installations, and ceramics by contemporary Jordanian and international artists. It aims to encourage cultural diversity and promote art from the Islamic and developing world.

6. Martyr's Memorial

This monumental building, located at Sports City, houses a chronological display of military history and memorabilia starting from the Great Arab Revolt of 1916 to the present day.

7. The Hejaz Railway

Experience a trip with your family on the Hejaz Railway. The Hejaz Railway is considered to be one of the heritage milestones in the modern history of Jordan for its connection to the Great Arab Revolt. In addition to that, one of the Hejaz Railway buildings located in Ma'an city has had the honour of being the official headquarters of the late King Abdullah I. Further, the railway was honoured for one of its trains being used for his Majesty's trip from Ma'an city to Amman.

8. Al-Wakalat Street

A paved pedestrian street located in the heart of modern Amman lined with trendy shops and outdoor cafes; a popular outing for families and youngsters.

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↑ Horseback riding at one of Jordan's many horse clubs.



↑ Visit one of the many kids' clubs.
← Splash around at the waterpark.

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9. Waterpark

Tall trees and high waves are both available at Amman's waterparks to create an exciting, tropical oasis dotted with all means of comfort, fun and relaxation.

10. Downtown Amman

An area alive with diversity and character, with its colours, aromas, and crowds of people, the Balad is a place to experience true Amman. The Citadel is a good place to begin your tour of the archaeological sites of the city. From there, you can visit the Roman Theatre, various museums, long-standing shops selling souvenirs and antiques, and several local cafes and restaurants.



11. Shopping Malls

Enjoy your evenings at one of Amman's many malls offering shops, cafes, cinemas and other entertainment. Enjoy the latest films at our state of the art cinemas, in addition to kids' clubs that are located in most of our malls.

12. Art Galleries

In addition to its numerous archaeological sites, Amman offers the art lover many galleries, showcasing the works of local and



↑ Enjoy a shopping spree at one of the many shopping malls.



↑ Shop for souvenirs and handicrafts in downtown Amman.

Arab artists. Most galleries are condensed in the Jabal Amman area or close by.

13. Horse Riding Clubs

Enjoy a day of Arabian horseback riding in one of our many leading horse stable clubs.

14. Kids' Clubs

Amman offers a variety of kids clubs and centres where families can take their young ones to spend a day of fun and activities both in and outdoors.



↑ The Roman Army Chariot Experience at Jerash.

↑ A delicious family lunch.

← The colonnaded street at Jerash.

Jerash:

Spending the day in Jerash is like going back to ancient times. There is an abundance of history lessons amongst the incredibly well-preserved Roman columns, temples, and paved streets. Families can enjoy a traditional meal at several restaurants in and around the ruins, following the extraordinary RACE show.

Activities:

Roman Army and Chariot Experience (RACE) show: Experience an authentic chariot show in Jerash and take photos with the legionaries. The show takes place twice every day at 11:00am and 3:00pm (except for Fridays when it takes place once at 10:00am). During the wintertime, performances are at 11:00am and 2:00pm. There are no performances on Tuesdays. The RACE show is 45 minutes long.



Madaba:

Just 30km from Amman is one of the most memorable places in the Holy Land. Madaba is an ancient town on the Jordanian Plateau that was resettled by Christian Arab tribes from the Karak region. Madaba's chief attraction can be found in the contemporary Greek Orthodox



↑ Mosaic map of the Holy Land.

Church of St. George – a map made of two million coloured stones, measuring 25x5m in its original state. The map depicts hills and valleys, villages and towns as far away as the Nile Delta.

Activities:

1. Madaba Institute - Close to the Church of the Virgin is the Madaba Institute for Mosaic Art and Restoration. The Institute trains artisans in the art of making, repairing and restoring mosaics. You can visit the institute and see how children learn to make mosaics; you can also create your own.
2. Cycle from Madaba to Mount Nebo's Moses Memorial, while enjoying the breathtaking sites and fresh air.
3. Walk around Madaba city, tour the different churches, and buy replicas of mosaics and souvenirs from many different handicraft and souvenir shops.
4. Enjoy lunch at any of the many local restaurants.



↑ Dana Village.

Dana Biosphere Reserve

The 320 sq km reserve, managed by the RSCN, is accessible from the Kings' Highway south of Tafila (eastern gateway for Dana Village and Rummana Campsite) or from the Dead Sea-Aqaba Highway, 187 km south of Amman (western gateway for Feynan Ecolodge). With views of the Sharah Mountains, it is home to some 555 species of plants and 200 species of animals, many of which are threatened. Whether you are a seasoned hiker or a Sunday stroller, Dana has a trail designed for you to take it all in. Depending on your preference, a trained guide can push your physical limits or give you vital information about your surroundings. Located in the Dana Reserve is Jordan's only solar-powered ecolodge. Feynan Ecolodge is hailed as one of the top fifty ecolodges

in the world and offers the most developed eco-experience in Jordan.

Activities:

The Rummana Campsite, run by the RSCN, is a good base for hiking in the mountains and experiencing local culture. A two-hour circular walk is a good opportunity to see birds, especially during the migration season.

Where the mountains meet the desert to the west, the award winning 26-room Feynan Ecolodge is a beacon for sustainability with solar power and a host of green practices. Secluded in nature, the tranquil lodge is ideal for family bonding time. Activities include mountain biking, daylong canyoning adventures, discovering archaeological ruins, and delving into some of the world's oldest copper mines alongside Bedouin guides from the local community.



↑ A family stroll at Dana Village.



Enjoying the view overlooking Wadi Dana. →



↑ Birds at the Azraq Wetland Reserve.



↑ Arabian Oryx at the Shawmari Wildlife Reserve.

← The Azraq Oasis at the Azraq Wetland Reserve.

Azraq & Shawmari

Two of the most fascinating tourist attractions in Jordan, the Azraq Wetland Reserve and the Shawmari Wildlife Reserve, are located in the heart of the semi-arid Jordanian Eastern Desert. Covered with untouched natural beauty, the reserves feature ancient natural built pools with the most endangered and rare species in the Middle East. These beautiful natural reserves are protected and managed by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature.

Activities:

The campsite at Shawmari gives your family the opportunity to take a safari trip to see firsthand the results of the international rescue efforts undertaken to save these threatened animals. Get the chance to see endangered species through binoculars from a specially designed tower.

Azraq Wetland Reserve attractions include several natural and ancient built pools, a seasonally flooded marshland, and a large mudflat. This is the perfect place to see incredible birds migrating from Asia and Africa.



↑ Cabins at the Ajlun Nature Reserve.

Ajlun

The marvels of nature and the genius of medieval Arab military architecture have given northern Jordan two of the most important ecological and historical attractions in the Middle East. Ajlun is just a short journey from Jerash through pine forests and olive groves, and boasts scores of ancient sites.

Activities:

Ajlun Nature Reserve is a 13 sq km protected area of outstanding beauty and diverse wildlife. Within the reserve are two natural trails and chalet-style accommodation occupying a large grassy clearing, enclosed by oak, pistachio and strawberry trees. Ajlun Nature Reserve is managed by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature.



↑ The Wadi Mujib gorge.

Wadi Mujib

The Wadi Mujib Reserve is the lowest nature reserve in the world, with its spectacular array of scenery near the east coast of the Dead Sea. The reserve is found deep within the Wadi Mujib gorge, which enters the Dead Sea at 410m below sea level. For those who appreciate Mother Nature and the thrill of the outdoors, a hike through Wadi Mujib may prove to be a challenging but exciting exercise for your family, and one that will surely revive your body and mind.

Activity:

Wadi Mujib can be as thrilling as you want, depending on how challenging you want your hike to be, from mountain climbing to flowing in the river. The Mujib campsite offers stunning scenery and the chance to experience the unique sensation of floating in the saltiest sea on earth. Mujib has five major trails, three river trails and two dryland trails, all of which offer the most

dramatic hiking in Jordan. There is an age restriction depending on the trail.

Dead Sea

One of the most spectacular natural and spiritual landscapes in the whole world, the Dead Sea is the only sea on earth perfect for swimmers and non-swimmers alike. Floating is the only possibility in the Dead Sea. It is the lowest body of water on earth, the lowest point on earth and the world's richest source of natural salts and minerals.

Activities:

1. Families can stay at one of several excellent four and five star beach hotel resorts, or spend the day at either public or serviced private beaches. Since the Dead Sea Basin is 40 minutes away from Amman, these hotels are also open for day use. Kids' clubs are available at some of the hotels.
2. Energize your holiday with an adventure at Wadi Mukheiris filled with hiking, canoeing and abseiling. There are age restrictions depending on the trail.
3. Enjoy a memorable time at the Dead Sea's Waterpark with its awe-inspiring combination of rides, attractions, and food and beverage outlets.





↑ Enjoying the purifying qualities of the Dead Sea mud.



↑ Poolside at one of the Dead Sea hotels.
Floating in the Dead Sea. →



↑ Riding camels in Petra

← Petra by Night.

Petra

One of the new Seven Wonders of the World, Petra was established sometime around the 6th century BC. Half built, half carved into the rock, Petra is surrounded by mountains riddled with passages and gorges. It is one of the world's most famous archaeological sites, where ancient Eastern traditions blend with Hellenistic architecture. The color of the rock ranges from pale yellow or white, to rich reds, to the darker brown of more resistant rocks. Wadi Musa, the city right outside Petra's gates, offers families a variety of hotels ranging from 1 to 5 stars.

The site is the perfect place for walking, trekking, horse riding, rock climbing and mountain climbing. Although some activities are not permitted within the site itself, there are plenty of great locations in the area. If you have explored all there is to see in Petra, climb up to see Ad-Deir (the Monastery) and Aaron's Tomb,



↑ Walking through the Siq to the Treasury at Petra.



↑ Jordanian handicrafts.

the highest point in Petra. The family can head down the wadi to Little Petra if they still have the time to do so. It is not as monumental as the main site itself but there is still much more to see there.

Activities:

1. Camel, horse and donkey rides in Petra - Enjoy a 30 minute ride from the entrance to the Siq while marveling at the extraordinary sites.
2. Create your personalized, colourful sand bottle in Petra. You can even personalize it with your names displayed in each bottle. A perfect souvenir and gift to take back home.
3. Petra by Night - Experience the light of 1,800 lit candles, illuminating the path to the Treasury. Bedouin musicians play music on traditional instruments while you enjoy the peace and tranquility of Petra. Petra by Night takes place on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, from 8:30 - 10:00 pm.
4. Petra Kitchen - At Petra Kitchen you get to cook and eat a traditional Jordanian meal with a Jordanian chef. Mingle with visitors and collect traditional recipes for friends and family back home.



↑ Rock bridge in Wadi Rum.

Wadi Rum

One of the world's outstanding desert landscapes and a truly breathtaking place where families can enjoy amazing scenery and experience Bedouin life. You can hire camels and follow the footsteps of Lawrence of Arabia, climb the highest peaks or sandboard across the rolling sand dunes. Explore hidden canyons by foot and discover secret messages carved over 4,000 years ago. The perfect escape from the city, enjoy the desert when it is lit by a full moon on a clear night, or when the darkness is perforated by a million stars that you feel you can reach out and touch them.

Activities:

1. Enjoy camping while eating local food at a variety of fully-equipped campsites; or camp at the wild campsites without any facilities, and where families must bring their own tents and equipment.
2. Hire a local Bedouin guide to drive you around in a 4x4 jeep, or a camel to explore hard terrain where driving is difficult.
3. Take a hot-air balloon trip and soar with the eagles high above this amazing site.
4. Share a cup of tea with the Bedouins. Families get to sit in tents in the middle of the desert and enjoy true Bedouin hospitality.
5. Mountain and rock climbing is available for beginners or experienced climbers.
6. Camel and horse safaris - enjoy rides along the red sandy desert and observe the amazing coloured mountains.



↑ Hot-air ballooning in Wadi Rum.



↑ Cruising in a 4x4 vehicle in Wadi Rum.

Exploring Wadi Rum on Camels. →





↑ Deep-sea diving in Aqaba.
← Enjoying perfect weather in Aqaba.

Aqaba

Where fantasy meets reality, families can enjoy an invigorating but thrilling time. Aqaba is warm, sunny and inviting, lined with palm trees, lapped by the crystal clear waters of the Gulf of Aqaba, cooled by a steady breeze, and surrounded by mountains that change in colour as the sun sets.

Aqaba has transformed into a lively city, featuring modern resorts with several new international hotels, lagoon developments, marinas and waterparks. Your family will truly enjoy a couple of days on the coast of the Red Sea.

Activities:

1. Water sports such as windsurfing, waterskiing, jet-skiing, sailing, and beach-based competitions make an invigorating contrast to the deserts and the usual sightseeing.

2. The Aqaba Archaeological Museum: The museum has an interesting collection of artefacts that give an insight into the city's long history as a trading centre.



↑ The clean and safe beaches of Aqaba.



↑ Enjoying a banana boat ride in Aqaba.

3. The Aqaba Marine Park - The Park is a marine-protected area that extends for 7km along the coast. It aims to preserve the coral reefs and marine life of Aqaba's shore environment.

4. Camping on the beach - Aqaba has a number of public beaches with camping facilities to ensure a perfect experience.

5. Rent a bike - The greatest place to ride a bike is on Aqaba's flat terrain. If you prefer a thrill, you may rent a motorbike.

6. A horse and carriage ride for a leisurely tour of the city.

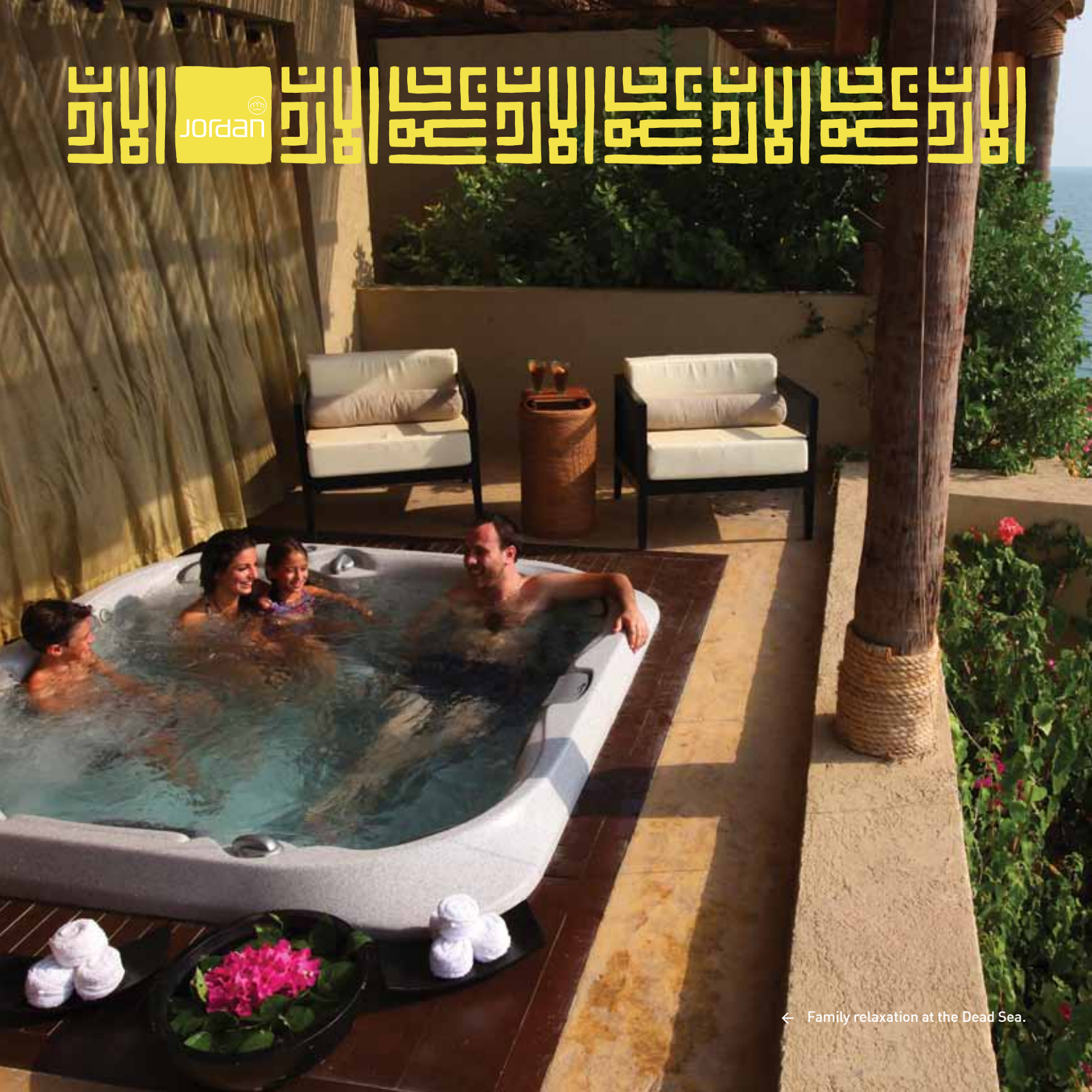
7. Take to the air - Try micro-flight and gain your license with a training course in Aqaba. If you have a skydiving license, go straight ahead.

8. Underwater activities such as scuba diving and snorkelling in Aqaba are spectacular and go all year round, with different species to be seen in different seasons. If you are a certified diver, be sure to pack your diving certificate and log-book.

9. Aqaba Gateway - Watch the Jordan Experience show, a special movie about Jordan from a bird's eye view. Movie plays at 11:15 and hourly from 12:00 till 18:00 daily.

10. Enjoy the ins and outs of the Aqaba souk - This is the place to find handicrafts such as embroidered items, jewellery, pottery, and a mix of shops for your daily needs.

Jordan



← Family relaxation at the Dead Sea.

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