

day3travel

Travel Guide



JORDAN

With so much history wrapped up in this tiny desert kingdom, it's easy to overlook the modern face of Jordan - something the government is trying to address in ambitious tourist developments at Aqaba and along the Dead Sea.

And 'ambitious' is an appropriate word. In a country of minimal resources where water is in critically short supply, arable land accounts for less than 5% of the landmass, and unemployment and inflation are hovering around 15% of the disproportionate investment in Jordan's coastal pleasure domes appears to border on the reckless. If the Seven Wonders of the World ballot showed anything, however, it was the extent to which, despite the mixed origins of its people, the current economic difficulties and the insecurity of life in a volatile region, Jordanians are united in their pride for their country. And there's a lot to be proud of.

The monarchy under King Abdullah continues the acclaimed role of peacemaker between Arab and Western interests, Jordan is a regional leader in protecting the environment and promoting sustainable tourism, and its capital city is enjoying a modern renaissance. In common with many Arab countries, Jordan is at a crossroads as it shapes up to integration within the modern, global community. Unlike many of its neighbors, however, Jordan has recognized that the past is part of its future, and while the politicians plan a way to maximize on the country's unique legacy, the Bedouin still herd their sheep across an unchanged landscape in effortless continuity with the ancient past.

GETTING STARTED

With so much history wrapped up in this tiny desert kingdom, it's easy to over Jordan is an easy and enjoyable country to visit. The logistics of travel, from obtaining visas on arrival to accessing the liberally-sprinkled ATMs, are a breeze. Best of all, as Jordan is a compact country and travel times are short, you can enjoy a range of world-class sights within a relatively short period of time. You can even combine a visit with other Middle Eastern top spots. Jordan is one country where it pays to have a little more cash at your disposal. Enjoying a dive in the spectacular Red Sea, taking a 4WD excursion in Wadi Rum, hiking with a guide in Dana Nature Reserve or staying at a luxury spa on the Dead Sea are highlights well worth saving for.



WHEN TO GO

For a small country, Jordan has an extraordinary range of climates. The best time to visit is in spring (March to May), when wildflowers put on a spectacular display, and fall (September to November), when the daytime temperatures are not too extreme. Winter can be surprisingly cold. Snow in Amman is not unheard of (even Petra gets the occasional fall) and the deserts can be freezing, especially at night. Aqaba is the exception, with average daytime maximum temperatures of around 20°C in January. In high summer (July and August) the weather in the humid Jordan Valley is oppressive, with suffocating daytime highs exceeding 35°C. It's also fiercely hot in desert areas, though the dry heat is easier to tolerate. Festivals are welcome summer distractions. It's best to avoid the month of Ramadan as visitors are obliged to refrain from eating, drinking or smoking in public during the day and many restaurants close for the whole period. Note also that many of the excellent trails operated in Jordan's Dana, Wadi Mujib and Ajloun nature reserves only operate between April and October.

DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT

- Your driver's license and Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) diving card.
- A torch (flashlight) for exploring archaeological sites.
- Mosquito repellent and net if you intend to hike and camp through wadis or sleep on hotel roofs (as permitted, for example, at some smaller hotels in Petra).
- A hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, long sleeves and covering for your neck if you're planning a summer visit. A water carrier that fits a 1.5L bottle is also useful.



TRAVELING RESPONSIBLY

In a region only recently concerned with conservation, it's refreshing to find that Jordan is ahead of the game. Not only are the authorities - especially through the work of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) - keen to promote sustainable tourism with regard to Jordan's natural heritage, they are also keen to maintain the country's cultural heritage by preserving Islamic values, supporting arts and craft initiatives (such as soap-making at Ajloun) and supporting traditional lifestyles (as with the employment of Bedouin drivers in Wadi Rum). Of course it's not easy balancing the need for increased tourism against the environmental cost of more visitors. While tourism revenue at Wadi Rum, for example, is needed for the upkeep of the protected area, it's hard to minimize the impact of more feet and wheels upon a fragile desert ecosystem. A balance can be achieved, however, with the cooperation of visitors. across an unchanged landscape in effortless continuity with the ancient past.

If you'd like to know how to minimize the negative impact of your visit, or contribute positively through your travel experience in Jordan, then you may like to use the following checklist to inform the choices you make on the road:

- **Save water:**
Jordan has a critical water shortage.
- **Use local guides and services:**
Not only is interacting with local people, such as the Bedouin in Wadi Rum and Petra, an opportunity to learn about a unique way of life, it's also a way of helping preserve local traditions.
- **Buy wisely:**
Shop at craft centers where profits are returned to local communities.
- **Dress and behave respectfully:**
Many Jordanians see the liberalisation of customs and manners as a bad habit caught from the West and an erosion of their cultural and Islamic heritage.
- **Spend money:**
A few travellers think it's clever to avoid entrance fees and survive on muesli they brought from home. If you're one of them, try to make your visit count more positively by spending a little!



THE COMMUNITY-BASED TRAVEL TRAIL

In this age of eco-awareness, responsible tourism plays an important part in community development. Interest in Jordan's nature reserves has, for example, demonstrated how their appeal can economically benefit neighboring communities. This is certainly true of protected lands in which the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) has a hand, especially around Ajloun, Dibeen, Azraq, Shaumari, the Dead Sea, Mujib, Dana and Wadi Rum. But more and more local communities, large and small, are also uniting behind other tourism endeavors that return profits directly to the community. April and October.

OUR MISSION IS CLEAR

We curate exceptional journeys that allow you to connect deeply with the rich cultural tapestry, diverse landscapes, and historical wonders of the Middle East. We redefine the way you experience this captivating region, with meticulous planning, unparalleled attention to detail, and a commitment to exceeding your expectations at every turn. Day 3 Travel takes pride in supporting local communities, preserving the nation's history, protecting the environment, and championing Jordan's culture and heritage. As proud Jordanians, we ensure that your travel experiences contribute to the well-being of the places you visit.

At Day 3 Travel, we offer an extensive range of services to ensure your comfort and satisfaction. From VIP greetings at the airport to private transfers, one-day tours, multi-day packages, hotel reservations, and even yacht trips, we have you covered. Our professional licensed bilingual guides and drivers are there to assist you every step of the way.



