



Amman

Photo: VLADJ55/Shutterstock.com



Leonid Andronov/Shutterstock.com

Although the Jordanian capital has its fair share of ancient remnants (the city was first mentioned as Rabbath Ammon in the Hebrew Bible around the 10th century BC), it is the way Amman experiences modernity that fascinates the most. Often listed among the most progressive cities in the Middle East, Amman is a flourishing capital growing by the hour, inhabited by a culturally diverse and rather liberal populace.

NOTE: This Guide has been limited to 20 points of interest per section. For the full guide, please visit [ArrivalGuides.com](https://www.arrivalguides.com)



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Popova Tetiana/Shutterstock.com

QUIZ

*What Type of Traveller
Are You Based on
Your Travel IQ?*

TAKE THE QUIZ

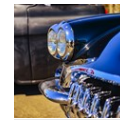
Top 5



Citadel Hill
The capital's most important historic landmark is an entire area known as Ci...



Darat Al Funun
An art centre and architectural landmark in its own right, Darat Al Funun co...



Royal Automobile Museum
One of Amman's most entertaining attractions is the Royal Automobile Museum,...



Roman Theatre
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King Abdullah I Mosque
The iconic blue-domed mosque is one of the country's most recognisable attra...



THE CITY



Ayman alakhras/Shutterstock.com

Although things have been rough for some of Jordan's immediate neighbours, the country itself has managed to largely avoid political unrest in recent history, making today's Amman a pleasant and perfectly safe city to visit. The locals are famously welcoming, and many speak English, but a surprising few identify as originally Jordanian, belonging rather to various other ethnicities, such as Iraqi, Circassian, or Palestinian.

Nowhere is Amman's eclectic mix of cultures and youthful spirit more apparent than in Rainbow Street, one of the city's most happening locations lined with restaurants, bars, and shops, playing host to the weekly open-air Jara Souk during the summer. There is plenty to do and see in the city itself, but Amman also makes for an excellent base from which to explore the country further.

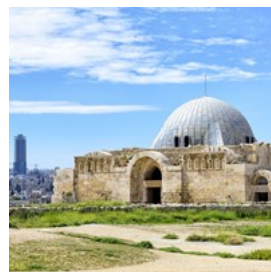
DO & SEE



mbrand85/Shutterstock.com

There is a surprising lot to do in the Jordanian capital, from remnants of Roman (and even pre-Roman), Byzantine and Umayyad presence, to a couple of well-regarded galleries and cultural centres showcasing what Amman's - very much alive - cultural scene has to offer. Throw in cheap, delicious dining and a plethora of bargain shopping opportunities, and you'll be set for an eventful few days.

Citadel Hill



The capital's most important historic landmark is an entire area known as Citadel, perched on top of Amman's highest elevation - the Jabal al-Qal'a hill. Its story dates back to as early as the Bronze Age, with various epochs bringing cultures and peoples who have all left their mark here. The Citadel's two primary attractions are the ancient Temple of Hercules (162-166 AD) and the Umayyad Palace dating back to the 8th century.

Photo: Francesco Dazzi/Shutterstock.com

Darat Al Funun



An art centre and architectural landmark in its own right, Darat Al Funun contains a frequently updated selection of exhibitions,

its serene setting making for a pleasant excursion, and hillside location affording panoramic city views. Archaeological remains of a 6th century Byzantine church can be observed at the entry.

Photo: Mashhour/Shutterstock.com

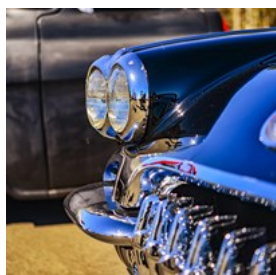
Address: Nadim Al-Mallah St 13, Amman

Opening hours: Sat-Thurs 10am-7pm

Phone: +962 6 464 3251

Internet: www.daratafunun.org

Royal Automobile Museum



One of Amman's most entertaining attractions is the Royal Automobile Museum, mostly containing (nearly a hundred!) vehicles from

the collection of late King Hussein of Jordan. Models spanning the second half of the 20th century make for an interesting look around, the latest hit addition being the very vehicle used in the filming of acclaimed "The Martian".

Photo: poemnist/Shutterstock.com

Address: King Hussein Park, Amman

Opening hours: Wed-Mon 10am-7pm

Phone: +962 6 541 1392

Internet: www.royalautomuseum.jo

Roman Theatre



The spectacular Roman Theatre, although restored in the late 20th century, remains largely true to the way it was once conceptualised in as early as 2nd century AD. It's a highlight for most visitors to Amman, used as a venue to house open-air concerts and shows in the summer.

Photo: Leonid Andronov/Shutterstock.com

Address: Al-Hashemi St, Amman

More Info: Folklore Museum & Museum of Popular Traditions on site.

King Abdullah I Mosque



The iconic blue-domed mosque is one of the country's most recognisable attractions, a place of worship as much as a national

landmark and even somewhat of a museum: a few archaeological finds and personal items of King Abdullah, who inaugurated the mosque, are also displayed here. Unlike at most other mosques, non-Muslim visitors are welcome inside, provided they follow the rules of attendance.

Photo: Richard Yoshida/Shutterstock.com

Address: Suleiman Al Nabulsi St, Amman

Phone: +962 6 567 2155

Children's Museum



Amman's Children's Museum is surprisingly delightful. There are plenty of interactive exhibits allowing the young ones to get a

hands-on approach to learning about the world,

from the inner workings of the human digestive system to the mechanics of a car. Adults will enjoy continuing on to the Royal Automobile Museum next door.

Photo: legenda/Shutterstock.com

Address: King Abdullah II St, Amman

Phone: +962 6 541 1479

Internet: www.cmj.jo

More Info: C208

Qasr al-Abd

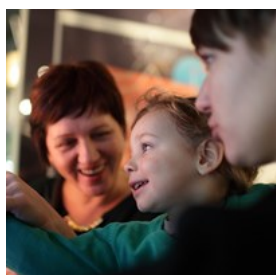


As opposed to the omnipresent in Jordan remains of Roman and Umayyad structures, Qasr al-Abd is a rare example of architecture

pre-dating the Roman era. Its exact origins remain unknown, which only adds to the fascination. Not too far from here are ancient caves dating back to roughly the same time period.

Photo: Anton_Ivanov/Shutterstock.com

Jordan Museum



The country's largest museum containing some of its most important archaeological artefacts is certainly worth a visit. Exhibits are accompanied

by both English- and Arabic-language explanations, making for an informative excursion into the country's ancient and recent past.

Photo: Chubykin Arkady/Shutterstock.com

Address: Ali Ben Abi Taleb St 10, Amman

Phone: +962 6 462 9317

Internet: www.jordanmuseum.jo

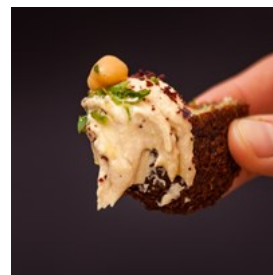
DINING



Piccina Neri/Shutterstock.com

The historic crossroads of cultures Jordan was built on finds its reflection in local cuisine, which bears clear trace of Mediterranean, North African, Bedouin, general Middle Eastern and Levantine influence. Jordanian falafel is held in high esteem, and there are plenty of opportunities to discover why that is in Amman. Some must-eats include the national mansaf (tender yogurt-cooked lamb on rice, traditionally eaten with hands), shish kebab, and a mezze spread containing hummus and other "dips".

Hashem



This wildly popular local eatery gathers ravenous crowds no matter the time of day, but securing a seat is most likely to happen outside of peak

hours of lunch and dinner. Hashem's absolute must is the falafel, accompanied by hummus, fava bean paste, and freshly baked bread. Prices are startlingly low.

Photo: Barnuti Daniel Ioan/Shutterstock.com

Address: Al Malek Faisal St, Amman

Phone: +962 6 463 6440

Sufra



Sufra is synonymous with fine, yet affordable, Jordanian dining. Apart from staples like fukharat (clay pots with slow-cooked meat and vegetables) and mansaf (a traditional dish of lamb cooked in yogurt on rice), there is a traditional special which varies by day.

Photo: Waleed_Hammoudeh/Shutterstock.com

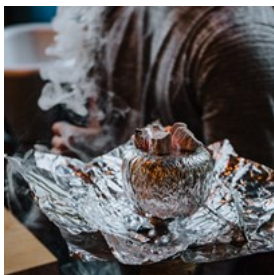
Address: Al Rainbow St 26, Amman

Opening hours: Sun-Thurs 12-11pm, Fri-Sat 10am-11pm

Phone: +962 6 461 1468

Internet: www.romero-jordan.com/sufra.html

Tawaheen al-Hawa



A word of advice: do not go all in with the scrumptious starters and home-baked bread, and leave some room for Tawaheen al-Hawa's Middle Eastern/Jordanian mains, including the mansaf and varied grilled meats. This one is popular with both visitors and locals, the latter often seen enjoying a leisurely shisha pipe in the evenings.

Photo: shafiga baghirova/Shutterstock.com

Address: Wasfi al-Tal Rd, Amman

Phone: +962 6 534 9986

Fakhreldin



Occupying the building once owned by Jordan's first prime minister, Fakhreldin is an upscale affair, a reputable Lebanese restaurant serving a variety of dishes developed from the Levantine cuisine. There is a spacious outdoor

seating area, tables laid with crisp white table cloths and elaborate appointments.

Photo: frantic00/Shutterstock.com

Address: Taha Hussein St 40, Amman

Opening hours: Daily 12pm-12am

Phone: +962 6 465 2399

Internet: www.fakhreldin.com

Chestnut Restaurant & Pub



One of the latest additions to Amman's dining and nightlife scenes, Chestnut is a well-liked pub run by an enthusiastic, warm team that brought in expertise from businesses local and international. Evening vibes are conducive to a great night, and food restaurant-worthy, not limited to pub grub alone. Happy hour (1-6pm daily at the time of writing) brings 50% discounts on selected menu items and drinks.

Photo: DGLimages/Shutterstock.com

Address: Abu Salma Al-Khelal St, Amman

Opening hours: Daily 12am-12pm

Phone: +962 7 7500 0075

Internet: www.chestnutpub.com

District Urban Rooftop



District belongs somewhere on the bar/restaurant spectrum, and, along with serving excellent international fusion cuisine, is also a pleasant place to spend the evening having drinks in good company. It's a conceptually one-of-a-kind establishment in Amman, with a welcoming outdoor terrace and views to die for.

Photo: Nick Starichenko/Shutterstock.com

Address: Zayd Bin Harethah St, Amman

Opening hours: Daily 5pm-1am

Phone: +962 7 7001 7517

CAFES



Ahmad Diranieh/Shutterstock.com

Traditional sweets shops and tea houses mingle with a growing number of hip cafes worthy of a modern capital in the streets of Amman. Those looking to savour a traditional dessert must absolutely try the kanafeh (spelling varies), a sweet syrup-drenched pastry with delicious, gooey cheese at its heart.

Habibah Sweets



Local tour guides consider a visit to Habibah a city tour essential, and for good reason: this legendary sweets shop, originating in 1947 Jerusalem, has made its way across to Jordan, where it continues to sell and serve some of the finest Palestinian Kunafa (cheese pastry drenched in sweet syrup) for miles around.

Photo: Alp Aksoy/Shutterstock.com

Address: Al Hazar St 2, Amman

Opening hours: Daily 9am-12am

Phone: +962 6 553 1555

Internet: www.habibahsweets.com

More Info: Marwan Madi Complex

Pizza Roma Cafe



One of international visitors' hangout spots of choice, Pizza Roma is a space stylised to resemble a Bedouin tent, with a scenic breezy terrace and guest musical performances by talented local youths. The cafe serves far more than just pizza, extending its offerings to dishes likely to appear rather extraordinary to some, such as the lesser-consumed parts of a sheep: the head, stomach, and even testicles.

Photo: Bignai/Shutterstock.com

Address: Al Shabsugh St 4, Amman

Phone: +962 6 461 8262

More Info: Amman Pasha Hotel

Shams El Balad



The delightful hip cafe is a rare find in Amman. Set on a hilltop overlooking the downtown's cream-coloured buildings, Shams El Balad is much more than its scenic location - dishes served here are deliciously experimental twists on Middle Eastern classics, and quite possibly warrant a cook book of their own.

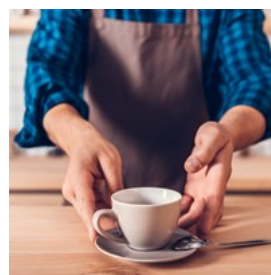
Photo: Yulia Grigoryeva/Shutterstock.com

Address: Mu'ath Bin Jabal St 69, Amman

Opening hours: Daily 9am-9pm

Phone: +962 6 465 1150

Rumi



Rumi is as close as it gets to an Ammani take on a hipster coffee shop. This gem of a cafe attracts with-it locals, who thoroughly enjoy the

shaded outdoor seating and Rumi's extensive selection of international teas. Snacks and breakfasts are also on offer; you can always opt for the excellent coffee.

Photo: LightField Studios/Shutterstock.com
Address: Kulliyat Al Shareeah St 14, Amman
Opening hours: Daily 7am-11.30pm
Phone: +962 6 464 4131

Books@cafe



Books@cafe set out to create a space of intellectual enrichment (hence the concept of cafe cum bookshop) and mutual understanding, whether it be between cultures - of which there are many in Amman, permanent and visiting - or people of different sexual orientations (it's a welcoming gay cafe/bar known well to insiders).

Photo: Yulia Grigoryeva/Shutterstock.com
Address: Umar Ibn Al Khattab, Amman
Opening hours: Daily 9-12am
Phone: +962 6 465 0457
Internet: www.booksatcafe.com

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



DalDaFoTo/Shutterstock.com

Although alcohol vending is most often paused for the month of Ramadan, many Jordanians do enjoy a drink, and alcohol consumption isn't generally frowned upon. There are a few great

haunts across the city, and several bars with seriously impressive night views from their hillside locations.

Carakale Brewery



It's worth finding your way to Jordan's own craft brewery hidden amidst the rolling hills west of the city. Visitors will get the chance to try several drafts (full glasses or samplers, varieties from IPA through porter) and peek at the factory floor below. The brewery doesn't serve food but bringing in your own is allowed; there are grilling facilities outside that guests are encouraged to make use of.

Photo: FXQuadro/Shutterstock.com
Address: Fuhays, Jordan
Opening hours: Thurs 6-10pm, Fri-Sat 2-10pm
Phone: +962 7 9728 5192
Internet: www.carakale.com

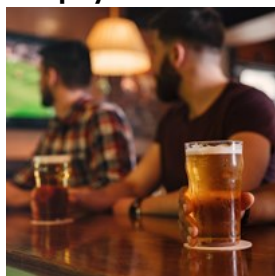
Blue Fig



Although the trendy Blue Fig is a successful dining venue in its own right (their breakfasts are highly praised, and so is the eclectic international menu), what makes it especially appealing come sundown are the frequently held live music nights, which feature both live bands and DJs.

Photo: DisobeyArt/Shutterstock.com
Address: Irbid St 30, Amman
Opening hours: Daily 8am-12.30am
Phone: +962 6 592 8800
Internet: www.bluefig.com

Murphy's Pub - House of Rock



One of the city's most popular pubs can get a bit rowdy, which only adds to the good fun had here on a nightly basis. There is a pleasant beer garden

outside; live rock bands play every Tuesday, and there is a pool table for further entertainment. Drinks come at rock-bottom prices, especially so during happy hour.

Photo: Dean Drobot/Shutterstock.com

Address: Sahat Al 'Arab, Amman

Opening hours: Daily 12.30am-12.30pm

Phone: +962 7 7716 5008

Sekrab



Sekrab is creative country, a hangout spot in every way out of the ordinary, with a VW hippy van perched on its top, and an interior dominated

by recycled car parts and other creatively re-purposed pieces. The rooftop offers fantastic views, and there are a few things to choose from in terms of drinks.

Photo: jirawatfoto/Shutterstock.com

Address: Rainbow St, Amman

Opening hours: Daily 6pm-1am

Phone: +962 7 9173 5722

Internet: www.flipjordan.com

Cantaloupe Gastro Pub



Cantaloupe's swanky rooftop is one of the city's finest vantage points, affording views of the entire city and the environs, including the

Jabal al-Qal'a with the Citadel perched on its top.

The first floor is given over to an Italian-leaning restaurant, while the open-air second floor is arguably the location of Amman's best open-air bar.

Photo: Sergey Mironov/Shutterstock.com

Address: Rainbow St, Amman

Opening hours: Daily 1pm-1am

Phone: +962 6 465 6561

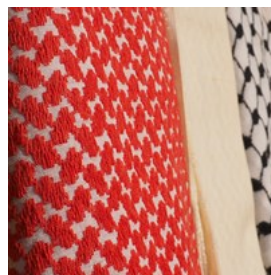
SHOPPING



IKostiuchok/Shutterstock.com

There is some serious shopping to be done in the capital, and some incredible bargains to be had. For those interested in purchasing gold, the Gold Souk in Ali Ben Abi Taleb Street is the place - jewellery is often sold by weight, and prices can be brought down by haggling. To support local social initiatives, shop at one of the several establishments across Amman that forward profits to craftspeople and rural communities that produce goods: textiles, pottery, cosmetics, herbs and spices, and more.

Al Balad



The downtown, or Al Balad, is one's best bet for finding great bargains in Amman. The area is abundantly dotted with all manner of shops and stores, selling clothing, accessories, intricate jewellery, herbs, and various edibles. Haggling is

expected - count on bringing the original price down by at least its half, unless the specific locale has a fixed-price policy.

Photo: B Ledger/Shutterstock.com

Wild Jordan Centre



The Centre sets out to support communities of Jordan's 8 natural reserves, protected areas inhabited by families who produce the merchandise sold at the on-site shop. Profits from crafts, jewellery, herbs, and jams (and all other pieces) constitute the communities' incomes. Wild Jordan Centre also houses an esteemed cafe with splendid city panoramas.

Photo: Ksenija Toyechkina/Shutterstock.com

Address: Othman Ben Affan St 36, Amman

Opening hours: Daily 9am-11pm

Phone: +962 6 463 3542

Internet: www.wildjordancenter.com

More Info: Wild Jordan Centre

Jordan River Foundation



The JRF showroom stocks exquisite home decor pieces, rugs, accessories and Dead Sea cosmetics, along with a plethora of other pieces, all of the highest quality. Prices here are steep for good reason: the foundation supports women and youths from local communities, and all profits made are put towards development projects.

Photo: Corsair Marine/Shutterstock.com

Address: Rainbow St, Amman

Opening hours: Sat-Thu 8.30am-7pm, Fri 10am-5pm

Phone: +962 6 593 3211

Internet: www.jordanriver.jo

Souk Jara



The weekly Souk Jara is an open-air market with food, live music, and an abundance of wares produced predominantly by local craftsmen. It's a weekly affair organised by the Jebel Amman Residents' Association, and profits go to support the community.

Photo: Ali Al-Awartany/Shutterstock.com

Al Afghani Bazaar



This longstanding souvenir store's roots go back to late 19th century Palestine, where the owning family first established shop. It's packed to capacity with ceramics, jewellery, lamps, and all manner of tinkles born to make excellent gifts; a trip out of downtown to come here is certainly in order.

Photo: Peppy Graphics/Shutterstock.com

Address: Al-Hdaiq St, Amman

Opening hours: Sat-Thu 10am-10pm, Fri 2-10pm

Phone: +962 6 568 0964

Email: alafghani_rabieh@hotmail.com

Soap House Trinitae



Trinitae's cosmetics offering extends beyond soaps to include a few other skincare products, all made with organic local ingredients, from plants and oils to salts of the Dead Sea. It's a heaven of luxurious organic goods of the highest quality. Gift sets are available.

Photo: sebra/Shutterstock.com
Address: Al Rainbow St B8, Amman
Opening hours: Sat-Thurs 8am-6pm
Phone: +962 6 463 3953
Internet: www.trinitae.com/trinitaestore

TOURIST INFORMATION



ra66/Shutterstock.com

Passport / Visa



Nationals of most countries are eligible for a single-entry visa upon arrival. The visa process is normally quick and uncomplicated, with no paperwork involved. The upon-arrival visas are not issued at King Hussein Bridge or Wadi Araba land border crossing points. Having Israeli border crossing stamps can possibly complicate coming into or leaving Jordan. The Jordan Pass is recognised universally, and entitles the holder to a waiving of the visa fee.

For multiple-entry visas, travellers will need to apply in advance prior to travel. Consult the link below to find out whether a visa is required for you.

Photo: TukTuk Design/Shutterstock.com
Internet: www.international.visitjordan.com/generalinformation/entryintojordan.aspx

Airport



The Queen Alia International Airport is Jordan's primary international air hub. Those arriving between 6am and midnight can

take the Airport Express Bus connecting the airport to Tabarbour Bus Station via the Seventh Circle. These busses run every half hour from 6am to 6pm and every hour from 6pm to midnight; journey time is normally somewhere between 45 and 60 minutes.

Taxis operate on a 24/7 basis and may be easily hired at the airport; fares are fixed and current prices displayed at the taxi park. Car hire is also available at the airport.

Photo: Juan Garces
Phone: +962 6 500 2777
Internet: www.qaiairport.com

Best Time to Visit



The summer months of July and August tend to get quite hot and heavy, so if avoiding extreme heat is something you're interested in, we

recommend planning your visit for some time during the spring (March-May) or autumn (October-November).

Photo: VectorA/Shutterstock.com

Public Transport



The public transportation system of Amman comprises busses, mini-busses, and service taxis. The latter are the most efficient means of

transportation of the three; they adhere to fixed routes (and are therefore numbered) and only run within the city. There is a fixed ride price regardless of journey duration. There often aren't clear indications of stops, but these tend to be located at the bottoms of hills. Lines may form during rush hour.

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair

Taxi



There are plenty of yellow cabs circulating around the city, these are easily flagged down and are generally inexpensive.

That said, it is important that you take note of the cab meter being reset and functioning when you get in. There have been reports of drivers trying to avoid turning the meter on for reasons of heavy traffic or bad weather, so do insist the meter be used regardless of any possible circumstance.

Uber is widely used in Amman, and so is its Middle Eastern counterpart Careem.

Photo: ArrivalGuides

Pharmacy



Pharmacy One is a drug store chain with several branches across the city, which all operate on a round-the-clock basis. One location is at:

Photo: Gemma Garner

Address: Abdulraheem Al-Haj Moh'd St, Amman

Phone: +962 6 590 9400

Internet: www.pharmacy-one.com

Post



There are several post offices across the city, but stamps can be bought at most souvenir shops without the need to locate one. For shipping

valuables, using a private postage service like DHL or FedEx is recommended.

Photo: Andy Fuchs

Address: 2nd Circle, Amman

Opening hours: Sat-Thurs 8am-3pm

Phone: +962 6 429 3000

Internet: www.jordanpost.com.jo

Telephone



Country code: +962 Area code: 6

Photo: Jardson Almeida

Electricity



Jordan uses a mix of socket types (both two- and three-pin plugs), and frequency can be inconsistent. Bringing a power plug adaptor and

voltage converter is recommended.

Photo: Stirling Tschan

Population

4 million

Currency

1 Jordanian Dinar = 100 qirsh (piastres)

Opening hours

In Jordan, Friday and Saturday are weekends, which means businesses may be closed or have shorter days. Opening hours may vary, but most businesses operate between roughly 9.30-1.30pm and 3.30-6pm, although these may shift in each individual case. Mind that the month of Ramadan often brings schedule changes and business hours may be affected (shortened).

Newspapers

The Jordan Times

Emergency numbers

Fire/Medical: 199

Police: 191

Tourist Police: 196 ext. 4661

Traffic: 190

Tourist information

Ministry of Tourism

Off Zahran Street, Amman

+962 6 460 3360

Sun-Thurs 8.30am-3.30pm

The guide was researched and written by Polina Davydova.