

EDOMITE LOWLANDS PROJECT

DIG SEASON 2007

STUDENT HANDBOOK

Introduction

This handbook contains information on how to survive and thrive both in camp and in Jordan. The first section is devoted to Camp Life – what to bring with you, what to expect in camp and on site, and how to behave in order to leave a positive impression on the local people (which is *very* important to us). The second section contains practical information on Jordan – how to send and receive mail, how to place phone calls, and other basic facts. The third section will tell you basic information about Jordan – its people, land and religion, and places you may wish to visit during your stay.

Camp Life

Accommodations

Accommodation will be in a tent camp on the eastern end of the Wadi Fidan. The fence-enclosed Base Camp, located on a piece of land set aside for this project by the Department of Antiquities, lies on the edge of the local village of Qurayqira. The camp was established in 1997 and houses various permanent structures that serve as a kitchen, toilets, and showers. The camp has permanent water links to the local spring fed water system (safe drinking water), and a series of water towers ensure plentiful supplies. Each tent will house up to 10 persons, but will likely only house 5 in order to be more comfortable. Nevertheless, space is limited so do not bring excessive amounts of baggage. Camp beds with sleeping pads will be provided, but you should bring your own sleeping bag or sheets (which are more appropriate to the season). A mosquito net is also useful to keep flies off during siesta time, and one with a self-supporting frame is ideal.

Qurayqira is a Bedouin village that has been growing steadily since the Project first became established in Jordan. The village has a free clinic and numerous small stores where students can buy essentials such as laundry soap as well as small treats such as cold drinks.

Transportation

The campsite lies at the end of a paved road that runs from the village of Qurayqira to the main Aqaba–Dead Sea Road. The road to Ain el-Fidan is well sign posted, and easy to find. Initial transportation into the site will be provided either from the American School in Amman (ACOR), or from the Amman Airport.

There is one tentative scheduled trip to Petra. Buses will collect the participants from the camp and will transport them to the area. Upon the conclusion of the weekend, buses will transport the

participants back to the Base Camp. This bus transportation is included in the camp fee, but weekend expenses for food and accommodation are not supplied by the project.

Qurayqira to Safi 1.00 hours
Qurayqira to Amman 3.00 hours
Qurayqira to Aqaba 1.50 hours

End of season transportation to Amman will be arranged by the project. You will be responsible for departure fees, which may include a small exit tax.

Qurayqira's Local Population/Etiquette

The village of Quray'qira is a small settlement recently settled by the local Bedouin tribes of this region. The area is populated by four different tribes, who rely primarily upon their flocks for economy. Sheep/goat and camel herding are practiced. The village has a modern school, mosque, medical clinic, and a number of small markets (with a limited range of goods, such as laundry soap, soft drinks, candies, dried dates and figs, and canned foods, and should not be relied upon for any necessities). Due to our close proximity to the village we will be a natural source of interest to the local population, therefore certain codes of conduct need to be maintained to avoid offending this traditional society.

Camp Behavior

The clean lab is located within the village boundaries. Therefore, we do expect to have contact with the local population. Other forms of contact will be through some purchases at the local markets and the hiring of local labor from the various tribes and the village. We expect all participants to be discreet in their conduct outside the immediate vicinity of the camp. This means best behavior, as we are only visitors in this region. Loud or unruly behavior is unacceptable.

Dress

Participants must maintain suitable attire while residing in camp and working on site. It is essential that all participants dress modestly, so as to not offend the local population. This principle applies to both men and women. Suitable attire refers to trousers or long skirts with modest blouses for the women, and trousers and shirts at all times for the men. While permitted within the boundaries of the camp, neither shorts nor sleeveless shirts would be suitable for either sex outside of the camp environment.

Social Life and Personal Relationships

As you can imagine, a tent camp of 60+ individuals in a fairly restricted social environment means that it will be difficult to escape the community aspect of life at times. It will also be quite difficult to achieve any privacy, from either your fellow participants, or the surrounding population. In this respect therefore we ask for your patience and co-operation as well as your discretion in your activities. It is important to

remember that we will be working in a conservative, Muslim community, and you should keep this in mind at all times.

Drugs and Alcohol

The policy on illegal narcotics is strict-zero tolerance. Anyone found in possession of illegal substances will be removed from the project immediately. The Jordanian government's policy on drugs is zero tolerance, and if you are caught you will likely face a jail sentence.

Hard alcohol (whiskey, vodka, gin etc.) is not allowed in camp. Social drinking (limited to beer) is tolerated. However, some basic rules need to be followed: 1. Be discreet. 2. Don't drink to excess-public displays of drunkenness will not be tolerated. 3. All participants will be expected to rise for work regardless of any self-inflicted fatigue (hangovers included). Remember that every drink you consume will contribute to your dehydration.

Tentative Daily Work Schedules

Work schedules may vary according to your responsibilities. Following is a tentative timelines. This will change, getting later throughout the season, adapting to the changing time of sunrise.

4:45 a.m.- Wake up call
5:00 a.m.- First breakfast in camp
5:30 a.m.- Depart to the site
6:00 a.m.- Excavation
9:20 a.m.- Breakfast (40 minutes)
11:30 a.m.- Water/Fruit Break
1:00 p.m.- Return to camp
2:00 p.m.- Lunch in camp
3:00-4:00 p.m.- Rest and relaxation
4:00 p.m.- Afternoon tea
4:30 p.m.- Clean/dirty lab processing
6:30 p.m.- Return to camp for dinner
7:00 p.m.- Dinner
8:00 p.m.- Alternate between evening lectures and free evenings
9:00 p.m. – Lights out

Lights out is strictly observed, and during this time silence is expected in camp. Socializing after hours must be conducted away from the sleeping tents.

Laundry

Washing clothes is done in buckets and basins at the Base Camp. Laundry detergent is available in the village shops. A clothes-line for drying will be provided. **Note: it gets rather windy in the afternoons, and students must bring their own clothespins.**

What to Bring

Essentials:

- . • Clothing (*see list below*)
- . • Hat-requirement
- . • Sunglasses
- . • Sun Block
- . • Insect repellent
- . • Mosquito net (for flies) (optional-recommended)
- . • Canteen or water bottle
- . • Trowel (Marshalltown #5 -available at Home Depot, Marshalltown.com, Home Base or WH&S- 4 “ available in the UK or online)
- . • Flashlight /batteries
- . • Personal first aid kit including misc. medication for aches and pains (including cold/sinus medicine, Imodium, etc.)
- . • Light Sleeping bag or sheets
- . • Backpack
- . • Clothespins
- . • Personal toiletries
- .
- .

NOTE: We will provide foam pads/mattresses for the tent beds. You do need to provide your own bedding material and it is suggested any other items you can't live without, i.e. prescribed medication, contact lens and personal hygiene supplies. However, please note most of these items can be purchased during your days off in Aqaba or Amman.

Clothing

It may be very hot and sunny during the excavation season, and the nights can get cool in the early morning hours. Please plan your clothing accordingly. Loose fitting, light cotton clothing is best. Shirts with long sleeves that can be rolled up are also recommended to help shade your arms.. A broad brimmed hat is especially necessary; again, because of the sun, you want to shade the back of your neck in addition to your face. Please consider that the temperature drops at night, feeling particularly cool in comparison to the daytime temperatures.

Suggestions for clothing

- . • 2 or 3 pair of Cargo or Khaki pants (available at an Army Surplus Store) and belt
- . • Plenty of undergarments- especially socks
- . • 3 or 4 shirts (long sleeve) and several t-shirts
- . • 1 pair of sandals/flip-flops, 1 pair of comfortable hiking shoes
- . • shorts for use within campsites
- . • swimwear and clothing for weekends away
- .

Due to the location of the excavation site, light hiking boots are recommended for excavation -

ankle support is needed when hiking to site. In camp, trainers or sandals have proven to be more appropriate in addition to a pair of rubber shower sandals.

Edom Lowlands Project Supplies to Bring from the US

As participants of the project, you and all staff members will be asked to transport supplies for the project to and from Jordan. These supplies consist of items ranging from theodolites, computers, and cameras, to office supplies. You will be contacted by the projected coordinator with information on pickup before the project and delivery of equipment upon returning to the states.

Practical Information

Currency

The Jordanian currency is called the Jordanian Dinar (JD) and is subdivided into 1,000 fils or 100 'Irsh (Piastres). The currency appears in paper notes of 20, 10, 5, 1 and ½ JD. Coins are in denominations of 1, ½, ¼ JD, 100 fils or 10 Piastres, 50 fils or 5 Piastres, 25 fils or 2.5 Piastres, 10 fils or 1 Piastre, 5 fils or ½ Piastre. All currency notes carry the value written in English and Arabic characters and numerals. The same is true for the coinage, although only Arabic numerals are shown.

Exchange Rates

The exchange rate is currently as follows, but may vary.

- 1 JD = 1000 fils or 100 'Irsh (Piastres)
- 1 US dollar = about .714 fils
- 1 British Pound Sterling = about 1.313 JD

All major foreign currencies can be changed without problem and there should be no fees or commission for cash. Exchange rates show little variation between different banks and money changers. It is always useful to have some hard currency with you, particularly when crossing borders. US dollars are the most widely recognized foreign currency, which is useful should you find yourself in a remote area without any local currency.

Credit Cards

ATMs are best as they are available everywhere for use (Amman, Petra, Aqaba). Many of the banks in Jordan will give cash advances against major credit cards. An increasing number also have ATMs (cash point machines) which can be used in the same way. Payment by credit card is accepted at more expensive restaurants and upscale markets and shops. Credit cards which are recognized in Jordan include Visa, MasterCard, Global Access and Plus.

Banks

There are a many different banks in Jordan, most of which offer currency exchange. However, commission rates vary significantly according to each bank, and some will not cash some varieties of travelers cheques, or may charge an unrealistic rate of commission. Best to ask before you begin as it can be a lengthy and bureaucratic process in which you will need your passport and in the case of travelers cheques also the claim stubs (you know the ones you are not suppose to carry with the travelers cheques...).

Cash

Cash is safe to carry in reasonable quantities, provided you can keep it in a safe place (inside pocket, money belt or waist bag etc.). As a precaution you should only carry the amount of cash, which your travel insurance will refund, should you lose it. Cash is almost always easier to change than any other medium, and has the benefit of being changeable in more remote areas.

Travelers Cheques

Unless you do not have access to credit cards, try to avoid traveler's cheques. If you decide to utilize this service, be sure to bring your refund slips and an receipt showing proof of purchase. This medium of exchange is more costly than any other due to commission charges is. If you must bring travelers cheques, be sure that they are a known brand name, American express etc., as this will ease the transaction a little.

A final note about money . . .

For those who are arriving on the group flight, it is highly recommended that you exchange enough money to keep yourself going for a few weeks upon arrival at the airport in Amman. Upon arrival at Amman airport, there is always a bank open, and they give as good a rate as anywhere in the country.

Media

Radio

Jordan has lots of radio stations, but only one English station — Radio Jordan —, which all western leaning Jordanian teenagers listen to. This FM station carries a variety of programming, including classical, pop, rock, etc. and is very up-to-date with the latest tunes. News summaries are usually hourly.

TV

Jordan has two TV channels, one that broadcasts in Arabic and one that includes Arabic, English and French and Hebrew programming. The programming is a little light through the day, with most of the effort going into the evening schedule. But hey, who wants to sit in front of a TV in Jordan, when there is so much to do? News in English is 10 p.m.

Print

You can buy quite a lot of the western press and magazines in Jordan — at a price. Most of the big Amman and resort hotels will carry western press as well as the local English Newspaper, The Jordan Times. This is a cheap and useful paper, if you want to keep abreast of the rest of the world, find a doctor or drug store, or check the price of tomatoes — cost 100 fils.

Business Hours

Government offices are usually open from 8 am to 2 p.m., Saturday to Thursday. Shops, money changers and drug stores will usually be open 9 am to 9 p.m. daily, although some may close on Friday or Sunday according to the owners religious practice. There is also usually a mid-afternoon closing in the summer months, when the owner will likely nip off for a siesta in the heat of the day. Things invariably get more active in the evening, and some shops and restaurants are open quite late. Souks (street markets) are usually open every day, and can be even busier on Fridays. Otherwise, Fridays can be a bit hit and miss for finding what you want in specialty shops, and probably more importantly, even banks.

Arrival in Jordan

Most of you will arrive in Jordan via Queen Alia International Airport. It is a modern airport, built in the mid-1980s, and is located about 35 km south of Amman. Upon arrival you will go directly through immigration where your visa will be checked, visa is available at airport for 10-15 JD, and then you go downstairs to baggage claim and customs control. Once downstairs you can claim your baggage, but we recommend that you first take advantage of the banks located in the arrival hall (before you go through customs) to exchange some money. This is the ideal and the least bureaucratic place to exchange funds, and carries little paperwork. Do it here to avoid problems later. Once you have your money and your baggage you can pass through customs. You will be asked if you have anything to declare, and especially video cameras. Once through customs, you can proceed directly out of the terminal where you can find either a bus to Amman or local taxis. The rate per taxi is about 15 JD with tip, so four people sharing can get away with about 4 JD for the trip to Amman. There is a bus to Abdali bus station for JD1, but this will involve a short wait and is a slower journey into Amman.

Your final destination in Amman will be ACOR. ACOR is located in the area known as Tila 'a Ali and is across from the University of Jordan. The taxi drivers may or may not be familiar with ACOR. However, please take the map with you and show to the driver.

What if I miss the bus to Fidan?

The project will transport the participants to Fidan. Therefore, we ask everyone arrive at ACOR by the designated day. If for some unforeseen reason you miss the bus from ACOR, or if due to poor connections you are delayed, don't despair! It is easy to get to Fidan and the following instructions should help you to get to Fidan without problems. First of all, you need to get the JETT bus to Aqaba. You can get this from the JETT bus station in Abdali. Once in Aqaba, you will need to catch the small local bus that runs daily from Aqaba, up the Wadi Arabah to Qurayqira. The village of Qurayqira is also sometimes referred to as Fidan, or Ain el-Fidan. You should be able to make yourself understood, and if in doubt ask the tourist police for directions. The bus from Aqaba to Qurayqira costs only a few JD, but the schedule is not regular, so you will

need to arrive as early as possible, or plan to spend a night in Aqaba to catch the next day's bus.

Police Registration

You will notice that when you have your passport stamped it will carry a stamp (regardless of your visa) saying report to the nearest police station within two weeks. Don't worry about this since all passports will be processed together once we have reached our base camp. However, anyone remaining in Jordan following the project will need to register again after 3 months.

Safety and Theft

Jordan is about the safest place anyone could hope to travel in. Travelers are mostly safe, both from theft of belongings and personally. Violent crime is very rare. It is wise still to carry your money close to your person, not to leave your belongings out of sight, and to lock your bag/backpack to avoid the curious grubbing of mostly fellow travelers. In general people are friendly, honest and ready to help in time of trouble. If you absolutely get lost — ask someone — there is usually someone who speaks English nearby, and they will be helpful and get you on the right track.

Telephones

There are several options for making telephone calls in Jordan, including phone cards, phone services, and cellular phones. Phone cards can be purchased at most markets in the cities, but care must be taken to ensure that they can be used internationally. Most internet cafes, which are very common in Jordan, also will place calls to anywhere in the world for set rates, which are usually competitive, negotiable, and quite low. Cellular phones are also available for purchase in Amman or Aqaba. One can also purchase cards which can be inserted into Walkingman or Tri-band (unlocked) phones and used internationally. You can purchase the simm card at any mobile shop. There are three options, Fastlink, Umniah and Mobilecom. The village houses a Fastlink tower and mobile reception is excellent. Umniah and Mobilecom providers are excellent in the city but more limited in the rural areas. The cost for a phone may run from JD40 to several hundred. The simm card will cost about JD10 to JD15 plus phone time. Minutes can be purchased at any mobile shop or retail market in increments of JD10, JD20, or JD25 (plus commission).

Electricity

Jordan's electricity supply is 240 volts, and is reliable and uninterrupted. Most of Jordan, except for sparsely populated or remote areas is on the national electrical grid. Unfortunately, this means Qurayqira is not on the grid — so if you want to operate electrical equipment in camp, bring batteries. Cell phones and some other electronic devices can be charged in the clean lab, but keep in mind that you will be sharing a limited number of sockets with everyone in camp — and Project equipment takes priority!

E-Mail

Thanks to modern technology, email can be accessed at various locations throughout Jordan. It is recommended that you set up a web-based e-mail account (i.e. Yahoo, Hotmail, etc.). Charges for accessing the internet vary, so check around.

Postal Service

The Central Post Office is located in downtown Amman with branches throughout the country, including Aqaba. Stamps may be purchased at most Post Offices. We will check on postage rates at ACOR upon entering the country, but expect to pay about US \$1.00 per letter sent to the US, or about 500 fils for postcards.

Courier Services

ARAMEX 535-8855

DHL 585-8514 7th circle shopping area

FEDEX 569-5415 Shmeisani, Abu Saud Center

UPS 560-1313 ACOR's contract service

Shipping Companies

Amin Kawar & Sons 560-3703

Amman Shipping & Trading Co. 551-4620

Jordan Express 566-2723

Letters and postcards reach their destinations in a reasonable amount of time, usually about 4-5 days to Europe and about 10 days to the USA (depending on location). For information on contact addresses see "Other useful" information.

Getting mail from home!

Have your mail sent to ACOR. No parcels please as they have to be picked up personally. FedEx to ACOR is okay.

ACOR Address:

American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR)

c/o Jabal Hamrat Fidan Archaeology Project

P.O. Box 2470

Amman 11181, Jordan

Time

Jordan is two hours ahead of GMT (UTC) during the winter (October to April) and three hours ahead in summer (May to September).

Photography

Most types of 35mm film are available in Jordan in all but the most remote areas. Other films are less easily found. Most brand names are available, Kodak, Fuji, etc. Prices can vary considerably, and it will not be any cheaper than you will pay at home, often more expensive, so it pays to bring what you think you will need without having to rely upon further purchase in Jordan. It is worth bringing a variety of film speeds, but 100 ASA is usually best for print film for Jordan's harsh daylight conditions. A polarizing lens is also useful.

Do remember that if you want to photograph people, you should ask first, as you can sometimes get a surprising reaction. Generally people are only too happy to oblige you with a photo opportunity, but some may charge a fee, especially camel owners in Petra. Please remember that photography is expressly forbidden at border crossings, police or security installations, or anywhere else expressly stated. Your film *will* be confiscated.

Traveling to Jordan

Students will make their own travel arrangements to Amman, Jordan. University of California students should check with STA Travel for good student rates. No group flight from San Diego to Amman is being organized.

Departures from Jordan

CONFIRMATION OF TICKETS ON ALL FLIGHTS THREE DAYS IN ADVANCE OF DEPARTURE IS A MUST!! Also, re-reconfirmation is advised one day in advance. Most other Airline agents are located on King Hussein Street, downtown. Check your Guide to Amman booklet for addresses and telephone numbers of airline companies.

To get to the **airport** from ACOR, you can either take a taxi or the airport bus from Abdali for 500 fils (every half hour). A taxi will cost approximately JD 15.000 - negotiate the fare before you start.

For Royal Jordanian flights you can check in at the city air terminal near 7th Circle. You can check your luggage and get a seat up to 24 hours in advance. For 1 J.D., there is a bus to the airport. This service is available from about 8:00 AM to 9:00 PM. Please check in advance for the hours.

Airport Tax is payable by all international passengers departing Jordan from Queen Alia Airport. Non-Jordanian passport holders pay JD 5.000 per passport. Persons on domestic flights are not subject to departure tax.

If you are flying on Royal Jordanian there is a city terminal at the Seventh Circle, open from about 8:00 AM to 9:00 PM. You can check in, pay your airport tax, obtain your boarding pass and, for 1 JD, get a bus ride (about every half hour) to the airport. You can check in up to 24 hours before your flight and then go back the next day for the ride.

During peak travel seasons it is advisable to check in 24 hours in advance.

Visa Information

American citizens can obtain a visa through their local Jordanian embassy (\$16.50 Single Entry or \$31.50 Multiple Entry) or can get a visa at the airport (10 JD Single Entry). Multiple entry visas can only be purchased through the Embassy of Jordan in Washington, D.C. Americans have the distinct advantage that they are able to buy a multiple entry visa for Jordan that is good for six months at only a slightly higher price than a single entry visa.

Please note: The UC Education Abroad Program's program in Israel is suspended indefinitely due to a U.S. State Department Travel Warning. As such, the university doesn't sanction students going to Israel.

Accommodations

Accommodations range from a few dinars a night in cheap hotels to expensive luxury hotels. In Amman the cheapest places to stay is where all the action is — downtown. Around the heart of ancient Philadelphia (as it was known to the Greeks and Romans, and one of the cities of the Decapolis), you will find the Roman theatre, and other monuments nestled beside shops of all descriptions, and plenty of cheap hotels. You should always ask to see the room before deciding to stay, and to enquire whether you have purchased a room or a bed in a room. You should check the bed to see if there are any unwelcome visitors (fleas, lice etc.), and also check the walls for any signs of crushed mosquitoes (from the previous occupant's sufferings). In the summer mosquitoes can be a real headache, and a good repellent and a mosquito net are good investments. Accommodations in Aqaba are commensurate with those in Amman. You can get a decent room for about JD20 - JD30 (double occupancy). There are also cheaper hotels and rooftops that are willing to accommodate you. Should you choose to splurge, there are many hotels along the sea that are willing to take you JD's. Amman is a resort town on the Red Sea; diving and snorkeling are popular here, so you might want to budget accordingly. Expenses for food will vary with your tastes. For a few fils you can purchase shwarma from the local shop or can eat at a local diner for a few JD's.

Transportation around Amman

Taxi You can catch a taxi on University Road at the bottom of the hill. Ask the driver to use his meter or be prepared to pay inflated fares. A driver usually will use the meter without asking. If he does not, remind him. Drivers are not obliged to use their meters after midnight. Arrange the fare before leaving. Adding one dinar to the normal fare (if you know it) is usually sufficient.

Approximate prices (from ACOR):
DowntownJD 2.000
Jabal AmmanJD 2.000

A private taxi can be rented to go anywhere in the country, but it is expensive (ca. \$85 for a full day). You must negotiate a price with the taxi driver before you leave and do not pay him until you arrive.

To return to ACOR, tell the driver Jordan University (al-Jami'a al-Urdania). Some people find it easiest to get out at the foot bridge, cross over the bridge, and walk up the hill to ACOR. Otherwise, continue to the mosque circle, tell the driver to make a U-turn (or just left – ash-shamal) and then direct him to ACOR-first right after the foot bridge.

Buses You can catch a bus going to Downtown or to Abdali from University Road (80-100 fils). Buses and Serveeses depart from Amman on a regular basis to all major cities in Jordan. Most public transportation destined for points north (Jerash, Irbid, etc.) leave from Abdali Bus Station. Buses and Serveeses to Kerak, Aqaba and other points south depart from WAHDAT on the southern edge of Amman. You can also catch a bus for Salt, Jerash, Madaba, and Irbid at the main entrance to the University.

Driving

In Jordan you will need an International driver's license to rent a car. Driving is on the right (in theory) but has the distinctly British convention of roundabouts, or traffic circles. These are not for the faint hearted. In Jordan priority is to the car on the roundabout, but in practice it is a chance to hone your skills of playing chicken. Exercise extreme caution. Do also be careful of young children dashing into the street, and always give way to pedestrians. In Jordan if you hit someone, YOU are responsible regardless of whether they ran out in front of you. If you have any accident, stop and contact the police immediately. This is for your own safety.

Car Rental

There are many places to rent cars in Jordan, and it can be a good way to see sites. Prices vary significantly, so shop around. Often companies will deliver a car to you where ever you are, and larger hotels usually have deals with a specific agency. Most of the larger international rental companies have an agent in Jordan.

Insurance

Always be sure that you are fully covered, and make sure that if you plan to get off the paved road to see out of the way sites, that your insurance will cover undercarriage damage.

Buses

There are JETT buses that run between major cities like Amman, Irbid, Aqaba and Petra. These efficient but are also expensive. The best way to really see the country is to go by local buses. These are small 15 (or so) seat buses that run absolutely everywhere, and are very cheap. It has the advantage that you can get to even the most remote location, but it will take time, so patience

is essential. These buses are not signed in English, so you'll need to ask for the destination you want, and also check with the driver when you get on the bus. Most of these buses hit several destinations, so don't assume that you have reached your destination, always ask before you get off. In most towns, there is a local bus station, and in Amman all these buses go from the Abdali bus station.

Service Taxis

In price terms these are in the middle range. Usually an older clapped out Mercedes or such, with room for about 5 persons. They run from specific destination to specific destination, and are faster than a local bus, but cheaper than the JETT bus. One caution is that these have been known to have the most accidents, and it is not uncommon to find some fairly scary driving being undertaken by a Service Taxi driver. So, beware.

Taxis

In major centers taxis are by far the best way to get around, and are ridiculously cheap. Always make sure they turn the meter on when they start — this avoids problems later.

Touring

Jordan has a plethora of interesting archaeological sites. Take advantage of your stay to see as many as possible. We cannot attempt to list them all (the Insight Guide is probably the best now in print - available at hotel bookstores), but suggest that you try to get to all of the following:

- -Petra, the rose city of the Nabataeans (featured in The Last Crusade), where our mosaics and scrolls were found.
- -Jerash, one of the more intact Roman cities, and Ajlun, a half hour's drive from Jerash
- -Madaba, site of the greatest concentration of mosaics yet found in Jordan
- -The Desert Castles, most built during the brief Umayyad Caliphate
- -Um al Jimal, a prosperous town during the Nabataean, Roman and Byzantine era, where even ordinary houses were built of stone (basalt)
- -Um Qais, a major city of the Hellenistic and Roman eras. Spectacular view of the Golan Heights
- -The Dead Sea

Some sites, such as Madaba and Jerash, can be visited by taking a bus from the Abdali station. Jett bus goes to Petra, but not everyday, so you need to check their schedule with them.

Health

If you are suffering from any health problems prior to participation these should have been made clear on the form provided. The combination of hard work, hot sun, and a busy schedule will take its toll on you by the end of the season. For this reason you should be aware of your health

situation, and take steps to maintain your health over the course of the season. The largest problem you will face will be dehydration (see below).

Inoculations

The American Embassy in Amman recommends the following immunizations for travel to Jordan. Record of immunizations should be listed in the "yellow book" to accompany your passport. You should also list your blood type in case of emergency. Please check with your physician for his/her recommendations regarding these immunizations.

- Typhoid - required every three years.
- Tetanus Diphtheria - required every ten years.
- Poliomyelitis
- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Meningitis - recommended every three years.
- Malaria - no malaria in Amman, occasionally present in the Jordan Valley.
- Cholera - not required.

Please remember we will be living in the desert and encountering local fauna.

Poisonous Bites - any bite which provokes an unusual reaction (excessive swelling, soreness, redness, etc.) should be looked at by a doctor.

- Scorpions - Yellow scorpions have the highest toxicity, followed by black. Light and dark brown scorpions are usually not poisonous.
- Centipedes - can cause severe local and sometimes general symptoms, but are rarely fatal. The centipede locally known as the "Forty-four," yellowish-tan, approximately 8 inches long) is the most common poisonous type.
- Spiders - Black Widow. The large "camel spiders" are not poisonous, but can inflict a bite. The brown recluse can cause damage.
- Ticks themselves are not poisonous but carry endemic and Mediterranean tick typhus. Ticks are associated with, dogs, horses, camels, rodents, small mammals, cave dung, as well as other sources.
- Wasps - The big brown and yellow "cow-killer" wasps will cause an immediate reaction even in those not normally allergic to bee stings. Local first-aid clinics will usually have anti-venom shots available. If you are allergic to bee stings, you should carry your "kit" with you at all times.
- Snakes - Jordan has many snakes - some of which are not fully known or classified by biologists. Always assume it is poisonous. Local first-aid clinics may or may not have anti-venom shots available.

Other Medical Information

You will have had a medical prior to your participation, and it is your responsibility to disclose any medical history or problems that you have which may affect your health or participation. In particular, vegetarians (vegan or otherwise) should make this known to the project directors, so that steps can be taken to ensure a proper food supply.

Insurance

ALL participants must have adequate travel and medical insurance. You must provide evidence of such insurance before participation, so be sure to bring your documentation along. It is important to be able to pay for any medical treatment in advance, since most insurance policies are on a claim back basis. We recommend that you have a credit card you can use to draw on funds if necessary. You should also find out if your insurance company has a toll free hotline number in case of severe emergencies, and keep this with your insurance documents.

Dehydration

As mentioned above, dehydration will be your largest health worry, so it is important to drink above normal amounts of fluids at all times. It is just as important to drink water while lying around on the beach on the weekends as it is while in the field. We recommend that each person drink about 40 cups (3-4 litres) of water per day. We recommend that you add a little extra salt on your food each day in order to compensate for the loss of salts while in the field each day. You might also consider bringing re-hydration drinks. On excavation you should be well covered at all times so as to avoid both dehydrated and sunburn. Always wear a hat – must for the field but a good idea at other times. It is especially important to drink a lot of extra water if you have been indulging in alcohol, as nothing dehydrates you more quickly than a few beers in the hot sun. It is very easy to become dehydrated in the Middle East and it happens very quickly. Dehydration will inevitably mean you will end up in the local hospital having your electrolytes boosted with IV for a few days, both expensive and very boring.

Other Considerations

Please wear shoes at all times as there are lots of rusty metal objects lying around. It is not safe to hitch a ride at any time and we do not recommend it.

Female Participants

As in any place women can not take their safety for granted. It is wise therefore to know the rules, and here are a few tested guidelines. Women traveling alone may experience problems, and it is wise to travel with a friend and if possible with a male companion. Women should dress modestly; long skirts, slacks and blouses or T-shirts with sleeves. Often foreign women are treated as 'honorary men' — i.e. you can get away with things the local female population would not. It is however, always wise to be conservative even in these situations, and to avoid tea shops and other primarily male dominated establishments, more for your comfort (to avoid stares) and less so from a safety perspective. A headscarf can come in very handy, as this shows modesty, and is usually a signal that is respected by local men. Similarly you should avoid eye contact, as this can be also be misconstrued. Idle chat with strange men is often taken as a sign of your interest in them (invariably sexual), and should be avoided. If you are harassed (unlikely, but it does happen), it is useful to avoid speaking and eye contact and to simply walk away and ignore the person concerned. In most situations the presence of other women, especially local women is the safest retreat.

Basic Information about Jordan

The history of the region that is now Jordan is long and involved and any attempt to summarize it

here would be an oversimplification. The more recent past, and the formation of the modern Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan although complicated can be summarized as below, and further reading is listed in the section titled "Other" useful information.

Most school children will have heard of Lawrence of Arabia (T.E. Lawrence), the British officer who during the First World War enlisted the assistance of several of the major Bedouin tribes of Transjordan to overthrow the Turks, who had controlled the area of Palestine, Jordan, Syria and the Lebanon since the 16th century. The local population was promised an independent Arab state in return for their help in driving out the Turks. Upon the conclusion of the war, the victorious allies of France and Britain instead divided the countries between themselves. The justification for division of the territory was the infamous Sykes-Picot agreement, which saw Syria and the Lebanon as French protectorates, and Palestine (modern Israel and the West Bank) and Transjordan under control of the British. In Palestine and Transjordan this mandate lasted until after the Second World War, and the ensuing confrontations surrounding the partition of Palestine, and subsequent war in 1948. After the conclusion of an armistice in 1949, King Abdullah of Transjordan annexed what was left of Palestine in Arab control as part of Jordan (i.e. the West Bank) to his kingdom in 1950, which was renamed the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Under British influence the country adopted a constitutional monarchy. Following the assassination of Abdullah in 1951, leadership of the Kingdom was assumed by his son Talal, who after ruling for only one year, was deemed to be mentally unfit and replaced by a 17 year old second son -Hussein. King Hussein ruled Jordan from 1952 and was the longest reigning monarch in the world till his death in 1999. His achievements of peace, stability, and economic growth to his Kingdom will long be remembered by his people. Upon the death of King Hussein, his son Abdullah Bin Al Hussein has assumed leadership of the Kingdom. Under his leadership, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and its people are hosts to visitors from all over the world.

Geography and Climate

Jordan can be divided into four major regions; the Eastern Heights or Plateau; the Jordan Valley; The Eastern Desert; and the Wadi Arabah. Each of these distinct geographical zones varies considerably in climate, water resources, habitation and ecology.

The dominant feature of the country of Jordan is the Jordan Valley, which it shares with the country of Israel and the West Bank to the west. The Jordan valley (and the Wadi Arabah further south) is part of the Great Rift Valley that runs from South Africa to Anatolia. The region referred to as the Jordan Valley runs between the Sea of Galilee (Lake Kinneret in Hebrew) and the Dead Sea. This same valley south of the Dead Sea is referred to as the Wadi Arabah, which due to climatic variation is quite different from the northern Jordan Valley. The Dead Sea separates these two portions of the rift valley and at 394 metres below sea level, is the lowest point on earth. The Dead Sea is highly saline because of high mineral content and high evaporation of the water. Between the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea, runs the Jordan river (north to south). This river is actually very small and hardly more than a stream in many places. It has the distinction of forming the border between Israel and Jordan, including the West Bank. The entire water system of the rift valley in Jordan is fed by large wadis (seasonal drainages) that transverse the area from both the eastern and western plateaus. During the winter season, these wadis contribute substantial amounts of water and provide sufficient irrigation for intensive farming.

The Eastern Heights or Plateau runs from the Yarmouk River and the Syrian Border in the north and declines in altitude as it extends south. The plateau can be divided into zones on the basis of

the major wadis which dissect it (east to west). The major wadis from north to south are: the Wadi Yarmouk, Wadi Zarqa, Wadi Mujib, Wadi Kerak, Wadi Hasa, and include a series of lesser wadis which flow into the Wadi Arabah- the Wadi Dana and Wadi Es Shaqir which are the eastern portion of the Feinan wadi system. The traditional names of sections of the plateau stem from biblical texts (the Hebrew Bible) and are often referred to as Ammon, Moab, Edom. The area referred to as Ammon, is the area of the plateau north of the Wadi Mujib. The area of Moab is that which lies between the Wadi Mujib and the Wadi Hasa. The area of Edom is the area south of the Wadi Hasa.

The Eastern Desert, actually an extension of the eastward tilting plateau, stretches far to the north, south and east where it is bordered by the countries of Syria, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. These desert areas are extremely arid (less than 50 mm annually) and composed of vast stretches of primarily rock desert, with extensive flows of volcanic basalt (The so-called Black Desert). Temperatures in these areas are extreme in both winter and summer.

The last area is the Wadi Arabah, the southern portion of the rift valley, which lies south of the Dead Sea. This area can also be sub-divided, into the 'Southern Ghor' an area of extreme depression surrounding the Dead Sea at its southern end, and the Wadi Arabah which runs south to the Gulf of Aqaba and the Red Sea. This area is also generally very dry, although winter rains, which run into the area from the wadis and the eastern plateau, provide sufficient oases and a high water table to meet the needs of the sparse population and limited agriculture.

Flora and Fauna

The diverse regions described above have considerably varying flora and fauna. In the north of the Eastern Heights, pine forests, cedar, eucalyptus and olives are the dominant species. Further south, the plateau is largely un-wooded and dominated by subsistence practices of dry farming and mixed herding. In the arid regions of the south (especially south of the Wadi Hasa), the herding of sheep, goats and camels predominate.

There are a diverse range of fauna in each of these zones, the many wild species of which include fox, hare, badgers, porcupines, hyena, jackal, gazelle and camel. There are also large numbers of species of birds, especially in the spring since the area of Jordan and Israel are located on the main migration routes from Africa to Europe and Asia.

People

The population of Jordan is approximately 3.5 million, but possibly now higher as a result of recent movements of Palestinians from the Gulf States following the Gulf war of 1990. The majority of the population is split between those of Palestinian origin (many now two or three generations in Jordan) and the indigenous population which stems largely from the Bedouin tribal groups of the area. Other ethnic groups including Iraqis, Turks, Circassian and Armenians.

Religion

More than 90 percent of the population of Jordan are Sunni Muslims. There is a small Shiite minority and about 6 percent (and falling) of the population is Christian, split between Orthodox and Catholic. The majority of the Christian population is to be found in the earliest and traditionally Christian towns of Madaba and Salt, but now also to a large extent in the capital Amman. Christian villages also occur throughout the country. In general terms there are no problems between the religious groups, and religious diversity and practice are guaranteed by the constitution.

Language

The official language of Jordan is Arabic. Due to its historic links with Britain, Jordan also has a high proportion of English speakers. Most government and official buildings, signs and documents will display text in both Arabic and English. It is therefore easy to find your way around Jordan without the need to use Arabic (although a basic understanding of the alphabet is at times useful). The one major exception to this are local buses, signed only in Arabic (see buses under the section on travel).

What to See

Jordan is full of beautiful scenery, fascinating sites of great antiquity and is a modern and vibrant country. The visitor is simply spoiled for choice in what to see and do. Listed below however are a few suggestions that you may find useful and which may point you in the direction of further investigation. **We suggest you visit the Jordan Tourism Board's website at www.seejordan.org**

Timing

One of the key things to remember when traveling in Jordan (or any country) is to keep firmly in mind the distances involved in moving from place to place and how best to maximize your time and energy. Jordan is not an overly large country, and the vast majority of cities, town and interesting sites are situated in the western most portion of the country. However, if you do not have the luxury of your own private transportation, moving from place to place can be both logistically difficult and time consuming. These factors should be borne in mind when considering your itinerary.

Well Known Sites

Petra

By far the best known attraction in Jordan, this is one not to miss. Even if you think that the Greeks and Romans are modern history, you should see Petra just for the natural beauty of the site, and the splendor of the monuments. Gone are the days of easy access to the site and the romantic donkey rides in and out of the Sik, and the admission price has risen to western style rates for national monuments, but even still it's worth a visit. There are lots of guide books to the

site and you will find some references in the further reading section. We will try to organize a project tour of Petra, through the Department of Antiquities, and details will be available by the time of the project.

Little Petra

Just to the north of Petra about 4 km distance from the Forum hotel, and not far from the Neolithic site of Beidha, lies a smaller, less visited but equally interesting rock cut tombs and monuments.

Beidha

Very near to little Petra lies the Neolithic site of Beidha, excavated between 1958 and 1983 by Diana Kirkbride under the auspices of the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem and later the British Institute at Amman. This Neolithic site dates back to the 7th millennium BC. The site, although fenced is worthy of a look, where you can see the trenches and splendid preservation of the Neolithic architecture.

Jerash (Gerasa)

Situated some 50km north of Amman, Jerash is one of Jordan's major attractions, and second only to Petra. This remarkably well preserved Hellenistic through Byzantine city, was one of the cities of the Decapolis and has splendid provincial Roman architecture, including one of the best preserved city plans of any Roman provincial city. You can walk the main streets, visit the temples and churches, and forum. Well worth a visit, and easy to get to since the main Amman to Irbid road dissects the site.

Aqaba

Aqaba is a sleepy little town compared to its glitzier neighbor Eilat, but the beaches are fine, and it's a great place to crash out for the weekend and get some R&R.

Dead Sea

No visit to the region would be complete without a float in the Dead Sea. This can be done in many places, but for the most comfortable arrangements, there are several new resorts along the Dead Sea which offer accommodation, and the chance to shower and get all that salty brine off after your swim.

AMMAN

Jordan's capital and often not considered by tourists as worthy of extensive exploration. There is however lots to see and do, a few of the main highlights are listed below. The location of the city has a long history, and was known in Biblical times (The Iron Age) as Rabbath-Ammon, and was major city of the Ammonites. Its history is probably much older and there is evidence of almost continuous occupation on this site since prehistory. The modern town, really only a 20th century creation is a bustling urban center that sprawls over an extensive area.

Orientation

Like Rome (or so the tour books goes..) Amman is built on several hills, which are called Jabals in Arabic. Areas of town are referred to by the Jabal, i.e. Jabal Hussein, Jabal Amman, etc. The landscape is then a series of hills (Jabals) and surrounding wadis, and transportation can be difficult until you know the layout. The early formation of the city followed a series of 'circles' strung together by a main artery road, but most of these circles have now been replaced with intersections (for obvious reasons when you see the traffic jams). The exceptions are the main downtown areas, which are still designated by 'first circle', 'second circle' and 'third circle'.

The Citadel and Museum

The Citadel, is a large defended acropolis in the center of the downtown area. It contains both the archaeological museum, as well as several interesting excavated sites, including the recently partially restored Temple of Hercules. Well worth the time to visit.

Downtown

It is an excellent area to get in some serious shopping and browse for those souvenirs. It also has some of the cheapest hotels and restaurants, and if you can stand the pace of life here (hectic and noisy) is a good base for staying in Amman.

Archaeological Sites

Spreads throughout the downtown section of Amman are several Roman monuments, including a well preserved and restored theatre and the Nymphaeum (presently being restored).

Restaurants

Lots to choose from for every appetite and price range. Most of the really nice restaurants are clustered in the first-third circle area, but others are dotted around Amman. Very cheap meals can be had right downtown in the area around King Talal Street, in the area of Abdali (the bus station) and also in various commercial areas around the city.

Night Life

Amman is not amongst the more exciting towns for nightlife, although it is not as bad as it used to be. There are plenty of places to dine and a fair few watering holes, including of course an Irish Pub. Most of these establishments are located in and around the major hotels, and in the first-third circles area. You might also try Shmeisani, and up market shopping area, which has a good selection eateries and places to hang out, with also the best places to buy ice cream (for the best ice cream in the Middle East try Frosties, a personal favourite).

Other Places of Interest

The Kings Highway

This ancient route which runs from Amman south to Petra, crosses many of the major towns en route, including Madaba, Kerak, Shobak, and on to Petra. This route is especially good for the scenery, since it crosses the two largest wadis in Jordan, the Wadi Mujib, and the Wadi Hasa. Spectacular scenery, so don't forget your camera.

Kerak

The site of Kerak is well worth a tour, to see the very well preserved Crusader Castle and fortified town, in which the now modern town is built. The site was very impressive walls and fortifications, which can be seen from outside and from the upper portions of the castle. A small fee is payable to get into the castle, but you won't be disappointed. If you want to see a nice view, you can have a drink in the restaurant of the Government Rest House (just outside the Castle entrance), with a view down the Wadi Kerak towards the Dead Sea.

Madaba

To the south of Amman lies the Christian town of Madaba, which houses one of the most fascinating mosaics floors yet uncovered in Jordan, which shows Palestine in the sixth century and the location of many of the churches of Palestine includes the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. The mosaic can be seen at the Greek Orthodox Church of St. George. A good day trip from Amman.

Wadi Rum

A little out of the way, and not heavily touristed, this is really a must for any trip to Jordan. T.E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia) describes his first visit to Wadi Rum as he approached by camel from the south, in his book *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*: The hills drew together until only two miles divided the, and then, towering gradually until their parallel parapets must have been a thousand feet above us, ran forward in an avenue for miles... The Arab armies would have been lost in the length and breadth of it, and within the walls a squadron of planes could have wheeled in formation. Our little caravan grew self-conscious, and fell dead quiet, ashamed and afraid to flaunt its smallness in the presence of the stupendous hills.

In fact, Lawrence got the scale wrong, the jabs of Rum are nearly 6000 feet high, and the contrast between these steep cliffs and the 2-km wide flat wadi bottom of sandstone is spectacular. Although there is not a lot to do except enjoy the scenery, it is worth a short trip from Aqaba. There are now some excellent walking guides to the area, but care should be taken to ensure plentiful supply of water.

Address for Contact in Jordan

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Consulates and Embassies

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Canadian (Shmeisani) 5666124

British (3rd Circle) 5823100

This is an essential guide to the history and archaeological sites of Jordan, and recommended for anyone traveling around the country after the project.