



# Amman عمان

📍06 / POP 2.8 MILLION / ELEV 850M

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## Best Places to Eat

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- » Romero Restaurant (p66)

## Best Places to Stay

- » Jordan InterContinental Hotel (p61)
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- » Jordan Tower Hotel (p60)
- » Caravan Hotel (p61)
- » Palace Hotel (p61)

## Why Go?

Jordan's capital city, Amman, is one of the easiest cities in the region to enjoy the Middle East experience. The city has two distinct parts: urbane Western Amman, with leafy residential districts, cafes, bars, modern malls and art galleries; and earthy Eastern Amman, where it's easier to sense the more traditional, conservative and Islamic pulse of the capital.

At the heart of the city is the chaotic, labyrinthine 'downtown', a must-see of a capital visit. At the bottom of the city's many hills, and overlooked by the magisterial Citadel, it features spectacular Roman ruins and the hubbub of Jordanian life – best understood by joining the locals in the nightly promenade between mosque, souq and coffeeshop.

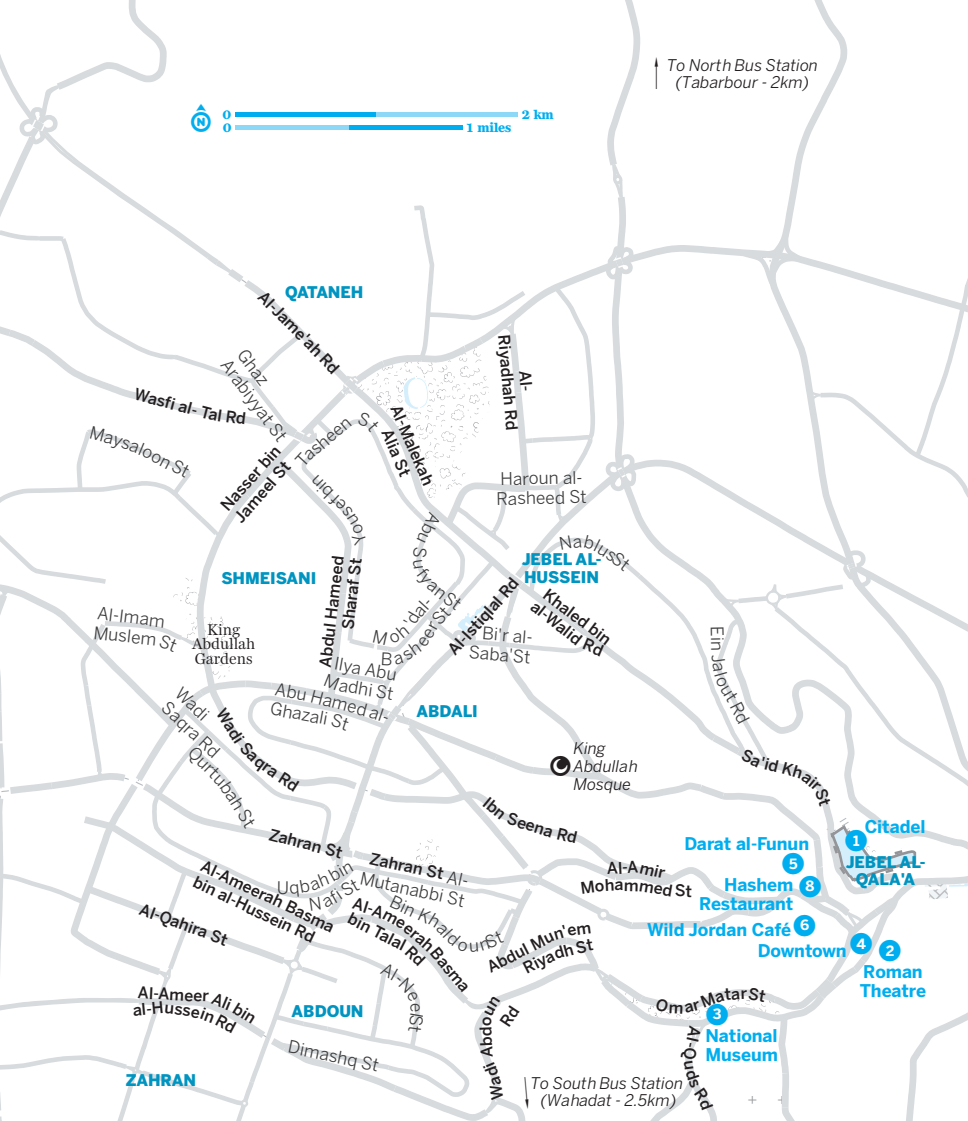
When the intense conurbation of the city becomes claustrophobic, there are village escapes within the urban fringe – reminders that despite thousands of years of settlement, Jordan remains a largely rural experience.

## When to Go

The capital's hilly location brings sharp winds during cold winters making March to May and October to November the best time for a visit.

If you can bear the claustrophobic heat of mid-summer which radiates off densely-packed buildings and lurks in breezeless alleyways, then July and August is recommended for the annual Jerash Festival. At this time the Roman Theatre comes alive and the capital penchant for an evening promenade comes into its own.

In September, the Hakaya storytelling festival brings a Bedouin experience to the heart of the city.



## Amman Highlights

- 1 Visit the ruins (and museum) of the ancient **Citadel** (p49)
- 2 Admire the engineering precision of the **Roman Theatre** (p52), Amman's most spectacular ancient monument
- 3 Be one of the first visitors to the **National Museum** (p53), set to open in 2012
- 4 Stroll **downtown** (p49) and rub shoulders with Amman's immigrant population
- 5 See an exhibition at **Darat al-Funun** (p54), and sip tea amid the Byzantine ruins
- 6 Have lunch at **Wild Jordan Café** (p66) and book your nature-reserve adventure with the RSCN at the same time
- 7 Have a glass of wine in the **bars and cafes** (p67) of Shmeisani and Abdoun
- 8 Queue at **Hashem Restaurant** (p65), downtown's legendary felafel eatery
- 9 Visit **Fuheis** (p79) for lunch in the excellent Zuwwadeh Restaurant and amble through **Wadi as-Seer** (p77)