



Amman عمان

📍 06 / POP 2.8 MILLION / ELEV 850M

Includes ➔

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|--|----|
| Wadi as-Seer & Iraql al-Amir | 72 |
| Cave of Seven Sleepers (Ahl al-Kahf) | 73 |
| Fuheis..... | 74 |

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Hashem Restaurant (p60)
- ➔ Afrah Restaurant & Coffeeshop (p60)
- ➔ Sufra (p61)
- ➔ Fakhr El-Din Restaurant (p62)
- ➔ Romero Restaurant (p62)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Jordan InterContinental Hotel (p58)
- ➔ Hisham Hotel (p57)
- ➔ Jordan Tower Hotel (p56)
- ➔ Caravan Hotel (p57)
- ➔ Palace Hotel (p57)

Why Go?

As Middle Eastern cities go, Amman is a relative youth, and though it lacks the storied history and thrilling architectural tapestry of other regional capitals, there's plenty here to encourage you to linger awhile before making for Petra, the Dead Sea or Wadi Rum. In fact, Amman is one of the easiest cities in which 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 and conservative pulse of the capital.

At the heart of the city is the chaotic, labyrinthine 'downtown', an Amman must-see. At the bottom of the city's many hills, and overlooked by the magisterial Citadel, it features spectacular Roman ruins, an international-standard museum and the hubbub of mosques, souqs and coffeehouses that are central to Jordanian life.

When to Go

- ➔ The capital's hilly location brings sharp winds (and even the occasional day of snow) 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 are recommended for the annual Jerash Festival. At this time the Roman Theatre comes alive and the capital's penchant for an evening promenade comes into its own.



Amman Highlights

- 1 Visit the ruins (and museum) of the ancient **Citadel** (p45).
- 2 Admire the engineering precision of the **Roman Theatre** (p48).
- 3 Explore the breadth of Jordanian history at the superb **Jordan Museum** (p45).
- 4 Stroll **downtown** and rub shoulders with Amman's immigrant population.
- 5 See an exhibition at **Darat al-Funun** (p50), and sip tea amid the Byzantine ruins.
- 6 Learn to cook like a local with a class at **Beit Sitti** (p54).
- 7 Queue at **Hashem Restaurant** (p60), a legendary felafler eatery.
- 8 Cycle in countryside around Amman on a **Bike Rush** (p55) day trip.
- 9 Lunch in **Fuheis** at the excellent Zuwwadeh Restaurant and amble through **Wadi as-Seer**.