



Jordan

Includes ➔

Amman	294
Jerash	307
Dead Sea & the West	313
Mujib Biosphere Reserve	316
Madaba & the King's Highway	319
Wadi Mujib	323
Petra & Wadi Musa.....	327
Wadi Rum.....	337
Aqaba.....	339
Understand Jordan.....	344
Survival Guide.....	348

Best for Nature

- ➔ Ajloun Forest Reserve (p311)
- ➔ Dana Biosphere Reserve (p325)
- ➔ Mujib Biosphere Reserve (p316)
- ➔ Wadi Rum Protected Area (p337)

Best for Culture

- ➔ Petra (p327)
- ➔ Jerash (p307)
- ➔ Umm Qais (Gadara; p312)
- ➔ Madaba (p319)

Why Go?

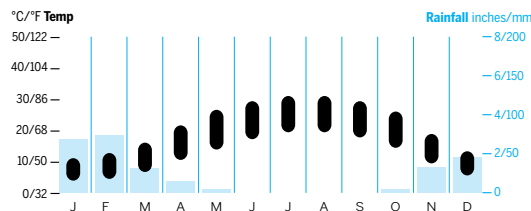
Ahlan wa sahlan! – ‘Welcome!’ From the Bedouin of Wadi Rum to the taxi drivers of Amman, you’ll be on the receiving end of this open-armed welcome every day. It’s this, and a sense of stability amid a problematic neighbourhood, that makes travel in Jordan such a delight.

With heavyweight neighbours pulling big historical punches, Jordan easily holds its own. Amman, Jerash and Umm Qais were cities of the Roman Decapolis, while biblical sites include Bethany-Beyond-the-Jordan, where Jesus was baptised, and Mt Nebo, where Moses reputedly surveyed the Promised Land. Grandest of all is the impressive Nabataean capital of Petra, carved from vertical cliffs.

But Jordan is not just about antiquities – it also offers the great outdoors. Whether diving in Aqaba, trekking in the camel-prints of Lawrence of Arabia or hiking through stunning canyons, Jordan’s eco-savvy nature reserves offer the best of adventures in the Middle East.

When to Go

Amman



Mar–May The weather is perfect, with warm days, cool nights and spectacular wildflowers.

Sep–Nov A good time to go hiking, with less visitors and relief after intense summer heat.

Dec–Feb The Red and Dead Seas offer balmy dips, while upland Jordan shivers with winter chills.

Jordan Highlights

- 1 Admire the engineering precision of the **Roman Theatre** (p295) in Amman.
- 2 Wander the colonnaded streets of **Jerash** (p307), a well-preserved Roman provincial city.
- 3 Hike the trails of **Mujib** (p316) or **Dana Biosphere Reserves** (p325).
- 4 Descend to the depths for a bob in the **Dead Sea** (p313), the lowest point on earth.
- 5 Piece together early Christian history in the mosaics of **Madaba** (p319).
- 6 Listen to the thunder of ghostly hooves at **Karak Castle** (p324) and **Shobak Castle** (p326), Jordan's most impressive Crusader forts.
- 7 Tread the path of history through Petra's **Siq** (p331), the sheer-sided chasm leading to an ancient world.
- 8 Don mask and flippers and hover with the pipe fish over spectacular coral gardens in the **Red Sea** (p340).
- 9 Live a 'Lawrence moment' by riding through **Wadi Rum** (p337) on a camel.
- 10 Admire the risqué frescos in the bathhouse of **Qusayr Amra** (p319), a Unesco World Heritage site.

