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Here begins your journey
in the Hashemite
Kingdom of Jordan



100
مئة عام
Years in the Middle East

Ya Hala Fi Baytak Althany

Ya Hala Fi Baytak Althany "Welcome to your second home" is one of the warmest greetings you will hear in Jordan. It reflects a culture that deeply values hospitality, respect, and genuine human connection. In Jordan, welcoming guests is not just a polite gesture; it is a cherished tradition rooted in honor and generosity.

As you arrive in Jordan, a land of ancient history and stunning landscapes, you will find a place where tradition and modern life blend seamlessly. From the timeless ruins of Petra to the lively streets of Amman, Jordan embraces its rich heritage while moving forward with hope and resilience.

Jordanian culture is built on dignity, generosity, and mutual respect. Hospitality often begins with a cup of Qahwa (Arabic coffee) and ma'amoul (traditional sweets), but it goes far beyond these gestures. It is about making guests feel honored, comfortable, and part of the family. Whether during formal occasions or casual gatherings, you will experience sincere warmth and a strong sense of community.

This booklet will serve as your introduction to Jordan's traditions, values, and everyday nuances. As you begin this new chapter, we hope it helps you explore your surroundings with confidence, curiosity, and appreciation.

My name is Nashmieh, and I will be your guide throughout this journey, offering insights into the customs, rhythms, and daily experiences that shape life in Jordan. This guide is designed to help you understand not only your surroundings but also how Jordanians live, connect, and warmly welcome one another.



Landed in Jordan

You have just arrived in Jordan, a country rich in history, tradition, and a strong sense of identity. Located in the heart of the Middle East, Jordan has long been a crossroads of civilizations, where Roman, Byzantine, Islamic, and Ottoman influences can still be seen in its architecture, food, and customs.

As you settle in, you will notice its beautiful landscapes, mild winters, and warm, sunny days, along with the genuine hospitality of its people. Jordanians proudly preserve their traditions while remaining open to the world. This section introduces you to the basics of Jordan—its land, culture, and values—to help you better understand daily life, both at work and beyond.

Amman

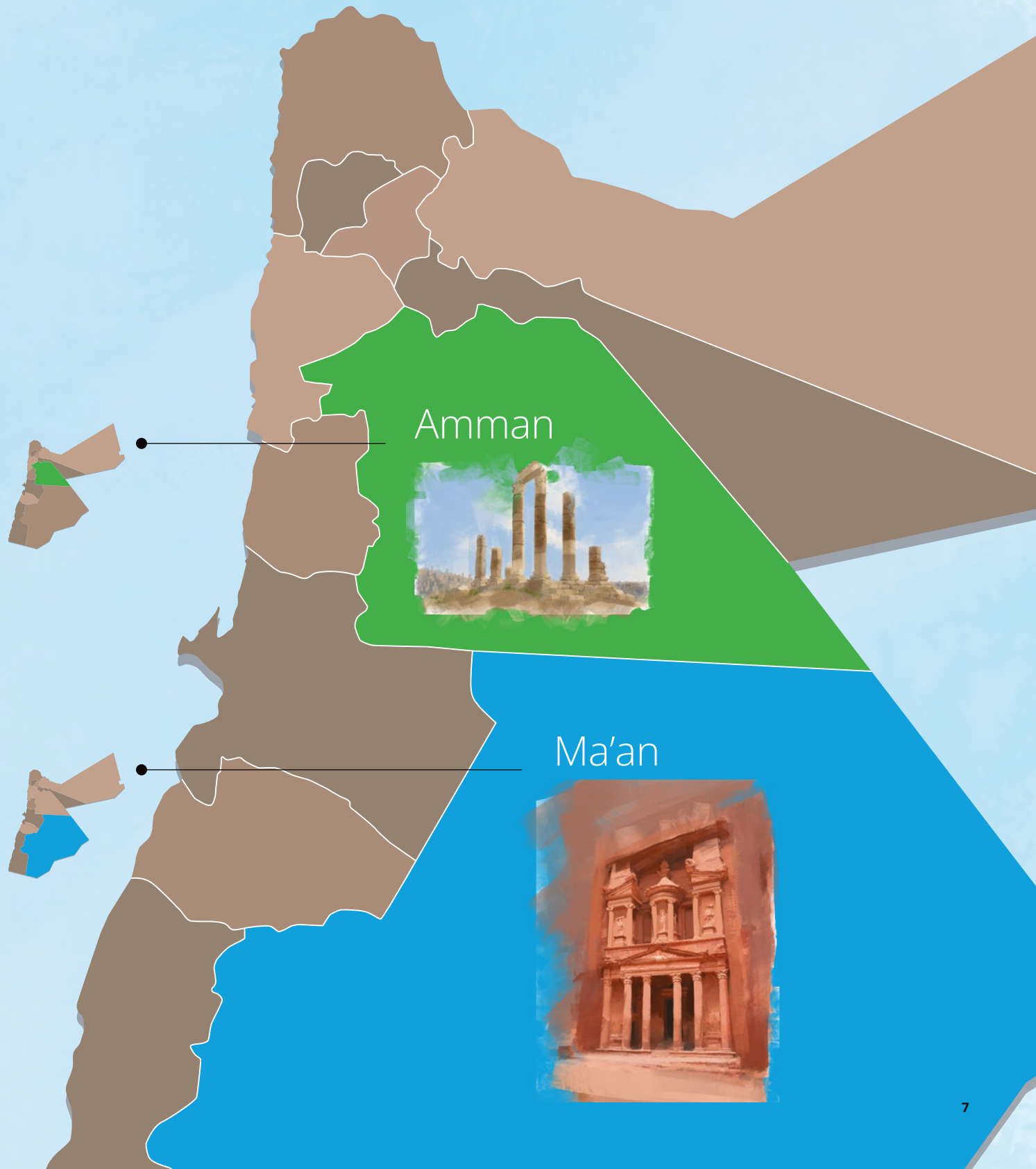
Amman, the capital of Jordan, is a city of contrasts where old and new exist side by side. Built on seven hills between the desert and the fertile Jordan Valley, it blends modern buildings, hotels, and galleries with traditional coffee shops and small artisan workshops. From the lively downtown markets to the art scene of Jabal Al Weibdeh and the modern district of Abdali, each neighborhood has its own character.

The city's hills—known as Jabals—shape its identity, and many areas are still described by the famous circles that run from First Circle near downtown to Eighth Circle in the west. As the sun sets, the white buildings glow warmly, and the sound of the call to prayer rises above the busy streets.

Ma'an

Located in Southern Jordan, Ma'an serves as the capital of Ma'an Governorate. It is an important stop for travelers on their way to the world-famous archaeological site of Petra and the desert landscapes of Wadi Rum.

Known for its deep-rooted Bedouin heritage and wide desert surroundings, Ma'an reflects the spirit and traditions of southern Jordan. The city also serves as a gateway to many of the region's natural and historical treasures.



Irbid

Known as “Arous Al-Shamal” (Bride of the North), Irbid is in northern Jordan and has the second-largest population in the kingdom. The city blends authentic Arabian culture with touches of Western influence. With panoramic views toward the West Bank and architectural remains from the Roman era, Irbid tells a story of its rich past.

While visiting Irbid, it is worth exploring Pella, set among hills overlooking the Jordan Valley. About 30 km northwest of Irbid lies Umm Qais, which features Roman ruins, a theatre, ancient city walls, Byzantine church remains, Ottoman houses, and stunning views of the Sea of Galilee and the Golan Heights.

Ajloun

Ajloun is one of northern Jordan’s most remarkable destinations, known for its lush pine forests and rich history. The area is home to the scenic Ajloun Forest Reserve, with rolling hills, oak woodlands, and walking trails that attract nature lovers year-round.

Overlooking the region is Ajloun Castle (Qal’at Ar-Rabad), a 12th-century Ayyubid fortress built to defend against the Crusaders. Visitors can also explore Birgish Forest, Wadi Rajib, and nearby caves and village trails, making Ajloun a perfect escape for those seeking natural beauty, outdoor adventure, and cultural heritage.

As-Salt (Balqa)

As-Salt is a thriving city situated northwest of Amman. Built on three main mountains—Al-Qal’a (the Citadel), Al-Jadaa, and Al-Salalem—and centered around a lively city square, As-Salt is surrounded by breathtaking views. It offers a wonderful contrast to some of the more modernized districts of Amman.

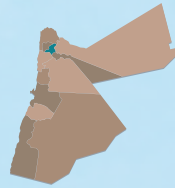
Thanks to its reliable water supply and fertile agricultural land, the area has been settled since at least the Iron Age. It has been identified with the Roman city of Gadara, and during the Byzantine period, it had its own bishop. Its name is believed to derive from the Latin word Saltus, meaning “wooded valley.”



Jerash

A close second to Petra among Jordan's most popular destinations, Jerash has witnessed more than 6,500 years of continuous human settlement. Located about 45 km north of Amman, the city flourished under Roman rule as Gerasa, one of the Decapolis cities, and is now considered one of the best-preserved Roman provincial towns in the world.

Its remarkable ruins include colonnaded streets, grand theatres, temples such as the Temple of Artemis, Jerash, fountains, gates, and city walls, revealing the grandeur of Roman urban design. Beneath this classical appearance, Jerash also reflects a rich blend of Graeco-Roman and Eastern traditions, where cultures met and coexisted, leaving behind a heritage that continues to captivate visitors today.

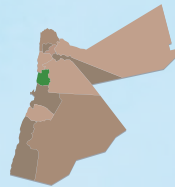


Jerash



Madaba

Madaba offers a combination of rural home life and a vibrant center for religious tourism. Known as the "City of Mosaics," Madaba is a cultural epicenter for Byzantine and Umayyad mosaics. Just a short distance from the capital, visitors are only a short drive away from important religious landmarks and historic sites.



Madaba



Karak

Whether you approach Karak from the ancient Kings Highway to the east or from the Dead Sea to the west, the striking silhouette of this fortified town and castle instantly reveals why this place shaped the fate of kingdoms for centuries.

Once a powerful Crusader stronghold, Karak stands about 900 meters above sea level, with Karak Castle dominating the old city. Today, the city is home to around 170,000 residents and features restored 19th-century Ottoman buildings, along with local restaurants and places to stay. Nearby, Wadi Mujib offers one of Jordan's most remarkable natural experiences, where hiking trails range from gentle paths to more challenging mountain terrain.

Tafilah

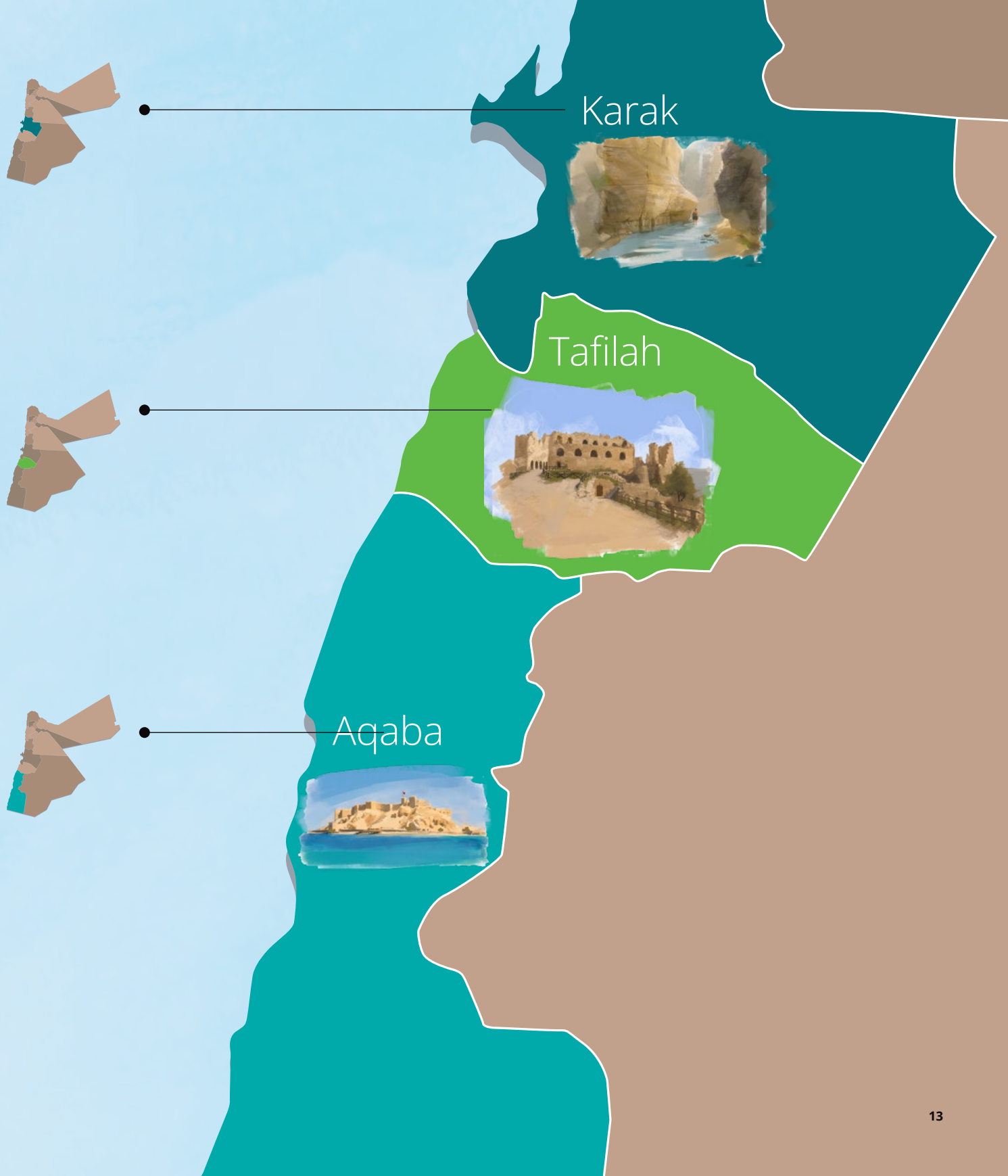
Tafilah is a city in southern Jordan and the capital of Tafilah Governorate. Surrounded by scenic mountains and natural beauty, it is known for its peaceful atmosphere and historical sites, offering visitors a quieter and more authentic experience of the region.

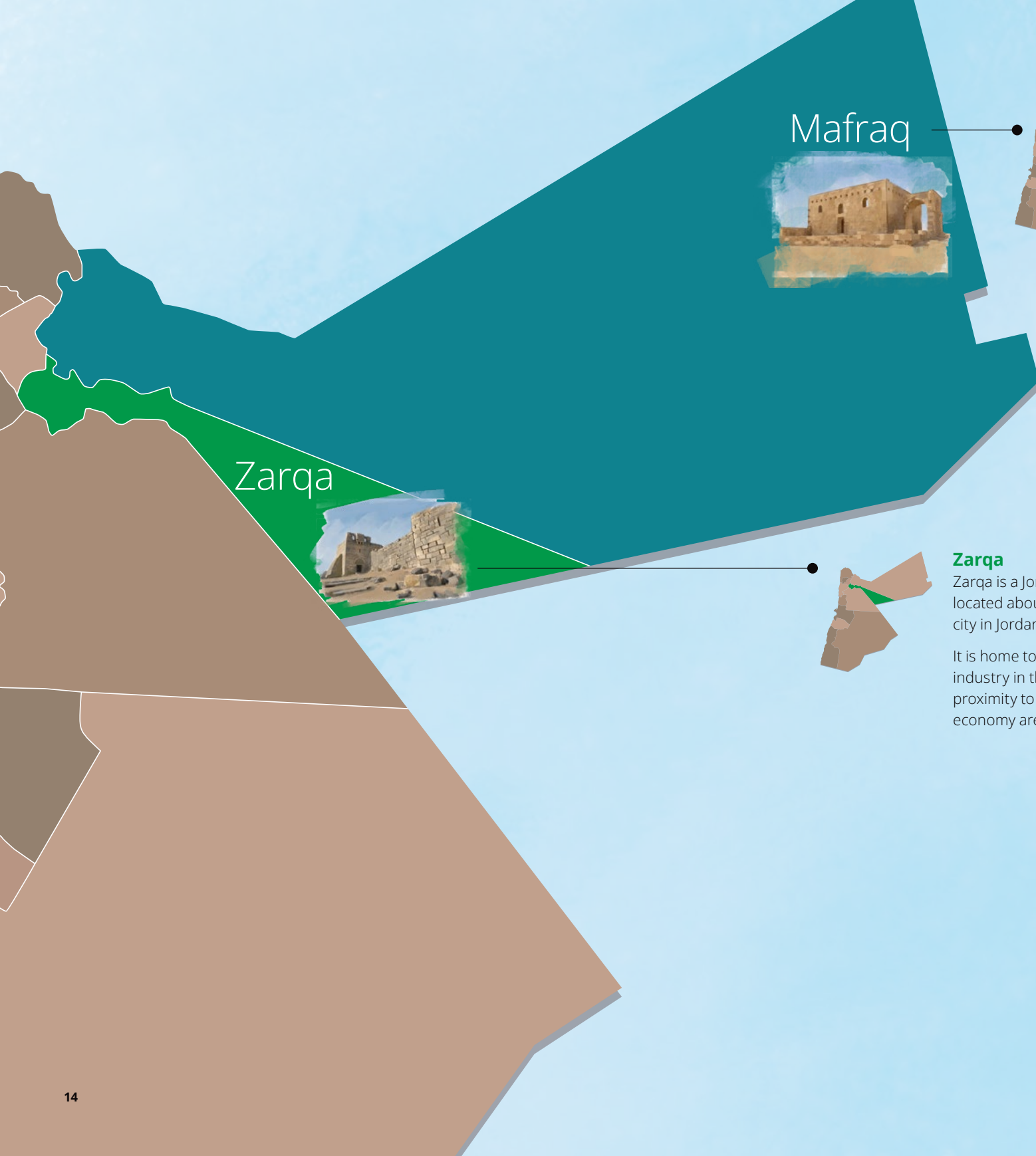
One of its most well-known attractions is the Tafilah Hot Springs, natural thermal springs famous for their relaxing and therapeutic properties.

Aqaba

Aqaba lies on the southern tip of Jordan, about four hours from Amman. This charming beach town offers a relaxing escape from the capital's busy pace, combining seaside leisure with a touch of history and local character. Set along the shores of the Red Sea, Aqaba is Jordan's year-round coastal destination.

While winter brings cooler temperatures to Amman, Aqaba enjoys warm, sunny weather and mild waters. The clear waters of the Gulf of Aqaba are known for their rich marine life, making diving and snorkeling especially popular. Visitors can also enjoy water skiing, windsurfing, fishing, and other water sports, or simply relax by the sea and take in the peaceful atmosphere.





Mafrq



Mafrq

The Ottoman Turks renamed the city "Mafrq", which means "crossroads" in Arabic.

Mafrq is one of the governorates of Jordan, located to the north-east of Amman, capital of Jordan. Located near the borders with Syria and Iraq, it serves as an important transportation and military hub. Mafrq is known for its agricultural lands and proximity to natural reserves.

Nearby Azraq is home to key attractions such as the Azraq Wetland Reserve, Shaumari Wildlife Reserve, and Qasr Azraq.

Zarqa



Zarqa

Zarqa is a Jordanian city and the capital of Zarqa Governorate, located about 20 km northeast of Amman. It is the third-largest city in Jordan and is known as the country's industrial capital,

It is home to over 50% of Jordanian factories. The growth of industry in the city is the result of low real estate costs and proximity to the capital, Amman. Several facilities vital to Jordan's economy are based in Zarqa, including Jordan's only oil refinery.

What makes Jordan different?

A culture of hospitality, warmth, and shared tradition

Jordanian culture is rooted in personal respect, strong family and community ties, and hospitality that is sincere and often understated. These values shape everyday life and influence how people interact in both social and professional settings.

• Welcoming the Guest

Hospitality is at the heart of Jordanian culture. Visitors are warmly greeted with Ahlan wa Sahlan ("welcome") or the traditional Salam Alaykum ("peace be upon you"), expressions that convey genuine kindness and respect.

• Arabic Coffee

Offering Qahwa (Arabic coffee) is one of the most common signs of welcome. Coffee is poured into small cups and usually offered with the right hand; guests may politely accept a cup, even if only for a sip. The refill ritual, holding out the cup for more or gently shaking it to indicate you have had enough is widely recognized.

• Diyafah

Alongside traditional Qahwa, guests in Jordan are often offered fruits, nuts, sweets, or homemade pastries, a tradition known as Diyafah (guest friendship). These simple gestures reflect the Jordanian belief that true generosity comes from intention rather than wealth. Such offerings create a warm and welcoming experience, providing a variety of flavors and textures to delight every guest. Special attention is often given to older visitors, who may be served first or checked more attentively.

• Home-centered Hospitality

In Jordan, hospitality is warm, personal, and often centered in the home. Hosts focus on meaningful interaction and making guests feel valued. Inviting others over for coffee or meals is common, and accepting and returning invitations is seen as a sign of respect and strong relationships.

• Celebration inclusion

During holidays such as Ramadan and Eid, as well as family events, neighbors and colleagues are often included—reflecting a culture built on sharing and community.



Everyday Etiquette and Social Awareness

• Public Behavior & Modesty

Modesty in dress and restraint in public displays of affection are generally expected, especially outside major urban centers and at religious sites. Visitors are advised to dress respectfully, covering shoulders and knees in more conservative settings.

• Greeting and Interaction

A formal verbal greeting such as As-salamu alaykum, followed by a handshake, is common among men. Same-gender close friends may exchange cheek kisses or embraces. Cross-gender physical contact is usually avoided unless initiated by the woman. When unsure, follow the other person's lead, or offer a polite nod while placing your hand over your heart.



• Respectful Forms of Address

In Jordan, addressing someone by their given name or family name, rather than using nicknames or overly casual terms is an important sign of courtesy and respect. This is especially significant in interactions between men and women. Using polite and formal language helps create a considerate and comfortable atmosphere, whether in social gatherings or professional settings.

• Heritage

Traditions remain a visible and celebrated part of Jordan's cultural identity. Music played on instruments such as the oud and traditional dances like Dabke are commonly performed at weddings, festivals, and national celebrations.



National Symbols of Jordan

Flag Colors and Meaning

- **Black Stripe:** Represents the Abbasid Caliphate.
- **White Stripe:** Symbolizes the Umayyad Caliphate.
- **Green Stripe:** Stands for the Fatimid Caliphate.
- **Red Triangle:** Symbolizes the Hashemite dynasty and the Great Arab Revolt.
- **Seven-Pointed White Star:** Positioned within the red triangle, it represents the unity of the Arab people and the seven verses of the first surah of the Quran.

National Animal



- **The Arabian Oryx:** A symbol of the strength and beauty of Jordan's desert. The Arabian Oryx can be seen in protected nature reserves, particularly at Shaumari Wildlife Reserve near Azraq in eastern Jordan.

National Bird

- **Sinai Rosefinch:** A small, colorful bird with pink and red feathers, commonly found in rocky and desert areas.



National Flower

- **Black Iris:** A symbol of resilience, beauty, and Jordan's unique natural heritage.



Jordan Cultural Attire

Traditional clothing in Jordan reflects respect, modesty, and cultural pride, while also allowing individuals to express regional identity.

- **Men:** Often wear the Dishdasha or Thobe, a long robe that may be white or other colors. They may also wear a shemagh (headscarf), typically red and white. This attire is common with both daily life and formal occasions.
- **Women:** Typically wear the Thobe, often decorated with colorful embroidery known as Tatreez. Many women cover their heads with a hijab or sheila. Traditional dresses celebrate modesty and cultural identity, with distinctive designs that vary by region.

Bedouin and Rural Communities

Jordanian society has long been shaped by two important ways of life: the Bedouin communities of the desert and the settled populations in fertile rural areas. Bedouin life in Jordan has fostered resilience, hospitality, and strong family ties. Meanwhile, communities near the Jordan Valley, the Dead Sea, and the Red Sea coast have historically been connected to agriculture, trade, and fishing.

Together, these influences form the foundation of Jordanian identity, blending tradition with the diverse landscapes of the country.



Speak like a Jordanian

As you spend time in Jordan, you'll notice that language plays a central role in how people communicate and get along. While Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) is used in formal settings such as education, government, and media, most daily interactions take place in Jordanian Arabic.

Jordanian Arabic is the commonly spoken dialect used in homes, workplaces, and social settings. It is practical, widely understood, and flexible, allowing speakers to shift easily between formal and informal situations depending on context.

The expressions below are frequently used in everyday and professional conversations and can help facilitate clearer and more respectful communication.

Peace be upon you

Al salam alaykum

Hello

Marhaba / ahlan

Goodbye

Ma'a as-salameh

How are You?

Keefak (Male) / keefek (Female)

Excuse me

Law samaht (Male) / law samahti (Female)

Sorry

Asef (male) / asfeh (female)

Thank you

Shukran / yislamu

You're Welcome / No problem

Afwan / walaw

Yes / No

Ah / La'

Used when in awe and admiration of something or someone

Mashallah

God willing

Inshallah

Consider it done

Tamm

Yes? / I'm listening

Na'am? / ana ma'ak (Male), ana ma'ek (female)

Okay / Alright

Khalas / tamam

How Much?

Bkam? / gdeshe?

Do you speak English?

Btehki inglizi?

My name is...

Ismii....

What is your name?

Shu ismek? (female), shu ismak? (male)



Good

Tamam/
mneeh/ kwayes

Not good /
bad

Mo mneeh, mo kwayes
/saye'

Wanna
grab coffee
together?

Tishrab gahweh? (Male),
tishrabi gahweh?
(Female)

Let's meet

Khalina
niltagi

See you
tomorrow!

Nshoufak
bukra (male), nshoufek
bukra (female)

Good job!

Kafo!

I need
help

Bahtaj
mosa'adeh

I have a
suggestion

'Endi
egtirah

May God give you
strength, used

Ya'teek
al'afya

I'll get back
to you

Barja' lak (male),
barja'lek (female)

We need to
discuss this

Lazem nitnaqash/
nehki bil mawdu'

When's the
deadline?

Mta el tasleem?

Send it
to me!

Eb'tli (Male),
eb'atili (Female)

Don't worry,
I got it

Abadan, wala
yhemmak

Do you want
to eat?

Takol? (Male),
takli? (Female)

Can you
hear me?

Same'ni? (Male),
same'tini? (Female)

Just a
moment

Dagigah bas

Are you
available?

Fadhi? (Male),
fadhiyeh? (Female)

Let me
know

Khabirni (male) /
khabirni (female)



The spiritual rhythm of Jordan

Jordan is an ideal destination for those seeking cultural knowledge and spiritual enrichment. The country values its ethnically and religiously diverse population and provides for the cultural rights of all its citizens. This spirit of tolerance and appreciation is one of the central elements contributing to Jordan's stability and peace. More than 92% of Jordanians are Muslims, and approximately 8% are Christians, many of whom belong to the Greek Orthodox Church. As Jordan is predominantly an Islamic country, visitors can explore its principles through direct interaction with its people. Islam—which in Arabic means “submission”—affirms the unity, completeness, and sovereignty of God.

• Yom Al Jumu'ah (Friday): A Day of Gathering

Friday holds special significance in Jordan as the weekly day of congregational prayer. On this day, Jumu'ah prayer is obligatory for adult Muslim men. It includes a sermon (khutbah) followed by communal worship and serves as a time for reflection, unity, and strengthening community bonds.

Before and after the Jumu'ah prayer, Fridays become especially meaningful for Jordanian families. Many gather for breakfast or lunch at home, in restaurants, or in parks, enjoying traditional dishes, creating memories, and cherishing time together. It is a day of spiritual enrichment and family bonding.

• Preparation and Respect

Before prayer, Muslims perform wudu, a ritual cleansing that symbolizes physical and spiritual readiness. Wearing clean and modest clothing is also part of approaching prayer with respect and mindfulness.

• Spiritual Awareness in the Workplace

Friday is a public holiday in Jordan, and workplaces generally accommodate religious practices. Employees who work on this day may take short breaks to perform prayers, reflecting respect for faith and its important role in daily life.

Muslims pray five times a day, and prayer times may occasionally overlap with work schedules. Employers and colleagues are encouraged to accommodate these needs with understanding and flexibility.

Ramadan in Jordan

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar and holds deep spiritual significance in Jordan. It is observed as a time of fasting, prayer, reflection, generosity, and community. Daily routines shift during this month, creating a calmer pace and a heightened sense of togetherness across society.

From dawn until sunset, Muslims abstain from food and drink. This practice encourages self-discipline, mindfulness, and empathy for others. Muslims fast to deepen their connection with God and to empathize with the less fortunate. They practice self-discipline by abstaining from food, drink, and negative behaviors from dawn until sunset.

This month encourages patience, tolerance, and mindfulness, prompting individuals to reflect on their actions and strive for personal growth.

Many Muslims also engage in charitable giving known as Zakat, a mandatory form of donation intended to help those in need and purify one's wealth. This may include supporting organizations that provide food and assistance, alongside increased prayer and reading of the Qur'an.

• Cultural Awareness

- It is customary to greet others with “Ramadan Kareem,” “Ramadan Mubarak,” or “Mubarak alaykum al-shahr.”
- Eating, drinking, or smoking in public during fasting hours should be avoided out of courtesy.
- Not everyone may be fasting due to health or personal reasons, so sensitivity and understanding are encouraged.

Workplace accommodations:

Work schedules and others may be adjusted during Ramadan to accommodate fasting employees, including earlier working hours or flexibility around prayer and iftar time.



Iftar and Suhoor: Breaking the Fast

"Iftar" is the evening meal when Muslims break their fast at sunset. It usually begins with dates and water, followed by soup such as shorba, a main meal, and fruits or traditional sweets like qatayef for dessert. In Jordan, iftar is a special time that brings people together—whether at home, in mosques, or at community gatherings—to share a meal and enjoy one another's company.

"Suhoor" is the pre-dawn meal eaten before the Fajr prayer. It helps sustain energy throughout the day and is typically lighter, focusing on hydration and nourishing foods. Suhoor reflects the quieter, more reflective moments of Ramadan before the day begins.

Official Eids in Jordan

- **Eid Al-Fitr:** Marks the end of Ramadan and is a celebration of gratitude, generosity, and shared joy. The day begins with a special congregational prayer, followed by family visits and gatherings.

It is common to give "Eidiyah"—money or gifts—to children. Charity is especially important during this time through Zakat Al-Fitr, which supports those in need.

- **Eid Al-Adha:** Known as the "Festival of Sacrifice," commemorates the willingness of Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) to sacrifice his son as an act of obedience to God. It also marks the end of the Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca and begins with a special Eid prayer.

Families may participate in the sacrifice of an animal (usually a sheep, a goat, a cow, or a camel). The meat is distributed among family, friends, and those in need. The holiday emphasizes charity, gratitude, and strengthening family ties.

Common Cultural Practices During Eid in Jordan:

- **Giving Eidiyah:** Elders typically give money or gifts to children as a symbol of generosity, kindness, and shared joy.
- **Wearing New Clothes:** Wearing new or traditional attire is customary during Eid. Men may wear a thobe (a long robe), while women wear new garments or traditional dresses to mark the special occasion.



Christmas Day

Christmas Day is observed on December 25 as a religious and cultural celebration among Christian communities in Jordan. It commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ and includes church services, family gatherings, and the exchange of gifts.

In Amman, festive decorations, lights, and holiday displays can be seen throughout the city, especially in commercial areas. Shops and cafés often decorate to reflect the joyful atmosphere of the season.

Workplace accommodations:
Employees observing Eid may take one or more public holidays. Employers should recognize that this time often includes prayer, charitable giving, family visits, and extended family commitments.



A taste of tradition

Jordanian cuisine is a rich tapestry of flavors and heritage, deeply rooted in the country's history and culture. It reflects the warmth and hospitality of its people through dishes that are both hearty and aromatic, combining simple, fresh ingredients with traditional cooking methods.

From the iconic mansaf—the national dish that embodies Jordanian pride—to the fragrant spices and slow-cooked meats found in everyday meals, Jordanian food offers a genuine taste of tradition that brings families and communities together. Whether enjoyed during festive celebrations or daily gatherings, the cuisine tells a story of generosity, resilience, and the enduring spirit of Jordan.

Main Dishes

• **Mansaf:** If you travel to Jordan, tasting mansaf is essential. This iconic dish combines fragrant Arabic rice, tender lamb, and a rich sauce made from jameed (dried fermented yogurt). As the national dish of Jordan, mansaf is closely associated with celebrations and special gatherings.

Pro Tip: When eating mansaf, use a piece of bread dipped in the jameed sauce to scoop up the rice and lamb, forming a small, compact portion in your hand. Traditionally, it is eaten using only one hand.

• **Tsha'atsheel (Ja'ajeel or Ka'akeel):** Tsha'atsheel is a traditional Jordanian dish, particularly popular in the northern regions. It consists of dough balls and arum leaves cooked in jameed yogurt. The mixture includes green onions (or regular onions) sautéed in olive oil, along with wheat and white flour, eggs, and seasoning. The dough is shaped into balls and cooked in boiling yogurt until tender. This hearty dish is especially enjoyed during the winter months.

• **Zarb:** If you want to experience Bedouin cuisine, try Zarb, a dish deeply rooted in desert tradition. It is cooked in an underground pit about one meter deep, filled with hot coal. A three-tier metal rack is placed inside, holding meat usually chicken or goat, along with vegetables and rice. The pit is sealed and left to cook for several hours. As the desert cools at night, the rice absorbs the juices from the meat and vegetables, creating a rich and flavorful meal.

• **Makmoura (A Specialty of Irbid):** Originating from northern Jordan, makmoura—meaning “buried”—is made by layering dough with finely chopped chicken and onions. It is baked until golden and then cut into triangular pieces, like a savory pie.

• **Galayet Bandora:** Galayet bandora is a classic Jordanian dish, often served hot and slightly spicy. It is made with tomatoes, hot peppers, onions, olive oil, and salt. Popular across the Levant, it pairs well with other main dishes or mezze and is best enjoyed with fresh bread or pita. Some variations include toasted pine nuts and fresh herbs.

• **Freekeh:** Freekeh is made from green durum wheat and is widely used in Jordanian and Levantine cooking. Like semolina and couscous, it is versatile and easy to incorporate into various dishes. Freekeh is often cooked in meat stock, typically lamb or chicken and topped with the cooked meat, creating a hearty and flavorful meal.

• **Sayadieh:** Sayadieh is a traditional fish and rice dish especially popular in the coastal city of Aqaba. It is made with fish often freshly caught from the Red Sea cooked with aromatic spices such as cumin, coriander, and turmeric. The fish is served over seasoned rice prepared with caramelized onions, adding a rich and slightly sweet flavor.

• **Akkoub bil laban:** Akkoub bil laban features cleaned akkoub (Gundelia), which is often sautéed with onions and lemon. A simpler version, called akkoub bil zait, is served with olive oil, olives, shatta (chili paste), and pita bread. It can also be added to scrambled eggs for breakfast or incorporated into a yogurt and meat stew served with rice, creating a flavorful and memorable main dish.

• **Al-Rashoof:** Al-rashoof is a traditional soup from northern and central Jordan, made primarily with green lentils and jameed. It originated as a hearty, practical dish rooted in agricultural and pastoral life, where lentils and wheat were staple crops, and yogurt was preserved as jameed or kishk for long-term use. Because it relied on stored ingredients rather than fresh produce, al-rashoof became an essential cold-season meal and a symbol of resourcefulness.

• **Shawarma:** Shawarma is a beloved street food in Jordan and across the Middle East. It is made by marinating meats—such as chicken, lamb, beef, or turkey—in a blend of herbs and spices. The meat is stacked on a vertical spit and slow roasted as it rotates. Thin slices are shaved off and served in pita bread or on a plate with rice, vegetables, and sauces, creating a flavorful and satisfying meal.



Desserts & Sweets

· **Knafeh:** One of the most famous and beloved desserts in Jordan is knafeh. It holds a special place in the hearts of many and is often served during weddings and holidays. The dessert features soft cheese baked in a large, flat pan, topped with crispy shredded filo dough, soaked in fragrant sugar syrup (often infused with rosewater), and garnished with crushed pistachios. Served warm, rich, sweet, and deeply satisfying.

· **Lazagyat:** A simple yet beloved Bedouin dessert, lazagyat is made from crispy dough soaked in dibs tamr (date molasses) and tahini. The molasses is often prepared from Medjool dates grown in the Jordan Rift Valley, giving the dish its rich and natural sweetness.

· **Qesmat, (Eid Bread):** Qesmat, is a traditional hospitality treat especially popular in northern Jordan. It is prepared specifically for Eid and served with tea when hosting guests. The main ingredients include white and whole wheat flour, sesame seeds, nigella (black seed), anise, mastic, mahleb, yeast, powdered milk, olive oil, and sugar. It is a cherished part of Jordanian heritage and festive traditions.



Explore your home

Get ready for an amazing trip across Jordan, from the capital city and old Roman ruins to green hills, the Dead Sea, deserts, and the Red Sea. We'll see history, nature, and adventure all in one journey from north to south, let's go!

Stop 1: Amman (Our Starting Point: The Capital)

We'll wander from the buzzing downtown markets up to the bohemian, artsy lanes of Jabal Al Weibdeh and over to chic, modern Abdali.

First, we visit the **Amman Citadel**, crowning one of the highest hills in the city. The views are unbeatable- the Temple of Hercules, the Umayyad Palace, and Byzantine churches all sitting together where civilizations have layered for thousands of years. Then we'll explore:

- **The Jordan Museum:** A state-of-the-art journey through the country's history and archaeology, home to artefacts including the Dead Sea Scrolls.
- **Downtown Amman:** Traditional souks, sizzling street food, and pure local energy.
- **Souk Jara:** A beloved open-air market for crafts, coffee, and desserts — the perfect souvenir hunt.
- **Darat al Funun:** A serene art center devoted to contemporary Jordanian and Arab art.

Amman Citadel



The Jordan Museum



Downtown Amman



Souk Jara



Darat al Funun



Stop 2: Jerash (Heading North)

Now we point the wheels north into a green country. **Jerash** is one of the best-preserved Roman cities anywhere outside Italy, buried under sand for centuries, then revealed in all its glory. Walk the colonnaded streets, climb the theatres, and stand in the grand plazas where Roman and Arab world's blend. Close by, the cool, shaded **Dibeen Forest Reserve** invites a peaceful walk among Aleppo pines and diverse wildlife.

Jerash



Dibeen Forest Reserve



Ajloun Forest Reserve



Ajloun Castle



Stop 3: Ajloun

Climbing into the highlands, we reach the beautiful **Ajloun Forest Reserve**, one of Jordan's greenest areas. Surrounded by oak trees and fresh mountain air, it is a great place for an easy hike and to enjoy nature. After a homemade local lunch, visit the historic **Ajloun Castle**, where you can enjoy amazing views of the hills and countryside. End the day with a relaxing stay in a cozy forest cabin.

Stop 4: Irbid Governorate (The Far North)

At the country's northern tip sits **Umm Qais**, about 110 km from Amman and worth every kilometer. From this hilltop you can gaze across the Sea of Galilee and Tiberias, the southern Golan Heights, and on a clear day distant Mount Hermon near Lebanon. Here's how we'll spend it:

- Explore the archaeological site: the **Cardo Maximus**, the **West Theatre**, and the **Byzantine church terrace**.
- Visit the **Umm Qais Museum** in Bayt Al-Rousan, with its ceramics and Roman statues.
- Hike through the beautiful **Barqash Forest**, one of Jordan's largest forest areas
- Hike the trails of the nearby **Yarmouk Natural Reserve**.

Yarmouk Natural Reserve



Barqash Forest



Cardo Maximus



West Theatre



Byzantine church terrace



Umm Qais Museum



Stop 5: Madaba (Back Through the Heart of Jordan)

Heading back South, we arrived in **Madaba**, the "**City of Mosaics**." It's famous for its Byzantine and Umayyad mosaics, Madaba is also a great base for some unmissable sites nearby:

- **Mount Nebo**: A hilltop of sweeping panoramas and deep biblical significance.
- **Al-Maghtas**: The Baptism Site of Jesus of Nazareth, a cornerstone of Christian history.
- **Madaba Archaeological Park**: Showcasing remarkable mosaics and historical remains.
- **Ma'in Hot Springs**: A spectacular natural hot spring and waterfall near the Dead Sea, prized for its therapeutic mineral waters and dramatic scenery.

Mount Nebo



Al-Maghtas



Ma'in Hot Springs



Madaba Archaeological Park



Stop 6: The Dead Sea

Time to do something you can't do anywhere else: float. The **Dead Sea** is the lowest place on Earth, about 400 meters below sea level, and it's very salty water lets you float easily. Its water and mud are rich in minerals and are known for their healing and beauty benefits, making it a popular place for health tourism. Along the shore, we can cycle and enjoy the beautiful views, and for business travelers, the **King Hussein Bin Talal Convention Centre** offers modern facilities on the eastern side. From here, adventure lovers can visit **Wadi Mujib**, a canyon with river walks and waterfalls that flow into the Dead Sea.

Dead Sea



King Hussein Bin Talal
Convention Centre



Wadi Mujib



Floating on the Dead sea



Stop 7: Karak & Tafilah (Going South)

As we go south to **Karak**, we reach **Karak Castle**, a large and historic fortress known for its strong stone walls, underground tunnels, and wide views over the valleys and mountains. In Karak, try a traditional **Karaki mansaf** made with local jameed.

For hiking lovers, nearby you can explore **Wadi Bin Hammad** and **Wadi Al-Karak**, a lush canyon hike of warm streams and stunning natural scenery.

Continuing to **Tafileh**, we reach the **Dana Biosphere Reserve** Jordan's biggest nature reserve, with mountains, valleys, and desert views, perfect for hiking and enjoying nature.

Karak Castle



Wadi Bin Hammad and Wadi Al-Karak



Dana Biosphere Reserve



Tafilah Castle



Stop 8: Petra the Rose City & Wadi Rum

And now we reach **Petra**, Jordan's most famous archaeological site and one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. Known as the "**Rose City**," it is carved into stunning pink rock and full of ancient beauty.

We walk through the narrow canyon of **Al-Siq** until we reach **Al-Khazneh (The Treasury)**. Then we continue to explore the Royal Tombs, the Colonnaded Street, and finally Qasr al-Bint.

If you can, stay for **Petra by Night**, when the ancient city is lit with thousands of candles, a truly magical experience.

Our last leg, and what a finale. **Wadi Rum**, the "Valley of the Moon," with its dramatic sandstone mountains, red dunes, and rich Bedouin culture. We'll cross the landscape on a 4x4 jeep tour, ride camels into the sunset, and spend the night in a Bedouin camp or a luxury "bubble" tent built for stargazing.

Siq in Petra



Al-Khazneh



Wadi Rum



Wadi Rum sky at night



Stop 9: Aqaba (Sea, Our Grand Finale)

We reach the water at last: **Aqaba**, Jordan's only coastal city, on the Red Sea. Think crystal-clear water, vibrant coral reefs, diving, snorkeling, and waterfront dining.



The Jordanian year

The following events are officially recognized in Jordan and often include public holidays for both the public and private sectors:

- **New Year (January 1):** Marks the beginning of the calendar year.
- **Easter (date varies, usually March–April):** A major Christian holiday celebrated with church services and family gatherings.



- **Isra and Mi'raj:** Commemorates the miraculous night journey and ascension of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).



- **Ramadan:** A holy month dedicated to fasting, prayer, and reflection. During Ramadan, cultural evenings are often held, featuring music, theatre, traditional food, and family activities.



- **Eid Al-Fitr:** Celebrated at the end of Ramadan with prayers, family gatherings, and charitable giving.



- **Independence Day (May 25):** Celebrates Jordan's independence from the British Mandate in 1946.



- **Labor Day (May 1):** An official public holiday honoring workers' contributions and promoting social justice.



- **Eid Al-Adha:** Known as the Festival of Sacrifice, it commemorates Prophet Ibrahim's obedience and marks the conclusion of Hajj.



- **Arafah Day:** The holiest day of Hajj, observed with fasting and worship by those not on pilgrimage.



- **Army Day & Great Arab Revolt Anniversary (June 10):** Honors the Jordanian Armed Forces and commemorates the Arab Revolt of 1916.



- **Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts (July–August):** Jordan's largest cultural festival, featuring music, theatre, and poetry performances.



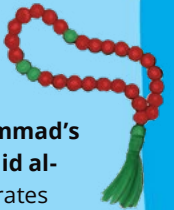
- **Jordan Rally (FIA Middle East Rally Championship) (June–August):** A major motorsport event attracting regional and international participants.



- **King Abdullah II International Marathon (October):** An annual marathon in Amman promoting fitness and community engagement.



- **Christmas Day (December 25):** Celebrated by the Christian community, marking the birth of Jesus Christ.



- **Prophet Muhammad's Birthday (Mawlid al-Nabawi):** Celebrates the birth of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), observed with prayers and community gatherings.



- **Islamic New Year:** Marks the beginning of the Hijri (Islamic) year.

Your comfort kit

Emergency numbers in Jordan

• **Police:**

911



• **Fire Department**

199



• **Emergency Medical Services:**

199

• **Ambulance:**

193



Transportation applications



• **Amman Bus:**

A mobile app that helps plan trips easily and quickly by providing real-time information about bus schedules and arrival times.



• **Jeeny:** Provides

affordable and reliable ride-hailing and delivery services.



• **Careem Jordan:**

A licensed ride-hailing service operating in Amman, Irbid, Zarqa, Madaba, and Salt.



• **Petra Ride:** A locally

licensed ride-hailing, taxi, and delivery service tailored to Jordan.



• **JETT:** A mobile app for booking intercity bus trips (e-tickets and schedules) across Jordan, including tourist destinations such as Petra and Wadi Rum.

Key government applications



• **Sanad:** Provides access to digital government documents, personal records, electronic signatures, bill payments, and various government services.



• **Jordan eGov SMS App:** Enables citizens and visitors to access digitized government services via SMS, helping save time and effort.

General applications



• **Talabat:** A popular food delivery app offering access to a wide range of restaurants in Amman and other cities.



• **Mythings:** Offers shopping options ranging from fashion and toys to pet supplies, perfumes, and unique gifts.



• **ION:** Jordan's first EVSE smart network app, supporting electric vehicle owners with charging station access and related services.



• **WashyWash:** A laundry and cleaning service app featuring eco-friendly cleaning technology.



• **Jannah.jo:** A travel and local guide app showcasing unique experiences and attractions across Jordan, allowing users to explore and book activities directly.



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While the foundations of this booklet have been set by this team, our experiences and learning journey is an ongoing and ever-evolving process. Here's all the stories that are yet to be told.





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