

COUNTRY PROFILE



Jordan is an incredible country with so much on variety on offer – cultural, adventure, sports, pilgrimage.....Ride on a camel or in a jeep through the extraordinary desert of Wadi Rum.

Experience the glory and splendor of Ancient Rome in Jerash.

Follow the footsteps of the ancient Nabateans in Petra and take tea in the cave of a Bedouin family.

TLB invites you to Take Life Beyond



Country Profile

Why choose Jordan?

- * Close to Europe, average flight 4 1/2 hrs
- * At the crossroads of Asia, Africa, and Europe
- * Cradle of civilization- home to great empires
- * Link of trade routes from the Indian Ocean to the Nile
- * Fascinating culture and hospitable people
- * Extremely safe and friendly place to travel
- * Tremendous choice of adventure and cultural activities

Jordan in brief

Border countries Iraq, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Syria, West Bank

Government The Hashemite Country of Jordan - constitutional monarchy reigning King Abdullah II

Total Size: 92,300 sq km

Population: 6,198,677 million (July 2008 est.)

Capital: Amman – airport 35 km south of capital

Languages: Arabic, English (widely spoken)

Time: October – March: G.M.T. + 2 hours / April – September: G.M.T. + 3 hours

Climate: Winter day time tends to be mild with chilly evenings; the desert can be very cold and the Eastern spine may even experience snowfall. Summer daytime is hot but there is no humidity. Rain fall between November and March.

Electricity: 220/240 volts

Visa and passport requirements : Group visa can be pre-arranged by TLB or individually upon arrival. Individual visa to be paid at border.

Terrain: Mostly desert in the east, highland area in west; Great Rift Valley separates East and West Banks of the Jordan River.

National Holidays: There are several public holidays observed every year. The holidays of the Islamic calendar are observed depending on the lunar calendar.

Cultural considerations: Jordan is primarily a Muslim country; local women tend to cover up but Western women are not subject to these customs. However revealing clothing is never appropriate, and conservative dress is advisable for both men and women.

Currency The local currency is the Jordanian Dinar (JD).

Credit Cards: Credit cards are accepted most places.

Telecommunication: Mobiles can be used in most Jordan except in Wadi Rum. Internet is available in most of the hotels.

Health and medical: Medical services are excellent in the larger cities. Pharmacies are found everywhere and several open 24/7.

JORDAN's main attractions

The ancient city of **Petra**, built from 800 BC to 100 AD, was last year voted by an international ballot as one of the new **Seven Wonders of the World**. This magnificent city founded by the Nabateans covering an area of about 100 km², was along ancient caravan routes and lost to the world until 1812, when re-discovered by the Swiss explorer Johan Ludwig Burckhardt. This 'rose-red city' is especially magical at dawn and in the glow of the sunset. **Wadi Rum**, home to 'Arabs' man Lawrence of Arabia, is an exciting destination for jeep rides in the red sand and rock climbs to view ancient inscriptions. Even though the nomadic ways of the local Bedouin has changed over the years they remain extremely hospitable and no trip here is complete without sharing their tales over their favorite beverage a glass of black tea. **The Great Rift Valley**, a vast geographical and geological feature that runs for some 5,000 km, from northern Syria to central Mozambique created through the rifting of the African and Arabian tectonic plates around 35 million years ago – is another natural wonder and a challenge for the adventurous hiker. Jordan was a major trading center during the Roman Empire evident in the **ancient city of Jerash** which dates back more than 6,500 years. Now acknowledged to be one of the best preserved Roman towns in the world this site features a subtle blend of east and west. The Hashemite kingdom is considered the sacred home to the world's religions - from **Mount Nebo** one can view the land, which according the the Bible, was promised to Moses. At 400 meters below sea level the **Dead Sea** has the highest content of minerals and salts in the world, and possesses anti-inflammatory properties - the dark mud found on the shores have been used for thousands of years for therapeutic purposes. A short drive away is **Madaba** where one can view legendary mosaics which portray the tales of bygone times. The capital **Amman** is site of the regions earliest fortifications from the Neolithic period as well as from the Hellenistic and late Roman to Arab Islamic Ages. A 6,000 seat Roman Theatre, is in place and today still used for cultural events.

The modern face of Jordan is evident in the luxurious beach developments along the coast of **Aqaba** and in the shopping malls of in Amman - while in the rural regions shepherds still herd their flock through a landscape unchanged since ancient times. This is the charm of Jordan.