

EXTRA INFORMATION JORDAN

JORDAN FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

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HOSPATILITY
FOOD & DRINKS
FINANCE & TIPPING
WHAT TO WEAR
WHILST OUTDOORS
ANIMAL WELFARE
CHILD LABOUR

Hospitality at its best

The locals are known by their hospitality, beautiful nature reserves, amazing historical sites of which Petra is the best known. Around 95% of the Jordanian citizens are Islamic. Religion and traditions play an important role in Jordan. At the same time, Jordan is becoming more modern and westernized. Therefore, it's considered as one of the Arab World's most cosmopolitan and westernized countries.

Languages

The main language is Arabic, where most people know English as well. All children in Jordan are nowadays following obligatory English classes, older generations speak less English. At the touristic sites in Jordan, you will find pretty much every one speaking English. Once in Jordan, you will need to exchange your money for JOD/ Jordanian dinar. You can do this at the airport or in one of the bigger cities during the trip.

What to wear:

Along the touristic areas in Jordan, people are used to tourists and foreigners. Most of the tourist wear clothes that cover the shoulders and legs. You will feel more comfortable and will be treated with more respect from both men and women covering up.

Finances

The exchange rates between the dinar and dollar are fixed:
1 JOD = 1.41 USD or 1 USD = 0.708 JOD.



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Tipping guidelines

Tipping is part of the culture in Jordan and some salaries, persons or families are depending on the extra money they receive from tourists. Though, only tip when you're satisfied with the service that's provided to you. Here are some guidelines for tipping in Jordan.

Taxis: Round up the amount and let the taxi drivers keep the change

Drivers: 2 – 3 JD per person per day.

Restaurants: Tips of 10% are generally expected in restaurants. Keep an eye on your bill while it might be already added to it. But please note that not every restaurant actually shares the service fee with its employees. Therefore, you can round up the amount and let them keep the change.

Hotels: Bellboys or porters are expected to be tipped 1 – 2 JD per bag, room service 2 – 5 JD and maids 2 JD per night.

Guides during group tours: Will be discussed with the tour leader, otherwise 2 – 3 JD per person per day.

Guides during private tours: 2 – 3 JD per person per day.

Tip: keep your single dinars and coins separate for tipping and avoid difficult situations when you don't have small cash on hand or when people don't have enough change.

If anyone you encounter makes a fuzz about tipping or the amount you're giving, please let us know directly.



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Food:

If you follow a special diet, or if you are a vegetarian, please let us know in advance so we can instruct locals. If you have a gluten allergy, we advise you to bring some food along with you. Most of the locals don't know this condition.

Water:

Most of the water that comes from taps is good and clean to take a shower and to brush teeth. We do advise to drink from bottles. Stomach pain is mostly caused by a change of diet and the heat. Make sure you drink enough!

Jordan is one of the most water-poor countries in the world. Please keep your water usage to a minimum.

Alcoholic drinks

If you are a guest with local families, we discourage you to drink alcohol. On other places, locals will have no problem with it. You'd best buy some extra at the Airport for during your trip or in Aqaba (tax free) or Madaba

While in the outdoors:

Wild animals pose very little risks to those spending time in the outdoors, it is best to know how to deal with animals you could encounter. A few poisonous snake species do live in the region; but sightings are rare, and contact/bites are almost unheard of. Wearing long pants and closed shoes while walking prevent the possibility of getting bitten or scratched by prickly plants.

Mosquitoes, bees and other stinging insects can be found in Jordan. If you have any extreme allergic reactions to any stings, carry appropriate medication.



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Animal Welfare

Several organizations used to work or are working on animal welfare programs. Examples are Brooke Hospital and SPANA (For the working animals of the world). Not taking good care of the animals is still a problem in Petra and other places in Jordan. Whether you want to go by donkey, horse, carriage or camel, please make sure you only get on the healthy animals. This way you support the owners who do take good care of their animals and you encourage others to do the same and stop mistreatment.

Tip: Once you've selected a healthy looking animal, make sure that you discuss the price of the ride (or the tip!) in advance. Does someone not stick to the agreed price, you can (threat to) go to the Tourist Police on the site.

Child labor.

Unfortunately there is still a big group of children (around 400) working in Petra but also in other places in Jordan. These kids are day in - day out on the sites, while they should be in school. Several organizations such as UNICEF and USAID launched programs to eliminate child labor in Petra and offer alternative programs to support the kids and their families instead of working in Petra. You can help eliminating child labor by not buying souvenirs & postcards or paying for a donkey ride.



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