

# Jordan Prelude

## Entrance Requirements

### Passports

- A valid passport is required for entry into Jordan.
- The passport must be valid for 6 months after your scheduled date of arrival.
- You will need two blank pages per country for entry and exit stamps in the visa section of your passport. "Two blank pages" is defined as the front and back of a page.
- If you need a new passport to be issued act now: It can take up to 6 weeks to receive your new passport. It is no longer possible to purchase additional pages for an existing passport. If you travel frequently, please consider purchasing a 52-page passport. For more information contact the National Passport Information Center toll free at 877-487-2778 or visit [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov).

*Advisory:* When you travel, we recommend that you make two copies of your first passport page; keep one copy at home in the unlikely event that your passport is lost, and take one copy along to use as an ID, should you leave your passport behind in the hotel safe deposit box.

### Visa

Classic Escapes will secure your visa for travel in Jordan. A copy of the information page of your passport is required to process the application for entry. There is no charge for this service or the visa.

## Health & Wellness

You are going to be visiting a country with a rich and diverse cultural history but which is lacking in many of the conveniences that many of us are accustomed to. As a result, you may be exposed to some pathogens that you would not ordinarily encounter in the U.S. There are some preventative steps that you can take to help ensure that you do not bring back to your home more than your luggage, gifts, and experiences.

### Inoculations

There are no compulsory vaccinations required for entry into Jordan for those traveling from the United States. However, the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) suggest that you be up to date on routine vaccines such as:

- MMR (measles, mumps, rubella)
- DTP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis)
- Varicella (chicken pox)
- Polio
- Influenza

The CDC recommends these vaccines for MOST travelers. They are NOT mandatory:

- Hepatitis A
- Typhoid

A Yellow Fever shot is only mandatory if you are coming from a Yellow Fever endemic zone. This is being reinforced at immigration posts at borders and airports. Your program DOES NOT require you to get this vaccination unless you will be coming from a Yellow Fever endemic zone and in this case, the easiest and safest thing to do is to get a yellow fever vaccination before you depart the USA and a signed yellow fever certificate, which you should carry with your passport. After immunization, an International Certificate of Vaccination is issued. It will become valid 10 days after vaccination to meet entry and exit requirements for all countries. The Certificate is good for life. You must take the Certificate with you.

Alert: Since 2012, MERS (Middle East respiratory syndrome) has been identified in multiple countries in the Arabian Peninsula, including Jordan, and in travelers to the region. The CDC recommends taking advanced precautions:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an [alcohol-based hand sanitizer](#).
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Avoid close contact with sick people.
- Be sure you are up-to-date with all of your shots and, if possible, see your healthcare provider at least 4–6 weeks before travel to get any additional shots.

Additional Information:

The CDC issues regular travel health notices on their website:

- [wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/jordan](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/jordan)

## **Water & Food**

We suggest you drink bottled water only. Never drink water from the tap and remember to use bottled water to brush your teeth. Tap water is heavily chlorinated. It is generally recommended that guests drink plenty of water each day to limit the effects of dehydration. This excludes tea, coffee and alcoholic beverages, which act as diuretics and actually contribute to dehydration. Avoid ice in your drinks, raw vegetables or unpeeled fruits. Although sanitary conditions in Jordan are quite good, diarrhea is a common complaint. This may be caused by foods to which you are not accustomed, a change in schedule, or fruit and vegetables which are not properly prepared. Only eat well-cooked meat and fish, preferably served hot. Salad and mayonnaise may carry increased risk. We suggest that you bring a medication such as Imodium or Pepto Bismol to control it if you have problems.

## **Physical Conditioning**

To enjoy your trip to the fullest, you should be in good physical and mental health. This will be a moderately strenuous tour. There will be walking over uneven surfaces and a few long and hot days of sightseeing. Travel will be in a comfortable, air conditioned bus. To reach the most beautiful part of excavated tombs, you will have to bend over and walk down fairly steep inclines. Bring comfortable shoes. You will be doing a lot of walking and temple floors are far from even. In summer, wear a hat to protect yourself from the heat of the sun.

## Travel Insurance & Medical Evacuation

We recommend that you consider a Trip Cancellation policy that also includes medical coverage and evacuation against unforeseen circumstances.

## Climatic Conditions

The main characteristics of Jordan's climate reflect the transitional location of the country between the Mediterranean climate in the West and arid climates in the East and South. Prevailing winds from the northwest bring cold wet air during winter and spring, mild air during summer and autumn; and from the east and south east bring cold air during winter and spring and hot dry during summer and autumn from Arabia and India. Jordan thus has a temperate, semi and subtropical climate which is well suited to travel for most of the year.

## Altitude

Jordan tends to have a more mountainous terrain although altitudes are not difficult to manage.

### Altitude Chart: (Feet)

Amman	2,749
Dead Sea	-1,388
Jerash	1,968

## Temperature

Average Temperature (°F)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Amman	39/52	40/55	44/61	51/71	57/80	63/85	67/88	67/88	64/85	58/79	49/66	42/56
Dead Sea	52/68	55/72	61/77	68/84	75/93	81/99	82/102	84/100	81/97	75/90	64/81	55/72
Jerash	39/55	39/57	45/64	50/75	63/88	66/91	68/91	68/91	63/88	57/82	48/70	41/61
Petra	46/55	54/61	63/68	66/75	73/84	82/99	82/99	82/99	73/84	73/84	61/72	46/56
Average Rainfall (inches):	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Amman	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dead Sea	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2
Jerash	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	.03	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
Petra	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

## Recommended Packing List

**For Gorilla Treks:** Climbing can be on a 45° incline, the path will zig zag and go up and down; well-broken-in boots or shoes should have jagged edge tread with high ankle support for the hiking. Bring a backpack to keep arms free. Wear long sleeves and long pants to protect your

skin, and garden gloves to protect your hands. Be prepared for rain with a poncho, or a light umbrella. Lodges and camps provide umbrellas but they are not recommended for trekking, as passing through thick forest would be impossible.

Bring a hat with a brim; it not only protects you from the sun, which can be quite intense at midday, but will keep your head dry in case of rain. During early morning and late afternoon you may need a sweater.

## **Recommended Packing List**

### **Clothing**

- Long-sleeved shirts, slacks and socks to protect you from insect bites and sunburn
- Long or mid-length skirts that cover the knees
- Scarf or shawl for women that can be used to cover the head when visiting mosques or holy sites
- Long trousers/slacks
- Good quality sunglasses (preferably polarized).
- Sun hat with a brim
- Good walking shoes (running/tennis shoes are fine)
- Sandals or rubber flip/flops for poolside
- Swimsuit with light cover-up garment
- Lightweight jersey for cooler mornings
- A set of smart casual evening wear

### **Toiletries**

- Personal toiletries (basic amenities supplied by many establishments)
- Moisturizing cream & suntan lotion
- Insect repellent e.g. Tabard, Rid, Jungle Juice, OFF, etc.
- Basic medical kit (aspirins, plasters, Imodium, antiseptic cream, and Anti-histamine cream, etc.)
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Packaged wet tissues ("Wash & Dry" "Wet Ones")
- If you wear contact lenses, we recommend that you bring along a pair of glasses in case you get irritation
- Reading glasses
- Small sewing kit

### **Other Things to Pack**

- Visas, tickets, passports, money, etc.
- Backpack to use during the day as you tour
- A small flashlight with extra batteries
- Adapter plugs & converters for electrical appliances
- A tiny calculator for estimating cost while shopping
- Binoculars
- Reading material
- Journal with pen

## Camera Equipment

- Camera, memory cards and chargers
- Lenses, cleaning fluid, lens tissue
- Waterproof/dustproof bags/cover for your camera

## Tips on Clothing

Jordan is a conservative country and visitors should respect this attitude. On the practical side, leave your synthetics at home as they will prove to be too hot in summer and not warm enough in winter – bring materials that breathe. It is advisable to wear cotton in summer as the heat can be like a furnace. In winter wear layers that can be taken off during the heat of the day and put back on for cool evenings.

Wear loose and flowing garments, which are not only modest, but practical in a hot climate. Loose garments keep you cooler and layered garments allow wind to enter and circulate, creating a natural ventilation system. Protecting the head and neck from loss of moisture prevents heat stroke. On your program, you will visit many holy places where modest dress is required. This applies especially to women. Men need long trousers. Women need pants or long skirts that cover the knees, and shirts or a shawl to cover their arms. Avoid see-through clothing. Also bring comfortable walking shoes for sightseeing and walking on desert sand. Sneakers or hiking shoes are recommended but not open sandals as it is sandy. Sunglasses as well as hats and scarves are recommended as protection against the strong sun.

## Power & Connectivity

### At a Glance

Voltage for Jordan	220 volts AC, 50Hz
Type C	
Type D	
Type F	
Type G	
Type J	

## **Cell Phones**

Many travelers bring along their cell phones, not only for connecting to the internet and making phone calls, but for the easy to use camera functions. If you plan on using it as a phone keep in mind North American phones may not in Jordan, particularly in remote areas. Check with your service provider to determine if you can purchase a plan, or if your phone can be “unlocked”. If it can, you should be able to purchase inexpensive prepaid SIM cards.

*Advisory: As most people travel to “get away from it all,” some limitations on the use of these phones when on tour need to be set. We suggest the following guidelines on the use of cell phones:*

- 1. Keep the ring tone at a low volume to avoid disturbing other guests.*
- 2. Use your phone in the privacy of your room and not any of the common areas: dining room, bar/lounge area, or on any of the vehicles.*
- 3. Use your phone for outgoing calls and to check messages only. Incoming calls, and the loud ringing that ensues, should be curtailed.*

## **Time**

Jordan is in the Eastern European Time Zone (EET) and is seven hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time. Egypt does not observe Daylight Savings Time. Daylight Savings Time in the USA is from the first Sunday in April until the last Sunday in October. When it is 12:00 Noon in New York City it will be 7:00 pm in Jordan (6:00pm during Daylight Savings Time).

## **Equipment**

### **Cameras**

From smartphones to SLR cameras, digital photography has now made it simpler than ever to preserve the memories experienced during once-in-a-lifetime adventures. Most digital cameras use either an SD (secure digital) card or a CF (compact flash) card that comes in a variety of storage capacities ranging from 2–128 GB (gigabytes). Depending on the megapixel size of your particular camera and the format in which you choose to shoot your images, an 8GB card can hold as few as 200 images shot in RAW format (normally shot by pros and serious amateurs) to just over 2000 images shot as JPEGs (most common format shot by enthusiasts). For those cameras with megapixels higher than 12, it is recommended that at least 4-8GB cards are used and that you should always bring more than one card in case of card failure or corruption (rare but possible). If you are bringing a laptop, external USB hard drives of 1–2 TB (terabytes) are compact, relatively inexpensive, and an excellent way to store tens of thousands of images. In addition to ensuring that you bring the charger and adaptor/converter for the location to where you are traveling, it is highly recommended that you bring at least one spare, fully charged battery for your camera. There may be locations where dependable power is not available for charging and spare batteries may prove to be invaluable and help ensure that you don't miss any photo opportunities.

### **Video**

Charging facilities for video AND digital cameras should be available in every camp or lodge on the safari, as long as you have a standard charger that will plug into 220 volts. Please bring along enough batteries to last you at least three days of filming.

### **Binoculars**

There will be an opportunity to observe some of the natural treasures of Namibia. Binoculars will add immeasurably to your viewing enjoyment. Preferably, binoculars should be at least 8 power (8x) and have a wide field of view to allow you to quickly find whatever it is you want to see. Some binoculars

have the added advantage of “gathering light,” making objects brighter in dim morning and evening conditions. This light-gathering capability is determined by a measurement called the “exit pupil”, which is calculated by dividing the diameter of the front (objective) lens in millimeters by the power (8x, for example). These two measurements are commonly designated on binoculars as a measurement such as 8x42, which translates to 8 power with a 42 mm objective lens. The exit pupil in this instance is  $42/8$ , or 5.25. Since the human eye can process light delivered by an exit pupil of about 4.0, these binoculars will appear bright even in dim light.

Some very small binoculars are relatively inexpensive, such as 8x21. With a very narrow field of view (usually about 400 feet at 1,000 yards) and an exit pupil of only  $21/8 = 2.6$ , these binoculars are designed for viewing stationary objects in bright light, such as at the opera, and are poorly designed for looking at wildlife. You will be far happier with binoculars designated in the range of 8x40 to 10x50.

## **Money Matters**

U.S. dollars are commonly accepted at shops, hotels and restaurants in tourist areas in Jordan though you will likely receive a poor exchange rate. We recommend that you carry cash in small denominations since change will be returned to you in local currency. Be sure to count your change carefully. Your dollars should be newer issues; minted in or after 2006 with no rips or markings.

Exchange of U.S. Dollars can be made at foreign exchange kiosks at the airport or at banks and hotels. In preparation for your journey, you may want to calculate the exchange rate from the US dollar to local currencies. There are several websites that offer a conversion engine. You can also check the Wall Street Journal for currency rate information.

Be sure to notify your bank and credit card company when and where you will be traveling and ask what fees, if any will apply.

## **Currency**

The official currency of Jordan is the Jordanian Dinar (JOD) and commonly called “leerah.” It is divided into 10 Dirham or 100 Qirsh also called piasters. The most commonly used notes are 1, 5, 10, 20 and 50 Dinar. Coins are available in 1, 2, 5, 10, 25 and 50.

## **Credit Cards/ATMs**

In major cities, credit cards such as MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted but beware that often American Express, Discover and Diners Club are often **not** accepted.

*Note:* As there is a potential for fraud anywhere in the world, we highly recommend that you do not use your debit cards overseas and exercise caution when using your credit cards. Do not let the card out of your sight and if a vendor tries to take the card into a back room, ask for your card back immediately and refrain from using it. Keep your valuables on you, including passports and credit cards, or locked in the safety deposit boxes when provided.

## **Shopping:**

Souvenir choices are endless and handicraft shops are widely scattered throughout Jordan. The wide range of crafts combines traditional art with modern flair. The most common Jordanian

craft items include Madaba rugs, carved olivewood, Hebron glass, ceramics, mother of pearl, cross stitch embroidery and Bedouin silver jewelry.

## **Code of Conduct**

### **Etiquette**

Jordan is a conservative culture. To avoid attracting the wrong kind of attention or offending local traditions please consider the following these guidelines:

#### **Dress Code**

Women should cover their heads when entering a mosque or holy site. In general, women should not wear sleeveless garments; short sleeves are ok,  $\frac{3}{4}$  sleeves or long sleeves are better and a conservative neckline is essential (an exposed cleavage will attract the wrong kind of attention). Choose long or Capri-length pants; no shorts or short skirts/dresses (knees should be covered).

Men should not wear tank tops or sleeveless shirts and should remove hats/caps when entering a mosque or holy site.

Handshakes are the customary greeting among individuals of the same sex. Do not interrupt or pass in front of a Muslim engaged in prayer.