

Experiences Of A German Student In Jordan

Hello, my name is Ludwig Valenta, 28 years old and I live in Munich. There I am studying Mechatronics at the University of Applied Sciences. For my Master Thesis I decided to go abroad.

I choose Jordan, because I think that it is the country with the best possibilities for an engineer in the Arab world. I was interested in oriental culture for some years and I also started learning the arabic.

One of the first impressions here in Jordan was that the weather is colder than I expected. Of course in Germany weather is getting much colder, but flats there are well isolated in contrary to here.

I didn't expect that many things are so modern here, especially cars and malls. I've been to Egypt before and there are really many old cars.

And of course the traffic is a separate chapter...

I also found that some things are very expensive whereas other things are really cheap. The spreading of costs has a big range.

Jordanian people are very friendly and helpful and only a few, very traditional people are closed. Often kids are the Jordanians to come in contact with and who want to get photographed. That somebody is shouting at you "Welcome to Jordan!" was surprising - in Germany such a welcoming could not be met.

Jordanians are very sociable: In this three months I am staying in Jordan yet I got to know so many friends - it's really hard for me to keep all the names in my mind!

Many people are willing to practice Arabic language with somebody whose Arabic is not well established, e.g. Taxi drivers, people in the bus etc. And it happens often that you are invited by people to join their picnic.

Jordanians again are more open minded in general than I have expected.

Another thing to deal with is the nature of bureaus! More than every second time you hear the phrase "Bukra!" and every answer ends with "inshallah". If somebody wants to get something he has to visit the corresponding office several times and answers should not be taken too serious - things are changing very fast. If somebody in Germany tells you a fact you could be shure that it won't change. On the other side this causes a slower and convenient life and many things that cannot be changed in Germany can be discussed here. Contact, relations and conversation between people are very important - you do not only follow signs.

The studies at GJU I found very similiar to a school, with its obligatory attendance at classes. The professors I met where very professional and very motivated. There sadly is a lack in infrastructure and place at the university but that should be very improved after the relocation to the Madaba Campus.

To find a appropriate company for doing my Master Thesis is not very easy, but I expected that.

At the beginning of my stay I found much people very unathletic and not much interested in Jordan history. But after some time I met more and more young people I can

go hiking with or doing other sports like jogging. I also joined the Dead Sea Marathon (10km) and was surprised how many people participated.

I really enjoyed my trips to the ancient places and to the beautiful nature (sadly some places are full of garbage), such as Jerash, Dead Sea, Wadi Ram, Petra, Umm Quais and Ajloun. The tours with the International Office are always a good possibility to see more of the country and of people than you might see when joining a tourist tour.

So I´m still having fun here and hope to stay the whole year I planned and to experience as much as possible of Jordan. I am gladly awaiting for the next adventure...