



الجامعة الألمانية الأردنية  
German Jordanian University

## GJU Incoming-Guide

General Information for German Exchange Students and Faculty at GJU

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**Ahlan wa Sahlan fi-l-Urdun!**  
**Welcome in Jordan!**

We, the International Affairs Department (IAD) of the German Jordanian University (GJU) welcomes you as member of the GJU family!.

The GJU was founded in Amman in 2005 on the basis of a German-Jordanian government agreement. It is a Jordanian state university whose teaching is based on the model of German universities of applied sciences.

The courses offered are strongly practice- and demand-oriented, based on the German Hochschule model, and thus represent a novelty in the otherwise very theoretically oriented Jordanian education system. Both partner states are convinced that this university will create a win-win situation: On the one hand, well-educated specialists for their own country from Jordan's point of view, as well as door openers in this important MENA region - from Germany's point of view. Accordingly, students from all these countries study at the GJU.

The aim of this brochure is to familiarize you as quickly as possible with the issues of daily life and the formalities involved. We would like to express our gratitude to our colleagues at the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in Amman, who provided us with their Ahlan-Wa-Sahlan brochure as a basis for this information.

To help you get started, this brochure is divided into several chapters. First, we want to give you a general overview of the country you are traveling to. Then we will tell you what you need to consider when entering the country and finally we would like to point out the formalities you will have to take care of after your arrival.

To make it easier for you to get settled in Amman, we will also cover the topic of everyday life in Amman. This includes information on health, getting around, education, media, as well as the entire range of leisure activities from sports to art and culture to sightseeing.

## **Where to find GJU:**

GJU's *main campus* is located in Mushaqqar, just off the Amman-Madaba highway, about 20km south of Amman. <https://www.google.jo/maps/@31.7768431,35.8003664,17z>

However, the Faculty of Architecture (**SABE campus**) is located in the old city of Amman. It is housed in recently renovated buildings of the so-called Othman Bedeir House in Jabal Amman. Here is the location of the Faculty of Architecture: <https://goo.gl/maps/h3gT6ny4CfrDZ48r7>

<https://www.google.jo/maps/@31.7768431,35.8003664,17z>

## **Information on Jordan**

### **GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE COUNTRY**

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan spreads over an area of 97,740 km<sup>2</sup>, with 80% of the country covered by desert. The climate is generally warm, dry summers and mild winters. Jordan can be divided into three climatic zones: subtropical climate in the Jordan Valley, temperate climate in the Amman plateau and continental desert climate throughout the year in the east and south of the country. Thus, depending on the altitude, there are large temperature differences in the country.

The Kingdom of Jordan is a constitutional monarchy. King Abdullah II bin al-Hussein has ruled since 1999. The current prime minister has been Bisher Al-Khasawneh since October 2020. The legal system is based on the British model, and there is also an Islamic religious jurisdiction (Sharia).

The current Jordanian population of around 11 million (August 2022) is officially 50% of Palestinian descent, but realistic estimates go far beyond that. Currently, there are also still approximately 23,000 Iraqi refugees in the country. Since the beginning of the Syrian crisis, more than 600,000 registered Syrian refugees have also been added (UNHCR). However, estimates for the total Syrian population in Jordan currently range up to approximately 1.2 million.

## RELIGION, CULTURE AND SOCIETY - WHAT TO CONSIDER?

93% of the inhabitants of Jordan are Sunni Muslims, 5% belong to the Christian faith. It is advisable to learn a little about the religion and its important rules before traveling.

Women and men should be paid attention to moderate dress in Jordan. Shorts are still taboo for women, except for sports, rather uncommon for men as well, although male students in shorts are increasingly seen on the GJU campus. In the Old City and in areas outside Amman, special attention should be paid to a proper dress code.

When visiting a mosque, proper attire should definitely be observed. Men should cover the knees (too short trousers is not allowed), long trousers are preferred. Women should wear a robe that covers the entire body and a headscarf. All mosques have a separate prayer room for women and men, and larger mosques sometimes issue appropriate capes for female tourists. Visitors can occasionally visit mosques without observing the dress code. There is basically no access for tourists in the Abu Darwish Mosque as well as in the King Hussein Mosque.

In most Arab houses, shoes are taken off before entering. It is customary to shake hands among the same sex, but not with the opposite sex.

### ***Men and women***

In general, Amman is cosmopolitan and accustomed to tourists and foreigners. Nevertheless, women should be careful not to give unknowingly misleading signals to men, which unfortunately includes smiling and looking into the eyes (e.g. also cab drivers). Shouts, whistles from passing or running men should best be ignored. Approaches of any kind should rather be protested too early than too late loudly and clearly. Invitations from men recently met at other events can usually be accepted, as long as it is a visit to a café or an invitation to a family function. A personal safeguard can still be to clearly state that you have a boyfriend and/or are not interested in anything more than friendship. What is true for Amman is even more true for the rest of Jordan. A pleasant interaction is maintained by the GJU students among themselves, who are usually again much more cosmopolitan than Amman and simply interested in the other culture and conversation. However, this should not be expected of the staff who sometimes come from a different cultural/family background.

**Ramadan** is the month of fasting for Muslims. Believing Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset, i.e. they do not eat, drink or smoke during this time, but the feast (iftar) in the evening is all the more sumptuous. Exceptions are made for children, the sick, the elderly and pregnant women. Non-Muslims should also not eat, drink or smoke in public, not even in the car. Bars and nightclubs are closed during Ramadan. Alcohol sales in stores and supermarkets are not allowed. Restaurants are not open during the day and serve only non-alcoholic drinks with meals after

sunset. However, ordering alcoholic beverages through room service in hotels is usually possible. Some bars and restaurants have exemption licenses, including those of major hotels. **Violations of the rules of public behaviour officially announced before Ramadan are severely punished.**

**Below is a link of Restaurants/ Pubs/ Cafes and more that are open during the day in Ramadan:**

**<http://blog.tipntaq.com/the-non-fasting-guide-places-open-during-ramadan/>**

**The national holidays for 2022/23:**

8 October 2022	<a href="#">Prophet's Birthday</a>
25 December 2022	<a href="#">Christmas Day</a>
1 January 2023	<a href="#">New Years Day</a>
1 May 2023	<a href="#">Labor Day</a>
21 April 2023	<a href="#">Eid al-Fitr</a>
25 May 2023	<a href="#">Independence Day</a>
29 June - 3 July 2023	<a href="#">Eid al-Adha</a>
18 July 2023	<a href="#">Islamic New Year</a>
27 September 2023	<a href="#">Prophets Birthday</a>
25 December 2023	<a href="#">Christmas Day</a>

On these holidays, government offices and most businesses remain closed. Islamic holidays (in italics) are based on the lunar calendar and may therefore take place one day earlier or later than indicated.

The ***weekly holiday*** is Friday. Banks and government offices are also closed on Saturdays; some stores also close on Thursday afternoon. Department stores and supermarkets are open 7 days a week.

Islam prohibits ***alcohol***, but drinking alcoholic beverages is not prohibited by law in Jordan. Alcohol in public, however, is taboo. Drinking and driving is strictly prohibited; the 0 alcohol limit applies.

***Local time*** in Jordan is the Eastern European Summer Time  
The Time zone is (GMT+3)

The **illiteracy rate** in Jordan is less than 5 percent. English language skills are widespread. About 98 percent of all children attend school. School attendance is compulsory and free in Jordan from the age of 6 to 15. The Jordanian school system leads almost all students to university entrance after 12 years of schooling.

When **photographing** people, be especially tactful and always ask first. Military installations and government utilities such as dams, sewage treatment plants and refineries may not be photographed!

**Medical care** in Amman is good, but outside Amman you cannot expect Western European standards. Addresses of German-speaking doctors and good hospitals can be obtained from the embassies. There are no vaccination regulations, but the usual vaccination (STIKO) against tetanus, diphtheria, poliomyelitis, hepatitis A and B is recommended. Some doctors also recommend rabies vaccination. Intestinal infections certainly pose a greater risk of infection. Therefore, the hygiene rules that apply to all tropical countries (be careful when eating fresh food, do not drink tap water) should be carefully observed.

With regard to **tippling**, ten percent of the invoice amount is customary in hotels and restaurants and it is added directly to the bill, which is called Service fees. In cabs, you can round up, but tipping is not expected. By law the minimum taxi ride costs now 1 JD. Baggage handlers at the airport, parking attendants and other service providers are tipped 0.5 to 1 JD.

Cars, electrical appliances, computers and videos are subject to customs duties, and fees can be very high. Travel supplies including laptops and cameras may be imported duty free. Alcohol may be imported up to one liter, 200 cigarettes and 200 grams of tobacco are also duty free. Cash (foreign currency and the Jordanian Dinar - JD) may be brought into the country up to an equivalent value of 15,000 JD. Amounts in excess of this must be reported to Jordanian customs. The export of antiques and corals is prohibited.

## THE CAPITAL AMMAN

Amman, the country's capital, is currently home to about 4 million people (Jordan Times 2016). The city is divided into a rich and very modern western part and a more traditional and poorer eastern part. There are some neighbourhoods (e.g. Shmeisani, Jabal Al (Lu)Weibdeh, Jabal Amman, Abdoun) where you can almost live like in Europe (even the dress code is a bit more relaxed here). Good shopping, restaurants and a variety of leisure activities can be found here. The core of the city is structured by in total seven hills "Jabal", which define the central districts. In general, the region is hilly which makes walking or riding bikes uncommon and the use of cars more popular. Traffic is chaotic and not comparable to European traffic rules. Car rides can take much longer throughout the day and in the rush hours due to traffic jams.



## CRISIS AND EMERGENCIES

Jordan is a relatively safe country in the Middle East, but you should still take precautions in case of an emergency. In order to be reachable in case of crisis or emergency in Jordan, the embassy should know your address as well as your telephone number. For this purpose, you should register in the Embassy's electronic German list:

<https://elefand.diplo.de/elefandextern/home/login!form.action>.

Security information will then be sent to you via this system (e.g. on planned demonstrations to be avoided, or border closures to Israel). Information on the current security situation can be found on the website of the German Foreign Office:

[http://www.auswaertiges-  
amt.de/sid\\_B10B3741EFA2E123A0637640A5B59B75/DE/Laenderinformationen/00-  
SiHi/Nodes/JordanienSicherheit\\_node.html](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/sid_B10B3741EFA2E123A0637640A5B59B75/DE/Laenderinformationen/00-SiHi/Nodes/JordanienSicherheit_node.html)

For incomings from other countries please check the website of your foreign office, before you visit Jordan.

## Entry

### VISA FOR JORDAN

The current vaccination requirements in Jordan for travellers are the following:

Visitors to Jordan are required to fill a declaration form and obtain the free QR code that shall be presented upon boarding. It is no longer required to bring a negative PCR test from the country of departure. Children under 5 years old are not required to apply on the platform. Vaccination is not required to enter Jordan.

Please check these requirements on a regular basis before planning your travel. You can find up to date information on the following website: <https://www.gateway2jordan.gov.jo/index.html>

A visa can be obtained directly upon entry at Amman airport. It costs 40 JOD and is valid for 1 month. Before the end of the month, it must be extended at the responsible police station (depending on the place of residence).

Proof of residence is required for this - the International Office has the necessary forms. You will then receive a visa for two more months. As a student, this can also be extended a second time

for three months. If you fail to renew your visa, you will be charged a penalty fee of 1,5 JOD per day upon departure.

A one-year residence permit (Iqama/Residency) can be applied for with the help of the International Affairs Department if you enrol for a second semester. For this, a blood test must be submitted (80 JOD to the Ministry of Health) and various documents to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

A visa can also be issued in advance through the Jordanian Embassy in Berlin or through the relevant consulates for a fee of approximately 35 Euro. However, we do not recommend this way because of the required effort. After 14 days stay in Jordan, this must be confirmed at the responsible police station!

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## In Jordan

### **Cash**

The national currency is the Jordanian Dinar.

One Jordanian Dinar (JOD) = 100 Piaster = 1000 Fils.

You can calculate the current exchange rate at

<http://www.wechselkurs24.de> calculate.

### **FINANCIAL TRANSFER**

We recommend that you find out in advance how best to transfer private funds. From ATMs here can be easily withdrawn by credit card or debit card (Maestro). The fees vary from bank to bank (inquire at the bank, but min. 2%). Some banks (e.g. DKB) also offer the possibility to withdraw money abroad without fees.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

The main means of transportation in Amman are the yellow **cabs**, which can be hailed anywhere along the street. It is important to make sure that the taximeter reads 34 piasters at the start to avoid later arguments with the drivers. After 22:00 the starting price is higher and the following fee is also slightly higher than at daytime. Also, the applications Uber, Kareem and Jeeny have gained popularity in the past years and are advisable if one cannot give directions or knows the exact destination.

The white **shared cabs ("service")** exist in Amman and in all Jordanian cities, operating on fixed routes. These currently cost between 40 and 80 piasters, depending on the route, which you should have ready if possible. Payment is made directly to the driver when boarding, or to the

person who announces the stops. In principle, it is possible to get off almost anywhere along the way upon request.

Transportation to the **airport** can be done by cab (currently 25 JOD), by Uber, Kareem or Jeeny or by the airport shuttle bus (Sariyeh Express - 3.25 JOD from the airport to the bus station Mujama'a Shamali/Tababour, from there on by cab).

For **transportation to the GJU Madaba (Mushaqqar) campus**, it is possible to use bus connections. In principle, there are university buses for students, which depart from the seventh circle. For these, however, a monthly ticket must be purchased in advance at the GJU. The semester ticket must be purchased within the first week of classes (240 JOD, as of Feb. 2018).

Also a public bus (from GJU to University of Jordan) is available in front of the main GJU entrance, which leaves to different times during the day and costs 0,65 piasters (see table below bus line 135). Less inconvenient are the public white minibuses called "Service". These also depart from the Seventh Circle and take you to the university for 75 piasters/750 fils. This Bus usually run from 6:15 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the direction of Madaba. For the way back from the university, carpooling among colleagues/fellow students is recommended, as well as - until about 5 pm - the last mentioned "service" buses.

You can also take a normal cab to the GJU campus in Madaba, which will cost you between 6 and 10 JOD, depending on your negotiating skills. The same yellow cabs also often run from the 7th circle as a shared cab, in which case the ride costs about 2 JOD per person.

When **importing a passenger car**, an international driver's license as well as an international registration and a triptyk/carnet de passages (border crossing certificate) are required at the border. These documents are available for a fee from German automobile clubs. European third party liability insurance does not apply. Therefore, temporary liability insurance must be purchased at the border, which costs about 22 JD or more. After three months, an imported car is subject to customs duty, which is more than 100% of the value estimated by the authorities. Importation of passenger cars is possible without age restriction.

*Please note that your private car must not be older than ten years when imported into Jordan! Diesel vehicles (passenger cars) are generally excluded from the import!*

#### **Driving license**

Short-term visitors and students can use rental cars with international driving license. A driving license for motorcycles is not issued in Jordan.

#### **Car rental**

There are all internationally known car rental companies in Amman. The daily price for a small rental car is 20 - 30 JOD. Please make sure that the vehicle is roadworthy before renting it!

There are also other buses that operate as follows on line number (135):

## Bus 1

#	Starting Point (stops)	First Round	Second Round	Third Round	Fourth Round
1	Jubeiha	6:45	---	9:35	12:15
2	AlEssra Hospital	6:55	7:50	9:45	12:25
3	Waha Circle/ Habibah sweets	7:05	8:05	10:10	12:35
4	7th Circle	7:15	8:20	10:20	12:50
5	Marj El Hamam (after the traffic lights that come after the tunnel)	7:25	8:30	10:30	1
Arrival time estimation, they may arrive 15 minutes before.	-----	8	9	11	1:30

## Bus 2

#	Starting Point (stops)	First Round	Second Round
1	Areefa Mall	6:30	9:30
2	Al-Mashaghel Int.	6:35	9:35

3	Sport City Circle	6:40	9:50
4	Al-Dakhiliya Circle (Housing Bank Complex)	6:50	10:05
5	4th circle	6:55	10:15
6	Taj Mall	7:05	10:20
7	Marj El Hamam (after the traffic lights that come after the tunnel)	7:20	10:30
Arrival time estimation, they may arrive 15 minutes before these times.	----	8	11

### Bus 3

#	Starting Point (stops)	First Round	Second Round
1	Khalda Circle (pedestrian bridge)	7:00	10:00
2	Al-Sha'b Circle	7:05	10:05
3	8th Circle (pedestrian bridge)	7:10	10:15
4	7th Circle	7:15	10:20
5	Marj El Hamam (after the traffic lights that come after the tunnel)	7:30	10:30
Arrival time estimation, they may arrive 15 minutes before these times.	---	8	11

## Return Rounds

#	Bus Route	Departure Time
1	Marj El-Hamam, 7th Circle, Waha Circle, Jordan University Mosque.	11:10
2	The same route as all 3 buses (but backwards)	1:10
3	The same route as all 3 buses (but backwards)	2:10
4	The same route as all 3 buses (but backwards)	3:10
5	The same route as all 3 buses (but backwards)	5:05

- These buses cost 0.6 JOD per trip.
- They stop right in front of the backyard mall on arrival and departure (next to the GJU tower).
- You can ask to be dropped off anywhere on the route.
- All these areas are available on Google Maps (look for your closest stop).
  - ★ i.e. the closest stop to Weibeh, Jabal Al-Hussein and Shmeisani is Al-Dakhiliya Circle (Housing Bank Complex).
- Feel free to ask any GJU student where exactly the bus stops in any of these areas.
- Try to be at the stop 5-10 minutes before the said time.

### ALL ABOUT ACCOMMODATION

#### **Hotels**

There are a variety of hotels in Jordan (categories 1 - 5 stars). A detailed description of the hotels can be obtained from the IAD. In addition, the GJU has arranged a price reduction with some hotels for the benefit of experts and guests.

#### **Housing**

The IAD will support you in your search for accommodation. At this time, the GJU does not have its own residence halls. Through the Facebook page of the exchange students at the GJU,

housing tips are passed on informally and flat-share requests are published. The same applies to various "expat" pages.

Regular offers of shared rooms, apartments and one-bedroom apartments can be found at <http://www.expatriates.com/classifieds/amm/hs/>. However, the housing market in Amman is very fast-moving.

#### **Telephone and internet**

You can request a private Internet connection from various providers or use your wireless access at GJU. There are also a large number of internet cafes in the city. For cell phones, there is the possibility to buy prepaid cards in the countless small cell phone stores all over Amman. A new number from the providers Orange, Zain or Umniah costs 5 - 15 JOD. Usually there are monthly "packages" that include a certain number of free minutes, free SMS and Internet access (from 6 JOD).

#### **WEATHER**

For general information: <https://www.jdtours.com/jordan/weather> . Due to the special conditions in Jordan, sudden violent storm surges with flooding occur in winter. In some cases bridges, roads and whole areas of land are swept away. Therefore, trips to Wadis and areas below the mountain regions are strongly discouraged when the weather forecast calls for rain. Follow the weather forecast before planning recreational activities. Do not ignore weather warnings! Even the police send weather warnings, they are in Arabic, but try to translate and follow them! Winter floods in Jordan have already claimed several lives. Even in the underpasses of the cities, flooding often occurs within a few minutes, making it impossible to drive through.

#### **ARABIC LANGUAGE COURSES**

##### ***German Jordanian University:***

There is one basic course in "Arabic as a Foreign Language" per semester, which is divided into 'beginner' and 'intermediate' according to need. For further information, please contact the International Affairs Department of the GJU.

**Arabic Courses for Modern Standard Arabic as well as Colloquial Arabic (Ammiyya) are also offered by many different organisations, such as:**

##### ***Institut Français:***

Courses in colloquial Arabic (various levels) are offered regularly; intensive courses are also available during the vacations. Overall, the classes are highly recommended.  
phone + 962 6 4612658 ([http://www.ifiordan.com/quiou/quiou\\_en.html](http://www.ifiordan.com/quiou/quiou_en.html))

**Berlitz Language Center:**

recommendable lessons, but strongly dependent on the respective teaching staff and relatively expensive.

phone + 962 6 566 5393 (<http://www.berlitz-jo.com/learn-arabic>)

**Qasid Arabic Institute:**

phone: +962 6 515 4364

(<https://www.qasid.com/>)

**Ahlan World Jordan for Arabic language:**

phone: +962 646 15 315

([Learn Arabic in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco - Ahlan World Arabic Schools \(ahlan-world.org\)](http://www.ahlan-world.org))

**Al Baher Arabic Language Training Center:**

phone: +962 6 593 5596

(<https://www.albahertrainingcenter.com/>)

**Misbah Center:**

phone: +962 6 462 5022

(<https://www.misbahcenter.com/>)

**Maraheb:**

phone: +962 77 56 88770

(<https://www.marahebarabic.com/>)

**... and many more!**

***There are also plenty of language exchange groups and events which you can join. There you can meet new people and practice your language skills.***

**For example:**

- Deewan Institute
- Shams Community
- Jadal for Knowledge and Culture
- ...



## Everyday life in Jordan

### ART AND CULTURE

(See also [www.visitjordan.com](http://www.visitjordan.com), [www.7iber.com](http://www.7iber.com) and <http://blog.tipntag.com/>)

### *Museums and galleries*

- *Jordan Archaeological Museum*  
collection of Jordanian antiquities from prehistoric times.  
Citadel Hill, Amman, phone 4 63 87 95.
- *Jordan Museum of Popular Traditions*  
Jordanian costumes and jewellery, mosaics from Jerash and Madaba  
Roman Amphitheater, Amman, phone 4 65 17 60.
- *Jordan Folklore Museum*  
Traditional Jordanian costumes, furniture, musical instruments, handicrafts.  
Roman Amphitheater, Amman, phone 4 65 17 42
- *Martyr's Memorial*  
Military Museum and Monument to the Unknown Soldier  
Sport City, Amman, phone 5 66 42 40
- *Archaeological Museum*  
exhibition of folk Palestinian and Jordanian costumes, antique household goods and Bedouin tents  
University of Jordan, phone 5 35 50 28 ext. 34 12
- *Royal Automobile Museum*  
very appealingly refurbished and historically embedded collection of cars of the late King Hussein.  
phone 5411392 ([www.royalautomuseum.jo](http://www.royalautomuseum.jo))
- *Children's Museum of Jordan*  
modern and exciting hands-on technology museum for families  
[www.cmj.jo](http://www.cmj.jo)
- *Wild Jordan Center*  
Natural products from RSCN products, as well as jewellery, T-shirts, etc.  
From the café you have a beautiful view over the old city  
Jabal Amman, 1st Circle, phone 5 33 58 97 (<http://www.rscn.org.jo/>)
- *Darat Al Funun*  
house of arts in Jabal Weibdeh, offers varied exhibitions of modern Arab artists. There is a possibility to relax with a cup of coffee or tea in a pleasant atmosphere.  
[www.daratafunun.org](http://www.daratafunun.org)
- *Jordan National Gallery*  
houses a diverse collection of paintings, sculptures and ceramics by contemporary Jordanian and other artists. An extension was opened in May 2005, and the operators (Royal Society of Fine Arts) took the opportunity to remodel the intervening park as well

(including a model garden, a Japanese and sculpture garden with an open-air stage, and an art café).

- *Muntazah Park*  
Jabal Weibdeh, phone 4 63 01 28, ([www.nationalgallery.org](http://www.nationalgallery.org))
- *Orfaly Gallery*

Umm Sumaq (<http://www.orfali.net/gallery.html>)

- The *Dar al-Anda*  
another very active gallery  
Jabal Weibdeh ([www.daralanda.com](http://www.daralanda.com))
- Manara Arts & Culture  
Jabal Weibdeh

### **Cinemas**

There are numerous cinemas in Amman, you can find the programs here:

<http://movies.theemiratesnetwork.com/cinemas.php?ct=JO-AM-AMM>

<http://www.jordancinemas.com/default.aspx>

Very interesting film events are regularly organized by *Royal Film Commission* in its picturesque headquarters in Jabal Amman. ([www.film.jo](http://www.film.jo))

On Mondays, there is a 50% off discount on all cinema tickets.

### **Cultural centers**

All cultural centers will send you their monthly schedule of events upon request.

Kulturzentrum:	Offert:
<i>Goethe-Institut</i> <a href="http://www.goethe.de/na/amm/deindex.htm">www.goethe.de/na/amm/deindex.htm</a> phone 4 64 19 93 / 4 64 92 70 Jabal Amman – Abdel Mun’em Al Rifa’i Str. 5 – P.O.Box 16 76 – Amman	German lessons Concerts Information center Exhibitions lectures, film evenings library
<i>The British Council</i> <a href="http://britishcouncil.org/jordan">http://britishcouncil.org/jordan</a> phone 4 63 61 47/8 Jabal Amman Rainbow Street P.O.Box 6 34	English lessons Video library Showrooms Audio library Library

Amman 11118 - TX 21823	
<p><i>Institut Français</i>  <a href="http://www.ifjordan.com/quiou/quiou_en.html">http://www.ifjordan.com/quiou/quiou_en.html</a>  phone 4 63 70 09 or 4 63 64 45  Jabal Weibdeh  P.O. Box 92 57  Amman 11191</p>	<p>Exhibition rooms  French and Arabic lessons  Computer and music lessons  Cinema  Library  Audio library / Video library</p>
<p><i>Instituto Cervantes</i>  <a href="http://amman.cervantes.es/en/default.shtm">http://amman.cervantes.es/en/default.shtm</a>  phone 461 08 58 / 465 00 47 –  Nähe 3. Zirkel /  Mohammad Hafiz Ma'at Str. 10  P.O. Box 81 54 67  Amman</p>	<p>Exhibitions  Seminars, workshops  Film screenings (every Thursday)  Spanish courses  Flamenco courses  Library  Café</p>
<p><i>Royal Cultural Centre</i>  phone 5 66 10 26  Shmeisani - Nähe Sport City  P.O.Box 1 91 93  Amman 11196</p>	<p>Theater  Cinema  Conference and exhibition rooms</p>
<p><i>Al-Hussein Cultural Center</i>  Ra's al-Ain  <a href="http://www.ammancity.gov.jo/en/services/presscenter.asp">http://www.ammancity.gov.jo/en/services/presscenter.asp</a></p>	<p>theater, cinema, concerts</p>
<p><i>Jordanian Friends of Archaeology Society</i>  fax 5 54 79 05  4. Zirkel – P.O. Box 24 40  Amman 11181  Email: <a href="mailto:foa@nets.com.jo">foa@nets.com.jo</a></p>	<p>Center for archaeological excavations, organization of excursions to excavation sites, seminars, lectures, monthly newsletter. Also, waste paper and cans can be dropped off there for recycling.</p>

## **MEDIA**

### ***Newspaper***

Daily Arabic Newspapers

Al Arab al Yawm

Al Rai

Al Dustour

Al Ghad

Daily English Newspaper

Jordan Times [www.jordantimes.com](http://www.jordantimes.com)

Weekly English Newspapers

The Star on Thursdays: [www.star.com.jo](http://www.star.com.jo)

online: [en.ammonnews.net](http://en.ammonnews.net)

## **POST OFFICE**

Mailboxes in Jordan are emptied irregularly. Therefore, post your mail only at the post offices. The main post office is located in downtown Amman (Wasat al-Balad). Branches are located in all parts of Amman and the other cities and regions. Generally, sending mail abroad can take a long time and is not very reliable. Sending mail with DHL or Aramex can be faster and more reliable, but is also way more expensive than sending it with JO post.

## **HEALTH**

An initial examination with a specialist costs about 10 - 15 JD. The usual office hours are from 9am to 1pm and from 4pm to 7pm. On Fridays, the practices are closed. However, most doctors can be reached and consulted privately outside of these hours.

Students are automatically insured by the GJU, but we advise students to take out additional health insurance. The contact persons are Hana Alkurdi and Fawwaz Alsaqqar from the Deanship of Student Affairs, the insurance cards can be picked up here after paying the semester fee.

## **SPORT**

In addition to the GJU athletic activities organized by the Deanship of Student Affairs, a number of private sports centers and fitness clubs are available.

### ***Fitness clubs***

- Orthodox Club in Abdoun  
phone: 06 5 92 94 94

Members have the opportunity to use the health club, indoor and outdoor pools and fitness rooms, but this will incur additional costs. You can ask for exact lists at the Orthodox Club. A temporary membership is possible.

- Fitness First: <http://www.fitnessfirst-me.com/Jordan/>
- FITNESS ONE: <https://www.facebook.com/AbdonBranch/?rf=157936287681197>  
phone: 06 585 99 24
- Gold's Gym 06 400 1222

Various locations (Mecca Street, AlRabia, Abdoun, Dabbouq Tel: 5333720, 0796405500 as "Aspire" next to Jordan University phone 5347637, 0796477720).

## **SHOPPING**

Here you can find supermarkets of European standard, we would like to name a few:

- German Bakery (Al-Baraka Mall, P1 in Sweifiyeh), 0799737623
- Butchery Pork Meat (Mujama'a Jabr, near the Mecca Street/Abdullah Ghoshe circle, opposite the Grand Market), tel. 06 5856698
- Safeway International (Shmeisani or Airport Road or in Jubeiha)
- Plaza Stores (Shmeisani, towards 4th circle)
- C-Town (at 7th circle, at Waha circle, in Shmeisani or Jabal Hussein)
- Plaza Supermarket (Shmeisani, near Plaza Hotel)
- Sweet Supermarket (between 5th and 6th circle)
- Cozmo Stores (e.g. opposite Safeway, Airport Road, has various German products on offer)
- Miles in Mecca Mall (Mecca Street)
- Carrefour in the City Mall (opposite King Hussein Medical Center)

## **Travel**

## IN JORDAN

Jordan offers a wide variety of opportunities from recreation to culture to sporting activities. We have listed only a few suggestions to give you an idea of the diversity of your host country, the organization Wild Jordan arranges many of these excursions (<http://www.rscn.org.jo/>):

- Various landscapes between the desert, the Jordan Valley and the northern mountain landscapes (e.g. <http://tropicaldeserttrips.com/>).
- Desert hikes (e.g. from Wadi Rum to Petra)
- Trekking tours (e.g. in Wadi Mujib and other nature reserves)
- Mountaineering/climbing  
(e.g. [http://www.climbat.com/v\\_portal/apartados/apartado.asp?te=387](http://www.climbat.com/v_portal/apartados/apartado.asp?te=387))
- Diving and snorkeling in the Red Sea
- Bathing, relaxing or cures at the Dead Sea
- Trips to desert castles (also on horseback)
- Hot sulfur springs in Ma'in
- Cycling (<http://bike-rush.com>; [www.cycling-jordan.com](http://www.cycling-jordan.com))

### **Cultural and historical**

- Petra ([http://www.your-guide-to-aqaba-jordan.com/petra\\_tickets.html](http://www.your-guide-to-aqaba-jordan.com/petra_tickets.html))
- Jerash and Umm Qays (well-preserved Roman cities)
- Dana (historical village in nature reserve)
- Amman (citadel with archaeological museum, Roman theater)
- Pella (Roman-Byzantine ruins)
- Desert castles (small pleasure palaces; Qasr Amra is considered a World Heritage Site)

### **Bus companies**

JETT bus - Abdali: <http://www.jett.com.jo/>

Phone 06 5 66 4146/7

fax 06 5 60 50 05

Travel with JETT mostly in comfortable, fully air-conditioned buses.

### **Trains**

There are plans to restore the old Hejaz train connection from Turkey to Saudi Arabia. At the moment, however, no passenger train runs regularly on the still existing rail network.

## TRAVEL TO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES

### **Israel, Palestinian Autonomous Territories**

### For Germans

You do not need a visa for the Palestinian Autonomous Territories and Israel. Since the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty (1994), three border crossings to Israel and the autonomous Palestinian territories can be used.

With an Israeli stamp in your passport, you will be denied entry to several states in the region, such as Syria.

However, the Israeli authorities now issue VISAs on separate slips as standard, without making any further entries in the passport.

Due to current bridge opening hours, please contact the border directly as hours change daily.

(<http://www.amman2jerusalem.com/#!crossing-allenby-king-hussein/c1it>)

For more detailed information, it is advisable to contact your Embassy the Israeli Embassy (Tel. 06 5 68 64 16) before your planned trip. The Israeli exit fee varies depending on the border crossing. For current exit fees from Israel, please consult the Internet. The exit fee from Jordan is currently 10JD.

### *Airlines*

Information	Phone
Royal Jordanian international flights Customs Airport	06 4 45 32 00 06 4 45 27 00 06 4 45 30 54
Royal Jordanian Customer Line <a href="http://www.rj.com/">http://www.rj.com/</a>	06 5100000
City Office, Hotel Intercontinental City Terminal, near 7 <sup>th</sup> circle	06 4 64 42 66 06 5 85 68 55
Lufthansa Main Office, Shmeisani Abdul Hameed Sharaf Street No. 48 Al Naji Bldg Airport	06 5 20 01191 Fax: 06 5 2001189 06 4 45 1171

## **Travel Out**

### **AIRPORT INFORMATION**

The distance from the 7th circle to Queen Alia International Airport is about 30km, cab costs are about 20 - 25 JOD (see also "Taxis").

There is a Royal Jordanian "City Terminal" near the 7th circle; information under Tel. 5100000. You can do your check-in formalities here already 1 day before departure and on the day of departure you need to be at the airport 2 hours before.

## RETURNS

- Please remember to leave your apartment or room as agreed. Any extensions or early departures must be arranged with the respective landlord of the apartment.
- After the exams, you must have the Clearance Paper of the Registration Department signed by various offices of the GJU and then return it to the Registration Department. You can obtain the clearance paper from the IAD. Without the signatures you will not receive a certificate!
- You will receive your certificate directly at the Registration Department of the GJU or it will be sent to your home university by the IAD after the end of the semester.

## General and additional information

### IMPORTANT DIALING CODES

#### in Jordan

Ajloun	04
Amman	06
Aqaba	03
Irbid	02
Jerash	02
Karak	03
Ma'an	03
Madaba	05
Mafraq	02
Petra	03
Q.A.I. Airport	44
Russeifa	05
Salt	05
Tafileh	03
Zarqa	05

#### outside Jordan

Egypt (Cairo)	+20-2
Belgium (Brussels)	+32-2
Germany (Berlin)	+49-30
France (Paris)	+33-1
Greece (Athens)	+30-1
GB (London)	+44-71/81
Holland (Amsterdam)	+31-20
Iraq (Bagdad)	+964
Italy (Rome)	+39-6
(Kuwait City)	+965
Lebanon (Beirut)	+961-1
Saudi Arabia	+966
Syria (Damascus)	+963-11
USA	+1
UAE (Abu Dhabi)	+971-2
Cyprus (Nicosia)	+357-2

### IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS



Directory assistance Jordan 1212, 4 64 04 44  
 Long distance international calls 0133, 0132, 0134

Public Security Directorate Mobile phone numbers for emergency "SMS" with GPS localization

UMNIAH: 0788911911  
 Orange: 0777911911  
 Zain: 0797911911

First aid and ambulance 1 93  
 Ambulance service 1 91  
 Fire department 1 93 (or 4 62 20 90)  
 Police 1 92 oder 1 91  
 Highway police

These telephone numbers change frequently. It is therefore advisable to check the current issue of the "Jordan Times" (<http://jordantimes.com/>).

#### WEB ADRESSES

<a href="http://www.gju.edu.jo">www.gju.edu.jo</a>	German-Jordanian University
<a href="http://www.ammancity.gov.jo/english">www.ammancity.gov.jo/english</a>	Official site of Amman City Hall (very useful)
<a href="http://www.lonelyplanet.com/jordan/amman">http://www.lonelyplanet.com/jordan/amman</a>	Lonely Planet
<a href="http://www.jordanien-reise.com/index.php">www.jordanien-reise.com/index.php</a>	Interesting, rather touristy information
<a href="http://www.kingabdullah.jo/homepage.php">www.kingabdullah.jo/homepage.php</a>	Official site of the king
<a href="http://www.yellowpages.com.jo/">www.yellowpages.com.jo/</a>	Jordanian Yellow Pages
<a href="http://www.ammantoday.com/">www.ammantoday.com/</a>	Lots of useful information
<a href="http://www.visitjordan.com">www.visitjordan.com</a>	Interesting tourist information
<a href="http://www.7iber.com">www.7iber.com</a>	Cultural scene Amman

#### BOOKS

Jordanien. Lonely Planet Verlag (2012)  
 KulturSchock Vorderer Orient. Syrien, Libanon, Jordanien und Palästina. Reise Know-How  
 Elger: Islam (short, but good introduction)  
 Fischer Weltgeschichte. Der Islam I und II (somewhat more detailed)  
 Ende/ Steinbach: Der Islam in der Gegenwart (very extensive, from the beginnings until today)

## **Highly Recommended Things To Do & Places To Go**

### **Restaurants and Pubs:**

- Watar Ziryab
  - ★ Fuheis
  - ★ Local & Laventine Cuisine
  
- Bourj Al Hamam
  - ★ Inside the InterContinental hotel, Jabal Amman (2nd Circle)
  - ★ Local & Levantine Cuisine
  
- Levant Restaurant
  - ★ Armenian Cuisine
  - ★ Jabal Amman (between the 3rd and 4th Circle)
  
- Rovers Return
  - ★ Sweifieh / Dead Sea
  - ★ English Pub
  
- Chestnut
  - ★ Jabal Amman/ Al Yadudah
  - ★ Pub
  
- Cattleman Joe's
  - ★ Mecca Street
  - ★ Authentic Western Steakhouse, Bar & Grill
  
- Casserecio
  - ★ Mecca Street
  - ★ Italian
  
- Ocean
  - ★ Mecca Street
  - ★ Lebanese & Seafood
  
- Sushi Crush
  - ★ Khalda
  - ★ Fresh Sushi
  
- Hashi's
  - ★ Dawood Complex
  - ★ Fresh Sushi
  
- Orthodox Club Terrace Restaurant
  - ★ Abdoun

- ★ Lebanese Cuisine
- Qaduka AlMayas
  - ★ Fuheis
  - ★ Lebanese
- Khashoka
  - ★ Dabouq/ Abdoun
  - ★ Breakfast/ Brunch
- High Garden Rooftop
  - ★ 5th Circle
  - ★ Botanic Garden, Amazing Breakfast/ Brunch/ Lunch/ Dinner
- Deeritna
  - ★ Abdali Mall
  - ★ Local Cuisine
- Mrah Salameh (in a cave)
  - ★ Madaba
  - ★ Dining experience in the heart of a 65 million year old cave
  - ★ Local & Levantine Cuisine
- Cinco De Mayo
  - ★ Inside InterContinental Hotel
  - ★ Mexican Cuisine
- Champions
  - ★ Inside the Marriott Hotel in Amman and the Dead Sea
  - ★ Sports Bar
- Majdoline
  - ★ 3rd Circle
  - ★ Modern Lebanese Cuisine
- Romero Restaurant
  - ★ 3rd Circle
  - ★ Italian Cuisine
- Chinese Village
  - ★ Mecca Street
  - ★ Chinese Cuisine

**Fast Bites:**

- Go mashawi
- Hashem
- Grill Mark
- Buffalo Wings and Rings

- 99 Grill
- Shawerma 3a Saj
- Al Mousalli Shawerma
- Beauty and the beef
- Bgrfrix (delivery and pickup only)
- Shawerma Reem
- Deep Dish
- Smokey Burger
- Pronto
- Cube Burger
- DA JAJ
- Wingers
- Al Karam Shawerma
- Tikaryaki
- 2 Bites
- MLT

**Places to hang out:**

- Locals' Cafe
- Walnut cafe
  - ★ Board Games
  - ★ Khalda
- Manara Arts and Culture
  - ★ Jabal Lweibdeh
  - ★ Watch the sunset with a view of Old Amman
- Bab Al Hawa
  - ★ Badr Al Jadeeda
  - ★ Watch the Beautiful sunset in fresh air or in a Bubble
  - ★ Bring your own supplies for a Sajeyeh or a Barbecue or a Zarb, they supply you with burning coal and a Manqal (tools)
  - ★ Shisha is available
  - ★ Entrance is inclusive of water and soft drink
- Jabal Cafe
  - ★ As-Salt
  - ★ Shisha is available
  - ★ Watch the Beautiful sunset in fresh air or in a Bubble
  - ★ You can order food
- Mountain Hut Cafe

- ★ As-Salt
- ★ Watch the Beautiful Sunset and view
- ★ Shisha is available

**Places with Good Food & Shisha:**

- Zodiac cafe
- Ropes
- OIA
- Cafe Social
- Zoka Cafe
- Haretna Cafe
- Aloha Cafe
- Boho Haus
- Vu's Cafe and Restaurant

**Coffee houses:**

- Dali (a good place to study as well)
- Dimitri's Coffee
  - ★ 7th Circle
  - ★ Boulevard
  - ★ Mecca Street
  - ★ Sweifieh Village
  - ★ Jabal Lweibdeh
  - ★ City Mall
- Almond Coffee House
  - ★ AlRabieh
  - ★ Mecca Street
- Fiction House
  - ★ Mecca Street
- Jungle Fever
  - ★ Jabal Al Qal'a
  - ★ Jabal Lweibdeh

- Coffee Factory
  - ★ Um Uthaina
- MindHub
  - ★ AlRabieh
- Gilead Market Shop
  - ★ Ajloun

**Touristic places:**

- Mount Nebo- Madaba
- Petra
- Dead Sea
- Jordan River (The Baptism Site)
- Salt Beach- Dead Sea
- Wadi Rum
- Jerash Ruins -Jerash
- Aqaba
- Roman Ruins- Amman
- Wadi Mujib
- Ma'in Hot Springs
- Ajloun Castle- Ajlon
- Um Qais- Irbid
- Karak Castle
- Dana Nature Reserve
- Wadi Bin Hammad
- Al Ma'wa for Nature and Wildlife
- Wadi Musa
- Shaumari Wildlife Reserve
- Pella
- Azraq Wetland Reserve
- Ad-Deir
- Qasr al-Bint
- Petra Museum
- Royal Automobile Museum

**Book stores:**

- Readers Bookshop
- The Good Bookshop

- DNA
- Virgin Mega Store
- Jordan Book Centre

**All the places mentioned above have an Instagram and Facebook page. They are also available on Google Maps for an accurate description of the location and route.**