

# Riskline / Destination Report

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## Overall risk level

<b>Low</b> Take normal safety precautions	<b>Moderate</b> Take normal safety precautions	<b>Medium</b> Exercise caution	<b>High</b> Reconsider travel	<b>Extreme</b> Defer non-essential travel
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The Overall Risk Level will be determined by the higher of the Security Risk Level and Covid-19 Risk Level.

## Security risk level

<b>Low</b> Take normal safety precautions	<b>Moderate</b> Take normal safety precautions	<b>Medium</b> Exercise caution	<b>High</b> Reconsider travel	<b>Extreme</b> Defer non-essential travel
Safe, with few security risks	Generally safe, with some predictable security risks	Not completely safe, but typically presents predictable security risks	Can be dangerous and may present unexpected security risks	Extremely dangerous and presents unpredictable security risks
Travel is possible with an expectation of routine disruptions and delays	Travel is possible with an expectation of routine disruptions and delays	Travel is possible, but there is a potential for disruptions	Travel is possible, but there is a potential for disruptions	Chaotic; travel impossible

## Covid-19 risk level

<b>Low</b> Take normal safety precautions	<b>Moderate</b> Take normal safety precautions	<b>Medium</b> Exercise caution	<b>High</b> Reconsider travel	<b>Extreme</b> Defer non-essential travel
Travellers should take normal precautions when travelling to <b>Low Risk</b> locations, which have limited or no restrictions on international travel and domestic activities.	Travellers should take normal precautions when travelling to <b>Moderate Risk</b> locations, which have few restrictions on international travel and limited or no restrictions on domestic activities.	Unvaccinated travellers should exercise caution when travelling to <b>Medium Risk</b> locations, and vaccinated travellers should take normal precautions. These locations may have some restrictions on international travel, but few restrictions on domestic activities.	Unvaccinated travellers should reconsider their need to travel to <b>High Risk</b> locations, and vaccinated travellers should exercise caution. These locations may have severely restricted international travel and partially restricted domestic activities.	Unvaccinated travellers should defer non-essential travel to <b>Extreme Risk</b> locations, and vaccinated travellers should reconsider their travel. These locations may have severely restricted international travel and domestic activities.

# Overview

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## Upcoming Events

There are no upcoming events scheduled

# Travel Advisories

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## ● **Medium risk:** Increased risk of protests and attacks targeting Western interests in Middle East, North Africa and parts of Asia

Exercise caution for travel across parts of the Middle East, North Africa and Asia, including Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Türkiye, Lebanon, Syria, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran, Indonesia, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Yemen, Somalia, Malaysia and Pakistan, due to the risk of demonstrations and attacks against interests perceived to be aligned with Israel amid heightened tensions related to the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Following the Hamas attack into southern Israel on 7 October and Israel's subsequent strikes in the Gaza Strip, political and religious tensions have been heightened in Arab and Muslim countries. Groups or individuals may use the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas to justify attacks on individuals or businesses perceived to be aligned with Israel or the United States (US). Several branches of McDonald's and Starbucks have already been boycotted and attacked, and the risk of further attacks will be elevated for the duration of the conflict. Pro-Palestine demonstrations have also taken place frequently, including outside diplomatic representations of the United States (US) and other governments supporting Israel's operations in Gaza and the West Bank.

Since mid-October, McDonald's and Starbucks have been boycotted by consumers in several countries across the Middle East and Asia due to their perceived bias towards Israel, despite the fact that the vast majority of branches are operated by local franchise owners. While the boycott poses no direct threat to travellers, several branches have been attacked directly. On 13 December, a gunman opened fire at a Starbucks on **Turgut Özal Street** in the **Güzelyalı district** of **Çukurova, Adana province, Türkiye**, after vocalising support for Palestine; there were no injuries reported following the shooting. In Lebanon, several branches of McDonald's and Starbucks have been vandalised during pro-Palestine protests, including in the **Raouche** and **Ain al-Mraieh** areas of **Beirut** as well as in **Saida** and **Tyre**. The **American University of Beirut (AUB)** was also vandalised by pro-Palestine demonstrators to denounce US support for Israel.

Demonstrations have also been frequently held in major cities, notably outside

embassies and consulates of the US, Israel and France, including in **Tunis, Amman, Beirut, Rabat, Casablanca, Doha, Istanbul, Adana** and **Baghdad**. Pro-Palestine demonstrators have attempted to storm the **US Embassy** in **Awkar, Lebanon**, the **Israeli Embassy** in **Amman, Jordan**, and the **Incirlik Air Base (UAB/LTAG)**, which is used by the United States Air Force in **Turkiye's Adana province**, resulting in clashes with local security forces. Localised disruptions and road closures are likely during demonstrations, which will continue on a regular basis in the near-term. On 8 December, several rockets were fired towards the **US Embassy** in **Baghdad's Green Zone** amid an uptick in attacks on US targets by pro-Iranian militias in Iraq and Syria. Although there have been no reported similar attacks in the wider region to date, future attacks targeting US and other Western interests by proxy forces and militant groups cannot be ruled out for the duration of the conflict.

Anticipate heightened security and associated travel disruptions across major urban hubs on protest days in the near- to medium-term. Remain vigilant at all times and report suspicious behaviour and objects to local authorities. Remain indoors in areas where police operations are ongoing and comply with all instructions from authorities. Ensure all necessary travel documents are updated and ready to be displayed should authorities request them. Exercise general caution near all places of worship, foreign embassies and businesses which could be perceived as being pro-Israel.

## ● High risk: Border regions with Syria and Iraq

Reconsider travel within 10 kilometres (6.2 miles) of the borders with Syria and Iraq, including the **Zaatari** and **al-Rukban refugee camps**, until further notice due to the risk of unrest and militant infiltration.

The security environment is extremely unstable in both Iraq and Syria. While violence associated with Syrian refugees is unlikely to provoke a wider conflict, there is a high likelihood of small-scale violence in areas used as transit points and in refugee camps. Sporadic incidents of violent unrest have taken place in the **Zaatari** and **al-Rukban refugee camps** related to poor living conditions and service delivery.

Instances of cross-border gunfire, primarily targeting security forces, have been reported along both the **Syrian** and **Iraqi borders**. The Jordanian military has declared all areas along the **Jordan-Syria border** as closed military zones following

multiple bombings. On 3 April, a bus attack injured at least 16 people when a militant group planted an explosive device near their vehicle in the vicinity of the Saida bridge on the Damascus-Amman highway, Daraa province, approximately 15 kilometres (9.32 miles) from the **Jordanian border**. The humanitarian situation remains dire in both **Zaatari** and **al-Rukban refugee camp**, where public access is restricted and protests over living conditions are frequent.

Frequent drug raids are carried out along the **Jordan-Iraq border** with Jordanian security forces, stopping large shipments of Captagon on their way from Syria via Iraq. These operations rarely result in violence, however border crossings such as the **al Karamah crossing** is highly securitised. Hit-and-run attacks and opportunistic kidnappings are infrequent however continue to pose a risk in border areas.

The ongoing war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza has prompted protests and sit-ins at the Iraq-Jordanian border as pro-Palestinian protesters have blocked oil tanker trucks from entering Jordan, bound for Israel. Further protests on the border were anticipated.

Reconsider travel within 10 kilometres (6.2 miles) of the borders with Syria and Iraq, including the **Zaatari** and **al-Rukban refugee camps**, until further notice due to the risk of unrest and militant infiltration. For travel within the region, notify your embassy and Jordanian authorities of your travel plans. Security forces are likely to be on a heightened state of alert. Travel only in the company of locals with native knowledge of areas to avoid. Further unrest is possible in refugee camps as the facilities struggle to deal with an influx of displaced people.

# Summary

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## Overall ● Moderate Risk

Jordan is a **Moderate Risk** destination: take normal safety precautions.

## Security ● Moderate Risk

Moderate Risk locations are generally safe, with some predictable security risks. Travel is possible with an expectation of routine disruptions and delays.

## Covid ● Low Risk

Authorities have previously implemented comprehensive and successful lockdowns nationwide.

## Political Instability ● Moderate Risk

Despite having chronic economic difficulties, social inequality and large refugee communities of Syrians and Palestinians, the rule of King Abdullah II is stable as his government enjoys close ties with Israel, the United States (US) and Saudi Arabia.

## Conflict ● Moderate Risk

Jordan has no conflict with any of its neighbours.

## Terrorism ● Moderate Risk

King Abdullah II's ties with Israel, the United States (US) and Saudi Arabia, make Jordan at risk of Islamist terror attacks at all times. However, the country's security agencies are always on high alert and Jordan's lack of influence in the region makes it an unlikely target of a major attack.

## Unrest ● Moderate Risk

Due to economic difficulties and routine shortages of basic supplies, demonstrations are frequent across the country, particularly in **Amman**. Unions, particularly those representing teachers, doctors and public servants, often mobilise and hold rallies.

## Crime ● Moderate Risk

Jordan has low crime rates in general. Petty crime is common in **Downtown Amman**. Sexual assault and other violent crimes are rare though sexual harassment is common.

## Natural and Environmental ● Moderate Risk

The country is vulnerable to heat waves, flash flooding and sandstorms, as well as earthquakes produced by the **Dead Sea** fault system. The latter does not usually result in much damage or casualties.

## Local Travel ● Moderate Risk

Road conditions are of decent quality across the country, but public transport services are underdeveloped. Bad driving habits, however, make the roads dangerous to brave at night, particularly in the **south**.

## Health and Medical ● Moderate Risk

Jordan's urban centres, including **Amman**, have health and medical facilities that meet international standards and which are staffed by highly trained, English-speaking professionals. However, in rural areas, facilities are of much lower quality.

# Political Overview : ● Moderate Risk

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Executive authority is vested in King Abdullah bin al-Hussein. Jordan's Constitution does not provide a strong system of checks and balances within which Parliament can assert its role in relation to the monarchy.

With the security situation stabilising in neighbouring Iraq and Syria, the most pressing domestic challenges for the monarchy and successive prime ministers will be managing austerity and the integration of the country's large ethnic Palestinian population. While parliamentary elections regularly occur, Jordanians can only make peripheral changes to their government. The Jordanian Parliament often has a high number of independent candidates who are loyal to the monarchy. The monarchy is a guarantor of stability among the country's elites, who seek royal protection and act as a balance between the country's large ethnic Palestinian population and East Bank ethnic Jordanians. Protests have generally focused on forcing the removal of unpopular prime ministers, rather than directly criticising the king himself. Relative political stability is ensured through the implicit understanding that elected governments will back down from imposing supremely unpopular measures that bring people out into the streets if the king feels compelled to personally intervene to force a climbdown. The Islamic Action Front (IAF), a Muslim Brotherhood group, is the main opposition bloc but is heavily monitored by the country's security agencies.

Parliament is currently dominated by conservative, pro-monarchy politicians drawn from tribal areas that are the backbone of the army and security forces. While people of Palestinian origin make up the majority of Jordan's population and are under-represented in government, their business elite dominate the economy. The Jordanian government and United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) have come under growing US and Israeli pressure to offer full Jordanian citizenship to Palestinian refugees and their descendants in exchange for hundreds of millions of dollars in aid payments and formal recognition that the refugees and their descendants will forgo all claims on a "right of return" to their ancestral homes in Israel and the West Bank. A high and rising cost of living will present a further challenge to the Jordanian government in the medium-term.



## Recent incidents

01 November 2023 - 02 November 2023

### ● **Moderate risk:** Jordan downgrades diplomatic ties with Israel over Gaza conflict

The Jordanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that it was recalling Jordan's Ambassador to Israel in protest over Israel's ongoing military actions in Gaza and the West Bank. Israel's Ambassador to Jordan previously left the country and has since been ordered not to return to Amman.

18 October 2023 - 19 October 2023

### ● **Medium risk:** US President Biden to visit Israel's Tel Aviv and Jordan's Amman on 18 October

The United States (US) Embassy in Jerusalem stated that US President Joe Biden will visit Israel's Tel Aviv on 18 October amid the ongoing war between Israeli forces and Hamas in Gaza; Biden will likely arrive at Ben Gurion Airport (TLV/LLBG). Biden will also travel to Amman, Jordan, to meet Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, Jordan's King Abdullah II and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Saeed Hussein Khalil el-Sisi.

18 October 2023 - 19 October 2023

### ● **Moderate risk:** Summit between US President Biden and various leaders in Amman cancelled - Update

Updated reports indicated that a planned summit between US President Joe Biden, and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, Jordan's King Abdullah II and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Saeed Hussein Khalil el-Sisi in Amman to discuss the Israel-Gaza war, was cancelled following the deadly alleged Israeli airstrike on a hospital in Gaza on 17 October. Biden also reportedly cancelled his trip to Amman.

## Conflict : ● Moderate Risk

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Noting the risk of small arms fire and stray mortars in the Jordan-Syria border area, all non-essential travel should be avoided to within three kilometres (1.9 miles) of the **Jordan-Syria border** from **Sad Al-Wihdeh Dam** to **Jabr crossing**.

**International Military Alliances:** Jordan maintains an exceptionally close alignment with the United States (US), with Washington's major non-NATO ally designation conferring a variety of military and financial advantages that stop just short of including a mutual defence pact. Support for US military intervention in neighbouring Iraq and Syria has exposed Jordan to attacks from al-Qaeda, the Islamic State (IS) and other Islamist extremists.

**Tribal Violence:** Violence between tribes, families or other social groups may develop quickly and without notice. These incidents may involve firearms. Travellers are advised to follow the news and if caught in an affected area, follow police advice. In the past, major conflicts have erupted between Palestinian groups and the Jordanian military but none have occurred in recent years.

**Peace Treaties:** Jordan and Israel established formal relations with the signing of a peace treaty on 26 October 1994 and there is an **Israeli Embassy** in **Amman**. The monarchy's readiness to come to terms with the neighbouring state was met with surprise among the wider Arab world and cooperation with Israel remains broadly unpopular in Jordan. Despite this, domestic discontent is muted and more Arab nations have since opened diplomatic relations with Israel.

**Strength of Military Forces:** US military aid has supplemented Jordan's traditionally low military expenditure and accelerated modernisation of the Jordanian Air Force. The ambitious modernisation programme has accelerated procurement of advanced Western military hardware while diversifying foreign investment in Jordan's defence industry. The Jordanian Armed Forces consist of some 88,000 active duty personnel.

**Conflict Spillover:** In northeast Jordan, conflict spillover from Syria remains possible. Jordanian security forces occasionally clash with smugglers and militants who infiltrate the region. The **Al-Tanf deconfliction zone** on the shared border of Syria's Homs governorate, Iraq's Anbar governorate and Jordan's **Mafraq governorate** is a closed military area under the control of the US military and its local allies. Travellers should avoid "**the Berm**," a large sand barrier erected by the Jordanian military to deter border crossings from Syria, and **Rukban refugee camp in Rwaished district**.



# Terrorism

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The General Intelligence Directorate (GID) has arrested scores of Islamist fundamentalists in recent years. The ongoing crackdown may inspire reprisal attacks aimed at commercial establishments, government infrastructure and Western diplomatic facilities.

**Terrorism:** Impoverished townships and refugee camps around **Amman** are a fertile breeding ground for the spread of radicalism. Anti-Western sentiment is fuelled by incidents in the region, particularly those related to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, US military action in Muslim countries and the civil wars in Iraq and Syria. Negative developments may trigger random acts of violence against Westerners. Visitors are advised to exercise heightened personal security awareness near tourist sites, hotels, restaurants, bars and nightclubs, markets, liquor stores, airports and other transportation areas, places of worship and expatriate residential areas. Attacks have taken place in **Irbid, Amman, Fuheis, Salt** and **Karak** in recent years. Immediately report unattended packages to local authorities.

**Response Preparedness:** Since the 2005 hotel bombings in **Amman** by al-Qaeda militants, Jordanian forces have increased their capabilities to respond to serious terror threats and attacks. Authorities have attempted to curb the threat by increasing security presence, changing legislation and tightening controls on border crossings. Private establishments, and particularly major hotels, have reinforced security around their compounds. The 2016 attack on **Karak Castle** by Islamic State (IS) militants demonstrated the improved rapid response capabilities of the security forces and emergency services, as well as the continuing threat posed by Islamist militants, as multiple police officers and several foreign tourists were killed or injured during the incident.

## Recent incidents

01 November 2023 - 02 November 2023

● **Medium risk:** Jordanian officials warn against non-essential travel to Lebanon

Local sources indicated that Jordanian officials warned their nationals against non-essential travel to Lebanon due to the ongoing threat of escalation between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon. Jordanian nationals in Lebanon were urged to register immediately with their embassy.

28 October 2023 - 29 October 2023

● **High risk:** Residents ordered to shelter in place in Jordan Valley amid infiltration concerns

Residents of Ashdot Ya'akov Ihud, Sha'ar HaGolan, Afikim, Masada and Beit Zara in Israel's Northern District were ordered to remain indoors as of evening hours local time, due to reports of an infiltration bid along the Yarmouk River on the Israel-Jordan border.

27 October 2023 - 28 October 2023

● **Moderate risk:** easyJet suspends flights from Europe to Jordan due to insecurity

easyJet announced that flights to Aqaba Airport (AQJ/OJAQ) in Jordan from London Gatwick (LGW/EGKK) in the UK, Paris Charles de Gaulle (CDG/LFPG) in France, Milan Malpensa (MXP/LIMC) in Italy, Geneva (GVA/LSGG) in Switzerland, Berlin Brandenburg (BER/EDDB) in Germany and Amsterdam Airport Schiphol (AMS/EHAM) were suspended until further notice, due the risk of regional conflict between Israel and Hamas.

21 October 2023 - 22 October 2023

● **Medium risk:** Authorities to close the Sheikh Hussein Crossing between Israel and Jordan on 21 October - Update

Updated reports from Israeli officials indicated that the Sheikh Hussein Crossing between Jordan and Israel will close on 21 October.

# Unrest : ● Moderate Risk

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**Protests and Demonstrations:** Demonstrations are occasionally staged to protest issues of a domestic political nature, developments in Israel and Palestinian Territories, Syria or Iraq and broader regional issues. The most frequent source of protest, however, is economic conditions. Since 2018, multiple rounds of protests have broken out in Jordanian cities, including **Amman, Madaba, Zarqa, Maan, Karak, Irbid, Mafraq, Salt, Aqaba and Jerash**, over cost of living increases, taxes and rising fuel prices. Clashes frequently erupt between protesters and security forces at roadblocks set up by the demonstrators. Parliament usually makes limited concessions in response to these protests, though fundamental changes are not permitted by the monarchy, as the King may dismiss unpopular officials but never countenance diminishing the royal family's power and privilege.

Protests are generally staged on university grounds, outside government buildings and mosques, in town centres and refugee camps. Visitors are advised to closely track local and international media and to maintain a low profile when discussing topical political issues. Avoid any protests or large gatherings. Special sensitivity should be exercised at or near religious sites during holy days and on Fridays following the noontime Islamic prayer.

Jordan's diplomatic relations with Israel often trigger protests outside the **United States (US)** and **Israeli embassies**, which have a tendency to increase in both frequency and intensity whenever Israel engages in a conflict with Hamas.

**Strikes:** Due to high inflation, a retrenching public sector, water shortages and persistently high levels of unemployment, the threat of major strike action is present in Jordan. Affected areas may become impassable with the potential for escalation to violence with police. Visitors are advised to stay abreast of local news and consider developing alternative travel plans in the event of a planned strike.

## Recent incidents

18 December 2023 - 19 December 2023

- **Moderate risk: Activists to stage protest outside Ministry of Agriculture in Amman**

Local sources indicated that activists will stage a protest outside the Ministry of Agriculture building in Amman, Amman governorate, from 13:30 local time (10:30 GMT) to demand the suspension of export of Jordanian fruits and vegetables to Israel.

17 November 2023 - 18 November 2023

- **Moderate risk: Pro-Palestine protests held in Amman, other cities**

Local media reported that thousands of demonstrators rallied at the Grand Hussein and Al-Kalouti Mosques in Amman following Friday prayers, to protest Israeli military operations in the West Bank and Gaza. Rallies were also held in Irbid, Jerash, Karak, Aqaba, Ma'an, Tafilah and Zarqa. There were no immediate reports of clashes or arrests.

16 November 2023 - 17 November 2023

- **Moderate risk: Pro-Palestine rally to be held in central Amman**

Local sources indicated that demonstrators will rally at Hashemite Square in Amman from 16:15 local time (13:15 GMT), in protest over Israeli military operations in the West Bank and Gaza. Similar rallies are also likely in other major urban centres.

28 October 2023 - 29 October 2023

- **Moderate risk: Pro-Palestine rallies underway in Amman, other cities**

Local media reported that hundreds of demonstrators rallied in Amman (Hay Nazza), Ma'an (Sharif Hussein Bin Ali Mosque), Aqaba (Dawood Mosque) and other cities during evening hours local time, to protest Israeli military operations in the West Bank and Gaza.

## Crime : ● Moderate Risk

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**Petty Crime:** Petty crime such as pickpocketing, bag snatching and vehicle break-ins are common in urban areas. In **Amman**, exercise caution around the **Taj Mall, Hashemite Plaza and the Roman Amphitheater**, especially while using ATMs.

Beware of your surroundings, do not leave your belongings unattended and exercise general personal safety for travel. Only carry what is needed, do not flash expensive valuables or large sums of money, and keep cash, identification and mobile phones in front pockets, or in a zipped or concealed pocket or pouch rather than in a bag. Secure belongings when using public transport or when frequenting markets and other crowded public areas; secure bags diagonally across the body against the chest, keep bags within sight and away from the street. Refrain from using mobile phones or laptops in congested public places; avoid putting bags containing valuables on the ground. Avoid walking in poorly lit and isolated areas. Stay in groups. Reject rides or drinks from strangers and never leave drinks unattended. Exercise extreme caution when purchasing and consuming alcohol in public venues. Do not accept pamphlets in the street or shopping centres; these could be impregnated with potent and disorienting drugs, which permeate the skin. If you start to feel unwell, tell staff or close friends and do not leave the venue alone or with strangers. Shout to attract attention, if needed.

**Violent Crime:** Assaults in unlicensed cabs are a hazard in Jordan's major hubs. Beware of boarding an unlicensed taxi as drivers are able to drive you to a remote area unnoticed. While marked, yellow cabs are generally considered safe, however, female visitors should avoid sitting next to the driver and remain cautious in casual conversation.

Commonsense measures are best kept to ensure against becoming the victim of a violent crime. Travellers are advised to remain vigilant at all times and exercise general personal safety for travel: avoid walking alone at night, do not venture down roads with poor lighting and few access points. Be careful when using taxis and public transport and plot route bypasses around rowdy crowds. Seek local advice for areas to avoid. If you are held-up by an armed robber do not become confrontational as any resistive behaviour may cause more violence by the attackers.

**Kidnapping:** There is a low risk of kidnapping for travellers in Jordan. There have been no known kidnappings targeting foreign travellers to the country in recent years.



Response of law enforcement officials, in the event of a kidnapping, is likely to be very good.

Travellers should remain aware of their surroundings and follow the latest advisories for their destination. Maintain communications and your itinerary with local contacts, authorities or embassy staff, especially in locations with a higher risk of kidnapping. Consider a local guide or security escort for the highest risk locations.

## Recent incidents

18 December 2023 - 19 December 2023

- **High risk: Border Guards clash with smugglers on Jordan-Syria border**

Local media reported armed clashes between drug smugglers and Border Guard Forces on the northern border with Syria within the Eastern military region since early morning hours local time after security forces thwarted an attempt to smuggle drugs and automatic and missile weapons into the country. The smugglers were reportedly being push back to Syria. Casualties were reported, but exact numbers and further details were not currently available.

12 December 2023 - 13 December 2023

- **High risk: Jordanian soldiers clash with drug smugglers close to the Jordan-Syria border**

Local media reported that at least one Jordanian soldier and several smugglers were killed during clashes that erupted after a group of drug smugglers crossed the border from Syria and fired at border guards during early morning hours local time. The remaining smugglers managed to flee. Unconfirmed reports indicated that the clashes occurred northeast of Mafraq, Mafraq Governorate, but further details were not currently available.

# Law

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**Law:** Under current law, the state security court has jurisdiction over speech-related crimes, including offences against the dignity of the king or state, punishable by up to three years in jail. Remain courteous toward authorities and the reigning sovereign at all times.

# Corruption

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**Corruption:** Bribery (wasta), nepotism, official abuse of trust and counterfeit currency remain issues in anti-corruption prosecutions. Border and customs officials are often paid small amounts by both Jordanian and foreign nationals to speed up waiting times. Travellers are advised against such practices.

A weak legal system contributes to a permissive environment for high-level graft in Jordan. A stringent anti-corruption regime introduced to identify unusual transactions for prosecution has thus far shown promise as a tool to address dishonest business practices.

# Security Services

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**Security Services:** The Public Security Directorate (PSD) is one of the most well-trained and effective police forces in the region, benefiting from joint training programs with Western counterparts. The organisation is particularly responsive to requests from diplomats and foreign nationals. Estimated response time in **Amman** is between three and five minutes.

Police are classified broadly according to areas of geographic responsibility into three major divisions: the metropolitan (**Amman**), rural (small towns and villages) and desert contingents. Depending on their location, police in Jordan are likely to be armed. In **Amman** and the larger towns, special crowd and riot control units with armoured vehicles are kept on alert for rapid deployment.

# Natural Risks : ● Moderate Risk

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The country is vulnerable to heat waves, flash flooding and sandstorms, as well as earthquakes produced by the **Dead Sea** fault system. The latter does not usually result in much damage or casualties.

## Heat Waves

A heat wave is characterised by temperatures that hover at 10 degrees or more above the average high for the region over a period of several weeks. Parallel weather systems may include temperature inversions and katabatic winds.

The summer months from May to September are exceptionally hot and dry, with temperatures in the Jordan Valley climbing to as high as 48.9 degrees Celsius (120 degrees Fahrenheit) in August. Towns in surrounding areas effectively shut down for the afternoon and travelling on board public transportation with no air conditioning unit can be particularly unpleasant.

In hot weather, you will need to increase fluid intake (non-alcoholic), regardless of activity level. Stay indoors in an air-conditioned room. This is the primary means of protection against heat-related illness and possibly death. If a home is not air-conditioned, identify public facilities that are. Wear lightweight, light-coloured, loose-fitting clothing. If you must be out in the heat, limit outdoor activity to early morning and late evening hours. Those at greatest risk of suffering heat-related illness include infants, young children and adults aged 65 or older.

## Flooding

A flood is an overflow of water that submerges land that is usually dry. It is normally triggered by an extended period of heavy rainfall and can be exacerbated by poor drainage systems in the affected area.

Flash flooding produced by winter storms from October to April presents a risk to travel in low-lying areas in the event of sustained rainfall. Flash floods are also possible in wadis, streams, drainage channels and other areas known to flood suddenly,

sweeping away vehicles and their occupants.

If instructed of the possibility that flash-flooding may affect the area you are in, monitor local updates and move immediately to higher ground away from rivers, streams, creeks and storm drains. Though flash-flooding is commonly attributable to excess upstream precipitation, be aware that flooding can occur without typical warning signs of rain clouds or heavy rain. This is especially true near streams, drainage channels, canyons and other areas known to flood suddenly. If you happen across a flooded road in your car, turn around and drive in the opposite direction. When trapped on a flooded road, vacate your vehicle immediately and climb to higher ground.

## Earthquakes

An earthquake is the sudden, rapid shaking of the earth, caused by the breaking and shifting of subterranean rock as it releases strain that has accumulated over a long period. Initial mild shaking may worsen and become extremely violent within a matter of seconds. Additional earthquakes, called aftershocks, may follow the initial earthquake.

Jordan has a risk for violent seismic activity. The tectonic structure of the **Dead Sea** fault system is one the most active in the Middle East and Jordan is regularly affected by shocks of moderate intensity, including along the **Gulf of Aqaba** and **Jordan River Valley**. While these moderate earthquakes generally fail to impact populated areas, a large earthquake could inflict significant damage and disruptions.

When shaking begins, drop to the ground and take cover under, and hold on to, a sturdy piece of furniture, such as a heavy desk or table that can provide you with air space if the building collapses. If you're not near a strong piece of furniture, crouch down and protect your head and face in an inner corner of a building; only stand in a doorway if you know it is strongly supported. Stay away from windows or glass panels. Most deaths and injuries in an earthquake are caused by collapsing building materials and heavy falling objects. Stay indoors until the tremors stop and you are sure it is safe to exit. Avoid all areas in the vicinity of outer walls and doorways, as these are most prone to falling debris. In a high-rise building, the electricity may go out and the sprinkler systems may come on. Do not use the elevators. If the lights go out, avoid using candles, matches or lighters during or after the earthquake; if there is a gas leak,

an explosion could result. If outdoors, move to an open space away from buildings, electric poles and street lights which are prone to collapse. Do not travel on roads and bridges which may have been damaged by the earthquake. Be prepared for secondary earth movements that follow the initial earthquake; some of these may be large enough to cause additional damage or bring down weakened structures.

## **Dust/Sand Storms**

Dust storms occur when a gust front or other strong wind system blows loose sand and dirt from a dry surface. As such, dust storms normally only occur in arid and semi-arid regions.

Dust and sandstorms are common in the spring and summer from April to October, often forming spontaneously with the passage of a gust front. High winds lift dirt particles or, in the case of sandstorms, sand, into the air, unleashing a turbulent, suffocating cloud of particulates and reducing visibility to zero in a matter of seconds.

Because meteorologists can commonly predict the likely onset of a storm, the most effective way to mitigate physical risk is to monitor local weather updates and consider deferring travel in the event of a storm alert. If you see a dust storm from some distance and you are in a vehicle you may be able to outrun or detour around it. Some dust storms can travel at more than 120 kph (75 mph), but they frequently travel much slower. Those in transit when a storm catches up to them are advised to roll up windows and turn off vents before pulling off the road, setting the parking brake and turning on headlights, brake lights and turn signals. If stuck outside, seek out a large rock or other landform offering at least partial protection. Avoid breaking rank with your group to mitigate the risk of becoming lost in zero visibility conditions. Carry a mask designed to filter small particulates and a pair of airtight goggles to protect your eyes. As an alternative, wrap a wet bandana or strip of cloth around your nose and mouth. Store loose fitting clothing for use as a protective layer against the effects of sandblasting. In addition, air travel may also likely be disrupted during sand storms.

## **There are no recent incidents**

# Health and Medical: ● Moderate Risk

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## Overview

Jordan's urban centres, including **Amman**, have health and medical facilities that meet international standards and which are staffed by highly trained, English-speaking professionals. However, in rural areas, facilities are of much lower quality.

## Before you travel

Consult your doctor or a healthcare provider who specialises in travel medicine at least six weeks before your departure. If you have a medical condition, you should also share your travel plans with your doctor.

## Outbreaks and Other Diseases

### Malaria

There is no risk of malaria transmission.

### Yellow Fever

There is no risk of Yellow Fever infection.

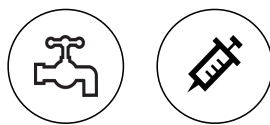
## Vaccinations, Medicines and Documentation

**Note:** Requirements and recommendations for vaccines and other medicines as well as Yellow Fever vaccine are based on guidelines from the United States Centers for



Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Yellow Book 2024. All other entry requirements are based on Riskline research.

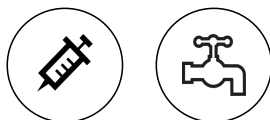
## Routine vaccines



Make sure you are up-to-date on all routine vaccines before every trip. Some of these vaccines include

- Chickenpox (Varicella)
- Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis
- Flu (influenza)
- Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR)
- Polio
- Shingles

## COVID-19



All eligible travellers should be up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines.

## Hepatitis A



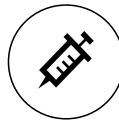
Recommended for unvaccinated travellers one year old or older going to Jordan.

Infants 6 to 11 months old should also be vaccinated against Hepatitis A. The dose does not count toward the routine 2-dose series.

Travellers allergic to a vaccine component or who are younger than 6 months should receive a single dose of immune globulin, which provides effective protection for up to 2 months depending on dosage given.

Unvaccinated travellers who are over 40 years old, immunocompromised, or have chronic medical conditions planning to depart to a risk area in less than 2 weeks should get the initial dose of vaccine and at the same appointment receive immune globulin.

## Hepatitis B



Recommended for unvaccinated travellers younger than 60 years old traveling to Jordan.

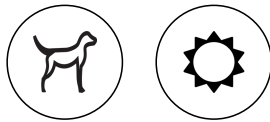
Unvaccinated travellers 60 years and older may get vaccinated before traveling to Jordan.

## Measles



Infants 6 to 11 months old traveling internationally should get 1 dose of measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine before travel. This dose does not count as part of the routine childhood vaccination series.

## Rabies



Rabid dogs are commonly found in Jordan. However, if you are bitten or scratched by a dog or other mammal while in Jordan, rabies treatment is often available.

Consider rabies vaccination before your trip if your activities mean you will be around dogs or wildlife.

Travellers more likely to encounter rabid animals include

- Campers, adventure travellers, or cave explorers (spelunkers)
- Veterinarians, animal handlers, field biologists, or laboratory workers handling animal specimens
- Visitors to rural areas

Since children are more likely to be bitten or scratched by a dog or other animals, consider rabies vaccination for children traveling to Jordan.

## Typhoid



Recommended for most travellers, especially those staying with friends or relatives or visiting smaller cities or rural areas.

## Required documentation

### Yellow Fever entry requirement (Source: USA CDC):

None

### Other entry requirements:

Proof of receipt of a dose of oral polio vaccine (OPV) or inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV), within the previous 12 months and at least 4 weeks before departure, is required for travellers arriving from polio- endemic countries as determined by WHO to apply for an entry visa.

### Health Insurance document

All foreigners must purchase health insurance, but officials did not specify if it must cover COVID-19. Visitors defined as medical tourists are exempted from this requirement.

### Health document

Travellers may need to fill out a health form to receive a QR code which must be presented on departure. Children below five, Jordanian nationals and their families, diplomats and transit passengers are exempt. Document link: <https://www.gateway2jordan.gov.jo/form/>

**Note:** Documentation requirements are subject to change. Consult your destination embassy or consulate prior to departure for confirmation.

## While you are there

### Emergency Numbers

Medical	911	
---------	-----	--

### Emergency services

Ambulances and other emergency services are readily available in urban areas such as **Amman** and **Aqaba**. However, with roads often gridlocked at peak times, response times can vary significantly based on the time of day. Emergency services are significantly less accessible in rural or remote areas.

### Evacuation

Medical evacuation is unlikely to be required.

## Routine care

Medical facilities in urban areas such as **Amman** and **Aqaba** are of an excellent standard, with well-stocked pharmacies and modern equipment. Doctors and other staff are highly trained and professional, and many speak English. Facilities in rural or remote areas are significantly poorer, with worse equipment, less access to medication, and staff that are unlikely to speak English.

## Medicine

Most essential and prescription medicines are available in pharmacies in urban areas, but may not be available in rural or remote areas. Travellers planning to spend an extended period in rural areas are advised to carry a sufficient amount of prescription medicine with them.

## Payment

Non-emergency treatment is free of charge. Up-front payment may be required in the event of hospitalisation, or if more invasive procedures are necessary, whether the patient has medical insurance or not.

# Ailments

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### Traveller's diarrhoea (TD)



*Traveller's diarrhoea (TD) is a catch-all term for a number of minor or moderate bacterial, viral and parasitic infections, generally transmitted through infected food or water. In the majority of cases antibiotics or anti-diarrhoeal medication is unnecessary; travellers experiencing TD should ensure that they remain hydrated and well rested until their symptoms dissipate. Most cases of TD last less than three days; if diarrhoea continues for longer periods, travellers should consider consulting a medical professional.*

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## Leishmaniasis



Although rare across the country, leishmaniasis has been reported infrequently in rural regions of Jordan.

*Leishmaniasis is a parasitic infection transmitted by the bite of sand flies, which are most active during early morning and late evening hours. Symptoms of cutaneous leishmaniasis include swollen glands and sores; symptoms of visceral leishmaniasis include fever, swelling of the liver or spleen and weight loss. Leishmaniasis can be treated with a course of Amphotericin B, an antifungal.*

---

## Avian Influenza (Bird Flu)



Though Jordan has since been declared virus-free by the WHO, the country had previously been affected by the avian flu epizootic and is at risk of recurrence.

*Avian influenza is a class of viral infections, including H5N1 and H7N9, which can be transmitted through contact with wild or domesticated birds. Symptoms are flu-like, and include fever, muscle aches, coughing, as well pneumonia and – in severe cases – respiratory failure. Treatment includes a course of antivirals.*

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## Rabies



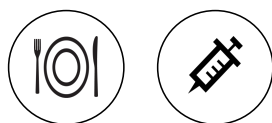
Rabies is present in animals in Jordan.

*Rabies is a serious viral infection, transmitted through close contact with saliva from infected animals (i.e. bites, scratches or licks on broken skin and mucous membranes). Travellers who suspect they may have come into contact with a rabies-infected animal should seek immediate emergency attention: post-exposure*

*treatment has a high success rate if administered early. Late-stage rabies (when symptoms begin to occur) is untreatable and fatal.*

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## Typhoid



Typhoid has been reported in Jordan.

*Typhoid is a highly contagious bacterial infection, transmitted by the ingestion of food and water contaminated with infected faeces. Symptoms include a high temperature, a rash made up of small red spots, headaches, stomach pain and diarrhoea; serious complications, including internal bleeding and becoming comatose, are possible. While a typhoid vaccine is available, it does not guarantee immunity.*

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## Hepatitis (A, B, C, D and E)



Hepatitis poses a risk to travellers in Jordan.

*Hepatitis is inflammation of the liver. The three main variations (A, B and C) are caused by infections from parasites, bacteria or viruses, but are transmitted by different means.*

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## Schistosomiasis



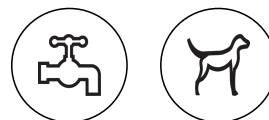
While rare, schistosomiasis is present in some freshwater lakes in rural areas of Jordan.

*Schistosomiasis (also known as bilharzia or katayama fever) is a parasitic infection,*

*transmitted through contact with infected water sources, usually freshwater lakes or rivers. Saltwater and chlorinated pools are not affected by schistosomiasis. Symptoms include a rash, fever, muscle pain, abdominal pain and the enlargement of the spleen and/or liver. The disease can be treated via the administration of praziquantel. If left untreated, schistosomiasis can cause serious chronic gastrointestinal or central nervous system diseases.*

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## Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS)



*Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) is a viral infection transmitted by close physical contact with an infected person or animal or via the coughing and sneezing of infected persons. Symptoms include breathing difficulties, coughing and fever and – in severe cases – pneumonia or kidney failure. There is no treatment for MERS, beyond supportive hospital care and bed rest.*

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## There are no recent incidents



# Covid-19: ● Low Risk

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## Summary

Authorities have previously implemented comprehensive and successful lockdowns nationwide.

**What is the current nationwide Policy?:** None

**Policy starts:** 01 March 2022

**Policy ends:** indef

**Policy explanation:**

There are no domestic restrictions in place.

**Policy source:** <https://corona.moh.gov.jo/en/Together-to-Reopen>

**Last update:** 08 November 2023

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## Infection

**Infection Level:** Low

**Infection rate:** 0.0 cases per 100k in the last 14 days

**As of date:** 09 November 2023

**Hotspots:** -

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## International Travel



## International Flights

**Is there a ban on international commercial flights?** No  
**Through what date?** indef

### **Flight Ban Explanation:**

Commercial flights have resumed through Amman Queen Alia Airport (AMM/OJAI).

Transit passengers may only remain in the country for up to 10 hours.

**Last Update:** 11 December 2023

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## **Entry and Borders**

**Is there a ban on entry for any travellers?** No  
**Through what date?** indef

### **Travellers from where are banned?**

**Land border:** Partially Open

**Maritime border:**

### **Entry Rules Explanation:**

All travellers, regardless of whether they are fully vaccinated or previously infected, are allowed to enter without restrictions.

Mudawwara and Al-Omari border crossings with **Saudi Arabia** are also open for up to 200 travellers per day.

The Rabin/Aqaba border crossings between **Israel** and **Jordan** remain open.

From 7 October, the King Hussein-Allenby Bridge between the **West Bank** and **Jordan** and the Sheikh Hussein Crossing between **Jordan** and **Israel** could be closed at any time for passenger and cargo movements, amid the ongoing conflict between Israeli security forces and Hamas in Israel and Gaza. These crossings are generally closed at night.

**Entry Rules:** <https://www.gateway2jordan.gov.jo/index.html>

**Exemptions:** -

**Last Update:**

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## Testing

**Do travellers need to take a COVID-19 test** No

**When?**

**Is it mandatory or optional?**

**Test Type:**

**Minimum age requirement:**

**Pre-travel test validity, in hours:**

**After arrival test days:**

**Testing Explanation:**

**Testing Rules:** -

**Last Update:** 11 December 2023

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## Health and Travel Documentations

**Do arriving travellers need any health and/or travel documentation?** Yes

**Documentation Explanation:**

### **Health Insurance document**

All foreigners must purchase health insurance, but officials did not specify if it must cover COVID-19. Visitors defined as medical tourists are exempted from this requirement.

### **Health document**

Travellers may need to fill out a health form to receive a QR code which must be presented on departure. Children below five, Jordanian nationals and their families, diplomats and transit passengers are exempt.

**Health Document:** <https://www.gateway2jordan.gov.jo/form/>

**Last Update:** 08 November 2023

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## Tracing App

**Do travellers need to use a contact tracing app after arriving?** No

### **Tracing App Explanation:**

There is no mandatory national contact tracing app at this time.

**Last Update:** 08 November 2023

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## Quarantine on Arrival

**Who needs to quarantine on arrival** None

**Travellers from where need to quarantine?**

**How many days is quarantine?** 5

**Is it self-quarantine or operated by the government?** Self

### **Quarantine Explanation:**

Travellers are no longer required to undergo any tests by the government. However, those who undergo testing of their own accord and test positive are urged to self-quarantine for five days.

**Quarantine Rules:** <https://jo.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information/>  
**Quarantine mandate list:** <https://rj.com/en/travel-updates>  
**Last Update:** 2023-12-11

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## Exit

**Is there a ban on exit for any travellers?** No

**Are there special requirements to exit?** No

**Exit Requirements Explanation:**

**Last Update:** 11 December 2023

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## Vaccination

**Percent vaccinated with at least one dose:** 47.256 as of 21 Aug 2022

**Percent fully vaccinated:** 40.39 as of 21 Aug 2022

**Is vaccination mandatory for entry?** No

**Fully vaccinated are exempt from:** -

**Minimum age for vaccine requirements for travel:**

**Exemptions for vaccine requirements for travel:**

**"Fully vaccinated" is defined by the destination as:**

**Accepted vaccines, validity and special age restrictions:**

**Is mixing of vaccine doses authorised?**

**Are specific combinations of mixed doses required?**

**"Boosted" is defined by the destination as:**

**Accepted boosters:**

**"Recently recovered" is defined by the destination as:**

Recovery status is valid from days until after .

**Vaccination certificates accepted:**

**Vaccination certificates accepted in the following languages:**

**Recent recovery document required:**

**Recent recovery document accepted in the following languages:**

**Explanation:**

All travellers, regardless of whether they are fully vaccinated or previously infected, are allowed to enter without restrictions.

**Sources:** <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/jordan/entry-requirements#:~:text=All%20travellers,requirements%20for%20passengers%20entering%20Jordan.>

**Last change  
to vaccination  
policy:**

**Last Update:** 11 December 2023

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## Other International Travel Restrictions

**Exit Requirements Explanation:**

All foreign nationals visiting Jordan must have valid health insurance for the duration of their trip.

**Last Update:** 08 November 2023

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## Domestic Situation



## Areas on Lockdown

**Last Update:**

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## Areas under Curfew

**Last Update:**

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## Domestic Travel

**Domestic Travel Explanation:**

**Last Update:**

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## Other Domestic Restrictions

Capacity restrictions on all public gatherings, including weddings and other social events, have been lifted.

In-person education has resumed.

**Last Update:** 08 November 2023

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## Resources

**Government COVID Site:** -

**Health Dept COVID Site:** <https://corona.moh.gov.jo/en>

There are no recent incidents



# Local Travel : ● Moderate Risk

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## Travel Safety

**Air Travel: Queen Alia Airport (AMM/OJAI)** is the main entry point for most foreign nationals. It is situated 32km (19 miles) south of **Amman** and is the base of Royal Jordanian Airlines. The country's second busiest airport, **King Hussein International Airport (AQJ/OJAQ)**, is located 10km (6.2 miles) north of **Aqaba**. Both airports meet international safety standards and have modern terminal buildings.

The air-conditioned Airport Express, which costs JOD1 (1.40USD) runs to **Amman Abdali Station** at half-hour intervals between 06:00 and 23:00 local time, and hourly at night. The trip takes around 45 minutes, depending on traffic.

Airport taxis are an easier and quicker option. The taxi fare to **Downtown Amman** should be around JOD15 (USD21) and the taxis are controlled at the airport cab rank. Your driver should be given a chit from his dispatcher at the stand with your destination and the price.

**Airspace:** Commercial flights have resumed through Amman Queen Alia Airport (AMM/OJAI).

Transit passengers may only remain in the country for up to 10 hours.

**Borders and Entry:** All travellers, regardless of whether they are fully vaccinated or previously infected, are allowed to enter without restrictions.

Mudawwara and Al-Omari border crossings with **Saudi Arabia** are also open for up to 200 travellers per day.

The Rabin/Aqaba border crossings between **Israel** and **Jordan** remain open.

From 7 October, the King Hussein-Allenby Bridge between the **West Bank** and **Jordan** and the Sheikh Hussein Crossing between **Jordan** and **Israel** could be closed at any time for passenger and cargo movements, amid the ongoing conflict between Israeli security forces and Hamas in Israel and Gaza. These crossings are generally closed at night.

**Road Travel:** Traffic moves on the right in Jordan. Highways linking major cities tend to be in good condition and the most likely safety hazard you will face is that drivers often pay scant regard to road rules. Most accidents are caused by poor driving

practices, inadequate vehicle maintenance and overloading.

Driving in the first rains of winter can be particularly hazardous given the slick coating of dust on the road and the fact that most drivers are inexperienced in wet conditions.

In the south and in rural areas, there is a tendency for drivers to travel at night without their lights on. Given that many roads are also poorly lit, travellers are recommended to refrain from driving outside **Amman** at night.

It has been reported that poorly-maintained trucks regularly lose their brakes on the main north-south **Desert Highway** where a series of tight turns lead down from the **Amman Plateau** to **Aqaba**. You should be particularly wary of this stretch of road on summer afternoons, when temperatures peak.

Most petrol stations do not have unleaded fuel. Petrol station attendants, particularly in **Petra**, have been known to overcharge tourists through faking pump failures and withholding change.

Road signs appear in both Arabic and English, with brown signs intended for tourist use.

Be aware, when turning blind corners outside the cities, of both oncoming traffic and animals on the road. Aside from the danger of injury, if you kill an animal on the road you are legally liable and compensation to the animal's owner can be extremely expensive.

Police are active in setting speed traps on the **Desert Highway**. This road is extremely busy and more dangerous during the annual Haj pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia. Travellers are advised to keep their identification documents ready in case they are stopped at a checkpoint. Fines for speeding can be high. Speed limits in Jordan are 40kph (24mph) in urban areas, 80kph (49mph) in rural areas and 120kph (74mph) on highways.

**Rail Travel:** Jordan has no domestic rail network; the last international service on the **Hejaz Railway** was discontinued during the Syrian Civil War and there are currently no plans to restore it.

## Public Transport

**Vehicle Hire:** Car rental agencies prefer international licences but will usually accept your national licence as long as you have held it for at least a year.

You cannot take a rental through any border crossing and the price of a drop-off in a

different city is usually one day's rental.

Petrol stations are relatively frequent on main highways and in **Aqaba** with prices fixed by the state. However the **Dead Sea-Aqaba Road** is not well-serviced by stations, so take care to fill up before travelling thereon otherwise you could find yourself in considerable trouble as the heat near the **Dead Sea** is debilitating through the summer months.

**Taxis:** Most taxis have metres but these are rarely used so you should barter a fare before setting off, at a going rate of around JD2 (2.80) per 10 km (6 miles). The rate from **Amman** to **Petra** should be around JOD50 (USD70).

When negotiating a fare, remain calm and force the driver to name an initial price. If you fail to agree the fare prior to departure you are likely to pay at least twice the going rate. Tipping is not required but it is customary to add a gratuity to the negotiated price.

For day hire, it is advisable to seek a reliable driver through your hotel. A day hire within **Amman** should cost JOD20-25 (USD28-35); an afternoon JOD15 (USD21). Rates rise for day fares outside the city with JOD75 (USD105) as a guide.

Street names are rarely used, so unless your destination is on a major thoroughfare, it is best to ask your driver to take you to a specific building or site. Driver knowledge of directions tends to be quite good but may have been eroded somewhat by the influx of Iraqi refugees seeking work.

You should avoid taking hotel advice from taxi drivers. Reportedly, a favourite scam is for the driver to ask where you are going and then to call the hotel asking what commission they will give him for bringing you there. If his cut is insufficient he will then tell you that the hotel has no more rooms and will take you to the place where his commission is highest.

Hotel receptionists may also pull the same scam, telling you that the driver or guide you organised is unavailable and setting you up with one who will give them a cut.

## **Movement Control Orders**

Never film or photograph outside embassies, government offices or near military installations as you are likely to be accosted by police or security and your film will be destroyed. Travellers should avoid travel within three kilometres (two miles) within the **Jordan-Syria** and **Jordan-Iraq borders**

## Recent incidents

13 December 2023 - 14 December 2023

- **Medium risk:** Deadly bus accident reported in Balqa governorate

Local sources reported that at least five people were killed and 35 others injured after a bus, travelling on the main road between Amman and Irbid, slid off the road and into a valley near the Shaheed Wasfi al-Tal forest along Salhoub road in Balqa Governorate during morning hours local time on 13 December. Further details were not currently available.

11 December 2023 - 12 December 2023

- **Moderate risk:** Nationwide strike for Gaza reported ongoing

Local sources indicated that a nationwide strike was ongoing as of morning hours local time with closures and suspensions of all services reported in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza during an ongoing Israeli military operation which has resulted in 18,000 deaths.

28 October 2023 - 29 October 2023

- **Medium risk:** Israeli authorities to close the King Hussein Bridge between Jordan and the West Bank on 28 October - Update

Updated reports from Israeli officials indicated that the King Hussein Bridge (Allenby Crossing) between Jericho in the West Bank and Balqa governorate in Jordan will close on 28 October.

21 October 2023 - 22 October 2023

- **Medium risk:** Israeli authorities to close the King Hussein Bridge between Jordan and the West Bank on 21 October - Update

Updated reports from Israeli officials indicated that the King Hussein Bridge (Allenby Crossing) between Jericho in the West Bank and Balqa governorate in Jordan will close on 21 October.

# Destination Hotspots

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**Iraqi border:** Travel near the Iraq-Jordan border crossing which has been subject to attacks and is a likely entry point for Iraqi and other foreign militants.

**Liquor stores:** A plot to bomb liquor stores was uncovered a few years ago and it is best to avoid these where possible. Hotel bars and restaurants are a safer option.

**Mosques:** Political demonstrations sometimes break out after Friday prayers at mosques in poorer areas and on holy days and often have an anti-Western flavor. The threat posed is localized and sporadic so it is best to ask locals or hotel staff where and when visits would be appropriate.

**Zarqa:** Probably the Jordanian town most under the influence of fundamentalist Wahhabi Sunni tendencies, **Zarqa** (25km north-east of **Amman**) is the birthplace of the late al-Qaeda in Mesopotamia leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. Many local men have been recruited as fighters for the group in Iraq and may be funneling back into the country due to recent reverses in **al-Anbar province**. Riskline strongly advises against unaccompanied travel to the town.

**Tourist sites:** Jordan has not suffered the same number or scale of attacks on tourists seen in Egypt, but the September 2006 killing of tourists in **Downtown Amman's Roman Amphitheatre** has underlined the growing dangers. Security has been reinforced and Riskline does not caution against visiting tourist sites at this stage, but you should be aware that they are likely future targets.

**Downtown Amman, Hashimiyah Square area** and the area near the **Roman Amphitheatre** are hotspots for petty crime and you should generally be aware of pickpockets in crowded narrow streets of the older parts of the city.

Tourists suffer from scams and persistent harassment from aggressive touts in **Petra**, while a recent exercise involving the CIA found that the site is almost impossible to secure. Informed female travelers have warned against being lured to nearby settlements by guides due to reports of sexual harassment and rapes. Riskline cannot confirm these reports but advises caution.

# Safety

## Emergency Numbers

Other	<b>199</b>	Civil defense
Medical	<b>911</b>	
Fire	<b>911</b>	
Police	<b>911 191</b>	

**Beaches and Public Areas:** Women often report unwanted attention of local men at **Aqaba**'s public beaches. It is best to swim close to a male partner or friend or, in **Aqaba**, to pay for the use of hotel beaches or pools.

**Corruption:** Bribery (wasta), nepotism, official abuse of trust and counterfeit currency remain issues in anti-corruption prosecutions. Border and customs officials are often paid small amounts by both Jordanian and foreign nationals to speed up waiting times. Travellers are advised against such practices.

A weak legal system contributes to a permissive environment for high-level graft in Jordan. A stringent anti-corruption regime introduced to identify unusual transactions for prosecution has thus far shown promise as a tool to address dishonest business practices.

**Drugs and Alcohol:** Penalties for possession, use or trafficking of illegal drugs are severe. Convicted offenders are subject to heavy jail sentences and fines. Alcohol is widely available at bars, hotels, and supermarkets across Jordan, while it is illegal to drink on the street. During Ramadan, supplies are likely to be restricted to hotels.

**Food and Drink:** Foreign nationals are advised to avoid eating food sold by street vendors due to the risk of possible food borne illness. The water quality in **Aqaba** in particular can be very poor.

**Freedom of Expression:** The Jordanian government does not interfere with public worship by the country's Christian minority, though proselytising or otherwise encouraging conversion to the Christian faith is prohibited and punishable by a period of incarceration.

**Import and Export:** Jordanian customs authorities may enforce strict regulations

concerning temporary importation into or export from Jordan of items including drugs, firearms, poisons, chemicals, explosives and pornographic materials.

**Law:** Under current law, the state security court has jurisdiction over speech-related crimes, including offences against the dignity of the king or state, punishable by up to three years in jail. Remain courteous toward authorities and the reigning sovereign at all times.

**Legal Punishments:** The crimes which are punishable with the death penalty include rape, murder, terrorism, aggravated assault and drug- or weapons-trafficking.

**Security Services:** The Public Security Directorate (PSD) is one of the most well-trained and effective police forces in the region, benefiting from joint training programs with Western counterparts. The organisation is particularly responsive to requests from diplomats and foreign nationals. Estimated response time in **Amman** is between three and five minutes.

Police are classified broadly according to areas of geographic responsibility into three major divisions: the metropolitan (**Amman**), rural (small towns and villages) and desert contingents. Depending on their location, police in Jordan are likely to be armed. In **Amman** and the larger towns, special crowd and riot control units with armoured vehicles are kept on alert for rapid deployment.

# Culture

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**Religious Sensitivities:** Jordan remains a conservative Sunni Islamic society; small minorities of Shia Muslims, mostly immigrants from Iraq and Syria, and Palestinian Christians are present.

In conversation you should avoid all disparaging references to Islam and discussion of sectarian conflicts in the region.

Women should cover their heads when entering mosques and all travellers should dress conservatively for these visits, with long pants, shirts and skirts.

Public displays of affection are culturally inappropriate and may cause offence. You should also not eat in public during the holy month of Ramadan.

**Political Sensitivities:** While a certain level of dissent is allowed within the Jordanian political system, the monarchy and its actions remain largely above criticism and you should stringently avoid disparaging remarks or unsolicited discussions.

Foreign nationals should avoid becoming involved in open discussions about regional politics and foreign policy. These are all extremely sensitive topics.



# Specific Traveller Advice

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## Female Travellers

**Local Customs and Laws:** There are some local customs that a female traveller should take into consideration in Jordan. Physical contact between men and women is not socially acceptable; even in a private setting do not shake hands with local men unless they initiate it. While standards for women's dress are more relaxed in **Amman** and for tourists, visitors are advised to wear loose-fitting and concealing clothing with high necks, skirts worn well below the knee and sleeves below the elbow. Wearing a traditional headscarf (hijab) to fully cover your hair is mandatory when visiting mosques and other religious and holy places. Consider wearing a wedding ring. Bars and tea houses, which have predominantly male patrons, are best avoided especially when visiting alone. Familiarise yourself with your destination prior to travel, and be respectful and mindful of any cultural sensitivities, which may include dress, behaviour and topics of discussions.

**Safety:** There are some safety concerns female travellers should take into consideration in Jordan. Foreign female travellers may receive unwanted attention from local men, ranging from open displays of catcalling, whistling, stalking and staring to physical groping. It is best to ignore these advances and walk away. In the event public harassment escalates, draw attention to what is happening and someone will likely come to your aid. Request to sit at 'family' sections at restaurants and sit next to a female passenger on public transport to minimise the risk of sexual harassment. Do not use public transportation or hail taxis off the street at night. Take the seat behind the driver when using taxis. Friendly behaviour considered normal at home such as smiling or making small talk with strangers may lead to unwanted attention or advances. Emergency services and police outside major cities are unlikely to respond effectively if cases of sexual assault or rape are reported. Female travellers should exercise caution when reporting crimes to local police. Exercise personal safety awareness if walking alone at night. Stick to main, well-lit streets and avoid walking through desolate areas, beaches or unfamiliar neighbourhoods. Refrain from wearing headphones while walking in the evening.

**Health and Wellness:** Women have access to some specialised gynaecological and reproductive health services, medicines and products in Jordan. Facilities that provide specialised care are concentrated in major cities like **Amman**. While menstrual pads can be easily found, tampons are sold at a limited number of pharmacies and large

supermarkets. Abortion is illegal except when it is performed to save the life of the woman. There is no brand of emergency contraceptives registered in the country. Prescription contraceptives may not be readily available as access to high-prescription medications are limited outside major cities. Consult a health professional prior to travel. Consider bringing an adequate supply of female-specific OTC drugs, feminine hygiene products and oral contraceptive pills, which may not be available locally.

### **LGBT+**

Homosexuality is not definitively legal in Jordan. There are few legal protections for LGBT+ persons in the country. Same-sex marriage is illegal. LGBT+ activity and persons are not socially accepted. LGBT+ travellers are advised to keep their sexual orientation and gender identities private. Prior to travel, review your privacy settings on social media platforms and reconsider the use of dating applications due to the risk of harassment and possible entrapment by local authorities. Refrain from engaging in any conversations about sexuality or LGBT+ issues. Avoid all public displays of affection, including hand-holding. Book separate hotel rooms. Transgender travellers are advised to have a passport and identification changed to reflect their new gender before travelling.

### **Technology & Communication Risk**

Travellers are likely to face risks related to information and communication technology (ICT) in Jordan.

Internet access and social media have some restrictions. Some internet and social media content of political nature cannot be accessed freely and any associated social media posting can be unlawful. Authorities also regularly block access to mobile internet and social media services during school examinations to prevent cheating.

There are some concerns related to device searches or sensitive technology. Device searches and inspections at the border are unlikely, however, enhanced screening of electronic devices is possible for flights to the United States (US). There are some restrictions in relation to bringing or operating sensitive equipment, which may include photo cameras, satellite phones, drones, and other GPS systems, in the country.

State or criminal penetration of private data is likely. Authorities implement some state surveillance of ICT networks in the country.

Travellers should ensure that their ICT usage is compliant with local laws and regulations during their stay in the country. Travellers should expect possible

restrictions in accessing specific internet websites/platforms and/or digital services. Posting specific content online may also be regulated. Travellers should note that ICT laws and practices are subject to change on short notice, and travellers are recommended to confirm the legality/appropriateness of their specific ICT needs prior to departure.

Travellers should be prepared for possible device searches at the border and should ensure that their ICT devices are compliant with local laws and regulations prior to their arrival to the country.

Travellers should be aware that the country enforces a limited degree of surveillance of telephone and electronic communications and travellers should remember that communication may be monitored. Online activities may be monitored. Cyber criminal groups may be present in the country. Exercise discretion in deciding to bring sensitive data into the country

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