
GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT JORDAN

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Country Name	:	<p>The word Jordan (<i>Al Urdun</i> in Arabic) means strength and victory, It's also said that Jordan was the name of one of Prophet Noah's (PBUH) descendents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conventional long form: Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (H.K.). • Conventional short form: Jordan • Local Short form: <i>Al Urdun</i> • Local Long form: <i>Al Mamlakah al Urduniyah al Hashimiyah</i> • Former. Transjordan (Beyond the Jordan)
Capital	:	Amman
Independence Day	:	May 25, 1946
Ruling Regime	:	Parliamentary with hereditary monarchy with his Majestic King <i>Abdullah II</i> as the present ruler. Constitutional guarantees for freedom of religion, press, speech, association and private property.
Map Reference	:	West Asia (Middle East)
Flag description	:	Three equal horizontal bands of black (top, the <i>Abbassid</i> Caliphate of Islam), white (the <i>Ummayyad</i> Caliphate of Islam), and green (the <i>Fatimid</i> Caliphate of Islam) with a red isosceles triangle (representing the Great Arab Revolt of 1916) based on the hoist side bearing a small white seven pointed star symbolizing the seven verses of the opening <i>Sura (Al-Fatiha)</i> of the Holy <i>Quran</i> ; the seven points on the star represent faith in One God, humanity, national spirit, humility, social justice, virtue, and aspirations.
Land Boundary/Border Countries	:	Border Countries: Syria 375 km, Iraq 181 km, Saudi Arabia 744 km, Occupied Palestine 335 km (Israel 238 km and West Bank 97 km).
Coastline	:	26 km
Disputes International	:	None
Ports and harbors	:	<i>Aqaba</i>
Geographic co-ordinates & Location	:	Jordan situated between latitudes 29 and 33 north and longitudes 34 and 39 east. Jordan is located in the heart of Middle East, Northwest of Saudi Arabia, south of Syria, Southwest of Iraq, and east of Occupied Palestine. Jordan has access to the Red Sea via the port city of <i>Aqaba</i> , located at the northern end of the Gulf of <i>Aqaba</i> .
Climate	:	Jordan is blessed with a Mediterranean climate for pleasurable year-round travel. (Hot and dry in summer, rainy in winter.)
Timing	:	From October through March, Jordan is two hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time; the rest of the year, it is three hours ahead of GMT. Jordan is seven hours ahead of US Eastern Time.
Population	:	Estimated at 5,600 million inhabitants in 2006.

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Area	:	89,342 km ²
Highest Point	:	<i>Um Dami</i> Mountain (1,854 Metres above sea level)
Lowest Point	:	<i>Dead Sea</i> (416 Metres below sea level)
Arable land	:	4%
Agriculture Products	:	Wheat, barley, citrus, tomatoes, melons, olives; sheep, goats, poultry.
Population Growth Rate	:	2.03 (2006)
Language	:	The official language of Jordan is Arabic. English is widely spoken, especially in the cities, and many Jordanians have traveled or been educated abroad, French, German, Italian and Spanish are also spoken, but to lesser extent.
Religion	:	Muslims 96% and Christians 4%
Ethnicity / Race	:	Arabs 98% Circassian 1% and Armenian 1%
Food	:	The <i>Mansaf</i> is a typical local dish traditionally cooked by the Bedouins. Typical Middle Eastern food is available in Jordan – lamb, chicken and many excellent vegetarian dishes.
Electricity	:	220 Ac volts, 50 cycles AC, using rounded two-prong plugs.
Measures	:	Metric
Travel	:	Modern roads and highways through out the country. Direct passenger and freight service or Royal Jordanian air lines and other carries. Seaport facilities at <i>Aqaba</i> .
Economic Systems	:	Market oriented economy.
GDP Growth Rate (Constant Prices)	:	6.4% (2006)
Gross Domestic Product at Constant prices (Million JD) (1994=100)	:	7.778,7 (2006)
Gross Domestic Product at current prices (Million JD)	:	10,108.5 (2006)
GDP Per Capita (JD)	:	1805.1% (2006)
GDP Growth Rate (Current Prices)	:	12.2%(2006)
Inflation Rate	:	6.3% (2006)
Unemployment Rate	:	14.0% (2006)
Population Growth Rate	:	2.3% (2006)
Literacy	:	91% (2006)
Illiteracy Rate (Population	:	9.3% (2006)

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Age 15 + year)		
Natural Resources	:	Phosphate and potash are the most important ones, shale oil. Abundant skilled human resources and several tourism sights.
Main Industries	:	Phosphate mining, petroleum refining, cement, potash, light manufacturing.
Major Trading Partners	:	Iraq, Saudi Arabia, India, U.S.A., Indonesia, U.A.E., Syria, France, Japan, E.U., South Korea, Italy, Egypt, U.K., Malaysia, Germany, China.
Exports commodities	:	Phosphates, Fertilizers, potash, agricultural products, manufactures, pharmaceuticals.
Imports commodities	:	Crude oil, machinery, transport equipment, food, live animals, manufactured goods.
Currency	:	The Jordanian Dinar, equivalent to 1.43 \$US dollars.
Media (Communication)	:	Direct telephone and television communication via satellite with the United States, Europe and Asia. International telex, fax, and courier services. Arabic and English Jordanian newspapers and foreign publications.
Public Holidays & Ramadan	:	January 1- New Year. January 30- Kind Abdullah's II Birth Day. Shawal 1 for 3 days <i>Eid Al Fitr</i> . The Al Hijeh 1 for 4 days <i>Eid Al Adha</i> . Moharram 1 <i>Hijra</i> New year. May 1- Labor Day. May 25- Independence day. 12 Rabi 1 Prophets Mohammad (PBUH) Birthday. November 14 – King Hussein Temperance Day. November 16- El Issra' Wall-Mi'raj (Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) Journey to heaven). December 25 - Christmas. Ramadan: <i>Ramadan</i> is a holy month of fasting, the date of which varies according to the Islamic lunar calendar. During Ramadan, alcohol is not sold, except to non-Muslims in larger hotels. Smoking, eating and drinking in public is prohibited during the hours of daylight. Many stores, banks and offices open late at 09:00h, and close early at 14:00h.
Telephone Area Codes	:	02 Irbid, Ajloun, Jerash, Umm Qays, North Shuna, Mafrq 03 Karak, Wadi Moussa (Petra), Ma'an, Wadi Rum, Aqaba 05 Azraq, Salt, Fuheis, Pella, Jordan Valley, Madaba, Hammamat Ma'in (Ma'in hot sprint), Dead Sea. 06 Amman The international country code for Jordan is 00962 .

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Administration	: Administratively, The country is divided into 12 governorates (<i>Muhafazat</i>) which are then grouped into three regions – the North region (<i>Ibrid, Ajloun, Jerash</i> and <i>Mafrq</i>), the Central region (<i>Amman, Zarqa, Balqa</i> , and <i>Madaba</i>), and the South region (<i>Karak, Tafilah, Ma'an</i> and <i>Aqaba</i>). The major cities are <i>Amman</i> (the capital), <i>Zarqa</i> and <i>Irbid</i> .
Useful Links	: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ministry of Planning- www.mop.gov.jo• Ministry of finance e- www.mof.gov.jo• Ministry of Tourism and antiquities- www.mota.gov.jo• Ministry of information and Communication Technology – www.moict.gov.jo• National Information Center- www.nis.gov.jo• Department of Statistics- www.dos.gov.jo• Royal Jordanian Geographic Center- www.rjcg.gov.jo• Central Bank of Jordan- www.cbj.gov.jo• The Community Knowledge Center - www.ckc-undp.org.jo