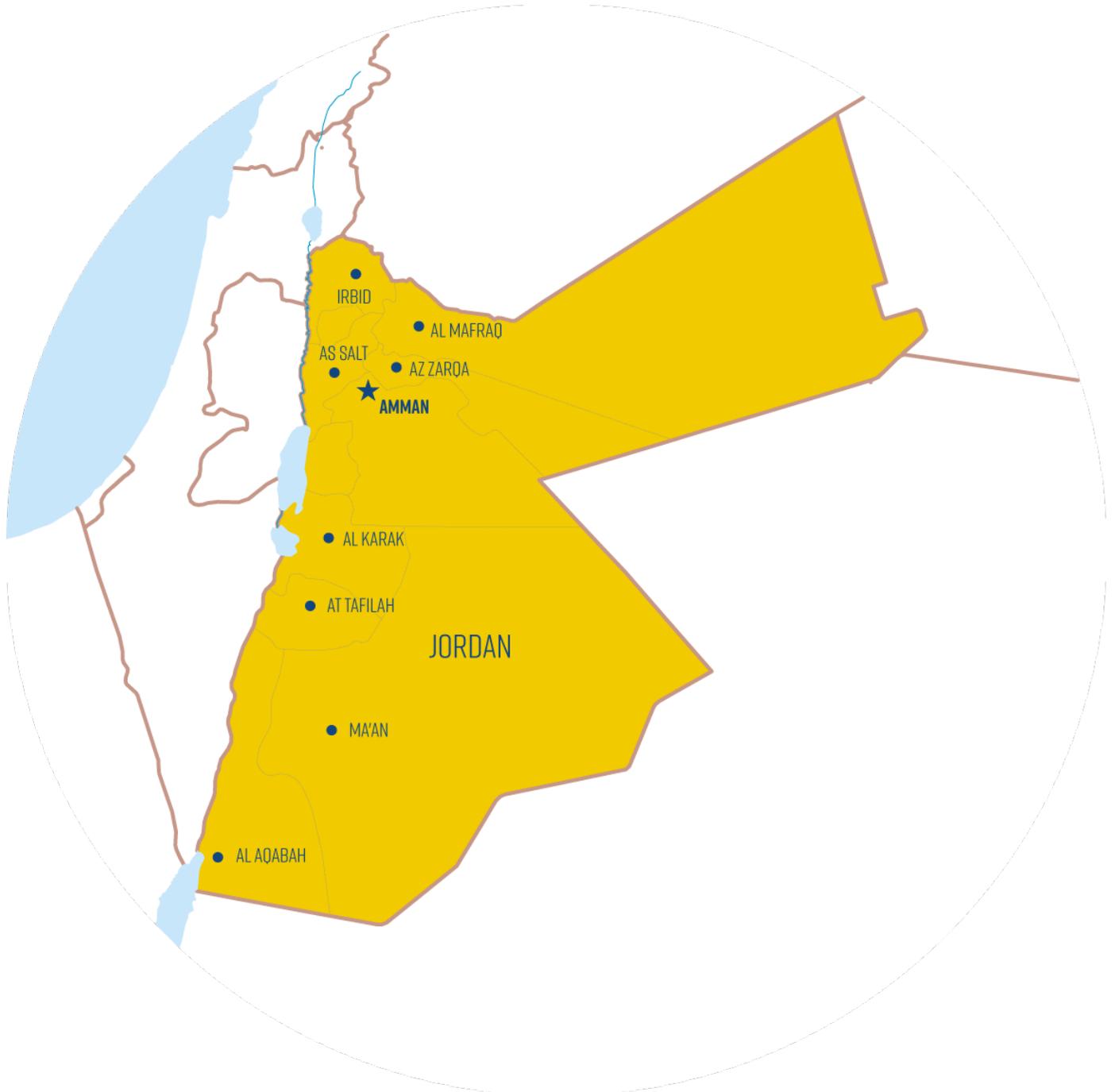


## JORDAN

Jordan's role in the Middle East has greatly changed in the last 10 years. Once the kingdom was viewed as a peripheral, artificial state in the desert that was kept alive with billions from the USA and Saudi Arabia. Today, however, Jordan is regarded as an island of relative stability in a sea of hot spots. Millions of people from Syria, Iraq, and Palestine have found refuge there.



These newcomers have brought their histories, culture, and ideas with them. As a result, the Jordanian capital, Amman, has been transformed into a vibrant metropolis with a politically conscious and resourceful civil society.

The kingdom faces climatic, socio-economic, and political challenges, including hugely contrasting realities in its cities and rural areas.

Climate change and rapid population growth have exacerbated Jordan's already acute water scarcity, which especially creates tension in agricultural regions.

One in three young city dwellers is unemployed. The country's economic problems contributed to the wave of protests in 2011-12 that King Abdallah II responded to with selective reforms—and intimidation. Since then, calls for change have toned down. News of Syria and Egypt makes Jordanians cringe at the thought of radical change.





## Unsere Highlights

### Amman

Jordan's once sleepy capital has molted into an exciting metropolis with numerous civil society initiatives and cultural cafés—largely a result of the arrival of intellectuals and political activists who had to flee their homes in Syria, Iraq, and Palestine. In Amman, we focus on such issues as refugees, water, freedom of the press, and prospects for young people.

### Petra

Although the Nabatean city carved into rock is one of the greatest attractions of the Middle East, it is so huge that we easily escape the tourist hordes and enjoy the secret treasures of this World Heritage Site.

### Wadi Rum

Bizarre cliff formations, enormous sand dunes, and rocks that change color throughout the day make Wadi Rum one of the world's most delightful deserts. It is also the perfect place to find quiet. However, there's plenty to do for more energetic visitors to Wadi Rum: rock climbing, hiking, and touring in Jeeps. Also not to be sneezed at: the sunsets, Bedouin dinners, and the bright stars above our desert camp.

#### The Dead Sea and the Jordan Valley

The lowest point of our trip provides a special experience: drifting on the salty waters of the Dead Sea. This literally dead habitat is all the more striking because just a few kilometers away is one of the country's most fertile agricultural regions, the Jordan Valley.

#### The Periphery – Shoubak and Al-Karak

Shoubak and Al-Karak both feature imposing Crusader castles. The two modern towns also present us with the opportunity to discuss the serious concerns of the periphery with local sheikhs and politicians.

#### Between the highlands and the Jordan Valley

In stark contrast to Jordan's dominant desert landscape are its numerous canyons, many with rivers and streams, that descend from the highlands to the Dead Sea. We rappel down waterfalls, swim in natural pools, and delight in the striking rocky landscape.

## Useful country-specific information

### Health & vaccination

No special vaccinations are needed for a stay in Jordan. Medical facilities in Jordan have a very good standard. In order to prevent cases of diarrhea, however, we recommend to avoid drinking tap water.

When it comes to the **Corona virus** (COVID-19), we follow the recommendations made by the [German Federal Foreign Office](#) as well as the local authorities and the German Embassy on site. In case of any change of the health situation, the tour might be subject to according changes we will inform you about as soon as possible.

### Language

The official language in Jordan is Arabic. English is lingua franca and you can get along well with it in urban centers.

### Local currency

The official currency is the Jordanian Dinar (JD). It is very easy to exchange money (Euros or US Dollars) anywhere in the country or to withdraw cash with a debit or credit card, as the banks have numerous branches. We recommend to take a part of the money in cash, and take a debit or credit card with you as well. Withdrawal fees might vary according to the regulations of your home bank.

### Security

The issue of security plays a big role in Jordan.

In planning out tours, we follow the recommendations and statements issued by the German Federal Foreign Office. Our route only leads us through areas deemed safe by the Office. While doing so, we keep close contact with the German Embassy and local authorities on the ground. In case of any change of the security situation, the tour route might be subject to according changes.

### Visa

Visa are provided upon arrival at the airport in Amman. However, we will get it through applying for a Jordan Pass, which includes the visa costs and entrance fees to several sights. It is thus not necessary to apply for a visa at the Jordanian Embassy in Germany. To receive a visa upon arrival, you need a passport with a minimum six months validity at the time of travel.

Visa regulations might change at any time. If so, we will inform you in time before the tour start. Please let us know as soon as possible if you have any Israeli stamps in your passport, and/or do not wish to travel with your German passport.

For general information on our tours please click [here](#)

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