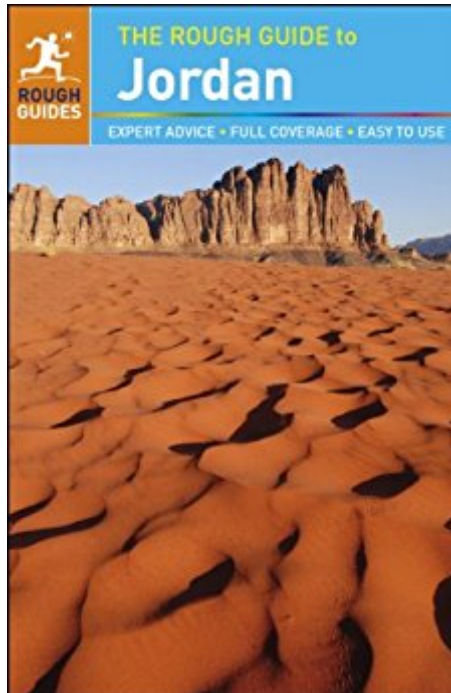




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# The Rough Guide To Jordan (Rough Guide To...)



## Synopsis

The Rough Guide to Jordan is the definitive guide to the most alluring corner of the Middle East. Detailed accounts of every attraction, along with crystal-clear maps and plans, lift the lid on this fascinatingly diverse country. Explore the world wonder that is Petra, an ancient city carved from rose-red mountain cliffs. Roam the sands of Wadi Rum in the footsteps of Lawrence of Arabia, then relax on golden beaches at Aqaba, Jordan's beautiful Red Sea resort. You'll find full-colour pictures and maps throughout, alongside insider tips on getting the best out of a visit to Amman, the buzzing Jordanian capital, as well as Crusader castles and stunningly well preserved Roman cities. Float your cares away on the Dead Sea, the lowest point on Earth, or take in spectacular views over the Dana biosphere reserve. At every point, the Rough Guide steers you to the best hotels, caf  s, restaurants and shops across every price range, giving you clear, balanced reviews and honest, first-hand opinions. Make the most of your time with The Rough Guide to Jordan. Now available in Kindle format.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is practical and well organized and has tons of great maps in it. Jordan was my favorite travel experience out of the 12 countries I've visited. I just got back from a nine day trip in Jordan. My

friend and I went to Petra, Wadi Rum, the Dead Sea, Amman, Madaba, Umm Qais, Jerash, and Ajlun. This guidebook is so accurate and thorough - it made the trip a breeze. The section on language was a blessing, including the great section on foods and drinks in Jordan. All the cultural tips were helpful and accurate (girls AND guys - cover your legs and arms like the locals!), and the extensive sections on the history of Jordan and Petra were insightful. Many prices have increased since this was published. For example, entry visa is now JD20 instead of JD10 (about \$28). But overall, travel in Jordan is cheaper than travel in America, and much cheaper than travel Europe. There's also info in here for booking a tour with a company, probably a lot easier than connecting the dots yourself like we did. I would add a few tips that I didn't see in the book: be aware that many vendors won't have change for large bills, so always have some 1s and 5s with you. Also, in the book, some of the information about buses was misleading; we got stuck at the dead sea at 4pm on a Saturday with no buses in sight, contrary to the impression we got from the guidebook. However, EVERYONE in Jordan is so helpful, and we were able to hitch a ride back to West Amman with a tour group, and then the tour guide drove in his own car us back to our hotel in downtown Amman. If you're going to be taking buses, check with the staff at your hotel to confirm what the guidebook recommends. Every other bus we took was fine though. In Amman, we took private taxis to the bus stations instead of the white, shared cabs. It was not very expensive, and was less stressful than trying to figure out the stops/routes of the shared cabs. In general, buses run more in the morning than in the afternoon or evening. My friend and I are active hikers from Colorado, and we loved Petra and Wadi Rum most of all. The stars at night in Wadi Rum made the whole trip for me - breathtaking. In both these places, the more you can walk in a day, the more you'll see, so make sure you're in shape before you go, and bring good shoes and thick socks. I'd say ideally you need three days in Petra; we had two FULL days of hiking and didn't see it all. We did the night tour of Petra, which honestly I wouldn't do again (search google images for "petra night" and you'll get the idea). After a full day of hiking, walking all the way back into Petra in the cold night wasn't fun, and when the group arrived at the treasury, everyone's camera flashes really killed the vibe. Petra is filled with vendors who sell trinkets VERY aggressively, so brace yourself for constant offers of donkey and camel rides and cheap jewelry. Traveling in the Middle East takes more preparation than Europe. If you're thinking about going to Jordan, get this guide book and read it months before you go; you'll be glad you did. I'd also recommend getting some free Arabic podcasts off itunes. My favorite was a small series by the Peace Corps for volunteers in Jordan. It had all the important phrases, and with Jordanian dialect and accent. Watch out for Arabic podcasts geared towards Morocco; the language is very different there. I also read the books "Married to a Bedouin" and "Live

from Jordan" before I went. Both great books that informed my view of the country and it's people. A tip: from downtown Amman, you can hike up the hill (stairs between houses) to the Citadel and sneak in without paying at the entrance. The views at the top are killer, and it's fun to see the ancient ruins juxtaposed with the bustling city. Also, locals hang out up there in the evening (it's probably the only parkland/open-space in that part of town). We ended up there at sunset and all around us were locals, kids playing soccer, women picnicking, families taking photos. We felt so special to be up there; we were the only tourists around. I cannot say enough how kind people were to us. Everywhere we went people offered us tea. I got a haircut one day in Madaba, and they insisted I not pay and brought us tea and gave us bread and nuts and we hung out - such a memory. One of our favorite drinks was "lemon juice" with mint mixed in. So good! Many menus were in English, and most service industry folks knew enough english to help us out. My personal recommendations, in order: Petra, Wadi Rum, Dead Sea, Jerash. I'd say plan a few days for Petra and a few for Wadi Rum. Plan on half a day for the Dead Sea, most of a day for Jerash (eat at the Lebanese house! So good!). Amman is a hectic city. My friend and I loved it, but many casual travelers hate it. The guidebook suggests basing yourself in Madaba if you want a more mellow time. besides, it's closer to the airport than Amman. The three hotels we stayed at, which I recommend: Burj al Arab in Amman, Cleopetra in Wadi Musa (Petra), Mariam in Madaba. Our guide in Wadi Rum was Mzied Atieg; he was awesome. Another great thing about our trip: we met many wonderful travelers from Europe and America. Being in such a special place, travelers were very open to spending time with us and talking about their travels. We met such wonderful folks, and we compared notes about where we'd stayed, what we'd done, what else we were going to do on our trip. In conclusion, if you're thinking about traveling to Jordan, get this book! I would add; check current news in Jordan before committing to visit. Two protestors died in Amman the day we left. Sobering and scary. However, in our travels we encountered no troubles or tension, and everyone was kind to us, and they continued to be kind to us after we told them we were from America. Most Jordanians don't like American foreign policy, but they like Americans just fine.

I bought this just prior to my trip to Jordan in May 2015. I found it extremely reliable with respect to all the normal tourist areas from the Syrian border to the Red Sea. My son and I covered them all on our own driving a rental car . Next to my GPS this was the most valuable asset I had. When I wanted to know where to park my car at the Allenby Bridge so I could do a one day trip to Jerusalem he told me .When I wanted to explore out of the way tells and see where the Moabite Stela was discovered all I needed to do was " look in the book". My 8 days driving the length of

Jordan was made relatively easy thanks to the info provided in this thin volume. Incidentally tourism is down 60% . We were the only americans we saw the entire time we were there and the people were uniformly happy to see us .Go . Go now

I must admit that I am new to using a Kindle and this was my first go at using a travel guide that wasn't a paperback. With more experience at using the Kindle I might change my mind, but it was often a problem going between information and maps. The maps were also difficult to read when I tried enlarging them. However, the information about places was good and we were happy with the restaurants recommended by the guide. I would recommend having a separate, paper map as back-up if you are driving as we were. I would also like to strongly suggest that, if you have the time, follow Matthew's advice and spend a few days at Feynan Ecolodge - even with unexpected rain it was one of the best things we did!

just returned from 2 weeks traveling in Jordan, used the latest edition. A precise guide, made the trip much easier and comfortable. The author made a fantastic job, I just do not understand how a single person was able to provide so much precise details. I rent a car, and can confirm that number of gas stations in Jordan is less than crusaders castles. The only thing, which may be I want to add, that if you are lucky to find one of those gas stations, please be aware, that local folks try to charge you pointing on the number of liters, which is about twice as much, as number in JD.

If you read the 21 reviews listed for this guide, know that only 9 pertain to this edition. After know that know that this 2012 edition was researched in 2010/11 which was before the Syrian refugee crisis. An event that has serious changed Jordan. Now, as I write this review there are over 500 hundred thousand desperate refugees from Syrian seeking hope and home in this small (and getting smaller country). I work in medicine and one Jordan doctor told me that the government figure of 450,000 Syria Refugees are kept low to not disturb the Jordanians .... he said really there are double those number in Jordan. I tell you that because this book describes what Jordan was like in 2011 but not what it is today. For example, in the book, in the Ajloun sections, it states that "Northern Jordan's verdant hills are cut through by countless lush valleys..." I was just there and it is gone... all gone, sorry. What I am seeing is construction everywhere and very tacky construction at that - the cement block buildings with zero personality... places to hold people... but definitely no more lush valleys. That said, this can be a good guide if you stay on proven tourist routes "Petra, Dead Sea, Jerash, etc" then you will benefit from this Rough Guide. The write is a good write,

Matthew Teller, and I do hope he comes out soon with the 6th edition.

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