



# Trekking the Planet

Discovering the Cultural and Natural Significance of the World



## Where are we now?

- Darren and Sandy are in Amman, Jordan, located at 31° N and 35° E.
- We have traveled approximately 45,463 miles (73,165 kilometers) from our starting point in California.



## People and Culture

- Following World War I, the UK received a mandate to govern much of the Middle East. Britain separated the region of Transjordan from Palestine in the early 1920s and the area gained its independence in 1946. It adopted the name of Jordan in 1950. The current full name of the country is “Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan”.
- Jordan has a population of about 6.5 million. The growth rate is less than 1 percent. Seventy-nine percent of population lives in cities. The capital of Amman contains approximately 1 million people.
- Ninety-two percent of the population is Sunni Muslim. Six percent of the population is Christian.
- Arabic is the official language. However, English is widely understood among the upper and middle classes.
- The proportion of skilled workers in Jordan is among the highest in the region. Tourism, pharmaceuticals and construction are all considered growth industries. An estimated 600,000 Jordanians or one fourth of the labor force are earning their living in foreign countries. The literacy rate (age 15 and over can read and write) in Jordan is quite high at approximately 89.9%.



Amman at sunset (source: [Flickr.com/Premasaqar](http://Flickr.com/Premasaqar))

### Petra

Petra is without a doubt Jordan's most valuable treasure and greatest tourist attraction. It is a vast, unique city, carved into the sheer rock face by the Nabataeans, turning it into an important junction for the silk, spice and other trade routes that linked China, India and southern Arabia with Egypt, Syria, Greece and Rome.

source: [VisitJordan.com](http://VisitJordan.com)



Small dishes of food with exotic tastes called Mezze are commonly served in Jordan (source: [Wikipedia.org](http://Wikipedia.org))





## Arabian Oryx

The Arabian Oryx is a large straight-horned antelope which had been extinct in Jordan since the 1920 and in the Middle East since 1972. After introducing eight animals to Jordan in 1978, the Shomari Reserve now hosts around 200 Arabian Oryx, together with other endangered animal species. In 2009, 20 Arabian Oryx (8 males and 12 females) were released into the Wadi Rum area of Jordan.

*sources: [KingHussein.gov.jo](http://KingHussein.gov.jo), [Bedouin Heritage Project](http://BedouinHeritageProject), [Flickr.com/\\*clarity\\*](http://Flickr.com/*clarity*)*



*Jeep tracks in Wadi Rum (source: [Flickr.com/archer10](http://Flickr.com/archer10))*

## Nature and Environment

- Jordan is located in the Middle East, northwest of Saudi Arabia, between Israel (to the west) and Iraq. However, it is not landlocked. It has 16 miles (26 kilometers) of coast along the Red Sea. It is slightly smaller than the US state of Indiana.
- Jordan's climate is mostly arid desert with a rainy season in the west from November to April.
- The terrain is mostly desert plateau in east and highland area in west. The Great Rift Valley (which starts in Mozambique, Africa) separates the east and west banks of the Jordan River.
- The highest point in the country is Jabal Umm al Dami. It is 6,083 ft (1,854 meters) above sea level. Its top is covered with snow. The lowest elevation in the country (and also the world) is the Dead Sea at 1,378 feet (420 meters) below sea level.
- Wadi Rum (also known as The Valley of the Moon) is a valley cut into the sandstone and granite rock in south Jordan. It is the largest wadi (meaning valley) in Jordan. Rum likely means "high" or "elevated".
- The Jordan River (or Nahr al-Urdun) is a 156 miles (251 kilometers) long river that runs along the border between Jordan and Israel.

## Our Plans

- We are currently in the city of Amman for a couple of rest days after completing our trek. We traveled to the south of the country to visit Wadi Rum and the archaeological site of Petra.
- Once we have completed our stay in Jordan, we will be return to Europe after our absence of almost two months.
- What would you like to know about Jordan? Send us your ideas and we will try to include them!

## More Information

- <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/jo.html>
- <http://lifestyle.iloveindia.com/lounge/facts-about-jordan-2519.html>
- [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle\\_east/country\\_profiles/828763.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/country_profiles/828763.stm)
- <http://www.hejleh.com/countries/jordan.html>
- <http://travel.nationalgeographic.com/travel/countries/jordan-guide/>

## King Hussein of Jordan

King Hussein of Jordan was born Hussein bin Talal on November, 14 1935. He was the third King of Jordan taking power from his father in 1952. Hussein's rule extended through the Cold War and four decades of Arab-Israeli conflict. He recognized Israel in 1994, becoming the second Arab head of state to do so. He died on February 7, 1999, passing the throne to his son, King Abdullah II.



sources: [Wikipedia.org](http://Wikipedia.org),  
[KingHusseing.gov.jo](http://KingHusseing.gov.jo)

## Our Partners



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