



*your* **GUIDE to AQABA**  
*and its* **SURROUNDINGS**



**aqaba**  
RED SEA WADI RUM-PETRA

*Red Sea. Red Sands. Rose Red City.*



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## Arabian Culture at the heart of the Red Sea



## Fabulous Landscapes And Clear Waters



## Historical and Natural Treasures



## Gateway to Wadi Rum and Petra



**A DESERT OF BEAUTY AND AMAZING** landscapes



**RICH HISTORY** of **HUMAN** presence and a home for **BADOUINS**



**A HOME FOR RARE PLANTS** and Animal Species



**A PLACE OF** Settlements on a Major **COMMUNICATION ROUTE**





## PETRA



## SHOBAK CASTLE



## DANA NATURE RESERVE & WADI FEYNAN



## THE DEAD SEA & IT'S SURROUNDINGS



When visiting Aqaba , please make sure your first stop is at **Aqaba Tourist Information Center** , Located at The City Services Directorate Buliding / AL-Hammamat Al-Tunisyya st. **Open Daily ( 08:00 am - 06:00 pm )**

Published by **The Marketing and Tourism Directorate**

For more information please visit our website or contact

**Aqaba Tourists Information Center**

**Tel: +962 (0) 3 203 5360**

**Email: [info@aqaba.jo](mailto:info@aqaba.jo)**

**ASEZA/MTD/2015/10 M/(AQB/ENG)**









*There is something for everyone to experience in Aqaba. Within the land, sea, and air, Aqaba is full of unforgettable experiences for adventure-seekers. From diving with the lion fish and soaring above the Red Sea, to quad biking over the dunes and valleys against the backdrop of the Gulf of Aqaba, your visit to Aqaba will be memorable.*

## 1 - Make Aqaba your next diving destination

Aqaba on the Red Sea is a diver's delight. It's clear, warm tropical waters allow the sun to penetrate sea to the depth of 150 meters illuminating a paradise of hundreds of species of corals, fish mollusk and crustacean that surrounds the diver in the dazzling colors of life. A variety of habitats and diving sites, ranging from easy shore diving to intriguing wreck and boat dives, and the availability of professional diving facilities make Aqaba's diving experience complete



Aqaba offers over 20 different dive sites along the Jordanian coast, with drop offs and walls starting from just 10 metres and a shipwreck starting at just 8 metres below the sea surface. Its mild climate makes it an ideal location for year-round scuba diving.

The water temperature reaches an average of 22.5 degrees Celsius, dropping to 20 degrees in the winter. The current is minimal, if any, and the visibility generally exceeds 20 metres.

## 2 - Underwater photography

If you are keen on or have ever wanted to try it, the Aqaba Gulf is the perfect spot and courses are available



**Ship wreck diving** One of Aqaba's most famous dive sites - the Cedar Pride, a Lebanese freighter sunk in 1985 at a location chosen by Jordan's King Abdullah II. It now hosts a rich variety of hard and soft corals. At a maximum depth of 25m, it provides a wreck dive that divers with all levels of experience can enjoy.



**Tank wreck diving** In 1999, King Abdullah II was also responsible for "sinking" an anti-aircraft tracked vehicle (The Tank). With the tracks at only 6m, The Tank is a wreck that snorkellers can also enjoy.



**Night diving** If you are an experienced diver, take the chance for a night dive when the fish and corals take on a special beauty

## 3 - Explore the wonders of the Aqaba Gulf in a glass-bottomed boat

You can stay on the boat and watch the fish through the boat bottom, or you can join an excursion that includes snorkelling as well.

## 4 - Get ready for a breath taking adventure and try parasailing

Fly high with family and friends while watching the panoramic scenery of the Red Sea.



## 5 - Take off at a rush with a speedboat

or try the more leisurely approach of a catamaran.

## 6 - Go wild and try the new windsurfing boats

For a thrilling and speedy experience, windsurfing will make you live great and unforgettable moments while fighting the wind and the waves

## 7 - Aqaba's beaches are sandy and the sunshine always shines

You can have lots of fun with banana boats, tube rides, jet skis and water skiing. You can even paddle your own canoe.



### **Aqaba Surf Center**

Mobile: +962 (0)79 577 3935  
Email: [hatemr@aqabasurf.com](mailto:hatemr@aqabasurf.com)  
Website: [www.aqabasurf.com](http://www.aqabasurf.com)

### **Aquamarine** (Glass-Bottomed Boat & Water Sports)

Tel: +962 (0)3 205 8557  
E-mail: [info@aquamarina-aqaba.com](mailto:info@aquamarina-aqaba.com)  
Website: [www.aquamarina-aqaba.com](http://www.aquamarina-aqaba.com)

### **Fun-n-Sun** (Semi-Submarine & Water Sports)

Tel: +962 (0)3 203 3031  
E-mail: [info@fun-n-sun.com](mailto:info@fun-n-sun.com)  
Website: [www.fun-n-sun.com](http://www.fun-n-sun.com)

### **Gulf Water Sports Company**

Mobile: +962 (0)79 540 0555  
E-mail: [mleddawi@yahoo.com](mailto:mleddawi@yahoo.com)

### **Neptune** (Semi-Submarine)

Tel: +962 (0)77 943 0969  
E-mail: [neptune.submarine@gmail.com](mailto:neptune.submarine@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.aqababoat.com](http://www.aqababoat.com)

### **Sindbad for Marine Transportation & Water Sports**

(Glass-Bottomed Boat & Water Sports)  
Tel: +962 (0)3 205 0077  
E-mail: [aqaba@sindbadjo.com](mailto:aqaba@sindbadjo.com)  
Website: [www.sindbadjo.com](http://www.sindbadjo.com)



## 1 - AHLAN AQABA SCUBA DIVING CENTER

Tel: +962 (0)3 206 2242  
 Email: info@diveinaqaba.com  
 Website : www.diveinaqaba.com



### Services

diver training, recreational, boat, free and deep diving, bubble maker, accommodation , equipment for sale/rental

<b>Languages</b>	Arabic, English, Slovenian, Croatian, Serbian
<b>Extras</b>	boat trips

## 2 - ALMARSA DIVE RESORT

Tel: +962 (0)3 203 2288  
 Email: dive@almarsa-aqaba.com  
 Website : www.almarsa-aqaba.com



### Services

diver training, recreational, shore, deep and free diving, bubble maker, accommodation , equipment for sale/rental, nitrox, equipment servicing/maintenance

<b>Languages</b>	English , Arabic ,Italian, Spanish
<b>Extras</b>	snorkeling and glass bottom boat trips

## 3 - AQABA ANCHOR DIVING CENTER

Tel: +962 (0)79 612 2120  
 Email: aqabasanchordivingcentre@gmail.com  
 Website: www.aqabasanchor.com



### Services

diver training, recreational, shore, boat and deep diving, diving for physically challenged persons, bubble maker accommodation, equipment for sale/rental, equipment servicing/maintenance

<b>Languages</b>	English, Arabic, Swedish, Norwegian, Turkish
<b>Extras</b>	nitrox, commercial diving

## 4 - AQABA ADVENTURE DIVERS

Tel: +962 (0)3 201 9060  
 Email: info@aqaba-diving.com  
 Website www.aqaba-diving.com



### Services

diver training, recreational, shore and boat, diving for physically challenged persons , bubble maker, accommodation equipment for sale/rental, nitrox

<b>Languages</b>	English , Arabic
<b>Extras</b>	boat trips

## 5 - AQABA INTERNATIONAL DIVE CENTER

Tel: +962 (0)79 981 7518  
Email: [diveaqaba@yahoo.com](mailto:diveaqaba@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.aqabadivingcenter.com](http://www.aqabadivingcenter.com)



### Services

diver training, recreational, shore, boat and deep diving, diving for physically challenged persons, bubble maker accommodation, equipment for sale/rental, nitrox, equipment servicing/maintenance

Languages	Arabic, English, Spanish
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Extras	snorkeling trips
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## 6 - ARAB DIVERS

Tel: +962 (0)3 203 1808  
Email: [info@aqabadive.com](mailto:info@aqabadive.com)  
Website: [www.aqabadive.com](http://www.aqabadive.com)



### Services

diver training, recreational, shore, boat, deep and free diving, diving for physically challenged persons, bubble maker accommodation, equipment for sale/rental, nitrox, equipment servicing/maintenance

Languages	English, German, Arabic
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Extras	snorkeling trips, restaurant, swimming pool, commercial diving
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## 7 - BARRACUDA DIVING CLUB

Tel: +962 (0)79 5881 170  
Email: [barracuda.aqaba@gmail.com](mailto:barracuda.aqaba@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.barracudamarineservice.com](http://www.barracudamarineservice.com)



### Services

boat diving

Languages	English / Arabic
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Extras	boat and snorkeling excursions, commercial diving services
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## 8 - DARNA DIVERS VILLAGE

Tel: +962 (0)79 503 5696  
Email: [darnadiver@gmail.com](mailto:darnadiver@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.darnavillage.com](http://www.darnavillage.com)



### Services

diver training, recreational, shore, boat and deep diving, diving for physically challenged persons, bubble maker accommodation, equipment for sale/rental

Languages	Arabic, English, Hungarian
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Extras	restaurant, swimming pool
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## 9 - DIVE AQABA

Tel: +962 (0)3 201 8883  
 Email: [diveaqaba@diveaqaba.com](mailto:diveaqaba@diveaqaba.com)  
 Website : [www.diveaqaba.com](http://www.diveaqaba.com)



### Services

diver training, recreational, shore, boat and deep diving, diving for physically challenged persons, bubble maker equipment for sale/rental, nitrox, equipment servicing/maintenance

**Languages** Arabic, English, Japanese

**Extras** marine services, technical diving, tecrec training, commercial diving, instructor courses

## 10 - EXTRA DIVERS AQABA

Tel: +962 (0)79 973 9318  
 Email: [aqaba@extradivers.info](mailto:aqaba@extradivers.info)  
 Website: [www.extradivers-worldwide.com](http://www.extradivers-worldwide.com)



### Services

diver training, recreational, shore, boat and deep diving, diving for physically challenged persons, bubble maker accommodation, equipment for sale/rental, nitrox, equipment servicing/maintenance

**Languages** English, German, Spanish, Arabic, French

**Extras** O2 provider, instructor training center

## 11 - MR FROGMAN DIVE CENTER & DIVE SHOP

Tel: +962 (0)77 710 0044  
 Email: [mansour@jordanfrogman.com](mailto:mansour@jordanfrogman.com)  
 Website: [www.mrfrogman.com](http://www.mrfrogman.com)



### Services

diver training, recreational, shore, boat, and deep diving, diving for physically challenged persons, bubble maker accommodation, equipment for sale/rental, nitrox, equipment servicing/maintenance

**Languages** German, Italian, English

**Extras** water sports, commercial diving, IACS approved

## 12 - JORDAN SUN DIVING CENTER

Tel: +962 (0)79 580 1100  
 Email: [scubadiverjo@yahoo.com](mailto:scubadiverjo@yahoo.com)  
 Website: [www.jordandivingcenter.com](http://www.jordandivingcenter.com)



### Services

diver training, recreational, shore, boat, deep, and free diving, diving for physically challenged persons, bubble maker equipment for sale/rental, nitrox, equipment servicing/maintenance

**Languages** English, Arabic

**Extras**



## 13 - RED SEA DIVE CENTER

Tel: +962 (0)3 201 8969  
 Email: info@aqabascubadiving.com  
 Website: www.aqabascubadiving.com



### Services

diver training, recreational, shore, boat, deep, and free diving, diving for physically challenged persons, bubble maker accommodation, equipment for sale/rental, nitrox, equipment servicing/maintenance

**Languages** Arabic, English

**Extras** snorkeling trips

## 14 - ROYAL DIVING CLUB

Tel: +962 (0)3 201 5555  
 Email: diving@coralbay.jo  
 Website : www.coralbay.jo



### Services

diver training, recreational, shore, boat, deep, and free diving, diving for physically challenged persons bubble maker, accommodation, equipment for sale/rental, nitrox, equipment servicing/maintenance

**Languages** Arabic, English, French

**Extras** restaurant, bar, swimming pools, water sports

## 15 - SEA STAR WATER SPORTS CENTER

Tel: +962 (0)3 201 8335  
 Email: info@aqabadivingseastar.com  
 Website: www.aqabadivingseastar.com



### Services

diver training, recreation, guided dives, private guide, shore, boat, deep, and night diving, nitrox, bubble maker, accommodation diving for physically challenged persons, discover scuba diving, snorkelling, equipment servicing, equipment sale/rental,

**Languages** English, Arabic, Russian, Czech

**Extras** PADI 5 star IDC centre - instructor training, technical diving, side mount, beach club, swimming pool restaurant, airport transfers

## 16 - AQABA SHARKS BAY DIVERS

Tel: +962 (0)79 584 3724  
 Email: info@aqaba-sharksbay.com  
 Website : www.aqaba-sharksbay.com



### Services

diver training, recreational, shore, boat and , deep diving, diving for physically challenged persons, nitrox, bubble maker accommodation

**Languages** Arabic, English

**Extras** daily boat diving and snorkeling trips, PADI courses all levels

## 17 - SINAI DIVERS AQABA

Tel: +962 (0)3 205 0030  
 Email: [aqaba@sinaidivers.com](mailto:aqaba@sinaidivers.com)  
 Website: [www.sinaidivers.com](http://www.sinaidivers.com)



### Services

diver training, recreational, shore, boat, and deep diving, diving for physically challenged persons, bubble maker accommodation, equipment for sale/rental, nitrox

**Languages** Arabic, English, German, Danish, Swedish, Spanish

**Extras** full day boat trip, high speed dive boat

## 18 - SINDBAD DIVE CLUB

Tel: +962 (0)79 610 1629  
 Email: [divingmanager@sindbadjo.com](mailto:divingmanager@sindbadjo.com)  
 Website: [www.sindbadjo.com](http://www.sindbadjo.com)



### Services

diver training, recreational, shore, boat, deep, and night diving, nitrox, diving for physically challenged persons, bubble maker, scuba diving, snorkeling, equipment servicing, equipment sale/rental

**Languages** English, Hungarian, Russian, Italian, Arabic.

**Extras** PADI five star dive resort, Aqua Lung partnership, private beach and private jetty in the mid heart of the marine park, transfer to/from hotel - airport. PADI courses from beginner to professional, special program for kids, guided dives, private guide

## 19 - AQABA BEDOUIN DIVE CENTER

Tel: +962 (0)79 585 7544  
 Email: [aqababedouindiver@gmail.com](mailto:aqababedouindiver@gmail.com)  
 Website: [www.aqaba-hotels.com](http://www.aqaba-hotels.com)



### Services

diver training, recreational, shore, boat, deep, and free diving, diving for physically challenged persons, bubble maker accommodation, equipment for sale/rental, nitrox, equipment servicing/maintenance

**Languages** English, Arabic

**Extras**

## 20 - NEMO DIVE CENTER

Tel: +962 (0)79 538 1979  
 Email: [mohammedsea@lycos.com](mailto:mohammedsea@lycos.com)  
 Website: [www.bedouinmoon.net](http://www.bedouinmoon.net)



### Services

diver training, shore, boat, and free diving accommodation, equipment for sale/rental, equipment servicing/maintenance

**Languages** English, Arabic

**Extras**

## 1 - Explore the culture of a real living community on the Red Sea

Before sunset, walk to the Fishermen Harbor and watch the Aqabawi fishermen coming back from their fishing trips carrying the catch of the day.



## 2 - Visit the Islamic city of Ayla

Notable as the first Islamic city to be built outside the Arabian Peninsula, Ayla served as a port and a store house for the Hejaz as it neighbored Palestine. It was once an important stopping place for Egyptian pilgrims on their way to Mecca. Today, right in the heart of Aqaba's seafront hotel district, you can see the remains of city walls, gates, a large mosque and other buildings. The site is well marked and has informative panels detailing its history and importance.

## 3 - The search for traces of Byzantium

Excavations are slowly revealing the outlines of the Byzantine town of Aila, although stones from its building were often reused in later settlements and most of the old settlement is now covered by modern Aqaba. The highlight is the remains of a mud brick building that dates from the late 3rd or early 4th century and is thought to be the world's oldest known purpose-built church

## 4 - Step into Aqaba Castle

An inscription in Arabic at the entrance gate tells us Aqaba's Mamluk fort (now known as Aqaba castle) was built during the reign of Qansur Al-Ghuri (1510-17). Since then, it has had a chequered history. Periods of enlargement and renovation have been mixed with serious destruction. The fort has served as a caravanserai for pilgrims travelling to Mecca as much as a military site.

### **Aqaba Castle Open Daily**

May to October (09:00am-06:00pm)

November to April (09:00am-05:00pm)

### **Rich and glorious History**

Archaeological excavations are bringing to light even more of Aqaba's rich history, which can be traced back as far as the Iron Age.



## 5 - Look back in time at the museum

Close by Aqaba's Mamluk fort is the Aqaba Archaeological Museum with a collection of artefacts that give insight into the city's trading past. It has a small but rich collection of pottery, coins and other artefacts from Iraq, Ethiopia, Egypt and as far away as China. Particular treasures include the first milestone of the Roman Via Nova Traiana with its inscription stating that the Emperor Trajan opened and built the road from Syria to the Red Sea.



## 6 - Visit the House of Sharif Hussein Bin Ali

the great-great-grandfather of Jordan's current King Abdullah II. He lived in the house for six months after the First World War.



## 7 - Salute the flag by visiting the Great Arab Revolt Plaza

The 20x40 metre flag sits atop a 137 metre flag pole and is the tallest unsupported flag pole in the world commemorating the Great Arab Revolt.

## 8 - Head towards Aqaba Heritage Museum

from the Great Arab Revolt Plaza. It is located in the middle coast of the fishermen port, with a view of the tranquil sea. The old house is an intact model of Aqabawi mud houses, built with a roof made from palm leaves, with a floor made from gravel, with traditional windows and doors.

### *Aqaba Heritage Museum opening hours*

Sunday to Thursday (08:30am-02:30pm)



## 9 - Savor the sound of Aqaba's Traditional 'Simsimiya' Music

The 'Simsimiya' is a five-stringed instrument originally improvised from an ancient foreign instrument and became the most popular instrument to the people of the Red Sea area. 'Simsimiya' is a fisherman's instrument, that always relates to everyday's life and the Red Sea charming unique traditions. Fishermen play it on their fishing boats, to entertain themselves during the long fishing day and specially when they come back from their fishing trip on sunset time celebrating the catch of the day.

## 10 - Learn some Arabic

Start with the basics. If you can manage marhaba (hello), law samaht (please), shukran (thank you) and keefak (how are you for a man), keefik (how are you for a woman), it will show willing and good manners. Beyond that – malish (is it okay), afwan (excuse me), wayn (where) and adesh (how much) are always useful. When you are feeling more ambitious, try the following – andak (do you have), shmal (left), yamin (right), and dughri (straight on). To learn more Arabic, please make sure you get your free copy of Say it in Arabic –Basic Arabic for Jordan available at Aqaba Tourist Information Centre.

## 11 - Visit Souk by the Sea

This souk is a weekly street market held every Friday all year around and focused on promoting the handicrafts and goods produced by the people of Aqaba. The Souk is a community enhancement project that is founded

as a revenue-generating initiative for the community of Aqaba. Souk by the Sea, which takes place next to Captain's Hotel on Nahdah Street in the centre of Aqaba, from 6 pm to 11 pm and features a large variety of handicrafts, food and entertainment for family and kids.

## 12 - Design your own jewellery

Aqaba is home to a thriving local jewellery industry based on semiprecious stones such as lapis, lazuli, amber and amethysts. Look for matching necklace and earring sets, bracelets and rings that make light, easy-to-carry presents for family and friends back home. If you do not see exactly what you want, most shops are happy to create something tailor-made, usually within a matter of hours and at no extra cost.





## 13 - Your name in sand

In Aqaba, the sands of time are poured elegantly into small bottles to form desert scenes. Watch the craftsmen at work. If you have a special fancy in terms of colours or want to see your name, or that of family or friends, enshrined in sand, the craftsmen will be happy to oblige, giving you a souvenir that is truly unique.

## 14 - Spice up your life

Wondering about the elusive but mouth-watering flavours of the local food? Try the local grocery stores where spices of all kinds are available in "tourist friendly" packs ready for you to take home. Saffron, allspice, cardamom, ginger, cumin and all types of peppers are just a few of the choices. The tantalising aromas of the spices will lead you to the right shops. While you are there, check out the freshly packed almonds, pistachios and other nuts on sale at tempting prices

## 15 - Go for gold

If your tastes turn to something a little more up-market, try one of the gold shops in the centre of town. They offer a range of gold jewellery that includes locally worked 21 carat gold at unbeatable prices.



## 16 - Ins and outs of the souk

The Aqaba souk is not the most ancient in the region but is well worth a leisurely wander for its eclectic mix of shops. Some shops serve the daily needs of the locals and give an insight into local life, others are oriented towards tourists. This is the place to find handicrafts, inexpensive beachwear, a new watch or maybe an unexpected curiosity.



**All the silver work is stamped with its carat value so the quality is quarantined.**

In recent years, handicraft projects have become a major tool for social development throughout Jordan, especially for rural women. Embroidered items, silver jewellery, rugs and pottery are just a few of the options available. Many shops in Aqaba also offer local goods, you may see some of the craft workers on the job and even have a rug made to your own design.





## 17 - Explore the places of worship

Visit Masjid Al Sharif Al Hussein Bin Ali the, with its first and largest dome in Jordan that ornamented with three-dimensional decorations or visit the Church of Stella Maris, with its modern style forms and strong lighting. For more options outside the city centre, go to Masjid Sheikh Zayed and enjoy the simplicity choice of colors and texture in addition to the panoramic view of the Gulf of Aqaba



## 18 - Try the Henna experience

Arab women have used the Henna plant for hair and skin treatments for centuries, enjoying both its beneficial and beautifying aspects. Even today, they use it alongside modern cosmetics. In the past, the Leylat Al Henna, or Henna Night, prior to a wedding was a chance for the bride and her female guests to get together to sing and dance while the bride herself was beautified with elaborate Henna tattoos on her hands and feet. Today beauty salons can provide pretty, non-permanent tattoos for all simple or lavish occasions.



### Visiting a Mosque - Dos and don'ts

- Don't enter a mosque during prayer times
- Dress modestly. Shoulders and knees should be covered...
- Women should cover their hair..
- Remove your shoes before entering a mosque. You either leave them outside or carry them in a bag.
- Don't eat inside a mosque..
- Make as little noise as possible, and preferably switch off your mobile phones.
- Even outside prayer times, don't disturb worshippers who may be praying. Don't stand close to them or walk in front of them
- Taking pictures or shooting video footage inside a mosque is allowed, but don't point your camera at people praying or at believers in their ablution process outside a mosque.

## NATURAL WONDERS

Aqaba and its surrounding area are rich in natural wonders, and heritage, and are known for their tourist attractions and life changing experiences. It is home to one of the most amazing ecosystems, the Red Sea aquatic life is a treasure in itself. The deserts and mountains are filled with nature and with hidden gems waiting to be discovered and experienced

### 1 - Know more about the underwater life of Aqaba

with a specialist course on the names and types of the one thousand species of fish, 300 SUB-SPECIES of CORALS that you might encounter during your dive in one of the 20 Diving sites



### 2 - Visit the Aqaba Marine Park

The park is a marine protected area that extends for seven kilometres along the coast. It is helping to preserve the corals, reefs and marine life of Aqaba's near-shore environment.

The park has a shell museum, an interpretation room for children, a small library, a restaurant and a gift shop.

#### Aqaba Marine Park

Tel: +962 (0)3 203 5801

Email: [admin@aqabamarinepark.jo](mailto:admin@aqabamarinepark.jo)

Web site: [www.aqabamarinepark.jo](http://www.aqabamarinepark.jo)

### 3 - Aquarium at the Marine Science Station

If you do not have the opportunity or the inclination to dive or snorkel, try the Aquarium at the Marine Sciences Station for a close encounter with the rich and varied fish life of the Aqaba Gulf. Lionfish, parrotfish, moray eels, turtles and lethal stonefish are a few of the varieties that are just a pane of glass away

#### Aqaba Aquarium Open Daily

Sunday to Thursday (08:00am-04:00pm)

Friday to Saturday and official holidays (08:00am-05:00pm).

Tel: +962 (0)3 201 5144

Email: [mssoffice@ju.edu.jo](mailto:mssoffice@ju.edu.jo)

Web site: [www.ju.edu.jo/mss](http://www.ju.edu.jo/mss)

### Enjoy the Blue Flag beaches and Green Key facilities

The City of Aqaba is committed to environmental friendly tourism, and offers a wide variety of activities for tourists to experience its wonders. Aqaba fully understands the impact of city life and tourism on its natural environment. And with this in mind, the city has implemented the Green Key Programme which encourages businessmen and managers from the tourism industry to reduce harmful environmental triggers, and negative elements. In addition to implementing the Blue Flag Programme, the status makes sure that beaches adhere to strict criteria for cleanliness, and aquatic life preservation and sustainability.



## **6 - See the birds on their annual migrations at the Aqaba Birds Observatory.**

Aqaba The Aqaba Bird Observatory (ABO) is a pilot project to observing and monitoring the migratory birds between Eurasia and Africa through the most important route between these continents during the Spring & Autumn migration seasons. It forms a bottle neck between Asia and Africa, making it the final spot before access to the Sinai desert and the first rest spot when they access Asia.

Birdwatchers can observe more than 80 different species during the optimum season during the daily trip.

The total area of ABO is 0.5 Km consisting of tree forests and water ponds with deep and shallow levels, which offers different habitat to attract different species of birds to the enjoyment of the bird watching trip.

ABO is managed by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN), and provides a vital station for bird watching and eco-friendly activities, whilst preserving the natural habitat of local and migrating birds. The observatory also assists in monitoring and research by developing a database for bird migration & raising awareness regarding bird migration through Aqaba.

**The Aqaba Bird Observatory is located in Al-Salam Forest. In order to visit the site please take the road heading towards the Aqaba-Eilat border. Tickets & a shuttle bus are also available from MÖVENPICK RESORT & RESIDENCES AQABA to ABO**

Open Daily (except Fridays & national holidays) From 08:00am & last check in at 03:00pm.

Tel: +962 (0)3 205 8825

Website: [www.rscn.org.jo](http://www.rscn.org.jo)

## **Diving for a cause**

If you are a qualified and licensed diver and you care much about protecting the marine environment then join Aqaba Dive cleanup National Team in one of their clean up dives. This team which was recently established has already sponsored many dives and extracted tones of garbage.

**For more information:** [info@aqaba.jo](mailto:info@aqaba.jo)



*Take a journey of rejuvenation, relaxation and reflection to one of Aqaba Spas. Inspirit your senses with a selection of special Spas experiences, from Moroccan and Turkish Baths to Dead Sea salt body scrubs, to sauna steam rooms and outstanding hydro pools.*

## 1 - Go back in time to the luxury of the Turkish and Moroccan bath

A combination of steam rooms, scrubbing and massage can take away all cares and leave you cleaner than you thought possible. The Aqaba Turkish Baths welcome men mainly while for women, the experience of a Moroccan bath will surely amazes you.



## 2 - Beauty treatments at local salons

If you are looking for something traditional and in a reasonable price then try the traditional lemon and sugar approach on your legs to achieve the perfect skin texture for the beach.

## 3 - The joys of pampering

Major hotels and independent spas, now offer the chance to relax and enjoy a sauna, whirlpool, jacuzzi, massage or beauty treatment. For a real oriental experience try Janna Spa



### Aqaba Turkish Bath

Tel : +962 (0)79 520 4440  
Location : King Hussein Bin Talal ST.

### Bab Al Hara Turkish Bath

Tel : +962 (0)79 966 3800  
Location : Al-Rasheid ST.

### Intercontinental Spa

Tel : +962 (0)3 209 0888  
Location : INTERCONTINENTAL AQABA RESORT  
Web site : [www.intercontinental.com](http://www.intercontinental.com)

### Janna Spa (Moroccan bath)

Tel : +962 (0)3 205 1991  
Location : Al-Rasheid ST.  
Web site : <http://www.janna-spa.com>

### Kempinski Spa

Tel : +962 (0)3 209 0888  
Location : KEMPINSKI HOTEL AQABA  
Web site : [www.kempinski-aqaba.com](http://www.kempinski-aqaba.com)

### Marina Plaza spa

Tel : +962 (0)3 209 2900  
Location : MARINA PLAZA HOTEL  
Web site : [www.marinaplaza.org](http://www.marinaplaza.org)

### Radisson BLU Spa

Tel : +962 (0)3 209 0777  
Location : RADISSON BLU TALA BAY RESORT  
Web site : [www.radissonblu.com](http://www.radissonblu.com)

### Zara Spa

Tel : +962 (0)3 209 0300  
Location : MÖVENPICK RESORT  
& SPA TALA BAY AQABA  
Web site : [www.moevenpick-aqaba.com](http://www.moevenpick-aqaba.com)



## **4 - Hop on an open bus tour.**

Don't feel like walking? No problem! Give your feet a break while enjoying the breeze as you roll through the city's major sites and attractions by bus. Different routes and times are available, including a 45 minute ride that covers the city centre and market and a one and a half hour ride that covers the city centre and south beach.

## **5 - Discover Aqaba by foot**

Discover Aqaba when the day is winding down. All the city's attractions are within a walking distance and could be easily reached.

## **6 - Spend the day at Berenice Beach Club**

Extending more than 500 meters along the Aqaba coast, Berenice beach club is the first of its kind which offers year round access, combines shopping, dining, entertainment along with all the typical beach activities like yachting, water-sports and snorkeling. Berenice Beach Club is situated within the different snorkeling areas of Aqaba which offer nature lovers access to the coral and marine reefs capturing the essence of the beauty of the Red Sea

**For reservation, please contact the reception of your hotel or call:**

Mobile: +962 (0)79 963 6363

+962 (0)79 660 8084

Website: [www.berenice.com.jo](http://www.berenice.com.jo)

## **7 - Setting the tone for an unforgettable sunset cruise!**

Watch the sun sets behind the mountains to the west of the Red Sea, while Aqaba's mountains change their colours to Amber. Enjoy another level of serenity, listening to soft music in the background and having your favourite drink in your hand.

## **8 - Buy an apartment**

Just hours from Europe and with a warm climate year-round , Aqaba is the ideal holiday or retirement destination. Jordan's Liberal laws allow foreigners to buy property. Go for an apartment in town or buy into one of the developments now underway on the Aqaba beach front. You can have your view of the sea at the lowest prices in the region.



### **Tickets & Departure Point**

From the parking lot/south of Al-Hammamat  
Al-Tunisyya ST.



## TAKE TIME IN AQABA TO ENJOY THE LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD

Starters can range from a simple dish of pickles to a full mezza with up to a dozen plates. Some of the most common are humus (a dip of chick peas and sesame paste), mutabbel (eggplant with sesame paste), labaneh (strained yoghurt), tabbouleh (a parsley-based salad), kubbeh (a mix of minced meat, onions and cracked wheat), chicken livers, savoury pastries and green salad

### 1- Take your time over a traditional breakfast.

Choices can include Humus, Mutabbel, white cheese, pickles, fresh tomatoes and cucumbers, yoghurt, labaneh, all accompanied by local Peta bread and plenty of fresh hot tea, fresh mint leaves.

### 2 - Never miss our Mu'ajanaat

another option for a snack or light lunch would be Pastries stuffed with meat, cheese, spinach or potatoes .

### 3 - Try a sandwich of Falafel

(lightly fried balls of mashed chick peas.



### 4 - Try a sandwich of Shawerma

of spit-grilled lamb or chicken in Shrak bread.



### Manakish Zaatar -

A traditional breakfast pie

Made from a flat dough topped with a mix of thyme, sumac, sesame grains and olive oil then oven baked. You can find this at all bakeries in aqaba



## 5 - Try Sayyadieh

Aqaba's traditional speciality of delicately spiced fish served on a bed of rice, or keep it simple with the best of Red Sea fish such as Hammur or Sultan Ibrahim cooked lightly on the grill and usually accompanied by a fresh salad.

## 6 - Other traditional dishes

Musakhan (layers of fried vegetables, meat or chicken and rice)



Musakhan (chicken cooked with onions and sumac on a thin layer of bread fried in olive oil.)



**Kababs** ground lamb seasoned with fresh mint, cilantro, parsley, ginger and green chili paste



## Sayadieh Recipe

(Serves 10 people)

### Ingredients

- 2 Hammour fish (5 kg)
- 1 kg red onion
- 2 cloves garlic
- 1 1/2 kg small-grained rice
- corn oil for frying
- 2 to 3 tbsp. butter
- 1 hot chilli pepper
- 2 dried lemons

### Spices (measure to taste)

- Cumin
- Black pepper
- Cinnamon
- Mixed spices, 2 bay leaves, Salt
- For garnish
- Golden fried almonds and pine nuts
- Green and red bell peppers slices
- Lemon slices

### Directions (To prepare the fish and rice)

1. After cleaning it thoroughly, wash the fish with water and vinegar.
2. Cut fish into three parts: head, body and tail.
3. Marinate the fish with the spices and set aside for one hour.
4. Wash the rice and soak in water for 30 minutes.

### To prepare the onion sauce

1. Dice the onion and garlic.
2. Fry the onion in a deep frying pan with a pinch of salt.
3. Constantly stir the onion until it becomes reddish brown.
4. Add a glass of water to the onion to maintain the colour while it is still on the stove and leave it to boil until the consistency becomes thick.
5. Blend the onion and the broth with an added glass of water together in the blender until it becomes a smooth sauce.
6. Bring the onion sauce back to the pan and add one liter of boiled water. Bring back to a boil and add a pinch of cinnamon, black pepper, cardamom, mixed spices, two bay leaves, two dried lemons and one hot chilli pepper.

### To cook the fish

1. Saute fish pieces in the same pan as the onion sauce until completely cooked.
2. Separate fish from the water and set aside.
3. Cook the rice with the leftover onion sauce until done.
4. Add two three tablespoons of butter to the cooked rice.
5. Serve this dish on a serving dish with the rice at the bottom and the fish on top.
6. Garnish with fried almonds and pine nuts along with lemon and bell pepper slices.



## 7 - Do not leave Jordan until you have tried the national dish, **Mansaf**

a hearty and filling mix of mutton, rice and pine nuts with tasty jameed (yoghurt-based sauce).



## 8 - Indulge your sweet tooth with **Baklava**

Made with flaky pastry and filled with nuts and then doused with syrup.



For something a little less sweet, look for Mamul, based on a semolina pastry, stuffed with dates or nuts and lightly perfumed with rose water or orange blossom essence.



## Bread is a major part of virtually every Jordanian meal.

The most common variety is the "whole wheat Peta bread"



Also look out for the Bedouin Bread **Shrak**, a flat bread that is great if you want to make your own sandwiches,



and **tabun**, a thicker flat bread that is ideal with soup and other hot dishes.



## 9 - Visit the market to find delicious fresh fruits and vegetables

When you are ready for something light and fresh, Aqaba's fruit and vegetables market offers a choice of tasty locally-grown fresh produce, ideal for a picnic or an easy-to-carry snack for trips around town.



## 10 - Juice à la mode

If the market awakens your appetite for fruit juice, try the local juice stalls that can whip up a fresh juice to suit your taste with maximum flavour and minimum price.



## Do not miss An Iftar meal in Ramadan

Join the locals in the Iftar meal that breaks the day's fast at sunset.



Apricot-based **Qammaraddine and Tamerhindi** are essential drinks during this holy month



And, of course, do not forget the **Qatayef**, the small pancakes filled with cheese or walnuts, fried and then soaked in syrup. Qatayef are an essential finale for any Iftar.





# FISH & SEA FOOD

## 1 - ALI BABA RESTAURANT

Location : Al-Hammamat Al-Tunisyya ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)3 201 3901

## 2 - FISH-IN

Location : Kempinski Hotel Aqaba  
Tel : +962 (0)3 209 0888

## 3 - FLOKA

Location : Al-Nahda ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)3 203 0860

## 4 - OCEAN FRESH FISH COLLECTION

Location : King Hussein Bin Talal ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)3 206 4400

## 5 - RED SEA GRILL

Location : Mövenpick Resort & Residences Aqaba  
Tel : +962 (0)3 203 4020

## 6 - BARRACUDA

Location : Prince Mohammad ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)79 744 6020

## 7 - MARSABA

Location : Prince Mohammad ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)3 203 5196

## 8 - ISTAKOZA

Location : King Hussein Bin Talal ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)79 621 1105

## 9 - AL-MABROUK BEACH

Location : Raghadan ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)3 206 3304

## 10 - FISH FISH REST.

Location : Al-Sa'ada ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)3 206 1661

## 11 - AQABA HOUSE

Location : King Hussein Bin Talal ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)79 666 5859

## 11 - BURJ AL HAMAM

Location : Intercontinental Aqaba Resort  
Tel : +962 (0)3 209 2222



## 12 - LAWRENCE OF ARABIA BEDOUIN TENT & RESTAURANT

Location : Berenice Beach Club  
Tel : +962 (0)79 889 9008

## 13 - LA DORADA

Location : Golden Tulip Hotel  
Tel : +962 (0)3 205 1234

# ORIENTAL SWEETS

## 1 - PISTACHIO

Location : Al-Hammamat Al-Tunisyya ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)77 733 1164

## 2 - ABU-GHARBIEA SWEETS

Location : Prince Mohammad ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)3 205 0234

## 3 - RA'ED AL-QADI SWEETS

Location : King Hussein Bin Talal ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)3 203 3070

## 4 - ANABTAWI SWEETS

Location : Shweikh Mall  
Tel : +962 (0)3 201 8181

## 5 - PALM COURT RESTAURANT & TERRACE

Location : Mövenpick Resort & Residences Aqaba  
Tel : +962 (0)3 203 4020

## 6 - RED SEA GRILL

Location : Mövenpick Resort & Residences Aqaba  
Tel : +962 (0)3 203 4020

## 7 - SUNSET DECK

Location : Radisson Blu Tala Bay Resort  
Tel : +962 (0)3 209 0777



Looking at Aqaba' sweetshop windows is very interesting , you'll see mountains of Baklava-Fine layers of hand prepared filo pastry dough generously filled with pistachios and baked to a golden brown- beautifully arranged on steel platters or Basma Walnut - A delicate sweet that is made with finely shredded spun lace pastry dough that is filled with walnuts and Huge orange to brown disks of knafeh- a cheese pastry soaked in sweet sugar-based syrup



# INTERNATIONAL FOOD

## GENERAL

### 1 - ROMERO RESTAURANT - ROYAL YACHT CLUB

Location : Royal Yacht Club  
Tel : +962 (0)3 202 2404

### 2 - BEACH CLUB

Location : Tala Bay / South Beach  
Tel : +962 (0)3 209 3333

### 3 - AL SHATT RESTAURANT & TERRACE

Location : Mövenpick Resort & Residences Aqaba  
Tel : +962 (0)3 203 4020

### 4 - PALM COURT RESTAURANT & TERRACE

Location : Mövenpick Resort & Residences Aqaba  
Tel : +962 (0)3 203 4020

### 5 - CORNICHE RESTAURANT

Location : Intercontinental Aqaba Resort  
Tel : +962 (0)3 209 2222

### 6 - PETRA RESTAURANT

Location : Aqaba Gulf Hotel  
Tel : +962 (0)3 201 6636

### 7 - ARTEMIS RESTAURANT

Location : Days Inn Hotel & Suites Aqaba  
Tel : +962 (0)3 203 1901

### 8 - GUSTO RESTAURANT

Location : Doubletree by Hilton Aqaba  
Tel : +962 (0)3 209 3209

### 9 - AM-PM

Location : Kempinski Hotel Aqaba  
Tel : +962 (0)3 209 0888

### 10 - SOLERO RESTAURANT

Location : Marina Plaza Hotel.  
Tel : +962 (0)3 209 2900

### 11 - Zaitoun Restaurant

Location : Oryx Hotel  
Tel : +962 (0)3 205 1111





## 12 - NAJEL ALL-DAY DINING RESTAURANT

Location : Mövenpick Resort & Spa Tala Bay Aqaba  
Tel : +962 (0)3 209 0300

## 13 - PALM COURT RESTAURANT & TERRACE

Location : Mövenpick Resort & Residences Aqaba  
Tel : +962 (0)3 203 4020

## 14 - AZIAB

Location : Radisson Blu Tala Bay Resort  
Tel : +962 (0)3 209 0777

## 15 - BAYWATCH

Location : Radisson Blu Tala Bay Resort  
Tel : +962 (0)3 209 0777

## 16 - KENZI

Location : Radisson Blu Tala Bay Resort  
Tel : +962 (0)3 209 0777

## 17 - CORNICHE RESTAURANT

Location : Intercontinental Aqaba Resort  
Tel : +962 (0)3 209 2222

## 18 - MARTINIS LOUNGE

Location : Intercontinental Aqaba Resort  
Tel : +962 (0)3 209 2222

## CHINESE

### 1 - FORMOSA CHINESE RESTAURANT

Location : Aqaba Gateway  
Tel : +962 (0)3 206 0098

### 2 - Kanji Restaurant

Location : Oryx Hotel  
Tel : +962 (0)3 205 1111

## MEDITERRANEAN

### 1 - CAPTAINS RESTAURANT

Location : Al-Nahda ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)3 201 6905

### 2 - NAJEL ALL-DAY DINING RESTAURANT

Location : Mövenpick Resort & Spa Tala Bay Aqaba  
Tel : +962 (0)3 209 0300



## 2 - HEATWAVE

Location : Radisson Blu Tala Bay Resort  
Tel : +962 (0)3 209 0777

## 3 - BURJ AL HAMAM (LEBANESE)

Location : Intercontinental Aqaba Resort  
Tel : +962 (0)3 209 2222

## 4 - SOUTH BEACH

Location : Berenice Beach Club  
Tel : +962 (0)79 889 9008

## ITALIAN

### 1 - PIZZA DEL CORSO

Location : Al-Sa'ada ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)3 202 2570

### 2 - ROMERO RESTAURANT - ROYAL YACHT CLUB

Location : Royal Yacht Club  
Tel : +962 (0)3 202 2404

### 3 - CASALINGO RESTAURANT

Location : Mövenpick Resort & Spa Tala Bay Aqaba  
Tel : +962 (0)3 209 0300

### 4 - THE WALK PIZZERIA

Location : Kempinski Hotel Aqaba Red Sea  
Tel : +962 (0)3 209 0888

### 5 - DELI CAFÉ

Location : Intercontinental Aqaba Resort  
Tel : +962 (0)3 209 2222

## INDIAN/PAKISTANI/TURKISH

### 1 - AL-MANKAL CHICKEN TIKKA

Location : Al-Sa'ada ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)3 201 6061



## 2 - BARAKA LOBBY LOUNGE

Location : Mövenpick Resort & Spa Tala Bay Aqaba  
Tel : +962 (0)3 209 0300

## 3 - TIKKA CHICKEN

Location : Al-Nahda ST  
Tel : +962 (0)3 201 3633

## 4 - ANTALIA REST.

Location : Prince Mohammad ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)79 682 7814



# FAST FOOD

If burgers and other international fast food are your taste, Aqaba will not disappoint you.

## 1 - BREEZE POOL RESTAURANT

Location : Berenice Beach Club  
Tel : +962 (0)79 889 9008

## 2 - LEBNANI SNACK

Location : Aqaba Gateway  
Tel : +962 (0)3 203 3300

## 3 - MCDONALD'S

Location : Aqaba Gateway  
Tel : +962 (0)3 203 0330

## 4 - BURGER KING

Location : Ayla Park-Al-Rasheid ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)3 203 3349

## 5 - KFC

Location : Ayla Park-Al-Rasheid ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)3 206 4545



## 6 - POPEYE'S

Location : Ayla Park-Al-Rasheid ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)3 203 2289

## 7 - PIZZA HUT

Location : Ayla Park-Al-Rasheid ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)3 206 4545

## 8 - INFINITY CHILL OUT

Location : Doubletree by Hilton Aqaba  
Tel : +962 (0)3 209 3209

## 9 - SEJAN RESTAURANT

Location : Mövenpick Resort & Spa Tala Bay Aqaba  
Tel : +962 (0)3 209 0300

## 10 - THE BEACHFRONT

Location : Intercontinental Aqaba Resort  
Tel : +962 (0)3 209 2222



# CAFÉS/ICE-CREAM & Fresh Juices

When it is time to cool off or just relax over coffee and cake or pastries, there are plenty of choices and you can enjoy local or European style pastries. Ice-cream choices include Italian style ice-cream or traditional Arabic ice-cream. Arabic ice-cream is a totally different experience from rich European ice-creams and has a light, gummy texture that comes from the addition of mistika or Arabic gum to its ingredients.

## 1 - TCHE TCHE

Location : Ayla Park-Al-Sa'ada ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)3 206 1234

## 2 - GLORIA JEANS

Location : Ayla Park-Al-Rasheid ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)3 206 3933

## 3 - SIRAJ BAR

Location : Mövenpick Resort & Spa Tala Bay Aqaba  
Tel : +962 (0)3 209 0300

## 4 - SEJAN

Location : Mövenpick Resort & Spa Tala Bay Aqaba  
Tel : +962 (0)3 209 0300



## 5 - SABAH COFFEE SHOP

Location : Al-Sa'ada ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)78 631 3032

## 6 - SHWOO LAZEZ

Location : As Sa'ada ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)79 659 9885

## 7 - BARAKA LOBBY LOUNGE

Location : Mövenpick Resort & Spa Tala Bay Aqaba  
Tel : +962 (0)3 209 0300

## 8 - AZURE

Location : Mövenpick Resort & Spa Tala Bay Aqaba  
Tel : +962 (0)3 209 0300

## 9 - BERENICE ICE CREAM & FRESH JUICES

Location : Berenice Beach Club  
Tel : +962 (0)79 889 9008

## 10 - BRIDGE CAFÉ

Location : Mövenpick Resort & Residences Aqaba  
Tel : +962 (0)3 203 4020

## 11 - WISALAK

Location : Al-Sa'ada ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)3 202 2600

## 12 - VISA VIS CAFÉ & RESTAURANT

Location : Ayta Park-Al-Sa'ada ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)3 203 9898

## 13 - LA FONTANA

Location : Al-Sharif Hussein  
Bin Ali ST. (Dream Mall)  
Tel : +962 (0)79 701 1101

## 14 - AFTER EIGHT

Location : Al-Sa'ada ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)79 678 4075



## 15 - DELI CAFÉ

Location : Intercontinental Aqaba Resort  
Tel : +962 (0)3 209 2222

## 16 - THE BEACHFRONT

Location : Intercontinental Aqaba Resort  
Tel : +962 (0)3 209 2222

## 17 - PAPAYA RES.& CAFE

Location : Al-Sa'ada ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)77 999 9980

## 18 - 9D CINEMA & CAFÉ

Location : Al-Sa'ada ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)79 806 6767

## 19 - GELATO UNO

Location : Al-Sa'ada ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)3 202 2570

## 21 - AQABA COFFEE SHOP

Location : Aqaba Gulf Hotel  
Tel : +962 (0)3 2016636

## 22 - BLUE ROOF COFFEE TOP

Location : Days Inn Hotel & Suites Aqaba  
Tel : +962 (0)3 203 1901

## 23 - PALM COURT CAFÉ

Location : Doubletree by Hilton Aqaba  
Tel : +962 (0)3 209 3209

## 24 - AQUA LOUNGE

Location : Kempinski Hotel Aqaba Red Sea  
Tel : +962 (0)3 209 0888

## 25 - TEA ROOM

Location : Oryx Hotel  
Tel : +962 (0)3 205 1111

## 26 - DELI CAFE' & TERRACE

Location : Golden Tulip Hotel  
Tel : +962 (0)3 205 1234





## PUBS/BARS

Ready for a relaxing evening? A number of options are available.

### 1 - ROVERS RETURN THE ENGLISH PUB

Location : Aqaba Gateway  
Tel : +962 (0)3 203 2030

### 2 - ABU NAWWAS - FUN PUB

Location : Mövenpick Resort & Residences Aqaba  
Tel : +962 (0)3 203 4020

### 3 - AL-NAFOURA BAR & TERRACE

Location : Mövenpick Resort & Residences Aqaba  
Tel : +962 (0)3 203 4020

### 4 - SIRAJ BAR

Location : Mövenpick Resort & Spa Tala Bay Aqaba  
Tel : +962 (0)3 209 0300

### 5 - SEA VIEW

Location : Al-Hammamat Al-Tunisyya ST. (Al Safa Hotel)  
Tel : +962 (0)3 202 2763

### 6 - DOLPHIN BAR

Location : Al-Nahda ST. (Alcazar Hotel)  
Tel : +962 (0)3 201 4131

### 7 - SPARK BAR

Location : Oryx Hotel  
Tel : +962 (0)3 205 1111

### 8 - SKY BAY

Location : Oryx Hotel  
Tel : +962 (0)3 205 1111

### 9 - WAVES POOL BAR

Location : Oryx Hotel  
Tel : +962 (0)3 205 1111

### 10 - MARTINIS LOUNGE

Location : Intercontinental Aqaba Resort  
Tel : +962 (0)3 209 2222

## 11 - SKIPPERS BAR LOUNGE

Location : Royal Yacht Club  
Tel : +962 (0)3 202 2404

## 12 - JAZO BAR

Location : Mina Hotel  
Tel : +962 (0)3 201 5165

## 13 - TWIST

Location : Aqaba Gateway  
Tel : +962 (0)79 786 1416

## 14 - BUZZ POOL BAR

Location : Berenice Beach Club  
Tel : +962 (0) 79 889 9008

## 15 - THE PUB BAR

Location : Mövenpick Resort & Spa Tala Bay Aqaba  
Tel : +962 (0)3 209 0300

## 16 - MELLO BAR

Location : Mövenpick Resort & Spa Tala Bay Aqaba  
Tel : +962 (0)3 209 0300

## 17 - BARAKA LOBBY LOUNGE

Location : Mövenpick Resort & Spa Tala Bay Aqaba  
Tel : +962 (0)3 209 0300

## 18 - AZURE

Location : Mövenpick Resort & Spa Tala Bay Aqaba  
Tel : +962 (0)3 209 0300

## 19 - NOBLES

Location : Al-Sa'ada ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)3 203 3557

## 20 - CROSSROADS LOUNGE

Location : Golden Tulip Hotel  
Tel : +962 (0)3 205 1234

## 21 - XO LOUNGE

Location : Mina Hotel  
Tel : +962 (0)3 201 5165



## ARAB FAST FOOD

Sandwiches made with falafel (small balls of deep fried ground chick peas) and shawarma (slices of lamb or chicken cooked on a vertical spit) are the most popular Arab "fast foods." You can also find a good range of savoury pastries either topped or stuffed with minced meat, cheese, spinach or potatoes.

### 1 - AL-TAZAJ REST

Location : Al-Hammamat Al-Tunisyya ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)3 206 1900

### 2 - SHAWERMA BENT REEM

Location : Al-Sa'ada ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)79 920 4006

### 3 - FALAFEL O BAS

Location : Al-Sa'ada ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)79 920 4006

### 4 - AL-TARBOUSH PASTRY & BARBEQUE

Location : Raghadan ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)3 201 8513

### 5 - AL-MOHANDES

Location : Omar Al-Khayyam ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)3 201 3454

### 6 - SHEIKH AL HARA

Location : Al-Nahada ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)3 206 0111

### 7 - TASQEYA

Location : Prince Muhammad ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)79 668 8585

### 8 - AL SHATER HASAN

Location : King Hussein Bin Talal ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)3 201 7212

### 9 - PAPAYA RES.& CAFE

Location : Al-Sa'ada ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)77 999 9980



## 10 - SAHSELNI RESTAURANTS

Location : King Hussein Bin Talal ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)3 206 3737

## 11 - SHAWERMA TATBILEH

Location : Al-Sa'ada ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)79 549 1718

## 12 - FARAH WAY

Location : Prince Muhammad ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)79 594 2009

## 13 - PIZZERIA QUATTRO STAGIONI

Location : Al-Nahada ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)79 599 6885

## 14 - KHOBZ W TANOOR

Location : King Hussein Bin Talal ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)79 755 5567

## 15 - MAZZAT

Location : Al-Sa'ada ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)79 911 1500

## 16 - TWISTER HOT DOG

Location : Ayla Park-Al-Rasheid ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)79 747 7602

## 17 - HASHEM

Location : Raghadan ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)79 661 1097



## TRADITIONAL & MIDDLE EASTERN FOOD

Starters can range from a simple dish of pickles to a full mezza with up to a dozen plates. Some of the most common are humus (a dip of chick peas and sesame paste), mutabbel (eggplant with sesame paste), labaneh (strained yoghurt), tabbouleh (a parsley-based salad), kubbeh (a mix of minced meat, onions and cracked wheat), chicken livers, savoury pastries and green salad.

### 1 - DAY'A JDUDNA

Location : Al-Sa'ada ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)79 990 7267

### 2 - RAKWET KANAAN

Location : Al-Sa'ada ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)3 206 0090

### 3 - BABA ZA'ATAR

Location : Al-Sa'ada ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)79 920 4006

### 4 - CAPTAIN'S REST

Location : Al-Nahda ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)3 201 6905

### 5 - EL-BEIT BEITAK

Location : Al-Sa'ada ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)3 203 2032

### 6 - INFINITY GRILL TERRACE

Location : Doubletree by Hilton Aqaba  
Tel : +962 (0)3 209 3209

### 7 - AQABA KITCHEN

Location : Berenice Beach Club  
Tel : +962 (0)79 889 9008

### 8 - LAWRENCE OF ARABIA BEDOUIN TENT & RESTAURANT

Location : Berenice Beach Club  
Tel : +962 (0)79 889 9008

### 9 - FAWANEES HARETNA

Location : Al- Sa'ada ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)78 608 0620





## 10 - AL-SHAM PALACE REST 1+2

Location : Raghadan ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)3 201 4788

## 11 - AL-SHAMI

Location : Raghadan ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)3 201 6107

## 12 - CHEF SHERQAWY REST

Location : Raghadan ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)79 567 4447

## 13 - AL-SUFARA

Location : King Hussein Bin Talal ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)79 571 3350

## 14 - BURJ AL HAMAM

Location : Intercontinental Aqaba Resort  
Tel : +962 (0)3 209 2222

## 15 - MARSA SABA

Location : Prince Muhammad ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)3 203 5196

## 16 - AL-MABROUK BEACH

Location : Raghadan ST.  
Tel : +962 (0)3 206 3304

## 17 - NAJEL ALL-DAY DINING RESTAURANT

Location : Mövenpick Resort & Spa Tala Bay Aqaba  
Tel : +962 (0)3 209 0300



## ★★★★★ HOTELS

### 1 - DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON AQABA

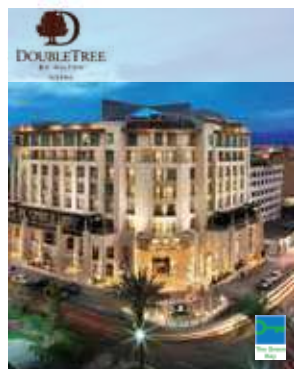
Location: Al-Hammamat Al-Tunisyya ST.

Website: [www.doubletree.com](http://www.doubletree.com)

#### For Reservation

Tel: +962 (0)3 209 3209

Email: [doubletreeaqaba\\_reservations@hilton.com](mailto:doubletreeaqaba_reservations@hilton.com)



### 2 - INTERCONTINENTAL AQABA RESORT

Location: King Hussein Bin Talal ST.

Website: [www.intercontinental.com](http://www.intercontinental.com)

#### For Reservation

Tel: +962 (0)3 209 2222

Email: [res.aqaba@ihg.com](mailto:res.aqaba@ihg.com)



### 3 - KEMPINSKI HOTEL AQABA

Location: King Hussein Bin Talal ST.

Website: [www.kempinski.com/aqaba](http://www.kempinski.com/aqaba)

#### For Reservation

Tel: +962 (0)3 209 0888

Email: [sales.aqaba@kempinski.com](mailto:sales.aqaba@kempinski.com)

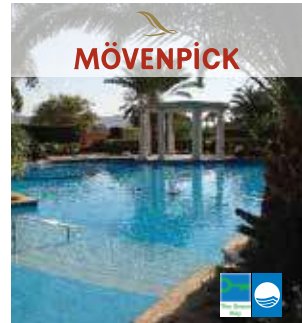


#### 4 - MÖVENPICK RESORT & RESIDENCES AQABA

Location: King Hussein Bin Talal ST.  
Website: [www.moevenpick-hotels.com/aqaba](http://www.moevenpick-hotels.com/aqaba)

##### For Reservation

Tel: +962 (0)3 203 4020  
Email: [resort.aqaba.reservation@moevenpick.com](mailto:resort.aqaba.reservation@moevenpick.com)

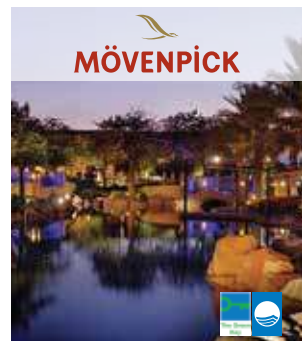


#### 5 - MÖVENPICK RESORT & SPA TALA BAY AQABA

Location: South Beach – Tala Bay  
Website: [www.moevenpick-hotels.com](http://www.moevenpick-hotels.com)

##### For Reservation

Tel: +962 (0)3 209 0300  
Email: [resort.talabay.reservation@moevenpick.com](mailto:resort.talabay.reservation@moevenpick.com)



#### 6 - ORYX HOTEL

Location: Al Sharif Shakir Bin Zayd ST.  
Website: [www.oryx-hotel.com](http://www.oryx-hotel.com)

##### For Reservation

Tel: +962 (0)3 205 1111  
Email: [reservation@oryx-hotel.com](mailto:reservation@oryx-hotel.com)

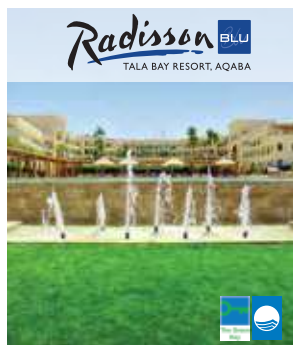


## 7 - RADISSON BLU TALA BAY RESORT

Location : South Beach – Tala Bay  
Website: [www.radissonblu.com/resort-aqaba](http://www.radissonblu.com/resort-aqaba)

### For Reservation

Tel: +962 (0)3 209 0777  
Email: [info.talabay.aqaba@radissonblu.com](mailto:info.talabay.aqaba@radissonblu.com)



## ★ ★ ★ ★ HOTELS

### 1 - AQABA GULF HOTEL

Location : King Hussein Bin Talal ST.  
Website: [www.aqabagulf.com](http://www.aqabagulf.com)

### For Reservation

Tel: +962 (0)3 201 6636  
Email: [info@aqabagulf.com](mailto:info@aqabagulf.com)



### 2 - DAYS INN HOTEL & SUITES AQABA

Location : Al-Sa'ada ST.  
Website: [www.daysinn-aqaba.com](http://www.daysinn-aqaba.com)

### For Reservation

Tel: +962 (0)3 203 1901  
Email: [reservation@daysinn-aqaba.com](mailto:reservation@daysinn-aqaba.com)



### 3 - MARINA PLAZA HOTEL

Location: South Beach – Tala Bay  
Website: [www.marinaplazahotel.com](http://www.marinaplazahotel.com)

#### For Reservation

Tel: +962 (0)3 209 2900  
Email: [reservations.marina@marinaplaza.org](mailto:reservations.marina@marinaplaza.org)



## ☆☆☆ HOTELS

### 1 - CAPTAIN HOTEL AQABA

Location: Al-Nahda ST.  
Website: [www.captains.jo](http://www.captains.jo)

#### For Reservation

Tel: +962 (0)3 201 6905  
Email: [sales2@captains.jo](mailto:sales2@captains.jo)



### 2 - Coral Bay Resort Royal Diving Club

Location: South beach  
Website: [www.coralbay.jo](http://www.coralbay.jo)

#### For Reservation

Tel: +962 (0)3 201 5555  
Email: [reservation@coralbay.jo](mailto:reservation@coralbay.jo)



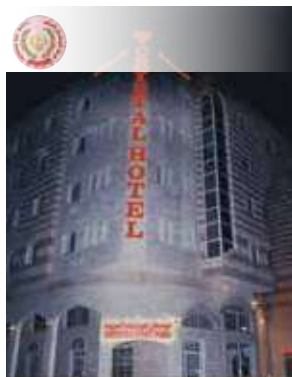


## 3 - CRYSTAL HOTEL

Location: King Hussein Bin Talal ST.  
Website: [www.crystal-international.com](http://www.crystal-international.com)

### For Reservation

Tel: +962 (0)3 202 2001 /2/3  
Email: [crystalhotelaqaba@yahoo.com](mailto:crystalhotelaqaba@yahoo.com)



## ★ ★ HOTELS

## 1 - AQUAVISTA HOTEL & SUITES

Location: Al-Nahda ST.

### For Reservation

Tel: +962 (0)3 205 1620  
Email: [info@aquavistaaqaba.com](mailto:info@aquavistaaqaba.com)



## 2 - CAZAR HOTEL



Location: Al-Nahda ST.

### For Reservation

Tel: +962 (0)3 201 4131  
Email: [alcazarhotel@orange.jo](mailto:alcazarhotel@orange.jo)

## 3 - CEDAR HOTEL



Location: Al-Tabari ST.

### For Reservation

Tel: +962 (0)3 203 0304  
Email: [cedar\\_hotel@yahoo.com](mailto:cedar_hotel@yahoo.com)

**4 - CLASSIC HOTEL**

Location: Prince Mohammad ST.

**For Reservation**

Tel: +962 (0)3 205 0071

Email: classichotelrt@gmail.com

**5 - DREAM HOTEL**

Location : Qayrawan ST.

**For Reservation**

Tel: +962 (0)3 201 7352

Email: dream.aqaba@yahoo.com

**6 - DWEIK HOTEL 2**

Location : Hammamat Al-Tunisyya ST.

**For Reservation**

Tel: +962 (0)3 203 5919

Email: atalla\_dweik@yahoo.com

**7 - JARDANEH HOTEL**

Location: Al-Tabari ST.

**For Reservation**

Tel: +962 (0)3 206 1103

Email: info@jardanehhotel.com

**8 - MASWADA PLAZA HOTEL**

Location: Prince Mohammad ST.

**For Reservation**

Tel: +962 (0)3 203 9600

Email: yahya.maswada@yahoo.com

## 9 - NAIROUKH II



Location: King Hussein Bin Talal ST.

### For Reservation

Tel: +962 (0)3 201 2980

Email: menairoukh@gmail.com

## 10 - AL SHULA HOTEL



Location: Al-Hammamat Al-Tunisyya ST.

### For Reservation

Tel: +962 (0)3 201 5153

Email: alshulahotel@yahoo.com

## 11 - SHWEIKI HOTEL



Location: Al-Hammamat Al-Tunisyya ST.

### For Reservation

Tel: +962 (0)3 202 2657

Email: shweiki\_hotel@yahoo.com

## 12 - AL ZAITOUNA HOTEL



Location: Al-Hammamat Al-Tunisyya ST.

### For Reservation

Tel: +962 (0)3 201 9601/4

Email: zaitounahotel@yahoo.com

## 13 - AL ZATARI HOTEL



Location: King Talal ST.

### For Reservation

Tel: +962 (0)3 202 2970

Email: alshulahotel@yahoo.com

## HOTELS

### 1 - AMER 2



Location: Raghadan ST.

#### For Reservation

Tel: +962 (0)3 201 9285 /4

### 2 - AMEIRA



Location: Raghadan ST.

#### For Reservation

Tel: +962 (0)3 201 8840

Email: tareqalshamaa@yahoo.com

### 3 - DWEIK HOTEL 1



Location: Raghadan ST.

#### For Reservation

Tel: +962 (0)3 201 2985

Email: atalla\_dweik@yahoo.com

### 4 - GOLDEN ROSE



Location: Al-Reem ST.

#### For Reservation

Tel: +962 (0)3 203 9880

Email: gm@goldenroseaqaba.com

## 5 - MOON BEACH

Location: King Hussein Bin Talal ST.

### For Reservation

Tel: +962 (0)3 201 3316

Email: ashrafsaad77@yahoo.com

## 6 - SAFA HOTEL



Location: Al-Hammamat Al-Tunisyya ST.

### For Reservation

Tel: +962 (0)79 660 2333

## 7 - AL MARSA



Location: Al-Sa'ada ST.

### For Reservation

Tel: +962 (0)3 201 3414

Email: almarsahotel@gmail.com

# UNDER CLASSIFICATION

## 1 - GOLDEN TULIP



Location: Al-Sa'ada ST.

### For Reservation

Tel: +962 3 205 1234

Email: reservations@goldentulipaqaba.com



**2 - MINA HOTEL**

Location: Al-Nahda ST.

**For Reservation**

Tel: +962 (0)3 201 5165

Email: reservations@hotelsmina.com

**3 - MY HOTEL**

Location: Al-Nahda ST.

**For Reservation**

Tel: +962 (0)3 203 0890

Email: info@myhotel-jordan.com

**4 - AL QIDRA HOTEL**

Location: Al-Sa'ada ST.

**For Reservation**

Tel: +962 (0)3 202 2555

Email: info@alqidrahotelaqaba.com

**5 - RAED HOTEL**

Location: Al-Nahda ST.

**For Reservation**

Tel: +962 (0)3 201 86 86

Email: info@raedhotel.com

**6 - YAFKO HOTEL**

Location: King Hussein Bin Talal ST.

**For Reservation**

Tel: +962 (0)3 204 2222

Email: info@yafko.com

# AQABAcity



## LANDMARKS

1. Royal Falcons Club  
Royal Aerosports Club
2. Prince Rashid Club  
Aqaba Youth Club
3. Egyptian Consulate
4. Royal Yacht Club
5. hotel
6. The Great Arab Revolt Plaza

# SOUTH coastMAP

- Marine Park
- Dive Sites

- Power Station
- First Bay North
- First Bay South
- Ros al Yamany
- King Abdullah Reef
- Black Rock
- Rainbow Reef
- Cedar Pride Wreck
- Tarmac Five (Barge Wreck)
- Japanese Garden
- Gorgon I
- Gorgon II
- Seven Sisters
- New Canyon Tank
- Eel Canyon
- Yellowstone Reef
- Blue Coral
- Kiwi Reef
- Moon Valley
- Paradise
- Aquarium
- Coral Garden
- Saudi Border Wall



SAUDI ARABIA



## LEGEND

- Landmark
- Nice Walking Route
- Shopping, Restaurants and Cafés Area
- Hospital
- Airport
- Passenger Terminal
- Tourist Buses
- Taxi
- Car Rental
- Parking
- Hotel
- Police Station
- Police Hut
- Gas Station
- Bank
- Post Office
- W.C.
- Aqaba Tourist Information Centre
- Park
- Shopping Centre
- Mosque
- Church
- Archaeological site



## Landscape and Biodiversity

**Towering mesas, beautiful sandy valleys and steep cliffs in shades of beige and orange-red set the Wadi Rum area apart from the open desert. Wadi Rum's desert of mountains supports a unique ecosystem that is home to an equally unique human culture, that of the pastoral nomadic Arab tribes, better known as the bedouin.**

Wadi Rum and the nearby area of Disi cater to nature lovers, to those fit for a climb or a trek, eager to try their first camel ride, to eat traditional bedouin food by the fire or to go off on a Jeep or horse safari for several days. The less adventurous will marvel at the stunning landscape they can admire from the Wadi Rum Visitors' Centre. In between, a whole range of desert experiences is available.

In the distant past, the land that forms today's Jordan was subjected to successive periods of uplifting that exposed consolidated sandstone layers. Earthquakes, rainwater infiltrating the rocks and sand-loaded abrasive wind caused a process of erosion. What started as a series of cracks cutting across the 700 metre-thick sandstone layer became the corridors and canyons of Wadi Rum (the "valley" of Rum) and Disi.

With a sand floor on average 1,000 metres above sea level, the Wadi Rum area is much cooler than the lower flat deserts of Eastern Jordan, the Red Sea coast line or the Jordan Rift Valley.

The porous sandstone mountains reach elevations of over 1,700 metres and can harvest enough rain to recharge hidden springs situated along the contact line with the dense granite base. Wild palm and fig trees, white broom and several species of ferns and aromatic herbs grow in these tiny oases, protected on steep shady elevations.

Juniper trees that can live up to 800 years thrive on these high elevations and provide food for the desert ibex (or Nubian wild goat) and for numerous birds, both resident and migratory. Different species of raptors, in addition to storks and pelicans, rest and feed here en route to Africa or Europe. Year round, Wadi Rum is home to Jordan's national bird, the Sinai Rosefinch.

Between the deep cliffs and in the narrow canyons there are pockets of darkness and relative humidity in which nocturnal animals, such as bats, make their homes. They are also the habitat of rare animal species such as the "Dab", a large vegetarian lizard with a thick tail armoured with spines.



**Wadi Rum is one of Jordan's most fragile terrains. The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) declared part of it a Protected Area in 1998. It is now administered by the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA), which is working to manage and develop tourism that respects the environment and provides a sustainable livelihood for the local bedouin communities.**



## History of Human Presence

Some 1.8 million years ago, the Wadi Rum area was a bridge for early human migration on the route between Africa and Asia. The numerous archaeological sites from later periods suggest that the region was densely populated, at least episodically and around locations that provided our distant ancestors with water, vegetation and wild game. Human occupation appears to have extended from the upper Palaeolithic period (17,000 BC) all the way to the Byzantine (4th–7th century AD) and Islamic periods.

The Nabateans, an Arabian tribe that had progressively settled and established its main centre at Petra from the 4th century BC, gradually took control of the trade route linking the Arabian Peninsula to the Mediterranean. The Nabatean presence at Rum can be seen today in the remains of the temple to the goddess Allat (dated 32 AD), close to the modern village of Rum, and on numerous rock carvings and inscriptions, such as those at the Al-Shallaleh spring above the village. Water channels, reservoirs carved in the bedrock and dams blocking small canyons are scattered in the surrounding mountains and demonstrate the Nabateans' elaborate methods of harvesting and managing water, a vital resource in a semi-arid land.



Wadi Rum lost its importance in Roman times when much trade was diverted to Syria or started following maritime routes on the Red Sea and its semi-settled population went back to a life of pastoral nomadism. Occasional caravans crossed the area during the Islamic period. They would rest below the Al-Shallaleh spring or in the shady Khaz Ali canyon where the travellers left rock inscriptions in Arabic. Wadi Rum remained the domain of the nomads until, in the late 1970s, the modern Jordanian state encouraged them to settle and the Bedouin themselves began to see the benefits of settlement.

The World Heritage Committee inscribed Wadi Rum of Jordan, a mixed site displaying unique natural beauty and cultural significance, on UNESCO's World Heritage List. With this win, Wadi Rum joined the Nabataean city of Petra, the Byzantine ruins and mosaics of Um Rasas and the Umayyad desert palace of Quseir Amra.

In fact, the most prominent connection to the name Rum is found in the Holy Qur'an, where it is believed that this geographical location was mentioned as Iram, an Aramaic term meaning "high" or "elevated". The Qur'anic text describes it as a place of "high peaks, whose like was never created in the world". Rum is most often spelt Ram or Ramm by scholars, a proper transcription of its Arabic spelling. The tribes of 'Ad and Thamud, also mentioned in the Holy Qur'an, lived there around the second century BC as semi-nomadic pastoralists breeding camels and goats. At the time Wadi Rum was a seasonal market place and a pilgrimage centre for different Arabian tribes. The remains of several pre-Islamic shrines have been found in the foothills of Jabal Umm Ishrin and Jabal Rum.



## The Bedouin And Modern Wadi Rum

**The bedouin are people of oral expression and of traditions connected to their original nomadic lifestyle: they possess an elaborate oral literature, a rich poetic tradition, a fund of song, dance and music, and a highly complex legal system that regulates social behaviour, ownership of livestock, and the use of natural resources.**

The Bedouin have inhabited the Wadi Rum region for thousands of years, their lifestyle perfectly adapted to the semi-arid environment. In the past, they bred camels, goats and sheep on the sand floor and the mountain slopes and lived in tents or in caves. They would move their livestock seasonally in search of grazing areas, maintaining an ancestral knowledge of the desert mountain environment, of water management and of the use of wild plants and animals as food and medicine.

The tents woven by the bedouin women from goat, sheep or camel wool are called "houses of hair" in Arabic. They are the most appropriate solution to the environment and the needs of those living in it: the tents can be dismantled to allow free movement in pursuit of grazing locations, have flexible openings to adapt to the changes in wind direction and are naturally biodegradable. The striped rugs that furnished the tents are beautiful pieces of handicraft that testify to the creativity of the bedouin women, even in such a harsh environment.

In 2005, UNESCO granted world recognition to the bedouin of Wadi Rum and Petra when it proclaimed their cultural space a masterpiece of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity.

Several small tribal groups have occupied the land in Wadi Rum and Disi. Since the 1970s, the bedouin have started seeing the benefits of settlement, mainly to send their children to school. The Zawaydeh lands are located around the town of Disi, today a large village where water from a huge underground aquifer has allowed agricultural development. The Zalabyeh live in Rum village and the surrounding territory to the south and have added tourism to their traditional livestock as a new means of livelihood.



### From Pastoral Nomads To Desert Guides

Although the bedouin have given up their traditional nomadic lifestyle, they remain mobile: people who travel the desert with their livestock – sometimes living in tents – or as drivers, guides and hosts for visitors. Tourism and the urgent need to protect the fragile ecosystem of the area have encouraged the younger generations to draw on their traditional knowledge and activities while remaining true to the bedouin values of courage, honour and hospitality. The hunters of ibexes are becoming climbing guides; camel breeders now also use their animals for adventure expeditions; women organised in cooperatives have developed new handicraft items inspired by the environment of Wadi Rum; and families in Rum or in the desert host visitors in their homes.



## Your STAY in WADI RUM

There are many ways you can make your desert experience unforgettable, whether you plan to stay for just a few hours or for several days. Wadi Rum and Disi's stunning natural features and intriguing archaeological sites can be enjoyed in a variety of ways.

Tours, camel safaris, walks and hikes of any length (from half an hour to several days), stays in bedouin style tents with typical entertainment (food, music, coffee etc.) are possible within the Protected Area and are all organised from the Visitors' Centre. There, you will also find an interpretation room (with panels in English, French and Arabic), a cinema hall featuring a film on Wadi Rum, handicraft shops selling items produced by local bedouin women, a restaurant, restrooms, and the office of the Tourist Police.

You must use a registered bedouin guide within the Protected Area. Even for areas where this rule does not apply, it is not recommended to go into the desert by 4x4 vehicle without a guide. Similarly, always hire a guide when you hire horses and camels. All independent operators offering activities outside the Protected Area should be licensed, should employ bedouin from the area as guides and drivers and should respect basic environmental-protection rules.

If you have made no prior arrangement, then you can choose a tour from a list available at the Visitors' Centre. You will go off on your own or with other visitors with the next driver waiting on the Jeep rotation system. Jeeps normally take up to six people and prices are split between passengers.

Prices vary according to the length of the tour. Two operators offer the tours: the Wadi Rum and the Disi bedouin cooperative societies. Operator number one will take you in the area to the south of the village of Rum, while operator number two will take you to the east towards Disi. Both areas offer great landscapes and amazing natural and archaeological features, such as rock bridges, rock inscriptions and carvings, -canyons and steep cliffs, etc.

## LAWRENCE and WADI RUM

The British army officer and writer T.E. Lawrence made Wadi Rum famous among westerners. He found the area very beautiful and visited it on several occasions in 1916 and 1917. Yet modern mythologies tend to overstate the Lawrence connection at Wadi Rum. In reality, Lawrence's road to Aqaba did not cross Wadi Rum but followed the route of what is now the modern road to Aqaba. None of Wadi Rum's mountains inspired the title of his literary account of the Great Arab Revolt, *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*. Rather, modern tourists named the mountain after the book. Similarly, many other places have been erroneously connected to the British writer, such as "Lawrence's spring" or "Lawrence's castle", which in fact is an Ottoman ruin. Nevertheless, these place names have become part of the story and the magic of Wadi Rum.



In 1962, Wadi Rum provided the setting for most of David Lean's film, *Lawrence of Arabia*

## Things To Do in Wadi Rum

### 1 - Enjoy Bedouin Cultural Life

Bake Arboud or Shrak Bread with the locals, rub your palms with Ajram-the Bedouin soap, wear kohl to protect your eyes against sand and sun or Try the Henna, taste the spicy tingle of a bedouin's coffee or spend a night in an authentic goat-hair Bedouin tent.



#### Start at the Visitors' Centre.

Wadi Rum is a protected area and is managed by the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA). The Visitors' Centre is the essential starting point. You can find information about the area, hire guides, shop for local handicrafts and enjoy the new interpretation theme hall that tells the story of Wadi Rum's natural and human history. Then take time to enjoy the unique combination of striking desert landscape, desert wildlife, archaeological riches and a still authentic bedouin culture

**The Visitors' Centre should always be your formal reference.**

**Open 24 hours a day throughout the year.**

**Tel : +962 (0)3 209 0600**

**Fax: +962 (0)3 203 2586**

**Email: [info@wadirum.jo](mailto:info@wadirum.jo)**

**Website: [www.wadirum.jo](http://www.wadirum.jo)**



**A stay in a bedouin camp (within the Protected Area) is not just about finding a bed for the night, it is a chance to glimpse into the life of the people. From sleeping in a goat-hair tent to trying traditional food and relaxing evenings around the camp fire while enjoying coffee, traditional music and leisurely talk;**

**For more information on the Bedouin camps inside and outside the protected area, please contact Wadi Rum Visitors' Centre**





## 2 - A day out with a shepherd

Watch the Bedouins grazing their herds in the desert and learn about their traditions and survival methods. it is a brilliant way to enjoy a close encounter with Wadi Rum and its people. You can learn about a way of life that has followed the rhythm of the desert for centuries.



## 3 - Food from under the ground

For one of the most intriguing "picnic" dishes you will ever come across, try a meal cooked in traditional bedouin zarb or underground oven. Originally used to cook a whole goat, chicken or lamb, the zarb provides a slow cooking method that preserves the flavours of the meat and produces a dish that is crisp on the exterior and tender inside. Today, the bedouin often cook potatoes and other vegetables in the oven as well.



**4 - Camels are not always the most comfortable means of travel**, but they are surely one of the most authentic ways to see the desert. **A camel trek really puts you at the heart of the desert experience.** Most treks are just for the day, but if you find you have adapted happily to the slow gait of the camel, you can arrange a longer excursion to either Aqaba or Petra.



CAMEL TOURS WIN EXTRA POINTS FOR THEIR ECO-FRIENDLINESS

**5- If you want to pick up the pace, you can go for a tour on horseback.**



**Wadi Rum Horses organises horse and camel treks**

**Mobile: +962 (0)79 580 2108**

**Email: rumhorses@yahoo.com**

**6- Modern transport has come to Wadi Rum in the form of the pickup truck and the four-wheel drive vehicle.** Most of the key sites can be visited in trips of between one and six hours. Another option is to hire a vehicle for a full day or for overnight excursions





## 7- The spectacular, ever changing rock landscape of Wadi Rum cries out to be climbed,

if you have the appropriate guide, experience and equipment. Some climbs are available for fit beginners, including Jabal Rum, but most are more challenging and not really for amateurs. Specialised bedouin guides are available to show you the routes.



## 8 - Go back in time with a ride on the Hijaz Train

Now visitors to Wadi Rum can ride the Hijaz train through the heart of the desert. After whisking past beautiful red sand dunes, passengers witness an engaging live reenactment of the 1916 Arab Revolt against the Ottoman Empire followed by a meet and greet with the actors.

**For more information, please contact Jordan Heritage Revival Company**

Tel: +962 (0)6 581 0808

E-mail: [info@jhrc.jo](mailto:info@jhrc.jo)

visit [www.jhrc.jo](http://www.jhrc.jo)



## 9 - Take a Hot Air Balloon Ride

Want a unique view of Wadi Rum? Hop into one of the Royal Aerosports Club of Jordan's hot air balloons! You will experience the desert as never before with a majestic one-hour tour of Wadi Rum from 2,000 metres above.



**For more information, please contact the Royal Aero Sports Club of Jordan**

Tel: +962 (0)3 205 8050

Mobile: + 962 (0)79 730 0299

Email: [info@royalaerosports.com](mailto:info@royalaerosports.com)

Website: [www.royalaerosports.com](http://www.royalaerosports.com)

## 10 - Follow in the footsteps of T.E. Lawrence with a walk up to the Al-Shallah spring above the village of Rum.



## 11 - Visit the remains of the Nabatean Temple dedicated to the goddess Allat, dated 32 AD, close to the modern village of Rum.



## 12 - Visit the Sky Gate Telescope Observatory

The new Sky Gate Telescope Observatory is the first public telescope in the Middle East, giving tourists and residents a chance to truly gaze into the night sky. Free from the light years away from Earth. Local Bedouin residents serve as visitor guides at this unique scientific, educational and cultural landmark.



**13 - Take a jeep trip to Umm Fruth,**  
one of the spectacular natural rock bridges in Wadi Rum, and then climb up to the top.



## 14 - Do not miss Al Khaz Ali canyon

where the Sinai Rosefinch nests and admire the canyon's amazingly ancient rock carvings.



## 15 - Scramble Jabal Burdah - Burdah Rock Bridge -

along the bedouin route, a demanding but rewarding day out.



## 16 - Enjoy an authentic bedouin experience

with quiet entertainment and typical food around the fire.



## 17 - Do not miss the Disi camel racing festival.



## 18 - Visit the workshops of local women

in Rum village and Disi and buy your own unique piece of bedouin handicraft.



## 19 - Meditation

For those who are trying to escape the hectic city life, Wadi Rum is becoming a Mecca of peace, serenity and beauty. Several tour operators arrange for meditation tours where you can be one with nature, and sit under the low hanging sky and gaze at the stars and galaxies which are almost at arm's reach.



## 20 - Bird Watching

Wadi Rum and Aqaba stand at the junction of three continents making it a route for more than one million migrant birds each year. Moreover, due to its environment and its geographic location, it is a habitat for numerous indigenous birds, some of which are rare species.

The Griffon Vulture, Bonelli's Eagle, Hume's Towny Owl, Blackstart, Wheatears, Scrub Warbler, Sinai Rose Finch, House Bunting, Tristram's Crackle and the Fan-tailed Raven are only some of the species found in Aqaba, Petra and Wadi Rum. Aqaba and Wadi Rum are two of Jordan's 17 Important Bird Areas [IBAs].



## 21 - Foot-printing

Although not widely promoted in tourist packages, there are Bedouin families in Wadi Rum who are experts at foot-printing (following the paths of living beings in the desert).

Going on a foot-printing adventure with the Bedouins, trailing animals, analyzing whether they were jumping, running or hopping, and where they headed is a very exciting and enlightening activity.

This activity can also be developed further into a game where participants disperse and then try to locate one another



## A desert hike

Walk through the spectacular desert landscapes of Wadi Rum and enjoy the wilderness of red sand suns and rock formations. Explore the unique Flora and Fina of the Arabian Desert.

All hiking tours must be arranged with an official bedouin guide who will either accompany you or help you organise your hike.

## Recommended Hikes

### Adami Trail (Jabal Um Dami)

Jordan's tallest mountain, located inside Wadi Rum and near the border with Saudi Arabia, Jabal Um Ad Dami provides summit views at an elevation of approximately 1,850 metres. Surprisingly, the ascent is not particularly difficult, taking about two hours and involving very little scrambling. Naturally, given the incline involved, it does require being in decent shape. The view from the top shows largely isolation and empty landscape, but you can even see the Gulf of Aqaba from 45 kilometres away! The geology in this area is particularly striking, and the drive alone is worth the trip.

#### Helpful to know

- You can park at the base of the mountain
- 4X4 drive is required. Bedouin trip outfitters can help you arrange this.
- There are no services near the trail, so make sure you bring everything you want with you
- Be mindful of the heat!



### Wadi Rum – Lawrence of Arabia spring

This pleasant short hike from the parking lot in Wadi Rum village will take you to the actual spring that TE Lawrence visited (not the same thing as the “Lawrence Spring” south of Wadi Rum village). There are shallow, paved steps carved into the hillside along the path to the spring to help you reach your destination, and there is even a picnic area near the top of the path. This trail will also take you by the Nabatean temple, which you can stop to explore. Once you reach the actual spring, follow the trail onwards along the water toward a wonderful view.

#### Helpful to know

- Wadi Rum is located approximately 60 kilometres from Aqaba
- All trails in the Wadi Rum Reserve require the purchase of an entrance ticket
- Wadi Rum Village is also located inside the reserve, about seven kilometres after the Visitors’ Centre





**The Nabatean city of Petra** lies in the heart of the remote Shara Mountains but in the past it was a vital part of a major trading route connecting ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt. The Nabatean traders prospered and built a city of rock with ornate façades. With its ever-changing colours it remains a place of magic. The Nabateans were not alone in appreciating Petra's location. The site also has fascinating Roman and Byzantine remains.

It is possible to spend a day on a comfortable walk through Petra or you can climb to the High Place of Sacrifice or to the Monastery, two of its highest points.

They are easily accessible if you are reasonably fit and you will be rewarded with wonderful views.

Petra and its environs serve as beautiful sceneries. In the Wadi Turkmaniyyeh and Wadi Muaysreh ash-Shargiyyeh to the north, you can find an abundance of carved façades.

In the beautiful and unspoiled countryside south of Petra you can find a mix of mountains and wadis (valleys) offering ample choices for wadi bed walks or more rigorous trekking.

The scenery is spectacular and varied and includes mountain gorges, views over Wadi Araba, waterfalls,

The city of Petra, capital of the Nabataean Arabs, is one of the most famous archaeological sites in the world. Located 120 km north of Aqaba, Petra, the world wonder, is undoubtedly Jordan's most valuable treasure and greatest tourist attraction, and it is visited by tourists from all over the world.

It is not known precisely when Petra was built, but the city began to prosper as the capital of the Nabataean Empire from the 1st century BC, which grew rich through trade in frankincense, myrrh, and spices.

Petra was later annexed to the Roman Empire and continued to thrive until a large earthquake in 363 AD destroyed much of the city in the 4th century AD.

The earthquake combined with changes in trade routes, eventually led to the downfall of the city which was ultimately abandoned. By the middle of the 7th century Petra appears to have been largely deserted and it was then lost to all except local Bedouin from the area.

On December 6, 1985, Petra was designated A World Heritage Site. Also, Petra was chosen by the Smithsonian magazine as one of the 28 places one should visit before they die

**Petra was announced as one of the new seven wonders of the world during a star-studded event held on July 7th, 2007 in Lisbon, Portugal.**



**Gather information from the Petra Visitors' Centre. This starting point offers information, guides for hire, arrangements for a horseback or horse-and-carriage ride and guide books for sale.**

**Open daily from 07:00am till 08:00pm.**

Tel: +962 (0)3 215 6044

Fax: +962 (0)3 215 6029

Website: [www.visitpetra.jo](http://www.visitpetra.jo)



**In 1812 a Swiss explorer named Johannes Burckhardt set out to 'rediscover' Petra; he dressed up as an Arab and convinced his Bedouin guide to take him to the lost city. After this, Petra became increasingly known in the West as a fascinating and beautiful ancient city, and it began attracting visitors and continues to do so today.**

## THE HISTORY OF THE NABATAEANS

The Nabataeans, an Arab tribe, first appeared in the sixth century BC in the desert located to the east of Jordan, and came from the south-east of the Arabian Peninsula. They settled first in Petra and subsequently expanded their territory to the Horan and Levant and finally announced Bosra as their capital.

According to historical records, they are descendants of (Bnayut) the son of Ismail bin Ibrahim. Ismail had twelve boys who formed a tribe, most of whom were located in Najad. The father of the Nabataeans remained at Mount Shammam but was forced to run from the Ashurbanipal to Wadi Araba between the Dead Sea and the Gulf of Aqaba.

During the fourth century BC the Nabataeans lived as nomads in tents, spoke Arabic, loathed wine and did not have any interest in agriculture, but by the second century, they developed into an organized society.

The Greek historian Herodotus referred to Nabataean history in his writing, where the Nabataeans first appeared in 312 BC and prayed to Oratol.

As the Nabataeans grew in power and wealth, they attracted the attention of their neighbors to the north. The Seleucid King Antigonos, who had come to power when Alexander's empire was divided, attacked Petra in 312 BC. His army met with relatively little resistance, and was able to sack the city. The quantity of booty was so great, however, that it slowed their return journey north and the Nabataeans were able to annihilate them in the desert. Records indicate that the Nabataeans were eager to remain on good terms with the Seleucids in order to perpetuate their trading ambitions. Throughout much of the third century BC, the Ptolemies and Seleucids warred over control of Jordan, with the Seleucids emerging victorious in 198 BC. The Nabataeans remained essentially untouched and independent throughout this period.

Although the Nabataeans resisted military conquest, the Hellenistic culture of their neighbors influenced them greatly. Hellenistic influences can be seen in Nabataean art and architecture, especially at the time that their empire was expanding northward into Syria, around 150 BC. However, the growing economic and political power of the Nabataeans began to worry the Romans. In 65 BC, the Romans arrived in Damascus and ordered the Nabataeans to withdraw their forces. Two years later, Pompey dispatched a force to cripple Petra. The Nabataean King Aretas III either defeated the Roman legions or paid a tribute to keep peace with them.

The assassination of Julius Caesar in 44 BC augured a period of relative anarchy for the Romans in Jordan, and the Parthian kings of Persia and Mesopotamia took advantage of the chaotic situation to attack. The Nabataeans made a mistake by siding with the Parthians in their war with the Romans, and after the Parthians' defeat, Petra had to pay tribute to Rome. When they fell behind in paying this tribute, they were invaded twice by the Roman vassal King Herod the Great. The second attack, in 31 BCE, saw him take control of a large swath of Nabataean territory, including the lucrative northern trading routes into Syria.

Nonetheless, the Nabataeans continued to prosper for a while. King Aretas IV, who ruled from 9 BCE to 40 CE, built a chain of settlements along the caravan routes to develop the prosperous incense trade. The Nabataeans realized the power of Rome, and subsequently allied themselves with the Romans to quell the Jewish uprising of 70 CE. However, it was only a matter of time before Nabataea would fall under direct Roman rule. The last Nabataean monarch, Rabbel II, struck a deal with the Romans that as long as they did not attack during his lifetime, they would be allowed to move in after he died. Upon his death in 106 CE, the Romans claimed the Nabataean Kingdom and renamed it Arabia Petrea. The city of Petra was redesigned according to traditional Roman architectural designs, and a period of relative prosperity ensued under the Pax Romana.

The Nabataeans profited for a while from their incorporation into the trade routes of the Roman Near East, and Petra may have grown to house 20,000-30,000 people during its heyday. However, commerce became less profitable to the Nabataeans with the shift of trade routes to Palmyra in Syria and the expansion of seaborne trade around the Arabian Peninsula. Sometime probably during the fourth century CE, the Nabataeans left their capital at Petra. No one really knows why. It seems that the withdrawal was an unhurried and organized process, as very few silver coins or valuable possessions have been unearthed at Petra.



## PLACES OF INTERESTS IN PETRA

### Bab Al Siq

'Bab Al Siq' is Arabic for gateway to the 'siq'. Here you will see three massive Djinn blocks, which are squared monuments carved out of the rock. You will then come across the Obelisk Tomb, which was carved by the Nabataeans in the 1st century AD. Above the tomb are four pyramids ('nafesh') as well as a niche with a statue in bas-relief that is a symbolic representation of the five people buried there. Below it is the Triclinium, which was a banqueting hall. In the opposing cliff face there is a double inscription in Nabataean and Greek that refers to a burial monument. An inscription written by "Abdoman-chos", indicates that the tomb was to be used for himself and his family, probably in the reign of Malichus II (40- 70 AD)



### The Dam

It was renovated by the government in 1964 in the same way originally built by the Nabataeans. This dam was built to protect their capital from floods that arrived during the seasonal rain from the mountains and hills across the valley.

The dam protected the city of Petra by redirecting the flood waters into a tunnel, which was later titled the 'Dark Tunnel'. Proving to be successful, the dam thus represented the Nabataean's skillful and modern infrastructure. During the excavation.



### The Siq

It is the ancient main entrance leading to the city of Petra, starts at the Dam and ends at the opposite side of the vault, a split rock with a length of about 1200m and a width of 3 to 12m, and height up to about 80m; most of the rock is natural and another part was sculptured by the Nabataeans. The Siq, the main road that leads to the city, starts from the Dam and ends at the Treasury. Aspects of the Siq were decorated with Nabataean sculptures, mostly representing gods. It is believed that the statues of gods and their sculptures were situated very close and even adjacent to the channels due to the Nabataean belief that water was sacred.



## The Treasury (Al Khazna)

The siq opens up onto Petra's most magnificent façade; the Treasury, or Al Khazna. It is almost 40 meters high and intricately decorated with Corinthian capitals, friezes, figures and more. The Treasury is crowned by a funerary urn, which according to local legend conceals a pharaoh's treasure. Although the original function is still a mystery, The Treasury was probably constructed in the 1st century BC. The Treasury consists of two floors with a width of 25.30 meters and a height of 39.1 meters and comprises three chambers, a middle chamber with one on either side. The elaborately carved facade represents the Nabataean engineering genius



## The Street of Facades

It is a name given to the row of monumental Nabataean tombs carved in the southern cliff face that lies past the Treasury and adjacent to the outer Siq. When you pass the Treasury, the Siq begins to widen gradually as it reaches into an open area. On both sides, there are a number of Nabataean burial interfaces decorated with grindstones along with other decorations; and some of these interfaces were destroyed by natural factors. It is believed that these interfaces represents some of the senior officials in the city or princes.

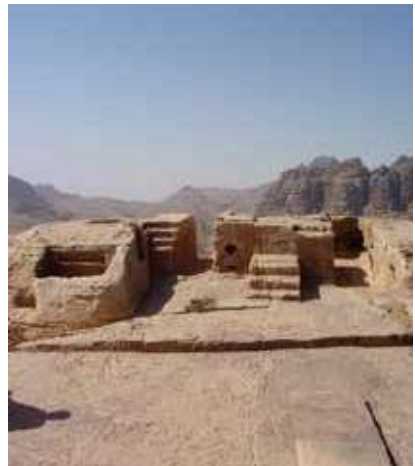


## High Place of Sacrifice

The steep half-hour climb from the theater up to the High Place of Sacrifice on the summit of the Attuf Ridge is well worth the effort. Paths and stairways, which were part of the original Nabataean processional way, lead upwards through spectacular mountain scenery until the long, flat summit is reached.

The most immediately obvious monuments as one reaches the top are the two 7 m high rock obelisks which were made by carving away the surface of the mountain to leave only these 2 protuberances; a formidable undertaking.

The obelisks stand some 30 m apart on an east/west alignment and probably represent the 2 most important Nabataean gods, Dushara and his consort Al-Uzza. Across the gully lies the High Place of Sacrifice, the best preserved of all such sacred places of the ancient world, you can also see the city center from this point



## The Theatre

Carved into the side of the mountain at the foot of the High Place of Sacrifice, the theatre consists of three rows of seats separated by passageways. Seven stairways ascend the auditorium as it can accommodate 4000 spectators.



## The Urn Tomb (The Court)

This derived its name from the jar that crowns the pediment. It was probably constructed around 70 AD. It is preceded by a deep courtyard with colonnades on two sides. High up in the facade there are 3 niches which give on to small burial chambers, but which was adapted in 446 AD to serve as a Byzantine church



## The Silk Tomb

Located to the north of the Urn Tomb, the tower dates back to the first half of the first century AD. The interface measures 10.8 meters in width and 19 meters in length with a door in the middle, and features four columns. The name comes from the rich color of the sandstone. It is one of the most dramatically colored tombs in Petra



## The Corinthian Tomb

The Corinthian Tomb, which lies after the Silk Tomb, was built between 40 and 70 AD. The façade measures 27.55 meters in width and 26 meters in height. There are four water basins in the front and on the side, which were used in the cleansing rituals and four rooms inside the tomb.



## Palace Tomb

Located to the north of the Corinthian tomb, the Palace Tomb measures 49 meters in width and 46 meters in height. The lower part consists of 12 decorated columns and four gates. Above the threshold lie 18 pillars.



## The Sextius Florentinus Tomb

Located northeast of the palace, the cemetery is lined with Latino inscription. The tomb dates back to Sextus Florentinos, governor of the Arab state around 129 AD.

The interface consists of a two-story structure, a width of 37.10 m and a height of 9.16 m .



## The Nymphaeum

It is located at the beginning of the colonnaded street to the right side. It is a semi-circular public fountain near the junction of Wadi Musa and Wadi al-Mataha and six Nabataean columns decorated the facade.



## The Colonnaded Street

The street represents an original Nabataean creation, later refurbished during the period of Roman occupation. The street was rebuilt in 106 BC with a width of 6 meters . The excavation fossil indicates that there was an older road with 1-2 floor building, lying on its side. At the end of the road lies the triple gate, which leads to the Temple of Qasr Al-Bint.



## The Great Temple

The "Great" Temple Complex represents one of the major archaeological and architectural components of central Petra. Since 1993 archeologist from Brown University have been excavating this temple precinct. These investigations are conducted under the auspices of the department of Antiquates of Jordan .

With its red-and-white-succed exterior, the 'Great Temple' must have had a dramatic impact when set against its rose-red environment. The style and quality of the Temple's elaborate floral friezes and acanthus-laden limestone capitals suggest that the sanctuary was constructed by the end of the first century BCE by the Nabataean , who combined their native traditions with the classical spirit.





## Church

Petra's main church is the second church in Petra, after converting the urn tomb to the Church in 446, made up of the church building with the corridors of length (28 m) and view (17 m), in addition to the yard, the Tower of the Bank and the rooms' side of the north and east. The church floor is characterized with mosaics paved in the north and south galleries as well as marble in the east hallway and mosaic imagery of geometric, animal shapes and graphics representing the four seasons, the gods of sea and land, with three inscribed apses and corresponding three entrances in the western wall. Some parts of the walls are preserved up to 3m. It was probably built around the end of the fifth century AD, and destroyed by a fire and/ or an earthquake in the middle of the sixth century AS. Much of the building material such the capitals, door jambs and reliefs were reused from earlier monuments in Petra.

The Petra church also produced the most complete examples of marble church furnishing found in the region, some of which has been restored for display at the site.



## The Temple of Qasr Al-Bint

Excavations and restoration work at Qasr al-Bint were started in the late fifties by the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem and are still conducted by the Department of Antiquities of Jordan.

Qasr Al-Bint was remarkable for its inner and outer stucco decoration, representing ashlar courses, relief panels and vegetal scrolls. A marble dado riveted the inner wall to a height of 70cm. The temple was built in the second half of the first century BC and reused by the Romans in the second century AD. At the end of the third century AD the monument was looted and intentionally destroyed by fire-before it was struck by the AD 363 earthquake. A medieval occupation was revealed on the Monumental Stairway.



## The Monastery

It is one of the largest monuments in Petra, measuring 47m wide by 48.3m high. It was built on the model of the Khazna but here the bas-reliefs are replaced by niches to house sculptures. A columned portico extends of the façade; the interior is occupied by two side benches and altar against the rear wall. It was used as a biclinium for the meetings of religious associations. And dates to the early 2nd century AD, during the reign of King Rabel II. In the hall was reused as a Christian chapel and crosses were carved in the rear wall thus the name "Monastery" (Dayr in Arabic).



## PETRA'S NEAR BY HISTORIC PLACES

### The Neolithic Village of Beidha

It is thought to have been occupied from 7200BC to 6500BC, which makes it one of the first settled villages in human history. Around that time the settlement burned down, and was rebuilt. After its reconstruction, it was only inhabited for a short while, before being totally abandoned. Remains of the houses and a retaining wall are still visible today. They are remnants of one of the first transitions from semi-settled nomads to settled villagers and the start of an agrarian economy. At the Beidha Neolithic site, you can view scientific reconstructions of what the Neolithic dwellings may have looked like.

Excavated in the 1950's and 1960's by Diane Kirkbride

and is located within the protected area of the Petra Archaeological Park. This site, holds one of the oldest settlements in Jordan. During this period hunters and gatherers lived seasonally in this fertile and sheltered area. During the Neolithic period, between 8,330 and 7,000 B.C., a permanent village of farmers occupied Beidha and began the practice of agricultural and herding of domesticated goats and sheep.



### Siq Al-Barid

**Or Little Petra as it is commonly known.** It is a ten-minute drive north of Petra and entered through a narrow opening, similar to Siq but of a much smaller scale. Entry is free. It is thought to have been an important suburb of Petra and where many religious activities were held, including the Feast of Drink, when the king of the Nabataeans hosted celebrations and provided drinks for his guests.

There is also a monument with the remains of a fresco painted by the Nabataeans that represented grape vines, which confirmed the view that Beida was the area of wine production. In the Siq Al Barid the Nabataean irrigation system, which distributed water through long channels, reservoirs carved into the rock, and dams, is evidence of the greatness of this system.



### Aaron's Tomb

It is believed that Moses' brother Aaron died and was buried in the Petra area and a white-domed mosque, built in the 14th century, commemorates this. It stands atop Aaron's Mountain (Jabal Harun), which is the highest peak in the area at 1350 meters above sea level. It has long been a place of pilgrimage for the locals, and is worth a trip if you have an extra day in Petra.





## MORE THINGS TO DO WHILE IN PETRA

### Climb to the High Place of Sacrifice or the Monastery

These are two of the highest points in Petra but are easily accessible, as long as you are reasonably fit, and offer the reward of wonderful views. The High Place of Sacrifice involves a 30-40 minute climb. Reaching the Monastery demands some hard climbing, but the reward is worth it when you can see one of the largest monuments in Petra with a 50-metre square façade. From this lookout point, you have unbeatable views of the Petra basin and Wadi Araba.



### Get out and about walking the wadis (valleys) around Petra

In the Wadi Turkmaniyyeh and Wadi Muaysreh ash-Shargiyyeh to the north you can find an abundance of carved façades. The façade of the Turkmaniyyeh Tomb has the longest known inscription in the Nabatean language.



### Enjoy the special flavours of the Petra kitchen

Local women are happy to share their cooking skills as they introduce you to the local dishes



#### A HIKE NOT TO MISS



### Petra Monastery to Little Petra

After getting to the Monastery (which requires a hike in and of itself, as the Monastery is located inside the Park, usually reached by starting at the main Visitors' Centre, and requires summing 730 ancient stone steps), you can walk onwards to Little Petra, rather than turning back towards the visitors' centre. After passing the Monastery, head towards the junction EXPLAIN, which should take about an hour. To the right lies the trail back to the restaurants near the steps of the Monastery and the museum. To the left lies the trail to Little Petra, heading north and following vague vehicle tracks. The distance between this junction and Little Petra is about six kilometres. What will you find at Little Petra? This historical site served as a "suburb" for the main city of Petra. The trail itself is beautiful, and being located in Siq Al Barid (the Cold Siq), can offer a respite from the heat.

#### Helpful to know

- You must arrange your own transportation back to Little Petra
- A GPS or guide is highly recommended once you depart the Monastery
- Petra is a 128 kilometre drive from Aqaba

## PETRA MUSEUMS

concentrates on the history of Petra and its founders, the Nabateans, as well as the geology of the area. The Petra Archaeological Museum has items excavated in the Petra region that date from the Edomite, Nabatean, Roman and Byzantine periods.

The museum, founded in April 1994, contains more than 600 artifacts displayed in three permanent exhibition halls and is located after 4 km from the main gate of Petra.

On March 1- 2014, Petra Development and Tourism Region Authority and The Japan International Cooperation Agency signed an agreement to establish new modern museum near to the visitor center. The museum will provide an appropriate venue for exhibiting historical cultural property and preserving the archaeological site.

## PETRA VISITORS' CENTER EXHIBITION

It contains 280 artifacts dating back to different ages. The exhibition consists of five halls showing the history of Petra and information about the Nabatean's life and their civilization and showing their life tools and statues which was discovered in Petra by archaeological excavations teams and many other historical pieces .



## **DANA BIOSPHERE RESERVE**

Located 150 km from Aqaba in Tafilah, Dana is Jordan's second largest nature reserve, covering 320 square kilometers of spectacular mountains and wadis along the face of the Great Rift Valley. From scorching sand dunes in the west to cool mountain tops in the east, the Dana Biosphere Reserve is home to a great variety of wildlife. Such a combination of natural communities in a single area is unique in Jordan and many of Dana's animals and plants are rare. 700 plant species, 190 bird species, 37 mammal species and 36 reptile species have been recorded in the Reserve, of which 25 are known to be endangered, including the Sand Cat, the Syrian Wolf and Lesser Kestrel. The spectacular landscape of the Wadi Feynan area in the west of the reserve and the communities that live within it, host an extraordinary history. Feynan has one of the longest sequences of human settlement in the world. Its importance is only second to Petra, Feynan is home to some of humanity's first communities and is one of the oldest and most important centres of sustained copper exploitation in the ancient world, and one of the best preserved due to the lack of modern mining

### **Al Rummaneh Camp**

The campsite overlooks the Jordan Rift Valley, a wonderful spot to experience Dana Biosphere Reserve. The facility offers many trails and hiking trips, as well as tents, dining and restrooms for its visitors.

**For more information, please contact**

**Tel: +962 (0)3 227 0498/7**

**Website: [www.rscn.org.jo](http://www.rscn.org.jo)**



### **Feynan Ecolodge & Wadi Feynan:**

Feynan Ecolodge is an ideal location to explore the rich and diverse Wadi Feynan area.

Named as one of the best 25 Ecolodges in the world by National Geographic, the award-winning 26-room environmentally friendly lodge is a unique place in Jordan; it is completely off-the-grid, generating most of its energy needs from the sun, and is lit by candles and stars at night.

Feynan offers a plethora of unique and authentic experiences engrained in nature, history and culture. Activities include hiking, canyoneering, mountain biking, stargazing, Bedouin experiences and cooking classes.



### **The Guesthouse of Dana**

Perched on the edge of the cliffs of Wadi Dana, the Guesthouse merges elements of village vernacular architecture with more modern elements, creating a structure with a definable Arabic character, offering breathtaking views of the reserve. The Guesthouse contains 9 rooms with shared bathrooms.



**For more information about Feynan Eco Lodge and bookings, please contact**

**Tel: +962 (0)6 464 5580**

**E-mail: [reservations.feynan@ecohotels.me](mailto:reservations.feynan@ecohotels.me)**

**Website: [www.ecohotels.me/feynan](http://www.ecohotels.me/feynan)**

## SHOBAK CASTLE

For a dramatic location, few places can challenge Shobak Castle, the first Crusader castle built in Jordan and still standing sentinel over the landscape. Both Mamluk and Ottoman rulers in Jordan have extensively rebuilt the Castle since Crusader times. When you are there, get ready to a warm welcome from the Ayoubis.



Go for the ultimate underground tunnel challenge which will take you out of the castle.



**Make your visit to Shobak complete by staying over night at Montreal Hotel.**

Tel: +962 (0)3 216 5440

E-mail: [info@montrealhotel.jo](mailto:info@montrealhotel.jo)

Website: [www.montrealhotel.jo](http://www.montrealhotel.jo)

## Kerak

The ancient walled city of Karak is mentioned in the Bible. Karak also sits astride a caravan route that once connected Egypt and Syria and that was known to the Greeks and the Romans. Today, Karak is worth a visit for its great Crusader castle. It was built by Baldwin of Jerusalem in 1142 and later fell to Saladin's armies in 1188.



## Wadi Ghweir Trail to Feynan

A breathtaking hike starts from Shobak



Described as "possibly the most spectacular hike in Jordan." You will walk through a wadi (canyon) and a three km Siq containing water pools while enjoying striking tropical flora and some fauna (frogs and freshwater crabs)! The trek which ends at Feynan Ecolodge, takes around 8 hours (15 kilometre walk) over some very challenging terrain. The end of the trail will take you by one of the oldest human settlements going back 11,000 years, along with ruins dating back to the Roman times.

At the end of the hike is Feynan Ecolodge, hailed as one of the best 25 ecolodges in the world by National Geographic Traveler Magazine. The hike can also be started from Feynan and ending in Shobak.



### Helpful to know

- A GPS or guide is recommended for this trail (Guides are available from Feynan Ecolodge or Montreal Hotel in Shobak)
- The trail is linear, which means you have to think about transportation (the best option is to park at Feynan and then arrange a drop off at the start of the trail)
- The start of the trail is about 170 Km from Aqaba. First head towards Shobak and then to the town of Mansura.
- If you do leave your car at Ghuweir, there is some space for parking cars. It is recommended you leave a note in the windshield stating you are on a hike (to avoid suspicion from the Tourist Police)



## DEAD SEA

Float in the Dead Sea, the lowest and most mineral-rich body of water on earth. The density of the water allows swimmers to float easily on the surface.



### Al Mujib Nature Reserve

The lowest nature reserve on earth but high in interest, the Mujib Nature Reserve borders the Dead Sea and is rich with wild life. The Reserve is home to a successful Ibex breeding programme run by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN).



Complete your visit to the Dead Sea at **Bethany Beyond the Jordan** which is now accepted as the baptism site of Jesus Christ, and was added to UNESCO's World Heritage Sites list for its religious importance in July 2015.

Bethany Beyond the Jordan is rich in Byzantine archaeology, including baptismal pools and churches and the Rhotorius Monastery with its mosaic floor. It is now possible to arrange baptisms at the site.



### Hered the Great enjoyed the Ma'in Hot Springs

2000 years ago and you can enjoy the hot, mineral-rich waters today. The adjacent Spa offers a full range of treatments that include Dead Sea mud wraps, massage and beauty treatments.



### Lose yourself in the mosaic marvels of Madaba

The town has a long history. Its period of real glory was in Byzantine times. Do not miss St George's Church with its unique mosaic map of Biblical Palestine.



Just nine kilometres away from Madaba is **Mount Nebo** with the Moses Memorial Church and its fine mosaic floor as well as its sweeping views of the Dead Sea, Jerusalem and Jericho.

## Traveling Around Aqaba

Taxis-Aqaba has an abundance of metered, air conditioned taxis.

Minibuses-Serve local destinations.

Rental cars-Aqaba has a number of car rental agencies.

## Language

Arabic is the national language and English is widely spoken.

## Climate

Aqaba is warm and largely dry all year round. The average maximum daily temperature ranges from 38°C in summer to 20°C in winter.

## Business Hours

Most government offices are open from Sunday to Thursday from 08:00am to 03:00pm.

Most shops and money exchange offices are open from 08:00am to 10:00pm.

## Health and hospitals

Aqaba has plenty of well stocked pharmacies, and pharmacists usually speak good English. It has three modern, well equipped hospitals:

Aqaba Modern Hospital +962 (0)3 201 6677/201 6688

Islamic Hospital +962 (0)3 201 8444

Princess Hashim Bin Abdullah II Hospital +962 (0)3 209 2030

## Dress Code

Aqaba is a holiday centre, the dress code is casual but swim wear and other revealing clothing should only be worn on the beach.

## Currency and Money Exchange

Money can be exchanged easily at banks and at money exchange offices. The rate for the Jordanian dinar is fixed at US\$ 1.4 to JD1. The dinar is divided into 1000 fils or 100 piastres.

Banks are open from Sunday to Thursday from 08:30am to 03:00pm. Exchange offices are generally open all day.

Major credit cards are widely accepted.

## Tipping

Many restaurants add a ten percent service charge but a small extra tip is fine if you feel you received good service. It is also customary to tip bell boys and other helpful hotel staff.

## Basic Arabic

Hello – marhaba

Please – law samahat

Thank you – shukran

You are welcome – afwan

How are you (to a man/ to a woman) – keefak/keefik

What is your name (to a man/ to a woman) – shu ismak/shu ismik

My name is – ismi

Never mind – malish

Excuse me – afwan

Where – wayn

How much – adesh

Do you have – andak

Left – shmal

Right – yamin

Straight on – dughri

Numbers

Zero – sifr

One – wahad

Two – ithnayn

Three – thalatheh

Four – arbaa

Five – khamseh

Six – sittah

Seven – sabaa

Eight – thamanyeh

Nine – tisaa

Ten – ashra

Twenty – eshreen

Thirty – thalatheen

Forty – arbaeen

Fifty – khamseen

One Hundred – miyyeh