

Museums of Amman



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Few cities in the world have been a part of human culture as long as Amman. The richness of modern Jordanian culture is in part due to the additions stirred in by the Assyrians, Nabataeans, Romans and Ottomans who lived here, and this legacy is captured in its museums. You can begin your adventure by perusing some of the Kingdom's archaeological treasures, move on to the history of coins or cars, and finish with an examination of the exquisite embroidery on traditional costumes. Exhibits include pages of the world-famous Dead Sea Scrolls, some of the world's oldest Neolithic sculptures, outstanding mosaics, sumptuous bridal jewelry, rare Umayyad architecture and pulse-boosting rally cars. Children have their own museum, with a rowing skeleton, a rock-climbing wall and a flight simulator. Given the intimate setting of each location, it is easy to include a museum in any enjoyable day in Amman.

Jordan Archaeological Museum

Located at the Amman Citadel, which overlooks downtown, this museum features a diverse collection of artifacts from all over Jordan. It gives an overview of the country's antiquities ranging from the Paleolithic era (1,000,000-10,000 years ago) to the Islamic era (AD 636-present). Some of the more unique items include a limestone sculpture of a double-faced female head, which dates back to the Ammonite period and still has some of the original ivory inlay in the eyes. There is also a bust of Tyche, daughter of Zeus, who was goddess of Philadelphia and believed to be the protector of the city. The white marble bust dates from the 3rd century AD.

Location and contact details:

Name and address in Arabic: متحف الآثار الأردني / جبل القلعة

Location details: Citadel Hill, Jabal Al-Qala'a

Telephone: +962 6 463 8795

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (summer time)
8am to 4pm (winter time)

Entrance fee: Includes site and museum
JD2 for non-Jordanians
150 fils for Jordanians



Currency Museum (Central Bank of Jordan)

This museum examines Jordan's culture and development through an exhibit of coins from various periods. The collection at the museum contains a number of old and new coins, which were used in Jordan from the time of the Greeks until the last issue of Jordanian coins and banknotes, notably during the Islamic period. In addition, the museum contains coins and banknotes issued by the Jordanian Currency Board and the Central Bank of Jordan, as well as the commemorative coins and medals issued by the bank.

Location & contact details:

Name and address in Arabic: متحف النقد / البنك المركزي الأردني / شارع الملك حسين عمارة رقم ٦٢

Location details: Central Bank of Jordan, Downtown, King Hussein Street. Building # 62

Telephone: +962 6 463 0301

Opening hours: 8am to 4pm except Fridays and Saturdays.

Entrance fee: Free

Website: www.cbj.gov.jo



Museums located downtown (Al-Balad)

Al Balad the older part of Amman, is a wonderful place to wander. You can sip coffee or tea and enjoy the hustle and bustle going on around you while Amman goes about its day. It is the heart of the city, warm and welcoming.

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The Folklore Life Museum

The Folklore Museum occupies two corners of the Roman Theatre downtown and gives visitors a taste of Jordan's culture and heritage.

The museum's eastern section covers Jordan's three main cultures: Bedouin (the desert), villages (rural), and the cities. Displaying costumes and everyday utensils, the museum provides a context in which to understand the cultures and popular traditions of Jordan and Palestine during late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The western section exhibits a collection of costumes and traditional jewelry worn in various regions of Jordan and Palestine, as well as gemstones, headdresses and other traditional ornaments. Each village had their own designs and color combination, so it pays to look carefully at the costumes, headwear, jewelry and bridal dresses.

Location & contact details:

Name and address in Arabic: متحف الحياة الشعبية والحلي والأزياء / وسط البلد المدرج الروماني

Location details: Downtown, Roman theater

Telephone: +962 6 465 1760/ +962 6 465 1742

Opening hours: 9am to 5pm (summer)

9am to 4pm (winter)

Entrance fee: Includes site and museum

JD1 for non-Jordanians

150 fils for Jordanians

The Jordan Museum

This exciting new museum tells the story of Jordan, looking at land and man from Paleolithic to modern times. There are three major galleries, which cover the historical chronology of Jordan, and several hands-on thematic areas. There is the archaeology gallery, which starts with the Stone Age around 1.5 million years ago and ends with the Islamic and Ottoman periods. The folklore gallery, the smallest of the three, is an ethnographic gallery that presents life at the turn of the century. The final gallery covers the Arab Renaissance and the modern and contemporary history of Jordan. Throughout the museum there are over 40 interactive terminals and audio visuals to compliment the exhibits.

Location & contact details:

Name and address in Arabic: متحف الأردن / رأس العين بجانب أمانة عمان الكبرى

Location details: Ras al-Ain, next to Greater Amman Municipality

Telephone: +962 6 462 9317

Opening hours: 10am to 6pm except Tuesdays

Entrance fee: JD5 for non-Jordanians

JD1 for Jordanians

Website: www.jordanmuseum.jo



Martyr's Memorial and Military Museum

The Martyr's Memorial was inaugurated on the 25th of June 1977 by his late Majesty King Hussein to commemorate the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the country.

The forecourt displays equipment used by the armed forces while the building is decorated with verses of the Holy Quran that talk about martyrs and martyrdom. The design of the memorial represents an upward procession as people physically ascend to a higher plane, and thereby symbolizes the transcendence of the spirit of martyrs. The memorial consists of three wings: the Great Arab Revolt, the foundation of the Emirate of Trans-Jordan and the Arab legion by his late Majesty King Abdullah I, and the development of the armed forces. The names of the martyrs who have passed away since 1915 up until the present day are written in gold in the roof garden.

The Martyr's Memorial was designed by a Jordanian architect, the late Victor Adel Bisharat (1920-1996).

Location & contact details:

Name and address in Arabic:

متحف صرح الشهيد / المدينة الرياضية بوابة رقم ٤

Location details: Sports City, Amman gate #4

Telephone: +962 6 566 4240

Opening hours: 8am to 4pm except Fridays

Entrance fee: Free

Museums Located In Dabouk

One of the capital's newest neighborhoods, Dabouk is home to the Royal Compound and the King Hussein Park - the largest park in the city. You can spend a nice afternoon here visiting the museums, using the playing fields and people-watching.

The Royal Automobile Museum

The Royal Automobile Museum is the first public automotive museum in the Middle East. The museum displays over 100 Royal Hashemite cars and motorcycles, some dating as early as 1907. Even for those not interested in automobiles, this museum is a great place to learn about the modern history of Jordan through His Majesty the late King Hussein's amazing collection which stands in pristine condition. The cars highlight the 47-year reign of His Majesty King Hussein as well as the history of the Kingdom from the era of His Majesty King Abdullah I in the early 1920s up to today. The exhibition is augmented by rare photo archives and video footage.

Location & contact details:

Name and address in Arabic:

متحف السيارات الملكي / حدائق الملك حسين بجانب متحف الأطفال بوابة رقم ٣

Location details: King Hussein Park, beside Children's Museum, gate #3

Telephone: +962 6 541 1392

Opening hours: 10am to 7pm daily except Tuesdays

Entrance fee: JD3 for non-Jordanians
JD1 for Jordanians

Website: www.royalautomuseum.jo

Museums Located In Shmeisani

This neighborhood is full of restaurants, cafes and activity. Thaqafah (culture) Street has a pedestrian area with a sunken exhibit space that is often used for shows.

Museums Located in Sports City

This enormous green space (1200 dunums, about 300 acres) in the middle of the city is a wonderland for athletes. With facilities including a polo field, swimming pools, beach volleyball pits and a Frisbee golf course, everyone can find something to do.



The Children's Museum Jordan

A non-profit education initiative of Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah.

This all-interactive museum is perhaps the noisiest, busiest museum in Jordan - and the most fun! Here children can explore fully hands-on exhibits, which are divided into three main sections: Humankind, the Natural World, and Technology. From the "city center" to the flight simulator and the archaeological dig, there's so much for children to explore. The museum's art studio is a bustling creative hub, while its library is where children turn into investigators and curious researchers. The museum has both indoor and outdoor exhibits, and its daily program can be found online.

Location & contact details:

Name and address in Arabic:

متحف الأطفال / حدائق الملك الحسين بجانب متحف السيارات الملكي بوابة رقم ٣

Location details: King Hussein Park, beside the Royal Automobile Museum, gate #3

Telephone: +962 6 541 1479

Opening hours: 9am to 6pm daily, 10am to 7pm Fridays, except Tuesdays

Entrance fee: JD3

Website: www.cmj.jo



Jordan Ahli Bank Numismatic Museum

This is a specialized museum containing coin collections spanning nearly 2,500 years, with the earliest coin dating to 600 B.C. The museum boasts one of the best Nabataean (silver and copper) and Umayyad copper coin collections in the world. It also has an outstanding collection of Mesopotamian, Phoenician and Roman coin weights, along with an extensive collection of Decapolis and Provincial Arabia coins, many of which are still unpublished. There are more than 4,500 coins and artifacts displayed. The museum has a library that contains books by leading international numismatists as well as numismatics periodicals.

Location & contact details:

Name and address in Arabic:

متحف التعميمات / شميساني، شارع الملكة نور / مبنى البنك الأهلي الرئيسي، عمارة رقم ٧٩

Location details: Shmeisani, Queen Noor Street, Jordan Ahli Bank Headquarter. Building # 79

Telephone: +962 6 568 7090

Opening hours: 8am to 3:30pm daily except Fridays and Saturdays

Entrance fee: Free

Website: www.ahli.com

