General Information:

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is a land of mesmerizing beauty and contrasts, from the Jordan Valley, fertile, ever changing, to the remote desert canyons, immense and still. Visitors can explore splendid desert castles, gaze in awe at the haunting wilderness of Wadi Rum, or bathe in the restful waters of the Red Sea. For adventure lovers, there’s horse riding, 4x4 safaris, rock climbing and hiking. For taking it easy, nothing on earth compares to the Dead Sea and the Red Sea, with their many spa facilities. Modern Jordan was founded by King Abdullah I after World War I. It was ruled by his grandson, the late King Hussein, for 46 years until his death in 1999, when his son, King Abdullah II, assumed the throne. Jordan has grown into a modern nation that has enjoyed a remarkable measure of peace, stability and economic growth in recent decades.

Amman

Amman, the capital of Jordan, is a fascinating city of contrasts – a unique blend of old and new, ideally situated on a hilly area between the desert and the fertile Jordan Valley.

In the commercial heart of the city, ultra-modern buildings, hotels, smart restaurants, art galleries and boutiques rub shoulders comfortably with traditional coffee shops and tiny artisans' workshops. Everywhere there is evidence of the city's much older past.

Due to the city's modern-day prosperity and temperate climate, almost half of Jordan's population is concentrated in the Amman area. The residential suburbs consist of mainly tree-lined streets and avenues flanked by elegant, almost uniformly white houses in accordance with a municipal law, which states that all buildings must be faced with local stone.

The people of Amman are multi-cultural, multi-denominational, well-educated and extremely hospitable.
The Dead Sea

Without a doubt the world's most amazing place, the Jordan Rift Valley is a dramatic, beautiful landscape, which at the Dead Sea, is over 400m (1,312 ft.) below sea level. The lowest point on the face of the earth, this vast stretch of water receives a number of incoming rivers, including the River Jordan. Once the waters reach the Dead Sea they are land-locked and have nowhere to go, so they evaporate, leaving behind a dense, rich, cocktail of salts and minerals that supply industry, agriculture and medicine with some of its finest products.

The Dead Sea is flanked by mountains to the east and the rolling hills of Jerusalem to the west, giving it an almost other-worldly beauty. Although sparsely populated and serenely quiet now, the area is believed to have been home to five Biblical cities: Sodom, Gomorrah, Adman, Zebouin and Zoar (Bela).

The leading attraction at the Dead Sea is the warm, soothing, super salty water itself – some ten times saltier than sea water, and rich in chloride salts of magnesium, sodium, potassium, bromine and several others. The unusually warm, incredibly buoyant and mineral-rich waters have attracted visitors since ancient times, including King Herod the Great and the beautiful Egyptian Queen, Cleopatra. All of whom have luxuriated in the Dead Sea's rich, black, stimulating mud and floated effortlessly on their backs while soaking up the water's healthy minerals along with the gently diffused rays of the Jordanian sun.
Karak

Whether you approach Karak from the ancient Kings Highway to the east or from the Dead Sea to the west, the striking silhouette of this fortified town and castle will instantly make you understand why the fates of kings and nations were decided here for millennia.

An ancient Crusader stronghold, Karak sits 900m above sea level and lies inside the walls of the old city. The city today is home to around 170,000 people and continues to boast a number of restored 19th century Ottoman buildings, restaurants, places to stay, and the like. But it is undoubtedly Karak Castle that dominates. The town is built on a triangular plateau, with the castle at its narrow southern tip. The castle is some 220m long, 125m wide at the north end, and 40m wide at the southern end where a narrow valley deepened by a ditch separates it from the adjoining and much higher hill – once Saladin's favourite artillery position. Throughout the castle, dark and roughly-shaped Crusader masonry is easy to discern from the finely-crafted blocks of lighter and softer limestone used in later Arab work.
Petra

The giant red mountains and vast mausoleums of a departed race have nothing in common with modern civilization, and ask nothing of it except to be appreciated at their true value - as one of the greatest wonders ever wrought by Nature and Man. Although much has been written about Petra, nothing really prepares you for this amazing place. It has to be seen to be believed. Petra, the world wonder, is without a doubt Jordan's most valuable treasure and greatest tourist attraction. It is a vast, unique city, carved into the sheer rock face by the Nabataeans, an industrious Arab people who settled here more than 2000 years ago, turning it into an important junction for the silk, spice and other trade routes that linked China, India and southern Arabia with Egypt, Syria, Greece and Rome.

Entrance to the city is through the Siq, a narrow gorge, over 1km in length, which is flanked on either side by soaring, 80m high cliffs. Just walking through the Siq is an experience in itself. The colours and formations of the rocks are dazzling. As you reach the end of the Siq you will catch your first glimpse of Al-Khazneh (Treasury). This is an awe-inspiring experience. A massive façade, 30m wide and 43m high, carved out of the sheer, dusky pink rock-face and dwarfing everything around it. It was carved in the early 1st century as the tomb of an important Nabataean king and represents the engineering genius of these ancient people.
This is a stupendous, timeless place, virtually untouched by humanity and its destructive forces. Here, it is the weather and winds that have carved the imposing, towering skyscrapers, so elegantly described by T.E. Lawrence as “vast, echoing and God-like...”

A maze of monolithic rocks capes rises up from the desert floor to heights of 1,750m creating a natural challenge for serious mountaineers. Hikers can enjoy the tranquility of the boundless empty spaces and explore the canyons and water holes to discover 4000-year-old rock drawings and the many other spectacular treasures this vast wilderness holds in store.

Also known as ‘The Valley of the Moon’, this is the place where Prince Faisal Bin Hussein and T.E. Lawrence based their headquarters during the Arab Revolt against the Ottomans in World War I, their exploits intrinsically woven into the history of this amazing area.
Aqaba

With its wealth of other attractions, Jordan's splendid Red Sea resort is often overlooked by modern-day visitors. But apart from being a delightful place for discerning holidaymakers, this is actually a great base from which to explore various places of interest in southern Jordan.

Aqaba is a fun place. It is a microcosm of all the good things Jordan has to offer, including a fascinating history with some outstanding sites, excellent hotels and activities, superb visitor facilities, good shopping, and welcoming, friendly people, who enjoy nothing more than making sure their visitors have a good time.

But perhaps Aqaba's greatest asset is the Red Sea itself. Here you can experience some of the best snorkelling and diving in the world. The temperate climate and gentle water currents have created a perfect environment for the growth of corals and a teeming plethora of marine life. Here you can swim with friendly sea turtles and dolphins as they dart amongst the schools of multi-coloured fish. Night dives reveal the nocturnal sea creatures, crabs, lobsters and shrimp, as they search for a midnight.
A close second to Petra on the list of favorite destinations in Jordan is the ancient city of Jerash, which boasts an unbroken chain of human occupation dating back more than 6,500 years. Jerash lies on a plain surrounded by hilly wooded areas and fertile basins.

Conquered by General Pompey in 63 BC, it came under Roman rule and was one of the ten great Roman cities of the Decapolis League. The city's golden age came under Roman rule, during which time it was known as Gerasa, and the site is now generally acknowledged to be one of the best-preserved Roman provincial towns in the world. Hidden for centuries in sand before being excavated and restored over the past 70 years, Jerash reveals a fine example of the grand, formal provincial Roman urbanism that is found throughout the Middle East, comprising paved and colonnaded streets, soaring hilltop temples, handsome theatres, spacious public squares and plazas, baths, fountains and city walls pierced by towers and gates. Beneath its external Graeco - Roman veneer, Jerash also preserves a subtle blend of east and west.

Its architecture, religion and languages reflect a process by which two powerful cultures meshed and coexisted - The Graeco-Roman world of the Mediterranean basin and the traditions of the Arab Orient. The modern city of Jerash can be found to the east of the ruins. While the old and new share a city wall, careful preservation and planning has seen the city itself develop well away from the ruins so there is no encroachment on the sites of old.
The marvels of nature and the genius of medieval Arab military architecture have given northern Jordan two of the most important ecological and historical attractions in the Middle East: the sprawling pine forests of the Ajlun-Dibbine area, and the towering Ayyubid castle at Ajlun, which helped to defeat the Crusaders eight centuries ago. Ajlun Castle (Qal'at Ar-Rabad) was built by one of Saladin's generals in 1184 AD to control the iron mines of Ajlun, and to deter the Franks from invading Ajlun. Ajlun Castle dominated the three main routes leading to the Jordan Valley and protected the trade and commercial routes between Jordan and Syria; it became an important link in the defensive chain against the Crusaders, who, unsuccessfully spent decades trying to capture the castle and the nearby village.
Salt

An ancient town, As-Salt was once the most important settlement in the area between the Jordan Valley and the Eastern Desert. Because of its history as an important trading link between the Eastern Desert and the west, it was a significant place for the region’s many rulers.

The Romans, Byzantines and Mameluks all contributed to the growth of the town but it was at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century, during Ottoman rule, when As-Salt enjoyed its most prosperous period. It was at that time that the Ottomans established a regional administrative base in As-Salt and encouraged settlement from other parts of their empire. As the town’s status increased, many merchants arrived and, with their newly acquired wealth, built the fine houses that can still be admired in As-Salt today.
Madaba

Madaba, known as the “City of Mosaics.” Best known for its spectacular Byzantine and Umayyad mosaics, Madaba is home to the famous 6th century Mosaic Map of Jerusalem and the Holy Land. With two million pieces of vividly coloured local stone, it depicts hills and valleys, villages and towns as far as the Nile Delta.

The Madaba Mosaic Map covers the floor of the Greek Orthodox Church of St. George, which is located northwest of the city centre. The church was built in 1896 AD, over the remains of a much earlier 6th century Byzantine church. The mosaic panel enclosing the Map was originally around 15.6 X 6m, 94 sq.m., only about a quarter of which is preserved.

Other mosaic masterpieces found in the Church of the Virgin and the Apostles and in the Archaeological Museum depict a rampant profusion of flowers and plants, birds and fish, animals and exotic beasts, as well as scenes from mythology and the everyday pursuits of hunting, fishing and farming. Literally, hundreds of other mosaics from the 5th through the 7th centuries are scattered throughout Madaba’s churches and homes.

In line with Jordan's commitment to restoring and preserving its mosaic masterpieces, Madaba’s extensive Archaeological Park and Museum complex encompasses the remains of several Byzantine churches, including the outstanding mosaics of the Church of the Virgin and the Hyppolytus Hall, part of a 6th century mansion.
Bethany Beyond the Jordan

The site of John the Baptist's settlement at Bethany Beyond the Jordan, where Jesus was baptized, has long been known from the Bible (John 1:28 and 10:40) and from the Byzantine and medieval texts. The site has now been identified on the east bank of the Jordan River, in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and is being systematically surveyed, excavated, restored, and prepared to receive pilgrims and visitors. Bethany Beyond the Jordan is located half an hour by car from Amman.

Desert Castles

Jordan's desert castles, beautiful examples of both early Islamic art and architecture, stand testament to a fascinating era in the country's rich history. Their fine mosaics, frescoes, stone and stucco carvings and illustrations, inspired by the best in Persian and Graeco-Roman traditions, tell countless stories of the life as it was during the 8th century. Called castles because of their imposing stature, the desert complexes actually served various purposes as caravan stations, agriculture and trade centres, resort pavilions and outposts that helped distant rulers forge ties with local Bedouins. Several of these preserved compounds, all of which are clustered to the east and south of Amman, can be visited on one- or two-day loops from the city.

Quseir Amra, one of the best preserved monuments, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its interior walls and ceilings are covered with lively frescoes, and two of the rooms are paved with colorful mosaics.
Attire:

Jordan is a primarily Muslim country, although the freedom of all religions is protected. Muslim women’s clothing often covers their arms, legs, and hair. Western women are not subject to these customs, but very revealing clothing is never appropriate and conservative dress is advisable for both men and women in the old part of Amman (downtown), and outside the cities. Shorts are rarely worn by either gender, and would be out of place in the downtown Amman area. Topless sunbathing is prohibited and one-piece swimsuits are preferred, although two-piece swimsuits are acceptable at hotel pools.

Accessibility:

Visitors with a valid passport may obtain a visa at any Jordanian embassy, consulate, or legation abroad. A visa can also be obtained at Amman’s queen alia international airport or at any other border crossing except King Hussein bridge and the ferryboat from Egypt. Visas are valid for one month, but can be extended at any police station.

Newspapers:

The main English-language daily is the Jordan times. Foreign newspapers are available at hotels and some shops.

Credit Cards:

Credit cards are accepted at hotels, restaurants and larger shops, including American express, visa, diners club, and MasterCard. Please note that many smaller shops still prefer cash payment in the Jordanian currency, and it’s essential for shopping in the local souks.
Radio & Television:

Television:

Jordan television broadcasts in English and French on Channel 2. Daily programme listings can be found in The Jordan Times. All other international stations are available via satellite at all hotels.

Radio:

Many radio stations broadcast in English including Radio Jordan and many other privately owned channels.

Language:

The official language of Jordan is Arabic, but English is widely spoken especially in the cities. Many Jordanians have travelled, or have been educated abroad, so French, German, Italian and Spanish are also spoken, but to a lesser extent. When Arabic is written in Jordan using the Latin alphabet, English spelling is applied; however, these spellings can be interpreted in various ways - the spelling, for example, of street addresses can vary widely. For this reason, the sounds of the words are a much better guide than the spelling. Speaking Arabic is easier than you might think; attempting a few basic words will gain you respect from the locals and is a good way to break the ice. The Jordanian people are extremely understanding and will help you whenever they are able.
Useful words:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Arabic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Na'am</td>
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<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>Laa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Please</td>
<td>Min fadlak (to a man)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Min fadlik (to a woman)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thank you</td>
<td>Shukran</td>
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<tr>
<td>You're welcome</td>
<td>Afwan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hello</td>
<td>Marhaba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goodbye</td>
<td>Ma'asalameh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is your name?</td>
<td>Shoo ismak? (to a man)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shoo ismek? (to a woman)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Please</td>
<td>Lao samaht</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excuse me</td>
<td>'An iznek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What time is it?</td>
<td>Edesh el sa'aa?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How much?</td>
<td>Addeysh?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don't speak Arabic</td>
<td>Ana laa ahkee Arabee</td>
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<tr>
<td>One</td>
<td>Waahid</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two</td>
<td>Tinain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three</td>
<td>Talaateh</td>
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<td>Four</td>
<td>Arba'a</td>
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<td>Five</td>
<td>Khamseh</td>
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<td>Six</td>
<td>Sitteh</td>
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<td>Seven</td>
<td>Sab'a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eight</td>
<td>Tamenyeh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nine</td>
<td>Tis'a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ten</td>
<td>'Ashra</td>
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<tr>
<td>Left</td>
<td>Shmaal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Right</td>
<td>Yameen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Straight</td>
<td>Dughree</td>
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Arabic numbers:

Arabic numbers are easy to read - in fact; the western numerical system was originally derived from the Arabic system. Unlike the words, Arabic numerals are read from left to right (the same as western numerals).

Electrical Current:

220 AC volts, 50 cycles, requiring rounded two-prong wall plugs. Visitors from USA will need a transformer, which most hotels can provide.

Shopping:

Wherever you go in Jordan you will find plenty of opportunities to shop. For visitors there is a wide range of locally made handicrafts and other goods available at all the popular sites, as well as within the boutiques of the leading hotels and at the various visitors’ centers. There you will find hand-woven rugs and cushions, beautifully embroidered items and clothing, traditional pottery, glassware, silver jewellery embedded with semi-precious stones, Bedouin knives, coffee pots, narghiles (hubble bubble), marquetry work, antiques and other artefacts. The list is endless and about as varied as you can imagine. Take time to visit the souks in Jordan’s larger towns and cities. These are treasure troves for those seeking something a little bit out of the ordinary. Within the souks are also excellent gold and silver outlets, where some great bargains can be found. Also worth visiting are the busy market shops, especially for exotic spices, herbs and seasonings. Both Amman and Aqaba offer sophisticated shops
and boutiques selling the very latest fashions in jewellery, clothing, accessories, leather and electronic goods.

When in Amman, don’t forget to visit al-Wakalat Street to find all European and North American brand stores lining the streets and offering their latest collections, as well as in the many malls available throughout the city. Also, Rainbow Street is a great tourist area, where many handicraft stores, coffee shops, and lounges overlook the paved lanes. Almost everywhere in Jordan you can find the world-famous Dead Sea spa products. All are of excellent quality and produced under strict clinical conditions. They are also very reasonably priced. In all cases, the shopkeepers are helpful and friendly. Most speak at least a little English but even if they don’t, there is usually someone around who will only be very willing to assist you. After all, this is Jordan!

A landmark complex in Amman that is worth visiting is the Boulevard which is strategically situated at the heart of Abdali, the new downtown of Amman, The Boulevard is a mixed-use complex that consists of a 370-meter-long and a 21-meter-wide outdoor pedestrian spine, bordered by 12 buildings. These buildings offer unique premium retail outlets, high street cafes and restaurants, avant-garde office spaces, luxurious Arjaan by Rotana hotel serviced apartments and exclusive rooftop lounges. The Boulevard will complement Abdali’s vision in redefining modern living in the Jordanian capital by blending business, pleasure and contemporary urban lifestyles in one prestigious address, enhancing the capital’s touristic and economic offering.

Local Time:

From October to March: Greenwich Mean Time Plus 2 Hours (G.M.T. + 2).
From April to September: Greenwich Mean Time Plus 3 Hours (G.M.T. + 3).
Jordan Is Seven Hours Ahead Of Us Eastern Time.

Water:

Water is a precious resource in Jordan and visitors are encouraged not to waste it. Hotels rated 3 stars and up have their own water filtering systems and their water is considered safe to drink. Elsewhere, bottled water is inexpensive and readily available.

Communications:

Telephone services within Jordan are efficient and reliable. Directories in Arabic and English are widely available and international calls can be made from public and private phones. Fax services are available at most hotels while telegrams can be sent from post offices. Internet access is widespread via internet cafes and hotels.
Currency:

The Local Currency Is The Jordanian Dinar, Symbol JD, Also Pronounced As “Jaydee.” There Are 1, 5, 10, 20 And 50 JD Notes. The Dinar Is Divided Into 100 Piasters (Pronounced “Pee-Asters”) Of 1000 Fils (“Fills”). The Fils Is the Unit Most Commonly Used and You Will Usually (Prices Written as 4,750 mean 4 JD and 750 Fils). Currency Can Be Exchanged At Major Banks, Exchange Booths And At Most Hotels. Street Money-Changers Are Best Avoided. Exchange Rates Are Set Daily By The Jordanian Central Bank.

Population:

The Population Of Jordan Has Grown Rapidly Over The Last Fifty Years Or So To 9,456,564 Million People 2016

Public Holidays:

Banks, Businesses, Government Offices and Many Shops Close All Day For Public Holidays.

Fixed Public Holidays Include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Holiday</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Year’s Day</td>
<td>January 1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labour Day</td>
<td>May 1st</td>
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<tr>
<td>Independence Day</td>
<td>May 25th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Day</td>
<td>December 25th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A Number Of Public Holidays Are Not Fixed. These Include Easter And The Following Islamic Holidays, Which Are Based On The Lunar Calendar:

- Eid Al-Fitr - A 3 or 4-Day Feast Marking the End of Ramadan.
- Eid Al-Adha - A 4 Day Feast at the end of The Hajj, or Month of Pilgrimage to Mecca.
- First of Muharam - Islamic New Year.
- 12 Rabee’ Al Awal - The Birthday of Prophet Mohammed (Pbuh).

**Tradition:**

Jordan can be regarded as a typically Arab country for its people are very warm, friendly and hospitable. Jordanians are typically happy to forgive foreigners who break the rules of etiquette. However, visitors seen to be making an effort to observe local customs will undoubtedly win favour. Joining local people for a cup of tea or coffee can be a wonderful way to learn more about local culture. If you are invited yet are unable to attend, then it is perfectly acceptable to decline. Place your right hand over your heart and politely make your excuses. Many families, particularly in rural areas, are very traditional and, if you visit their house, you may well find it is divided between the men and women. Foreign women are often treated as "honorary" men. Local women in Jordan enjoy considerable freedom when compared with many other countries in the region. Women are entitled to a full education, they can vote, they can drive cars, and they often play significant roles in business and politics. Arranged marriages and dowries are still common.

**Health Insurance Service:**

The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research mandates all Jordanian Universities to provide their students with a mandatory health insurance. Students will get a full 100% insurance coverage in case of emergencies and 80% coverage in non-emergencies.
• **On-Campus Food Service:**

Students have two options:

1. AAUC training restaurant: The training restaurant serves two rounds for lunch, the early lunch from 12:30-01:30 p.m. and late lunch from 2:30-3:30p.m. on daily basis with a four changeable International course menu. It is open for in-house faculty, students and outside visitors at affordable prices. The food served at the Training Restaurant is being freshly cooked and garnished by AAUC students in the Food Production courses which take place earlier the same day.

2. Student Cafeteria: AAUC’s cafeteria provides its students with an area to relax, eat and socialize. It is open five days a week from 8:00 pm till 6:00 pm and provides a variety of sandwiches, snacks and beverages at affordable prices.

• **Exchange Rates:**


• **Housing (Real Estate Offices):**

The college does not provide on campus dorms but assist students in securing accommodation through the different real estate offices:

- **Abdoun Real Estate Office in Abdoun**, opposite to Queen Alia Fund for Social Development  
  Mr. Wael Al-Ja’abary Telephone Number: 065920605
- **Hamido Real Estate for furnished studios Amman Al-Abdali Al-Sayegh Commercial Center Building** Phone Number: 064611146, E-mail: hamido_estates@yahoo.com  
  Website: http://hamido.aqar-estate.com/main

**Studios:**

- Studio for rent in Amman, super deluxe studios, northern Abdoun, new furniture skhort, WiFi LED screen, near the services of the owner, mobile: 07 9536 2259
- Studio for rent in Amman: a furnished studio for rent in Abdoun, Al-Dyar traffic light, living room, central air-conditioning, mobile number: 07 9717 7702

**Lodges:**

- Daraghmeh for lodges: Kindi Street, between king Abdullah gardens and the fifth circle, next to Istishari Hospital, phone number: +962 6 5603035
- Al-Jawahra lodges: Dahyet Al-Rasheed, Akef al Fayez Street, phone number: +962 6 5166551
- Akasya lodges: Shmeisani, phone number: +962 6 5661221
- Crystal lodges: Fifth circle, phone number: +962 6 5692672
Map: