

## **Currency**

The Jordanian unit of currency is the Jordanian dinar, often abbreviated as JD. The JD is divided into 100 piasters, or 1000 fils. The JD is pegged to the U.S. dollar at a permanent exchange rate of 0.708 JDs to one U.S. dollar, and may be freely converted into U.S. dollars and visa versa.

## **Language and Religion**

The official language of Jordan is Arabic, but many people also speak English. The major religion is Islam. Approximately 4% of the population is Christian.

## **Shopping**

For shoppers Jordan offers a mix of new and old. Parts of Amman are lined with trendy shops where one can find the latest fashions. In the older souks one can find a plethora of traditional items to purchase including sand bottles and Arab "kefiyas," big cotton headscarves in black and white or red and white. Jewelry is also popular. For traditional items, bargaining is encouraged.

## **Sightseeing**

Jordan features something for everyone. For monument seekers, there is the ancient Nabataean city of Petra, where temples and monuments are carved into the walls of a canyon. If ancient Rome is your thing, don't forget to visit Jarash, which is just north of Amman. For desert lovers, one should checkout the breathtaking scenery of Wadi Rum.

## **Arriving by Air**

Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA) is 32 kilometres (20 miles) south-east of Amman city centre and is Jordan's gateway to the world.

Although numerous taxis link QAIA with Amman and other places near and far, airport access was given a big coach service. Linking QAIA with Amman's Abdali city center terminal every half-hour-limited 06.00 and 23.00, and every hour-limited the night, the totally dedicated, limited stop and already highly-successful service is the result of a new joint venture aimed at improving airport access. The maintain selling points of the Airport Express are competitive fares (JD1 or US\$1.40 single), short journey times (around 45 minutes, depending on traffic), and high frequencies (which keep maximum waiting times during the day down to 30 minutes). We're delighted with the way the Airport Express has developed, so much that there are plans to introduce a new, high-frequency Hotel Shuttle to link Amman's major hotels with QAIA and, of course, vice versa.

## **Getting Around Amman**

All visitors need an International Driving Permit in order to drive in Jordan, where traffic drives on the right-hand side. The main roads in Amman are in a good state of

repair, but minor roads and tracks should be avoided without an appropriate vehicle, a good supply of water and local advice!

All the major car hire companies are represented in Amman, some with drivers provided on a daily basis, and the city centre also has a reliable and inexpensive bus service. These are probably better options for newcomers to Amman.

### **Transportation**

The only domestic flights run between Amman and Aqaba. Major cities are connected by bus and mini busses connect the smaller towns. One can travel around Amman by service taxi.

Further detailed information about Jordan can be found in: <http://www.mota.gov.jo/>

After the notification of acceptance date, we need to add the following links:

- 1) guidelines of preparing presentations with some sample links.
- 2) A web page to add a brief bibliography for all presenters.
- 3) The details of the audio/video facilities in each room and ask the presenters to inform the organization committee if he/she needs other accessibility facilities.
- 4) Program of the events.