

Moving to Jordan: Your Relocation Guide



By Appointment To
Her Majesty The Queen
Removals and Storage Contractor Abels

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TELEPHONE:	Country code (962) + Area code
STANDARD TIME:	GMT +2 (+3 between Mar – Oct dates vary)
WEIGHTS & MEASURES:	Metric
ELECTRICITY:	220v / 50 Hz round 2 pin plugs are used
INOCULATIONS / VACCINATIONS:	Not required
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:	Jan 1, 24, Mar 29, 31, Apr 30, May 24, Jun 4, 9, Jul 8, Aug 7, Oct 14, Nov 4, Dec 25
OFFICE HOURS:	0930 – 1330 & 1530 – 1800 Sun – Thurs During month of Ramadan working hours are greatly reduced
BANK HOURS:	0830 – 1500 Sat – Thurs 0830 – 1000 during Ramadan
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:	191: Police 199: Ambulance
BRITISH EMBASSY IN JORDAN:	Dimashq; Abdounal-Shamali PO Box 87 Amman 11118 Tel: 659 0 9200 Fax: 659 0 9279 Web: http://ukinjordan.fco.gov.uk/en/
JORDANIAN EMBASSY IN LONDON:	6 Upper Phillimore Gardens London W8 7HA Tel: 02079 373 685 Fax: 02079 378 795 Web: http://jordan.embassyhomepage.com/
TOURIST & TRAVEL INFORMATION:	1st floor Kennedy House 115 Hammersmith Road London W14 0QH Tel: 02073 716 496 Fax: 02076 032 424 Web: www.visitjordan.com.uk

Customs

To the best of our knowledge, the following documentation is required to import household and personal effects into Jordan. However, it is advisable to check with the authorities that documentation is in order, prior to despatch.

Household Goods – Returning Jordanians

Documents Required:

- Export Way Bill / instructions
- Original Bill of Lading / House Bill of Lading / Airway Bill / House Airway Bill of Lading. Telex is ok
- Valued Packing List / Inventory
- Original Passport of the consignee
- Authorisation letter to clear goods on behalf of consignee, notarised by local Jordanian bank
- Residence and / or work permit in Jordan

Generally customs taxes / duties on used household goods and personal effects are about 52% of Cost Insurance and Freight (CIF) value.

Duties / taxes on electronics are also about 52% of the declared value of the goods.

Duty free entry if:

Returning citizens are Jordanians who spent more than a year abroad. You must hold a valid passport showing your national I.D number and a cancelled residence permit abroad.

The following documents may be provided by the returning citizen as evidence of termination of residency abroad:

1. Copy of a residential legalised lease contract or house ownership title in Jordan.
2. Children's registration forms in Jordanian schools.
3. Endorsed new work contract.
4. Letter of termination of employment or the resignation abroad or VISA cancellation.

The household effects have been owned and used abroad by the owner and for their continued personal use.

Effects are used more than 30% (extent of use is normally assessed by customs officers).

Duration of clearance procedures and release of shipments:

- Air freight shipments: 2 – 3 working days
- Sea freight shipments: 7 – 9 working days (provided all documents are in hand and in order)

Provided free of charge, port storage is 7 days including arrival day for sea shipments and one day for air shipments.

Exemption from duty does not apply to the following:

- All new items and items used less than 30%
- Musical instruments

- Office equipment
- Satellite equipment
- Video cameras
- CDs
- Fax machines

Amounts in excess of the permitted duty free allowance per family of two pieces of household electrical appliances.

Returning Jordanians and Non Diplomat Foreign Individuals categories:

Importation of household effects should take place within six months of owner's date of entry and may arrive in several shipments. Owner or spouse should be physically present in Jordan at the time of customs clearance.

All shipments are subject to full physical customs inspection. The presence of the owner is a MUST in order to answer any of the inspector's questions. If any item is locked, keys should be available.

Video and audiocassettes, books, magazines, records and CD's are subject to censorship by the Press and Publications Department thus should be packed separately and marked.

Cordless telephones will be inspected by the Telecommunications Department. If the specifications are not within the permitted criteria the telephone will be confiscated or owner has to re-export it at his own expense.

Satellite equipment requires the approval of radio and TV corp. Therefore, the equipment's catalogue should be made available and removed from the shipment for physical check. As this usually takes some time, a separate customs formality will have to be made at own owner's cost.

Items found unsuitable will be confiscated.

Non Diplomat Foreign Individual

Documents required are the same as house hold goods.

Diplomats' Removals and Motor Vehicles

Documents required:

- Original Bill of Lading / Airway Bill or Telex Release
- Franchise letter. This is obtained by the Embassy on behalf of the Diplomat from the Ministry of Finance / Customs through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Authorisation letter to obtain delivery order on behalf of consignee
- Inventory List / Packing List
- Passport copy

Duty free entry.

A diplomat must be in Jordan prior to their household goods arrival by at least one month.

They need to register with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through their Embassy in order to be granted the exemption status of custom duties and taxes on their household goods and cars.

Embassy employees who do not hold a diplomatic customs status are customs exempted but are subject to actual inspection.

Expatriates

Documents required:

- Export Way Bill / instructions
- Original Bill of Lading / house Bill of Lading / Airway Bill / house Airway Bill
- Valued packing list / inventory
- Copies of consignee's passport
- Authorisation letter to obtain delivery order on behalf of consignee, notarised by local Jordanian bank

For regional offices, if the name of the person is on the registration certificate of the office at the Ministry of Trade and Commerce (usually it is if the person is the acting manager with signature authority.) Then the goods will get exempted from customs duties. The exemption is considered under the assumption that the HHG are used and not new.

If exemption is granted it will be free from custom duties only, but VAT will be applicable.

Items exempt from customs duties

- All new items
- Electrical appliances not more than two pieces of each type

Excluding the following items where exemption shall only cover one piece of each type.

- Video cameras
- Personal office equipment
- Satellite receivers and all the accessories (i.e. dish, signal receiver)
- Musical appliances
- Personal computer
- Two litres of alcohol per shipment is accepted and the rest is subject to duties and taxes of 200% of actual value. The same should be listed in a separate packing list. This rule is also applicable for diplomats who should contact their Embassy to check if any customs exemption would be allowed

Motor Vehicles

Documents required:

- Original Bill of Lading
- Ownership title
- Valid motorcar license

- Valid driving license

Subject to duty and VAT taxes.

Importation of motor vehicles older than five years is allowed at present.

Passenger cars operating on diesel are NOT ALLOWED.

If the consignee is duty exempt (i.e. a diplomat) then the car would be tax exempt as well.

If the consignee is a taxed foreigner importing a car in their name, then the vehicle can be imported on a temporary entry basis for a period of up to six months with a renewal every three months. After the temporary period the car would have to leave the country or the owner would have to pay full customs duties.

If the consignee is a returning Jordanian then they would have to pay customs duties in all cases, unless the same car was exported earlier from Jordan (all customs duties paid), and is now being re-imported.

Pets and Live Animals

Documents required:

- Airway Bill
- Owner / Birth Certificate (registration certificate)
- Health Certificate
- Vaccination Certificate
- Import license from Agriculture Ministry

Duty free entry

Prohibited Importation

- Arms, ammunition
- Drugs and narcotics
- Pornographic literature, films and photographs

Food

We strongly recommend that shippers be advised not to ship any commercially prepared and purchased food product with your unaccompanied personal goods. This includes meat, meat-by products, wines, spirits, spices, herbs, canned foods, pet food, pastas, rice and any other item intended for human or animal consumption.

This includes: wines, spirits, beer, cider, spices, herbs, canned packed or wrapped foods, pet food, pastas, rice, food supplements, vitamins, fruit juices, carbonated / non carbonated drinks, milk, perishable foods, dry foods and any other item intended for human or animal consumption.

If the shipper insists on shipping food items, the specified information below must be gathered and provided for each food item imported. If the information is not provided, the food items may face refusal of entry, requiring segregation / manipulation of the shipment under customs supervision at a bonded facility, at substantial additional cost. Costs could be

in the thousands of dollars and can not be anticipated.

These costs will be the responsibility of the client.

- Product brand name
- Product classification
- Country of production
- Country of packaging
- Type of product (canned, bottled, packaged)
- Quantity

Ask for **Abels form QF565** for completing.

General Information on Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Background

Following World War I and the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire, the League of Nations awarded Britain the mandate to govern much of the Middle East. Britain demarcated a semi-autonomous region of Transjordan from Palestine in the early 1920s. The area gained its independence in 1946 and thereafter became The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The country's long-time ruler, King HUSSEIN (1953-99), successfully navigated competing pressures from the major powers (US, USSR, and UK), various Arab states, Israel, and a large internal Palestinian population. Jordan lost the West Bank to Israel in the 1967 Six-Day War. King HUSSEIN in 1988 permanently relinquished Jordanian claims to the West Bank; in 1994 he signed a peace treaty with Israel. King ABDALLAH II, King HUSSEIN's eldest son, assumed the throne following his father's death in 1999. He has implemented modest political and economic reforms, including the passage of a new electoral law in early 2016 ahead of legislative elections held in September. The Islamic Action Front, which is the political arm of the Jordanian Muslim Brotherhood, returned to parliament with 15 seats after boycotting the previous two elections in 2010 and 2013.

Geography

Jordan is situated in Southwest Asia, northwest of Saudi Arabia. Until 1988, when King Hussein relinquished Jordan's claim to the West Bank, that area was considered part of Jordan, although officially recognised as such by only the United Kingdom and Pakistan.

Jordan is landlocked except at its southern extremity, where nearly twenty six kilometers of shoreline along the Gulf of Aqaba provide access to the Red Sea. A great north-south geological rift, forming the depression of Lake Tiberias (Sea of Galilee), the Jordan Valley, and the Dead Sea, is the dominant topographical feature.

The country consists mainly of a plateau between 700 and 1,000m high, divided into ridges by valleys and gorges, and a few mountainous areas.

By far the greatest part of the East Bank is desert. Most of this land is part of the great Syrian Desert. There are broad

expanses of sand and dunes, particularly in the south and southeast, together with salt flats. Occasional jumbles of sandstone hills or low mountains support only meager and stunted vegetation that thrives for a short period after the scanty winter rains.

Climate

The major characteristic of the climate is the contrast between a relatively rainy season from November to April and very dry weather for the rest of the year. With hot, dry, uniform summers and cool, variable winters during which practically all of the precipitation occurs, the country has a Mediterranean Sea a given part of the country lies, the greater are the seasonal contrasts in temperature and the less rainfall.

Population

It is estimated at 6.05 million.

Environmental Issues

There are limited natural fresh water resources, with deforestation, overgrazing, soil erosion and desertification.

Currency

Jordanian Dinar (JOD).

Economy

Jordan's economy is among the smallest in the Middle East, with insufficient supplies of water, oil, and other natural resources underlying the government's heavy reliance on foreign assistance. Other economic challenges for the government include chronic high rates of poverty, unemployment, inflation, and a large budget deficit and resulting government debt. King ABDALLAH, during the first decade of the 2000s, implemented significant economic reforms, such as opening up foreign trade and privatizing state-owned companies that attracted foreign investment and contributed to average annual economic growth of 8% for 2004 through 2008. The global economic slowdown and regional turmoil since, however, reduced the average annual growth rate to 2.6% for the 2010-2013 period and hurt export-oriented sectors, construction, and tourism. Jordan's finances have been strained by a series of natural gas pipeline attacks in Egypt, causing Jordan to substitute more expensive diesel imports, primarily from Saudi Arabia, to generate electricity. To diversify its energy mix, Jordan is currently exploring nuclear power generation, exploitation of abundant oil shale reserves and renewable technologies, as well as the import of Israeli offshore gas. In August 2012, to correct budgetary and balance of payments imbalances, Jordan entered into a \$2.1 billion, three year International Monetary Fund Stand-By Arrangement. In 2014, fiscal reform measures enacted in the previous few years continued to boost government revenues and reduced the budget deficit even as an influx of over 620,000 Syrian refugees since 2011 put additional pressure on expenditures.



Education

There is Secondary education, which consists of two years of school study, for students who have completed the 10-year basic cycle. It comprises of two major tracks: Secondary education, which can either be academic or vocational. At the end of the two-year period, students sit for the general secondary examination (Tawjihi) in the appropriate branch and those who pass are awarded the Tawjihi (General Secondary Education Certificate). The academic stream qualifies students for university entrance, whereas the vocational or technical type qualifies for entrance to Community colleges or universities or the job market, provided they pass the two additional subjects. Vocational secondary education, which provides intensive vocational training and apprenticeship, and leads to the award of a Certificate (not the Tawjihi). This type of education is provided by the Vocational Training Corporation, under the control of the Ministry of Labour / Technical and Vocational Education and Training Higher Council.

Higher education

See also: List of universities in Jordan Access to higher education is open to holders of the General Secondary Education Certificate who can then apply to private community colleges, public community colleges or universities (public and private), the admission to public universities is very competitive. The credit-hour system, which entitles students to select courses according to a study plan, is implemented at universities. At present, there are eight public universities plus two newly licensed ones, and thirteen private universities plus four newly licensed ones. All post-secondary education is the responsibility of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. The Ministry includes the Higher Education Council and the Accreditation Council.

Religion

Religion in Jordan is a much more important cultural issue than in the west. The demographics of Jordan show that about 90% of Jordanians are Sunni Muslims, Christians make up 7% of Jordan population, varying among Greek Orthodox, Catholics, Coptics etc and 2% other.

Health

Medical facilities outside Amman are basic and primitive and in an emergency you are advised to seek treatment in Amman.

The temperature in summer months can reach over 40 degrees Celsius. Take care and use high factor sun-block. Drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration.

You should seek medical advice before travelling and ensure that all appropriate vaccinations are up to date. NHS Direct (0845 46 47) can provide you with advice on the vaccination requirements for Jordan.

Security Advice

There remains a general threat from terrorism in Jordan. Attacks could be indiscriminate, including in places frequented by expatriates and foreign travellers.

If you are planning to travel to Jordan, you should be careful about, and confident of, your personal security arrangements throughout your visit. Although levels of crime are generally low, women, in particular, should be careful to avoid situations where they might become victims of sexual assault.

You should take extra care at the borders with Israel and Iraq. You should take particular care when using Jordanian service taxis to cross into neighbouring countries.

You should take care to avoid demonstrations, which can turn hostile, and be particularly vigilant in public places.

We strongly recommend that you obtain comprehensive travel and medical insurance before travelling. You should check all exclusions and that your policy covers you for all the activities you want to undertake.

Residents are advised to register their presence in Jordan with the Consular Section at the British Embassy.

Road Travel

You should obtain an International driving license before travelling to Jordan.

There are a high number of road accidents. You should drive with care, especially at night, and avoid driving on unlit roads due to poor road conditions. Make sure you obtain third party insurance. Special care should be taken when driving outside urban areas at night and should be avoided if possible. Most roads are unlit and stray animals, broken down vehicles and unmarked roadworks are commonplace.

The police carry out random security checks at checkpoints on the roads. You should keep identification documents with you to present at these checkpoints.

Although every care is taken to ensure that all information in the Abels Relocation Guide is accurate and up to date Abels cannot accept liability for any inaccuracy.