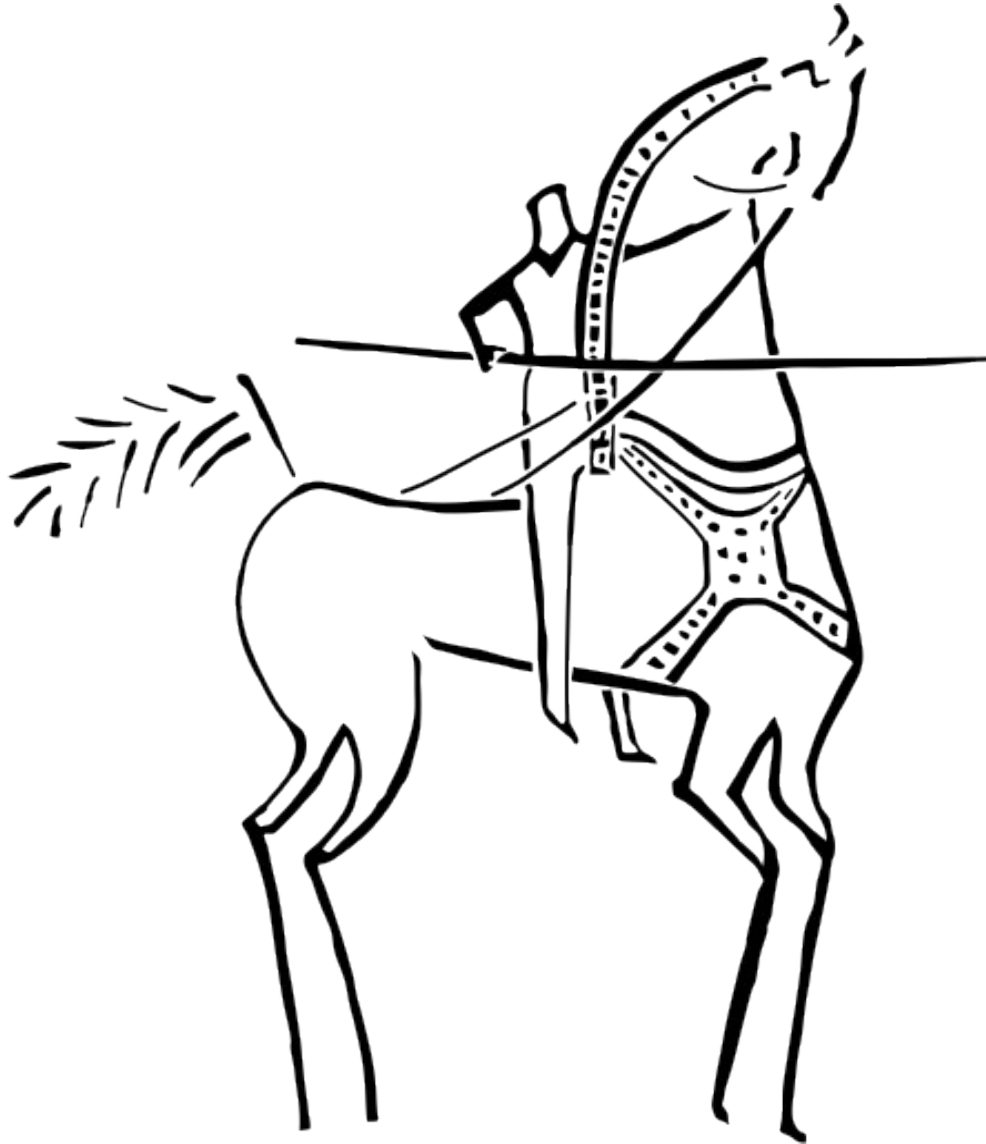


Welcome to the  
CBRL British Institute  
in Amman



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Jubaiha, 11941  
Amman, Jordan  
Tel: +962 6 534 1317  
Email: [bia@bi-amman.org.uk](mailto:bia@bi-amman.org.uk)  
 @BIA\_CBRL

 The British Institute in Amman

Please do not remove this *Welcome Booklet* from your room  
A copy may be downloaded from [www.cbri.org.uk/british-institute-amman/accommodation](http://www.cbri.org.uk/british-institute-amman/accommodation)

January 2015

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## *Introduction*

The **CBRL British Institute in Amman** (hereby referred to as “The Institute”) is the **Council for British Research in the Levant's** (CBRL) local institute in Jordan ([www.cbri.org.uk](http://www.cbri.org.uk)). We are a membership-based organisation that provides support and facilities to researchers and students. Our services include a library, hostel, IT facilities, and workspace as well as vehicles and field equipment available for hire. For more information please contact: [bia@bi-amman.org.uk](mailto:bia@bi-amman.org.uk).

The Institute is proud to host regular events at the institute. If you are interested in presenting a lecture, leading a seminar in our Social Science Research Group series, organising a workshop or a conference please do not hesitate to contact the BI-Amman Director ([director@bi-amman.org.uk](mailto:director@bi-amman.org.uk)).

We offer Arabic language training. To learn about the opportunities visit:

[www.cbri.org.uk/funding-jobs/arabic-language-training](http://www.cbri.org.uk/funding-jobs/arabic-language-training)

The Institute is located in Tla' Al-Ali, Amman, a short walk from the **American Center for Oriental Research (ACOR)**, the **German Protestant Institute of Archaeology (GPIA)** and the **University of Jordan** (see the map at the back of this booklet).

Please note that the main services we provide are designed to facilitate research. CBRL is a non-profit making organisation and all charges are designed to cover costs. Therefore, while we endeavour to provide the best service we can, kindly do not expect the level of service that you might get when paying commercial rates. In return you will find us much more tolerant of inevitable wear and tear incurred during research; please let us know if this does happen, so we can fix any problems before the next user is faced with them!

To report any general maintenance issues, e.g. light bulb replacement, non-functioning equipment, please send an email to Nadja Qaisi ([info@bi-amman.org.uk](mailto:info@bi-amman.org.uk)) or report the problem personally during her working hours (8am-4pm), her office is located on the Ground Floor.

## Membership

All users who stay in the Institutes' hostel for more than one night must become members of CBRL. Membership costs £50 per individual, £20 student/unwaged and is valid from 1 January to 31 December.

By becoming a member of CBRL, you join a community.

Individual membership benefits also include:

- Full access to the library, computers, fax, email, use of the address for correspondence (see front of booklet) and research and internet facilities (all subject to regulations and applicable charges).
- Subscription to CBRL publications (*Levant* and the *Bulletin*) and conferences in the UK and in Jordan.

Please note that if you are here as part of a project and will not be using our facilities outside of that participation, then the project should cover you under its Project Membership, please check with your Director.

### *Project Membership Charges (correct at 6<sup>th</sup> May 2014)*

Team Members	CBRL funded/affiliated	Non-CBRL
3-10	£65	£95
11-20	£95	£125
More than 20	£125	£160

Team members can stay for two nights at the beginning and end of fieldwork without becoming individual members. Of course, Project Membership will not bring you *Levant* or the *Bulletin* and we would welcome your individual membership.

For full membership details, including online payment methods, donation information, full terms and conditions and information regarding our refund policy please visit:

[www.cbtl.org.uk/join-us/membership-services.aspx](http://www.cbtl.org.uk/join-us/membership-services.aspx).

## British Institute in Amman Staff

Long-term staff at the Institute includes the Director, the Finance Administrator, Scholar-in-Residence, and Librarian. There is also a housekeeper, a caretaker and a part-time facilitator.

British Institute in Amman Director	Dr Carol Palmer	<a href="mailto:director@bi-amman.org.uk">director@bi-amman.org.uk</a>
Finance Administrator	Nadja Qaisi	<a href="mailto:info@bi-amman.org.uk">info@bi-amman.org.uk</a>
Scholar-in-Residence	Adam Ferron	<a href="mailto:bia@bi-amman.org.uk">bia@bi-amman.org.uk</a>
Librarian	Rudaina Momani	<a href="mailto:library@bi-amman.org.uk">library@bi-amman.org.uk</a>
Caretaker	Mohammad Fseiseh	
Housekeeper	Esmeralda Ugerio	
Facilitator	Issa Madi	

## Office Hours

Staff are here to help facilitate your research stay in Jordan, but please show consideration by trying to keep your business to normal opening hours: **9:00am-5:00pm, Sundays to Thursdays** (NB - Nadja Qaisi works **8-4 pm** only). Outside opening hours, do not hesitate to contact staff in an emergency (contact numbers are at the end of this guide). Note that weekends are Fridays and Saturdays and most government departments, banks, and embassies are shut on these days, as well as during public holidays.

The caretaker works **Saturday to Thursday, 8:00am-2:00pm**. The housekeeper works **Monday – Thursday and Saturday, 7:00am-3:00pm**. On Fridays there are no cleaning or caretaking staff in the building unless there is an event. There is a notice in each bedroom stating which day cleaning takes place there. Please make sure your room is tidy ready for the housekeeper, keep communal areas tidy and wash up after your meals in the kitchen(s).

## Arrival & Visa Information

Please complete a User's Registration Form when you first arrive. These can be obtained from Adam Ferron ([bia@bi-amman.org.uk](mailto:bia@bi-amman.org.uk)), and should be returned to him on completion either as hard copy or via email.

Guests will be given the current code for the key-pad entry system to access the front gate and side door when booking. Please **do not disclose the security code to enter the institute to non-residents** and make sure that you close doors securely when entering and leaving the building.

## **How and when to get a visa**

Visas into Jordan can be bought at most main points of entry (excluding the **King Hussein/Allenby Bridge**) for **40 JD** which allows a stay of up to **one month**. Multiple entry visas for longer stays are available, for more information visit: <http://international.visitjordan.com/generalinformation/entryintojordan.aspx>.

The visa can be extended for a total of up to three months from the date of entry – please ask Nadja, the Finance Administrator, when you arrive if you need this service. Currently, visas can be further extended from three to six months in total from the date of entry through application to the Ministry of the Interior. We can assist you with this for a fee.

If you do not extend your visa, there is an overstay charge of **1.5 JD/day**, usually assessed at departure. Other than the fine, as far as we are aware, there are no further consequences. It is also possible to manage long-term stays through exiting and re-entering the Kingdom at regular intervals. Each time you exit and re-enter Jordan, the process starts again.

Please note that visa requirements can change with no notice. A blood test may or may not be required. We will always do our best to advise you of the latest requirements but please be patient as it may require several visits to police stations and offices to sort everything out, especially where you may have incurred fines through late application. Our advice is always to apply early and to be prepared to exit and re-enter Jordan as an option to extend your total stay.

## **Departure Procedures**

Please strip the sheets off your bed at the end of your stay so that the housekeeper knows you have gone and leave the room by 11:00am. You are welcome to use the institute facilities until the time of your actual departure, e.g. wait in the lounge or use the library.

**Please make sure to return your keys to the front office / reception area upon departure.**

## ***Payment of bills***

All bills should be paid during office hours or by credit/debit card using our online payment service. Whether paying by cash in Amman or online, please make sure to agree your bill at least a day in advance before you leave. Payments made in Amman should preferably be in JD cash. A handling fee will be charged for any bills settled in any other currency. At present this is **JD 5** for accounts under JD100 and **2.5%** of the bill for amounts over JD100.

### ***Payment by Credit/Debit Card***

Payment by debit or credit card (Visa/Delta/Eurocard/Mastercard/Maestro/Solo/JCB) is possible using our online service. A small fee may apply which will vary depending on the card used. For more information visit: [www.cbri.org.uk/join-us/payment-for-services.aspx](http://www.cbri.org.uk/join-us/payment-for-services.aspx).



# *The British Institute in Amman Building*

## *Location*

The British Institute in Amman is located in **Tla' al-'Ali**, on a hill opposite the **University of Jordan**. It is very close to both the **German Protestant Institute of Archaeology (GPIA)** and the **American Center for Oriental Research (ACOR)**. One of the easiest landmarks for taxi drivers is the **Amman International Hotel**, next to the German Institute. To find the Institute from there, simply follow the road to the top of the hill, pass by the mosque, turn right and we are the second building around the corner, **number 102**. Alternatively, and usually a more direct route, you can tell the driver to go to **Suq as-Sultan** and then proceed up the hill from the small circle (roundabout) following Uhod street, continuing straight up and along for 1.5km, passing Cozmo supermarket and a housing complex called **Iskan Ibn Sina'** on the left until you reach building number 102 on the right (please refer to the map on the last page of this booklet)

## *Building Layout*

**Ground Floor** - Institute front office / receptions, Finance Admin office, director's office, staff research office, archaeological workroom/lab space with reference collections, main kitchen and bathrooms.

**Basement** – storage of all field equipment, artefacts and samples (please note that although the BI-Amman does store material that is being worked on by a live project, we are not a long-term storage facility, except for limited quantities of material donated as reference material by prior agreement.)

**First Floor** - library, map collection, archive collections, archive/research room, and scholars' accommodation. There is a bathroom which is also available for use by hostel guests.

**Second Floor** – hostel accommodation

**Third Floor** – the Fellows' Flat, a self-contained apartment (generally for longer-term scholars, or post-doctoral researchers).

**Roof** - water, central heating boilers, and fuel tanks. Occasional barbecues are held here by prior arrangement with the Director.

## *Library*

The library is open to visitors, **9:00am-5:00pm** on working days. Residents have full out of hours access. Information about the library catalogue and library regulations can be found in the library. The online catalogue can be searched at: [library.cbri.org.uk/liberty/opac/search.do](http://library.cbri.org.uk/liberty/opac/search.do)

Please note that the library computers are primarily for access to the online library catalogue and online journals.

### *Computing facilities & Wi-Fi*

Institute computers are all PCs running Windows 7. All the computers are connected to the internet and all facilities can be accessed 24 hours a day.

Wireless internet is free; the current Wi-Fi passwords are posted on notice boards in the library and accommodation floors. Please note that, while generally very good, due to the current status of internet speed in Jordan, we cannot guarantee uninterrupted service – nor can we guarantee speeds equivalent to those found in major centres in the UK.

For printing and photocopying services, please put your contributions in the red cash box beside the photocopier in the library. Rates are around 0.500 JD for every 10 pages (A4). If you are copying a higher volume please, or on behalf of a project, please consult with Nadja so that you may be billed for this service.

We have two open access computers in the library that are connected to an A4 black and white printer and a scanner. One computer also has graphics and GIS software. There are photocopy and scanning shops in the vicinity of the University that can provide bulk, cheap photocopying and scanning facilities.

You are welcome to use your own laptops and access our power supply. Please note that we cannot be held responsible for any power failures or surges. Please do not dominate the library computers for online browsing if researchers are waiting to use them for work!

### *Other Facilities*

Dig equipment, survey equipment, vehicles and camping equipment are all available for hire. Please ask staff for details. For a complete list of major equipment items please visit our website: [www.bi-amman.org.uk/](http://www.bi-amman.org.uk/).

### *Hostel*

#### ***General Layout***

The hostel on the second floor consists of:

- Five bedrooms and 2 bathrooms (there are also bathrooms on the library and ground floors). Please conserve water at all times.
- Lounge with TV, satellite, DVD player and VCR, and a balcony. Table Tennis table.
- Hostel fridge –please feel free to store your own food in the fridge, but don't forget to label them and remove them upon departure.
- Washing facilities include an automatic washing machine on the ground floor (please record your use of this in the Laundry Book on top of the washing machine), an iron and board, and a drying rack. Please strip the sheets off your bed if you wish them to be changed.

### ***House Rules***

- Harassment of fellow residents, guests, staff, or visitors for any reason will not be tolerated.
- Please note that smoking is **not permitted** anywhere inside the Institute nor the hostel. Please use the outside garden as a smoking area.
- Visitors are **not** allowed in hostel areas unless invited or dependent on the location of lectures. Visitors must keep to the library, and ground floor lobby.
- In general: please remember that you are a guest in Jordan. Thus, please obey Jordanian laws, and comply with local customs as a courtesy.
- Resources are limited. Please exhibit sensible usage in regards to water, electricity, and other facilities.
- Please note that while you are a guest of the Institute's hostel, you are encouraged to take responsibility in helping others when possible. Please consider the urgency of yours and your fellow residents needs.

### **Main Kitchen**

The main kitchen is on the ground floor. **Breakfast (8:00-9:00am)** is included for all hostel guests and others who have made advance arrangements (and who have paid a small charge). Breakfast items are available for self-service in the “Breakfast for Residents” fridge and cabinets which can be found in the main kitchen.

There is a morning tea break at 10.30. Lunch and dinner are not provided, but guests are free to use the kitchen (for lunch preferably between 1pm and 2pm to reduce the disturbance caused by people cooking). Both fridge and marked cupboard space are available to guests to store food.

Please make sure you clean up after yourself and keep your fridge supply within limits, bearing in mind that there are many others who use it. Please also clear out your cupboard and fridge space before you leave by distributing to guests, placing in the 'Breakfast for Residents' fridge, or leaving on the table (all food left on the table is viewed as available for residents' consumption).

### *Fellows' Flat*

On the top floor of the building is the Fellows' Flat, accommodation primarily intended for long-term post-doctoral researchers. This large and comfortable flat contains four study bedrooms and its own self-catering kitchen and lounge. There is also a washing machine.

### *Communications & Staying in Touch*

Telephone, fax, email and postage are all available. **Dial "9"** to get an outside telephone line from the phone in the hostel and Fellows' Flat (local land-lines only). Long distance calls may be made from the office and faxes sent during office hours (please see charges at the back of this booklet). To post letters, please leave them at reception or with Nadja, our Finance Administrator, who will bill you for postage with any other bills. Members may use the Institute address as their postal address in Jordan.

The mailing address is Incoming post and monthly bills are left in the top tray of the green plastic stand in the small lounge of the hostel.

**Please note that Jordan often imposes heavy and unpredictable customs fees on packages received. This may require you to go to a customs office for collection/payment. If you are unsure of the process, please ask for advice.**

The Institute has free Wi-Fi; different routers operate in different parts of the building, choose the one with the best signal (for more information, please look at the '*Computing Facilities*' on pg. 8).

For all long-term guests, we recommend that you purchase a Jordanian SIM card for use within in Jordan, which are widely available from mobile phone outlets.

If you want to purchase a local SIM card for your mobile, there is a phone shop in Suq as-Sultan (go right from the Uhod Street-Suq as-Sultan roundabout and it is on the right-hand side of the road). Jordanian SIM cards with local providers **Zain, Orange Jordan** and **Umniya** are inexpensive, around 10 JD. Top up credit can be purchased in grocery stores on scratch cards of 3 and 5 JD (please note this amount is subject to tax).

**Please note: the dialling code for Jordan is +(962)**

### Department of Antiquities permits

All applications submitted through us should be CBRL sponsored or affiliated projects. The Department of Antiquities (DaA) **no longer issues permits to individuals not affiliated with a recognised institution**, which could be Jordan-based, like CBRL, or a university anywhere in the world.

For all DoA related issues, please contact Nadja Qaisi. We ask that members copy loan requests to us.

### Security

All visitors will be aware that the political and security situation in the Middle East can be volatile. While the Institute has rarely had any specific security problems, it is important that sensible precautions are taken. Please check Foreign Office travel advice for details of the current situation, [www.fco.gov.uk](http://www.fco.gov.uk), and register yourself with your embassy. Please make sure we have a way to contact you (e.g. mobile number) in case of emergency.

Visitors are reminded to dress and behave appropriately, both when out and when within the working areas of the Institute. The advice of the British Embassy is to avoid large crowds, especially after the mid-day prayers on Fridays. Because of this we suggest you avoid downtown Amman around the middle of the day on Fridays. We also recommend against women taking taxis by themselves late at night. If you have any questions about where it may be inadvisable to go, or what might constitute appropriate dress, please check with staff or a long-term resident.

**Please do not disclose the security code to enter the institute to non-residents** and make sure that you close doors securely when entering and leaving the building. BI guests are responsible for letting non-resident guests into and out of the building.

Small valuables can be placed in the office safe (during working hours). Note that we take no responsibility for items left in rooms or in the safe in case of theft. Also please note that, except by prior arrangement, items cannot be removed from the safe except during working hours.

Please keep alert for strangers hanging around the building, or for unidentified bags lying around. Report anything you are suspicious of to a member of staff. In an emergency contact the Embassy security staff (**British Embassy Security: 5909200; Qassem Widyan 0795501321; Hasan al-Ajrami: 0795532883**). The building's outside lights go on automatically after dark.

### *Panic Buttons & Fire Alarms*

#### *If you feel in danger*

Panic buttons are located

1. In the **library**, on the wall above the new acquisitions, next to the library alarm system
2. In the **hostel**, next to the main entrance.
3. Next to the desk in the **front office**

The British Embassy will call when the alarm is sounded. In order to cancel the alarm, a code number is requested. This number is known to members of staff and long-term residents.

#### *In the event of a fire*

On discovering a fire:

1. Sound the alarm using one of the fire alarms in the building (break the glass). Fire alarms are located:
  - In the library above the new acquisitions shelf
  - In the main stairwell on floors 1,2, and 3
2. Dial to alert the fire brigade
3. If possible, tackle the fire using the appliances provided (do not endanger yourself while doing so).

Fire extinguishers can be found:

- In the library by the entrance
- By the front door in the main office (reception)
- In the corridor outside the ground floor kitchen
- In the stairwell outside the fellows flat

On hearing the upon alarm

1. Leave the building using by the nearest available exit, via the:
  - **Front door**, located in **reception**
  - **Side door**, located at the bottom of the **main stairwell**
2. Close all doors behind you
3. Report to the fire assembly point, located in front of the building by the main gate

Do not take risks.

Do not stop to collect personal belongings

Do not use lifts

Do not re-enter the building for any reason unless authorised to do so

## *Local Facilities / What To Do In Amman*

Discover more about Amman at: <http://beamman.com/> or <http://ammansnob.com>

The Institute also keeps several guidebooks to Jordan in the hostel's sitting room area as well as the front desk.

### *Money*

There are many cash machines (ATMs) in Amman which accept foreign credit/debit cards. The closest ATM's to the Institute are on **University Street** (inside the building that contains the **Gloria Jeans Café**) and on Suq as-Sultan. To find the ATM on **Suq as-Sultan**, go right from the roundabout at the bottom of the hill, where **Uhod Street** meets **Suq as-Sultan**. Continue until you reach the second roundabout, the ATM is outside the supermarket on the left-hand side of the road. There is also a **Western Union** in Suq as-Sultan (take a left from the roundabout where Uhod Street meets Suq as-Sultan) and another across from the main gate of the **University of Jordan**. Travellers' cheques can be cashed at the **Housing Bank** on **Jubaiha High Street (Sun-Thurs 8.30am-12.30pm)**. They may wish to see receipts of purchase for your travellers' cheques. Explore alternatives before relying on travellers' cheques. To avoid any possible problems when using your credit/debit cards, we do advise you inform your bank that you are in Jordan.

### *Groceries*

The closest facilities to the Institute include two supermarkets, *Simply Cozmo* and *Farah wa Shahid*, a dry cleaners/tailor, a hairdressers, and a pharmacy. These are a five-minute walk away when you turn left upon exiting the Institute's main gate. Continuing along the street and to the bottom of this hill in the same direction, Suq as-Sultan is now a very well developed strip of stores selling a wide range of goods including a mobile phone shop, a bakery, fruit and vegetable shops and an off-licence. The walk to Suq as-Sultan takes about 20-30 minutes; a taxi there from the Institute should be less than 1 JD.

Closer to the Institute is a shopping area behind University Street, which can be reached by turning right upon exiting the main gate, turning right again at the corner, and then finally turning right again at the end of the road/bottom of the hill. Although this walk is much shorter (the walk down takes only about 5-10 minutes), be aware that **this hill is extremely steep** and a taxi may be required for the climb back up (easily found around the University Street area).



The closest large supermarkets are **C-Town** in the **Amman Mall by Jubilee (Al-Waha) circle**, and **Sameh Mall** on **Medina Street**. Other supermarkets include **Safeway in Shmeisani** (open 24 hrs), **Carrefour in City Mall**, a **Cozmo** and a **Safeway in Sweifieh** by **7th Circle**, and **Miles** in **Mecca Mall (Mecca Street)**. Shops generally open at **9:00am-10:00am** and shut around **9:00pm** (often later), but many close for a period in the afternoon (especially in Sweifieh). Some shops close on Fridays.

### Snacks & Take Away

There are many restaurants and take away food outlets in Amman. Suq as-Sultan has a variety of falafel and shawerma outlets and one of the best pizza places, **Pizza Al Reef**, is on Medina Street down by Jubilee Circle and delivers. Also on Medina Street is **Abu Jbara**, a very good sit-down restaurant that serves sandwiches, falafel, hummus, ful etc. Many fast food outlets can be found opposite the University of Jordan down on University Street. This area also has a number of inexpensive but good quality snack options, including a **Lebnani Snack** which serves great fresh juice (before University Street when coming from the Institute, next to the Golden Sands hotel). Around the corner, near the northern gate of Jordan University in Jubaiha, there are many juice bars, coffee shops, and inexpensive food options, the best of which include the Yemeni **Bab al Yemen** and the Turkish **Istanbul**.

Farther afield, **Reem**, on 2nd Circle, is considered one of the best shawerma stops in town, although for mana'ousheh (bread based pastries with various fillings and toppings), go around the corner to **B** (across from the **Belle Vue** hotel).

### Coffee & Sweets

For coffee, cappuccinos and the like there is a **Gloria Jeans** on University Street opposite the main gate, **In-House Coffee** (in Sweifieh behind Zara). Comfortable cafés with wi-fi on and around **Rainbow Street** are **Caffe Strada (amazingly non-smoking)**, **Turtle Green**, **Books@Cafe**, **Café des Artistes**, and the **Wild Jordan Café**.

**Jebel al'Weibdeh** also has several nice cafés with wi-fi where you can sit and work, including **Kepi** (on Paris Circle), the café at the **French Institute** and, a little further up the same street, **Fan wa Shai** ("Art and Tea"), which also has an exhibition space. Outdoors café the **Jadal Cultural Centre** often hold events such as dinners, exhibitions, and live music - check their social media for further updates.

In Abdoun, **Crumz** has good coffee and European style pastries and the **Blue Fig** does good food and has live music at night. For good Arabic pastries, **Habibeh** or **Jabri** are the best, although there are many excellent, small sweets shops around the **downtown** area, and in **suq as-sultan**.

## Dining Out

There are three Arabic restaurants near to al-Waha circle, including **Reem Al Bawadi** (good arguileh, 065515419) and the much cheaper **Bab al Yemen** (a Yemeni restaurant) near the north gate of the university. **Al Quds** restaurant, downtown, serves cheap and tasty Jordanian dishes such as maqlouba, kebseh, and mansaf.

**Rainbow Street**, off **1st Circle** offers several options – **Books@Café** serves Arabic food and pizzas, as well as alcohol and arguileh; **Tche tche** has wide-ranging menus with sandwiches, pastas, salads, pizzas, etc.; **Sufra** offers excellent Jordanian food in a beautiful old Ammani house; and the **Wild Jordan Café**, just off Rainbow Street has good smoothies and salads. For more upmarket fare, **Fakhr el Din** between 1st and 2nd Circle (06 4652399) has been consistently voted the best restaurant in Amman.

Downtown, **Jafra and Zorba** serve good Arabic food and you can smoke arguileh (**Zorba** also serves alcohol) while nearby **Hashem** is famous for its cheap and cheerful falafel, hummus, and fowl. The **Living Room** near 3rd Circle has a broad menu, a cosy atmosphere, and good bar offerings. **Taj Mall** in **Abdoun** also has a wide range of restaurants on its terrace.

New options for places to eat in Amman open all the time so check the guidebooks in the Institute's hostel, Tripadvisor and <http://beamman.com> for other options.

## Bars & Pubs

For those looking for bars, **Rainbow Street** has several options – as well as **Books@Cafe**, there is also **La Calle** (which has bar snacks and a happy hour) and Cantaloupe. Off of **1st Circle**, you can find **Amigos** (with a pool table and happy hour) or in **Jebel Weibeh**, there is **Café de Paris** on Paris Circle and Negresco down the road. Alternatively, a bit closer to the Institute, **Bonita** - a Spanish bar off of **3rd Circle**, also serves food. **Sweifiyh** also has the English-themed **The Rovers Return**, and **Dubliners Irish Pub**.

## Nightclubs

Clubbing in Amman is often expensive and smart dress and reservations can be required for popular nights. Most of the large hotels in Amman have nightclubs, including **The Landmark**, **The Intercontinental**, **The Kempinski** and **The Hyatt**. Other options include **Cube**, near **Second Circle** (attached to the Shepherd Hotel) and **Flow**. The TBA Collective host one-off nights around the city – more information can be found on their Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/tbajo>).

### Cultural Activities

For public lectures, seminars and events please follow us on **Facebook: [The British Institute in Amman](#)**, and **Twitter: [@BIA\\_CBRL](#)**, where we regularly advertise such events happening in Amman.

**The King Hussein Cultural Centre**, in downtown Amman, hosts a wide variety of cultural events, including theatre, dance, music, film, and comedy, among others ([www.pacjo.org/default.asp](http://www.pacjo.org/default.asp)). Websites like [www.beamman.com](http://www.beamman.com) carry listings for forthcoming events and festivals.

### Music

**Canvas** (06 4632211), across from the **National Museum of Art** in **Jebel Weibdeh**, is a restaurant/bar with live jazz every Tuesday evening. The **Jadal Cultural Centre**, another café in Weibdeh, also occasionally holds live music. The restaurant **Marsa Beirut** (06 5777222) on Mecca Street frequently hosts live music as well.

### Art

**Jordan National Gallery of Fine Art** holds a permanent collection and changing exhibits featuring regional and Jordanian contemporary art and sculpture ([www.nationalgallery.org](http://www.nationalgallery.org)) (06 4630128, open daily except Tuesday 9am-5pm, 1JD).

**Darat al-Funun**, in **Jebel Weibdeh** just up the hill from downtown and the **King Hussein mosque**, is one of the best-known and most popular art galleries in Amman. It is housed in three 1920s villas and hosts regular exhibitions of new and upcoming artists from the region and abroad (06 4643251, **open daily except Friday 10am-7pm, Thurs 8pm**; check the website for current information: [daratafunun.org](http://daratafunun.org)). Other art

galleries in Amman include:

*Makan* in Jebel Weibdeh: [makanhouse.net](http://makanhouse.net)

*Orfali* in Um Utheina: [www.orfali.net](http://www.orfali.net)

*Nabad* near 1st Circle and more: [www.ammansnob.com/art\\_galleries\\_amman.htm](http://www.ammansnob.com/art_galleries_amman.htm)

## Theatre

**Masrah al Balad**, Jebel Amman, hosts interesting and exciting events, mostly in Arabic: [www.al-balad.org](http://www.al-balad.org)

## Film

**The Royal Film Commission** has regular screenings of local and foreign films at its location just off of **Rainbow Street** ([www.film.jo](http://www.film.jo)) where there is also **Rainbow Cinema**. The **Jadal Cultural Centre** in Jebel Weibdeh shows films outside in the summer. There are popular cinemas in some of the malls; for example, in **City Mall, Baraka Mall and Mecca Mall** ([www.ammancinemas.com](http://www.ammancinemas.com)).

## Gyms

There is a popular ladies gym, **Revolution**, within walking distance to the Institute (+962-6-534-9144). There are other ladies gyms off **University Street**, such as **Curves** (+962-6-535-3119) in the building beside McDonalds. **Aspire Ladies Gym and Spa** is near the Sports City Complex and is popular with students (+9622-6-534-7637).

Men's gyms are slightly further afield, such as **G.X.GYM** and **Flex. A** There are new gyms opening up all the time in Amman – ask around. ([www.ammansnob.com/health\\_clubs\\_gyms\\_in\\_amman.htm](http://www.ammansnob.com/health_clubs_gyms_in_amman.htm))

**Sports City Gym Complex** is a government park and sports facility that is popular with students. It has a (mixed) gym and machines, and access to an outdoor track. They also have swimming pools (note: requires separate registration). Telephone: (+962-6-567-2141) for the gym and (+962-6-566-7181 x 162) for the management). Open Sat-Thurs 7am-10pm, Fri 8am-8pm.

Fitness Classes are offered by many gyms, and can be found at **Fitness First, Fitness One, Flex Gym, Matrix, Pioneers, One-To-One, Sheraton Hotel Gym, and Le Meridian Hotel Gym.**

## Outdoor Activities

**Biking:** is becoming an increasingly popular weekend activity in Jordan, and groups like **Cycle Jordan** (0785552525; <http://cycling-jordan.com>) and **Bike Rush** (0799454586) ([www.bike-rush.com/](http://www.bike-rush.com/)) offer weekly day excursions for all levels of fitness.

**OutandAboutJO:** Organises a variety of active offerings, from yoga classes to outdoor adventures, <http://www.outandaboutjo.com>

**Fastwalking:** Twice a week, a large group of Jordanians (and foreigners) meet at a pre-determined place and walk quickly. A fun way to see the city and meet people. See Facebook for updates: <http://facebook.com/groups/132020333564813>

## Museums in Amman

- **The Jordan Museum** is the country's first national archaeological museum and is currently open **Sat-Mon** and **Wed-Thurs, 10:00am-2:00pm**: [jordanmuseum.jo/en](http://jordanmuseum.jo/en)
- **Royal Automobile Museum** includes over 70 classic cars and motorbikes from the personal collection of the late King Hussein. Actually, quite interesting and fun. [www.royalautomuseum.jo/default.aspx?lang=e](http://www.royalautomuseum.jo/default.aspx?lang=e) **Open: 10:00am-7:00pm (except Tuesdays)**
- **Jordan Folklore Museum** – at one end of [the Roman Amphitheater](#), this fascinating museum presents a recreation of traditional Jordanian life. **Open: 9:00am-5:00pm.**
- **Museums at the University of Jordan** – the University of Jordan has several small museums of various subjects. We recommend the Archaeology Museum near to the clock tower. **Sun-Thu 8:00am-5:00pm.**
- **Martyr's Memorial** – the monumental building located at Sports City houses a chronological display of military history and memorabilia since the Great Arab Revolt of 1916 to the present. Open 9:00am-4:00pm.
-

## Places of Interest

- **Downtown** (*Wasat al-balad*) - apart from the variety of malls that are springing up all over Amman, the area around the Hussein mosque is the main bazaar/souk area. To the east is **Suq as-Sukar (Sugar Market)** whereas **The Gold Suq** is in nearby **King Faisal Street** to the north-west. For a list of the variety of souks that can be found Downtown visit: <http://beamman.com/best-of-amman/activities-a-recreation/974-top-10-downtown-souks-amman>.
- **Amman Citadel – (Jebel Al-Qal’a, overlooking downtown)** Citadel hill has been settled by humans since Paleolithic times. Most of the buildings from the Roman, Byzantine and Islamic periods are now rubble, but you can still see a huge Umayyad palace and the Roman Temple of Hercules. The old **Jordanian Archaeological Museum** is here (**daily except Fri 8am-6pm, (winter 5pm) Fri 8am-4pm**) which houses collections from the Neolithic, Bronze and Iron Age, Hellenistic, Byzantine periods and a less chronological collection of Nabatean and Islamic art.
- **Roman Theatre – (downtown, daily 7:00am to sunset)** cut into the side of a hill that was once a cemetery, during the 2nd century AD in the reign of Emperor Marcus Aurelius for an audience of up to 6000 people, is the most impressive remnant of the Roman city of Philadelphia. There are two small museums by the stage: **Folklore Museum and Museum of Popular Traditions (both open daily 9am-5pm, Fri 10am-4pm: entry 1JD)**
- 
- **Ras al'Ayn (Friday Market)** – There is a popular Friday market (formerly at **Abduli Bus Station**) here selling second-hand clothes (more second-hand clothes stores can be found behind 2nd Circle), shoes, and household items. **Open Thursday night – Saturday morning.**

## Travel

### ***Around Amman***

Travel around Amman is easy, yellow taxis which all use meters perhaps being the simplest method. It is easy to find one, just walk from the Institute to any of the main streets nearby. Taxis available for hire will often hoot as they drive past.

**Please note it is not considered appropriate for a woman to sit in the front passenger seat next to the driver.**

Make sure that taxi drivers switch their metres on when you get in, or agree a price beforehand (once you take a few journeys you will start to understand that it is rare to pay more than 2JD for a trip unless you are crossing the city from end to end). This avoids awkwardness, arguments, and confusion at the end. Some taxi drivers will attempt to pick up multiple passengers along a route, but many people do not want to share rides!

Standard starting price is 0.225 JD (as of 2015), increasing 0.05 every 100 meters travelled. At night (8:00pm+) starting price is 0.30 JD and may increase faster.

### ***Further Afield***

Travelling further afield is also relatively easy and there are a number of choices, including car hire, taxis, service taxis and buses. Buses and service taxis to the north of **Jordan (Jerash, Ajloun, Irbid, etc.)** depart from the new **North Bus Station (Al Mu'jama' al Shimali)**, in Tabarbour in North Amman, **and not from Abdali, as many guidebooks indicate.**

To travel to **Petra** and **Aqaba**, we recommend the **JETT** buses ([www.jett.com.jo](http://www.jett.com.jo)) that leave from **Abdali** and **7th Circle**. To buy a ticket/reserve a place on a JETT bus, you need to go in person to the booking office with proof of identity.

Other buses and service taxis to multiple destinations in the south of Jordan depart from the South Bus Station, Al Mu'jama' al Janoubi.

### ***To/From The Airport***

From the airport, there is a bus that usually runs every hour on the hour, to 7<sup>th</sup> circle, from where you will have to get a taxi to travel onwards. Costs are around **3JD** per person, and **1.5JD** per bag (discounting hand luggage). Regular taxis are not allowed to pick people up from the terminal, so you will have to get one from the airport taxi rank. Luckily, these are standardised, and will cost around **21JD** to anywhere in the city.

To the airport, you can be picked up by a taxi. The Institute can provide numbers for reliable drivers, and the price can be pre-arranged (**around 20JD** is a good bet). Or you can try and take the airport bus back (please inquire as to times, usually once an hour during off-peak, possibly more frequently during the day) which runs from the **North Bus Station (Tabarbour)**, via **7<sup>th</sup> Circle** – there is a now (as of 2014) a bus shelter at 7th indicating its point of departure, but you may encounter a series of taxi drivers nearby who will tell you there is no bus in an attempt to get you to go to the airport with them. Have faith. (Prices are the same as coming back from the airport)

There is also a **Royal Jordanian bus service from 7th Circle** (for those booked on RJ flights only, please check-in there at least 3 hours ahead to use this service).

**Please note, the bus may be cancelled without prior warning, and in events of very bad weather (for instance snow) taxis may take advantage of this and try to charge more!**

If you wish to travel economically, a summarised guide to using local service taxis and buses is at the back of this guide.

For those working on less of a tight budget, we can supply names of reliable taxi drivers for you to arrange special trips and especially taxi rides to the airport in the middle of the night.

**Our general travel advice for long-distance trips is to SET OFF EARLY and prepare for traffic at busy times. The journey to and from the airport should take around 45-60 minutes , so please plan accordingly.**

### ***Car Rental***

There are hundreds of car rental services around Amman and across Jordan. The major international chains offer the highest quality cars, and can also arrange a car with a driver.



## Further Information on Local Buses & Services

*Public transport tips courtesy of John Hayhurst and Ana Silkatcheva*

### **General**

There are three major bus stations in Amman:

1. North Station (*Al Shemali*) is in the **Tababoor/Tareq neighbourhood**. Here you catch bus connections to North Jordan destinations, such as **Jerash, Irbid, Ramtha**, etc. Here Service taxis also run to the King Hussain/Allenby bridge.
2. Central Station (*Raghadan*) is located near the **Roman Theatre in downtown**. Here you can connect with most inner-city transportation, as well as get to **Zarqa, Mafraq, and Sweileh**.
3. South Station (*Al Janoobi*) is in the Wehdat neighbourhood. Here you connect to South Jordan destinations such as Karak, Ma'an, and Aqaba.

From the **British Institute/CBRL** it is possible to get to most points of interest using buses that stop opposite the main gate of the University of Jordan on University Street (*Shar'a al-Jaam'a*). Taking a bus is simple, if a little daunting at first. It is best to **state your destination before you get on**. This will make sure you're on the right bus and will usually mean that the controller will help you when it comes to stopping in the right place.

Most buses will have a controller who collects the fare and shouts out the stops as they come up. Simply raise your hand and call out your destination when you hear it announced. If there is no controller let the driver know your destination when you get on and hand him the fare when you get off. There are set fares for each destination, but as a non-local you may be asked to pay a little more.

### **To Get To Downtown**

To get **Downtown** (*wasat al-balad*), take the **Raghadan** bus. Get off "before the tunnel" (*qabel an-nafaq*), after 'Abdali. It is then a short walk (bear right) to the centre of town. The fare should be JD 0.45.

There are also a series of minibuses that run regularly from **8<sup>th</sup> Circle to Downtown** (via 7<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, under Abdoun Bridge, and then to *ras al'ayn* and to downtown, terminating outside the Jordan Museum) **and back** (up from downtown to 3<sup>rd</sup> and then every circle back to 8<sup>th</sup> via Zahran) just flag it down and ask for wherever you are going. Fares should be JD 0.35.

### ***To Get To The Bus Stations***

To get to the **North Bus Station** (*mujam'a al-shamal* – or just *shamal*) (for buses to **Irbid**, **Jerash**, and **'Ajloun**, **Queen 'Alia Airport**, as well as points in **'Amman city**) take the **Shamal** bus. You will be dropped off at the footbridge to the station or be taken to the station itself. The fare should be JD 0.30.

To get to the **South Bus Station** (*Mujam'a al-Janub*) (for buses to **Karak**, **Petra/Wadi Musa** and **'Aqaba**), you will need to travel first to the North Bus Station and then take a *service* taxi to the South Bus Station.

### ***To Get To Other Destinations***

To get to **Qasid Language Institute**, take any bus and get off at **Sports City Circle** (*duwar al-madeena* – often simply referred to as *al-madeena*), where you have to cross the road via the footbridge. The fare should be JD 0.30.

Alternatively, many of these places can be reached using buses and services that depart on the streets around the **Ministry of the Interior Circle** (*Duwar al-dakhlīyya* - or just *Dakhlīyya*). *Service* taxis from around here will take you to **Raghadan Station** (for **downtown Amman**) and to **Jebel Amman**. Most buses from opposite the university main gate will go via *Dakhlīyya*.

To get back to the Institute catch a **Sweileh** bus (or any bus going to the university) via University Street. Get off at the university main gate (*bab al-ra`eesi* – or just *ra`eesi*) and cross the road via the underpass.

## Health & Safety

### ***Immunisation***

Make sure you have all the necessary immunisation before you come to Jordan. Explain where you will be working and visiting. Archaeologists working in the UK or the Levant should always keep their **anti-tetanus** up to date.

### ***Drinking water***

We recommend that you don't drink the tap water in Amman. As the supply has become more restricted the quality has declined. Tap water is fine if boiled for tea, coffee and cooking, and is OK for brushing teeth, washing fruit, etc. There is a drinking water supply in the kitchen and another in the hostel.

**Jordan is a water-poor country, as such we recommend you take care to conserve water!**

### ***Electricity***

Older buildings use two-pin sockets, while newer ones tend to have three-pin (British-style) sockets. Unfortunately, the distribution of these in buildings around the city is often random, so please be prepared by bringing various adaptors to wherever you are going – although they are readily available for purchase in Amman.

Jordan's electrical service is fairly reliable and clean, but there may be occasional power-cuts – especially during the summer months.

### ***Food safety***

There is an occasional risk of food poisoning, perhaps mostly from roadside stalls. If you are worried ask staff for advice. Please make sure you thoroughly wash or peel fruit and vegetables. Perhaps the most important precaution you can take is to be careful in your personal hygiene.

## *Driving*

Where one is fitted you should always wear your seatbelt. Don't drink and drive. In addition the police will stop you if they see you with no seatbelt on. Police speed traps are frequent and fines are on-the-spot. Speed traffic cameras are becoming increasingly common in Amman, especially on bridges and in tunnels where the speed limit is often 50 km/hour.

## *Risk assessment*

All fieldwork should be conducted within the framework of a proper Risk Assessment. In most cases this is best done within the framework of projects base University Health and Safety system. Local workman employed on fieldwork must have accident insurance (this can be arranged through Nadja Qaisi).

## *Police*

Police routinely patrol crowded areas, as well as direct traffic at the major circles on Zahran street at rush hour. Occasionally, a bus (or another public transport) you are on may be stopped so that the police can run ID checks – they typically do not bother to do this with foreigners, but **it is advised that you carry some form of identification with you at all times.**

When driving along the two major roads South out of the city (the Dead Sea Highway, and the Kings Highway) police will often stop cars at random and ask questions about their destinations. This is normal procedures, so be courteous, and respond to any questions politely.

## *If you think you need to see a Doctor*

During office hours and for non-urgent cases, please ask a member of staff for advice and assistance. Outside office hours and for emergencies, we recommend that, in the first instance, you visit an emergency clinic at either the **Al-Isra' Hospital** (tel: 5300300), close by on **University Street**, or, further afield, the **Khalidi Hospital** between **3rd and 4th Circles** (tel: 06 4644281), the **Arab Medical Center** behind the Sheraton on **5th Circle** (tel.: 5921199) or the **Palestine Hospital** (tel.: 5607071), which is near to the **Marriot Hotel** on '**Interior Circle**'. They are friendly and efficient and can assess you quickly. Charges are reasonable and payment is made on the spot (typically c. 10 JD for a basic consultation). If you are alone and do not feel well enough to drive or wait for a taxi from the street, either call one of our recommended taxi drivers to take you (e.g. Osama Dassouqi at: 0777826492) or call a member of staff. For severe medical emergencies dial

911 for an ambulance. Always ensure you have adequate medical insurance and carry evidence with you when you visit the hospital. Jordan is well known in the region for its excellent medical care.

There is excellent availability of medication at local pharmacies and it is possible to purchase medication that would normally require a prescription in the UK or US. The closest pharmacy to the Institute is next to **Farah wa Shahid** supermarket (*Lablab* Pharmacy).

## Accommodation Charges / Other Charges

<b>Single Room</b>	<b>Per night</b>	<b>Per week</b>	<b>Per month</b>
Student Members	£30	£150	£450
Salaried Members	£40	£200	£600

For bookings, please contact [bia@bi-amman.org.uk](mailto:bia@bi-amman.org.uk). All overnight stays include breakfast.

<b>Shared Room</b>	<b>Per night</b>	<b>Per week</b>	<b>Per month</b>
Student Members	£20	£100	£300
Salaried Members	£30	£150	£450

### **Other Charges**

<b>Wireless Internet Access</b>	Free of charge
<b>Printing and Xerox</b>	0.500 JD / 10 A4 sheets 1.00 JD / 10 A3 sheets (Please use the red cash box by the photocopier in the library for payment)
<b>Map of Amman</b> (English or Arabic)	2.000 JD/ per map
<b>Telephone</b>	
Local	Free of charge
Arab states and Israel	1.500 JD /per min
Europe, Cyprus, Turkey	2.500 JD / per min
Rest of world	2.750 JD/ per min
<b>Fax</b>	(as above plus 1JD)
<b>Washing Machine</b>	2.000 JD / per load

For the hire of field equipment please visit our website.

## Useful Contacts

BI-Amman:	Tel: +962 (0)65341317 Fax: +962 (0)65337197	<a href="mailto:info@bi-amman.org.uk">info@bi-amman.org.uk</a> (Nadja Qaisi) <a href="mailto:bia@bi-amman.org.uk">bia@bi-amman.org.uk</a> (Adam Ferron)
CBRL London:	+44 (0)2079695296	<a href="mailto:cbrl@britac.ac.uk">cbrl@britac.ac.uk</a>
Kenyon Institute:	+ 972 (0)2 582 8101	<a href="mailto:info@kenyon-institute.org.uk">info@kenyon-institute.org.uk</a>
Queen Alia Airport:	06 4453307	<a href="http://www.amman-airport.com">www.amman-airport.com</a>
British Airways:	06 5828801	<a href="http://www.britishairways.com">www.britishairways.com</a>
Lufthansa:	06 5200180	<a href="http://www.lufthansa.com/ch/en/Homepage">www.lufthansa.com/ch/en/Homepage</a>
RJ Head Office:	06 5202000	<a href="mailto:AMMDDRJ@rj.com">AMMDDRJ@rj.com</a>
RJ 7th Circle Sales Office:	5100000	<a href="mailto:cty@rj.com">cty@rj.com</a>
Dept. of Antiquities:	06 4644336	<a href="mailto:doa@nic.net.jo">doa@nic.net.jo</a>
Royal Cultural Centre:	06 5661026	<a href="http://www.rcc.gov.jo/main.php">www.rcc.gov.jo/main.php</a>
British Council	06 4636147	<a href="http://www.britishcouncil.org.jo">www.britishcouncil.org.jo</a>
IFPO	06 4611872	<a href="mailto:ifpo_amm@orange.jo">ifpo_amm@orange.jo</a>
ACOR	06 5346117	<a href="mailto:acor@acorjordan.org">acor@acorjordan.org</a>
GPI/DEI	06 5342924	<a href="mailto:gpia@go.com.jo">gpia@go.com.jo</a>
Taxi Osama Dassouqi	0777826492	Available all the time, speaks English, mainly airport taxis, email: <a href="mailto:osamad_1965@hotmail.com">osamad_1965@hotmail.com</a>


## Emergency Numbers

BI-Amman Director (Carol Palmer)	0775334437 (mobile) 5158356 (home)
Finance Administrator (Nadja Qaisi)	0777770253
British Embassy	5909200
Emergency Call Center	911 (Police, Ambulance, Fire Dept, Security Police)
Tourism Police Department (For complaints about personnel at hotels and sites)	194 extension 4661 (They also have direct numbers. Note - these are not free to call) +962-5-569-0484 (Landline) +962-776-728446 (Orange Mobile) +962-797-123080 (Zain Mobile) email: <a href="mailto:tourism.dept@psd.gov.jo">tourism.dept@psd.gov.jo</a>

Calls to landlines within Amman are free from any institute phone. Don't forget to dial 9 first to get an external line. Outside Amman and for international calls as well as mobiles, please ask to use the main office phone during working hours.



# Local Map

CBRL, 102 Uhud Street, Amman  
  
(Google Maps: 32.012826, 35.862917)

Al-Isra Hospital

University of Jordan - North Gate: Restaurants and Shopping

University Main Gate

Main University Gate

Simply Cozmo Supermarket



Google

AIRPORT / C. Town

DOWNTOWN

SUQ AS-SULTAN

Pizza Al-Reef