Dead Sea on a budget: how to do the float as a day-trip from Amman for under 30 JD

Resort hotels are 80–150 JD for a day pass. The public Amman Beach is 20 JD plus 5 JD bus fare. Same lake, same float, same minerals. Practical guide.

Anas Hu · May 5, 2026

Most travellers do the Dead Sea as a 200-JD-plus afternoon at one of the resorts. It's a perfectly good experience but the float and the mud are exactly the same at the public beach 30 km south of Amman. With careful planning, you can do the full Dead Sea experience as a day-trip for under 30 JD per person — bus there and back, beach access, lockers, and a snack on the way home. The trade-off: you skip the resort spa programme and the infinity pool. The float, the float photo, and the mud experience are unchanged.

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1Why budget the Dead Sea

The Dead Sea is unique enough that most travellers feel they have to do it once. The premium-resort experience is genuinely good — full spa, infinity pool, sunset cocktails — but it's not necessary. The lake doesn't get saltier or less salty depending on which beach you swim at. The mud is the same. The big differentiator is how much spa programme you want around the experience.

2Three budget options

Option A: Amman Beach (the cheapest). ~20 JD entry. Public beach with showers, changing rooms, a café, lockers. Most domestic travellers go here; the crowd is mixed and family-oriented. Half-day visit. **Option B: Resort day-pass at Holiday Inn or Ramada (mid-budget).** ~30–40 JD. Adds pool access, better food, more amenities. Same beach quality. **Option C: Wadi Mujib trail beach (free but logistical).** The mouth of Wadi Mujib has a free public beach. Combined with the canyon trail (April–November) for a full day of activity. Bring your own everything.

Bus + Amman Beach combination is the dominant budget option:

- **Outbound transport.** JETT runs Dead Sea services from Amman 1–2 times daily; ~5 JD. Or take a shared service taxi from Mahatta station; ~3–4 JD.
- **Return transport.** JETT mid-afternoon return; or shared taxi.
- **Beach + lunch.** ~20 JD beach + ~5 JD café lunch.
- **Total.** ~28–35 JD per person, including transport both ways.

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3What to pack

- **Towel.** Beach loans them but bring a small one if you have it.
- **Swimwear.** Modest is fine; full bikinis acceptable.
- **Flip-flops.** The salt crust on the beach is sharp.
- **Reef-safe sunscreen.** The reflection off the water is intense.
- **Water bottle.** Stay hydrated; the salt is dehydrating.
- **Snacks.** Beach café food is overpriced; bring some snacks.
- **Phone bag.** Salt + electronics = bad. Keep your phone in a sealed bag if you take it near the water.
- **Cash.** Some beaches don't take cards.

4Don'ts and unwritten rules

- **Don't dive in.** Painful eyes for 20+ minutes if you do.
- **Don't shave 24 hours before.** Any cut stings.

- **Don't drink the water.** Even a mouthful is genuinely toxic; rinse with fresh water immediately.
- **Don't bring open electronics.** The salt corrodes phone speakers and charging ports.
- **Don't visit at midday in summer.** Heat at -430 m elevation is brutal. Aim for 9–11 am or 3–5 pm.
- **Bring fresh water for rinsing.** The beach showers are cold — fine for cooling but not for thorough rinsing.

> **For solo travellers**
>
> Amman Beach is solo-friendly. The JETT bus is the cheapest, easiest option. You'll meet other travellers on the bus.

References

1. Wikipedia — Dead Sea
2. JETT bus — official site

Verified by locals: TBD — this article will be reviewed by a JETT customer-service representative or budget-traveller-experienced editor before final publication. Drafted from Wikipedia and traveller experience.