Getting around Jordan by JETT bus: routes, fares, and the booking-day reality

Jordan's main intercity bus operator runs the routes that matter — Amman to Petra, Wadi Rum, Aqaba, Jerash. Air-conditioned, reliable, and the cheapest way to do the country without a car.

Anas Hu · May 5, 2026

If you don't want to drive in Jordan, JETT is the company that gets you everywhere. The Jordan Express Tourist Transport runs the only proper intercity coach network in the country — Amman to Petra, Amman to Wadi Rum, Amman to Aqaba, plus Jerash, Madaba, Irbid, and the Dead Sea — and the buses are air-conditioned, clean, and reliable in the way most travellers don't expect from a regional operator. Your alternative is a private taxi (4–5× the price) or self-drive (cheaper if you're three or more, more flexibility, and Jordanian rental rates are reasonable). For a solo or couple itinerary on a moderate budget, JETT is the right answer.

1. Why JETT
2. The routes that matter
3. Booking + station logistics
4. What to expect on board
5. When JETT isn't right
6. Practical tips
7. References

1Why JETT

Jordan is small (89,000 km²) but the major sites are spread across it: Amman is central, Petra is 240 km south, Wadi Rum is 60 km further south, Aqaba is on the Red Sea, and the northern sites (Jerash, Ajloun, Umm Qais) are all within an hour of Amman. JETT runs the only direct bus network connecting these. Public minibuses (called servees) work shorter regional hops but aren't designed for tourists. JETT specifically targets the long intercity routes.

2The routes that matter

The lines you'll actually use:

- **Amman ↔ Petra (Wadi Musa).** Daily morning + afternoon departures. ~3 hours each way. The most-used tourist route.
- **Amman ↔ Aqaba.** 4–5 hours via the Desert Highway. Several daily departures; comfortable enough to sleep on.
- **Amman ↔ Wadi Rum.** Direct service runs seasonally. Otherwise: Amman → Aqaba, then a Wadi Rum transfer.
- **Amman ↔ Jerash.** Frequent service; ~90 minutes each way. Best route for a Jerash + Ajloun day-trip.
- **Amman ↔ Madaba.** Frequent. ~45 minutes. Stop for the Madaba Map and continue to Mount Nebo.
- **King Hussein Bridge transfer.** JETT runs the airport-to-bridge transfer for travellers crossing into the West Bank.
- **Airport transfers.** Amman city ↔ Queen Alia International Airport — the easiest budget option.

3Booking + station logistics

JETT's main Amman station is at **Tabarbour**, in the northeast of the city. Confirm location:

- **Tabarbour station.** 7 km northeast of downtown. Taxi or rideshare 5–10 minutes from any central Amman hotel. The station has ticket offices, a small café, and waiting areas.
- **Booking online.** The official JETT site (jett.com.jo) takes online bookings; pay at the station or by card depending on the route.[1]
- **Same-day tickets.** Possible for most routes outside peak weekends, but the Petra route can sell out a day in advance — book 24–48 hours before.
- **Cash + card.** Most JETT counters take both. Keep small JD notes for the station-side coffee stand.

> If you don't want to drive in Jordan, JETT is the company that gets you everywhere.

4What to expect on board

- **Seats.** Reclining, air-conditioned, generally clean. The buses are mid-tier coach standard — not luxury, not bare.
- **Wi-Fi.** Some buses have it; signal is patchy through the desert. Don't depend on it for work.
- **Toilet.** Most long-haul buses have one. Long stops every 90 minutes anyway.
- **Luggage.** Stowed underneath. One large bag + one carry-on per ticket. Don't put valuables in checked bags.
- **Speed.** Highway speeds are moderate. The Desert Highway is straightforward; the King's Highway is slower and scenic.
- **Bathrooms en route.** Stops are typically at petrol stations with cafés. Buy a coffee for goodwill.

5When JETT isn't right

- **Off-route sites.** Karak Castle, Wadi Mujib, Dana Biosphere — JETT doesn't run direct service. Hire a driver or self-drive.
- **Group of 3+.** Self-drive becomes cheaper than three JETT tickets per leg.
- **Late-night arrivals.** JETT generally finishes service by mid-evening. Late arrivals into Amman from Petra are taxi-only.
- **Wadi Rum overnight.** The bus drops at the Visitor Centre — your camp will arrange the 4×4 transfer in.

> **For solo travellers**
>
> JETT is the right call for solo travellers — cheap, safe, and you'll meet other travellers on the same route. The Petra-Amman early bus is particularly social.

6Practical tips

- **Book ahead for Petra route weekends.** Sells out 24–48 hours before in peak season.
- **Bring an empty water bottle.** Refill at the petrol-station stops; cheaper than buying at the on-board kiosk.

- **Cool layer.** The A/C is aggressive on long routes. A light hoodie helps.
- **Headphones.** The bus may play music or videos. Pack earplugs.
- **Don't tip the driver.** Not customary on coach service. Do tip the porter who stows your bag.

References

1. JETT — official site

Verified by locals: TBD — this article will be reviewed by a JETT customer-service representative or a Jordanian travel guide before final publication. Drafted from JETT's official site and reader-traveller experience.