

PRE DEPARTURE INFORMATION MANUAL
FOR WORKERS ON
TEMPORARY CONTRACTUAL EMPLOYMENT
TO
JORDAN

PRE DEPARTURE INFORMATION MANUAL FOR WORKERS ON TEMPORARY CONTRACTUAL EMPLOYMENT TO JORDAN

PART – I

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR OVERSEAS MIGRANTS

Definition

Emigration, in this context, means the departure of any person from India with a view to taking up any employment (whether or not under an agreement or other arrangements to take up such employment, with or without the assistance of a registered Recruiting Agent or employer) in any country or place outside India.

The Present Situation

Every year hundreds of thousands of Indians emigrate in search of job. The effect of economic liberalization in India is visible on labour migrants too. One of the striking features of labour migration from India is that more than 90 per cent of the total outflow is to the Middle East.

The Emigration Act

The Emigration Act, 1983, seeks to safeguard the interests and ensure the welfare of emigrants. Only the recruiting agents registered with the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs are eligible as per the Act to conduct the business of recruitment for overseas employment and they are required to obtain proper Registration Certificates (RC) from the Protector General of Emigrants.

The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, administers the Emigration Act through the eight offices of Protector of Emigrants (POEs). The offices are located at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Chandigarh, Cochin, Hyderabad, Thiruvananthapuram and Jaipur.

Service Charge

No recruiting agent shall collect from the worker the charges more than the equivalent of his wages for forty-five days as offered under the employment contract, subject to a maximum of twenty thousand rupees, in respect of the services provided and shall issue a receipt to that worker for the amount collected in this regard.

Emigration Check Required (ECR) Category

Categories of persons, whose passports have been endorsed as “Emigrant Check Required” (ECR), if intending to travel to an ECR country (Listed below) for employment purposes, are required to obtain emigration from the Protector of Emigrants (POEs) either directly or through the recruitment agents or through the employer concerned.

Emigration Check Not Required (ECNR) Category

Section 22 of the Emigration Act, 1983 provides that no citizen of India shall migrate unless he obtains authorization from the concerned POE in the prescribed manner and form. However, with a view to facilitating the movement of the workers, 13 categories of persons (listed later in this chapter) have been exempted from this requirement and have been placed under “Emigration Check Not Required” (ECNR) category. Such persons are not required to obtain any emigration clearance from the offices of POEs before seeking employment abroad.

Countries with ECR/ ECNR status

There are total of 175 countries (called as ECNR countries) do not require emigration clearance, whereas 17 countries are listed as emigration check required countries, they are listed below:-

List of countries for which Emigration Clearance is Required (ECR)

1. Afghanistan
2. Bahrain
3. Indonesia
4. Iraq
5. Jordan
6. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
7. Kuwait
8. Jordan
9. Libya
10. Malaysia
11. Oman
12. Qatar
13. Sudan
14. Syria
15. Thailand
16. United Arab Emirates

List of Persons/Categories of Workers in whose case Emigration Check is not Required

1. All holders of Diplomatic/ Official Passports
2. All Gazetted Government Servants
3. All Income-tax payers (including agricultural income tax payers) in their individual capacity.
4. All professional degree holders, such as Doctors holding MBBS degrees or Degrees in Ayurveda or Homeopathy; Accredited journalists; Chartered Accountants; Lecturers; Teachers; Scientists; Advocates etc.
5. Spouses and dependent children of category of persons listed from (2) to (4)
6. Persons holding class 10 qualification or higher degrees.
7. Seamen who are in possession of CDC or Sea Cadets, Desk Cadets (i) who have passed final examination of three years B>Sc. Nautical Sciences Courses at T S Chankya, Mumbai; and (ii) who have undergone three months pre-sea training at any of the government approved Training Institutes such as T S Chankya, T S Rehman, T S Jawahar, MTI (SCI) and NIPM, Chennai after production of identity cards issued by the Shipping Master, Mumbai/ Kolkata/ Chennai.
8. Persons holding permanent immigration visas, such as the visas of UK, USA and Australia.
9. Persons possessing two years' diploma from any institute recognized by the National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) or State Council of Vocational Training (SCVT) or persons holding three years' diploma/ equivalent degree from institutions like polytechnics recognized by Central/ State Governments
10. Nurses possessing qualifications recognized under the Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947.
11. All persons above the age of 50 years.
12. All persons who have been staying abroad for more than three years (the period of three years could be either in one stretch or broken) and spouses.
13. Children below 18 years of age.

Guidelines for Emigration Clearance

- 1) Emigration clearance will be made on the passport when the individual approaches either directly or through a registered Recruiting Agent or through the employer concerned.
- 2) In cases in which the profession indicated in visa does not tally with the profession indicated in the passport, an affidavit may be obtained from the Recruiting Agent/ Employer concerned.
- 3) No clearance may be given for Iraq unless specifically authorized by Indian Embassy in Iraq.
- 4) No emigration clearance shall be granted for recruiting Indian nationals for any Foreign Employer placed in 'Prior Approval Category' (PAC)

Applying for Emigration Clearance

The application for emigration clearance should be made in the prescribed form with prescribed particulars by the applicant directly or through a Recruiting Agent or through the employer concerned to the POE.

Documents required for Semi-Skilled Workers

Semi-skilled individuals who seek emigration clearance directly from the Protectors of Emigrants (and not through Recruiting Agents) are required to produce the following documents in original for scrutiny and return:

- 1) Passport valid for a minimum period of six months with valid visa.
- 2) Employment contract from foreign employer duly attested by the Indian Mission.
- 3) Challan towards deposit of prescribed fee.
- 4) Valid Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Policy

Documents required for Unskilled Workers

Unskilled workers and women (not below 30 years of age) seeking employment abroad as housemaids/ domestic workers shall continue to furnish (in original) the following documents at the time of obtaining emigration clearance.

-5-

- 1) Passport valid for a minimum period of 2 years with valid Visa.
- 2) Work agreement from the foreign employer duly attested by the Indian Mission and signed by employer and employee or Permission letter from the concerned Indian Mission/ Post i.e. as per particulars below:

Embassy of India

First Circle, Jabal Amman,

P.O. Box 2168,

Amman - 11181, Jordan.

Telephone Nos.: 00 962 6 4622098 & 4637262

Fax No.: 00 962 6 4611916/ 4659540

E-mail address: amb.amman@mea.gov.in (For HOM)

hoc.amman@mea.gov.in (For HOC & Adm.)

itm.amman@mea.gov.in (For IT/Cons. Sec.)

- 3) Challan towards deposit of prescribed fee.
- 4) Valid Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Policy.
- 5) Approval of the Ministry, if the female worker is below 30 years of age.

Documents required for Emigration Clearance (Through Project Exporter)

1. Valid Passport (valid for at least 2 years)
2. Valid visa in English language
3. Permit issued by Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, with effective date of validity.
4. Valid Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Policy.
5. Valid Bank Guarantee.

The Protector of Emigrants (POE) shall, after satisfying the accuracy of the particulars mentioned in the application and in the other documents submitted along the

application, grants emigration clearance in the prescribed manner and form. In case there is any deficiency, the POE shall intimate the same by order in writing to the applicant or, as the case may be, the Recruiting Agent or Employer, through whom the

-6-

applications have been made about the deficiencies and require him to make good such deficiencies within such time as may be specified in the order or reject the application.

Details of the Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana (PBBY)

- The Pravasi Bhartiya Bima Yojana (PBBY) was started in 2003. The PBBY was upgraded as the Pravasi Bhartiya Bima Yojana, 2006 to provide broader coverage to the emigrant workers.
- The scheme has been further modified in 2008. The emigrant workers get a minimum insurance cover of Rs. 10 Lakhs (instead of 5 Lakhs) and the policy will be for the period of employment contract, i.e. either 2 years or 3 years as the case may be. The reduce premiums along with other benefits have been made effective from 01.04.08.
- A comparative statement of PBBY 2006 and PBBY 2008 is as under:

Item	PBBY 2006	PBBY 2008
Minimum sum for which insured under PBBY	Rs. 5.00 Lakhs	Rs. 10.00 Lakhs
Hospitalization(medical expenses) covering injuries/sickness/ailment/diseases	Rs. 50,000/-	Rs. 75,000/-
Repatriation coversfor medical unfit	Actual one way economy class air fare	Actual one way economy class air fare
Family Hospitalization in India	Rs. 25,000/-	Rs. 50,000/-
Maternity	Rs. 20,000/-	Rs. 25,000/-
Attentdant	Actual one way economy class air fare	Actual one way economy class air fare
Legal Expenses	Rs. 25,000/-	Rs. 30,000/-
Actual Premium to charged (without any hidden costs)	Rs. 475/- for the contract period	Rs. 275/- for 2 years policy period Rs. 375/- for 3 years policy period

This policy is available from under noted Insurance Companies:-

1. Oriental Insurance Company Ltd.
2. United India Insurance Company Ltd.
3. National Insurance Company Ltd.

-7-

4. ICICI Lombard
5. Star Health & Allied Insurance Co. Ltd.
6. IFFCO Tokyo
7. Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Co. Ltd.
8. Reliance General Insurance Co. Ltd.
9. Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Co. Ltd.

Claim Procedure

Insured worker is supposed to have the copy of PBBY insurance policy with him. Name of the nominee is so mentioned on the policy, in view of the eventuality of death of insured.

In the event of claim, insured worker/ claimant have to lodge a claim under the policy, with the respective insurance company's office wherefrom the policy was issued, if not specifically provided by the insurance company otherwise. While doing so, claimant has to indicate the policy number and details of accident. In the event of death, nominee has to lodge the claim.

After intimation of reported claim, insurance company intimates the insured/ claimant the details of documents required to settle the claim. After processing such requisite documents, claim amount is paid to the insured worker/ claimant, as the case may be.

Do's and Don't

In Jordan, local laws demand that one must not move in public without "Ikama". "Ikama" is the residency permit issued to all expatriates after the employment contractual obligations are fulfilled.

Normally Jordan does not allow change in job sponsorship. However, either through prior permission or by consent of the local employer, a change of job can be approved by local authorities.

- The emigrant workers must get their service agreements prepared in both English and Arabic. They should not part with their passports and copies of their service contracts.
- Non-payment or delayed payment of wages could be reported to Indian missions, for redressal of grievances.

- Workers are given gratuity equivalent to 15 days' wages for every completed year of service.

-8-

Verification of the genuineness of visa/ employment documents

The matter may be referred to the Embassy of India in the destination country, if necessary, with full particulars of the sponsor company (Name, Address, Telephone and Fax No.), which issued the visa, along with Passport particulars.

Employment Contract

Indian workers are advised to obtain written contract duly signed by the sponsor/ employer company before their arrival in the destination country.

The official language of the contract recognized by the Jordan is Arabic. In a bilingual contract (English and Arabic), the Arabic version prevails in case of any dispute on the clauses of the contract.

Essential terms for a contract

The contract should contain all important terms of employment as per 15(2) of Emigration Rules.

- i) Period employment/ place of employment.
- ii) Wages and other conditions of service;
- iii) Free food or food allowance provision;
- iv) Free accommodation;
- v) Provision in regard to disposal, or transportation to India, of dead body of the Emigrant;
- vi) Working hours, overtime allowance, other working conditions, leave and social security benefits as per local labour laws;
- vii) To and fro air passage at the employers' cost; and
- viii) Mode of settlement of disputes;

Obtaining copy of the contract while in India

As per the instructions of the Government of India, recruitment body is expected to provide a copy of employment contract to each worker before his/ her departure. To safeguard his/ her own interest, an individual worker has to demand from the recruitment agent a copy of the duly signed contract before departure. Complaints may be lodged against defaulting agencies with the nearest Protector of Emigrants.

Important Documents

In addition to all the originals, copies of the following documents may be retained with the employee.

-9-

1. Employment contract;
2. Passport
3. Visa and
4. Certificates of educational qualification.

Check before Departure

- Ensure you have a valid passport at least for two years. A valid Visa must be either stamped on or accompany your passport. Always keep a photocopy of your passport and visa.
- You must possess a copy of the Employment Contract signed by you and your foreign employer duly attested by the registered recruiting agent.
- Insist on a copy of Employment Contract in English duly authenticated by the recruiting agent.
- Open a Savings Bank N.R.E. Account in one of the Banks in India to enable you to send your remittances from abroad.
- Get familiar with local labour laws, working and living conditions of the country of employment, keep complete address of the Indian Embassy there, with you.

In the country of your employment

- Obtain a Resident Permit or Identity Card, Labour Card or Ikama.
- DO NOT part with your passport and copy of employment contract signed by you in India.
- DO NOT sign any other employment contract or any blank paper.
- DO NOT strike work or resort to agitations. These are illegal under Jordan's labour laws. You could be arrested, imprisoned and also deported.
- AVOID all contacts that may result in AIDS – a dreaded disease.
- Keep in touch with the nearest Indian Mission and report any complaints about non-payment or delayed payment of wages or compensation or any other problem to the Indian Mission.

Customs Formalities

- Personal baggage – Customs checking is VERY STRICT. Kindly cooperate with the Customs staff at the International airport.
- Ensure that one should not carry any narcotics.
- DO NOT accept any unchecked parcel from any one. If you have to take a parcel for someone, check thoroughly that it does not contain narcotics. Otherwise, it may land you in serious difficulties on arrival in the country of employment.

Precautions

- One must make and keep a photocopy of all the pages of your passport. DO NOT lose your passport or its photocopy.
- In case you misplace your passport, inform the nearest Indian Mission immediately giving those details i.e. passport number, date and place of issue, your name and date of your entry into the country of employment. You can give these details only if you keep a photocopy of your passport.
- DO NOT lose your copy of the employment contract. Make photocopies and always keep them with you.
- You must have a full name, address telephone/ fax number of your foreign employer, before you leave India.
- If you have difficulty in locating your foreign employer, contact the nearest Indian Mission immediately.
- DO NOT accept temporary or permanent employment with another person or establishment other than the sponsoring company/ establishment/ person. Employment with persons other than your original sponsor is strictly prohibited and attracts severe punishment.
- Before the visa or employment contract expires, get them renewed. If you are returning to India for a short while during the tenure of your Employment Contract abroad, ensure that the validity period of visa does not expire before you return to the country of employment.

- Ensure also that one's passport is valid. Get it revalidated from the concerned Indian Mission abroad or from the Regional Passport Office (RPO) in India, at least two months before its expiry.

-11-

Embassy of India

First Circle, Jabal Amman,

P.O. Box 2168,

Amman - 11181, Jordan.

Telephone Nos.: 00 962 6 4622098 & 4637262

Fax No.: 00 962 6 4611916/ 4659540

E-mail address: amb.amman@mea.gov.in (For HOM)

hoc.amman@mea.gov.in (For HOC & Adm.)

itm.amman@mea.gov.in (For IT/Cons. Sec.)

Important contacts

Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

Government of India

Akbar Bhavan, Chanakya Puri

New Delhi-110021

Telephone No. 0091-11-24197900

Fax No. 0091-11-24197919

Email : info@moia.nic.in

Shri Vayalar Ravi, Minister

Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

Telephone No. (O) 0091-11-24676836 / 37 / 39

Fax No. (O) 0091-11-24197985

Email : minister@moia.nic.in

Telephone No. (R) 0091-11-23792148 / 49

Fax No. (R) 0091-11-23792142

Shri Rajiv Mehrishi, Secretary

Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

Telephone No. 0091-11-24674143 / 44

Fax No. : 0091-11-24674140

Email : secretary@moia.nic.in

Shri R.Buhril, Protector General of Emigrants

Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

Telephone No. 0091-11-26874250

Fax No. : 0091-11-24197984

Email : pge@moia.nic.in

List of Offices of Protector of Emigrants in India

1. Protector of Emigrants, New Delhi, Jaisalmer House, Canteen Block, Mansingh Road, New Delhi-110001, Tel : 011-23382472, Fax : 011-23073908
2. Protector of Emigrants, Bombay, Building E, Khira Nagar, S V Road, Santa Cruz (West), Mumbai-400054. Tel : 022-26614393, Fax : 022-26614353
3. Protector of Emigrants Thiruvananthapuram, Sugandh, 24/846 (1), Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram-695014, Tel : 0471-2741790
4. Protector of Emigrants Kochi, 3rd floor, Putherikal Building, Market Road, Kochi-682035. Tel : 0484-2360187
5. Protector of Emigrants, Chennai, TNHB, Ashok Nagar Shopping Complex (Annexe), Ashok Nagar, Chennai-600083, Tel : 044-24891337
6. Protector of Emigrants Chandigarh, Kendriya Sadan, Fifth Block, Ground Floor, Sector-9A, Chandigarh-160017, Tel : 0172-2741790
7. Protector of Emigrants, Kolkata, Room No. 18, A-Wing, 3rd floor, M S O Building, D F Block, Salt Lake, Kolkata-700084, Tel : 033-23343407
8. Protector of Emigrants, Hyderabad, Gruhkalpa, Ground Floor, Opposite to Gandhi Bhawan, Nampally, Hyderabad, Tel : 040-24652557
9. Protector of Emigrants, Jaipur, CFC Building, RIICO, Sitapur, Industrial Area, Tonk Road, Jaipur. Tel: 0141-2771529.

Information available on the website of MOIA

- Revised emigration requirements
- Recruiting agents having suspended RC
- Online emigration clearance system
- List of registered recruiting agents with valid RC at poeonline.gov.in
- Internal watch-list of recruiting agents
- Recruiting agents having cancelled RC
- Foreign employers on PAC
- Project Exporters at peonline.gov.in
- Emigration Act, 1983
- Emigration Rules, 1983
- Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana

- Redressal of Public Grievances Information on Recruiting Agents and Black Listed foreign employers
- Guidelines for recruiting agents/ guidelines for prospective Emigrant workers.

-13-

Part-II

EMBASSY OF INDIA AMMAN

COUNTRY BRIEF (JORDAN)

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

The precursor to modern Jordan was founded in 1921 as the Hashemite Emirate, and it was recognized by the League of Nations as a state under the British Mandate for Palestine in 1922 known as The Emirate of Transjordan. In 1946, Jordan became an independent sovereign state officially known as the Hashemite Kingdom of Transjordan. After capturing the West Bank area of Cisjordan during the 1948–49 war with Israel, Abdullah I took the title King of Jordan and Palestine, and he officially changed the country's name to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in April 1949. The name Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is derived from Hashem, which was the name of the great grandfather of the Prophet Mohammad. The Royal Family of Jordan is called Hashemite, which means descended from Hashem.

LOCATION:

Jordan, a kingdom in the heart of the Middle East, is located northwest of Saudi Arabia. It is strategically situated at the head of the Gulf of Aqaba and shares its border with Iraq, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and the Occupied West Bank. It has an area of 89,342 sq km (34,492 sq miles), making it similar in size to Austria and Portugal. However, Jordan's diverse terrain and landscape belie its actual size, demonstrating a variety usually found only in large countries. Jordan's climate is mostly arid with a rainy season in the Western part of the country from November until April.

POLITICAL SYSTEM:

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is a Constitutional Monarchy based on the Constitution promulgated on January 8, 1952, has a developing economy and a modern infrastructure. It has been ruled by four monarchs with the title of His Majesty the King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan: HM King Abdullah bin Al Hussein (1921-1951), HM King Talal bin Abdullah (1951-1952), HM King Hussein bin Talal (1952-1999), and HM King Abdullah bin Hussein, (since 1999). King Abdullah II was proclaimed monarch on February 7, 1999 after King Hussein's death. The reigning monarch is the Chief Executive and the Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces. The King exercises his executive authority through the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers. The

Council of Ministers and the Prime Minister are responsible to the Parliament. The Judiciary is an independent branch of the Government. The King can appoint and dismiss all Judges by decree, approve amendments to the Constitution and declare

-14-

war. Administratively, Jordan is divided into 12 Governorates, each headed by a Governor appointed by the King. They are the sole authorities for all government departments and development projects in their respective areas.

Legislative power is vested in the bicameral Parliament (National Assembly or Majlis al-'Umma) which consists of the Senate (Upper House), also called the House of Notables or Majlis al-Ayan (60 seats; members appointed by the monarch to serve a 4-year term) and the Chamber of Deputies (Lower House), also called the House of Representatives or Majlis al-Nuwaab (120 seats; members elected by universal suffrage using a single, non-transferable vote system in multi-member districts to a 4-year term, is subject to dissolution by the King).

RELIGION AND LANGUAGE:

The religion of the country is Islam, around 92% of the population being Sunni Muslims. The rest are Christians, mainly Greek Orthodox and Catholic. Jordan's population is approximately 6.5 million (UN, 2010), which is mostly Arab (98%) and the remaining 2% consists of Circassians, Armenians and Chechens who have adapted to Arab culture. Besides, approximately 2 million registered Palestinian refugees and other displaced persons from Iraqi, Syria, reside in Jordan. About 70% of population live in urban areas with the largest population in the capital city of Amman (more than 1 million).

The official language is Arabic, but English is also widely spoken. All official business within the country is transacted in Arabic. The colloquial Arabic is closer to the dialects in the neighbouring countries like Syria, than to dialects in Yemen, Egypt, Algeria and Morocco.

ECONOMY

Jordan has a market oriented economy based on free enterprise and personal initiative. Efforts have been underway to restructure and revitalize the economy of the country since 1989 and with the help of international organizations. The country has since been working hard to further develop the economy, and strengthen the environment attractive to foreign investors under the King's directives. The government has undertaken a wide range of major changes and adjustments to financial and economic legislation in order to improve the competitiveness of the economy and integrates Jordan with the global economy. Jordan is an emerging knowledge economy. Education reform, continued privatization and economic liberalization, and economic restructuring are ensuring the path to a knowledge-based economy. The Kingdom represents an ideal gateway to Middle East and North African countries (MENA). It also

enjoys the free trade accessibility to major international markets, such United States, Canada, Singapore, Malaysia, the European Union, Tunisia, Algeria, Libya, Algeria,

-15-

Turkey http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_Jordan - cite note-7 and Syria. Jordan has Free Trade Agreements with the USA and Canada.

Jordan's economic resource base centres around phosphate, potash, and their fertilizer derivatives; tourism; overseas remittances; and foreign aid. These are its principal sources of hard currency earnings. The main obstacles to Jordan's economy are scarce water supplies, complete reliance on oil imports for energy, and regional instability. Just over 10% of its land is arable, and even that is subject to the vagaries of a limited water supply. Rainfall is low and highly variable, and much of Jordan's available ground water is not renewable. Lacking coal reserves, hydroelectric power, large tracts of forest or commercially viable oil deposits, Jordan relies on natural gas for 10% of its domestic energy needs.

TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATIONS

Principal mode of transportation within Jordan is roadways. There is only one port namely Aqaba to cater to shipping lines for imports/exports. Royal Jordanian flies five times on Delhi-Amman sector and three times on Mumbai-Amman sector a week (subject to change from time to time). There are no Indian flights to Jordan.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Valid appropriate visa is required to enter into Jordan for business or as a tourist. With the implementation of new visa regime since November 2009, the Indian passport holders can get tourist visa on arrival at the International airport on payment of JD 20/- (approximately US\$ 30/-). If you plan to stay for more than two weeks in Jordan, you will need to register at the nearest police station. Inoculations are not required unless you are traveling from an infected location. If you come from a country where diseases such as cholera and yellow fever are prevalent, you will have to show a certificate of inoculation at your point of entry into Jordan. Although not required, it is not a bad idea to have preventative shots for polio, tetanus and typhoid. HIV test is required for those who intend to stay in Jordan for more than 30 days, either as a resident or as a long-term visitor. Tests are conducted after arrival in the country. Visitors including those seeking work permits if detected positive to such tests are immediately repatriated. Hence, it is advisable to get these tests done in India. It is also recommended that you check with the Jordanian Embassy in New Delhi to ensure that all necessary paperwork for travel to Jordan is complete.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL FACILITIES

Modern medical facilities are available in Jordan especially in Amman but are somewhat expensive. Jordan has a large number of qualified and experienced doctors capable of performing procedures in advance fields of medicine such as Cardiology and

-16-

cardiovascular surgery, laproendoscopic surgery, kidney transplantation, ophthalmology, neurosurgery, plastic surgery, oncology and many others.

LOCATION OF CHANCERY

The Indian Embassy is located near the First Circle (a major road intersection) in Jabal Amman. A few other foreign Missions are also situated in this area. The address of the Embassy is :

Embassy of India,
First Circle, Jabal Amman,
P.O. Box 2168,
Amman - 11181,
Jordan.

Telephone Nos.: 00 962 6 4622098 & 4637262

Fax No.: 00 962 6 4611916/ 4659540

E-mail address: amb.amman@mea.gov.in (For HOM)

hoc.amman@mea.gov.in (For HOC & Adm.)

itm.amman@mea.gov.in (For IT/Cons. Sec.)

Working hours : 0900 hrs. to 1700 hrs., (Sunday through Thursday)

CURRENCY & BANKING

The currency unit is the Jordanian Dinar (JD 1 = Rs. 71.50). One Dinar consists of 1000 Fils. The common denominations are :

Currency notes: JD 50, 20, 10, 5 and 1

Coins : Fils 500, 250, 100, 50, 25, 10.

Banking services are adequate. There are no Indian Banks in Jordan. There are several commercial banks, both Jordanian and Foreign, including HSBC, Standard Chartered Bank, Citi Bank, Arab Bank etc.

CLIMATE:

Jordan has a combination of Mediterranean and arid desert climates, with Mediterranean climates prevailing in the north and west of the country, while the majority of the country is desert. Generally, the country has warm, dry summers and mild, wet winters, with annual average temperatures ranging from 12 to 25 C (54 to 77

F) and summertime highs reaching the 40s (105-115 F) in the desert regions. Rainfall averages vary from 50mm (1.97 inches) annually in the desert to as much as 800 mm (31.5 inches) in the northern hills, some of which falls as snow.

-17-

CULTURE:

In Jordan culture and art go hand in hand. Poets, writers, novelists, painters and other artists preserve their rich Jordanian cultural heritage through their works. The Kingdom has 17 art exhibition galleries ranging between cultural centers, large private art institutions and privately owned exhibition halls.

TOURISM:

Jordan, a country rich in cultural heritage, offers tourists a unique variety of experience, whether through its historical, religious or other beautiful sites. Amman, Jordan's capital is an ancient city, first known as Rabbath Ammon in the Iron Age and later as Philadelphia which is one of several Greco-Roman cities in the urban confederation known as the Decapolis. One of Amman's treasures is the Roman Byzantine and early Islamic ruins on Jabal al-Qal'a (Citadel Hill); a 2nd Century Roman theatre built to hold 5,000 spectators, and an archaeological museum. Besides Amman, northern Jordan is home to other ancient cities of the Decapolis. These include Jerash (Gerasa), Umm Qays (Gadara), Tabaqat Fahl or Fihil (Pella), Bayt Ras (Capitolias), Madaba, Wadi Kharrar, Nabatean City, Petra, Dayr (monastery) and Quwayliba (Abila). Wadi Rum's (Ramm) beautiful mountains are one of the favourite destination for hikers and campers. It is also a world heritage site. Jordan also has six nature reserves that include some of the country's most beautiful landscapes. To mention just a few; Mahmiyyat al Mujib, which surrounds al Mujib, a deep, majestic canyon, the natural treasures of Wadi Dana, which offer intriguing archaeological ruins, and Mahmiyyat Zubya located in the highlands of Ajlun. Jordan is very popular for having the lowest spot on earth, the Dead Sea, which is also appropriately named, as its high mineral content allows nothing to live in its waters. The shoreline of the Dead Sea stands at 1300 feet below sea level, water does not drain from this lake and its salinity ranges from 26-35 percent. And Jordan's only outlet to sea is Aqaba, which enjoys a spectacular Red Sea setting of purple colored mountains and sandy beaches. Aqaba offers visitors pleasures such as scuba diving, snorkeling, and a full range of other water sports. A world wonder, Petra is undoubtedly Jordan's greatest tourist attraction. It is a unique city by the Nabataens, who settled here more than 2000 years ago. The main attraction of Petra is the ancient city itself.

Foreign Workers

Work permits for foreign workers must be obtained from the Minister of Labour prior to their entry into the country. Foreign workers are not restricted by any quotas. However, employment of foreign workers is not permissible for certain jobs, including administrative and engineering positions. According to the Ministry of Industry and Trade, foreign non-operating companies are the only entities that are required to hire at least 50% Jordanian workers. In order to ensure sustained compliance with international

-18-

standards, the Ministry of Labour has undertaken several reforms to strengthen the overall labour administration, particularly in the apparel sector. These initiatives have been formulated within the Ministry's "Action Plan to Strengthen Labour Compliance".

SOCIAL CONVENTIONS

Jordanians are very proud of their Arab heritage and consider hospitality a matter of great importance. Visitors are always made to feel welcome and the Jordanians act as perfect hosts. Handshakes are the common form of greeting in Jordan. Islam plays a significant role in Jordanian society, so it's essential that visitors learn something about the customs and rules of Islam before coming to this country. It's important that you respect the local Islamic traditions. Arabic coffee is normally served during social functions. A small gift is considered polite in return for hospitality. Women should always dress modestly and beachwear must only be worn at the beach or pool. Always seek permission before taking someone's photograph, as in some areas it is forbidden.

GREETINGS

Man greeting Man - Men usually greet one another using the phrase 'Salaamu Aleikum' (it means peace be upon you). The appropriate response is Wa'aleikum as-salamma, which means and on peace be you. This is accompanied by a warm handshake (always use the right hand). Handshakes usually linger a bit. When greeting a good friend or someone familiar, a series of between three and five kisses to the cheek will be included in the introduction.

Woman greeting Woman - Women greet each other in a similar manner to men. Handshakes(always use the right hand) and kisses are common. During initial meetings, a verbal greeting is also acceptable for many people.

Man greeting Woman - Social interactions between non-related members of the opposite sex are not frequent, so as a result the handshake will usually not be included in the introduction. You will be able to tell if the person you are being introduced to is unwilling for a handshake as if he or she will fold his/her hand up and across their chest. Always wait for the woman to initiate, if at all.

LAW & ORDER

- Law & order situation is good in Jordan.

- Drinking alcohol is uncommon in Jordan, but there are liquor stores that primarily serve the tourists or cities with notable non-Muslim populations.

-19-

- There is no enforced smoking age, and it is not uncommon to see young children and high school students smoking cigarettes.
- It is an offence to speak negatively about the royal family members or show disrespect towards them.
- Penalties for possession, trafficking, or use of illegal drugs are stringent. Offenders can expect jail sentences and/or heavy fines.

(updated in December, 2012)