



Useful contact information:

CIVIL DEFENSE
911

SALT GENERAL HOSPITAL
+962 5 355 2957

TOURISM POLICE
+962 5 324 0877 or
11 7777

SALT DEVELOPMENT CORP
+962 79 9330092

GREATER SALT MUNICIPALITY
+962 5 355 5611

Designed and produced with the support of:

 **USAID** FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE **Building Economic Sustainability through Tourism Project (BEST)**

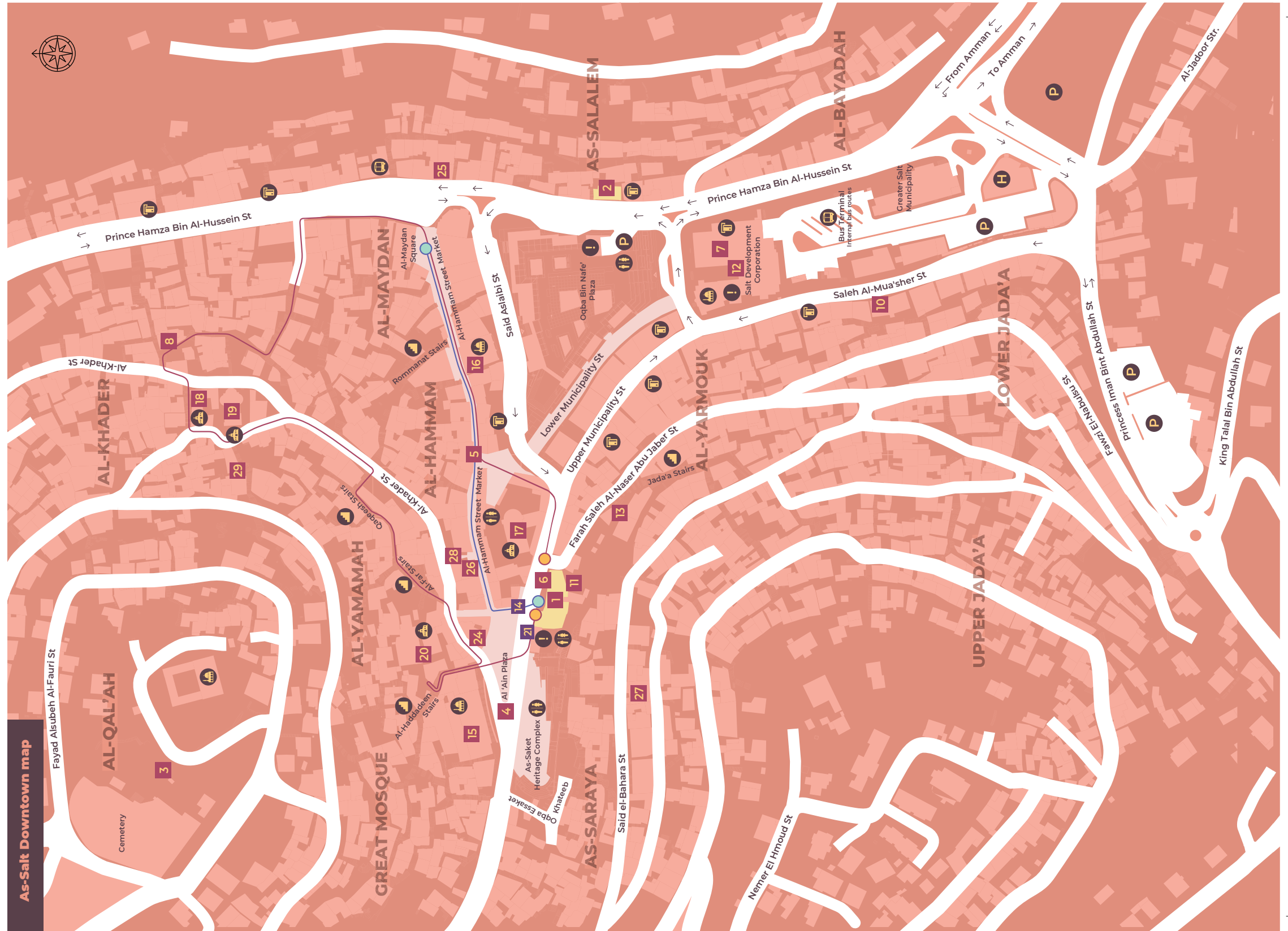
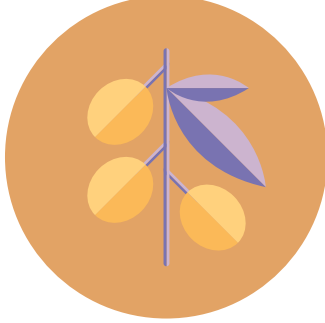
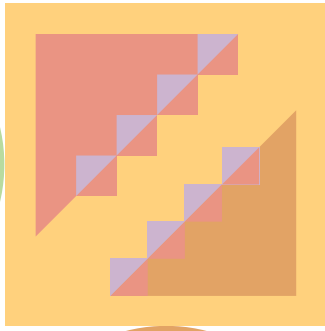
 **MINISTRY OF TOURISM & ANTIQUITIES**

 **Greater Salt Municipality**
بلدية السلط الكبرى

 **Salt Development Corporation**
مؤسسة إعمار السلط



Welcome to Jordan's first Storytown. Once upon a time, at the turn of the 19th, As-Salt was a flourishing trading town and it thrived in the early 20th century. Yet its history goes further back, as revealed by relics that include Roman tombs and an Ayyubid fortress. To this day, this fascinating place has retained its charm as a well-preserved historic town with beautiful narrow streets and dazzling old houses that echo mystical tales of splendor.



The Story of As-Salt

Every element of As-Salt has been woven into its story; from bustling streets and quaint staircases, to aromatic flavors and yellow stone exteriors that characterize the city. As-Salt is a distinctive destination because of the magical tale it tells, and for its unique ambiance that creates an enchanted town like no other.

The name 'As-Salt' comes from the Latin word **Saltus**, which means forest. Situated in the highlands of Al-Balqa region, the town is built in the crook of three hills close to the Jordan Valley. Since ancient times, including the Classical, Byzantine, Islamic and Ottoman periods, various communities settled in As-Salt. It was considered to be the first capital of Transjordan in 1921.

A city of many firsts, As-Salt was once one of the most important settlements in the area. Rich in history and agriculture, As-Salt was a fundamental trading link between the east and west banks of the Jordan River. The Romans, Byzantines and Mamlukes all contributed to the growth of the town, but it was during the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century that As-Salt enjoyed its most prosperous period. As the town flourished, many merchants arrived with their newly acquired wealth and built the fine houses that can still be admired today.

With its narrow lanes and exquisite late Ottoman architecture, As-Salt invites you to visit its markets and splendid traditional houses, tour the city on foot, and interact with its warm and welcoming people.



Experiences

A fascinating town culturally and aesthetically, you are bound to gravitate towards its markets, delicious food, outdoor activities, museums, religious sites, and much more.





Immersive history



Historic Old Salt Museum, Abu Jaber House

Learn all about the city's golden age at this museum. It is located in a beautiful mansion, which represents the era of prosperity at the end of the 19th century. The house was converted into a museum that showcases the rich history and story of As-Salt.

Opening hours: 9am–5pm in summer, 9am–4pm in winter

Price: Free admission

Map reference: [1]



As-Salt Archaeological Museum, Touqan House

Catch sight of rare artifacts from the Roman, Byzantine, and Islamic eras at the As-Salt Archeological Museum. The house was built for the Touqan family in 1905 and has been converted into a museum that portrays the history of the wider area of the Jordan Valley. You can see traditional clothing on display, as well as beautiful mosaics from churches in As-Salt.

Opening hours: Saturday-Thursday, 8am–8pm in summer; 8am–5pm in winter / Friday, 9am–4pm

Price: Foreigners JD2 / Jordanians and residents JD0.25

Map reference: [2]



As-Salt Castle

Visit the ruins of the ancient Ayyubid castle, built in 1189 AD by King Issa bin Ayoub, Saladin's nephew. It was a 20-foot (6 meter) high rectangular building. The castle is situated in the middle of Ras Al-Amir hill in Al-Khandaq area.

Opening hours: 8am–5pm daily

Price: Free admission

Map reference: [3]





Living heritage and cultural experiences



Al Ain Plaza:

Take a stroll around Al Ain Plaza, originally a meeting point for traders in the city center, where many residents spend a few hours of their days discussing news, playing the traditional game of mangaleh, and oftentimes exchanging books. The plaza remains a point of gathering for cultural events. Al Ain translates to 'spring' in Arabic and the plaza is so-named because water from a nearby mountain spring used to pool here and locals came to collect their water from it.

Opening hours: Open at all times

Price: Public area

Map reference: [4]

Al Hammam Street:

Shop a variety of tasty snacks, spices, and fresh produce on Al Hammam Street, an integral part of the authentic heritage of As-Salt. Al Hammam Street is famous for its shops and beautiful architectural style. The name Al Hammam translates to 'the bath', as the street is named after a popular Turkish bath that was located here in the 19th century.

Opening hours: 9am–7pm (shops)

Price: Public area

Map reference: [5]

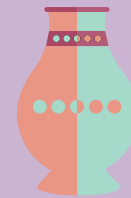


As-Salt Gifts and Crafts Shop:

Take home a souvenir or gift from As-Salt. You'll find a range of handmade products at this shop, which sells crafts and local food items made by more than 70 artisans from the city and its suburbs. The shop includes pottery, soaps, accessories, local preserves, herbs, and more.

Opening hours: 9am–4pm in winter (Nov to Mar),
10am–5pm in summer (Apr to Oct)

Map reference: [6]



As-Salt Photo Gallery:

Learn about the city's rich heritage through this wonderful collection of photographs that date from the beginning of the 20th century. The photographs offer a glimpse of the culture and history of As-Salt as they portray the stories of its people, its architecture, and more.

Opening hours: Saturday - Thursday, 9am–2pm

Price: Free admission

Map reference: [7]





Fatmeh Al-Zoubi's Home:

Of coffee rituals and traditional attire

Spend a couple of hours with Fatmeh at her charming home in a building constructed almost a century ago and experience the warmth of Salti families. Fatmeh is a treasure-trove of stories that you will get to enjoy as you gather around her delicious home-made feast for lunch. Learn all about the special coffee ritual in As-Salt and enjoy a customary cup after your meal. Be sure to try on the khalaga, the traditional dress of As-Salt.

Duration: 2 hours

Price (per person):

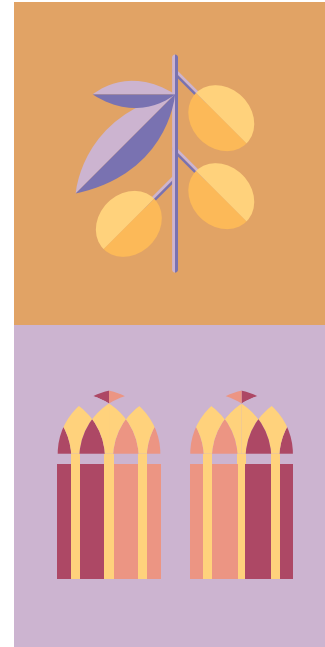
Adults: JD 12

Children 5-12 years old JD6

Children under 5 years free

To book: www.VisitAs-Salt.com, or call 0799330092

Map reference: [8]



Hala Qaqish' s Home:

Of neighborhoods and gardens

Make your own thyme and cheese bread, or manakeesh, and enjoy a delightful home-prepared brunch in Hala's lovely garden. While at Hala's, you will learn all about As-Salt's old neighborhoods and hear stories of unity and community of neighbors. Looking around her house, which her father helped build almost 100 years ago, you will notice an architectural style typical to heritage buildings in As-Salt, with yellow stone and beautiful arched windows.

Duration: 2 hours

Price (per person):

Adults: JD 12

Children 5-12 years old JD6

Children under 5 years free

To book: www.VisitAs-Salt.com, or call 0799330092

Map reference: [9]





Al-Adham's Home: Of traditions and culture

Enjoy a few hours in Al-Adham's stunning house, which dates from 1900. Take notice of the house's unique architectural features combining old and new styles and traditional Islamic designs. While enjoying a mouthwatering homecooked lunch, this sweet couple will most probably challenge you to a game of mangaleh or backgammon, traditional board games that are popular in Salti households to this day.

Duration: 2 hours

Price (per person):

Adults: JD 12

Children 5-12 years old JD6

Children under 5 years free

To book: www.VisitAs-Salt.com, or call 0799330092

Map reference: [10]



Salti Wedding Experience at Zamanek Ya Salt:

Of celebrations and traditional dress

Learn about the local wedding traditions of As-Salt at this restaurant and café, which showcases folkloric music, dances with the sword, zghareed (the happy sound using the tongue), and mhaha (rhymes used to describe the bride and groom and wish them the best). You can also try on the khalaga, the traditional dress of As-Salt, and take memorable photos.

Opening hours: Sunday-Thursday, 9am-8pm

Price: JD4 - JD13 per person

To book: www.VisitAs-Salt.com, or call 0799330092

Map reference: [11]



Pottery Experience at Saltos Of clay and artisanship

Step into this local pottery studio to experience every step of the process of handmaking pottery. Start by molding clay on the wheel, then baking the pottery in the specialized kilns, and finally customizing your very own souvenir.

Opening hours: Saturday-Thursday, 9am-4pm or 5pm-7pm if booked 48 hours in advance

Price: JD5 - JD8 per person

To book: www.VisitAs-Salt.com, or call 0799330092

Map reference: [12]



Balqees Henna and Art Experience: Of traditions and artistry

Visit this quaint and colorful henna and painting studio in the heart of As-Salt. Here you will learn about henna and its uses, as well as traditional patterns and their meaning. Receive a henna tattoo of your choice, and paint your own t-shirt, cushion or canvas with drawings by Balqees (a local artist) that represent the city. The experience and space are perfect for families with children and groups of friends.

Opening hours: Saturday-Thursday, 9am-4pm or 5pm-7pm if booked 48 hours in advance

Price: JD5 - JD12 per person

To book: www.VisitAs-Salt.com, or call 0799330092

Map reference: [13]



Daily Life Trail

Best experienced with a local guide, get a feel of how Salti people go about their days, and truly take in the Salti lifestyle in all its magnificence. This walking tour takes you through some of the town's best attractions and experiences.

Walking trail:

Days: Fixed departures every Friday and Saturday*.

Tour begins at 10:00 am.

Duration: 2 hours

Price:

Adults JD12

Children 5-12 years old JD6

Children under 5 years free

Walking trail and lunch at a local family home:

Days: Fixed departures every Friday and Saturday*.

Tour begins at 10:00 am. Duration: 4 hours

Price:

Adults JD22

Children 5-12 years old JD12

Children under 5 years free

Walking trail and lunch at a local restaurant:

Days: Fixed departures every Friday and Saturday*.

Tour begins at 10:00 am. Duration: 4 hours

Price:

Adults JD22

Children 5-12 years old JD12

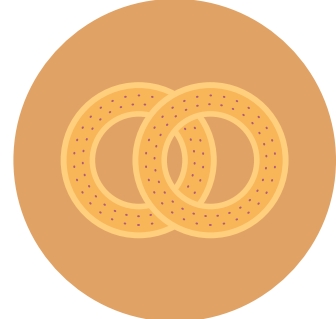
Children under 5 years free

Meeting point: As-Salt Information Center

To book: www.VisitAs-Salt.com, or call 0799330092

Map reference: [14]

***Note:** If you would like to book a tour at a different time or day, this is possible by advance booking. For more information email: info@VisitAs-Salt.com or call 0799330092.





Spiritually engaging experiences

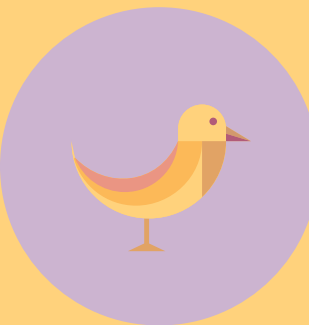
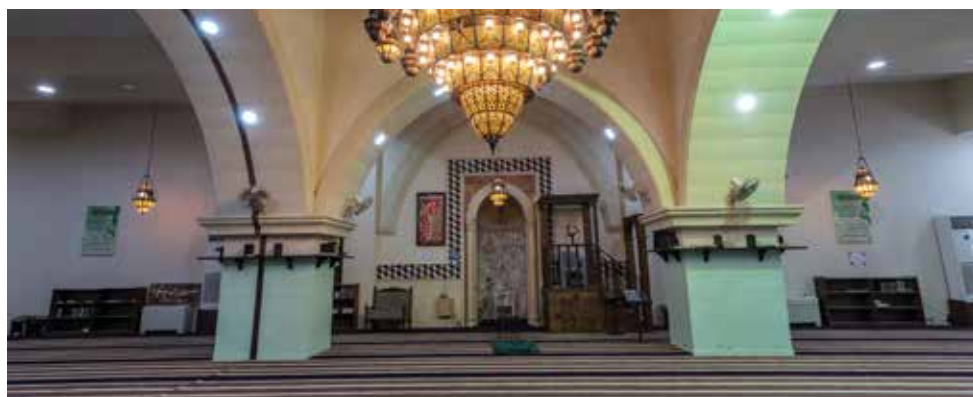
The Great Mosque

This is the oldest mosque in As-Salt and the original building was constructed in the 13th century. The Ottomans rebuilt the mosque in the 1860s and then in 2007, what remained of the Ottoman structure was renovated and expanded into the new mosque you see today. The mosque represents the Islamic architecture, featuring interior vaulted spaces, a dome, and the use of stylized decorative arabesque patterns. At the entrance there are ablution corners. The second floor has an area for women to pray. The mosque was mentioned in the famous books of geographers and orientalist Johann Burckhardt and Citizens.

Opening hours: Open at all times

Price: Free admission

Map reference: [15]



The Small Mosque

Admire the exterior of the Small Mosque, the oldest standing mosque in As-Salt, built through donations from the local community. The mosque is known for its exquisite minaret.

Opening Hours: At prayer time only

Price: Free admission for prayer

Map reference: [16]

The Latin Church

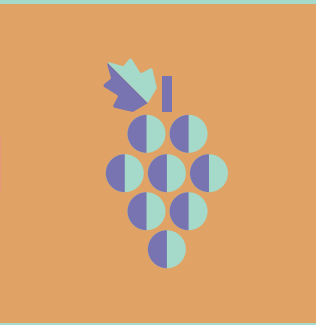
Pass through or join a mass at the Latin Church, the first Catholic church in Jordan. It was designed by Italian priest and architect, John Moritan, who planned many churches in Palestine, and constructed in the 1880's. The church is famous for its high cross-vaulted ceilings, eight triple rounded columns, and Corinthian capitals carved in stone.

Opening hours: During service only

Price: Free admission

Map reference: [17]





Al Khader Church

Light a candle and make a wish at Al Khader Orthodox Church, the most visited Christian faith site in As-Salt. Named after Al Khader (St. George), the church and the shrine within were originally built in an ancient cave in 1682. Many believe that miracles have happened at this church. Muslims are welcome to pray here too.

Opening hours: 9am–6pm

Price: Free admission

Map reference: [18]



Roman Orthodox Church and School

Pass by this church and climb up its bell tower for an unmatched view of the city. The church is connected to a school, which is the first private school in As-Salt. It welcomes both Muslim and Christian students and teachers and promotes harmony and coexistence.

Opening hours: Sundays, 8am–11am

Price: Free admission

Map reference: [19]



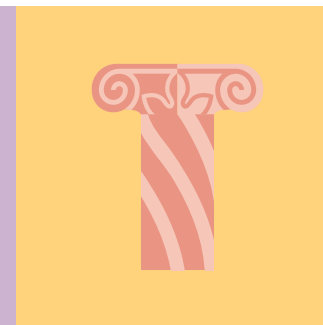
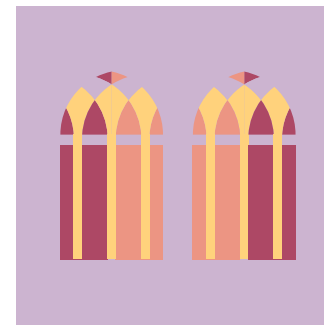
The English Complex

The English Complex was built over a period of four decades, in the middle of 19th century. It housed a group of buildings with several different purposes, including the first hospital in Jordan, a Protestant Church and a Sunday School. The complex courtyard offers beautiful views of the Abu Jaber Museum and the hills of As-Salt and you can enjoy a beverage at the café, which is run by the students of the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf.

Opening hours: Saturday-Wednesday, 8:00am–4:00pm / Thursdays, 8:00am–12:30pm

Price: JD1 entrance fee

Map reference: [20]



The Harmony Trail

Best experienced with a local guide, get a feel of the interreligious harmony and coherence within the neighborhoods of As-Salt on the Harmony Trail. As-Salt is known for its sense of unity and community, which is reflected in the long-standing mosques and churches that peacefully stand side by side. While on the trail, keep an eye out for the Islamic and Christian symbols and inscriptions that are infused within the architecture of old homes and houses of worship.

Walking trail:

Days: Fixed departures every Friday and Saturday*.

Tour begins at 10:00 am.

Duration: 2 hours

Price:

Adults JD12

Children 5-12 years old JD6

Children under 5 years free

Walking trail and lunch at a local family home:

Days: Fixed departures every Friday and Saturday*.

Tour begins at 10:00 am.

Duration: 4 hours

Price:

Adults JD22

Children 5-12 years old JD12

Children under 5 years free

Walking trail and lunch at a local restaurant:

Days: Fixed departures every Friday and Saturday*.

Tour begins at 10:00 am.

Duration: 4 hours

Price:

Adults JD22

Children 5-12 years old JD12

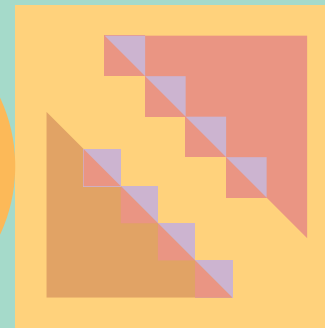
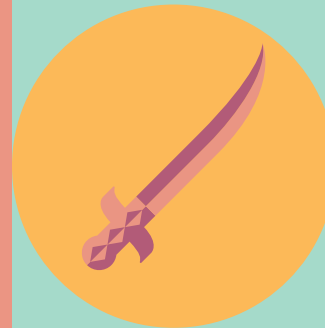
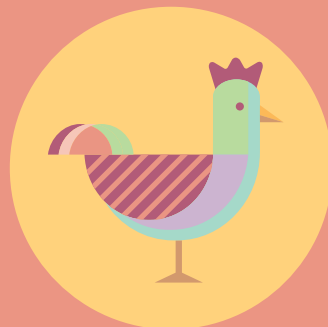
Children under 5 years free

Meeting point: As-Salt Information Center

To book: www.VisitAs-Salt.com, or call 0799330092

Map reference: [21]

***Note:** If you would like to book a tour at a different time or day, this is possible by advance booking. For more information email: info@VisitAs-Salt.com or call 0799330092.



Shrine of Prophet Yusha' (Joshua)

Visit Prophet Yusha's shrine, located within a mosque to the west of As-Salt, on a hill that carries his name.

Prophet Yusha' was the apprentice of Prophet Moses and later his successor.

Opening hours: At all times

Price: Free admission

Map reference: [22]

Shrine of Prophet Shoaib (Jethro)

Pay a visit to Prophet Shoaib's shrine. He is believed to have been sent as a prophet to two communities: the Midianites and the People of the Wood. He is mentioned in the Holy Qur'an 11 times and is believed to have proclaimed the faith of Islam.

Opening hours: At all times

Price: Free admission

Map reference: [23]





Tasty culinary experiences

Aktham's Coffee House

Explore the city's first proper coffee house, serving coffee and herbal drinks alongside homemade sweets and snacks inspired by Salti homes. The café is situated in the Daoud family's house, which was built in 1881. You can't miss the original tiled floor and stone niches, which are spectacular features of this cozy place. Aktham's creates an interesting fusion of authenticity and modernity where you can enjoy a break from the hustle and bustle of the vibrant neighborhood outside.

Opening hours: 9am–12am

Menu style: Hot and cold beverages, light snacks, sweets

To book: Call (+962)5-3551881 or (+962)779001881

www.facebook.com/AkthamCoffeehouse/

Map reference: [24]



Al Gherbal Restaurant

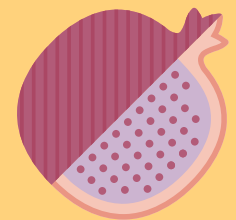
Enjoy a meal at Al Gherbal Restaurant, which is decorated to reflect the city's heritage. The interior presents the five main neighborhoods of As-Salt through photographs, artifacts and furniture. The restaurant is in a heritage building that dates from 1827. It offers an authentic dining experience with a menu that includes traditional Salti and Jordanian dishes, giving guests a true taste of the city.

Opening hours: 12pm–12am

Menu style: Arabic and Salti dishes

To book: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/AlGherbalRestaurant/>

Map reference: [25]





Tasty culinary experiences



Al Osmalli Restaurant

Stop in at Al Osmalli Restaurant along Al Hammam Street for some local fare with a modern twist in a unique heritage setting. This heritage building used to be one of the oldest bakeries in As-Salt.

Opening hours: 10am–7pm

Menu style: Local dishes

To book: Call (+962) 79146701

Map reference: [26]

Beit Aziz

Stop by Beit Aziz for a meal at the restaurant of this 19th century house converted into a boutique hotel, which overlooks As-Salt's downtown area. Beit Aziz serves traditional dishes such as sajiyeh, mansaf, fatteh, as well as an array of Salti desserts, including knafeh and hitaliyeh.

Opening hours: 9am–12am

Menu style: Arabic and Salti dishes

To book: <https://www.facebook.com/Beitaziz/>

Map reference: [27]



Iskandarani Café and Restaurant

Enjoy a refreshing drink, a local meal or snack, or traditional desserts at Iskandarani Café and Restaurant. The café is in a renovated heritage space that was built in the mid 19th century. With its unique décor, traditional music, and local flavors, visitors are engulfed in the traditions and heritage of As-Salt the minute they begin the climb up the walkway that leads to the café.

Opening hours: 10am–10pm

Menu style: Local dishes, preserves, homemade ingredients

To book: Find us on Facebook

Map reference: [28]

Jordan Heritage Restaurant

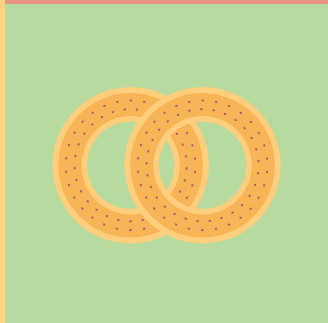
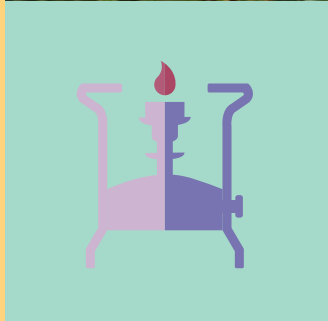
Discover a diversity of Jordanian dishes at this unique restaurant, which is set in a heritage building and offers a menu based on local recipes and traditional, home-cooked meals. Enjoy a complete cultural experience, with a café, photo gallery, a local produce shop and boutique hotel all located within the same complex.

Opening hours: : Saturday – Thursday, 1pm–11pm / Friday and Saturday, 9am–11pm

Menu style: local Jordanian dishes

To book: Call (+962) 777733033

Map reference: [29]



Mountain Breeze Resort

Enjoy a lovely meal in a beautiful garden setting with panoramic views of forested hills. The restaurant offers a variety of hearty Arabic and international dishes using organic produce and home-grown ingredients. Make sure to check out all the different fun-filled experiences and activities on offer as well.

Opening hours: Saturday-Thursday, 10am–8pm / Friday, 10am–10pm

To book: www.mountainbreeze.jo

Map reference: [30]

Tallet Jalaad Resort

A family-friendly restaurant tucked away between the mountains of Jalaad, which serves Arabic and international dishes. With ample space for kids to run around, this is the perfect spot for a family excursion, where you can also enjoy horseback-riding or simply admire the stallions from afar.

Opening hours: 9am–9pm

To book: www.facebook.com/talletjalaad

Map reference: [31]

Zamanek Ya Salt Restaurant and Café

Immerse yourself in local culture and visit Zamanek Ya Salt for a meal or a beverage when you are in the city. The venue sits along the Harmony and Daily Life walking trails. Here you can enjoy a traditional authentic breakfast, or other meal, and taste a variety of local dishes, including sajiyeh, shawerma and traditional Salti desserts.

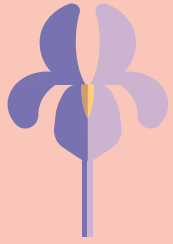
Opening hours: 8am–7pm

Menu style: Local dishes, sandwiches, traditional breakfast

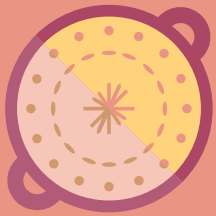
To book: Call (+962) 772451542 / 776140166 or find us on Facebook

Map reference: [11]





Countryside adventure experiences



Al Sitteen 'Al Quds Arabiya' Street

Drive to Al Sitteen 'Al Quds Arabiya' Street at sunset for amazing views of the Jordan Valley and a glimpse of Jerusalem. This road leads on to Wadi Shuaib and the Dead Sea and offers cafés and food options.

Map reference: [32]



Mountain Breeze Resort

If you're looking for some exciting or relaxing outdoor fun, this is the place to be. Nestled in the statuesque Jalaad mountains, Mountain Breeze Resort offers the perfect retreat for anyone wishing to experience nature, good food, and exciting activities for a day or an overnight stay. The resort offers unparalleled quality with luxury log cabins in a private pine and oak forest.

Opening hours: Saturday-Thursday: 10am–8pm / Friday: 10am–10pm

To book: www.mountainbreeze.jo

Map reference: [30]



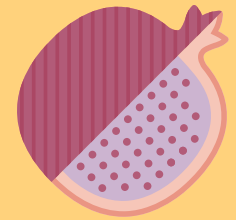
Tallet Jalaad Resort

Go horseback riding at Tallet Jalaad, a family-friendly restaurant in the mountains of Jalaad. With ample space for kids to run around, this is the perfect spot for a family excursion, where you can enjoy a meal overlooking the lush hills.

Opening hours: 9am–9pm

To book: www.facebook.com/talletjalaad

Map reference: [31]



Agritourism Experiences

Experience rural life in one of the villages near As-Salt through agritourism with Bookagri. The company offers several engaging activities that are hosted by local families at their farms and homes, including making za'tar and jameed, traditional cooking, walking trails, honey extraction, milking goats, and more.

To inquire or book: www.bookagri.com or call (+962)72236393 / 795593907





Travel Tips

- Be mindful of culture and traditions by dressing appropriately.
- When visiting religious sites, make sure to cover your shoulders and knees.
- Stand up and shake hands when meeting people.
- Conservative veiled women may choose not to reach out.
- Most shops and vendors do not accept credit card payments. You will need Jordanian dinars to make any purchases. There is a money exchange shop in the city center.
- When shopping at local markets, make sure to haggle.
- English is not a widely spoken language in As-Salt. For seamless communication with locals, request a local guide to accompany you.
- During Muslim prayer time, don't interrupt or pass in front of someone praying in a mosque or a public place. Visitors must take off their shoes before entering the mosque and female visitors must wear a head cover.
- Alcohol is not served at local restaurants in downtown As-Salt.
- Don't be surprised if your host insists on overfeeding you during a meal. It is a symbol of Salti hospitality and generosity!
- Before taking photos of locals, be mindful of their privacy and ask for permission.
- Wear comfortable clothes and shoes for walking around As-Salt.
- For information on the city or for guiding services, visit the As-Salt Information Center.

Getting to and around As-Salt

• Careem/Uber • Taxi

The average cost of a trip from Amman to As-Salt is JD8. The price will vary depending on your starting point.



Historical

- 1 Historic Old Salt Museum, Abu Jaber House
- 2 As-Salt Archaeological Museum, Touqan House
- 3 As-Salt Castle

Cultural

- 4 Al Ain Plaza
- 5 Al Hammam Street
- 6 As-Salt Gifts and Crafts Shop
- 7 As-Salt Photo Gallery
- 8 Fatmeh Al-Zoubi's Home
- 9 Hala Qaqish' s Home
- 10 Al-Adham's Home
- 11 Zamanek Ya Salt Restaurant and Café
- 12 Saltos Ceramic Art
- 13 Baldees Henna
- 14 Daily Life Walking Trail

Spiritual

- 15 The Great Mosque
- 16 The Small Mosque
- 17 The Latin Church
- 18 Al Khader Church
- 19 Roman Orthodox Church and School
- 20 The English Complex
- 21 The Harmony Trail
- 22 Shrine of Prophet Yusha' (Joshua)
- 23 Shrine of Prophet Shoaib (Jethro)

Culinary

- 24 Aktham's Coffee House
- 25 Al Gherbal Restaurant
- 26 Al Osmalli Restaurant
- 27 Beit Aziz
- 28 Iskandarani Café and Restaurant
- 29 Jordan Heritage Restaurant

Adventure

- 30 Mountain Breeze Resort
- 31 Tallet Jalaad Resort
- 32 Al Sitteen 'Al Quds Arabiya' Street

- ! Visitor Information
- P Parking
- Bus / Taxi Stop

- H Hospital / Clinic
- Toilets
- ATM/Currency Exchange

- Mosque
- Church

As-Salt
Downtown

WADI SHOAIB