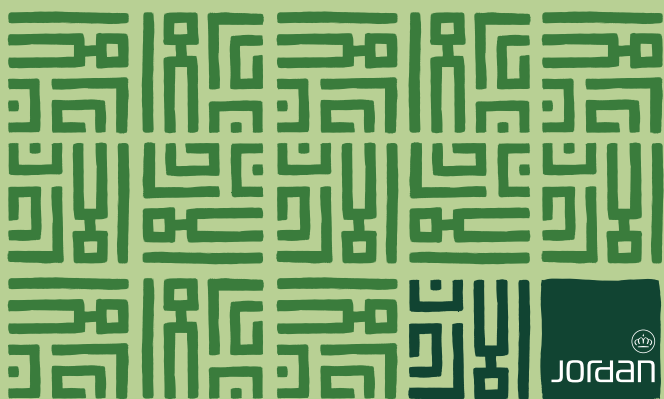
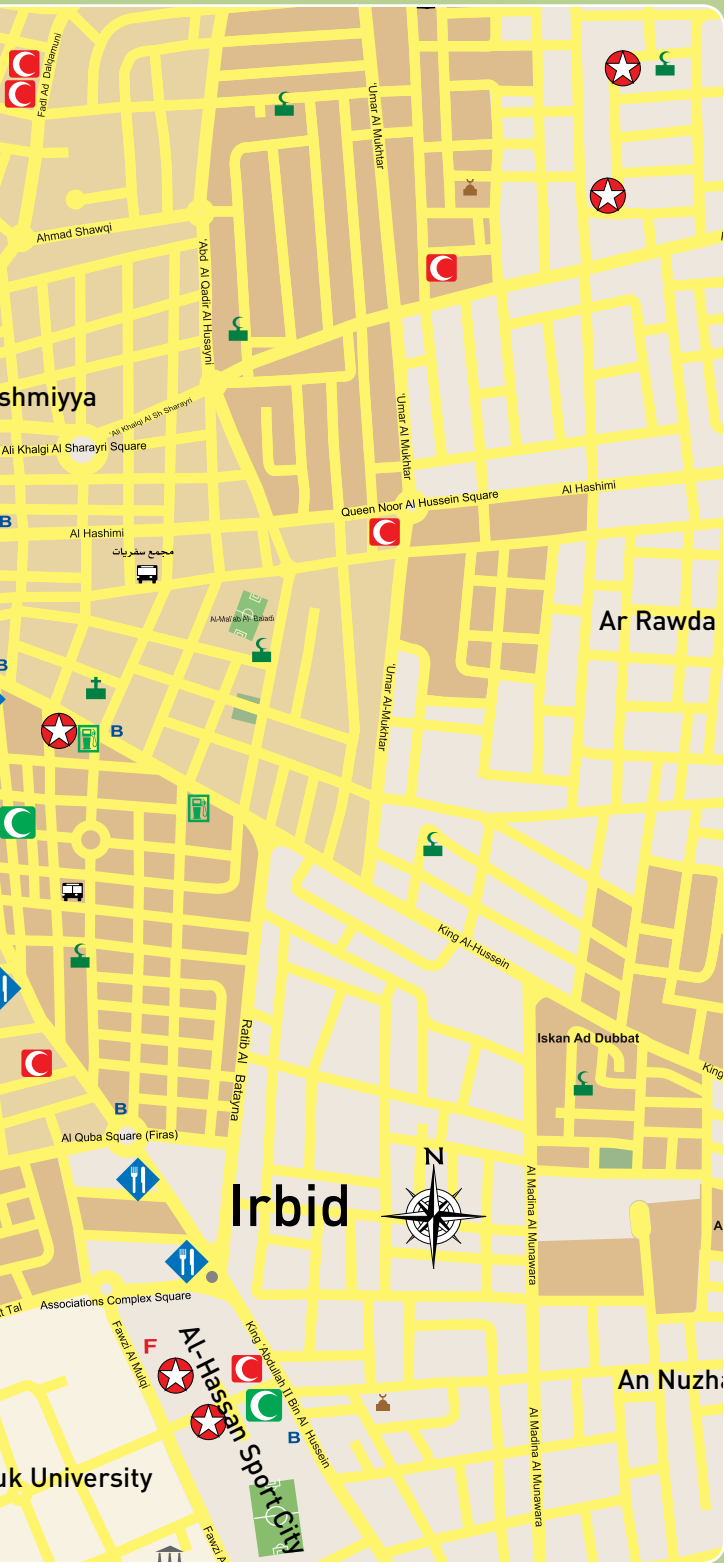
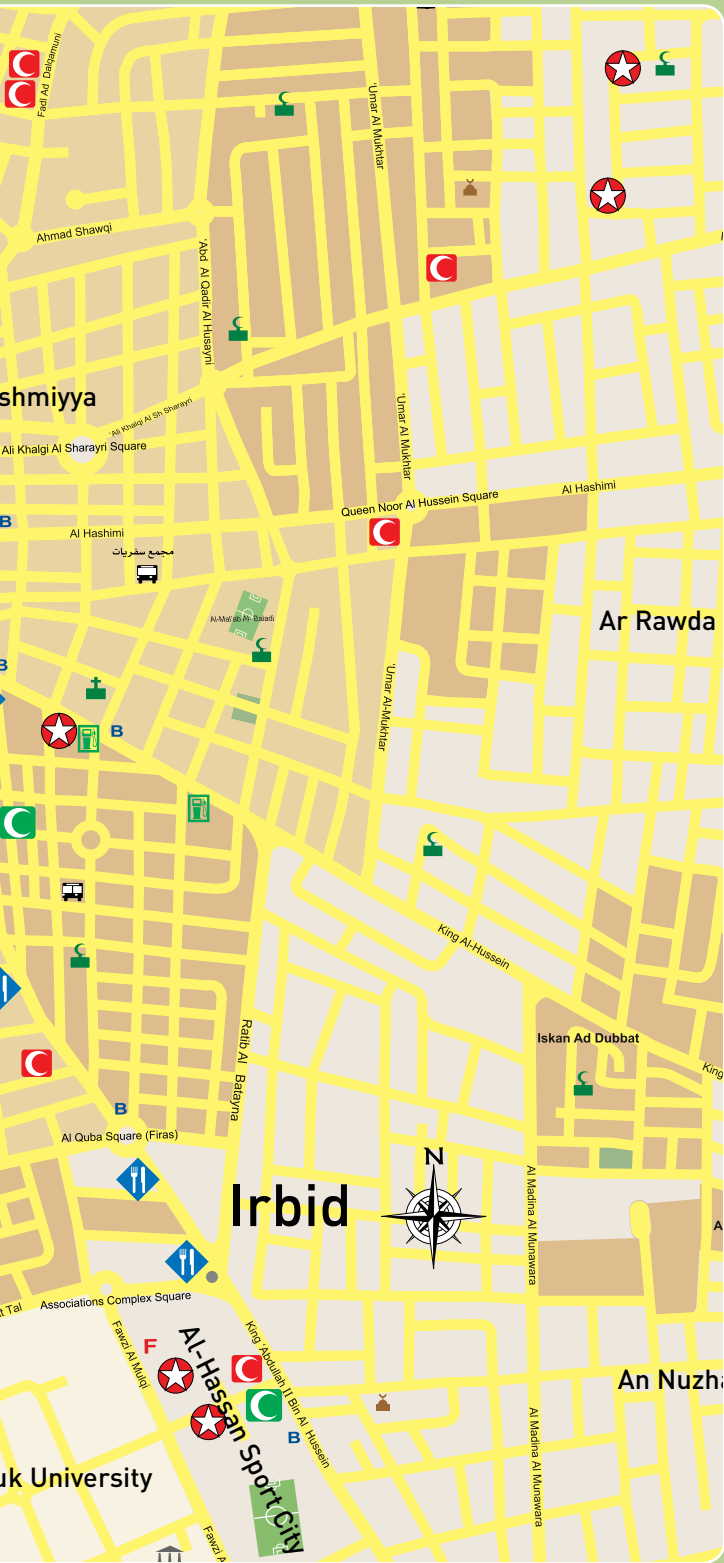
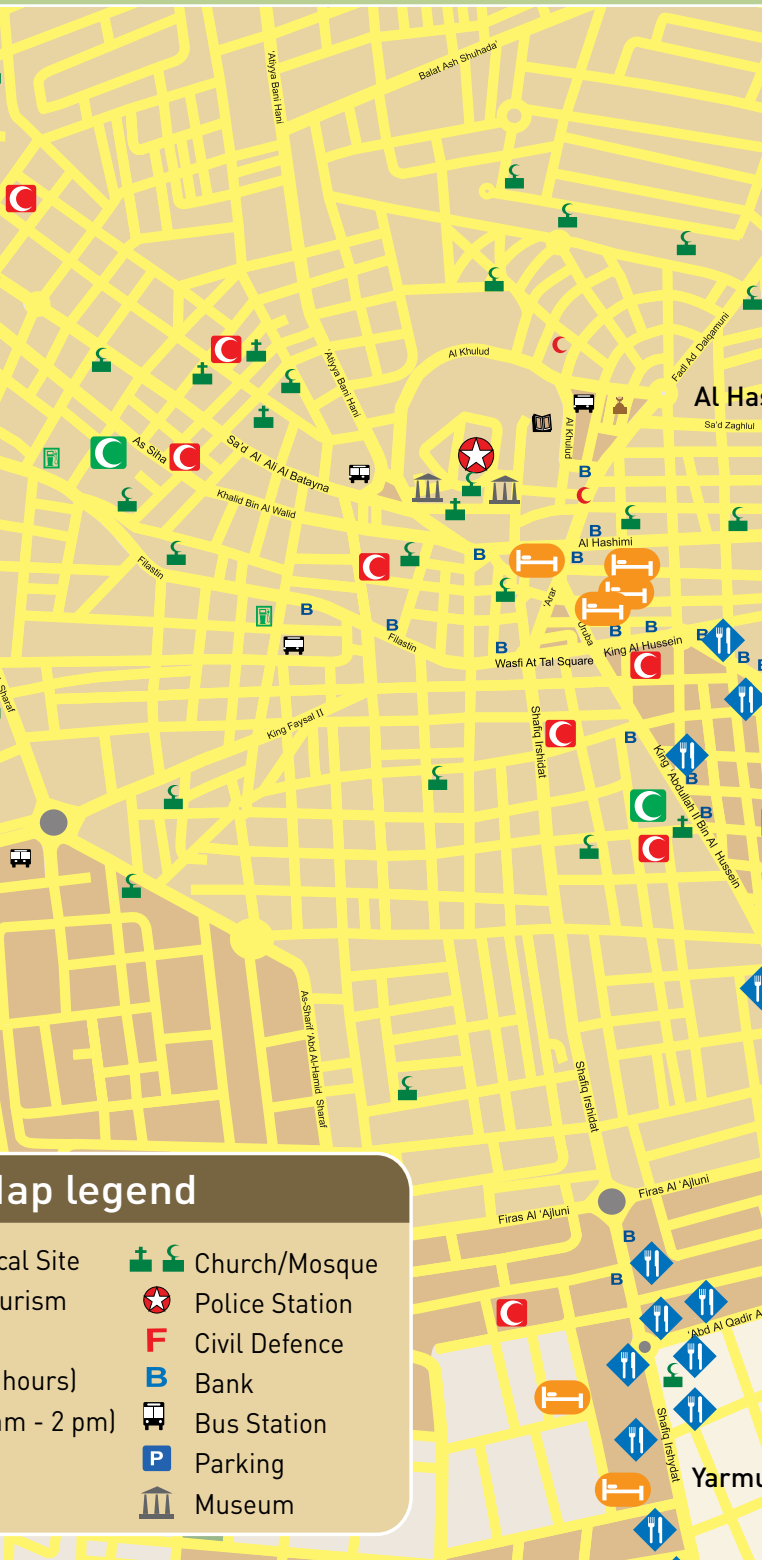




Irbid







## Map legend

cal Site  
urism

(hours)

m - 2 pm)



Church/Mosque



Police Station



Civil Defence



Bank



Bus Station



Parking



Museum

Al Has

Sa'd Zaghlul

Al Khulud

Al Khulud

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Alayya Bani Hani

Balat Ash Shuhada'

Alayya Bani Hani

As Siha

Sa'd Al Ali Al Batayna

Khalid Bin Al Walid

Filastin

King Faysal II

As-Sharif 'Abd Al-Hamid Sharaf

Sharif Ihsan

Sharif Ihsan

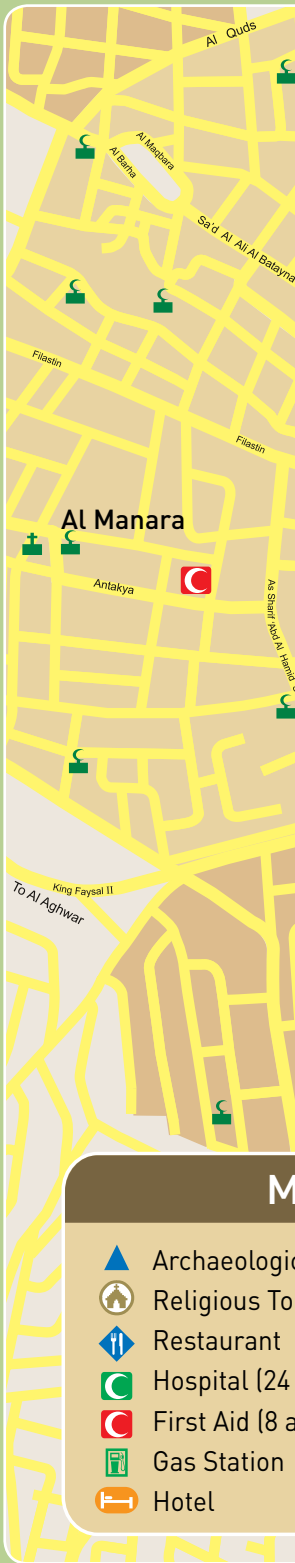
Firas Al 'Ajuni

Firas Al 'Ajuni

'Abd Al Qadir A

Sharif Ihsan

Yarmu





and is less than five kilometers from the Jordan River. Pella, known as Tabaqat Fahl in Arabic, and its modern-day village counterpart are set on the eastern slope that rises from the Jordan Valley.

The site is some 78 miles (125 kilometers) from Amman. The spectacular scenery of pines and oaks surrounding you represents one of the most fertile lands in the region. The site's strategic location near Al Jurm spring, the natural resources found here and the ideal climate have enabled a multitude of civilizations to thrive here for millennia. And thrive they did, continuously for 10,000 years. The first settlers to arrive were farmers during the Neolithic Period around 8,000 BC.



## 10 Hemmeh Abu Zablah

Located about three kilometers northeast of Pella, Hemmeh Abu Zablah offers a mineral spring and public baths. The 28-degree centigrade sulfur-rich water is a perfect treat for tired muscles and rheumatism.

## 11 Northern Shouneh Hemmeh

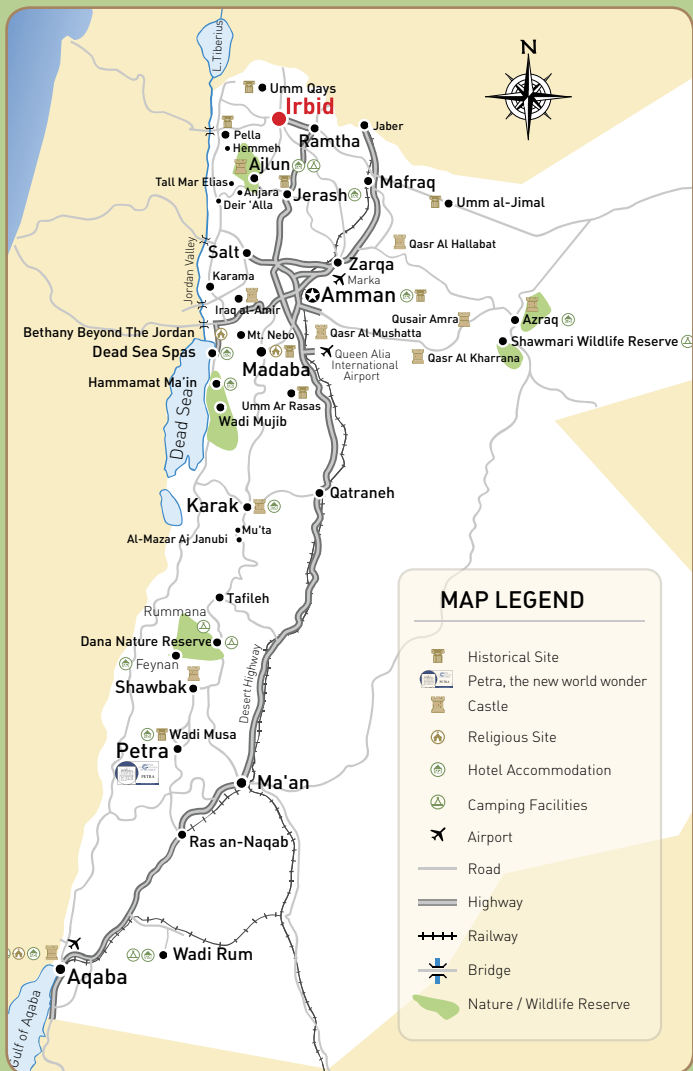
This spa lies 20 kilometers from Pella. It is nestled within green yards and is the ideal place to unwind in the tranquility and peace of the surrounding nature. The



mineral waters found here are highly curative and the spa offers various public pools or villas with their own private pools for more privacy.

## 12 Wadi Al Arab Dam

East of the Northern Shouneh Hemmeh Spa is a 2.5 kilometer-long lake where the winter waters are stored in Wadi Al Arab dam. On the south bank there is a park and a restaurant.



## Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities

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## Tourist Police Department

Call free: 196 ext. 4661 / 4650

Direct contact: +962 6 569 0384



## 6 Arar Cultural Home

Don't miss out on a tour of typical old Syrian architectural style homes. The Arar Cultural Home is an ancient residential structure, built in 1890. Constructed from black basalt and limestone, you can tour the five rooms and large sitting area. But its significance lies not just in its history, but also from the fact that it was home to one of Jordan's most well-known poets, Mustafa Wahbi Al-



Tal, nicknamed Arar. The building constitutes the final resting place of the renowned poet and you can catch a colorful glimpse of the poet's history, life, manuscripts, writings and photos while you're there. Nowadays, Arar Cultural Home is a venue for a variety of cultural, literary and artistic activities celebrated by Arab and Jordanian poets and men of literature.

## 7 Hassan Kamel Al-Sabah School

Located near the Irbid Archaeological Museum on Tell Irbid, the **Hassan Kamel Al-Sabah Madrasa** (school) was the first madrasa to be built in the north of Jordan in the late Ottoman period. Named after the Lebanese born scholar and inventor, Hassan Kamel Al-Sabah, the madrasa is an example of Islamic architecture, and is typical of Islamic architecture in ancient cities like Damascus, with features such as half arches, high ceilings, and the extensive use of black basalt with an open courtyard.

## Nearby places of interest

Irbid provides an excellent base from which to explore the northern parts of Jordan.

## 8 Pella (Tabaqat Fahl)

This is one of the most ancient sites in the Irbid province





of Archaeology and Anthropology on the campus of Yarmouk University. Its exhibitions offer displays of man's evolution through the ages, from hunting and gathering, through animal domestication and farming, to industrialization. The museum also provides pre-historic demonstrations and displays of early tools used by man, as well as a special exhibition of weaponry and models of rural homes, and household and agricultural items. You can visit the museum between 8am and 5pm.

## 5 Natural History Museum

While you are at the university, a visit to the **Natural History Museum** is worthwhile. This is located near the Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology.

The Geology Gallery here displays samples of rocks and minerals found throughout geological eras. The Plants Gallery illustrates sample of plant species, and the Animals Gallery includes sections on insects, marine life, amphibians, birds, reptiles, mammals and skeletons— or all three. You can visit the museum between 8am to 5pm.







this ancient rectangular, two-floor structure overlooks an indoor enclosed courtyard and a main gate that opens up to an external garden on the south side. It is quite a picturesque scene that you should not miss!

Notice how the building is constructed from a variety of stone types, including black basalt and limestone. These are typical to this area. Just above the main gate you can see a stone



inscription embedded there displaying the logo of the Ottoman state and its construction date. This structure has undergone several changes and renovations over the years. You can visit the museum from 8am to 4.30pm.

#### 4 Museum of Jordanian Heritage

If you are keen to see more museums head on to the **Yarmouk University**. Described by some as one of the finest museums in Jordan, the **Museum of Jordanian**



**Heritage** gives visitors an impressive overview of anthropological development since the dawn of man. The museum was established by the Faculty



and continued to serve as a post for transportation and communications. Just before the establishment of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Irbid formed a key route between the east of the River Jordan and the port of Haifa and, as such, maintained its reputation as a land of strategic location and fertile landscapes.

## Let's begin exploring...

Are you ready to discover the Bride of the North?

### 1 Tell Irbid (Irbid Hill)

Head on to the center of the city where you'll see a 200-dunum stretch. This is **Tell Irbid (Irbid Hill)**. It stands witness to the first human settlement in the Bronze Age. The Tell continues to display parts of its ancient settlements, such as the north and west remnants of the old city wall. Unfortunately, the true nature and composition of the Tell have long been overtaken by Irbid's natural growth and urbanization since the end of Ottoman rule.

### 2 Mamluk Mosque

A rectangular building rising to the south end of Tell Irbid represents the **Mamluk Mosque**, which was once a center of learning and education under the rule of the Mamluks. Adorned by a dome held high by arches and a tall minaret with a circular staircase at its north-east corner, the mosque epitomizes the traditions and style of Mamluk architecture.

### 3 Dar As-Saraya

As you move to the southeast side of Tell Irbid, you will come across one of the oldest buildings in the city. **Dar As-Saraya** was built by the Ottomans in AD 1886. Originally established as a castle during the rule of Ottoman Sultan Abdel Hamid II,





## A breeze of history

Historical artifacts and graves tell us that Irbid has been settled since the Early Bronze Age (2500 BC) and remained inhabited throughout the following eras. In Roman times, Irbid was known as Arabela, meaning “fertile land”, in reference to its ripe soil and moderate climate, which encouraged grape plantations and wine production at the time. Irbid was also one of the ten cities belonging to the Decapolis of the Roman Empire, making it one of the busiest stops on ancient trading routes.



Afterward, Irbid flourished under the Islamic civilization. In AD 636, Irbid stood witness to the decisive **Battle of Yarmouk** between the Muslims and the Roman army, which resulted in the defeat of the Romans and heralded the beginning of the Roman Empire’s departure from the Greater Syria region. Under the Mamluks, the city grew in prominence, forming a strategic link between Damascus in the north and Cairo in the southwest, the two capitals of the Islamic civilizations at that time. Irbid became a major trading stop along the ancient route of the Holy Pilgrimage to Mecca, as well as a communications center, using the then traditional messenger pigeons between Damascus and Cairo. It was also the center of the rise of a movement of culture and science, as people from all around the region received knowledge and learning at the Mamluk Mosque.

Irbid was one of the early acquisitions of the Ottoman Empire in the north of Jordan in the late 1800s,



## IRBID

You've come to Irbid, probably to tour ancient sites around the city or to see some of the landmark museums in Irbid itself. Take a look around you and absorb the beauty of this city, the second largest in Jordan after Amman. You are 80 kilometers north of the capital city in a metropolis that houses more than a quarter of a million people.

Often nicknamed Arous Ash-Shamal (Bride of the North) for the beauty of its landscape, this city is a bustling community of commerce and industry, as well as a center of education. Ideally situated at a major crossroads, Irbid forms a transportation hub between Amman and Syria to the north and the city of Mafraq on the way to Iraq to the east. It is home to two of Jordan's most prominent and well-established universities: **Yarmouk University** and the **Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST)**. Irbid was nominated Jordan's Cultural City in 2007 and during that year hosted a variety of cultural and entertainment activities.

