

## The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature

Created in 1966 under the patronage of His Majesty the late King Hussein, The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) is a non-governmental organization devoted to the conservation of Jordan's natural environment.

## Wild Jordan

Wild Jordan is a registered trademark for The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature.

Wild Jordan's revenues contribute to the sustainability of RSCN's protected areas and supports the socio economic development of local communities.

## NATURE INSPIRED ... ETHICALLY DEVELOPED.

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## Ajloun's Nature Inspired Crafts

Make sure to visit Ajloun Houses which are located in the Royal academy for nature conservation, Um Alyanabee' village,

### The Soap House

At the Soap House, local women use a variety of local ingredients, including lavender, geranium, mint and pomegranate, to create high-quality handmade natural olive oil soaps called Orjan Soap. Orjan soaps are all produced using pure olive oil, combined with other natural oils, plant extracts, and pure essential oils.

### The Biscuit House

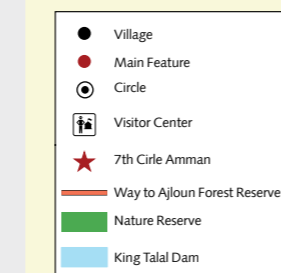
The Biscuit House located in is the kitchen where Tasali Jordanian delights are created. These products are handmade by local women and consist of natural ingredients, some of which are produced by the local community. Tasali presents a new spirit of Jordanian delights. Products include molasses and tahini sandwich cookies, olive oil crisps, and energy bars.

### The House of Calligraphy

Learn about the 6 most famous types of Arabic calligraphy and practice drawing your name in your favorite style. The House of Calligraphy promotes for dialogue between cultures and allows the visitor to be enchanted by the beauty of the Arabic language. You can also personalize your own postcard or frame to take back home as a souvenir while also supporting income generating activities for local community women.

## The Nature Shop

Browse through the Nature Shop and find truly original gifts and souvenirs. This shop displays nature inspired crafts produced by local communities at the reserves.

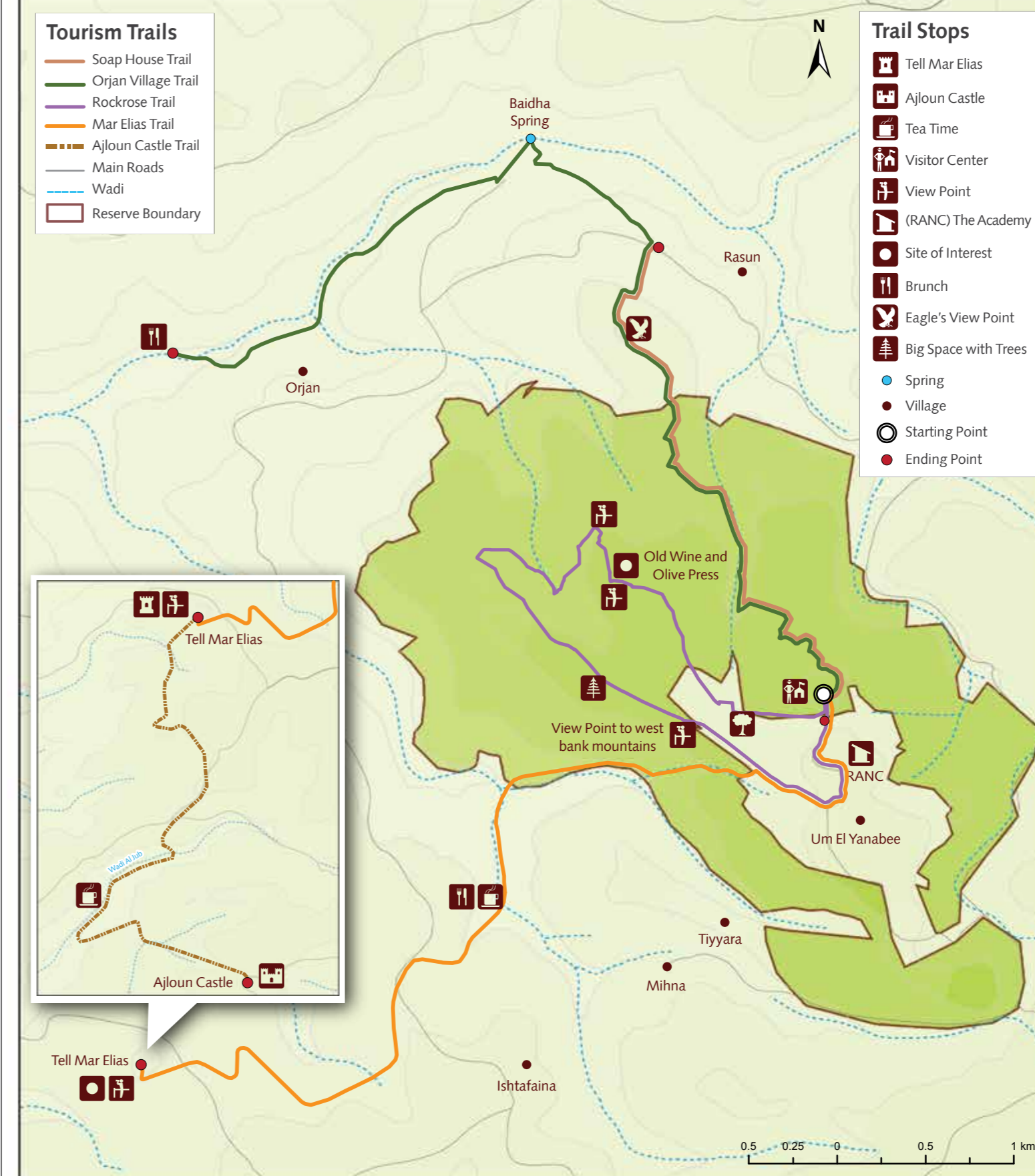


From From Amman, the trip to Ajloun is 85 km and takes about an hour and 15 minutes. Go to Jerash, taking the ring road (Jordan Street) out of Amman. Once you reach Jerash, follow the signs to Ajloun.

Enter Ajloun City and at the Ajloun circle, go straight toward Eshtafena. 5 km from the Ajloun circle you will find the Eshtafena junction. At the junction, turn left towards Ajloun Forest Reserve. Follow the signs to the site.

## Tourism Trails

- Soap House Trail
- Orjan Village Trail
- Rockrose Trail
- Mar Elias Trail
- Ajloun Castle Trail
- Main Roads
- Wadi
- Reserve Boundary



## Trail Stops

- Tell Mar Elias
- Ajloun Castle
- Tea Time
- Visitor Center
- View Point
- (RANC) The Academy
- Site of Interest
- Brunch
- Eagle's View Point
- Big Space with Trees
- Spring
- Village
- Starting Point
- Ending Point

# Ajloun Forest Reserve

Your Evergreen Escape



برية الأردن  
Wild Jordan



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## Staying in Ajloun Cabins



Lodging is located in a large grassy clearing enclosed by carob, oak, wild pistachio and Arbutus Andrachne. 23 beautifully designed wooden cabins provide the perfect way for you to experience nature with some added luxury. Each cabin is equipped with a private bathroom and a small terrace that invites you to sit for hours enjoying the soft breeze and rolling forest vistas.

Near the campsite, you will find a visitor center, restaurant, meeting room, and The Nature Shop.

## Activities

### Roe Deer Trail

(year-round)

**Guided or self-guided**  
**Grade:** Easy  
**Distance:** 2 km  
**Time:** Less than 1 hour  
**Group size:** 4-20 people

#### Trail Description

This short circular trail starts at the campsite and offers great views over the reserve.

Not far from the campsite you will find an old stone wine press. Early in the morning, you may be lucky enough to see Roe deer before you return to the visitor center.



### Orjan Village Trail

(year-round, except during Ramadan)

**Grade:** Moderate  
**Distance:** 12 km  
**Time:** 6 hours  
**Group size:** 4-20 people

#### Trail Description

Continuing from the Soap House, this tour takes you through wooded valleys to the lush green orchards of Orjan village, giving you the chance to discover the rural lifestyle of the region. A poplar-lined spring provides a wonderful contrast to the arid mountains of the previous stages of the trail. As you hike, note the dramatic rock walls, old water mills once used by local people to grind their seeds and the hollow walnut tree. Enjoy a delicious traditional meal in an orchard of fig, pomegranate, apple and apricot trees.



### Soap House Trail

(year-round, except during Ramadan)

**Guided only**  
**Grade:** Moderate  
**Distance:** 6-7 km  
**Time:** 2-3 hours  
**Group size:** 4-20 people

#### Trail Description

This trail begins at the Reserve's receptionist office, you will hike through thick, healthy woodlands filled with oak, pistachio, and oriental strawberry trees. Take a short detour to view a ruined wine press before you pass one of the oldest strawberry trees in the Reserve on your way down into the valley.

The trail climbs to 1000m above sea level at Eagle's View Point, Then you will be transferred to visit the Soap House at the Royal Academy for Nature Conservation where local women follow the traditional process of making Orjan pure olive soap.



### Rockrose Trail

(year-round, except during Ramadan)

**Guided only**  
**Grade:** Moderate  
**Distance:** 8 km  
**Time:** 3-4 hours  
**Group size:** 4-20 people

#### Trail Description

Named for the flowers that can be seen around the trail every spring, this hiking loop passes through thick woodlands, orchards, farms and villages in and around the reserve. It offers beautiful views of the West Bank, Syria, and the Jordanian countryside. About halfway through the hike, observe the wine and olive press from the Byzantine and Roman eras, and just before reaching the end of the trail, rest in the shade of a large Maloul tree. Each season has different vegetation to enjoy.

**\* The first half of the trail is uphill and the second half is downhill; there are steep scrambles en-route that demand a reasonable level of fitness.**



### Mar Elias Trail

(year-round, except during Ramadan)

**Guided only**  
**Grade:** Moderate to Difficult  
**Distance:** 8.5 km  
**Time:** 4-5 hours  
**Group size:** 4-20 people

#### Trail Description

This hike takes you from Ajloun Forest Reserve Visitor Center to Mar Elias, the ruins of one of Jordan's oldest churches. It is named for the Prophet Elias, or Elijah, to whom Mar Elias is dedicated. The trail leads through fig and pear orchards, amongst forests of oak and oriental strawberry trees.

The stone walls that crisscross the valley guard the farmers' crops inside from both the winter rains and wild boar. Relax in the shade with a glass of tea before climbing to the hilltop ruins, which provide sweeping views of the surrounding area.

The hike also includes a locally prepared picnic lunch near the ruins.



### Ajloun Castle Trail

(year-round, except during Ramadan)

**Guided only**  
**Grade:** Difficult with Inclines  
**Distance:** 9.5 km from Mar Elias trail  
**Time:** Full Day  
**Group size:** 4-20 people

#### Trail Description

Once you have reached Mar Elias, you have the option of continuing on this challenging trail, which takes you by small farm house and their adjacent orchards on your way to Ajloun Castle, built between AD 1184-1188 by Saladin's nephew.

In the first section of the trail you can enjoy views of the West Bank and Syria, before you descend into a wooded valley.

The final difficult uphill is rewarded by the incredible castle and the marvelous views that accompany it. The hike also includes a locally prepared picnic lunch.



## Nearby Sites- Attraction Points

### Royal Academy for Nature Conservation

The Academy constructed nearby the Ajloun Forest Reserve. It will be physically linked with the Reserve and its tourism facilities to create a single integrated eco-tourism complex.

This will enable the Academy to use these tourism facilities as real-life training situations.



### Um Qais



(60 km north of Ajloun), Umm Qais another Roman site on the northern border of Jordan, overlooking the Golan Heights and the Sea of Galilee.

### Jerash



(Around 22 km east of Ajloun) Jordan's second most important tourist site. This famous Roman City, Gerasa, belonged to the ten cities of the Decapolis and is regarded as one of the finest examples of Roman architecture outside Rome.

### Tall Mar Elias



"Tall Mar Elias" is very close to the ruins of a village known as Listib. It is believed that this place was formerly Tishbi, the home of Elijah, a native of Gilead in Transjordan. The fact that this is a religious site is substantiated by the two churches that were built on the Tall (hilltop) at the end of the Byzantine period.

### Ajloun Castle



(14 km) Located in the town of Ajloun, known as Qal'at Ar-Rabad. The fortress was built by Saladin's nephew Izz Al-Din Usama in (1184 AD) to protect the country from the Crusader attacks, and is a fine example of Islamic architecture.

## Ajloun Forest Reserve

Located in the Ajloun Highlands in the north of Jordan, this beautiful nature reserve consists of 12 km<sup>2</sup> of rolling hill country dominated by open woodlands that are home to a diverse collection of plant and animal species.

The rich greenery makes Ajloun a popular spot for picnickers and hikers, especially in the spring, when the reserve is coated in a wide variety of wildflowers.

Ajloun Forest Reserve was established in 1987 to help conserve the important Evergreen Oak forest ecosystem.

Its trees account for a significant part of Jordan's forested area, which covers only about 1% of the country.

After the reserves establishment, RSCN initiated a captive breeding program aiming to reintroduce the locally extinct Roe Deer in 1990, RSCN has managed to release a number of Roe Deer into the reserve, where they have continued to grow within their natural habitat.