

Come to Souk Jara to discover the authentically local face of Amman. Designed as a modern interpretation of the traditional souk, the market is home to many stalls selling antiques, arts and crafts. Set on Fawzi Malouf Street near the end of Rainbow Street, the market is a perfect place for visitors to buy souvenirs and try local cuisine. The souk was founded in 2004 by the residents of Jabal Amman to preserve the souk-style culture and create a space for local designers and creators to showcase their wares to visitors. It is a popular hub for locals and tourists, adults and families. Bring your children along, as there is a designated area where kids can play. Still managed by the Jabal Amman Residents' Association (JARA), Souk Jara continues to aim to promote local businesses, arts and culture. Many of the stalls are run by people from the surrounding countryside, who are able to sell their products in the souk on their day off. Join in the community-organized festivities that often include live music, film screenings and other cultural events. Wander along the market street, which is shaded by umbrellas and hanging canvas, and browse the handmade jewelry, local artwork, intricate embroidery and antiques. Those who enjoy cooking at home may be tempted to bring something back from the stalls selling aromatic spices. The atmosphere of the market is convivial, especially when live bands come to entertain shoppers. When it's time for lunch, stop at one of the many food stalls to order Jordanian specialties. Sample local delights including kaek bread sandwiches, shawarma, mujadara and fresh fruit juices. The Souk Jara is free to attend and does not require a ticket. Find the market open on Fridays from mid-May to the end of September. It begins at approximately 10 a.m., and continues well into the evening, staying open later if there is a film screening or other special event taking place.