

Al-Joun Forest Reserve <http://wildjordan.com/eco-tourism-section/ajloun-forest-reserve>

Ajloun Forest Reserve is located in the **north-western part of Jordan** in the Ajloun highlands and covers 13 Km². It is dominated by open woodlands of e.g., Evergreen Oak, Pine, Wild Pistachio trees. Further species of flora and fauna can be found here.

This practice example **showcases** the development of **low impact on environment** and **high impact on community** experiences in the protected area, aiming to extend the duration of visitors' stay and to generate income for nature conservation and local communities. The **USP** of the Reserve is that it offers a **slow and ecotourism experience** for travellers to immerse themselves into the surrounding nature and culture through different soft and cultural activities – (easy) hiking, cooking classes, local cuisine and immersion in the landscapes by staying in the ecolodges. Some examples of the **activities** that can be found in the Ajloun Forest Reserve include:

A collection of trails, including: **Roe Deer trail** – a guided or self-guided 2km circular trail through the forest. **Soap House Trail** –leading through the woodlands, climbs up to 1100 m and finishes at the Soap house where local women produce soaps following traditional processes. **Orjan village trail** - a guided hike through wooded valleys allowing visitors to discover the local rural lifestyle of the region, accompanied by a traditional meal. **Rockrose trail** – a guided 8 km hike in small groups, providing an opportunity to observe diverse flowers and vegetation, depending on the season, plus offering beautiful views of the West Bank, Syria, and the Jordanian countryside, and the wine and olive press from the Byzantine and Roman eras.

Local experiences: For example, olive harvesting in **local olive tree farms**, organic farm experience, the farm **cooking experience** with a local chef who guides visitors through the process of preparing Jordanian dishes (Sajiyeh or Gallayeh) made from local organic ingredients; The Biscuit House Experience where visitors will be guided to make their own (kusmat) bread, a traditional northern Jordanian delicacy.

Awards: Since 2018 Ajloun Forest Reserve is in [the Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas](#) by the IUCN; in 2018 the protected area was awarded as one of the Top 100 sustainable destinations in the world.

Target groups: Domestic and international travellers, although the domestic group is prevailing.

