

PORT QUESTIONNAIRE

NAME OF PORT: **Aqaba**

Alternate spelling(s), if applicable: **None**

Phonetic pronunciation: **Ah-kah-bah**

Is this port city the same as the Cruise Line's advertised destination? Yes No

Please provide a brief operational port description:

Aqaba, Jordan's only port, is located in the extreme south of the country on the Red Sea. It is both a cruise and industrial port, and does not offer a passenger terminal. The port is diligent about cleaning and securing the area used for cruise calls. Vessels dock at the pier, and tour dispatch takes place directly in front of the gangway.

PORT SPECIFICS:

Actual Name of Port (i.e. what a guest would tell a taxi driver) **Aqaba Port Main Gate**

Do ships dock or anchor? **Dock**

Additional comments: **The distance from where the ship docks to the main gate is around 600 meters.**

Is this port convenient for Turnarounds? Yes No

Is there a covered and secure luggage holding area? Yes No

Is this primarily a passenger or container port? **Container**

If docking, are there preferred berths? Yes No

If so, please elaborate: **The best berths are # 1, 2, or 3**

If anchoring, are there preferred tender landings? Yes No

If so, please elaborate: **not applicable**

Is there a terminal building? Yes No

Does the local Tourist Board provide services at the port? Yes No

Can we provide personnel for onboard tourism information? Yes No

DISTANCES IN KILOMETERS

Port to City Center: **Around 2.5 kilometers**

Gangway to coaches (tour or shuttle): **Around 30 to 50 meters**

Gangway to port entrance or terminal: **Around 600 meters**

Is it walking distance from the pier to City Center? Yes No

PIER FACILITIES

Are phones available on the pier? Yes No

If so, are phone cards needed? Yes No

Can phone cards be purchased on the pier? Yes No

Is Internet service available on the pier? Yes No

Are there any issues on the pier that affect wheelchairs? (eg. Train tracks, uneven surfaces, steps on tender jetty, etc.)
None

TOUR DISPATCH

Generally speaking, is this an easy or challenging port for tour dispatch?

Please elaborate: **It is a very easy port, as the buses are parked just in front of the gangway.**

Is there space for the coaches to line up efficiently, or must they be called in small numbers by radio from the port gate/holding area? **There is plenty of space for as many buses as needed.**

How do guests reach the coaches? **Across from gangway**

What is the approximate walking distance to coaches? **30 - 50 meters**

TRANSPORT

SHUTTLES

- Is shuttle service required? Yes No
- Are complimentary shuttles provided by the port? Yes No
- Does the port require shuttling guests to the terminal / port entrance? Yes No

If so, how often and efficiently do port shuttles run? **The shuttle buses can run as often as needed.**

- Can we supply shuttle service on request? Yes No
- Are complimentary shuttles offered by local businesses? Yes No
- Does the port provide dedicated crew shuttles? Yes No
- Do local businesses provide dedicated crew shuttles? Yes No

What is the recommended shuttle drop-off point? **City Center near Aqaba Golden Tulip Hotel**

What is the distance from port to drop-off? **2.5 kilometers**

In normal traffic conditions, what is the drive time from port to drop-off? **5 to 7 minutes**

Are there times of day, based on traffic patterns, when shuttle operation is not recommended? **All times are O.K. since Aqaba is a small city.**

Is an escort recommended at the shuttle drop? (e.g. difficult to find, problem with pickpockets, etc.) **No need for an escort**

- In this region, are public restrooms common? Yes No
- If so, do they require local currency? Yes No

TAXIS

Are taxis normally readily available at the port? Yes No

Must taxis wait at a port gate or terminal building, or can they drive directly to the pier? **Taxis can't drive inside the port to the pier; they have to wait outside the main gate of the port.**

Are taxis allowed to post Half-Day & Full-Day rates on the pier? (e.g. sandwich boards) Yes No

Are most of the taxis good quality cars? Yes No

What is the hourly rate? **There is no hourly rate. All taxis have meters, but they never use them for tourists. Guests must negotiate and agree on the rate before boarding the taxi.**

What is the taxi rate from the pier to City Center? **Approximately \$3 to \$5 USD**

- Are multiple currencies accepted? Yes No
- Credit cards? Yes No
- Would the taxi usually use the meter for cruise guests? Yes No
- Are there unofficial taxis of which the guests should be made aware? Yes No

PRIVATE CARS

Must private cars wait at a port gate or terminal building, or can they drive directly to the pier/gangway? **If private cars are reserved through us, then we can arrange permission to go all the way to the gangway.**

Are late model cars, limos & vans available in this port (Mercedes/Volvo, or basically taxi)? **Most taxis are Japanese or Korean made and not luxurious cars, but if guests need to have a luxury car such as Mercedes or similar we can always arrange it if reserved in advance.**

Do the majority of drivers have the language skills to act as guides, or is it recommended to hire both driver AND guide? **Drivers are not official guides, although most of them speak very good English. We recommend that guests take an official guide with them.**

PRIVATE ARRANGEMENTS

Are helicopters, water taxis and/or private planes on or near the pier to take guests to airports, points of interest? If so, please describe: **We can arrange helicopters or private planes upon request and in advance. Water taxis are not available in Aqaba.**

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Please describe any ferry, bus or train service that would be of interest to cruise guests, including distance from the pier and destination: **There is no good public transport in Aqaba.**

Are there any serious safety or health concerns about using public transportation in this port? If so, please detail: **None**

DESTINATION DETAILS

Please provide a destination description that would be useful for marketing purposes:

A visit to the kingdom of Jordan offers an abundance of historic and cultural artifacts, pristine natural environment and modern day activities. Ancient civilizations have left their marks in the port city of Aqaba, where you can explore its castle, aquarium, museums and other points of interest. A definite highlight is making the journey from Aqaba to the Nabataean city of Petra, Jordan's most impressive national attraction. Nearby, Little Petra also affords a unique venue for evening cocktails or a gala dinner. Or you can play Lawrence of Arabia and explore the stunning and unusual desert scenery of Wadi Rum, whether navigating the vast expanse in 4-wheel-drive vehicles or having dinner under the stars in a Bedouin tent. Jordan is also a haven for watersports enthusiasts, with excellent sites for diving and snorkeling.

CURRENCY

What is the local currency? **Jordanian Dinar (JOD)**

Are US Dollars accepted? Yes No

Are GBP accepted? Yes No

Are Euros accepted? Yes No

Are there exchange facilities on the pier? Yes No

Are credit cards readily accepted? Yes No

TELEPHONE

Country Code: **962**

City Codes:	City Name	Code
	Aqaba	3
	Amman	6

VISA INFORMATION

Do any nationalities require visas to enter this port? Yes No

If so, please elaborate: **Currently free of charge, and given on arrival**

Are ship blanket visas available for this port? Yes No

MONTHLY TEMPERATURES & RAINFALL

Please provide average monthly temperatures and rainfall for each month of the year:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Degrees Centigrade	21	23	26	31	35	39	40	40	37	33	28	23
Centimeters	39	44	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	25
Degrees Fahrenheit	70	73	79	88	95	102	104	104	99	91	82	73
Inches	15	17	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	10

IMPORTANT HOLIDAYS AND FESTIVALS

2008 dates, events and possible effect of a ship call

Date	Event	Effect on ship call
Jan 30, 08	King Abdullah Birthday	Does not affect the sites, but shops and banks are closed
Mar 20, 08	Mouloud (Birth of the Prophet)	Does not affect the sites, but shops and banks are closed
May 01, 08	Labour Day	Does not affect the sites, but shops and banks are closed
May 25, 08	Independence Day	Does not affect the sites, but shops and banks are closed
Jul 30, 08	Al-Isra' u al-Maraj (Prophet Mohammed ascension)	Does not affect the sites, but shops and banks are closed
Oct 1-4, 08	Aid al Fiter (end of Ramadan)	Does not affect the sites, but shops and banks are closed
Dec 8-12, 08	Eid Al-Adha (Feast of the Sacrifice)	Does not affect the sites, but shops and banks are closed
Dec 25, 08	Christmas	Does not affect the sites, but shops and banks are closed
Dec 29, 08	Islamic New Year	Does not affect the sites, but shops and banks are closed
Jan 1, 09	New Year	Does not affect the sites, but shops and banks are closed

Please note: Some holidays listed above are subject to change one day earlier or later.

IMPORTANT SERVICES

	<i>Name</i>	<i>Hours of Operation</i>	<i>Distance from Port (km)</i>
Airport	Aqaba International Airport		15 km
Churches			
Catholic	Catholic Church	Sundays only during mass, otherwise we need to arrange permission	2 km
Synagogue	None		
Mosque	Many Mosques	5 times a day during prayer time	2 km
Protestant	None		
Nearest Banks/ATM	Downtown Aqaba	09:00h. till 15:00h.	2 km
Post Office	Downtown Aqaba	09:00h. till 17:00h.	2.5 km
Internet Services	Downtown Aqaba	10:00h. till 21:00h.	2 km

ATTRACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Please list the top cultural and historic points of interest:

	<i>Name</i>	<i>Distance from Port (km)</i>
1	Aqaba Castle and Museum	2 km
2	Aquarium	5 km
3	Petra	Around 130 km
4	Wadi Rum	Around 85 km

	<i>Name</i>	<i>Hours of Operation</i>	<i>Distance from Port (km)</i>
GOLF	None		
SWIMMING BEACH - 1	Aqaba Intercontinental Hotel	08:00h. till sunset	2.5 km
Chair rental?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Changing facilities?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Other fees, if applicable	Entrance fees at the door which include the chair or bed rental with towel		
SWIMMING BEACH - 2	Aqaba Movenpick Resort	08:00h. till sunset	2.5 km
Chair rental?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Changing facilities?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Other fees, if applicable	Entrance fees at the door which include the chair or bed rental with towel		
Nearest bicycle rental	None		
Nearest scooter/moped rental	Many located in downtown Aqaba	10:00h. till 22:00h.	2 km

HOTELS, RESORTS & SPAS

	<i>Name</i>	<i>Distance from Port (km)</i>
Please list two 5-star hotels	Aqaba Intercontinental Hotel	2.5
	Aqaba Movenpick Resort	2.5
Please list two moderate hotels	Aqaba Gulf Hotel	2
	Aqaba Golden Tulip Hotel	2
Please list one 5-star resort/spa	Aqaba Intercontinental Hotel	2.5
Please list one moderate resort/spa	Aqaba Movenpick Resort	2

SHOPPING

Please specify the days of the week and/or time of day that shops are closed. **Shops are open all weekdays from 10:00h. till around 21:00h. and are usually closed on Fridays, but some shops stay open.**

Are there any genuinely unique items for purchase in this region? (e.g. pearls, tanzanite, woolens, olives, etc.) **Rugs, embroidery, wooden artifacts, silver, gold, sand bottles, ceramics**

Can personal shoppers be booked through us? Yes No

Are there any unique and colorful bazaars or food markets in the region? If so, please give name, location and proximity to the port: **None**

DINING

Please list 3 recommended restaurants:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Distance from Port (km)</i>
Feluka Restaurant - Downtown Aqaba	2 km
Mejana Restaurant - Aqaba Gate	1.5 km
Romero Restaurant - Royal Yacht Club	1.5 km

Please list any local food specialties: **Fish and Mansaf (regional lamb dish)**