

Philadelphia: Once "*a city of the Ammonites*", it was known in earlier times as Rabbah, and Rabbath Ammon. Today it is **Amman** - capital city of the Kingdom of Jordan.

It was rebuilt and renamed Philadelphia by Ptolemy II almost three centuries BC and, after the Roman conquest of 63 BC, it became part of the Region of Decapolis. It was at an important confluence of roads leading from the Arabian Peninsula in the South to Damascus and the north, and from the Syrian desert in the east to Palestine and the Mediterranean in the west.

Jordan 'not a transit route' to Israel for Pope

{cimovie}JordanTransit.flv|Title|jordantransit.jpg{/cimovie}

THE CHURCH IN JORDAN

VATICAN CITY, 5 MAY 2009 (VIS) - For the occasion of Benedict XVI's forthcoming pilgrimage to the Holy Land, due to take place from 8 to 15 May, statistics have been published concerning the Catholic Church in Jordan. The information, updated to 31 December 2007, comes from the Central Statistical Office of the Church.

Jordan has a population of 5,720,000 of whom 109,000 (1.91 percent) are Catholic. Over 40,000 Christians have their origin in Iraq, coming to Jordan since the war there began. There are three ecclesiastical circumscriptions and sixty-four parishes. Currently, there are four bishops, 103 priests and 258 religious. Major seminarians number seven.

A total of 30,595 students attend the 123 infant, primary, middle and secondary schools that belong to the Catholic Church or are run by priests or religious. Other institutions belonging to the Church or run by priests or religious in Jordan include two hospitals, one clinic, one family counselling centre, and three centres for education and social rehabilitation.

Pope in Holy Land: 'Primary intention is to pray for peace'

{cimovie}PrimaryIntention.flv|Title|primaryintention.jpg{/cimovie}

Pope Benedict's Schedule in Amman

Friday 8th May

2.30 p.m. Landing at Queen Alia airport in the Jordanian capital, Amman

3.30 p.m. Visit the city's "Regina Pacis" (Queen of Peace) Centre

Visit to the Jordanian monarchs at the al-Husseinye royal palace. [next map location: Mount Nebo]

Saturday 9th May

Visit Hashemite Museum

Mosque of al-Hussein bin Talal in Amman, meet with Muslim religious leaders, the diplomatic corps and rectors of Jordanian universities.

Greek-Melkite cathedral of St. George - Celebration of Vespers with priests, religious, seminarians and ecclesial movements.

Sunday 10th May

Celebrate Mass in the morning

Regina Coeli at the international stadium in Amman. [next map location: Baptism in the Jordan]

Monday 11th May

Celebrate Mass in private at the apostolic nunciature in Amman, travel by plane to Tel Aviv, Israel. [next map location: Joppa (Tel Aviv)]

Four Days in Amman

Pope: Jordanians, build on the foundations of tolerance!

{cimovie}Jordanians.flv|Title|jordanians.jpg{/cimovie}

DAY 4 - Monday - Departure



Pope Benedict shakes hands with Jordan's King Abdullah II before boarding a Royal Jordanian plane at Amman Airport to Tel Aviv. The Pope renewed his appeal for religious tolerance between Christians and Muslims as he was leaving Jordan for Israel on his tour of the Holy Land.

DAY 3 - Sunday

Pope Benedict Celebrates Mass at Jordanian Stadium

{cimovie}Stadium.flv|Title|stadium.jpg{/cimovie}

Pope extols women's role and dignity in the Holy Land

{cimovie}Women.flv|Title|women.jpg{/cimovie}

DAY 2 - Saturday

Pope: Religion can't be in service of prejudice & violence

{cimovie}University.flv|Title|university.jpg{/cimovie}

Pope in mosque, encourages Muslims to cultivate potential of reason

{cimovie}Mosque.flv|Title|mosque.jpg{/cimovie}

Pope Benedict Attends Vespers at Cathedral of Saint George

{cimovie}George.flv|Title|george.jpg{/cimovie}

DAY 1 - Friday

Pope arrives in Jordan and shows his respect for Islam

{cimovie}JordanArrival.flv|Title|jordanarrival.jpg{/cimovie}

Pope is greeted in Jordan with traditional kefiah

{cimovie}Kefiah.flv|Title|kefiah.jpg{/cimovie}

Pope visits King Abdullah and Rania

{cimovie}Abdullah.flv|Title|abdullah.jpg{/cimovie}

PREPARATORY

Jordan will represent all Arabs on papal visit, says official

{cimovie}JordanMinistry.flv|Title|jordanministry.jpg{/cimovie}

All is set for Popes trip to Jordan, Israel and Palestine

{cimovie}AllIsSet.flv|Title|allisset.jpg{/cimovie}

Jordan - A Gateway of Muslim Christian Dialogue

{cimovie}JordanGateway.flv|Title|jordangateway.jpg{/cimovie}

Jordanian Church spokesperson outlines key goals of papal visit

{cimovie}JordanGoals.flv|Title|jordangoals.jpg{/cimovie}

Pope in Jordan - First Stop - Regina Pacis Centre

{cimovie}ReginaPacis.flv|Title|reginapacis.jpg{/cimovie}

Other Map Locations for the Pope's visit:

DATE	See	MAP LOCATION	(s)
Fri 8th May	Philadelphia (Amman)		
Sat 9th May	Mt Nebo, Amman		
Sun 10th May	Amman, Baptism in the Jordan		
Mon 11th May	Amman, Joppa (Tel Aviv), Jerusalem		
Tue 12th May	Jerusalem		
Wed 13th May	Bethlehem		

Thu 14th May	Nazareth
Fri 15th May	Jerusalem, Joppa (Tel Aviv)