

# Western Influence in Ottoman Lands | Jordan

'The Hijaz Railway was one of the most important achievements during the Ottoman period...'

The Ottomans changed the Hajj route (Darb al-Hajj al-Sham) which follows the mountains east of Wadi Araba, known as the King's Highway, to a new route which lay along the edge of the desert, known as Darb al-Bint after the daughter of Sultan Salim I, who had complained of bandits on the King's Highway. A series of forts and pilgrimage stations were built along this new route to protect pilgrims and provide them with water, food and merchandise. The Hijaz Railway was one of the most important achievements during the Ottoman period, completed in 1908 during the reign of Sultan Abdul Hameed II. The main purpose of the Hijaz railroad was to transport pilgrims from Damascus to Medina in Saudi Arabia through Jordan. The system was severely damaged during the First World War, but some sections are still functioning, for example Damascus to Amman and Amman to Qatraneh.



**Name:**  
Hijaz Railroad Line

**Dynasty:**  
AD 1901-1908 Ottoman

**Details:**  
Jordan

**Justification:**  
The Hijaz Railroad, constructed by order of Sultan Abdul Hamid, was begun in October 1901 between the small towns of Muzayreeb and Derra. The line reached Damascus, north of Derra and Amman south of Derra, on October 1 1903, and reached Medina in the Hijaz on August 22 1908. In total, the line is about 1,302 km long from Damascus to Medina. In 1904, an extension of the line stretched from Derra going west to the Port of Haifa. (Photo credit - Dr. Baker Majali - Royal Courts)



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**Details:**  
Irbid to Mudawara, Jordan

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**Name:**  
Qatrana Fortress

**Dynasty:**  
Hegira 937/ AD 1531 Ottoman

**Details:**  
Qatrana, Jordan

**Justification:**

Qatrana is an important station on the pilgrimage route in Jordan built specifically to protect the new route established by Sultan Sulayman the Magnificent.

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**Name:**

Face veil, Burqu`

**Dynasty:**

20th century Ottoman

**Details:**

Amman, Jordan

**Justification:**

A locally produced, hand-woven face veil with an embroidered headband adorned with gold Ducats of the Venetian doge, in addition to gold and silver Ottoman coins and Palestinian coins. It reflects the Western influences on Ottoman-period popular art.

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Chin-chain/Zenaq

**Dynasty:**

19th–20th century Ottoman

**Details:**

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**Justification:**

A silver chin-chain adorned with European silver coins of the Austrian Empress and the Spanish Kings along with Ottoman silver coins, illustrating the Western influences prevalent in popular art.

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