

## The Arnon Watershed

Wadi al Mujib is biblically significant and located 56 miles southeast of Amman, Jordan. Known as the Arnon watershed, this Jordanian gorge is the lowest nature reserve in the world. The confluence of its seven tributaries empties into the Dead Sea in the west 1,334.5 feet below sea level. The north eastern edge of the gorge has seen the passing of kings and was a lucrative trade route in biblical times.

Known as the King's Highway, it is the site where the children of Israel, advancing from their post-Egyptian wanderings, were rebuffed by the children of Edom (Num. 20:17-21).

Under the stewardship of the *Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature*, the canyon is home to numerous plants, ten species of carnivores, the rare Nubian Ibex, and a host of indigenous and migratory birds. From 410 meters below sea level up to towering mountain ridges 900 meters in height, there is a vertical differential of 1,300 meters, or 4,225 feet. The land trust of the R.S.C.N. encompasses 220 sq. km. or 85 sq. miles of varied desert habitats.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, Jordan*, posted: 2008  
<http://www.rscn.org.jo/> accessed: 01/20/11

# Wadi al Mujib



Canyon with stream, Yousef T. Omar, Copyright © 10/09

Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature [land trust boundaries](#)

Panoramic view of Wadi al Mujib looking southwest, Berthold Werner, Copyright © 10/09

Wadi al Mujib dam, Bernard Gagnon, Copyright © 4/10

Varying earth tones of Wadi al Mujib, Effie Schweizer, Copyright © 05/08

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