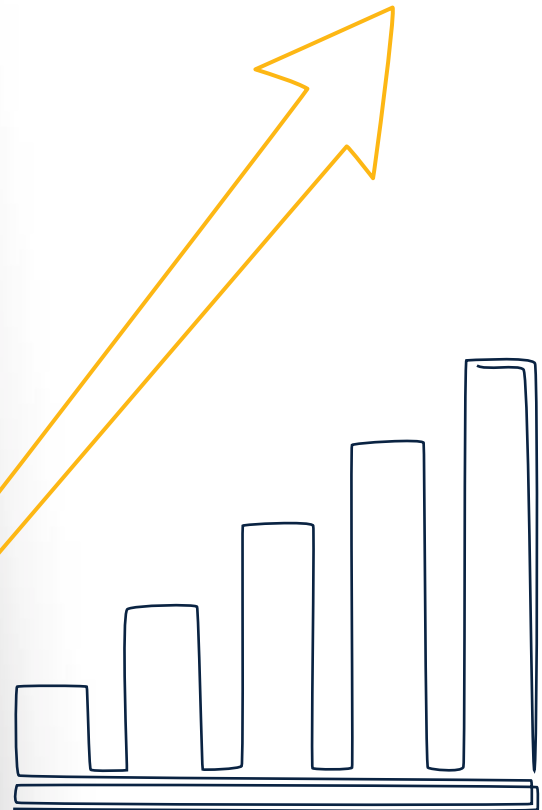


INVEST AQABA



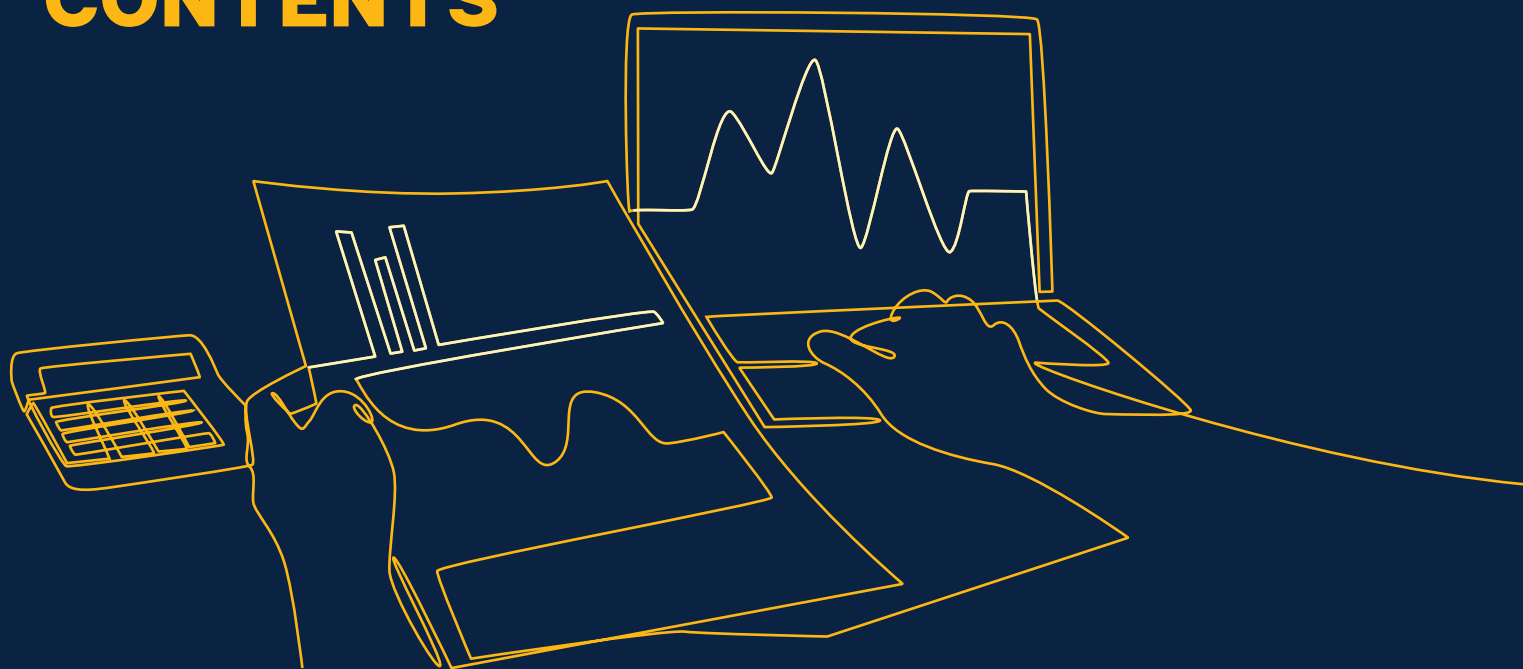
سلطة منطقة العقبة الاقتصادية الخاصة
AQABA SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY

INVESTOR GUIDEBOOK



INVEST
AQABA

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O1

INTRODUCTION: PURPOSE OF THE GUIDE

A thin white wavy line that starts on the left side of the page, dips down, and then rises towards the right side, creating a smooth, undulating curve.

Aqaba offers investors a strategic gateway for business expansion and the establishment of new businesses, combining a competitive investment environment, streamlined procedures, and access to regional and global markets through the Aqaba Special Economic Zone (ASEZ).

This guide is designed to help you better understand Aqaba's investment landscape, navigate the process of establishing and operating a business, and identify the support available through the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA) and Aqaba Development Corporation (ADC).

Whether you are exploring new opportunities or expanding existing operations, this guide serves as a practical starting point for investing in Aqaba.



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02

WHY AQABA



KEY STRENGTHS OF AQABA

Aqaba offers several structural advantages for investors.



Strategic geographic
location connecting
regional markets



Access to Jordan's
only seaport



Integrated logistics,
transport, and digital
infrastructure networks



Competitive
operating costs



Access to a skilled
workforce across Jordan



Free Trade
Agreements



No restrictions on
currency exchange



One-stop shop that
streamlines investor
services



Full foreign
ownership

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03

QUALITY OF LIFE IN AQABA



BEYOND ITS INVESTMENT ADVANTAGES, AQABA OFFERS A COMFORTABLE AND ATTRACTIVE LIVING ENVIRONMENT FOR INVESTORS, PROFESSIONALS, AND THEIR FAMILIES.



EDUCATION

The city offers access to private and international schools, while a wider range of universities and international education institutions are available in Aqaba.



CONNECTIVITY

Aqaba is easily accessible through King Hussein International Airport and modern road networks connecting the city to Amman and other major urban centers. Its strategic location offers strong time-zone alignment with Europe, the Gulf, and Asia, while regular cruise ship connections provide additional links to regional and international destinations.



HEALTHCARE & WELLBEING

Aqaba provides access to both public and private healthcare facilities. For specialized services, investors and residents benefit from Jordan's well-developed national healthcare system.



LIFESTYLE & COMMUNITY

Aqaba offers a family-friendly environment with a strong hospitality sector, outdoor recreation, and year-round coastal activities supporting a balanced lifestyle.

04

INCENTIVES THAT DRIVE GROWTH





5%

**INCOME TAX ON NET
PROFIT**



0%

**INCOME TAX ON STORED
TRANSIT GOODS**



0%

**SALES TAX ON THE
MAJORITY OF GOODS &
SERVICES**



0%

**CUSTOM
DUTIES**



40%

**DISCOUNT ON HANDLING
OF TRANSIT GOODS**



50%

**DISCOUNT ON HANDLING
OF CONTAINERS**



70%

**FOREIGN WORKERS
PERMITTED**

05

**FREE TRADE
AND TRADE-FACILITATION
AGREEMENTS**





Free Trade Agreement with the United States



Greater Arab Free Trade Agreement



Free Trade Agreement with Singapore



Free Trade Agreement with EU



Free Trade Agreement with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries



The Jordan-UK Free Trade Agreement



Pan-Arab Free Trade Area (PAFTA)



Free Trade Agreement with Canada



Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System Among the Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference

Free Trade Agreements

Trade Facilitation Agreements

06

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE



GUIDANCE BY INVESTMENT STAGE

This guide is designed as a practical and investor-oriented reference explaining the investment journey in Aqaba in a clear and structured format.

Investors may use different sections of the guide depending on their stage in the investment process.



EXPLORATION STAGE

Investors assessing the overall investment environment may focus on **Sections 1–5**, which provide an overview of Aqaba's economic environment, promising sectors, and quality of life.



ESTABLISHMENT STAGE

Investors preparing to establish a business should review **Section 9**, which outlines the investor journey and the main regulatory steps required to establish and operate a business in the Zone.

PROJECT-SPECIFIC GUIDANCE

Investors seeking detailed support or project-specific information are encouraged to engage directly with ASEZA or ADC, who provide tailored guidance based on the nature and scale of the investment.

The processes and timelines presented in this guide are indicative. Specific requirements may vary depending on the regulatory profile, sector, and scale of the proposed investment.

07

LEGAL & REGULATORY FRAMEWORK



Aqaba offers a competitive investment environment supported by the Aqaba Special Economic Zone (ASEZ), a dedicated regulatory and economic framework designed to facilitate business establishment, trade, and export-oriented activities.

LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The Aqaba Special Economic Zone operates under an independent regulatory structure administered by ASEZA, which oversees licensing, land use, and regulatory procedures within the Zone.

THIS FRAMEWORK ENABLES:



**Streamlined
administrative
procedures**



**Coordinated
government
services**



**Investor facilitation
through a
centralized
authority**

08

AQABA

INVESTMENT LANDSCAPE



EMERGING SECTORS



Tourism and hospitality

Aqaba's coastal and historical allure make it ideal for tourism and hospitality investments.



Logistics and transport services

At the crossroads of three continents, Aqaba is a gateway for logistics and transport growth.



Industrial manufacturing

Aqaba promotes investments in petrochemicals, pharmaceuticals, and light industry.



Energy-related industries

Aqaba's strategic location and energy infrastructure support investments in renewable energy, energy storage, and industrial energy projects.



Digital economy and technology services

Aqaba's data center and global cable position it as a regional tech hub.



Food processing and agribusiness

Aqaba provides efficient access to regional markets, logistics facilities, and supply chains, making it an attractive location for food processing and agribusiness investments.

09

INVESTOR JOURNEY



Establishing and operating a business in Aqaba follows a structured investment lifecycle. The investor journey can be divided into three main stages.



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STAGE 1

INITIAL INQUIRY &
OPPORTUNITY
UNDERSTANDING



The investor journey in ASEZ begins with an initial inquiry. At this stage investors are introduced to Aqaba's investment environment, priority sectors, and available opportunities.



STEP 1.

Investors seeking to understand the investment ecosystem in Aqaba are guided by ASEZA, while those interested in exploring available projects and opportunities are supported by ADC.



STEP 2.

ASEZA and ADC engage with the investor to understand the proposed project and investment requirements.



STEP 3.

Investors submit a brief expression of interest outlining the proposed activity.



STEP 4.

ASEZA reviews the submission and confirms eligibility and next steps.



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STAGE 2

BUSINESS SETUP & APPROVALS

ESTABLISHING YOUR PRESENCE IN AQABA

Starting a business in Aqaba begins with a clear investment journey supported by ASEZA. As the primary authority, ASEZA facilitates the establishment process, while ADC assists investors in accessing land, development projects, and investment opportunities.

This guide outlines the key steps to establish your business. Additional requirements may apply depending on the type and scale of your investment.



STEP 1. LEGAL ESTABLISHMENT

- Creation and registration of a legal entity through the Companies Control Department
- Registration with ASEZA.

Registration Fees

- No First-time ASEZA registration fee
- Sector registration fee (per activity): JOD 300
- Annual renewal: JOD 500 per sector



STEP 2. LAND AND PROPERTY ACCESS

Investors may secure land or business premises within the Aqaba Special Economic Zone through various ownership arrangements.

Land or property may be owned by:

- The Aqaba Development Corporation (ADC): ADC can assist investors in identifying suitable plots based on project requirements and available opportunities.
- Private owners: Investors may acquire or lease privately owned land or premises, subject to ASEZA's approval requirements and applicable regulations.
- ASEZA provides guidance throughout the process to ensure compliance with applicable regulations.



STEP 4. OPERATIONAL PERMIT

Obtain an operational (vocational) permit from ASEZA before commencing business activities. Licensing requirements depend on the nature of the business and may include additional approvals. Licenses are renewed annually.

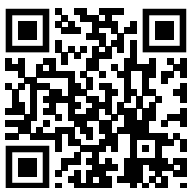


STEP 3. CONSTRUCTION AND BUILDING PERMITS

For construction projects, ASEZA streamlines the process by coordinating all required reviews, approvals, and permits, from technical drawings to occupancy authorization.

This includes:

- Submission of technical drawings.
- Planning, environmental, and safety reviews.
- Coordination with relevant internal committees and authorities.
- Issuance of construction and occupancy approvals.



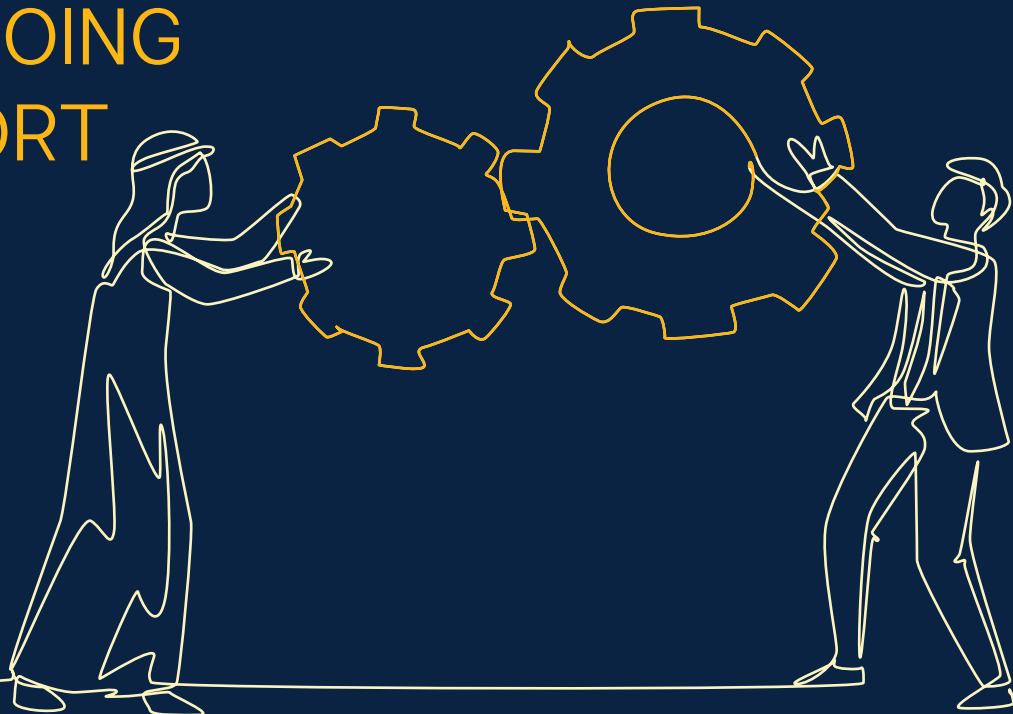
<https://eservices.aseza.jo/Login>

For information on available land, development plots, or property options within the Zone, investors may engage with ADC or ASEZA to receive guidance aligned with their project requirements.

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STAGE 3

BUSINESS GROWTH
& ONGOING
SUPPORT



ASEZA and ADC continue to support investors beyond establishment to enable expansion, reinvestment, and long-term success.



STEP 1.

License renewals and amendments



STEP 2.

Facilitation of business expansion or modification



STEP 3.

Support for reinvestment opportunities and partnerships



STEP 4.

Issue resolution and ongoing investor support

The stages above outline the full investment lifecycle in Aqaba, from initial inquiry through long-term operations and growth. Timelines may vary depending on the nature, scale, and regulatory requirements of the investment

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START YOUR
INVESTMENT JOURNEY



Whether you are exploring opportunities or ready to establish your business, dedicated support is available at every step. Investors can engage directly with ASEZA and ADC for guidance, facilitation, and access to opportunities within Aqaba.



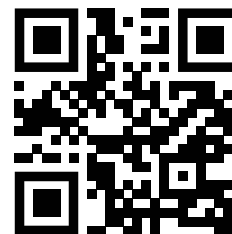
Investment Promotion Directorate
Your primary point of contact for
licensing, regulatory guidance, and
investor facilitation.

Website: www.aseza.jo
Email: investaqaba@ASEZA.jo



Investment Promotion & Project
Development Supporting investors in
identifying opportunities, accessing land,
and advancing strategic projects.

Website: www.adc.jo
Email: info@adc.jo



**INVESTORS MAY ENGAGE AT ANY STAGE TO
RECEIVE TAILORED GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT.**



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