



Your passport to adventure

## A Taste of Jordan

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**Country(ies):** Jordan

**Tour type:** Private

**Transport:** A/C car/minivan & Bedouin jeeps

**Group size:** Min: 1 | Max: 0

**Days:** 6 Days

**Start location:** Amman, Jordan

**End location:** Amman, Jordan

**Departs On:** Any day

**Meals:** Breakfasts - 5, Lunches - 0, Dinners - 0

**Highlights:** Bustling city of Amman, Roman remains at Jerash, float in the Dead Sea, scenery along the Kings Highway, Madaba & Mt Nebo, imposing crusader castle of Kerak, magnificent rose-city of Petra, dramatic Wadi Rum desert scenery

**Places Visited:** Amman, Jerash, Madaba, Kerak, Petra & Wadi Rum



# Itinerary

## Day 1: Arrive in Amman. Hotel transfer included

Once you arrive, our staff will collect you from the airport and drop you off at your hotel in Amman. We'll help you check in, show you where the local shops, cafes or restaurants are and you'll have the rest of the day free to explore Amman independently before our sightseeing starts tomorrow.

**OVERNIGHT:** Amman hotel

**MEALS:** None

**EXTRAS:** Amman city tour || 4-star hotel upgrade || Single room supplement (JOTMTJ) || Extra day in Amman - pre-tour

## Day 2: King's Highway to Petra via Madaba and Kerak

The Jordan tour departs from Amman today, as we drive along the majestic King's Highway to Petra. This route takes slightly longer but offers beautiful views as we cross cavernous wadis, olive groves and quaint rural villages.

We stop in Madaba, giving you the chance to stretch your legs and walk to the Greek Orthodox Church of St. George. It is here where you can view the famous 6th century Byzantine mosaic map of the Holy Land along with other biblical sites. We'll also venture up Mount Nebo, which provides spectacular views of the Holy Land.

We continue our journey across more deep wadis, including the magnificent Wadi al-Mujib, until we reach Kerak Castle - which is one in a chain of Crusader fortresses strung across Jordan in the 12th century on the ancient Egypt-Syrian caravan route. Constructed in 1132 AD by the Crusader King Baldwin, the castle fell to Saladin in 1188AD. It remains a remarkable structure overlooking the rolling hills and plains.

We're arrive in Petra later today. Your evening is free to do some independent exploring or as an option, you can enjoy a Petra by Candlelight tour.

**OVERNIGHT:** Petra hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**EXTRAS:** None

## Day 3: Exploring Petra, Camping in Wadi Rum

Today, we spend time inside the renowned Nabatean site of Petra. This historic city was the ancient capital of the Nabatean commercial empire until the Romans took over in 106AD. Petra was then forgotten, except by the local Bedouins until it was rediscovered in 1812 by the Swiss explorer, Johann Ludwig Burckhardt.

This ancient city is set on the edge of Wadi Aruba with enclosed canyon walls and hills making it difficult to reach apart from a tight cleft in the rock, called the Siq. There are few freestanding buildings as the Nabateans chose to carve their homes and other structures into the sandstone cliffs.

You will have the entire day to get acquainted with this unique city (a 2-3 hour guided tour and then free time to wander). Your guide will lead you through the Siq, rising 200 metres above and just 2 metres wide. The ancient Nabatean water channel can still be spotted on one wall along with terracotta pipes that brought water into the city. As you turn the corner, you will be welcomed with a mesmerising view of one of Petra's most remarkable monuments - the Khazneh - also known as the Treasury.

You will also see the ruined Roman amphitheater and colonnaded streets and in your free time, we suggest walking

along the narrow gorge past the multi-colored sandstone cliffs to the Monastery. This is Petra's biggest carved monument at 50 metres high and 45 metres wide. From this point, the views of the Wadi Aruba and the Jordan Valley are outstanding.

Later that afternoon, the tour will leave Petra and drive back into the desert where you will be greeted by welcoming Bedouin hosts. You will spend a memorable night at a comfortable camp positioned beneath rising rocks and cliffs. In this serene setting, you can spend the evening relaxing at the camp, watching the stars and feasting on a traditional Jordanian meal.

**OVERNIGHT:** Wadi Rum Bedouin camp

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**EXTRAS:** Petra by night

## Day 4: Wadi Rum jeep safari, Dead Sea swim

After a tasty breakfast, the tour will venture back through the desert and mountains of Wadi Rum. It was in this desert, that TE Lawrence was impressed by the soaring copper coloured rocky 'jebels' during the Arab Revolt of 1917- 1918. This led to the inspiration for the film Lawrence of Arabia. The tour will travel via safari jeep through the desert, passing steep cliffs and eye-catching rock formations.

We then drive up north to the banks of the Dead Sea - the lowest point on earth. The Dead Sea region receives numerous incoming rivers including the Jordan River. As the waters reach the Dead Sea, they are land-locked with nowhere to go and evaporates, leaving behind a mix of salts and minerals, supplying the local industries with excellent products.

On the west of the Dead Sea you can see the hills of Jerusalem. This area is now sparsely populated and was believed to have been home to 5 biblical cities: Sodom, Gomorrah, Adman, Zebouin and Zoar (Bela). The Jordan tour will stop so that you can paddle in the salty waters. As a result of its highly saline waters, normal swimming is not possible so rather float. Be careful not to get any water in your eyes, as it will sting.

Later today, we make our way back to Amman.

**OVERNIGHT:** Amman hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**EXTRAS:** Post-tour Wadi Rum camp extension || Aqaba extension

## Day 5: A city tour of Amman. Travel to Jerash

Today we include a city tour of Amman, also known as the 'white city' given its numerous white limestone buildings. Your guide will enlighten you on the city's history while showing you excavations and renovations from the Neolithic period, the Hellenistic period and the late Roman to Arab Islamic ages.

Next, we visit the Citadel, exploring the ancient temple of Hercules, the 8th century Umayyad Palace, the Byzantine church and the 6,000 seat Roman theatre, built into a hill.

We leave Amman later in the day, venturing to the city of Jerash, also known as the 'Jewel of the North'. Hidden by sand for many centuries, this vast and well-preserved site is a prime example of Roman architecture. We'll explore its ruined hilltop temples, theatres, baths, fountains, colonnaded streets and large public squares

**OVERNIGHT:** Amman hotel

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**EXTRAS:** None

## Day 6: Free time in Amman, transfer to airport

You are free to do some last-minute exploring or shopping until it is time to be transferred to Amman Airport. You can alternatively take one of the optional day trips. These options include a full-day tour to the Baptism site at Bethany and Ajloun Castle, a trip to Pella and Umm Qais, a tour of the 'Desert Castles', or a tour into Israel to visit Bethlehem and Jerusalem.

**OVERNIGHT:** N/A

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**EXTRAS:** Amman city tour || Bethany & Ajloun Castle || Extra day in Amman - post-tour

## Included

- 4 nights accommodation in 4/5 star hotels
- 1 night in a comfortable Bedouin camp in Wadi Rum
- All transport and transfers in AC vehicles except Bedouin jeeps in Wadi Rum
- 24-hour airport arrival & departure transfer service
- Services of an English speaking escort driver throughout
- Professional guide for the tours in Jerash and Petra (may be extended to the whole tour)
- 4x4 Bedouin jeep safari in Wadi Rum
- Entrance to Dead Sea beach with towel & showers
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary

## Excluded

- International flights (available on request)
- Visa fees (see tour notes)
- Travel Insurance (mandatory, available on request)
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Entrance fees in Jordan (included in the Jordan Pass for JD70 / US\$99)
- Drinks, snacks and other personal expenses (e.g. laundry)
- Tips
- Hotel Gala Dinners (if charged by the hotels on 24 & 31 Dec, see Tour notes)
- Any other items not mentioned above

## Notes

### Hotel Gala Dinners

Most of Jordan's higher level hotels arrange a very special gala dinner with entertainment in the evening on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Payment for these is often optional on Christmas Eve (24 Dec) but normally compulsory for all guests of the hotel on New Year's Eve (31 Dec), whether you attend or not. Prices can range from around US\$50 to over US\$150 per person. Final decisions on prices and whether dinners are compulsory are made relatively close to the time. We aim to always select hotels that make their Gala Dinners optional, though this is not always possible. Gala dinner prices are therefore not included in our prices above, but will be added to your booking if they become required. Please budget accordingly. More information is available on request.

# Options

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Our tours are designed to include all that you need to enjoy a really special time in the destination you're visiting.

However, we do also offer some extra options to complement the tour and add some additional sightseeing or activities, or some extra time at either end of the tour.

All accommodation based options (e.g. Single supplements, extra nights, cruise upgrades) should be booked and paid for in advance so that we can make the appropriate arrangements.

Other options may either be booked and paid for in advance or while you are on the tour, though we recommend booking in advance to ensure there are no issues with availability.

Many options are priced the same throughout the year, but some may incur single or high season supplements - full details are given on the tour reservation form or on request.

## Single room supplement (JOTMTJ)

**Min numbers:** 1 person

**Price:** \$335.00

This option books a single room in all the accommodation throughout the tour for any single travellers in your party. It is not a solo traveller supplement (if there is only one person travelling in total, please contact us for a customised quote for your tour).

**Note:** The price shown is a low season price. Slightly higher prices may apply during high and peak seasons - the exact price for your dates will be shown on the online booking form and is always available on request.

## Amman – evening food tasting tour

**Min numbers:** 1 person

**Price:** \$60.00

This evening tour of Amman provides a great taste of traditional Jordanian food. We take a walk down Rainbow Street and through Downtown Amman, checking out the various local restaurants and street food available. Your guide will give you plenty of explanations of what is on offer, and what are the local favourites.

During the tour we'll try several different dishes, starting with a snack of either Manakish (with its various toppings of egg, white cheese or za'atar) or a classic falafel sandwich. Then in Downtown Amman we'll try a main meal, perhaps the Jordanian national dish of Mansaf, slow cooked lamb with rice and yoghurt sauce. Finally we'll try one of the cities famous desserts like Knafeh from one of the popular local sweet shops. All 3 dishes are included in the price of the tour, plus transfers to and from your hotel, but you'll need to pay for your own drinks.

A supplement will apply if there is only one person on the tour. The tour can also be booked locally, subject to availability of guides & transport.

## Private guide supplement (4 days) - OPJOG4

**Min numbers:** 1 person

**Price:** \$480.00

The standard arrangements for this tour are for an English speaking escort driver to accompany you throughout your time with us in Jordan. They will be able to talk to you about Jordan, give you information about modern life in the country, advise you on food & drink and discuss timings, adjustments to your itinerary and places to stop en-route. They are not however professional guides and while they will be able to provide some basic information, they will not be able to accompany you inside many of the sites or give detailed historical facts or background.

We do include a professional guide in Jerash and in Petra on this tour. However, if you would like to be accompanied by a professional guide for the full duration of the tour then please add this option onto your booking.

Prices shown cover the guide joining you for the whole tour apart from your arrival and departure days, and also include the guide's accommodation and meals. The price shown is a total amount, and will only be added to your booking once, regardless of the number of travellers in your party.

# Tour Notes

## 1. Accommodation

We use good quality hotels at the local 5-star rating on this tour, and aim to use more boutique style hotels with some character, rather than more generic international chain hotels. These hotels can generally be considered to be a good 4-star international level. A night is also spent in a comfortable Bedouin camp inside the Wadi Rum desert reserve. Accommodation here is in en-suite tents with all bedding and facilities provided.

However, as this is a private tour, hotel levels, styles and options can always be adjusted to suit your preferences and budget. Please visit the accommodation tab of this tour for examples of the hotels normally used on the tour. If you have any specific accommodation requests please let us know and we'll be happy to provide you with a customised quotation.

## 2. Group Size/Tour Leaders/Guides

As this is a private tour, we can run the itinerary for however many people you happen to be travelling with, starting from 1 upwards. The prices given for this tour are based on a minimum of 2 passengers travelling, so if you have a different number of passengers in your group please contact us for a customised quotation.

In Jordan our standard tour prices are based on an English speaking escort driver running the tour for you, plus specialist local guides in Petra and Jerash. A professional escort guide can also be arranged for the full time in Jordan for an additional supplement. We also use local Bedouin staff from your desert camp for your time there.

At Encounters Travel we aim to only use local guides and reps. as we feel this gives you the best experience of the country and the sites you are seeing.

## 3. Entrance Fees & Jordan Pass

The tour price does not include entrance fees to the sites visited on the tour. Instead, we recommend that you purchase a **Jordan Pass** prior to your travel to Jordan. This is a special package that has been designed by the Jordanian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities for tourists visiting Jordan. As well as including a discounted package of entrance fees covering all the sites in Jordan that you will visit on this tour (plus many others), the Jordan Pass also provides free downloadable digital brochures on each attraction, plus a free tourist visa for entering the country (40JD if obtained on arrival in Jordan).

The cost for the **Jordan Wanderer Pass** suitable for this tour is JD70 (approx. US\$99). Passes are available by completing a simple online form before you travel, taking care to make sure your passport details are entered correctly as this doubles as your visa application. Your Jordan Pass will then be emailed to you as a pdf document, which you should print out and bring with you. You will then need to show this print out at the immigration desk on arrival in Jordan to obtain your free entry visa, and also at each attraction where it will be scanned to confirm your entry. [Obtain your Jordan Pass here](#)

## 4. Health and Vaccinations

You should ensure you are fully insured for medical emergencies including emergency evacuation and repatriation.

Recommended vaccinations and other health protection measures vary according to the country you are visiting and

where you are travelling from. We recommend you contact your GP/medical practitioner or a travel clinic for current information on vaccinations needed for your destination. You should ensure that you are up to date with vaccines and boosters recommended for your normal life at home, including for example, vaccines required for occupational risk of exposure, lifestyle risks and underlying medical conditions.

In addition, additional courses or boosters normally recommended for the countries in this region are:

Egypt: Tetanus, Typhoid, Hepatitis A

Jordan: Tetanus, Hepatitis A

Israel: Hepatitis A, Poliomyelitis

Lebanon: Diphtheria, Hepatitis A

Malaria is not generally present unless it has been contracted abroad; you do not need to take malaria prophylactics.

More information is available here: [Egypt](#), [Jordan](#), [Israel](#), [Lebanon](#)

Note: We are aware of some places in Egypt using 'black henna' instead of pure brown henna. Black henna contains a chemical dye PPD (paraphenylenediamine) which can result in severe allergic reactions and resultant scarring. To be safe we recommend avoiding any henna tattoos while in Egypt unless you are certain they are using pure brown henna.

## 5. Passports and Visas - Jordan

Passports should be valid for at least six months after your departure from the country. Please do not bring an almost full or almost expired passport. Visa arrangements are the responsibility of the traveller, and requirements are subject to change by the local authorities.

To promote tourism to the country, the Jordanian government has designed the **Jordan Pass**. This provides most nationalities with a free single entry Jordan visa (for stays of 3 nights or more), a discounted package of entrance fees, and free digital brochures for the various sites in Jordan. Please check the Jordan Pass tour note for more information.

Double or multi entry visas for Jordan are no longer available and you will need to arrange two visas if you are doing a combination tour (eg. with Egypt and/or Israel) that visits Jordan more than once. Exceptions may occur if you are crossing to and from Israel via the King Hussein Bridge - please contact us for details.

If you wish to arrange your visa separately in advance, or if your stay will be shorter than four days/3 nights, then a visa fee of 40JD (approx. USD 57) will be due.

Other nationalities may require a visa prior to arrival and to obtain this in advance, please contact your local Jordanian embassy or consulate or a visa agency for details. In addition, if you plan to enter Jordan via the southern Wadi Araba crossing (Eilat-Aqaba) or the Allenby Bridge/King Hussein border with Israel in the north, you will need to obtain your Jordan visa in advance as these are not available on arrival at the border.

## 6. Time

The time in Egypt, Jordan and Israel is GMT plus 2 hours. Daylight saving adjustments have historically been applied in some years but not others. At present it appears that there will be no daylight saving changes in Egypt 2016 and beyond, though this may change at short notice (with a resulting impact on flight times and schedules). In Jordan and Israel, daylight saving of one hour is generally applied between the end of March and the end of October, making it GMT plus 3 hours. Exact dates vary from year to year and sometimes the changes may be scrapped altogether.



## 7. Voltage

Sockets are two round pronged and 220 volts (Type C). Universal adaptors are available in most airport shops if you don't have one already. Standard European adapters will work fine, though sometimes they may feel a little loose in the sockets. All hotel rooms have electrical sockets where you can re-charge cameras, phones etc. Hair dryers are normally available on request from the hotel reception if not in your room already.

If you have US appliances (110 volts) you will need a voltage converter as well as a plug adapter.

## 8. Money - Jordan

The local currency in Jordan is the Jordanian Dinar (JD). You do not need to arrange to bring any Jordanian Dinar with you to Jordan as exchange facilities are available in the international airports and in most hotels, banks and bureau de changes in major towns. You should try to obtain and keep hold of small denomination notes or coins on you during the tour as these are useful for toilets, tips and small purchases. ATMs are readily available in major towns and many local shops will accept VISA/Mastercard or Amex, but may charge fees of up to 10% - check before you pay. Travellers cheques are not recommended as they can not be changed in many places now, and can incur high fees.

While in Jordan you will need sufficient funds to cover meals not included in the itinerary, drinks, snacks, souvenirs and personal expenses such as laundry. These should generally all be paid for in Jordanian Dinar, though tips for guides and drivers may be paid in hard currency (GBP, USD, EUR).

It is difficult to recommend a level of personal spending money which will suit everyone as this can differ greatly, but as a guideline, we would suggest allowing USD 15-25 per person per day as a minimum. Allow more if you plan on doing lots of shopping, or buying many alcoholic drinks.

## 9. Dates & Prices

This tour is designed as a sample tailor-made tour itinerary. As such we do not offer set group departure dates that you can join. Rather, the tour is available for you to do privately starting on any date of the year. Guideline seasonal prices are given below, based on 2 people travelling. If you would like to adjust the tour itinerary, or there will be more or less people travelling, please contact us and we will customise a price for you.

## 10. Booking & Payment

If you would like to book a place on this tour, please complete the online reservation form on our website (via the Dates & Prices tab on the tour page). You can pay your deposit or full balance online, or just hold a reservation if you prefer. We will then contact you with more details about how to complete your booking. Payments may be made by debit or credit card (subject to a card processing fee), or by making a bank transfer or posting us a cheque/bank draft. Full details will be provided in your booking confirmation email. Please [contact us](#) if you would like any more information or have any questions before making a booking.

## 11. Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory on all of our tours and needs to cover personal accident & liability, medical expenses and repatriation, travel delay & abandonment. We also strongly recommend that you take out cover against cancellation and lost/stolen baggage. Personal medical insurance does not normally provide sufficient cover and is

generally not suitable for travel on our tours. You will not be able to join your tour if you have not provided us with details of your insurance or if you arrive without cover in place (no refunds will be due in this event). [More information...](#)

You may arrange your own insurance, or you can take advantage of a comprehensive policy that we can arrange for you through Endsleigh Insurance which has been designed to be suitable for our tours. The policy is available to travellers of all nationalities and you do not need to live in the UK to take out the policy. For full details of cover provided, prices and to apply for one of our policies, please complete [travel insurance application form](#).

Note: Any country that borders the Mediterranean is considered as 'Europe' for the purposes of travel insurance (including Turkey, Israel, Egypt and Morocco). If you are doing a tour that visits one country in 'Europe' and one that is 'Worldwide' (for example, an Egypt and Jordan tour), then you need a 'Worldwide' policy. When completing the form you should enter your travel dates including any extra days involved in overnight flights or connecting travel between your home and the tour. Our policies are not able to cover any extra time or activities other than your tour and options booked with us and your travel to & from home.

If you plan to arrange a hot air balloon flight locally, or do some scuba diving during your tour, you should check the small print in your policy to make sure these are covered (these are covered in our policy). Please also check the maximum altitude that you will be reaching and that full cover including emergency evacuation is provided up to this altitude.

*IMPORTANT: We must have your travel insurance details (policy number and type of insurance) before you depart or you may not be allowed to join the tour. If you haven't told us already, please let us know the details when you can. You should take a paper copy of your insurance policy with you as you may be asked to show this at the start of the tour.*

## 12. Financial Security

We are a UK registered company and an ABTA Member (Y4447) and you can be confident when booking with us that your money is safe and protected. Financial failure insurance is provided through Affirma to protect all customers for the land portion of their tour.

Please see [our website](#) or [booking conditions](#) for more information.

## 13. Responsible Tourism

It is impossible not to have an impact on the local environment, cultures and eco-systems when you travel. However, it is very possible to try and ensure that these impacts are as limited, or positive as possible. We are committed to ensuring that we try to leave our host countries in a better state than we found them and encourage and assist our travellers to help us with this.

The following are a few simple tips that require very little effort on your part but which will help ensure that any effect you have on the locations you visit is positive rather than negative.

- Don't prejudice: Things in different countries will almost certainly be different. That doesn't make them worse or inferior, just different.
- Communicate: Don't expect locals to speak your language. Take the trouble to learn a few words or phrases of the local language. Don't worry about sounding silly. Most locals are patient and accommodating and appreciate you making the effort to communicate in their language.
- Conserve energy: Be careful not to waste valuable resources. Use local resources sparingly. Switch off lights, air-conditioning and fans when you leave the hotel room and don't waste water. Remove superfluous packaging. Many countries have far less efficient waste disposal systems than ours. Remove packaging from newly acquired items before leaving home.
- Don't litter: No matter how untidy or dirty the country you're travelling in may look to you, avoid littering, as

there is no need to add to the environment's stress. Many of the countries we visit have a tough challenge dealing with rubbish and waste. Please consider taking home as much plastic waste as you can (e.g. water bottles).

- Choose environmentally friendly products: By using environmentally friendly (bio degradable) sun creams, shampoos and detergents you can help reduce pollution.
- Respect local customs and traditions: As you are a guest in these countries, you should also comply with the local customs. If you are friendly and well mannered, the locals will reciprocate and it will only enhance your experience. It's important to follow dress and behaviour guidelines especially when visiting religious or sacred sites (your tour leader will advise you how best to do this).
- If a client commits an illegal act the client may be excluded from the tour and Egypt Uncovered shall cease to have responsibility to/for them. No refund will be given for any unused services.

All porters are employed and equipped following guidelines set by the International Porter Protection Group (IPPG).

## 14. Follow Us Online

You can stay in touch with us online by following us on Facebook and Twitter. We post updates on relevant travel news in our destination countries, special offers and discounts and other interesting travel related news and information.

[www.facebook.com/EgyptUncovered](https://www.facebook.com/EgyptUncovered)

[www.twitter.com/encounterstravl](https://www.twitter.com/encounterstravl) (yes, without the 'e')

## 15. Before you travel

It is important when considering and preparing to travel anywhere in the world that you have a good understanding of the country you are visiting, its laws and customs, and the possible risks and situations that may occur. This includes specific risks related to your itinerary (eg. does it involve water & can you swim, are you fit enough for the activities included), as well as more general risks such as terrorism and natural disasters.

General details and links to more information about health risks, visa requirements, money, and travel insurance are given in these tour notes. We recommend that you re-read all these before your departure as well as the small print of your travel insurance policy so you know exactly what is covered and what is not.

You should take copies of your important travel documents with you and ideally also store them online securely as a backup. Make sure that you have given us your emergency contact details and told that person where and when you

are travelling. Ensure you take enough money with you and that you have access to emergency funds.

Finally, you should read through and stay updated with the current [official government travel advice](#) for your destination. We are registered partners with the UK Foreign Office's ['Travel Aware' campaign](#) which provides further useful and invaluable information.

['Travel Aware' campaign](#)

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**Note:** Please [download an up-to-date copy](#) of these tour notes shortly before you travel as itineraries and information does change from time to time.

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