



Your passport to adventure

Jordan Discovery

Country(ies): Jordan

Tour type: Private

Transport: A/C car/minibus & 4x4 vehicle

Group size: Min: 1 | Max: 0

Days: 11 Days

Start location: Amman, Jordan

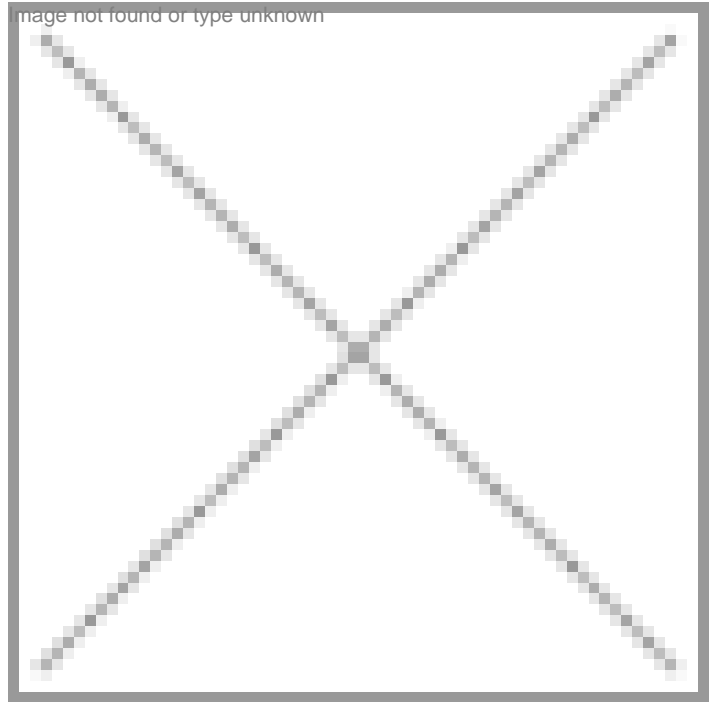
End location: Amman, Jordan

Departs On: Any day

Meals: Breakfasts - 10, Lunches - 2, Dinners - 2

Highlights: Hidden rose city of Petra, stunning desert scenery at Wadi Rum, float in the Dead Sea, mysterious desert castles, beautiful nature reserves, wonderfully preserved Roman ruins at Jerash, snorkelling in the Red Sea

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



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive in Amman, transfer to hotel

Upon arrival at Amman airport, our staff will meet you and transfer you to your hotel for the start of your trip. They'll also help you settle in and introduce you to the local area.

OVERNIGHT: Amman hotel

MEALS: None

EXTRAS: Extra day in Amman - pre-tour || Single Room Supplement (JOTMJD)

Day 2: Visit desert castles & wildlife reserves

We start our tour of Jordan with a visit to the 'Desert Castles', some of which date back over 1,000 years. Although called 'castles' they are in fact a collection of forts, palaces and bath houses, but still make for an interesting trip. The most impress of them include Qasr Hraneh, Qasayr Amra and Qasr Hallabat.

In the afternoon, we focus on two of Jordan's nature reserves, starting with the Azraq Wetlands Reserve. This Lakeland area is home to many buffalo and wild horses, and also to a myriad of bird species. The reserve has seen a decline over recent years due to the draining of the lakes, however there is a project underway to restore them to their original state.

Heading south we reach the Shaumari Wildlife Reserve, home to some of Jordan's most endangered indigenous species, including Onager, Gazelle, Arabian Oryx and Ostriches. We spend some time viewing the wildlife from specially constructed towers, that offer a great view over the area. In the late afternoon, we return to Amman where the evening is free for you to relax at your hotel or venture out to explore some of the city's many souks and markets.

OVERNIGHT: Amman hotel

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch

EXTRAS: None

Day 3: Amman city tour, Desert Highway to the Red Sea

We start today with a tour of Amman city and our first stop is the Roman Forum. This Roman theatre here is set into a depression in the hillside and from the massive seating area, which once seated six thousand spectators, the view over the surrounding area is spectacular. The original amphitheatre was built sometime between 169 and 177 AD, under the reign of Marcus Aurelius.

Next, we take some time to visit the Odeon, which is situated near the amphitheatre. Smaller than the amphitheatre, it dates back slightly earlier and seats around 500 spectators. I was most likely used for council meetings and smaller theatrical performances.

After our short tour of Amman, we drive south along the Desert Highway to the Red Sea port city of Aqaba, where we spend a couple of days relaxing in a luxury beach resort.

OVERNIGHT: Aqaba hotel

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS: None

Day 4: Aqaba, free day

Your day today is free to relax and soak up the sun, sea and sand of the Red Sea. There are plenty of water sports to try out or you could head out to explore Aqaba city. The colourful reefs around Aqaba offer some excellent diving opportunities for the qualified diver and for the non-divers, a snorkelling trip is well worth the effort.

OVERNIGHT: Aqaba hotel

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS: Snorkelling in the Red Sea

Day 5: Drive to Wadi Rum, jeep safari & Bedouin camp

Leaving the coast behind, we next drive into the desert for a jeep safari at Wadi Rum. The spectacular mountain scenery here is dominated by the towering, rust-coloured, rocky 'jebels' and beautiful sand dunes. The area is most well known as a hide out for TE Lawrence during the time of the Arab Revolt in 1917-18, and made famous by the film Lawrence of Arabia. We first enjoy a traditional Bedouin lunch, before climbing aboard jeeps for a drive through the sheer cliffs and bizarre rock formation that make up this stunning natural wonder.

We spend the night tonight in a small but extremely comfortable Bedouin camp located right inside the desert reserve, backed against the cliffs and with the desert sands opening out in front of us. You'll sleep in traditional goat hair tents in comfortable beds with all bedding provided.

OVERNIGHT: Deluxe Bedouin desert camp

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

EXTRAS: Camel Ride in Wadi Rum

Day 6: Petra guided tour & free time

After breakfast in the Bedouin camp, we leave the desert and make the short journey to Petra. Your day there starts with a 2-3 hour guided tour of the main sites where you'll learn more about the Nabatean traders who built it, the way the temples and buildings were carved into the colourful rock faces and the reasons behind that, and the history of future occupiers such as the Romans whose ruins include a well preserved amphitheatre. After lunch you have plenty of time to explore the site further, perhaps climbing up to the High Place of Sacrifice, or the huge Monastery from where there are fabulous views over the Jordan Valley.

OVERNIGHT: Petra hotel

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS: Petra by night || Petra camel ride

Day 7: Petra, Little Petra, drive to Dana Nature Reserve

You have the opportunity to revisit Petra this morning if you wish. Later we leave the hotel and visit 'Little Petra', a precursor to the main site at Petra before we drive along the King's Highway to the Dana Nature Reserve. Dana is Jordan's biggest nature reserve, and covers an area of around 320km². Established in 1989, it's the only reserve in Jordan that encompasses all the countries four bio-geographical zones - Irano-Turanian, Saharo Arabian, Mediterranean and Sudanian penetration. This gives rise to a unique diverseness in terms of habitats and species, with more than 690 plants (3 of which were thought to be new to science when discovered) and 449 animal species. 25 of the world's endangered species can be found in the reserve, making it an area of international importance.

We spend the evening at the famous Feynan Eco Lodge and hope for a beautiful sunset enjoying the spectacular views.

OVERNIGHT: Feynan Eco Lodge

MEALS: Breakfast, Dinner

EXTRAS: None

Day 8: Dana Reserve, Kerak castle, King's Highway

We start today with a guided walk through the nature reserve to enjoy the diverse animal and plant life. We then continue driving along the scenic King's Highway to the old crusader fort of Kerak. Built in 1132AD by the Crusader King, Baldwin 1 of Jerusalem, the castle has had a colourful history and still remains largely intact. The views over the surrounding countryside are spectacular.

We continue north navigating the many wadis, including the 1km deep, majestic Wadi al-Mujib, before arriving at Madaba. This important Christian town is home to the famous and priceless Byzantine era mosaics, including one of a 6th century map of Palestine.

We then climb up Mt. Nebo, used as a memorial to Moses, to marvel at the views across the Dead Sea to Israel. On a clear day it's possible to see the domes, spires and minarets of Old Jerusalem. We finally head down out of the hills to the Dead Sea where we spend the night.

OVERNIGHT: Dead Sea hotel

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS: None

Day 9: Visit Baptism site, swim in the Dead Sea

Today we start with a visit to the recently discovered Baptism site. It is believed that John the Baptist lived here, and is therefore likely to be the site that Jesus Christ was baptized.

In the afternoon you have some free time at the Dead Sea to enjoy a swim, or more accurately a float. At over 200m below sea level, the intense salinity - around 33%, of the waters here - caused by the intense evaporation rate, leads to a very strange swimming experience. You can also try covering yourself in the local mud, well known for its therapeutic properties.

OVERNIGHT: Dead Sea hotel

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS: None

Day 10: Tour of Jerash & Ajloun Castle

Our first visit today is to Ajloun Castle, which was built between 1184 and 1185 AD by Izz al-Din Usama - the nephew of Saladin. The castle is thought to be one of only a few such built specifically to protect the country from Crusader attacks. The drive to Ajloun is a lovely one, through hills and mixed forests. In the afternoon we visit the famous Roman remains at Jerash, probably Jordan's second most visited tourist site. The ruins at Jerash are wonderfully well preserved and are a fine example of a provincial Roman city. We take a full guided tour of the site and there is plenty of free time to explore further on your own. Finally we return to Amman for our final night in Jordan.

OVERNIGHT: Amman hotel

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS: None

Day 11: Amman, free time then transfer to airport for departure

You have some free time in Amman today for some last minute shopping or a little extra sightseeing, before our guide transfers you to the airport for departure.

OVERNIGHT: N/A

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS: Extra day in Amman - post-tour

Included

- Accommodation as stated in the itinerary in 5-star hotels
- One night in comfortable Bedouin camp in Wadi Rum
- All transport and transfers in private AC vehicles except Bedouin jeeps in Wadi Rum
- 24-hour airport arrival & departure transfer service
- Sightseeing tours as detailed in the itinerary
- Services of an English speaking escort driver throughout
- Professional guide for the tours in Jerash and Petra (may be extended to the whole tour)
- 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

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 (JOTMJD)

Min numbers: 1 person

Price: \$930.00

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.

Petra by night

Min numbers: 1 person

Price: \$29.00

This magical experience takes you in through the narrow and winding Siq to the Treasury at the entrance to Petra. The whole route and the sand in front of the Treasury is lit up by numerous candles creating a beautiful and atmospheric sight. While at the Treasury you'll also enjoy some traditional Bedouin music and tea.

Extra day in Amman - post-tour

Min numbers: 1 person

Price: \$29.00

This option adds an extra day to the end of your tour, staying in the same hotel as the main tour itself (subject to availability). Your airport departure transfer is still included. Prices shown are per person and based on two people sharing.

Note: Single room and peak season supplements apply.

Extra day in Amman - pre-tour

Min numbers: 1 person

Price:

\$59.00

This option adds an extra day to the start of your tour, staying in the same hotel as the main tour itself (subject to availability). Your airport arrival transfer is still included. Prices shown are per person and based on two people sharing.

Note: Single room and peak season supplements apply.

Private guide supplement (9 days) - OPJOG9

Min numbers: 1 person

Price: \$1330.00

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 a mix of accommodations on this tour including internationally rated 5-star, a deluxe bedouin camp and a beautiful eco-lodge. Accommodation is based on twin, triple or double en-suite rooms with air conditioning. Please visit the accommodation tab of this tour for examples of the hotels normally used on this 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. Transport

Our trips feature a mix of different transport options. We want you to feel like you're really experiencing the country you're travelling through, but at the same time we want you to finish journeys refreshed enough to enjoy the next stage of the tour. The small distances involved in Jordan mean that we use private vehicles throughout this tour. These will be saloon cars, SUVs, minivans, minibuses or small coaches, depending on the number of travellers in the group. All the vehicles we use are air-conditioned and have sufficient space for you to stretch out and accommodate your luggage. All are inspected and checked daily.

The jeeps used in Wadi Rum are provided by the local Bedouins we work with, and while suitable for your desert safari, they may fall below the normal safety and quality standards for vehicles we use during the rest of our tours.

3. Transfers

Your airport transfers are only included on the first and last day of the set tour itinerary, plus on any additional days if you book your hotel room with us. We will provide instructions for where to meet our local representative in the airport after you've arrived, and they will then transfer you to your hotel. If you make your own arrangements for additional accommodation at either the beginning or the end of the tour then you will need to arrange your own airport transfers on these days.

4. International Flights

We want to give you as much flexibility as possible when it comes to booking your holiday with us. So, to take account of people with varying travel plans, we don't include your international flights in the main tour price. We are however very provide suggestions for flights to go with your tour. Please contact us with your preferred dates and departure airport and we'll give you a selection of airlines, times and fares to choose from.

Your airport arrival & departure transfers are included on the first and last days of the tour. Nearly all our Jordan tours start and finish in Amman airport (AMM). The airport is around 40 to 60 minutes drive to central Amman, depending on the time of day and traffic levels.

5. 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.

6. 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](#)

7. 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.

8. Tipping

Tipping for services provided is part of the local culture in Jordan, is often expected, and will be very gratefully received. While the amount you tip is subject to your satisfaction with the services provided and your personal budget, we are often asked for help and guidelines and can therefore suggest that you allow approximately:

- Tour guides: US\$8-10 per person per day

- Drivers: US\$3-5 per person per day
- Restaurants: 10% or leave the change
- Petra horse boys: US\$2-5 (we recommend against riding the horses for animal welfare and safety concerns, but the boys may still expect a tip)

9. 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.

10. 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: Diptheria, 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.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. What to take

Luggage: Suitcases, rucksacks or fabric holdalls are all fine to bring with you to Jordan. You should also bring a small daypack/bag to take out during the day. Your main luggage will normally be left in the hotel during your sightseeing trips – you will not need to carry it far, and there are nearly always hotel porters to assist.

Luggage limits: There is no luggage limit for this tour. However, most airlines restrict you to between 20kg and 25kg for your hold luggage and between 5kg and 10kg for hand luggage. Please check with your airline before travelling to the airport.

Clothing: The climate in Jordan varies widely from hot days in the summer to cool and sometimes wet days in the winter months. At night, especially in the deserts, the temperatures can drop quite dramatically. So you must pack for cool conditions. Formal dress (eg. suits & ties) is not required. Modesty rates highly in Jordan, especially for women, so to respect the local culture & people, please ensure all clothes are loose fitting and not revealing. Shorts (not hot-pants) are OK in tourist sites, as are T-shirts, but these should not show too much bare flesh (we suggest that your shoulders should remain covered). When visiting any mosques, legs and arms should be covered.

Other items: If your tour includes an overnight Bedouin camp then bedding is provided but we recommend bringing a light sleeping sheet or sleeping bag liner for comfort all year round (even with the best efforts, sand does find its way pretty much everywhere). In the winter months, or if you think you would like to sleep under the stars instead of in your tent, then we recommend you bring a sleeping bag with you as it can get very cold at night. We also recommend you bring a sun hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, a basic first aid kit, toiletries, money belt, small torch, camera & charger.

17. 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.

18. 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 prejudge: 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).

19. 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

www.twitter.com/encounterstrav/ (yes, without the 'e')

20. 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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Printed on: Thursday 2nd of July 2020

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.
