

Road to Jerusalem - 11 days

go guide

don't leave home without it



A World Of Discovery



Experience the magic of Jordan & take a spiritual journey to Jerusalem & beyond. Explore the ancient wonders of Petra, 4x4 in Wadi Rum & float like a cork in the Dead Sea. Top it off with an incredible tour of the Holy Land & some of the world's most sacred & historical sites.



WHAT YOU SEE AND WHAT YOU GET

Trip Highlights

- Amman - Citadel, Archaeological Museum and souq
- Jerash - Ruins of ancient Roman city
- Umm Qais - Roman Decapolis city
- Dead Sea - opt for a dip
- Shobak or Karak Crusader castles
- Petra - Nabataean Rose City
- Wadi Rum desert and dunes
- Mt Nebo - views of the Promised Land
- Madaba - Christian market town, Church of St George, Jordan's finest Byzantine mosaics

- Panoramic views of Jerusalem from Mount of Olives
- Jerusalem - Old City - Armenian, Jewish & Christian Quarters
- Wailing Wall
- Cardo (Roman Road), Via Dolorosa, Church of the Holy Sepulchre
- Bethlehem - Shepherd's Field, Rachel's Tomb, Church of the Nativity & Manger Square.
- Nazareth: Church of the Annunciation and Church of St Joseph.
- Miracle sites - Cana, Tiberias, Capernaum and Tabgha (site of the sermon on the Mount & the feeding of the 5000)
- Sea of Galilee
- Umm ar-Rasas - ancient city on the caravan route

What's Included

- Breakfast daily, 2 dinners
- 9 nights - 3 star hotels
- 1 night - Wadi Rum deluxe desert camp
- 4x4 desert safari through the sand dunes of Wadi Rum
- Dead Sea - free time, swim & detox
- Touring of Amman, Jerash, Dead Sea, Petra, Wadi Rum, Umm ar-Rasas, Mt Nebo and Madaba
- Escorted by licenced Jordanian Tour Guide in Jordan
- Touring in Israel - Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Cana, Tiberias, Capernaum & Tabgha
- Airport arrival and departure transfer on day 1 and day 11
- All relevant transfers and transportation in private modern air-conditioned vehicles
- Entrance fees included for sightseeing in Israel.

What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: \$40-50 USD
- Entrance Fees: \$130-150 USD
- Laundry, drinks and items of a personal nature
- International flights and visa
- Tip for your tour guides in Jordan and Israel. We recommend you allow \$3 -

5 USD per day, per traveller. Tipping your tour guides is an entirely personal gesture.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Amman

Saturday. Welcome to Jordan and the start of your holiday! Arrive Amman, included transfer to hotel.
Overnight - Amman

Day 2 : Ancient Cities, Roman Ruins

Amman - Jerash - Umm Qais - Amman. Your tour leader will usually be at your hotel at approximately 7.30am for your welcome meeting. Throughout the tour, you'll be fully briefed by your tour leader as regards touring arrangements. Also, a modest tipping kitty of about will be collected from everyone. This will cover all the tipping throughout the tour (to baggage handlers, porters, drivers and ancillaries), except tips for the tour leader and for Jerusalem.

Driving north, we visit the awesome Roman ruins of Jerash. Second only to Petra in touristic appeal, the 2,000 year-old Graeco-Roman ruins of Jerash are recognised as one of the best-preserved member cities of the Decapolis, a confederation of 10 Graeco-Roman cities. We'll explore the site, taking in the colonnaded street, amphitheatre, nymphaeum, forum and more before continuing to town of Umm Qais, which is the site of the ancient Graeco-Roman town of Gadara, and provides panoramic views over the Sea of Galilee and the Golan Heights.

Gadara was renowned for its cosmopolitan atmosphere, attracting an array of writers, artists, philosophers and poets. It also served as a resort for Romans vacationing in the nearby al-Hemma hot springs. A considerable portion of the original Roman architecture has survived and we have the day to explore. **Overnight - Amman (B)**

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This Go Guide has been compiled with care and good faith. It gives an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. This document does not form part of a contract between the traveller and on the go and their affiliates. Any costs shown are subject to change though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of on the go

updated on 19-01-2012



Day 3 : Mt Nebo & Umm ar Rasas

Amman - Mt Nebo - Umm ar Rasas - Petra. Today, we tour the citadel, Archaeological Museum and enjoy free time in the local souq before visiting Mt Nebo to take in the views of the Promised Land. Later we explore the roman ruins and beautiful mosaics of Umm ar-Rasas. The mosaic floor of the Church of St Stephen dates to 785, over 150 years after Muslim rule was established in Jordan, and depicts the cities of the day including Jerusalem, with Palestinian cities below such as Nablus and Gaza and seven Trans-Jordanian cities including Philadelphia (modern-day Amman), Madaba and Karak. **Overnight - Petra (B)**

Day 4 : The Rose City



Wadi Musa (Petra). Chief among Jordan's many archaeological riches is the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Rose City of Petra. We access the hidden archaeological treasures of the Rose City on a walk through a narrow, deep siq, where the rocks finally give way to reveal the famous facade of the Kazneh-the Treasury of Petra. It's natural to have an Indiana Jones moment here as it was this building that served as the Holy Grail's resting place and the prize Indy so coveted.

As the Treasury is passed, the hidden valley widens to reveal the remains of the city proper. Continuing our walk, we'll then go on to explore chunks of this fantastic once-lost city. Petra is an erosion-hewn masterpiece. Sandstone shot with minerals burst into colour giving off blue, red, orange and green hues. Our exploration takes us past many tombs, temples, an impressive amphitheatre and a Roman colonnaded street. Concluding the guided aspect of the tour, you're free to head off and further explore. Want to learn how to cook Middle Eastern food? Consider opting for our Petra Kitchen bolt-on tonight! See our website or brochure for details. **Overnight - Petra (B)**

Day 5 : Wadi Rum

Wadi Musa (Petra) - Wadi Rum. A chance to revisit Petra before our afternoon drive south to Wadi Rum. A vast, silent landscape of ancient riverbeds, pastel coloured stretches of sandy desert and amazing rock formations known as jebels that rise from the desert floor, the desert landscape of Wadi Rum represents some of the most stunning countryside on the planet. Wadi Rum possesses unspoiled natural beauty forged by millions of years of geological formation, erosion and evolution. The region is also home to the semi - nomadic Bedouin

living in their great goat's hair tents, tending their herds of sheep and goat and preserving an ancient lifestyle that has been practiced in the Arabian desert for thousands of years.

Boarding 4 x 4s, we can get up close and personal to the surrounding scenery. Tonight, we enjoy a Jordanian dinner. Camp under the stars or in the provided tents. **Overnight - Wadi Rum (B, D)**

Day 6 : Karak Castle & the Dead Sea

Wadi Rum - Karak - Dead Sea - Madaba. This morning, we explore the well preserved 12th century crusader castle of Al Karak. It took the Crusaders some twenty years to erect their fortified stronghold, which through the proceeding centuries withstood countless attack and siege. Once finished in 1161, it became the residence of the lord of Transjordan, by then the most important fief of the Crusader kingdom, rich in produce and tax revenues. Note: Shobak crusader castle maybe visited as an alternative to Karak.

Descending some 1300 metres to the lowest point on the earth's surface we arrive at the Dead Sea. Sitting at 422 metres below sea level we spend the afternoon swimming, lathering up with a detoxifying mud bath and bobbing about in the ever warm mineral-rich body of water. After we drive onward to the bustling Muslim-Christian market town of Madaba. **Overnight - Madaba (B, D)**

Day 7 : 6th Century Madaba

Madaba. Mentioned in the Old Testament, the prime attractions of the venerable town of Madaba are its many 6th-century Byzantine mosaics. Perhaps the most impressive of these is an enormous 6th-century map of Palestine and Egypt that is located in St. George's Greek Orthodox Church. A few blocks from the church is the town's museum, which contains mosaics found in other parts of the region, as well as other ancient artifacts. The nearby mosaic school, established to teach the restoration of these rare artworks, is the only one of its kind in the Middle East. Small shops sell excellent copies of miniature mosaics. **Overnight - Madaba (B)**

Day 8 : Jerusalem



Madaba - Jerusalem - breakfast. You will be picked up from your hotel in Madaba at 9.00 and taken to the Jordanian border - the King Hussein/ Allenby bridge, once you have been through Jordanian border controls, you will then ride a public shuttle

bus for approx 1 kilometre (cost approx \$3) to Israeli immigration, (see visa section for more info) and once you reach Israeli side of the border you will be picked up by a local driver who will take you to your hotel.

The rest of your afternoon is free, there is time to explore this ancient city, or perhaps take a trip to the Israel Museum where you can admire fine art and view many rare artifacts including the Dead Sea Scrolls. In the evening why not pay a visit to one of the many great restaurants in town? **Overnight - Jerusalem (B, D)**

Day 9 : Bethlehem

Jerusalem. After breakfast you will be picked up and taken for a coach tour of this beautiful city and its surrounds. (Please note that touring in Israel is run in conjunction with other tourist groups, not solely on the go). We stop at the holy Mount of Olives where you can get some amazing panoramic photos of the old city. Disembarking the coach we continue on foot to really absorb the wonders of the Old City—a world heritage site since 1981 - which is brimming with culture and history.

We walk through the Armenian and Jewish quarters with archaeological remains on display in a series of museums and outdoor parks that can be viewed by descending two or three stories beneath the level of the current city. We then continue to the old Roman road Cardo Maximus, (meaning "the main line") which was once the main royal road in Jerusalem, and is estimated to have been built in the 6th Century AD, and this takes us to the Wailing Wall or 'Kotel', where we will witness people immersed in prayer or seeking spiritual guidance, as the Jewish people believe that the presence of God resides here.

We continue to the Christian quarter, which is built around the beautiful church of the Holy Sepulchre - one of the holiest places for Christian religion, as it is at Golgotha, the site of Jesus' Crucifixion and burial. We reach the Holy Sepulchre by walking down the emotive Via Dolorosa, (Way of Suffering or Way of Grief) a pilgrimage route that bears the Stations of the Cross. Once inside the church we can visit the opulent marble tomb of Jesus. Continuing our tour we jump back on the coach and drive towards Bethlehem, visiting the Shepherds' field. Next stop is the birthplace of Jesus, the revered Church of the Nativity and Manger Square. Spend the evening at leisure in Jerusalem. **Overnight - Jerusalem (D)**

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Day 10 : Nazareth



This morning you will be picked up at 9.00am from your hotel to embark upon another full day of sightseeing. We head to Nazareth - the home of Joseph and Mary, visiting the famous Church of the Annunciation and St Joseph. Heading north via Cana - where Jesus turned water into wine, we reach the shores of the Sea of Galilee and visit the miracle sites of Capernum, Tiberias and Tagbha - site of the famous miracle of the feeding of the five thousand. We travel back to Jerusalem where you can spend your final evening relaxing or exploring. **Overnight - Jerusalem (B, D)**

Day 11 : Amman

Jerusalem – Amman. This morning we head back to Jordan. Included onward transfer to Amman's Queen Alia airport or Madaba hotel. If you have time to spare before your flight, you can enjoy some free time in Madaba before we transfer you to Amman airport.

NOTE: If you are flying from Amman today please ensure that you book a flight departing after 5pm, in case of unforeseen delays at the border. If you have time to spare in Jordan, you can always use the facilities at the Madaba hotel to freshen up and take some time to wander around the town before we transfer you to the airport for your onward flight home.(B)

Arriving to Israel

To complete your Israeli Immigration form you will need to give details of your accommodation in Israel. The hotel details are as follows:
Jerusalem Gold Hotel,
234 Jaffa Road, Jerusalem 94383, Israel
Phone: +972-2-501-3333

On The Go Tours Operations contact in Jerusalem, Mike – 00972 523 242 289

After completing immigration your driver will transfer you to the Jerusalem Gold Hotel. As today is the Sabbath hotel check in will not be till after sunset. The afternoon and evening offeres free time. You are welcome to wait at the hotel till check or you can use the time to head out and explore the city - devoid of traffic.

Israeli Passport Stamps

Many Arabic and some Islamic countries still will not let you enter the country if you have an Israeli stamp in your passport. Avoid this issue by asking the immigration official to stamp your visa onto the

entry card rather than your passport when you hand the passport over, just politely specify 'NO STAMP PLEASE'. Be aware that Syria and Lebanon in particular may also refuse you entry if they see a Jordan entry stamp from the King Hussein/Allenby bridge so also remember to ask the Jordanian officials to stamp on a separate piece of paper when you re enter Jordan.

Please be aware that there is an Israeli departure tax (approx USD\$48) but you will not need to purchase another Jordanian entry visa for Jordan, as your original tourist visa will still be valid.

Road to Jerusalem/Perseid's Meteor Shower - 11 Aug 2012

The Perseids meteor shower is a spectacular celestial light show, that has mystified and amazed sky watchers for nearly 2000 years. The night sky is lit up by often over 60 meteors per hour, streaking across the darkness. As with all celestial events, the Perseids is best observed in completely clear night sky and where better than Jordan's Wadi Rum desert, which is renowned for its beautiful blanket of stars.

You can witness the incredible Perseids Meteor shower from our desert camp in Wadi Rum, where you will spend two incredible nights stargazing, when the meteor shower is at its peak by joining one of our special Meteor Shower tours. Our special Road to Jerusalem meteor departure starting Saturday 11th August 2012, includes two spellbinding nights of stargazing in the wonderful setting of the Jordanian desert.

If departing on Road to Jerusalem tour - 11 Aug 2012, tour arrangements are as follows:

Days 1 - 2: as per our standard itinerary

Day 3: Visit to Mt Nebo and Madaba to view the fascinating two million stone piece map of the Holy Land in the Church of St. George.

Arrive to Wadi Rum and take a jeep safari through the area before dinner and night of stargazing begins. The Perseids shower occurs once a year and has been observed for the last 2000 years. At it's peak the meteors rain down at a rate of about 60 meteors per hour. The clear and night sky of the Jordanian desert is the ideal place from which to view these celestial wonders. The Perseids were traditionally known as the "tears of St Lawrence" because they often appeared around the saint's feast day. Dinner & overnight - Wadi Rum

Day 4: Camel trek through the Wadi Rum and another night of amazing meteor showers and star gazing. Breakfast, lunch, dinner & overnight - Wadi Rum

Day 5: Early morning drive from Wadi Rum to Petra. Guided tour of the Rose City of Petra. Overnight - Petra

Day 6: Petra. Petra tour. Enter the city via the Al Madras route. Overnight - Petra

Day 7: An early start. Visits to the Dead Sea and Shobak Crusader Castle. Overnight - Madaba

Days 8 - 11: as per our standard itinerary

Dinners in Jerusalem

Whilst staying in Jerusalem, dinner is included each evening in the hotel. You are best to reconfirm this information with the hotel reception upon check in. Most of the time dinner is served on the lower ground floor in the breakfast/dining room, though on occasion it is served in the restaurant area adjacent to the hotel lobby. You are best to check with reception each evening before heading to dinner. Meals (breakfast and dinners) in the hotel are Kosher. Meaning that you will never find dairy products served with beef. Pork will not be served nor will various types of shellfish. The combinations may seem a little unusual though there is always plenty of choice to provide a satisfying meal.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Wadi Rum Desert Camp

Most of our tours include a night in the Wadi Rum desert where you can choose to camp under the stars or in tents at our remote Bedouin camp. Our camp is set amongst towering weathered sandstone rocks and rolling red sand dunes. It has permanent tents with twin beds (raised off the ground), proper toilets and a cold water showers. There is a large communal tent, roughly 10m x 6m with proper seating for dining and another area with low tables and cushions scattered about where we gather at night. Each evening traditional Bedouin food is served and there is often a little light entertainment around the campfire. Desert camping, although basic, is fun and it's the best way to experience Wadi Rum.

Bedding is provided at our camp, though you are best advised to bring your own sleep sheet. If visiting in winter (Nov - Mar) bring your own winterweight sleeping bag as temperatures can be very cold.

Visas

A Jordan visa is required by all visitors to Jordan. These are issued at both the border and airport upon arrival. Visas for UK, EU, AUS, NZ, CAN and USA passport holders are issued at Amman International Airport, where the cost is currently 20JD (USD\$30) for single entry. It is no longer possible to get a multiple entry visa for Jordan.

If planning to leave for Syria, Egypt or Israel and reenter you will need to purchase a second visa (with the exception of crossing at the King Hussein/Allenby Bridge whereby a second visa is not required), which will be easily obtainable at the border.

If arriving to Jordan via Aqaba Seaport (the port of entry if arriving from Egypt) a visa is issued free of charge.

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Note: all RSA passport holders and passport holders other than those listed above, must obtain their Jordanian visa prior to departure. Please note that visa requirements are subject to change. Visa procurement is solely the responsibility of the traveller and not of On The Go Tours.

Departure tax

If departing via Queen Alia International Airport there is no departure tax as this has been included in the cost of your departing flight ticket.

If departing Jordan via land or sea, a 5JD departure tax must be paid at the point of exit.

Climate

The maximum daily temperature in Amman ranges from 12°C in January to 32°C in August. The weather in the Jordan Valley (Petra) and south of the country is very hot during the summer months of April through to September. Where here, daytime temperatures can exceed 38°C and increase to as high as 49°C. The sun can be fierce so it is advised to apply plenty of sunscreen, especially at the Dead Sea.

In winter (December to February) temperatures can range from 0°C to 12°C. If visiting during winter, you will need to pack warm clothes for sightseeing, although the Dead Sea region will still be quite warm. If your holiday includes a stay in the Wadi Rum desert, winter wear items such as hat, scarf and gloves are also advised.

Health Requirements

It is recommended that you be vaccinated for Tetanus and Polio, if you haven't had a booster in the last ten years. Food and waterborne diseases are more common, so we recommend vaccinations for typhoid (valid 3 years) and Hepatitis A (validity varies). Vaccination requirements can change so please check with your local health care provider before travel.

Currency

Pounds Sterling, US Dollars and Euros are easily exchanged in Jordan. You can obtain Jordanian Dinar (JD) at any major bank or your hotel.

USD 1 = 0.71JD

GBP 1 = 1.09JD

EURO 1 = 1.0JD

AUD 1 = 0.75JD

Exchange rates are subject to fluctuations.

Funds collected in Jordan for entrance fees or optional excursion that you may wish to undertake are payable in local currency (JD).

Time

Time Zone - Jordan is two hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time

Essential Packing

- Camping at Wadi Rum - Bedding is provided at our Bedouin camp, though please bring your own sleeping bag liner. If visiting in winter (Nov - Mar) bring your own winter weight sleeping bag as

temperatures can be very cold. You will also need to pack Insect repellent and a torch/ headlamp would be very useful

- If visiting in winter, pack warm clothes and an umbrella.
- If summer bring lightweight clothing, sunscreen & a hat.
- 2 pin (European) and 3 pin (UK) electrical adaptors as the sockets vary from one hotel to another.
- Tour voucher and a copy of your travel insurance
- Two spare passport photos & a photocopy of your passport
- Proper walking shoes (joggers/ trainers) for sightseeing in Petra

Arrival Transfer

Upon arrival at Queen Alia airport in Amman our representative will meet you prior to immigration. He will be standing prior to the queue for immigration, holding an On The Go Tours logo signboard. Our representative will accompany you through immigration to the baggage area and arrival hall. Here, he will introduce you to our driver who will transfer you to your hotel. Please have your tour voucher handy and make it available to our representative and driver.

If for any reason you have trouble locating our representative (after waiting 20 minutes at immigration) or your flight to Jordan is delayed, please call or send a text message to emergency contact number as stated on your tour voucher.

Petra Park Services Charge

In addition to the entrance fee required to visit the archaeological site of Petra, there is a compulsory Petra Park Services Charge. The service charge (currently 29 JD) supports the local Bedouin community and also allows you to ride an Arabian Horse inside Petra. As you have paid this obligatory charge, you are entitled to ride a horse 800m down to the entrance gate. IMPORTANTLY - On The Go Tours only recommends that you do so if you are an experienced rider. Through experience we have observed that some of the horses can be uncontrollable and very fiery and if the Bedouin riders race past you, your horse may take flight and follow suit. You'll also need to tip the horse handler an extra 2JD. The decision to ride a horse is a personal one.

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