

Totally Jordan - 8 Days

go guide

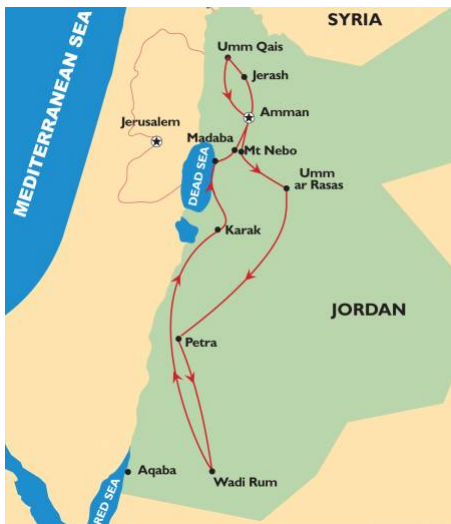
don't leave home without it



A World Of Discovery



Check out Roman ruins, crusader castles and the views across the holy lands, bob like a cork on the Dead Sea, range across the ruins at the Rose City of Petra and enjoy a desert safari at stunning Wadi Rum. All this in eight totally amazing days!



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
- Petra - Nabataean Rose City
- Wadi Rum desert
- Umm ar-Rasas - ancient walled city on the caravan route
- Mt Nebo - view across the Promised Land
- Madaba - Christian market town, Church of St George, Jordan's finest Byzantine mosaics

What's Included

- Breakfast daily, 2 dinners
- 6 nights 3 star hotels
- 1 night - Wadi Rum deluxe desert camp
- 4 x 4 desert safari through the sand dunes of Wadi Rum
- Dead Sea - free time, swim & detox
- Touring of Amman, Jerash, Umm Qais, Dead Sea, Petra, Wadi Rum, Umm ar-Rasas, Mt Nebo and Madaba
- Airport arrival and departure transfer on day 1 and day 8
- Escorted by licenced Jordanian Tour Guide
- All relevant transfer and transportation in private modern air-conditioned vehicles

What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: \$40-50 USD
- Entrance Fees: \$130-150 USD
- International flights and visa
- Laundry, drinks and items of a personal nature
- Tip for your tour guide. We recommend you allow \$3 - 5 USD per day, per traveller. Tipping your guide 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 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.

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. When Emperor Hadrian paid a visit in 129 AD, the place was buzzing. The citizens threw up a Triumphal Arch for him which still stands today. Exemplifying the finesse of Roman urban life, the town boasts a hippodrome, the old sports field that once held 15,000 spectators, a stunning amphitheatre with amazing acoustic abilities, the forum which gracefully links the main north-south axis of Jerash, a colonnaded street paved with original stones and the rut marks of chariots, a nymphaeum replete with ancient fountains trimmed with dolphins and various temples. From here, we travel to the modern town of Umm Qais, which is the site of the ancient Graeco-Roman town of Gadara, one of the cities of the Decapolis with panoramic views over the Sea of Galilee and the Golan Heights. Gadara was renowned for its cosmopolitan atmosphere,

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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. Gadara was blessed with fertile soil, abundant water and a location astride a number of key trading routes connecting Asia and Europe. The city thrived until the Byzantine era which witnessed the decline of Gadara into relative obscurity. Earthquakes destroyed many buildings, and by the dawn of the Islamic era Gadara had become just another village. The town became known by the Arabic name Umm Qais during the Middle Ages. Today, a considerable portion of the original Roman amphitheatre has survived. The seats face west, and are brought to life at sunset.

Next to the theatre is a colonnaded street that once probably was the town's commercial heart. Also near the black basalt theatre are the columns of the great Basilica of Gadara. Further west along the colonnaded street are a mausoleum and public baths. **Overnight - Amman (B)**

Day 3 : Mt Nebo & Umm ar Rasas



Amman - Mt Nebo - Umm ar Rasas - Petra. This morning, we tour the citadel of Amman, Archaeological Museum and enjoy free time shopping in the local souq, before visiting Mt Nebo - the single most important biblical site in Jordan. Having led the Israelites for 40 years through the wilderness, Moses finally saw, from this awesome vantage point, the Promised Land, that God forbid him to set foot in. We too can enjoy the excellent views offered of the Jordan River Valley, the northern shore of the Dead Sea, Jericho on the opposite bank and (on clear days) the towers on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem.

Later we visit Umm ar Rasas, a haunted deserted city on the ancient caravan routes. The village is the site of the now ruinous Roman garrison town of Kastrom Mefaa, which developed during the Byzantine and Umayyad periods into a relatively important city. Large mosaic floors from two of its dozen or more churches have been painstakingly cleaned and protected. 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. The city was first settled around the 6th century BC by the Nabataean tribe from Western Arabia. A succession of habitation, leadership and further development followed, but as the caravan trade routes were gradually displaced by the advent of sea trade routes, the city's importance gradually declined and Petra passed into obscurity. Rediscovered in 1812 by the young Swiss explorer Jean Louis Burckhardt, it remains on the list of many travellers. The approach to Petra is very undulating. The town itself is set across some rather steep hills that wend downwards to the star attraction, the Rose City.

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 more of this fantastic once-lost city.

In all, there are some 800 registered sites in Petra, including some 500 tombs. Just as fascinating as the rock-carved monuments are the rocks themselves. Petra is an erosion-hewn masterpiece. Sandstone shot with minerals burst into colour giving off blue, red, orange and green hues. Amongst the rocky and sometimes jagged scenery, it's sometimes hard to know what is man-made and what is the result of pure nature. 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. The intrepid can ascend the hundreds of rock-cut steps to Ad-Deir. Better known as the Monastery, Ad-Deir has a similar facade to that of the Treasury, but is far bigger and the views from the nearby cliff-tops are awesome.

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



Petra - Wadi Rum. A chance to revisit Petra before our afternoon drive 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 desertscape of Wadi Rum represents some of the most stunning countryside on the planet. Boarding 4 x 4s jeeps, we take a safari through the sand dunes, getting up close and personal to the surrounding scenery of Wadi Rum. Tonight, we enjoy a Jordanian dinner. **Overnight - Wadi Rum (B, D)**

Day 6 : Dead Sea

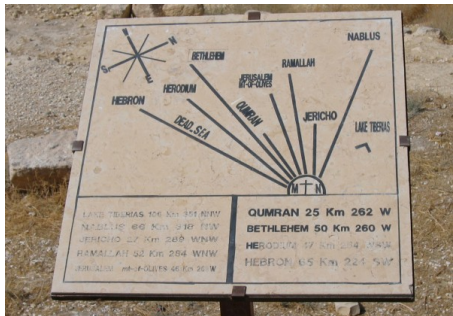


Wadi Rum - Karak - Dead Sea - Madaba. This morning, we explore the vast well preserved 12th century crusader castle of Al Karak. It took the Crusaders some twenty years to erect their fortified stronghold, which through the preceding centuries withstood countless attack and siege. Once finished in 1161, 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, depending upon weather and opening times.

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 mudbath 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 : 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 : Madaba

Saturday. Madaba - Amman Airport. Explore Madaba your way, before hotel check-out and included onward departure transfer to Amman's Queen Alia airport.(B)

Totally Jordan Perseid's Meteor Shower - 11 Aug 2012 departure

Witness the amazing celestial spectacle of the Perseids Meteor shower on our special Totally Jordan meteor departure starting 11 August 2012 which includes two spellbinding nights of stargazing in the wonderful setting of the Jordanian desert.

If departing on Totally Jordan - Perseid's Meteor Shower tour arrangements are as follows:

Days 1 - 2: as standard

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

Day 8: Madaba. Departure transfer to the airport.

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 their 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.

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.

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- 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 archeological 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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