

perseids meteor shower - 8 days

# go guide

don't leave home without it



## tour spotlight

### what you see

- Amman
- Jerash - Ruins of ancient Roman city
- Umm Qais - Roman Decapolis city
- Dead Sea - opt for a dip
- Petra - Nabataean Rose City
- Wadi Rum desert
- 2 nights of Perseids Meteor showers
- Mt Nebo - views across the Promised land
- Madaba - Christian market town home to Byzantine mosaics and Church of St George

### what you get

- Breakfast daily, 1 lunch, 2 dinners
- 5 nights - 3 ★ hotels, 2 nights - Wadi Rum desert camp
- Wadi Rum 4x4 safari and camel safari
- Incredible views of the Perseids Meteor Shower
- Dead Sea free time swim and detox
- Airport arrival and departure transfer - days 1 & 8
- Touring and excursions as per itinerary
- Escorted by a licensed Jordanian guide
- Local English speaking specialist guides at some local sights
- All relevant transfers and transportation in private modern air-conditioned vehicles



## on location

Your guide to on the ground...

### visa requirements

Visas are required by all visitors to Jordan. These are issued at both the border and airport upon arrival, and are also easily procured from the Jordanian Embassy in London. RSA nationals should obtain visas in advance. Visas are required by all visitors to Jordan. These can be obtained at the airport and most land borders. Visas for UK, EU, AUS, NZ, CAN and USA passport holders are issued at Amman International Airport, where the cost is currently USD\$30 for a single entry. However, it is your responsibility to check that this still applies before your departure to Jordan. Additionally when

leaving the country there is a USD\$22 departure tax imposed upon passengers departing via any Jordanian airport.

### climate

Temperatures in Jordan are generally high, particularly during the summer months from May to September, when the sun can be fierce and temperatures are at industrial levels, so take sunscreen. From December to February temperatures can range from 0 C - just 12 C. If visiting during winter, you will need to pack warm clothes for sightseeing, and also for your stay in the desert at Wadi Rum.

### time

Jordan is 2 hours ahead of GMT.

### money

1 USD = 0.71JD 1 GBP = 1.15JD 1 EUR = 0.97JD 1 AUD = 0.72JD (subject to fluctuation). Exchange facilities are available at various bureau de changes and banks in major towns have ATMs.

### 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.

## how much?

- **ENTRANCE FEES**  
Jordan entrance fees are not included in your tour. Payable in JD, please budget approx USD90-120
- **TIPPING**  
A small tipping kitty will be collected from all tour participants to cover tips en route payable in JD.  
Your guide (suggested amount) USD40-50 USD20-30
- **Mineral water** (local brand, 500ml or 1L) JD0.50-1.50
- **Can of coke** JD0.50-1.50
- **Beer** (local brew Stella - 500ml approx) JD1-3
- **Meal for 2** (entree, main, a beer, local restaurant) JD12-30

## things to bring

- Bedding is provided at our Bedouin camp in Wadi Rum, 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.
- 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

## top experiences

- Step into Indiana Jones shoes at the amazing Rose City of Petra.
- Float like a cork in the mineral rich Dead Sea
- Range across the amazing ruins of the Roman city of Jerash and check out how the Romans lived.
- Chart the stunning desertscape of Wadi Rum aboard a 4x4 desert safari and make like Lawrence of Arabia
- Enjoy some Red Sea relaxation
- Cook up a traditional Jordanian feast at the Petra Kitchen
- Take a candlelit stroll through the siq to the treasury and discover Petra by Night





# perseids meteor shower 8 days - itinerary

## day 1 - amman

Saturday 11th August 2012. Welcome to Jordan and the start of your holiday! Arrive Amman, included transfer to hotel and overnight.

## day 2 - jerash & umm qais

Amman - Jerash - Umm Qais - Amman - breakfast. 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, 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.

## day 3 - perseids meteor shower

Amman - Mt Nebo - Madaba - Wadi Rum - breakfast. We head to 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. We then proceed to Madaba, a bustling Muslim-Christian market town. Famed for its Byzantine mosaics, including the fascinating map of the Holy

Land made in the 6th century out of two million stone pieces and now housed in the Greek Orthodox Church of St. George, Madaba, its mosaics, quaint village shops and local market are all here to explore. Next we head to Wadi Rum.

Upon arrival in Wadi Rum, we enjoy a jeep safari through the area once favoured by the legendary Lawrence of Arabia and his Arab uprising. Wadi Rum is 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.

Tonight, we enjoy a Jordanian dinner before the stargazing begins. The Perseids shower occurs once a year and has been observed for the last 2000 years. At its 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 and overnight - Wadi Rum

## day 4 - camel trek & stargazing

Wadi Rum - breakfast. Today we get the chance to experience Wadi Rum as the Bedouins do - by camel. Until recently, the Bedouins were a nomadic people who made their living through looking after their herds of goats. Although most of the Bedouins have now become villagers, they still rely on the goats for the milk, yoghurt and cheese, and some families do return for a part of the year to a wandering existence, minding their flocks. As we ride through Wadi Rum on camel back we have a chance to see some of the desert wildlife including many small birds and various Geckos and Agamas, including the striking bright blue Agama. Then it's back to the camp for relaxation and dinner, before another night of amazing meteor showers and stargazing. Lunch, dinner and overnight - Wadi Rum camp.

## day 5 - the rose city

Wadi Rum - Wadi Musa (Petra) - breakfast. 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 wind 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.

## day 6 - wadi musa

Breakfast. Enjoy another day in Wadi Musa (the town where Petra is located) and explore the local town or venture back into Petra itself for more exploration. If the climb to the Monastery wasn't too daunting perhaps today climb to the high places of Sacrifice for a spectacular view over the complex of Petra. Overnight - Petra.

## day 7 - dead sea and madaba

Petra - Shobak - Dead Sea - Madaba - breakfast. Today it's an early start (approx 5am) as we head the Dead Sea for a chance to take a dip in the mineral-rich waters. Straddling the border between Israel and Jordan, the Dead Sea is the lowest spot on the Earth's surface. The mineral content of this 75-km-long and 10-km-wide saltwater lake tops out at 33%. Think of a glass of water a third full of salt! The Dead Sea should be seen (and stepped into) at least once in one's lifetime! In addition, and perhaps famously, the intense salinity creates an unusually high degree of buoyancy. Opt for a dip, and you'll bob about like a rubber duck in a bath, without any effort at all. No life rings needed here! En route we will visit the 12th Century Crusader Fortress of Shobak.

However, a few top tips to make your dip a memorable one;

- Don't shave shortly before swimming (the high mineral content will leave you with a stinging face, neck, legs or armpits).
- Take some eye drops along (getting even a tiny drop of the thick water in your eye is painful).
- After swimming be sure to use the freshwater shower facilities where you can rinse off. Otherwise, the sea's minerals will leave an uncomfortable crust on your skin.

Leaving the Dead Sea region, we then head off to Madaba where there is a chance to do some final sightseeing and souvenir buying - why not get a miniature mosaic from one of the gift shops? Or perhaps just relax in a café or bar and watch the world go by. Overnight - Madaba

## day 8 - amman

Saturday. Madaba - Airport - breakfast. Hotel check-out and included onward transfer to airport.

\*The go guide & information contained herein has been compiled with care and in good faith. It is as accurate an illustration as can be given with regard to the proposed itinerary. Circumstances beyond our control such as inclement weather or local conditions could force us to amend the proposed itinerary. This document does not form part of a contract between the client and on the go and their affiliates. Any costs shown may be subject to change but are an accurate reflection of costs at the time of writing this go guide. Please also be advised that visa requirements are subject to change and remain the responsibility of the traveller and not that of on the go.



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