

# Road to Jerusalem

## 11 days | Amman to Tel Aviv



*Combine Jordan and Israel on one unforgettable trip. Discover the wonders of Petra, camp out in Wadi Rum and float like a cork in the Dead Sea before crossing the border into Israel. Take in the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem and the oldest church in the world in Bethlehem before travelling down the Mediterranean Coast from Haifa to Tel Aviv.*

### HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

#### Trip Highlights

- Amman - Ancient hilltop citadel, fascinating Archaeological Museum and the bustling souqs
- Jerash - Ruins of the ancient Roman city, which at over 2000 years old is still surprisingly well-preserved
- Umm Qais - Roman Decapolis city, once a cultural centre and home to poets and great philosophers
- Dead Sea - Beautiful landscape with warm buoyant mineral-rich waters
- Shobak Crusader Castle - Perched dramatically on a hill top
- Petra - UNESCO-listed fabled Nabataean city that was all but lost to the modern world until its rediscovery in 1812
- Wadi Rum - Vast red desert landscape with rolling dunes and dramatic rock formations
- Mt Nebo - Perhaps one of the most sacred sites in Jordan with views across the Promised Land
- Panoramic views of Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives
- Madaba - Christian market town, Church of St George and Jordan's finest Byzantine mosaics
- Umm ar-Rasas - An ancient city and important stop on the caravan route between east and west
- Wadi Mujib - Trek the Siq Trail of Wadi Mujib Biosphere Reserve
- Jerusalem's West Bank - The Armenian, Jewish and Christian Quarters of the Old City, the Wailing Wall, Cardo (Roman Road), Via Dolorosa and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre
- Bethlehem's West Bank - Shepherd's Field, Rachel's Tomb, Church of the Nativity and Manger Square
- Haifa - Walk through the beautiful terraces of the Bahai Gardens, set on the slopes of Mount Carmel and see the UNESCO listed Bahai Shrine
- Caesarea - Discover Roman and Crusader-era ruins
- Jaffa - Stroll around the picturesque fortified old town
- Tel Aviv - Independently explore Israel's "City That Never Sleeps" and its beautiful beaches

#### What's Included

- Breakfast daily and 4 dinners
- 9 nights 4 star hotels
- 1 night Wadi Rum deluxe desert camp
- Wadi Rum - 4x4 desert safari through the sand dunes
- Dead Sea - Free time to swim and detox
- Touring in Jordan - Amman, Jerash, Dead Sea, Petra, Wadi Rum, Shobak, Umm ar-Rasas, Mt Nebo and Madaba
- Touring in Israel - Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Haifa, Caesarea and Jaffa
- Escorted by licensed Jordanian and Israel guides and some English speaking specialist guides at some local sights
- Airport arrival and departure transfer day 1 and day 11
- All relevant transfers and transportation in private modern air-conditioned vehicles

#### What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: USD\$40-60pp, paid in local currency
- Entrance Fees: USD\$140-160pp, paid in local currency
- International flights and visas (see Trip Notes for further information about visas)
- Tip for your tour guides in Jordan and Israel. We recommend you allow USD

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\$5-7 per day, per traveller. Tipping your tour guides is an entirely personal gesture

## COVID SAFE GUIDE

## DETAILED ITINERARY

### Day 1 : Amman

Saturday. Welcome to Jordan and the start of an amazing adventure. Arrive in Amman and enjoy an included transfer to our hotel. The remainder of today is at your leisure to independent explore or simply relax.

#### Overnight - Amman

### Day 2 : Ancient cities, Roman ruins

Amman - Jerash - Umm Qais - Amman. Your tour guide will usually be at your hotel at approximately 7.30am for your Welcome Meeting. Throughout the tour, you are fully briefed by your tour guide with regards to your touring arrangements. At the Welcome Meeting, a modest tipping kitty is collected from everyone (as noted under exclusions on page one of this document). This tip kitty covers all the tipping throughout your tour (to baggage handlers, porters, drivers and ancillaries). The tip for your tour guide is not included in this tip kitty and should be given at the end of your touring arrangements in Jordan and then in Israel, for a job well done (for information about tipping, see "Tipping" further down this document).

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 and 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.

Later this evening, we head out for a meal and a stroll along Rainbow Street to experience modern Amman with its hip bars, rooftop restaurants, art studios and bookshops.

#### Overnight - Amman (B, D)

### Day 3 : Mt Nebo & Umm ar Rasas

Amman - Madaba - Mount Nebo - Umm ar Rasas - Petra. Today we tour the citadel and Archaeological Museum of Amman before we take a walk through the bustling local souk to enjoy typical Jordanian street treats of falafel and hummus at the country's most popular local street stand. As the pictures on the wall will prove, the unglamorous food stand was a great favourite of the late King Hussein.

Leaving Amman, we stop first at Mt. Nebo, the site from which Moses saw the Promised Land. Having led the Israelites for 40 years through the wilderness, Moses finally saw them from this awesome vantage point. This amazing panorama includes the Jordan River Valley, the Dead Sea, Jericho and the spires and domes of the Mt. of Olives and Bethlehem on the Judean hills just across the wide valley. Later, we visit Madaba en route to Petra where we see the Church of St George, the Madaba Archaeological Park, Apostles Church and Madaba Museum.

Our next port of call is Um ar-Rasas, one of Jordan's World Heritage sites and once an important stop on the busy caravan routes. The impressive mosaic floor of the St. Stephen Church features medallions commemorating all the early Christian pilgrimage sites of the region, and the extensive ruins also include one of the area's earliest Stylite towers, where a Byzantine hermit lived atop the tower and preached to the pilgrimage visitors.

Our final stop of the day is Petra. Consider doing the Petra by Night excursion (payable locally) for a tantalizing candlelight stroll through Petra's Siq... a romantic preview of things to come. **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 our 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

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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. Continuing our walk, we'll go on to explore parts 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 our Petra Kitchen Add-on tonight! See our website for details.

Today's sightseeing tour of Petra is conducted at a moderate pace covering approximately 12 - 15km (including the Monastery). Much of the ground will be rocky and uneven and you will need to have an average level of fitness to complete the full tour. There will be short breaks along the way. Some travellers choose not to complete the full tour and skip the climb to the Monastery and should you do this you'll be able to independently explore and stroll back toward the siq at a leisurely pace.

**Overnight - Petra (B)**

### Day 5 : 4x4 Wadi Rum and camping under the stars



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 desertscape 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 practised in the Arabian Desert for thousands of years.

Boarding our 4x4s, we get up close and personal to the surrounding picturesque scenery. Tonight, we enjoy a Jordanian dinner and camp under the stars.

**Overnight - Wadi Rum (B, D)**

### Day 6 : Shobak Castle, Wadi Mujib canyoning & the Dead Sea



Wadi Rum - Shobak – Wadi Mujib - Dead Sea. After breakfast at our campsite, we head north along the Desert Highway to visit Shobak Castle, which is perched dramatically on a hill top and was built by the Crusader king Baldwin I in 1115. After exploring the castle we descend some 1300 meters to the Dead Sea, the lowest point on the earth's surface. More than 400 meters below sea level, the mineral-rich Dead Sea is the world's original health and beauty spa. Drift out and bob in the waters and slap on some of the famous black Dead Sea mud to give your skin an invigorating boost.

For departures between April and October we head up the King's Highway to Wadi Mujib and embark on a moderate-paced two hour trek along the Siq Trail. Measuring 500 metres in depth and spanning 4kms across, the impressive Wadi Mujib is one of Jordan's most remarkable natural landscapes. This dramatic canyon features sheer rocky walls and sparkling waterways that range from puddle height to depths that are perfect for

swimming (chest height or deeper) depending on the rainfall. When the water level is high you should be prepared for having to climb up ladders, clamber across boulders and be happy to wade through water. The canyon is just one feature of the Mujib Biosphere Reserve, the lowest nature reserve in the world, home to a surprising diversity of wildlife and plant species. For those not interested in taking the full hike, you can walk part of it or wait by the Visitor Centre until the group returns. After our trek we make our way to the Dead Sea.

Check in to our hotel at the Dead Sea. After re-confirming your departure transfer time to Amman Airport and answering any questions you may have, it will be time to say goodbye to your tour guide who will be returning to Amman today. Your time at the Dead Sea is offered purely as rest and relaxation and with no formal arrangements so your guide will take his leave.

Note: Lunch and dinner at the Dead Sea are not included in our stay. A buffet lunch is offered daily at a cost of 13 JD and a dinner buffet nightly at a cost of 19 JD per person. There is also an a la carte menu and other restaurant choice available onsite.

**Overnight - Dead Sea (B)**

### Day 7 : Dead Sea relaxation



The lowest point on the earth's surface at more than 400m below sea level, the Dead sea is a natural phenomenon and high on most travellers must experience lists. Lucky for us, we have a whole day to spend here, whiling away the time bobbing in its mineral-rich buoyant waters and lathering up with a detoxifying mud bath. Later today, there is an optional visit to the Ma'in hot springs - a series of waterfalls and hot springs, and a sacred baptism site where Jesus Christ

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is thought to have been baptised (payable locally). **Overnight - Dead Sea (B)**

## Day 8 : Journey to Jerusalem



Dead Sea – Jerusalem (West Bank). This morning you are picked up at 9:00am and transferred to the King Hussein (Jordanian Border) where after the Jordan departure formalities, you transfer by public shuttle bus 1km at a cost of approx 7.5JD and 1JD per bag across to the Allenby Bridge (Israeli Border point). At times (dependent upon the group size) a private transfer across the border is allowed with no associated costs, but is subject to border control formalities.

After attending to Israel immigration and passport control, you will be met by your Israeli driver, who will be standing next to the currency exchange office from 11am onward. Your driver will then transfer you to your hotel in Jerusalem.

It is a good idea to arrange a packed lunch or pack snacks with you before setting off from Jordan as the border process can be as quick as 30 minutes and at other times take several hours.

The afternoon and evening are free for you to independently explore. Today is the Sabbath and hotel check-in is not until after sundown. You are welcome to wait at the hotel until check-in or you can use the time to head out and wander around the World Heritage Listed city on foot whilst the city is devoid of traffic or opt to visit the Israel Museum.

**Overnight - Jerusalem (B, D)**

## Day 9 : Bethlehem

Today, we enjoy a guided tour of Jerusalem and Bethlehem in the West Bank. We stop at holy Mount of Olives, where you can get some amazing panoramic photos of the old

city. Disembarking the coach we continue on foot, to 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 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, 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.

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.

Board our coach and drive towards Bethlehem in the West Bank, visiting the Shepherds' field. Our final stop today is Bethlehem - birthplace of Jesus, the revered Church of the Nativity and Manger Square. Spend the evening at leisure in Jerusalem.

**Overnight - Jerusalem (B, D)**

## Day 10 : Haifa, Caesarea & Jaffa



Jerusalem – Haifa – Caesarea – Jaffa – Tel Aviv. We bid farewell to Jerusalem today and head north to the port city of Haifa. Here, we visit the UNESCO World Heritage Listed Bahai Shrine and the beautiful tropical gardens set on the slopes of Mount Carmel. Travelling down the coast, we stop in the historic city of Caesarea where Roman and Crusader-era ruins are strewn along the sea front. Continuing south, we reach Jaffa, an ancient port where we enjoy a walking tour of the picturesque fortified town and marvel at the hilltop views. Then, it's just a short drive to the vibrant, modern and cosmopolitan city of Tel Aviv, where we spend our final night. Dubbed "the city that never sleeps" Tel Aviv is renowned for its hedonistic nightlife and the city also has a plethora of trendy bistros, high-end restaurants and delicious street food stalls to choose from. **Overnight - Tel Aviv (B)**

## Day 11 : Tel Aviv to Ben Gurion Airport



Tuesday. Our tour ends today with an included transfer from Tel Aviv to Ben Gurion Airport at any time of day.

There's so much to see and do in Tel Aviv that we highly recommend extending your stay to enjoy its beautiful beaches, art galleries and markets, including the popular Nachiket Benjamin market, which is only open on Tuesdays. We can arrange post tour accommodation, please enquire. (B)

## HOTELS

Highlighted below are some of the hotels which we frequently use on this tour, though we reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard.

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Please refer to your **Tour Voucher** for your **confirmed arrival hotel and further arrival information.**

## Al-Qasr Metropole

Recently refurbished, the Al Qasr Metropole is a modern and chic boutique hotel. Guest rooms are beautifully furnished and include free Wi-Fi connection and luxury en suite facilities. All guests at the Al Qasr gain free access to the on site Fitness First gym as well as a complimentary breakfast. The rooftop restaurant has fantastic panoramic views of Amman and is a great place to spend the evening. The hotel is well located in Shmeisani, one of Amman's most prestigious neighbourhoods.



## Old Village Resort

Located above Wadi Mousa, Old Village Resort has a wonderfully traditional feel about it with open stonework and original architecture. Rooms are full of character, some with delightful archways and all directly accessed from the outside. The hotel boasts an indoor swimming pool and sauna and beautiful views of the surrounding mountains. For dinner why not dine al fresco at the restaurant overlooking the mountains. Well located in forested wadis facing Petra's mountains.



## Petra Moon Hotel

Just 300 ft from the entrance gate to Petra, the Petra Moon hotel features spacious rooms with private balconies and flat-screen TVs. It also has a roof garden with a seasonal outdoor pool. The soundproofed rooms and suites at Petra Moon come with satellite

channels, a DVD player and extra-long beds. Each has air conditioning and a private bathroom. The hotel's restaurant serves a delicious selection of international meals in both buffet-style and a la carte.



## Rainbow Camp

A row of permanent tents in the desert make up the popular Rainbow Camp. Inside the tents are comfortable camp beds and warm bedding. Showers and toilets are close by and are cleaned thoroughly every day. Guests can relax in the communal area which is adorned with colourful rugs and cushions. The food at Rainbow Camp always gets rave reviews. Taking an evening stroll around the beautiful surroundings is a great way to work up an appetite before dinner. This accommodation is well located in the heart of Wadi Rum.



## Holiday Inn Resort

Graced with interconnecting palm fringed swimming pools leading to the Dead Sea, the Holiday Inn is an Arabesque style hotel. Guest rooms are elegantly furnished and benefit from complimentary high speed internet. The hotel also has an on site fitness centre and a fine choice of Spa facilities. The 24 hour sleek bar is the perfect place for a tittle at any time of the day or night. The accommodation is located on the shores of the world famous Dead Sea.



## Eyal Hotel

Opened in 2014, the Eyal Hotel offers a modern stay in the ancient city of Jerusalem. It boasts an excellent location within walking distance of many points of interest, such as the Great Synagogue, the Damascus Gate and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, to name just a few. Each guestroom is fully equipped with essential amenities, with WiFi available free of charge, and the hotel also features an onsite buffet restaurant. However, its real highlight is the rooftop terrace, from which you can enjoy fantastic views over the city center and ancient city walls.



## Prima Royale

A private hideaway for all guests is an accurate way to describe Jerusalem's Prima Royale Hotel. The hotel's contemporary and artistic vibe attracts guests from all over the world. Rooms are modern and comfortable and include Wi-Fi connectivity. There is a delightful infusion of Middle-eastern ambiance throughout the hotel, no more so than on the Roof Top where guests can enjoy cocktails and a guided aerial view of the city. Perfectly located on a quiet street in the Talbieh district of Jerusalem.



## BY 14 Hotel

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Well-located on one of Tel Aviv's central streets, this boutique hotel is just minutes from the Carmel Market, Dizengoff Square and the lively cafes and restaurants of Sheinkin Street. Its guestrooms are spacious and comfortable, featuring modern décor and free high-speed WiFi. An extensive sweet and savoury breakfast is served daily in the hotel's café, and guests can also take advantage of the free gym and bike rental. Although as the beach is just footsteps away, you'll most likely be spending your time soaking up the sun on the sands.



### Perseid's meteor shower departure – 08 August

Our 08 August departure, offer the chance to witness the spectacular Perseids Meteor Shower which 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. Special arrangements on this tour are as follows:

**Days 1 - 4:** Arrangements as per normal Road to Jerusalem itinerary, with the inclusion of a visit to Madaba to see Jordan's finest Byzantine mosaics on day 3.

**Day 5:** Petra - Wadi Rum. There is a chance to revisit Petra this morning before leaving at noon to drive 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 desert scape of Wadi Rum represents some of the most stunning countryside on the planet.

Tonight, we'll tuck into a Jordanian dinner before the stargazing begins. The Perseids Meteor 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.

In previous years, our groups have enjoyed a spectacular show staying up well into the night and counting well over 150 meteors shooting across the sky and we hope to have the same experience this year. Overnight – Wadi Rum (B, D)

**Day 6:** Wadi Rum - Wadi Mujib - Dead Sea. This morning 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.

Departing Wadi Rum, we'll head up the King's Highway to Wadi Mujib. We'll embark on a moderate paced two-hour trek along the Siq Trail. Measuring 500 metres in depth and spanning 4 kilometres across, the impressive Wadi Mujib is one of Jordan's most remarkable natural features. This dramatic canyon features sheer rocky walls and sparkling waterways that range from puddle height to depths that are perfect for swimming (chest height or deeper) depending on the level of rainfall. The canyon is just one feature of the Mujib Biosphere Reserve, the lowest nature reserve in the world, home to a surprising diversity of wildlife and plant species.

After our trek, we make our way to the Dead Sea. Drift out and bob in the waters and slap on some of the famous black Dead Sea mud to give your skin an invigorating boost. Overnight – Dead Sea (B)

**PLEASE NOTE:** We are unable to visit Shobak Crusader Castle today as is usually done on the Road to Jerusalem year round tour, due to the altered itinerary and time constraints.

**Days 7:** Onwards, arrangements as per normal Road to Jerusalem itinerary.

### Wadi Mujib Gorge

If travelling between 01 Apr - 31 Oct, you have the option to take a walk through the canyons of Wadi Mujib. Starting at the visitor's centre near the Mujib Bridge we walk/ wade upstream through the gorge nestled deep within the sandstone outcrop to the base of a large waterfall. Depending on seasonal rainfall levels, the gorge may contain pools deep enough for swimming. It's an ideal walk to take slowly and enjoy the cool water and shade, especially in the heat of the summer. Despite being relatively easy at times, it does have hidden risks. When the water level is high you should be prepared for having to climb up ladders, clamber across boulders and be happy to wade through water. The river bed changes after each winter flood and this can create deep pools and strong currents making this walk harder (speak to your guide about the current conditions). Always take care along the walk, avoid pools and rapids, respect any rope barriers and take care if scaling up wet rocks using the ropes. Depending on conditions this would be unsuitable for travellers that are not confident swimmers.

What you need to bring:

Clothes: Should be light and comfortable. T-shirts and long shorts are advisable (to protect legs). You are advised to wear a bathing suit under your clothes and bear in mind that all your clothes will get totally wet so don't wear anything that you don't mind getting ruined. Shoes will also get totally wet. Therefore wear something that is not slippery and avoid flip flops or thongs - rugged water shoes are a good option. You may wear hiking sandals as well. Sunscreen is important along with caps. (The beginning of the hike is under the sun but later you are shaded by the mountains). You may want to bring clothes to change into after the walk. Prescription eye glasses and

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sunglasses may get damaged and are best left behind.

## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

### Entrance fees

Entry fees to sites are not included in your holiday and are subject to change at the discretion of the Ministry of Tourism. There is no reduction for ISIC student card holders at Jordanian sites. A two day pass for Petra is currently 55JD (approximately USD\$77) and a one day ticket is 50JD (approximately USD \$70), included in the entrance fees budget.

In Jordan, we collect entrance fees on Day 2 of the tour, the amount is noted under exclusions on page one of this document. On our Road to Jordan, Temples Tombs & Treasury and Pyramids Petra, Promised Land tours entrance fees will be collected upon your arrival to Petra or the following morning. You can take advantage of exchanging money and ATM facilities at the airport. All funds collected in Jordan are payable in Jordanian Diner (JD).

### Tipping kitty

At the start of your holiday we will collect a tip kitty (the amount is noted under exclusions on page 1 of this document) from all participants on the tour to cover gratuities throughout your holiday. This saves you the hassle of knowing when and how much to tip bellhops, luggage luggers, bus drivers, antiquity guards, and other support staff throughout the tour.

This amount does not include a tip for your tour guide. For a job well done, we suggest USD\$5-7 per day for your tour guide, however the decision to tip or how much is entirely up to you.

If travelling to Israel we recommend you budget USD5-7 per day, per traveller for your guide and USD2-3 for your driver. Again, tipping your guide and driver is an entirely personal gesture.

### Alcohol

Our hotels in Amman and the Dead Sea do serve alcohol. Expect that our hotels in Petra and Madaba not to serve alcohol and this is

most definitely the case during Ramadan. At other times of the year it may be possible to get beer and wine. You are able to bring your own alcohol into the hotel and our camp at Wadi Rum does not serve alcohol but again you can bring your own and your guide will make arrangements for those fancying a tittle to purchase alcohol prior to arriving at the camp.

### Wadi Rum Desert camp

On all group tours in Jordan we include a night in Wadi Rum at a Bedouin desert camp, where camping is the best way for us to experience the beautiful desert landscape and stary night sky. You can choose to spend the night camping under the stars or bed down in our comfortable permanent tents with twin beds and linen provided, you may opt to bring your own sleeping bag liner. If visiting in winter (Nov - Mar) it can be very cold at night in the desert and you may wish to bring your own sleeping bag for additional warmth. There are environmentally friendly shared bathroom facilities with hot and cold running water, toilets and showers. Our communal tent furnished with small tables and a cushioned seating area, is the place to gather at night where we enjoy a hearty Jordanian meal and some traditional Bedouin music.

### Guides & Groups

Many of our tours offered are sectors of a larger tour. As such, on your holiday you may have travellers join you part way through your tour or end their holiday when you continue on. You also may have a number of escorting guides throughout your tour, ie one guide escorting your time in Jordan, another in Egypt or Israel (or in reverse depending on your tour).

## Israel Country Guide

### Welcome to Israel - Arrival airport transfer

A complimentary airport arrival transfer is included. Upon arrival to Ben Gurion Airport, our representative, carrying an On The Go Tours signboard, will be waiting to meet you just after passport control before you collect

your luggage. Please hand your Tour Voucher to them.

**If, for any reason you have trouble locating our representative** (after waiting 20 minutes) or your flight to Israel is delayed, please call or send a text message (standard text message, not Messenger or WhatsApp) to the emergency contact number as stated on your Tour Voucher.

### Welcome to Israel - Arrival via the Jordan border crossing

For travellers arriving into Israel via the border crossing from Jordan - To complete your Israeli Immigration form you will need to give details of your accommodation in Israel. Please use the following hotel name/address:

**Eyal Hotel, 21 Shamai Street, Jerusalem.  
Phone: +972 2-622-1111**

In the unlikely event that our accommodation is not the Eyal Hotel, the Eyal Hotel will be able to inform the authorities (if required) of your new accommodation arrangements.

**If you need assistance whilst in Israel, please contact our Operations Manager: Ms Yettie Kalifa - Mobile: 00972 546 664 261 or Heike Kluss-Oiknine - Mobile 00972 54 620 8798**

**ISRAELI LAND BORDER TAXES:** On arrival into Israel from Jordan, you must take the official border shuttle bus or chartered coach at a cost of JD 6 (about \$8), payable in USD or JD. After completing immigration, please meet our driver or representative at the 'Help Counter' which is located between the custom desk and the exit door.

**If for any reason you have not made contact with your driver, please Do NOT leave the border, contact our Operations Manager, on the number detailed above.**

After meeting our driver, we transfer to the hotel. As today is the Sabbath (Friday), hotel check time may vary and may or may not be until after sunset. The afternoon/evening offers free time - head out and explore the old city (which is not half as busy today as normal)

## Road to Jerusalem - 11 days

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or the Jerusalem Museum which is a 30 min walk from the hotel.

## Israeli Passport Stamps

Israeli Immigration do not stamp passports but instead provide a ticket (similar to a bus ticket) confirming you have legally entered the country. You must keep this ticket with your passport until your departure from the country.

The following countries, and only these countries (Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Kuwait, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Yemen) take issue with passports containing evidence of travel to Israel. Should you be planning to travel to any of the countries and wish for your passport NOT to contain evidence of having travelled to Israel, you will need to have your Jordanian exit stamp (given at the King Hussein/Allenby Bridge Border crossing), stamped upon a separate piece of paper, which Jordanian officials are willing to do when requested.

## Visas & passports

Visa requirements are subject to change and visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours. Please ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of departure from Israel, with two blank pages.

After booking your holiday, please provide us with your passport details as soon as possible so that we can proceed to book all services. Please be advised visa requirements are subject to change, therefore it is essential that you check current visa requirements with the embassy before travel.

For information about visas, head to [www.onthegotours.com/Israel/Visas](http://www.onthegotours.com/Israel/Visas)

## Tipping

Tipping is an essential part of the culture. For a job well done, we suggest you budget for your tour guide USD\$5-7 per traveller, for each day of sightseeing. For your driver and/or On The Go Representatives we'd recommend USD \$2-3 per traveller for each day of service. Tipping is an entirely personal gesture and ultimately the amount is up to you.

## Health requirements & water

You should seek medical advice for vaccinations and about medications before travelling.

The tap water in Israel is generally considered safe to drink, but as a precaution against stomach upsets you may want to drink bottled water, which is readily available from shops, hotels and restaurants.

## Essential packing

Please check local temperatures so you can pack accordingly. Visit [www.worldclimate.com](http://www.worldclimate.com)

- Bring your own beach towel to make the most of the perfect Tel Aviv Mediterranean beaches
- If visiting in winter, pack warm clothes and an umbrella
- If visiting in summer bring lightweight clothing, sunscreen and a hat
- Universal travel adaptor
- Tour Voucher and a copy of your travel insurance policy, spare passport photos and a photocopy of your passport
- Good walking shoes for sightseeing in the old city of Jerusalem

## Optional activities

### Night Spectacular

If you have a free evening in Jerusalem you may wish to consider attending the city's famed 'Night Spectacular'. Each evening the walls of the Old Jerusalem Citadel serve as the stage for a sound and light show. Amidst the archaeological remains in the Citadel's courtyard and to the sound of original music, the story of Jerusalem is told through stunning visual and lighting displays. An adult ticket costs approximately \$16. Tickets can be purchased online in advance or at the gate (subject to availability). Show times vary, but normally from 8pm in the summer and 7pm in the winter. Check the show website for exact timings.

### Sea of Galilee boat trip

On some of our trips we offer a 2 hour boat trip on the Sea of Galilee. Often, boarding a wooden boat resembling those from ancient

times you'll see gulls overhead and have time to take in the tranquil surrounds. It is here, upon the lake that Jesus walked on the water (John 6:19-21), calmed a storm (Matt. 8:23-26) and showed the disciples miraculous catches of fish (Luke 5:1-8; John 21:1-6). The boat trip is offered, dependent on time and number of persons. Should you be interested, please speak with your tour guide.

## Kosher meals

If your tour includes dinner in Jerusalem, you are best to re-confirm this information with the hotel reception upon check in. 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. Where lunch is not included within your itinerary (most days or all days) we suggest you budget \$25-\$30 per traveller, per day for an average meal.

## Shopping in Israel

For those that enjoy shopping, when purchasing your souvenirs and bartering for goods set your budget, don't be swayed and remember the caveat – 'let the buyer beware.'

In the tourism industry it's common practice for commission to be offered in exchange for recommending particular shops or suppliers. This can become an issue when clients feel obliged to purchase. We do our best to avoid this by monitoring all shopping experiences offered.

All shopping experiences on your tour have been noted in the itinerary and they been selected based upon positive feedback from travellers. You are under no obligation to partake in a listed shopping experience and you are most welcome to wait inside or outside the premises.

Although we only visit reputable retailers, please note that we cannot explicitly guarantee the quality of their products. All purchases made whilst on holiday with us are at your own discretion. Please make sure that you are completely happy with your purchase. On The Go cannot be held responsible for

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# Road to Jerusalem

any items that you buy if they fail to meet expectation, or any shipping arrangements. Proceed with caution.

## Culture & dress requirements

Despite the inevitable ups and downs of travelling abroad, you will generally be shown great hospitality in Israel. Israel is generally a very relaxed country with a western-oriented outlook. Respect for religion is important to Israeli's and there are a few situations when this should be kept in mind.

Please visit [www.onthegotours.com/Israel/Travel-tips-and-useful-info](http://www.onthegotours.com/Israel/Travel-tips-and-useful-info) for local customs, currency, dress requirements, WiFi and other helpful information to prepare you for an enjoyable holiday.

## Jordan Country Guide

### Welcome to Jordan - Arrival transfer

A complimentary airport arrival transfer is included. For all clients arriving into Amman Queen Alia International airport to start their Jordan holiday (not applicable to *Highlights of Israel & Jordan* tour).

**If we are not arranging your visa** please proceed through immigration, baggage claim and customs. As you exit customs into the public arrivals hall, please look for our representative who will be holding an On The Go Tours logo signboard.

**If we have arranged your visa for you** we will meet you PRIOR to immigration and will fast track you through the process.

Our representative will introduce you to our driver, who will transfer you to your hotel. You will be given a Welcome Letter at this time which highlights the departure time for your sightseeing program tomorrow.

At the hotel reception desk, please take note of the On The Go Tours information sign on the counter which will tell you what time our Amman Representative will be in the hotel lobby to meet with you and discuss the details of your touring program, to give you our

informative welcome letter and to answer any questions you may have.

**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 (standard text message, not Messenger or WhatsApp) to the emergency contact number as stated on your Tour Voucher.

## Visas & passports

Visa requirements are subject to change and visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours. Please be advised visa requirements are subject to change, therefore it is essential that you check current visa requirements with the embassy before travel. Please ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of departure from Jordan. After booking your holiday, please provide us with your passport details as soon as possible so that we can proceed to book all services.

As a registered holiday operator we are able to obtain Jordan tourist visas free of charge (conditions apply). For information about visas, head to [www.onthegotours.com/Jordan/Visas](http://www.onthegotours.com/Jordan/Visas).

On departure (via land or sea), a 10JD departure tax of is applied to all visitors. If departing Jordan by air, the departure tax is included in the airfare.

## Health requirements & water

You should seek medical advice for vaccinations and about medications before travelling.

Tap water is not safe to drink in Jordan, only drink bottled mineral water which is readily available from hotels, shops and restaurants.

## Essential packing

Please check local temperatures so you can pack accordingly. Visit [www.worldclimate.com](http://www.worldclimate.com)

- Camping at Wadi Rum - All bedding (of a well-laundered standard) is provided at our Bedouin camp. It is a personal choice should

you wish to bring your own sleep sheet or sleeping bag

- Pack insect repellent, torch or headlamp if staying in Wadi Rum
- If visiting in winter pack warm clothes, hat, scarf and gloves are advised and an umbrella
- In summer bring lightweight clothing, sunscreen and a hat
- Universal travel adaptor
- Tour Voucher and a copy of your travel insurance policy, spare passport photos and a photocopy of your passport
- Good walking shoes for sightseeing in Petra
- If visiting Wadi Mujib Siq trail/canyon you'll need clothing and footwear that can get wet. Ideally a t-shirt and shorts or swimmers and trainers/walking shoes that will spend most of the walk submerged
- Binoculars IMPORTANT - are considered as surveillance equipment. Should you be carrying binoculars, expect that you'll be asked to hand these over briefly at times (with your passport) by police or military for inspection. You should not be concerned by the event, as this is merely a routine inspection of the item

## Petra Park services charge

The cost of the entrance ticket to Petra includes a compulsory 7JD fee to ride an Arabian horse. This Government-approved directive is in support of the local Bedouin who own the horses and also live in the surrounding town of Wadi Musa. As you have paid this obligatory charge, you are indeed entitled to ride a horse 800 metres down to the entrance gate at Petra. However, please be aware that you'll need to tip the horse handler an extra 2JD. IMPORTANT- On The Go Tours only recommends that you do so if you are an experienced rider. The decision to ride a horse is a personal one.

## Shopping in Jordan

Jordan offers a range of quality souvenirs. Look out for high-quality artefacts including rugs, pottery, paintings, jewellery, embroidery and woven items produced by local Jordanian women under the auspices of the Noor-Al Hussein Foundation and the Queen Alia Fund. Dead Sea products of all guises, olive oil and soaps, sweetmeats and olive wood are also uniquely Jordanian souvenirs.

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## It's not like home, what to expect & Ramadan

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### RAMADAN

Ramadan is a month of fasting observed by Muslims throughout the world and adherents of the Muslim faith fast during daylight hours and break their fast with lavish meals and lively celebrations in the evening. Many shops (excluding those which cater mainly to tourists) and attractions close earlier, as such we will start our tour earlier to make the best use of time and itineraries may be slightly altered to ensure we visit all attractions, leisure time will be offered in the afternoon. Non-Muslims are not expected to fast over Ramadan, but it is considered impolite to eat food or drink on the street. NOTE: Traffic is exceptionally heavy during Ramadan, especially toward the time of breaking the fast. Forthcoming Ramadan dates are: 12 Apr – 11 May 2021 (approx)

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