

Dana to Petra Trek

8 Days | Madaba to Amman



Trek for six days through Jordan's beautiful and rugged countryside, following the 'Jordan Trail' from Dana Nature Reserve to the ancient 'Rose-Red City' of Petra, and camping Bedouin style. Enjoy a wonderful week of discovery, walking and Jordanian hospitality.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Following the most famous section of the 'Jordan Trail' from Dana to Petra
- Exploring Dana Nature Reserve
- Walking amongst sculpted sandstone, through deep gorges and across high ridges, climbing gradually up to 1100m at the high viewpoint above Petra
- Camping Bedouin style under the desert stars
- Exploring Petra - UNESCO-listed Nabataean city that was all but lost to the modern world until its rediscovery in 1812
- Visiting 'Little Petra' via the secret route and the Baidha Neolithic village

What's Included

- 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 6 dinners
- 2 nights simple hotels, 5 nights camping
- One group airport arrival and departure transfer (please read the Joining

Instructions in the Trip Notes for further information)

- 5 days of trekking - full service on trek including baggage support and camping equipment (excluding personal equipment)
- Entrance fee for Dana Reserve
- Guided sightseeing tour of Petra including entrance fees
- Escorted by a licensed Jordanian tour guide, with a Bedouin trekking guide
- A Bedouin trekking guide
- All transportation in private modern air-conditioned vehicles
- Group size: Minimum 6 / Maximum 16

What's Not Included

- International flights and visa
- Laundry, drinks and items of a personal nature
- Tipping - an entirely personal gesture

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Madaba

Upon arrival into Amman airport, make your way to our group hotel in Madaba. A single group transfer from Amman Airport to the group hotel in Madaba or Amman is offered or we can book a private transfer for you upon request (see the Joining Your Tour note for further details). The group transfer is normally in the late evening and a representative of our

local agent will accompany the group on the 30 minute journey to the hotel. **Overnight - Madaba**

Day 2 : The Dana Nature Reserve



Madaba - Wadi Feinan. We will make an early start for the drive southwards to the Dana Nature Reserve. Here, we meet our Bedouin trek crew and trekking guide set off on a first day's walk which will take 6 hours including a stop for lunch. The walk from Dana to Feinan is essentially downhill with the initial 800 metre descent taking place in the first hour of the walk. After this, the route levels out and we can enjoy a far more gentle walk through a wide open valley flanked by the Dana Mountains. Arriving in Wadi Feinan, we set up our first camp of the trip.

Time: 4-5 hrs trekking
Ascent: 200m / Descent: 1100m
Distance: 16km

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Dana to Petra Trek

Overnight - Dana Nature Reserve (camping)
(B, L, D)

Day 3 : Trek to Wadi Barwas canyon



Wadi Feinan - Wadi Barwas. This is another 6-hour walking day, which will take us across classic 'hamada' landscape – dry, rock-strewn desert, with little sand. The route is quite level and there are spectacular views of the high mountain ranges to the east and the expansive Wadi Araba Desert stretching out to the west. Although the terrain is essentially flat, there are several small wadis (dry valleys), that must be crossed throughout the day. We pass both Byzantine and Nabatean ruins during the course of today's walk and our local guide will point these out. We set up camp for the night in Wadi Barwas.

Time: 6-7 hrs trekking
Ascent: 350m / Descent: 400m
Distance: 18km

Overnight - Wadi Barwas (camping) (B, L, D)

Day 4 : Follow ancient Bedouin trails



Wadi Barwas - Ras el Feid. Leaving the stony 'hamada' desert behind, there is a steep ascent across rocks and small boulders which eventually leads to a twisting goat herder's track. The initial uphill section takes approximately 3 hours. The track leads

up into the mountains through a narrow and dramatic valley with wonderful views eastwards towards the Wadi Araba Desert. This is a steep and challenging section of the route, but extremely rewarding, as we finally reach the top of a high saddle. The descent to the river valley beyond is on a well-defined trail through rocky surroundings. There are views ahead of the next day's route. On reaching the dry river bed, we turn upstream for half an hour to our camp at Ras el Feid.

Time: 6-7 hrs trekking
Ascent: 350m / Descent: 400m
Distance: 18km

Overnight - Ras el Feid (camping) (B, L, D)

Day 5 : Trek to Shkaret Msei'd



Rasi el Feid - Shkaret Msei'd We retrace our route along the riverbed, before turning off on a Bedouin trail that traverses a rocky valley side, gradually ascending by way of dry wadis and indistinct cols. This part of the path is particularly challenging, becoming less well-defined, with some easy scrambling to overcome the largest obstacles. This section lasts approximately 2 hours and eventually descends to a riverbed with perennial water. Look out for the elusive ibex in this remote area. The trail continues along the wadi floor and gently climbs up into the pale coloured sandstone mountains of the Petra region. The climb from the valley to the escarpment (where Petra is situated) is gentle and beautiful with a slight uphill climb towards the end across bare rock slabs. We camp at the col of Shkaret Msei'd.

Time: 4-5 hrs trekking
Ascent: 650m / Ascent: 600m
Distance: 14km

Overnight - Shkaret Msei'd (camping) (B, L, D)

Day 6 : Trek through rock canyons to Little Petra



Shkaret Msei'd - Beidha. Leaving the campsite at Shkaret Msei'd the scenery changes dramatically. We leave the narrow, confining wadis behind and find ourselves amongst wide-open sandstone hills that have something of the feel of a moonscape. The rock is smooth and soft and the terrain is easy to negotiate, with wide tracks and walkways. The Nabatean influence is apparent here and the first cut steps can be seen. The trail passes through Bedouin encampments, before reaching another rocky area. We descend into Little Petra using a little used route. The splendour of Little Petra provides an insight into what lies ahead at the main Petra site. From the main entrance of Little Petra, we make our way towards Beidha with evidence of modern human settlement in the form of jeep tracks.

Time: 4-5 hrs trekking
Ascent: 650m / Ascent: 600m
Distance: 14km

Overnight - Beidha (camping) (B, L, D)

Day 7 : Explore Petra



Beidha - Petra. We will say goodbye to our local trekking guide and crew this morning and we continue with our guide. The walk from here to Petra will take between 2 and 3 hours, with the initial walk across open

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Dana to Petra Trek

farmland. The route then follows a well-defined mountain track with fantastic views across to the Araba Desert, some 100 km / 60 miles away. The views are impressive and with the exception of one short (2 metre) section a head for heights is not necessary. The walk into Petra is magnificent and is the culmination of 5 days of hard walking. The initial glimpse of the top of the Monastery, as it comes into view through the mountains, has a similar effect of the first glimpse of the Treasury from the Siq. We will then trek down from the Monastery and exit Petra by the secondary Siq before re-entering the site through the main Siq so you get to see the most famous view of Petra as though you are entering for the first time. After our sightseeing visit to Petra, we overnight at a hotel in nearby Wadi Musa. **Overnight - Petra (B, L, D)**

Day 8 : Amman

Petra - Amman. After an early breakfast we transfer by private vehicle (3hrs) to Amman International Airport. (B)

Our Partner

Please note that this tour is operated by KE Adventure Travel and they run it in conjunction with international partners. Participants on this trip may have booked through On The Go, KE Adventure Travel or through an international partner. This helps to gather together sufficient numbers of like-minded adventurers to get your holiday up and running quickly. Led by an English-speaking guide, the cosmopolitan nature of these groups can be an important part of the experience!

Group Size & Holiday Status

For this trip there is a minimum number of participants required to enable it to go ahead. It is essential that you DO NOT book flights until we have advised you that the trip is guaranteed to run. Once the minimum number is reached, the departure date will have a 'G' next to it on our website. Other than in exceptional circumstances, we will not cancel a trip once it has achieved this guaranteed to run status and so you are free to proceed with your international flight booking and other travel arrangements.

Is This Holiday For You?

On this holiday we will be trekking through a desert world that has been crossed by nomadic people and their livestock for generations. Nowadays, the area is just about accessible by 4WD vehicles and there are rough 'roads' to the various camping places that we will use. We will be trekking on scant trails, however, far away from the route taken by our support vehicle. The underfoot conditions will include dry wadis, open sandy desert and rocky desert known as 'hamada'. There are also sections of narrow trail across rocky terrain including some easy scrambling. The tracks and trails we use are generally not difficult. We will walk for an average of 5 to 6 hours on each of days 2 to 6, covering as much as 15 kilometres each day and with a reasonable amount of ascent and descent. This is a relatively short trekking holiday and at low elevation.

Travel Insurance

It is a condition of joining any of our holidays that you are insured against medical and personal accident risks including repatriation costs. We advise you to arrange insurance at the earliest opportunity including cancellation cover to protect your deposit and any other payments should you subsequently need to cancel your holiday.

You will need to advise us of your policy details and complete an Insurance Declaration which we will send to you.

CAMPBELL IRVINE DIRECT travel insurance is available to EU residents and will cover all of our Active Tours. It has been designed to provide cover for activities normally excluded by other insurers such as trekking, mountain biking and climbing holidays.

TRAVELEX is a USA based insurer offering travel insurance which can be used by US citizens and US residents only. We recommend the "Travelex Select" package for our holidays.

For residents of any other countries, please carefully select a comprehensive insurance policy which covers you for all of the activities on your tour.

As with all travel insurance policies, it's advisable to pay close attention to the limits of cover for all sections, particularly medical cover, before purchasing the policy. Also

please ensure that your policy covers you for hiking/cycling up to the maximum altitude you will reach on the holiday.

Joining Arrangements

A single group transfer will be arranged from Amman Airport to the hotel in Madaba / Amman. This transfer will meet the arrival of the Royal Jordanian flight from the UK and will normally depart from the airport at around 0100 hours (the early hours of Day 2 of the trip itinerary). At the end of the trip there will be a single group transfer from the group hotel in Wadi Musa to Amman Airport timed to meet the check in for the Royal Jordanian flight back to the UK which departs in the late morning. This transfer will be after breakfast on Day 8 of the trip itinerary. A representative of our local agent will assist with the transfers between the airport and the group hotel.

If the arrival transfer does not work with your flight, you will need to make your own transfer arrangements at Amman Airport. The airport is 20 kilometers (12 miles) east of the town of Madaba. We can book a private transfer upon request or fixed price tan-coloured airport taxis are readily available outside the terminal exit doors. They charge a standard fare of JD20 for the one-way trip to Madaba. Airport taxis are preferable to the yellow taxis, which are metered but usually entail some sort of haggling with the driver.

Passport & Visas

A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents and visas for your holiday. Visa requirements and charges are subject to change without notice.

If you are a UK, Canada, USA or Australia passport holder you can receive a free visa upon entering Jordan if you plan to take the group transfer or if you book a separate arrival transfer with us. Please look for a representative with a KE Adventures sign between the arrival gate and before the immigration desks and they will accompany you to arrange the free visa and passport stamp.

The free visa is reliant on us receiving your passport and flight details prior to travel and to you meeting with the KE representative

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Dana to Petra Trek

before heading to immigration. This will only be possible if you have given us these details. If you plan to make your own way to the start hotel you will have to purchase an individual visa for 40JD.

If you are arranging your own pre or post trip accommodation/excursions we will be unable to arrange a free visa for you and you will need to purchase an individual visa on arrival for 40JD

Other nationalities are included in the free visa scheme, please check with your individual embassy.

A Typical Day

At around 7 a.m. breakfast will be under way and you will be able to make your way to the centre of the desert camp to pick up that all important first cup of tea or coffee. You will have plenty of time to get up and pack your trek bag which will be transported safely in the support vehicle to our next camping place. Bottled mineral water is provided throughout the time in the desert and you will need to grab a couple of bottles and your packed lunch prior to setting off. Usually, our route will involve a mix of walking, through cool canyons and across open rocky terrain and we will find a suitably shady spot to stop for a long lunch. Usually we walk for around 4 hours in the morning and a couple of hours in the afternoon. On arrival at camp, we can relax on mattresses around a central area covered by matting and take a cooling drink, with tea or coffee also available. Dinner is ready at around 7 p.m. and is served around the camp fire. This is a great time of day for reliving the events of the trip so far and for general socialising. After dark, the temperature starts to fall and everyone will soon be tucked up in their sleeping bags.

Accommodation

During this trip the group will spend 2 nights in Madaba (or in Amman) at a tourist hotel. We will also have a night in a tourist hotel in Wadi Musa (Petra). Whilst on trek there are 5 nights camping. All accommodation is allocated on a twin sharing basis. If you are travelling by yourself you will be paired up with another single client of the same sex.. When camping in the desert, we provide simple 2-man tents, but it is quite usual for group members to

find a secluded spot in the dunes (or by the campfire if preferred) and to sleep out under the stars.

Meals

All meals from breakfast on day 2 to breakfast on day 8 are included in the holiday price. Dinner on the first evening in Madaba is not included. Most clients will arrive late in the evening having taken a meal on the plane. For those arriving earlier the hotel has a restaurant or there is a wide range of dining options nearby (allow GBP £10 - £15 for a dinner).

Breakfasts on the trek consist of bread, a variety of cheese, honey, jams, yoghurt, fruit, tea and Nescafe. For lunch there will be a variety of salads, spicy humus, breads and other dishes from which we can select, or a full packed lunch. Dinner will usually be a soup followed by barbeque or pan fried meat and vegetables with plenty of bread, yoghurt, and humus followed by fresh fruit and tea or coffee. Mineral water is provided.

Please note that whilst we routinely cater for vegetarians, we cannot guarantee to provide for special diets. If you do have specific dietary requirements or allergies, please be sure to tell us in advance, and discuss this with your tour leader on arrival and liaise with them during the trip. Please note that we cannot provide separate menus for different diets and we cannot accept any liability for any problems arising from specific dietary needs.

Preparing For Your Trip

It makes a lot of sense to spend some time before coming on a trekking holiday, getting some additional exercise. The fitter you are, after all, the more enjoyable you will find the experience. For this trip you need to be aerobically fit and comfortable with walking up to 5 or 6 hours each day for several days continuously. There are some easy scrambling sections during this trip and although these not difficult or dangerous you should be comfortable also with a degree of exposure. We would suggest that you adopt a weekly exercise regime leading up to departure. Regular walking in hill or back country is the best preparation but if this is not possible, regular exercise with your preferred sport or pastime such as jogging, squash

and swimming, will develop better fitness and stamina. Before departure, we suggest that you try to fit in a number of long walks in hilly country.

Group Leader & Support Staff

The group will be led by an experienced, English speaking Jordanian Tour guide. In addition during the trek, there will be a Bedouin trekking guide and a support crew of one or more drivers who will assist with the cooking.

Climate

The best period for trekking in Jordan is in the late autumn through to early spring season, from October through to mid April. Outside of this period it can be very hot, with temperatures, rising to 40°C in July and August. In October and in April, the maximum daytime temperature is likely to be in the high twenties or low thirties °C, falling as low as 10°C at night. Heading into November the temperatures begin to cool and by December/January, typical daytime maximum temperatures are around 12 - 15 °C falling as low as 5°C at night. In December and January it can even snow in Amman.

Equipment List

The following checklist should help you with your packing. As a general rule, you should always try to keep the weight of your equipment to a minimum.

You must bring the following items:

- Sleeping bag (comfort rated -5°C)*
- Hiking boots / Sturdy approach shoes
- Water bottles – 1 litre x 2
- Trainers or sandals for sightseeing and camp use
- Socks
- Trekking trousers
- Lightweight waterproof overtrousers
- Underwear
- At least 1 long sleeve shirt with collar (for sun protection)
- T-shirts
- Warm jacket (eg. Fleece)*
- Lightweight waterproof jacket
- Sun hat
- Warm hat (for chilly evenings in the desert)
- Sunglasses
- Daypack of approx 30 litres

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Dana to Petra Trek

- Headtorch and spare batteries
- Sun protection (including total bloc for lips, nose etc.)
- Lighter/matches – for burning toilet paper
- Washbag and toiletries
- Insect repellent
- Antibacterial handwash (note that washing water can be limited in the desert)
- Basic First Aid Kit including: A broad spectrum antibiotic, antiseptic cream, throat lozenges, diarrhoea treatment (Imodium), painkillers, plasters and blister treatment, Insect repellent, and re-hydration salts (Dioralite).

The following items are optional:

- Shorts**
- Small towel
- Sleeping bag liner
- Thermarest (a foam mattress is provided)
- Trekking poles (highly recommended)
- Pen-knife (note: always pack sharp objects in hold baggage)
- Repair kit – (eg. needle, thread, duct tape)
- Small padlock (to lock your trek bag)
- Camera
- Swimming shorts/costume (if extending at the Red or Dead Sea)
- Spare laces

Note:

*For the November - February trips when night-time temperatures can fall below freezing in the desert, we recommend a sleeping bag comfort rated -10°C, a warmer jacket such as a down-filled jacket, and thermal baselayers.

**As Jordan is an Islamic country, modest dress is preferable in the towns and cities. Shoulders should be kept covered, and full-length trousers/skirts are recommended. Knee-length shorts are OK once on trek.

Baggage Allowance

During the trip your baggage will be carried by bus and by 4WD vehicles. The only baggage limit is that which is imposed by your airline. However, Jordan is a hot country and you will not require any heavy clothing, nor are you required to bring a camping mattress. Travelling light will also make transiting airports a much more pleasant experience for you.

Guidance on Tipping

Tips are the accepted way of saying 'thank you' to your local guides and porters. Tips do not form part of the wages of local staff but are seen as a personal thank you from group members. Our local crews are always paid the best rates of pay, no matter what country they are in. For our part, we advise local teams that tips are not a duty or a prerequisite but are a bonus and entirely dependent on the service that was given. For your trek crews we recommend that you give a tip if you feel that their services have met your satisfaction. We recommend that tips be given from the group as a whole rather than individually and as a rough guide we suggest a contribution of GBP £40 (or the equivalent in US dollars or euros) from each group member should provide an adequate 'pool' for tipping your crew.

Spending Money

Approximately GBP £100-£125 (or the equivalent in US dollars or euros) should be allowed for miscellaneous expenses and the cost of your visa. You should carry your travel money in the form of cash and you should exchange the majority of this on the day of your arrival at the airport in Amman. Sterling, Euros and US dollars can easily be exchanged in Jordan.

The unit of currency is the Jordanian Dinar (JD). You should also allow a total of approximately GBP £40 (or the equivalent in US dollars or euros) for tips to your drivers, local guides and trek crew. The cost of the Petra visit is included in the trip price.

If you are intending to buy expensive souvenirs, you should budget accordingly (credit cards can be useful in this respect). Also, if you expect to buy considerable quantities of drinks or other refreshments, you should allow for this.

Currency

The unit of currency in Jordan is the Jordanian Dinar.

Vaccinations

You should contact your doctor or travel clinic to check whether you require any specific vaccinations or other preventive measures. You should be up to date with routine courses and boosters e.g. diphtheria-tetanus-

polio and measles-mumps-rubella, along with hepatitis A and typhoid. A good online resource is Travel Health Pro.

Altitude

This holiday does not involve any significant ascent to altitude and we would not expect any altitude issues with this trip.

Know Before You Go

As a reputable tour operator, we support the British Foreign & Commonwealth Offices 'Know before you go' campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas, and we recommend that all travellers take a look at the FCO Travel Advice for their chosen destination on the official FCO website: www.fco.gov.uk. North Americans can also check out the U.S. Department of State website: www.travel.state.gov for essential travel advice and tips.

We treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates direct from the FCO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

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