

Perseids Meteor Shower

8 days | Starts/Ends: Amman



Witness the incredible Perseids Meteor Shower from our desert camp at Wadi Rum, where you will spend a night star gazing when the Meteor Shower is at its peak! Combine this amazing celestial event with Roman ruins, floating in the Dead Sea and exploring the ruins at the Rose City of Petra. All of this in eight totally amazing days!

- Jerash - Ruins of the ancient Roman city, which at over 2000 years old is still surprisingly well-preserved
- Amman - Ancient hilltop citadel, fascinating Archaeological Museum and bustling souqs
- Mt Nebo - Perhaps one of the most sacred sites in Jordan with views across the Promised Land

What's Included

- 7 breakfasts, 2 dinners
- 6 nights 4 star hotels
- 1 night Wadi Rum deluxe desert camp
- 4x4 desert safari through the sand dunes of Wadi Rum
- Camel safari through the Wadi Rum desertscape
- Incredible views of the Perseids Meteor Shower
- Dead Sea - Free time to swim and detox
- Touring of Amman, Jerash, Umm Qais, Petra, Wadi Rum, Shobak, Umm ar-Rasas and Mt Nebo
- Airport arrival and departure transfer on day 1 and day 8. Please note departure transfers on day 8 are only offered at 23:00 (day 7), 04:00, 07:00, 09:00, 12:00 & 16:00
- Escorted by licenced Jordanian Tour Guide
- All relevant transfer 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
- Laundry, drinks and items of a personal nature
- International flights and visa
- Tip for your tour guide. We recommend you allow USD\$5 - 7 per day, per traveller. Tipping your guide is an entirely personal gesture

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Perseids Meteor shower - A spectacular 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
- Two nights in Petra - The 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
- Umm Qais - Roman Decapolis city, once a cultural centre, home to poets and great philosophers
- Dead Sea - Beautiful landscape with warm buoyant mineral-rich waters

ITINERARY

Day 1 : Amman

Thursday 08 Aug 2019. Welcome to Jordan and the start of an amazing adventure. Arrive Amman, included transfer to our hotel and overnight.

Overnight - Amman

Day 2 : Jerash



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updated on 24-05-2019

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Amman - Jerash - Umm Qais - Amman. Heading north, we visit Jerash, the Graeco-Roman city known as the 'Pompeii of the East'. Built over 2,000 years ago, Jerash is widely regarded as the best-preserved city of the Decapolis, a confederation of 10 Roman cities dating from the 1st century! We'll explore the site taking in the colonnaded street, amphitheatre, nymphaeum, forum and more before continuing to Umm Qais (Gadara), a dramatic black-basalt Roman city of the Decapolis with panoramic views over the Sea of Galilee and the Golan Heights. Tonight we head out for a meal and a stroll along Rainbow Street - Amman's hippest location. **Overnight - Amman (B, D)**

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 the Christian market town of Madaba and Jordan's finest Byzantine mosaics. Next is 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 Kastron 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.

If you'd like to learn how to cook Middle Eastern food consider opting to book our Petra Kitchen Add-on tonight. **Overnight - Petra (B)**

Day 4 : The Rose City of 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. Rediscovered in 1812, it remains on the list of many travellers. 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 Al-Khazneh (the Treasury). Continuing our walk, we'll then go on to explore chunks of this fantastic once-lost city which is full of tombs, temples, an impressive amphitheatre and a Roman colonnaded street. 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.

Please note: Petra by Night (candlelight walk along the Siq) is not offered on this departure as the site is closed on both Friday and Saturday evenings. **Overnight - Petra (B)**

Day 5 : Wadi Rum & Perseids



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 : Camel Trekking, Wadi Mujib & Dead Sea

Wadi Rum - Wadi Mujib - Dead Sea. 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

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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 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. After our trek we make our way to the Dead Sea. For those not interested in taking the full hike, you can walk part of or wait by the Visitor Centre till the group returns. After our trek we make our way to the Dead Sea. **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' bucket 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 will be an optional visit to the Ma'in hot springs - a series of

waterfalls and hot springs, and a sacred baptism site where Jesus Christ is thought to have been baptised (booked locally).

Overnight - Dead Sea (B)

Day 8 : Dead Sea

Thursday 15 Aug 2019. Dead Sea - Amman Airport. Hotel check out and included onward transfer to the airport in Amman. Departure transfers are offered on day 8 at 23:00 (evening of day 7), 04:00, 07:00, 09:00 12:00 and 16:00. If you would like a departure transfer at any other time or a transfer with post tour accommodation this can be arranged at an additional cost.

(B)

HOTELS

The hotels listed below are ones which we frequently use on this tour. We reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard when necessary.

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.



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.

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PRICES / DATES INFO

Departure dates noted with a 'G' are guaranteed to operate. All other departure dates are guaranteed with a minimum of 2 persons. Prices shown are per person travelling. 'Twin/Double' prices per person apply when there are 2 people travelling, sharing a room. The 'Single supplement' applies for single travellers who require their own room and needs to be added to the 'Twin/Double' price. If you are happy to be paired up with another single traveller of the same sex on your tour, this can be arranged, thus avoiding the single person supplement.

PRICES / DATES 2019

Date	Twin Share	Single
08 Aug	USD 2,095	USD 2,715

PRICES / DATES 2020

Date	Twin Share	Single
08 Aug	USD 2,295	USD 2,955

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