

# Road to Jerusalem

## 11 days | Amman to Tel Aviv



*Combine Jordan and Israel on one amazing 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 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, 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 - 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
- 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, 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 (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 (West bank) - Shepherd's Field, Rachel's Tomb, Church of the Nativity & 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", with its long stretch of beautiful beaches

#### What's Included

- 10 breakfasts and 4 dinners
- 9 nights 4 star hotels and 1 night - Wadi Rum deluxe desert camp
- 4x4 desert safari through the sand dunes of Wadi Rum
- Dead Sea - Free time to swim and detox
- Touring of Amman, Jerash, Dead Sea, Petra, Wadi Rum, Shobak, Umm ar-Rasas, Mt Nebo and Madaba
- Escorted by licenced Jordanian Tour Guide in Jordan
- Touring in Israel - Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Haifa, Caesarea & Jaffa
- 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
- Laundry, drinks and items of a personal nature
- International flights and visa
- Tip for your tour guides in Jordan and Israel. We recommend you allow USD\$5 -

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# Road to Jerusalem

7 per day, per traveller. Tipping your tour guides is an entirely personal gesture

## DETAILED ITINERARY

### Day 1 : Amman

Saturday. Welcome to Jordan and the start of your holiday! Arrive Amman, included transfer to hotel.

**Overnight - Amman**

### Day 2 : Ancient Cities, Roman Ruins

Amman - Jerash - Umm Qais - Amman. Your tour leader will usually be at your hotel at approximately 7.30am for your welcome meeting. Throughout the tour, you'll be fully briefed by your tour leader as regards touring arrangements. Later today your entrance fees and a modest tip kitty of about will be collected from everyone. The kitty will cover all the tipping throughout the tour (to baggage handlers, porters, drivers and ancillaries), except tips for your Jordanian and Israeli tour guides.

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. We'll explore the site, taking in the colonnaded street, amphitheatre, nymphaeum, forum and more before continuing to town of Umm Qais, which is the site of the ancient Graeco-Roman town of Gadara, and provides 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. A considerable portion of the original Roman architecture has survived and we have the day to explore. 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, bookshops and curious. **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'll 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 a 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 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 chunks 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 opting for our Petra Kitchen Add-on tonight! See our website for details. **Overnight - Petra (B)**

### Day 5 : Wadi Rum



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

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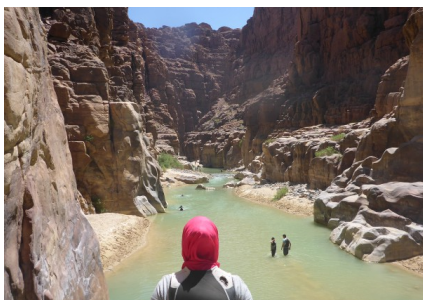
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preserving an ancient lifestyle that has been practised in the Arabian desert for thousands of years.

Boarding 4 x 4s, we can get up close and personal to the surrounding scenery. Tonight, we enjoy a Jordanian dinner. Camp under the stars or in the provided tents. **Overnight - Wadi Rum (B, D)**

### Day 6 : Shobak Castle & the Dead Sea



Wadi Rum - Shobak – Wadi Mujib - Dead Sea. After breakfast at the 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 500 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.

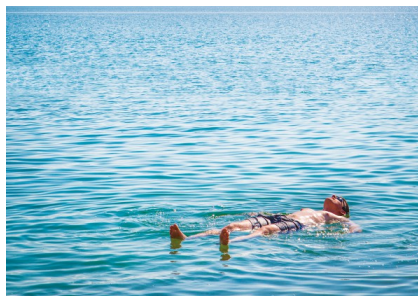
For departures between April and October we'll head up the King's Highway to Wadi Mujib. We'll embark on a moderate –paced two hour trek along the Siq Trail. Measuring 500 metres in depth and spanning 4 kilometres across, the impressive Wadi Mujib is one of Jordan's most remarkable natural features. 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 check in at the Dead Sea, re-confirming your arrangements for travel to the Israel border on day 8 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 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 phenomena 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 (book locally). **Overnight - Dead Sea (B)**

### Day 8 : Jerusalem



Dead Sea – Jerusalem (West Bank). This morning you'll be picked up at 9:00am and transferred to the King Hussein (Jordanian Border) where after departure formalities you will transfer by public shuttle bus 1 kilometre at a cost of approx 7.5JD and 1JD per bag across to the Allenby bridge (Israeli Border point). At times (dependant upon the group size) a private transfer across the border is allowed with no associated costs.

After attending to 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 several hours.

The afternoon and evening are free for you to explore. Today is the Sabbath and hotel check-in will not be 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 (West Bank)

After breakfast you will be picked up and taken for a coach tour of this beautiful city and its surrounds. We stop at the holy Mount of Olives where you can get some amazing panoramic photos of the old city. Disembarking the coach we continue on foot to really absorb the wonders of the Old City–

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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 then 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, and 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.

We 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.

Continuing our tour we jump back on the coach and drive towards Bethlehem in the West Bank, visiting the Shepherds' field. Next stop is Bethlehem - birthplace of Jesus, the revered Church of the Nativity and Manger Square. (Please note that touring in Bethlehem may be in conjunction with other tourist groups, not solely On The Go). 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'll 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 for dinner. **Overnight - Tel Aviv (B)**

### Day 11 : Tel Aviv



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 book post tour accommodation upon request.(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.

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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

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 Aug 2019 & 08 Aug 2020

The 08 Aug 2019 & 08 Aug 2020 departures, 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.

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.

**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.

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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.

## Xmas tour - 22 Dec 2019

If travelling on our Xmas tour departing 22 Dec 2019, we include special Christmas dinner. After touring Petra on day 4, you are invited to take part in a cuisine course at the Petra Kitchen, where you'll help prepare a memorable Jordanian Christmas feast. Taking part in the lesson is optional and you are very most welcome to just sit back and relax till our chefs serve the meal.

## Arriving to Israel

To complete your Israeli Immigration form you will need to give details of your accommodation in Israel. We use 3 properties in Jerusalem and the specific property changes on a week to week basis. All properties are part of the 'Prima' hotel chain, with linked reservation system so please use the following hotel name/address:

Prima Hotel

2 Vilnay Street, 95435 Jerusalem

Phone: +972-3-552-2220

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

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 will transfer you to the Prima Royale/ Prima Kings or Prima Park Hotel. As today is the Sabbath hotel check in may/ may not be till after sunset. The afternoon and evening offers free time. Use the time to head out and explore the old city (which is not half as busy today as normal) 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 should keep this ticket with your passport till 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.

## Israel Time & Voltage

Israel is 2 hours ahead of Greenwich Meantime (GMT). Daylight Saving time starts on the Friday before the 02 April. The move back to standard time occurs late September/early October according to the Jewish calendar falling on a Saturday night between Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year) and Yom Kippur. During this period, Israel is 3 hours ahead of GMT. Standard voltage is 220 volts, 50Hz AC. Primary sockets require the Continental or European, 2 small round

pin variety. We recommend that you pack a universal travel adaptor. You will need a voltage converter, and plug adaptor in order to use U.S. appliances.

## Climate in Israel

Temperatures vary widely, especially from December – early March. The more mountainous regions can be windy, cold and sometimes snowy; Mount Hermon's peak is covered with snow most of the year and Jerusalem usually receives at least one snowfall each year. Temperatures at this time of year average 10-15°C in most places, but approx 5°C in Jerusalem and the Galilee hills - where it can be very cold at night. In January and February there is often heavy rain.

Meanwhile, coastal cities, such as Tel Aviv and Haifa have a typical Mediterranean climate with cool, rainy winters and long, hot summers (May to early September) when temperatures range from 27°C – 32°C and rainfall is minimal.

## 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

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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 sunglasses may get damaged and are best left behind.

## Currency in Israel

The currency of Israel is Israeli New Shekel. Pound Sterling, US Dollars, Euro and other major currencies can be exchanged in Israel. ATMs and exchange facilities are available everywhere. Traveller's Cheques are not recommended as they're often difficult to exchange and incur high fees.

## Kosher Meals

Whilst staying in Jerusalem, dinner is included each evening in the hotel. 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 their is always plenty of choice to provide a satisfying meal.

## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

### Visas

Please be advised that visa requirements are subject to change and that visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours. Please also ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of departure from Jordan. As a registered holiday operator we are able to obtain Jordan tourist visas free of charge for UK, EU, AUS, NZ, SA, CAN and USA passport holders travelling with us on a holiday including a stay of more than 2 consecutive nights in Jordan or if arriving via a land border staying more than 3 nights. If your holiday complies with these requirements we

will arrange the visa for your stay/s and present it to you upon arrival.

If we are obtaining a free of charge visa on your behalf, our airport representative will meet your PRIOR to immigration at Amman International Airport and escort you through immigration presenting your free visa approval letter to officials. If you are unable to make contact with our representative prior to immigration please do NOT proceed through immigration (as you will need to pay the visa cost) but instead call our emergency contact number.

Please be sure to provide us with your full passport details at least 4 weeks prior to your arrival in order for the free visa to be arranged. Should you NOT wish to take advantage of a free visa or you are not staying in Jordan for more than 2 consecutive nights, UK, EU, AUS, NZ, CAN and USA passport holders can obtain a visa upon arrival at a cost of 40JD/USD\$60/EURO42 for single entry. South African passport holders can obtain a visa upon arrival at no cost.

If you are arranging your visa independently, our airport representative will meet you in the Arrivals Hall. (Representatives are not permitted to enter the immigration area to assist clients who have/will arrange their visa independently).

It is no longer possible to get a multiple entry visa for Jordan. If planning to leave Jordan and travel to Egypt or Israel and re-enter Jordan at a later date you will need to arrange a second visa. If you are travelling with us and staying in Jordan for more than 2 consecutive nights, we will obtain this second visa for you. Alternatively, you can obtain a second visa at the border at the cost noted above.

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

## Mosques, Religion & Ramadan

93% of the population are Muslim. Others are Christians or followers of other faiths. All mosques are open to non-Muslims but cannot be visited during prayer times. If visiting a mosque you will need to dress conservatively. Ensure limbs are covered and shoes removed

when entering any Mosque. Men must refrain from wearing shorts, as must women.

### 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. Ramadan culminates a month later in a 3 day celebration called Eid al - Fitr. Many shops (excluding those which cater mainly to tourists) and attractions close earlier during Ramadan. As such we will start our tour earlier during this period to make the best use of time and itineraries will be slightly altered to ensure we visit all attractions, leisure time will be offered in the late 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 as follows, (approximate) -

05 May – 04 June 2019

24 April – 23 May 2020

14 April – 13 May 2021

## 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. You can choose to spend the night camping under the stars or bedding down in our comfortable permanent tents with twin beds and linen provided, although you may want 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 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 cushioned seating area, is the place to gather at night where we enjoy a hearty Jordanian meal and some traditional Bedouin music.

## Shopping

Jordan offers a range of quality souvenirs. Look out for high-quality artefacts including rugs, pottery, paintings, jewellery, embroidery

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and woven items produced by local Jordanian women under the auspices of the Noor-Al Hussein Foundation and the Queen Alia Fund. A popular form of ceramic ware is 'Jerusalem Pottery'. Platters are highly decorated with biblically-inspired designs including fish, peacocks, grapes and goblets of wine. Known as Hebron glass, colourful handmade glassware in brilliant colours is a nice buy, as is silver jewellery crafted by the Bedouin people. Dead Sea products of all guises, olive oil and soaps, sweetmeats and olive wood objects are also uniquely Jordanian souvenirs.

**IMPORTANT:** Set your budget and don't be swayed, remember the caveat – 'Let the buyer beware'. Any purchases made whilst on holiday with us, irrespective of whether the store is recommended by us or other, are at your own discretion. Please make sure that you are completely happy with the product you are purchasing and the delivery arrangements (we would recommend you take away with you any purchases rather than rely on shipping services). On The Go cannot be held responsible or accountable for items bought in country or shipping arrangements. Proceed with caution.

## Arriving to Jordan

Upon arrival to Amman Queen Alia International airport and if we are arranging a visa for you, we will meet you PRIOR to immigration and fast track you through the process. 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. Our representative will introduce you to our driver, who will transfer you to your hotel. You will also be given a welcome letter at this time highlighting the departure time for your sightseeing program tomorrow.

If for any reason you have trouble locating our representative (after waiting 20 minutes PRIOR to immigration, if we are arranging your visa) or your flight to Jordan is delayed, please call or send a text message (standard text, not messenger, what's App etc) to the

emergency contact number as noted on your tour voucher.

## Entrance Fees & LP

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 above 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).

If travelling onto Egypt, your entrance fees for this part of your holiday is payable in EGP and will be collected on the second day of arriving to Cairo

**If** your tour includes a Local Payment of GBP 150 or USD equivalent (noted under exclusions) this amount will also be collected on Day 2 in Jordan.

## Tipping Kitty

At the start of your holiday we will collect a tip kitty (the amount is noted under exclusions) 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 would suggest USD\$5 - 7 per day for your tour guide, however the decision to tip or how much is entirely up to you.

If you are travelling on to Egypt, the tip kitty for the Egyptian sector of your holiday will be collected in EGP on the second day of arriving there. You should also allow a tip of USD\$5 - 7 per day for your Egyptian tour guide, though ultimately the decision to tip or not and the amount is a personal choice.

If travelling onto Israel we would also recommend you budget USD5 - 7 per day, per traveller for your guide and USD2 -3 for your driver. Tipping your guide and driver is an entirely personal gesture.

## 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.

## Health Requirements

You should seek medical advice before travelling to Jordan from your local health practitioner and ensure that you receive all of the appropriate vaccinations. As a guide Tetanus, Diphtheria and Hepatitis A are strongly recommended. As tap water is not safe to drink in Jordan, only drink bottled mineral water which is readily available from hotels, shops and restaurants.

## Currency

The currency of Jordan is the Jordanian Dinar. Pound Sterling, US Dollars, Euro and other major currencies can be exchanged in Jordan. Exchange facilities are available at various bureau de changes and all major towns have ATMs. It's advisable to request bank notes in smaller denominations, as it can sometimes be hard to get change from large notes and smaller notes are handy for smaller purchases and gratuities. Traveller's Cheques are not recommended.

## Climate

The maximum daily temperature in Amman ranges from 12°C in January to 32°C in August. The weather in the Jordan Valley (Petra) and south of the country is very hot during the summer months of April through to September. At this time of year daytime

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temperatures can exceed 38°C and increase to as high as 49°C. The sun can be fierce so it is advised to apply plenty of sunscreen, especially at the Dead Sea.

In winter (December to February) temperatures can range from 0°C to 12°C. If visiting during winter you will need to pack warm clothes for sightseeing, although the Dead Sea region will still be quite warm. If your holiday includes a stay in the Wadi Rum desert, winter wear items such as hat, scarf and gloves are also advised.

## Time & Voltage

Jordan is 2 hours ahead of Greenwich Meantime (GMT). From the last Sunday in March to the last Sunday in October Jordan observes Daylight Saving and is 3 hours ahead of GMT. Standard voltage is 220 volts. Primary sockets require 3 pin UK and often European, 2 pronged variety. In Israel the preferred variety is European 2 prong. We recommend that you pack a universal travel adaptor. You will need a voltage converter, and plug adaptor in order to use U.S. appliances.

## 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 and the remainder of the holiday another in Egypt (or in reverse depending on your tour booked).

## Essential Packing

- Camping at Wadi Rum - All bedding (of a well-laundered standard) is provided at our Bedouin camp. It is of a personal choice should you wish to bring your own sleep sheet or sleeping bag.
- Pack insect repellent and a torch or headlamp if staying in Wadi Rum
- If visiting in winter pack warm clothes and an umbrella
- In summer bring lightweight clothing, sunscreen and a hat
- UK 3 pin and European 2 prong (European more so for Israel) electrical adaptors as the sockets vary from one hotel to another

- A copy of your travel insurance policy, spare passport photos and a photocopy of your passport
- Proper walking shoes (joggers/ trainers) 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 & 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.

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