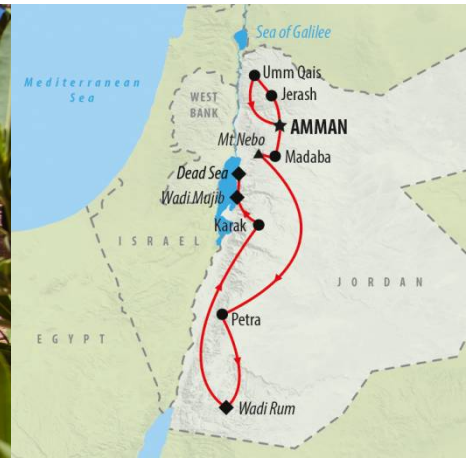


Xmas in Petra

8 Days | Starts/Ends: Amman



Enjoy a Jordanian Christmas Eve feast in the Petra, participate in a Boxing Day talent competition at Wadi Rum, take a dip in the Dead Sea, explore Petra in depth and visit Roman ruins and the world's oldest mosaic map of the Holy Land... all these highlights and more on our special Christmas in Petra tour.

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 - Dramatically beautiful landscape with warm buoyant mineral-rich waters
- 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 ar-Rasas - An ancient city and important stop on the caravan route between east and west
- Mt Nebo - Perhaps one of the most sacred sites in Jordan with views across the Promised Land
- Madaba - Christian market town, Church of St George, Jordan's finest Byzantine mosaics

What's Included

- 7 breakfasts and 3 dinners (including a Christmas Eve Feast in Petra and Bedouin dinner at Wadi Rum)
- 6 nights - 4 star hotels, 1 night - Wadi Rum deluxe desert camp
- Wadi Rum 4 x 4 desert jeep safari
- Dead Sea - Free time to swim and detox
- Airport arrival and departure transfer on day 1 and day 8. Please note departure transfers on day 8 are only offered at 23:00 (evening of day 7), 05:00, 07:30, 11:00 and 14:00
- Touring of Amman, Jerash, Dead Sea, Petra, Wadi Rum, Umm ar-Rasas, Mt Nebo and Madaba
- Escorted by a qualified Jordanian tour guide
- All relevant transfers and transportation in private modern air-conditioned vehicles

What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: USD\$35-45, paid in local currency
- Entrance Fees: USD\$135-145, paid in local currency

- International flights and visa
- Laundry, drinks and items of a personal nature

ITINERARY

Day 1 : Amman

22 December 2017. Welcome to Jordan and the start of your Christmas holiday! Arrive Amman, included transfer to hotel and overnight.

Overnight - Amman

Day 2 : Jerash & Umm Qais

Amman - Jerash - Umm Qais - Amman. Today we tour Jerash, arguably the world's best-preserved Roman provincial city with whisper-perfect acoustics in the South Theater, chariot-wheel marks in the paving stones of the Cardo and an exciting chariot race in the 2,000-year-old Hippodrome. Drive on to Umm Qais (Biblical Gadara) to visit a dramatic black-basalt Roman Decapolis city featuring great views over the Sea of Galilee and the Golan Heights. Later on we return to Amman. **Overnight - Amman (B, D)**

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updated on 25-06-2017

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Day 3 : Mt Nebo & the Promised Lands



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. Tonight we enjoy a Christmas Eve dinner. **Overnight - Petra** (B, D)

Day 4 : Xmas in the Rose City



Merry Christmas Petra-style! Begin the day with a walk through the mysterious mile-long Siq, the narrow gorge with towering sandstone walls which leads into the ancient capital city of the Nabatean trading empire. Explore the Khazneh (the temple of Indiana Jones fame), Theater, Colonnaded Street and Museum. After lunch, climb to ad-Deir (the Monastery), Petra's largest carved façade.

Tonight, consider doing a Petra by Night excursion (payable locally) for a tantalizing candlelight stroll through Petra's Siq. **Overnight - Petra** (B)

Day 5 : Boxing Day at Wadi Rum



Petra - Wadi Rum. This morning we have the opportunity to join our guide for a return to Petra along the 'secret way' of al-Madras, with visits to the High Place of Sacrifice and Wadi Farasa. Mid-day stop in the Wadi Musa souk to pick up shawarma sandwiches or fruit and veggie snacks from the local produce souk before making the scenic drive to Wadi Rum. We make a late afternoon Jeep tour of this moonscape desert terrain, arriving to our remote camp site deep in the heart of the Wadi Rum Protected Area.

During dinner we'll enjoy entertainment by local Bedouin musicians. Afterwards, we'll turn the tables and let you show us your own special talents... with special prizes for those of you judged most worthy by your fellow travellers.

Overnight - Wadi Rum (B, D)

Days 6-7 : Karak Castle & the Dead Sea



Wadi Rum - Karak - Dead Sea. After breakfast at the campsite on day 6 we head north along the Desert Highway. We make a drive through the busy market town of Karak under the towering shadows of the Karak Crusader Castle, descending 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. Bob in the waters and slap on some of the famous black Dead Sea mud to give your skin an invigorating boost.

Day 7 is free to further relax and pamper yourself at the Dead Sea. Enjoy this natural phenomena, whiling away the time bobbing in the mineral rich buoyant waters and lathering up with a detoxifying mud bath. **Overnight - Dead Sea** (B:2)

Day 8 : Amman

29 December 2017. Dead Sea - Amman Airport. Hotel check-out and included onward departure transfer to Amman's Queen Alia airport.

Please note that departure transfers are offered on day 8 at 23:00 (evening of day 7), 05:00, 07:30, 11:00 and 14:00. 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.

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Xmas in Petra

(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.



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 everyday. 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 tippie at any time of the day or night. The accommodation is located on the shores of the world famous Dead Sea.



PRICES / DATES INFO

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. Departure dates noted with a 'G' are guaranteed to operate. All other

departure dates can be guaranteed with a minimum of 2 persons.

PRICES / DATES 2017

Date	Twin Share	Single
22 Dec	USD 2,245	USD 2,865

PRICES / DATES 2018

Date	Twin Share	Single
22 Dec	USD 2,245	USD 2,865

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