

Lawrences Arabia

9 Days | Amman to Dead Sea



Jordan, home to the Rose City of Petra offers much more than initially meets the eye. This inspiring 9-day itinerary visits the Dead Sea, Wadi Rum, Petra, Roman ruins & much more. It's a true Arabian Adventure - with a little bit of luxury!

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
- Madaba - Christian market town, Church of St George, Jordan's finest Byzantine mosaics
- Shobak Crusader Castle - Reminder of the former glory of the Crusaders
- Aqaba - Picturesque Red Sea resort town with free time to sunbathe, swim, snorkel and more
- 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
- Bethany - Biblical sights, Elijah's Well and baptismal fonts
- Dead Sea - Dramatically beautiful landscape with warm buoyant mineral-rich waters

What's Included

- 8 breakfasts
- 8 nights Superior (4 star) hotels. 3 and 5 star hotel options are also available upon request
- Touring of Amman, Jerash, Madaba, Petra and Bethany
- Dead Sea - Free time to swim and detox
- Aqaba - Coastal bliss and colourful reefs
- Wadi Rum 4x4 jeep safari through the desert
- Airport arrival and departure transfer on day 1 and day 9
- Qualified, Jordanian tour guides for guided sightseeing
- All relevant transfers and transportation in Private air-conditioned vehicles
- Entrance fees for all included sightseeing

What's Not Included

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

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Amman

Welcome to Jordan and the start of your holiday! Arrive into Amman and transfer to your hotel. **Overnight - Amman (B)**

Day 2 : Jerash & Umm Qais



Amman – Jerash – Umm Qais – Amman. This morning we visit Jerash, the world's best-preserved Roman provincial city, built over 2,000 years ago and known as the 'Pompeii of the East'. Here we visit the Forum, with its forest of towering columns, the arena, where the tracks of chariot wheels can still be seen, the souk area, Temple of Artemis and the South Theatre with its near-perfect acoustics. We continue on to Umm Qais, a dramatic black-basalt Roman city with panoramic views over the Sea of Galilee. **Overnight - Amman (B)**

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Day 3 : Madaba & Shobak Castle



Amman – Madaba - Petra. Today, we tour the citadel, Archaeological Museum and enjoy free time in the local souq. Driving onward to Madaba we visit the Greek Orthodox Church of St George which has incredible 6th century Byzantine mosaics, depicting Jerusalem and other holy sites. Late afternoon visit to Shobak castle en route to Petra. **Overnight - Petra (B)**

Days 4-5 : The Rose City



Get ready to be amazed! All but lost to the modern world until 1812, Petra is a real archaeological gem, full of ancient tombs and ruins ripe for the modern-day discoverer. We access Petra on horseback, through the mysterious mile-long Siq which leads to the spectacular façade of the Treasury (of Indiana Jones fame). This is just the beginning of a day filled with true adventure, where we'll explore amazing sights such as the Street of Facades, the Theatre, Colonnaded Street and Qasr al Bint. On day 5, there is an opportunity to return to the Rose City. **Overnight - Petra (B:2)**

Day 6 : The Red Desert & Aqaba



Petra – Wadi Rum – Aqaba. Today we transfer to Wadi Rum for a 4x4 tour of the moonscape terrain which T. E. Lawrence described as “vast, echoing and God-like.” The desertscape of Wadi Rum is truly stunning with its ancient riverbeds and amazing eroded rock formations. We drive onward to Aqaba - Jordan's premier Red Sea hotspot and enjoy an afternoon of R&R. **Overnight - Aqaba (B)**

Day 7 : Dead Sea



Aqaba - Bethany - Dead Sea. Driving north via Wadi Araba, you'll stop at Lot's Cave and the Dead Sea Panorama point. Later a city tour of Bethany before descending to the lowest point on the earth's surface, the Dead Sea. Take a dip in the mineral rich waters, where you'll bob around like a cork; there is certainly no risk of sinking here! Your skin will also receive a fabulous detox, thanks to the curative qualities of the water. **Overnight - Dead Sea (B)**

Day 8 : Opt for a dip!



Enjoy a free day relaxing by the Dead Sea. Perhaps treat yourself to a Dead Sea spa treatment or two; everybody deserves a little pampering on holiday. **Overnight - Dead Sea (B)**

Day 9 : Dead Sea

Dead Sea – Amman airport. Enjoy your last morning with a final dip, before hotel check out and onward departure transfer to Amman's Queen Alia airport. **(B)**

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Entrance Fees & Local Payment

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

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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.

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).

Alcohol

On our Signature & Budget tours, our hotels in Amman and the Dead Sea do serve alcohol. Expect that our hotels in Petra and Madaba do not serve alcohol and this is most definitely the case during Ramadan but at other times of the year it might be possible to get beer and wine. You are able to bring your own into the

hotel. 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 tippie 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. 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.

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.

Jordan Country Guide

Arriving to Jordan

For all clients that arrive to into Amman Queen Alia International airport to start their Jordan holiday (not applicable to Highlights of Israel & Jordan tour), upon arrival you will pass through immigration, baggage claim and customs. As you exit customs into the public arrivals hall, please be on the lookout 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. 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 to emergency contact number as stated on your tour voucher.

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

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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) -

23 April – 23 May 2020

12 April – 11 May 2021

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.

Visas - Jordan

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.

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 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.

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.

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.

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 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.

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

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- 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

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

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. 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.

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