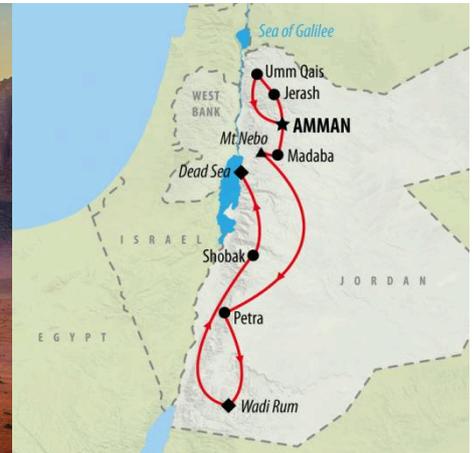


# New Year's in Wadi Rum

## 8 Days | Starts/Ends: Amman



*NEW YEAR TOUR: Celebrate a festive Bedouin New Year's Eve in the heart of the Wadi Rum Desert. Add the fascinating Lost City of Petra, bobbing in the Dead Sea, exploring Roman ruins, and you'll be kicking off your New Year in style!*

### HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

#### Trip Highlights

- Amman - Explore this Ancient hilltop citadel with its fascinating Archaeological Museum and the bustling souqs
- Jerash - Roam the ruins of the ancient Roman city
- Umm ar-Rasas - Visit this ancient city and important stop on the caravan route between east and west with breathtaking views
- Umm Qais - See the Roman Decapolis City, once a cultural centre and home to poets and great philosophers
- Mt Nebo - Stand at one of the most sacred sites in Jordan with views across the Promised Land
- Madaba - Stop into the Christian market town, Church of St George and Jordan's finest Byzantine mosaics

- Petra - Say hello to the UNESCO-listed Nabataean city that was all but lost to the modern world until its rediscovery in 1812
- Wadi Rum - Witness this vast red desert landscape with rolling dunes and dramatic rock formations
- Shobak Crusader Castle - Explore this magnificent castle perched dramatically on a hill top
- Dead Sea - Float in the warm and buoyant mineral-rich waters

#### What's Included

- Breakfast daily and 2 dinners, plus New Year's Bedouin Party at the Wadi Rum Camp
- 6 nights 4 star hotels
- 1 night Wadi Rum deluxe desert camp
- Wadi Rum - 4x4 desert safari through the sand dunes
- Dead Sea - Free time to swim and detox
- Touring - Amman, Jerash, Dead Sea, Petra, Wadi Rum, Shobak, Umm ar-Rasas, Mt Nebo and Madaba
- Escorted by a licensed Jordanian tour guide and English speaking specialist guides at some local sights
- Airport arrival transfer on day 1 and departure transfer is offered on day

8 at 23:00 (day 7), 04:00, 07:00, 09:00, 12:00 and 16:00 only

- 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
- International flights and visa (see Trip Notes for further information about visas)
- Tip for your tour guide. We recommend you allow USD\$5-7 per day, per traveller. Tipping your guide is an entirely personal gesture

### DETAILED ITINERARY

#### Day 1 : Welcome to Jordan!

27 December. Once you arrive in Amman you are met at the airport and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is free to spend at your leisure.

#### Overnight - Amman

### New Year's in Wadi Rum - 8 Days

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# New Year's in Wadi Rum

## Day 2 : Jerash & Umm Qais



Amman - Jerash - Umm Qais - Amman. Your tour guide will usually be at your hotel at approximately 7.30am for your Welcome Meeting. Throughout the tour, you are fully briefed by your tour guide with regards to your touring arrangements. At the Welcome Meeting, a modest tipping kitty is collected from everyone (as noted under exclusions on page one of this document). This tip kitty covers all the tipping throughout your tour (to baggage handlers, porters, drivers and ancillaries). The tip for your tour guide is not included in this tip kitty and should be given at the end of your tour for a job well done (for information about tipping, see "Tipping" further down this document).

Today we tour 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. When Emperor Hadrian paid a visit in 129 AD, the place was buzzing. The citizens built a Triumphal Arch for him which still stands today. Exemplifying the finesse of Roman urban life, the town boasts a hippodrome, the old sports field that once held 15,000 spectators, a stunning amphitheatre with amazing acoustic abilities, the forum which gracefully links the main north-south axis of Jerash, a colonnaded street paved with original stones and the rut marks of chariots, a nymphaeum

replete with ancient fountains trimmed with dolphins and various temples.

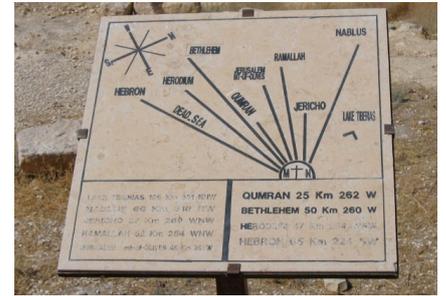
From here, we travel to the modern town of Umm Qais, which is the site of the ancient Graeco-Roman town of Gadara, one of the cities of the Decapolis with panoramic views over the Sea of Galilee and the Golan Heights. Gadara was renowned for its cosmopolitan atmosphere, attracting an array of writers, artists, philosophers and poets. It also served as a resort for Romans vacationing in the nearby al-Hemma hot springs. Gadara was blessed with fertile soil, abundant water and a location astride a number of key trading routes connecting Asia and Europe.

The city thrived until the Byzantine era which witnessed the decline of Gadara into relative obscurity. Earthquakes destroyed many buildings, and by the dawn of the Islamic era Gadara had become just another village. The town became known by the Arabic name Umm Qais during the Middle Ages. Today, a considerable portion of the original Roman amphitheatre has survived and the seats here face west, and are brought to life at sunset. Next to the theatre is a colonnaded street that once probably was the town's commercial heart. Also, near the black basalt theatre are the columns of the great Basilica of Gadara. Further west along the colonnaded street are a mausoleum and public baths.

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, and bookshops.

**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 impressive 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.

**Overnight - Petra (B)**

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## 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. A succession of habitation, leadership and further development followed, but as the caravan trade routes were gradually displaced by the advent of sea trade routes, the city's importance gradually declined and Petra passed into obscurity.

Rediscovered in 1812 by the young Swiss explorer Jean Louis Burckhardt, it remains on the list of must see sights for many travellers. The approach to Petra is very undulating. The town itself is set across some rather steep hills that wind downwards to the star attraction, the Rose City. We access the hidden archaeological treasures of the Rose City on our 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. Continuing our walk, we explore parts of this fantastic once-lost city.

In all, there are some 800 registered sites in Petra, including 500 tombs. Just as fascinating as the rock-carved monuments are the rocks themselves. Petra is an erosion-hewn masterpiece. Sandstone shot with minerals burst into colour giving off

blue, red, orange and green hues. Amongst the rocky and sometimes jagged scenery, it's sometimes hard to know what is man-made and what is the result of nature. 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. 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 breathtaking.

Today's sightseeing tour of Petra is conducted at a moderate pace covering approximately 12 - 15km (including the Monastery). Much of the ground will be rocky and uneven and you will need to have an average level of fitness to complete the full tour. There will be short breaks along the way. Some travellers choose not to complete the full tour and skip the climb to the Monastery and should you do this you'll be able to independently explore and stroll back toward the siq at a leisurely pace.

Consider doing the Petra by Night excursion this evening (payable locally), for a tantalizing candlelight stroll through Petra's Siq....

**Overnight - Petra (B)**

## Day 5 : New Years Eve in Wadi Rum



Petra - Wadi Rum. This morning we have the opportunity to join our guide for a return visit to Petra, along the "secret way" of al-Madras, with visits

to the High Place of Sacrifice and Wadi Farasa. At mid-day we'll make a stop in the Wadi Musa souk to pick up shawarma sandwiches and fruit and veggie snacks from the local produce souk before making the scenic drive to Wadi Rum. We board our after 4x4 jeeps and tour the moonscape desert terrain, arriving to our remote camp site, deep in the heart of the Wadi Rum Protected Area.

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. The world's mountain climbers and hikers, attracted by its many as yet unscathed peaks, have recently discovered Wadi Rum's spectacular natural scenery and comfortable year round climate.

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 goats, and preserving an ancient lifestyle that has been practiced in the Arabian desert for thousands of years.

See out the old year at a Bedouin NY party featuring folkloric dancing, Bedouin musicians, hands-on demonstrations of traditional Bedouin coffee and bread making, fireworks and more....along with a lavish buffet dinner and champagne toast at midnight.

**Overnight - Wadi Rum (B, D)**

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# New Year's in Wadi Rum

## Days 6-7 : Shobak Castle & the Dead Sea



Wadi Rum – Shobak – Dead Sea. Happy New Year! After breakfast at the campsite on day 6, 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 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.

After check in at the Dead Sea, re-confirming your departure transfer time to Amman Airport and answering any questions you may have, it is time to say goodbye to your tour guide who is 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.

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.

During your Dead Sea stay, 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 (payable locally).

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:2)**

## Day 8 : Dead Sea

03 January. 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, please enquire. (B)

## ACCOMMODATION

Highlighted below are some of the accommodation/ hotels which we frequently use on this tour. We reserve the right to substitute these stays to ones of a similar standard.

**Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel or start point and further arrival information.**

### 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.



### 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

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# New Year's in Wadi Rum

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.



## BEFORE YOU GO

### Entrance fees

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 entrance fees 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).

### Tipping kitty

At the start of your holiday we will collect a tip kitty (the amount is noted under exclusions on page 1 of this document) 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 suggest USD\$5-7 per day for your tour guide, however the decision to tip or how much is entirely up to you.

If travelling to Israel we recommend you budget USD5-7 per day, per traveller for your guide and USD2-3 for your driver. Again, tipping your guide and driver is an entirely personal gesture.

### Alcohol

Our hotels in Amman and the Dead Sea do serve alcohol. Expect that our hotels in Petra and Madaba not to serve alcohol and this is most definitely the case during Ramadan. At other times of the year it may be possible to get beer and wine. You are able to bring your own alcohol into the hotel and 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

tittle 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 and starry night sky. You can choose to spend the night camping under the stars or bed down in our comfortable permanent tents with twin beds and linen provided. All bedding (of a well laundered standard) is provided at our Bedouin camp. Temps can be below zero from November to March so if you feel the cold bring additional layers or a thermal sleeping bag. There are environmentally friendly shared bathroom facilities with hot and cold running water, toilets and showers. Our communal tent furnished with small tables and a cushioned seating area, is the place to gather at night where we enjoy a hearty Jordanian meal and some traditional Bedouin music.

### 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, another in Egypt or Israel (or in reverse depending on your tour).

## Jordan Country Guide

### Welcome to Jordan - Arrival transfer

A complimentary airport arrival transfer is included. For all clients arriving into Amman Queen Alia International airport to start their Jordan holiday (not applicable to *Highlights of Israel & Jordan* tour).

### If we are not arranging your visa

please proceed through immigration, baggage claim and customs. As you

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exit customs into the public arrivals hall, please look for our representative who will be holding an On The Go Tours logo signboard.

**If we have arranged your visa for you** we will meet you PRIOR to immigration and will fast track you through the process.

Our representative will introduce you to our driver, who will transfer you to your hotel. You will be given a Welcome Letter at this time which highlights the departure time for your sightseeing program tomorrow.

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 (standard text message, not Messenger or WhatsApp) to the emergency contact number as stated on your Tour Voucher.

## Visas & passports

Visa requirements are subject to change and visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours. Please be advised visa requirements are subject to change, therefore it is essential that you check current visa requirements with the embassy before travel. Please 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 (conditions apply). For information about visas, head to [www.onthegotours.com/Jordan/Visas](http://www.onthegotours.com/Jordan/Visas).

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

## Health requirements & water

You should seek medical advice for vaccinations and about medications before travelling.

Tap water is not safe to drink in Jordan, only drink bottled mineral water which is readily available from hotels, shops and restaurants.

## Essential packing

Please check local temperatures so you can pack accordingly. Visit [www.worldclimate.com](http://www.worldclimate.com)

- Camping at Wadi Rum - All bedding (of a well-laundered standard) is provided at our Bedouin camp. It is a personal choice should you wish to bring your own sleep sheet or sleeping bag
- Pack insect repellent, torch or headlamp if staying in Wadi Rum
- If visiting in winter pack warm clothes, hat, scarf and gloves are advised and an umbrella
- In summer bring lightweight clothing, sunscreen and a hat
- Universal travel adaptor
- Tour Voucher and a copy of your travel insurance policy, spare passport photos and a photocopy of your passport
- Good walking shoes 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 and 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 in Jordan

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. Dead Sea products of all guises, olive oil and soaps, sweetmeats and olive wood are also uniquely Jordanian souvenirs.

In the tourism industry it's common practice for commission to be offered in exchange for recommending particular shops or suppliers. This can become an issue when clients feel obliged to purchase. We do our best to avoid this by monitoring all shopping experiences offered.

Although we only visit reputable retailers, please note that we cannot explicitly guarantee the quality of their products. All purchases made whilst on holiday with us are at your own discretion. Please make sure that

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you are completely happy with your purchase. On The Go cannot be held responsible for any items that you buy if they fail to meet expectation, or any shipping arrangements. Proceed with caution.

## It's not like home, what to expect & Ramadan

Please visit [www.onthegotours.com/Jordan/Travel-tips-and-useful-info](http://www.onthegotours.com/Jordan/Travel-tips-and-useful-info) for local customs, currency, WiFi and other helpful information to prepare you for an enjoyable holiday.

### 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. Many shops (excluding those which cater mainly to tourists) and attractions close earlier, as such we will start our tour earlier to make the best use of time and itineraries may be slightly altered to ensure we visit all attractions, leisure time will be offered in the 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: 22 Mar - 20 Apr 2023 & 10 Mar - 08 Apr 24 (approx)

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