

EXPLORE!

Prophets and Petra

11 days

Israel, Jordan - Trip code MH



Prophets and Petra

On this trip we visit the fascinating historical and cultural sites of Jordan and Israel. We explore the Negev Desert, Wadi Rum and visit ancient Jerash and Bethlehem. We walk through the historic streets of Jerusalem and among the impressive rock-cut tombs at Petra. We also spend the night at a kibbutz and camp out under the stars in Wadi Rum.

Trip highlights

ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

Standard

Our standard, mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service, often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en suite facilities.

TRIP PACE:

Full on

Full on paced trips are for travellers who like their holidays packed with activities and experiences, moving on quickly from place to place with lots of early starts and long, busy days. Some may find them tiring, but others get a buzz from packing their precious holiday-time as chock-a-block full of new experiences as possible!

GROUP SIZE:

12 - 18

Maximum group size ranges from between 6 to 20 people, depending on the type of trip, the transport and accommodation used and activities included. We rarely have groups that are smaller than five or six people and the average is 12 people plus an Explore leader.

Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

DAY 1 - Join tour Amman

Your tour starts today in Amman, the capital of Jordan. Amman is a fascinating city of contrasts - a unique blend of old and new. The Temple of Hercules is in the commercial heart of the city along with ultra-modern buildings, hotels, smart restaurants, art galleries and boutiques. These comfortably rub shoulders with traditional coffee shops and tiny artisans' workshops. Due to the city's modern-day prosperity and temperate climate, almost half of Jordan's population is concentrated in the Amman area. The residential suburbs consist of mainly tree-lined streets and avenues flanked by elegant white houses in accordance with a municipal law, which states that all buildings must be faced with local stone. The downtown area is much older and more traditional with smaller businesses producing and selling everything from fabulous jewellery to everyday household items.



Accommodation: Toledo Hotel (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: None

DAY 2 - AM tour of Amman, then drive to Jerash and visit site

This morning we visit the cultural heart of the Hashemite kingdom with a tour of its vibrant capital. The origins of this remarkable city have been traced back some 9,000 years but it was the arrival of the Ammonites in 1200BC that saw the city begin its rise to prominence as the great city of Rabbath Ammon. The intervening centuries saw it fall under the influences of the Israelites, Assyrians, Babylonians, Ptolomids, Seleucids and the Romans, under whose auspices it thrived as one of the 10 cities of the Decapolis. Our tour this morning will take in some of the highlights of ancient Amman (Philadelphia), including the Citadel and the Temple of Hercules, the 8th century Ummayyad Palace and the Roman Theatre and Nymphaeum. This afternoon we depart the city and head north, towards ancient Jerash, located in the Gilead Hills. One of Jordan's major attractions, this beautifully preserved Roman city is considered to be the best preserved of the Decapolis, a confederation of ten Middle Eastern cities under the Emperor Pompey. One of the highlights of the Middle East, a triple arch gateway gives way to colonnaded streets, theatres, temples and baths and it is estimated that this represents only about 10% of the entire city, the rest is still to be uncovered. We will tour this magnificent site with a local guide before returning to Amman.



Accommodation: Toledo Hotel (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 3 - Dead Sea visit and travel to Petra with afternoon guided tour

Today we venture south to the Dead Sea. We will take some time to enjoy and float in the remarkable saline waters. At 418m below sea level this salty expanse of mineral rich water has been revered for centuries for its beneficial properties. We then head back to the main road to drive to Petra, the most famous of Jordan's treasures. Abandoned centuries ago Petra was the rock cut stronghold of the Nabateans, a fortress city built to protect the lucrative levies its citizens imposed on the rich caravans heading north. Surrounded by imposing mountains and approached through a deep, narrow cleft in the rocks, known as the Siq, it is a unique and unforgettable place and, enhanced by the play of light and shadow, an altogether overwhelming experience. Entering the Siq on foot we follow its towering sandstone walls towards the site of the captivating and iconic splendour of the beautiful Khazneh (The famous Treasury). A guided orientation tour will take us to some of the key parts of this remarkable site. We'll take in the Colonnaded Street and the Royal Tombs and marvel at the amazing theatre, with its 8,000 seats carved from solid rock. After our guided tour there will be free time to explore independently. This evening we enjoy a Bedouin cookery demonstration and meal at a nearby restaurant, learning how to make a traditional Maktoubah (upside down) dish, with meat, rice and fried vegetables, followed by Um Ali, a creamy Arabic dessert with croissant pieces, raisins and nuts.



Accommodation: Petra Palace Hotel (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 4 - Full day sight seeing in Petra

Today we have a full free day at Petra. Returning to the city we climb steep paths to the sacrificial 'High Places' (altars) and hike to the top of Jebel Harin (1396m) for a stunning view over Wadi Araba and the Negev Desert. The Monastery is the largest of Petra's monuments and certainly worth the steep climb up to it. Towering to a height of 40m its doorway alone measures 8m in height, dwarfing anyone framed within it. We also recommend a trip to El Beidha (or 'Little Petra' as it is known) or to an excavated Stone Age village where you can see the remains of houses, fireplaces and workshops dating from around 6000BC. This evening there may be a possibility of enjoying an enchanting tour of the city by night (optional).



Accommodation: Petra Palace Hotel (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast & Dinner

DAY 5 - Drive to Wadi Rum; optional camel trek

This morning there is the opportunity to spend some more time at Petra if you wish before we continue our journey to the haunting vistas of Wadi Rum. We enter another world, one inhabited by the nomadic Bedouin peoples for generations and steeped in the

legend of Lawrence of Arabia. Indeed scenes from the remarkable film of his life were shot here, deep in the fabulous purpleblack mountains that rise from the sand of the desert. On arrival we transfer into 4 wheel drive vehicles and cross the dramatic desert landscape, to marvel at the panoramas of what is surely some of Jordan's most dramatic wilderness. We arrive at our camp in time to watch the golden glow of the sunset cast its pall over the desert landscape and settle in to enjoy dinner and a night under the stars. The campsite we use presents the opportunity to experience traditional Bedouin living arrangements in a large communal style goat hair tent, which provides the best protection against typical desert extremes of hot and cold weather. The tent is laid out with rugs, mattresses, pillows and sleeping bags and is where each tribe would commune to eat, sleep and socialise. A toilet and wash block with limited washing facilities is also available during your stay.



Accommodation: Wadi Rum Explore Camp (or similar)



Simple Tented Camp



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast & Dinner

DAY 6 - Drive to coastal town of Aqaba

This morning we drive to Aqaba and have a day to enjoy the Red Sea. The day is your own but your tour leader will be on hand to offer advice on any optional activities to maximise your time here. You can explore both above and below the waves, taking a boat trip or hiring snorkelling equipment.



Accommodation: My Hotel (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 7 - Cross into Israel and visit Masada and Qumran.

We leave Jordan behind and cross into Israel and the Palestinian territories. Our first stop is the isolated hilltop fortress city of Masada. The last stronghold of the Zealots, against the Romans during the First Revolt AD70. Originally fortified by Herod the Great the fortress gained renown for withstanding a further two years of assault after the crushing of the Jewish resistance in Jerusalem by the Romans. Taking a cable car up to the citadel we get some stunning views of the surrounding desert, Mount Moab and the Dead Sea. We will explore the ruins before heading back to the bus. Our next stop as we head towards Jerusalem takes us to Qumran, home of the Essenes, a strict and devout Jewish sect who lived in the area until early in the 1st century AD. They are believed to have been the authors of the 2,000 year old manuscripts found amongst the hillside caves in 1947. The Dead Sea scrolls are amongst the most important biblical records ever discovered, providing historians and archaeologists with an incredible insight into the development of the Bible and its historical context. Our night stop is in a traditional kibbutz.



Accommodation: Kibbutz Kalia (or similar)



Standard Kibbutz



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast and Dinner

DAY 8 - Visit Bethlehem and Jerusalem

Today we drive to the Mount of Olives before entering Jerusalem before passing through Herod's Gate and making our way along narrow winding streets that overflow with street vendors and shops to the Via Dolorosa. This is traditionally believed to be the route taken by Christ on the day of his execution. We will follow the 'Stations of the Cross' to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the holiest site in Christendom itself and the reputed place of the crucifixion, burial and eventual resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jerusalem is unique in that it is a place held sacred by the three great monotheistic religions of the world and after having visited Christendom's most sacred site we move on to that of Judaism, the Western Wall. Believed by Jews to be the last remaining remnant of the second Temple, the wall is considered the most revered of all sites for the Jews and is a place of constant prayer. From here we continue, if access is allowed, onto the Dome of the Rock and Islam's claim to this holy trinity. This is believed to be the site of Mohammed's ascension to heaven and is the third holiest site in Islam, not to mention one of the most impressive examples of Islamic architecture in the world. Our final visit of the day is to Mount Zion visiting the Last Supper rooms and King David's Tomb.



Accommodation: The Post Hostel (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 9 - Full Day sightseeing in and around Jerusalem

This morning we drive through the new part of Jerusalem, taking in the Hebrew University, the Parliament building and the Supreme Court, before continuing to the Israel Museum and the Shrine of the Book, home of the Dead Sea Scrolls parchments and the largest museum to all things Israeli anywhere on the planet. We'll also visit Yad Vashem, Israel's official memorial to the Jewish victims of the Holocaust that sits at the foot of Mount Herzl. In the afternoon we visit the historic City of David, the first city of Jerusalem. We will stroll along the water channels till we reach the Pool of Siloam, mentioned in the bible and thought to be the place that Jesus healed a blind man. From here we journey up the old Herodian Road to the Wailing Wall, believed by Jews to be the last remnant of the second Temple and, as such, considered the most revered of all sites for the Jews.



Accommodation: The Post Hostel (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 10 - Full free day for exploring or take optional trips

Today we have a full free day to explore more of Jerusalem or there are two optional trips on offer. The first is to visit Tel Aviv or Jaffa and Caesarea. The second option is a tour of Bethlehem. Your tour leader will be available to assist with any excursions you may wish to take.



Accommodation: The Post Hostel (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



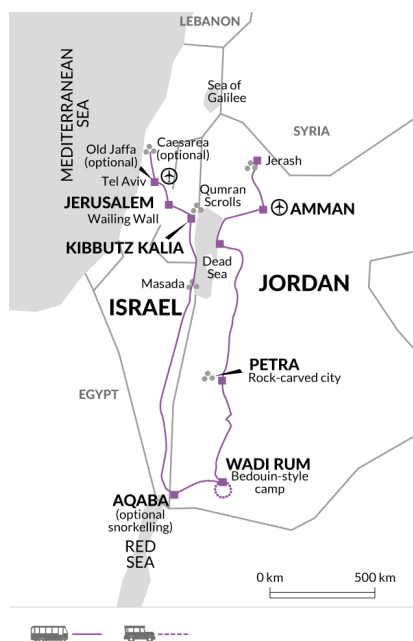
Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 11 - Tours ends Jerusalem

Tour ends in Jerusalem after breakfast.



Meals Provided: Breakfast



What's included?



Included meals

Breakfast: 10
Dinner: 3



Transport

Bus
4WD



Trip staff

Explore Tour Leader
Camp Crew
Driver(s)
Local Guide(s)



Accommodation

8 nights standard hotel
1 nights standard kibbutz
1 nights simple tented camp

Trip information

Country information

Israel Holidays & Tours

Climate

Israel has a Mediterranean climate. Summer is hot with fairly high humidity in coastal regions. Rainfall is mostly from November to March: during this period temperatures can drop quite sharply, particularly in December, so pack accordingly.

Time difference to GMT

+2

Plugs

2 Pin Round

Religion

Jewish, Islam, Christian.

Language

Hebrew, Arabic, English.

Jordan Holidays & Tours

Climate

During April to November days are generally sunny and hot without rain with temperatures around 32°C. In spring and autumn evenings can be cool and night temperatures can drop suddenly especially in the desert. Expect cold nights in winter (December to February) when temperatures can drop to around 0 degrees. Some rain should also be expected at this time of year.

Time difference to GMT

+2

Plugs

2 Pin Round

Religion

Islam

Language

Arabic

Budgeting and packing

Optional activities

Petra - Ottoman bath £24, 'Petra by Night' £17.00 Petra - Cookery demonstration including meal £16.00 Wadi Rum - Camel trek £28.00 Jerusalem Sound & Light Show - from \$15.00 pp (subject to weather conditions), Night City tour by Bike - \$26.00 pp (minimum 4 people) Caesarea, Haifa Tour - Full Day tour \$115.00 pp Bethlehem Tour - half day - \$51.00 Tel Aviv Street Art Tour half day - \$55.00 pp

Clothing

For Jordan pack essentially lightweight clothing, with a sun-hat and neck protection, though a sweater and light jacket are advisable for Wadi Rum. Early mornings can be very chilly when camping in the desert and winters in Jordan can be cold, so please bring suitable warm clothing. We recommend a waterproof jacket in winter. Women are advised not to wear shorts or dresses that are too revealing as this can attract unwelcome attention in the streets of Muslim towns - loose fitting trousers or slacks are ideal. Women should also cover their head and shoulders when entering a mosque and men should wear long trousers. For Israel and the Palestinian Territories convention demands that long trousers are worn in some Jewish and Christian holy places, and women must cover their arms, legs and head. During winter (October to March) medium weight clothing and rainwear is advisable. A fleece will be useful during this time for early mornings (Masada visit) when it can be chilly.

Footwear

Comfortable walking shoes or boots, trainers and sandals.

Luggage

20kg

Luggage: On tour

One main piece of baggage and daypack. Remember you are expected to carry your own luggage so don't overload yourself.

Equipment

Sleeping bags, blankets and mattresses are provided, but we suggest you bring your own sleeping sheet. A personal water bottle and small torch are useful for the night camping. In addition a high factor suncream and sunglasses.

Tipping

Explore leader

Tour Leader: At your discretion you might also consider tipping your Tour Leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

Local crew

Local Crew: Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognized part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. In order to make things easier for you, the Tour Leaders may organise a group's tips kitty and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour. Accordingly you should allow approx £40 for gratuities.

International Departure Taxes

The Jordanian government levies on all travellers a departure tax of JD8.00 per person. For travellers departing by air this is usually included in the taxes on the airline ticket and thus nothing will be collected from you at the point of departure. For those travellers departing by land, this will be collected by the immigration authorities at the port of departure from Jordan. There is a \$25 departure tax payable when leaving Israel & Palestinian Territories for Jordan.

Country Information

Israel Holidays & Tours

Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Dinner price

£10.00 - 14.00

Beer price

£2.00 - 4.00

Water price

£1.00 - 2.00

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

Shekel (NIS).

Recommended Currency For Exchange

It is easy to exchange major currencies - euros, pounds sterling and US dollars

Where To Exchange

Your tour leader will advise you on arrival.

ATM Availability

ATM's are widely available.

Credit Card Acceptance

Credit cards are also generally accepted.

Travellers Cheques

Travellers Cheques are not easily exchanged and should be avoided.

Jordan Holidays & Tours

Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Lunch price

£10

Dinner price

£15

Beer price

£4

Water price

£1.5

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

Jordanian Dinar

Recommended Currency For Exchange

Sterling and US\$ are widely accepted though exchange rates tend to favour the US\$. It is worth taking some money in cash. You may be able to order Dinars from your bank although the rate will usually be lower than purchasing currency in country.

Where To Exchange

Banks or 'Forex' offices in main towns/cities.

ATM Availability

ATMs are widely available, but do not always work.

Credit Card Acceptance

In hotels and some larger shops/restaurants.

Travellers Cheques

Travellers Cheques, although still the safest way of carrying money, are difficult to cash in Jordan. There are high commission charges on Travellers Cheques on a per cheque basis so if using them we suggest you take high denomination cheques. Proof of purchase may be necessary for encashment of Travellers Cheques.

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

Bus, 4WD

Accommodation notes

Booking a Single Room

All of our group tours are planned and operated on a twin-share basis, meaning that the standard cost is based either on individual travellers sharing accommodation with another group member of the same sex, or people who book together sharing accommodation. Please refer to the tour notes where the single room option availability is detailed on a night by night basis for this tour, and the price for the available nights is detailed on the dates & prices tab by departure date. For Self-Guided trips the Single Room supplement offers the option of a single room each and is charged per person. The Single Room supplement also applies to the third person in a party of three that will be accommodated in a single room.

Overall the tourism infrastructure is well developed in Jordan, Israel & Palestinian Territories and standards are generally good.

Our accommodation throughout this tour is mostly in modern mid-range hotels with en-suite facilities and air conditioning. Due to the recent considerable rise in tourism in Jordan, hotels are experiencing very high demand for hotel rooms', particularly in and around Petra. This high demand can lead to lower levels of service and quality, as well as occurrences of overbookings, which are often notified to us at a late stage. For this reason, we would like to emphasise that hotel accommodation, including the standard of, is subject to change and facilities are often simple. However, we are confident that these issues are vastly outweighed by our close proximity to historical Petra. A desert camp in Wadi Rum boasts a stunning and little visited part of the Wadi. We camp in a communal Bedouin tent and all bedding is provided. There is even a proper toilet! Please note that some hotel swimming pools in Jordan may operate separate timetables for men and women. In Jerusalem, we stay in a centrally located hostel in what was once the post office building. However, to clarify we have graded the accommodation as 'standard hotel' because although the property features dormitory rooms, all Explore customers stay in private twin-share accommodation with en-suite. Whilst the rooms are small and simply furnished, they are clean and all feature private bathroom facilities, making it a great base from which to explore this historic capital city. The main highlight of this accommodation is its central location, with many of Jerusalem's highlights just a walk away and access to the city's modern tram just 100m away.

Essential information

FCO Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice [click here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, [click here](#)

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Essential Information

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

Visa Information

Jordan: The Jordanian government have announced that from 01 June 2015, all visa fees will be waived for tourists of British, American, Australian and Canadian nationalities on arrival at an international Jordanian airport. There are however, certain conditions that each tourist of these nationalities must meet in order to gain the free visa. Most of these are already met by Explore tours, however flight information and arrival date into Jordan both have an effect on qualifying for the free visa. Please see below for the category that is applicable to your flight arrangements: The following information relates to the above nationalities travelling on flights to Jordan arranged by Explore arriving on the first day of the tour: In order to qualify for the free visa, the above nationalities must be met by a representative who will assist with the visa process, this is already arranged by Explore as part of the transfer arrangements from the airport at the start of the tour. The following information relates to the above nationalities with Land Only arrangements arriving on the first day of the tour: In order to qualify for the free visa, these tourists must be met by a representative who will assist with the visa process. Land Only customers of the above nationalities arranging their own flights to arrive in Jordan on the first day of the tour must advise their full flight details to Explore at least 7 days prior to your departure date. We will then arrange for the representative to meet you as part of the transfer arrangements from the airport to the start of the tour. The following information relates to the above nationalities arriving in Jordan prior or after the first day of the tour: In order to qualify for the free visa, tourists of the above nationalities must be met by a representative who will assist with the visa process. To qualify for the free visa, you must contact Explore at least 7 days prior to your departure date to arrange and purchase a private transfer. We will then arrange for the representative to meet you as part of the transfer arrangements. Please Note: For all tourist of the above nationalities that arrange their own travel arrangements and do not advise their flight details to Explore within the above specified timelines, the Jordanian visa fee of JD40.00 (approximately £40) will be applicable. This must be paid on arrival at an international Jordanian airport in order for individuals to gain a visa to enter the country. All other nationalities should consult the relevant consulate to determine if they are applicable for the above free visa on arrival or must gain a visa prior to departure.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See www.travcour.com to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our Essential Information and Booking Conditions.

Transfers

[Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.](#)

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer click [here](#)

Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. [Read more about them here.](#)

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Israel Holidays & Tours

Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, we recommend protection against, typhoid, tetanus, diphtheria, polio, rabies, hepatitis A and B. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and from your local healthcare provider.

Jordan Holidays & Tours

Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against malaria, typhoid, tetanus infectious hepatitis and polio. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against malaria.
