

# EXPLORE!



## Treasures of Jordan

9 days

Jordan - Trip code DJD

## Treasures of Jordan

Join us on this journey exploring Jordan's historical sites and far-reaching desert landscapes. Following in the footsteps of ancient civilisations we travel along the King's Highway to the Crusader castle of Kerak. We also visit the 'lost city' of Petra, the Roman ruins at Jerash and the copper-coloured sand dunes of Wadi Rum. There's time to unwind too, at Aqaba and on the Dead Sea.

## Trip highlights

- ★ **Amman** - Tour the ancient city, including Umayyad Palace, King Abdullah Mosque, the Gold Market and the herbal souk
- ★ **Kings Highway** - Explore St George's Church in Madaba and see the world's oldest mosaic map
- ★ **Petra** - Visit the spectacular 'Rose Red City' of the ancient Nabateans
- ★ **Wadi Rum** - Take an optional camel trek or 4WD drive in the impressive desert landscapes of Wadi Rum
- ★ **Dead Sea** - Experience the buoyant saline waters of the lowest place on Earth
- ★ **Jerash** - Tour the Greco Roman ruins with a local expert

### ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

#### Premium

Our premium accommodation is hand-picked and chosen for its character, location or local importance. These properties have excellent facilities and a higher level of comfort and service. They provide the perfect wind down after an active day.

#### 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:

##### 10 - 16

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 Trip in Amman

Join the trip today in Amman. You will meet with your group and Tour Leader this evening.



**Accommodation: Grand Palace Hotel** (or similar)



Premium Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: None

### DAY 2 - Amman City Tour and Roman Jerash

Today we dive straight into exploring the ancient history of this area, with a guided tour of Amman. The city tour this morning will be a combination of travelling via minibus and walking through this amazing city. The main sights will include; The King Abdullah Mosque also known as the Blue Mosque, is a landmark with its blue dome which internally is covered with Quranic inscriptions; The Citadel, situated on the city's highest hill, also includes the striking historic buildings of the Umayyad Palace and the Roman built Hercules Temple; and The Roman Theatre, a remarkable example of Roman Philadelphia, is set within the side of a hill with the capacity of 6000 seats. This afternoon we drive to Jerash and spend our time at this Middle East treasure located in the Gilead Hills. Considered to be the best preserved city of the Ten Decapolis Cities of the Roman Empire, we will spend our time roaming the ruins and walking through the iconic triple arch gateway leading onto a colonnaded street, theatre, temples and baths. From here we return to Amman for our overnight stay.



**Accommodation: Grand Palace Hotel** (or similar)



Premium Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 3 - Visit Qasr Al Kharana, Madaba and Mount Nebo

We start today with a visit to Desert Castles and Palaces. Our morning tour includes Qasr Al Kharana; a castle that is believed to have been built 1200 years ago and is one of the first examples of Islamic Architecture in the region. Amra Palace; a UNESCO site, is a wonderful example of an Umayyad desert complex, renown for its amazing early Islamic art depicted throughout the many frescoes on the walls and ceilings. And Aszraq Castle, once the headquarters of Lawrence of Arabia, which he called the Blue Fortress. This afternoon we visit Madaba, a small Christian town with its collection of extraordinary mosaics, including the Great Map of Palestine (6th century). We also stop at St George's Church where the mosaic map of the Holy lands is part of this church's floor. We then investigate Jebel Nebo (808m), better known as Mount Nebo. A pilgrimage centre for Christians principally because Moses is said to have seen the Promised Land from this summit. We return to our hotel in Amman.



**Accommodation: Grand Palace Hotel** (or similar)



Premium Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 4 - Journey to Petra and a Guided Tour of the Rose City

This morning we leave Amman and travel to Petra for a 2 night stay. Abandoned centuries ago, Petra was the rock cut stronghold of the Nabateans. 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. A guided orientation tour will take us to some of the key parts of this remarkable and ancient site. We'll take in the Colonnaded Street, the Royal Tombs and marvel at the amazing theatre, with its 8,000 seats carved from the solid rock, before a free afternoon to continue exploring at your leisure.



**Accommodation: Marriott Hotel Petra** (or similar)



Premium Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 5 - Free Day to Discover the Treasures of the 'Lost City' of Petra

Today you have a full free day at Petra. Returning to the city, you can climb steep paths to the sacrificial 'High Places' (altars) for stunning views over Wadi Araba and the Negev Desert. You might also take the high road up to the Monastery, which is the largest of Petra's monuments and certainly worth the climb up to it. Towering to a height of 40m its doorway alone measures 8m in height. We also recommend a trip to El Beidha (or 'Little Petra' as it is known) or to the excavated Stone Age village where you can see the

remains of houses, fireplaces and workshops dating from around 6000BC. After a full day's sightseeing, what better way to relax than with a traditional Ottoman Bath (optional). This evening there may be a possibility of enjoying an enchanting tour of the city by night (optional).



**Accommodation: Marriott Hotel Petra** (or similar)



Premium Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast & Dinner

## DAY 6 - To Wadi Rum; Take an Optional Jeep Excursion and Camp in Luxury Under the Stars

Today we transfer to the Wadi Rum Desert. The Wadi Rum desert is an impressive sight with Monolithic outcrops of granite rock and sandstone rising out of the desert. This afternoon we have the chance to experience an exhilarating 4WD excursion (optional), that ends at the camp. After sunset, we enjoy the Bedouin hospitality around the campfire under a blanket of stars; a great setting to share stories while sipping mint and sage tea. A traditional bedouin dinner, which consists of a chicken or a goat meal cooked under the desert sand, is served as well as a delicious selection of mezze. We use a comfortable camp with great views over the desert. Each private tent retains the traditional Bedouin design, furnished with comfortable handmade beds, with electricity provided via solar power.



**Accommodation: Wadi Rum Premium Camp** (or similar)



Premium Tented Camp



Meals Provided: Breakfast & Dinner

## DAY 7 - Optional Camel Ride, then Drive to Aqaba. Enjoy Time at Leisure in the Red Sea

This morning there is the opportunity for a camel trek (optional) through the dramatic Siq el Barra and learn about this precious alliance between the dromedary and the nomads. Leaving Wadi Rum later this morning we drive to Aqaba on the Red Sea coast for a chance to relax and take in the sea views. On arrival in Aqaba your Explore Leader will be on hand to arrange an optional snorkelling trip or visit to the private Berenice Beach Club (optional).



**Accommodation: Double Tree by Hilton Aqaba** (or similar)



Premium Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 8 - Float in the Dead Sea

We continue with our journey and head towards the saline waters of the Dead Sea. At nearly 400m below sea level this is the lowest point on earth. We will have time to enjoy the strange delights of floating and bathing in the skin-soothing properties of the mud as well as visiting the Panoramic Complex and Visitors Centre, before returning to the capital for our final night.



**Accommodation: Grand Palace Hotel** (or similar)



Premium Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



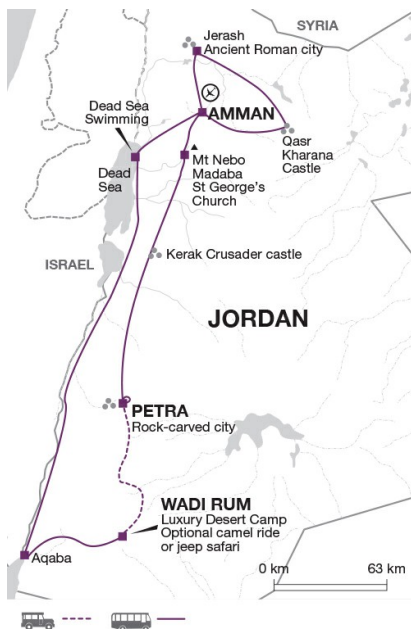
Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 9 - Trip Ends Amman

Your trip ends in Amman after breakfast.



Meals Provided: Breakfast



# What's included?



## Included meals

Breakfast: 8  
Dinner: 2



## Transport

Bus  
4WD



## Trip staff

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



## Accommodation

7 nights premium hotel  
1 nights premium tented camp

# Trip information

## Country information

### 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 - Petra by night, candle lit walk through this impressive site £17.00 or Ottoman bath £24.00 Wadi Rum - Optional camel ride (£28.00) 4WD excursion . Prices for this excursion are dependent on the group size. Aqaba - Snorkelling on coral reef £20.00; Snorkelling from Boat £29

### Clothing

Lightweight clothing is essential in mid- summer, with a sun-hat and neck protection, though a sweater and light jacket are advisable for Wadi Rum. Early mornings throughout the year can be very cold in the desert and winters (Nov-Mar) in Jordan can be cold, so please bring suitable warm clothing. We recommend a waterproof and windproof jacket, fleece, hat and gloves for 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.

## Footwear

We recommend taking lightweight walking/hiking boots with good ankle support, plus trainers or sandals for relaxing and travelling in.

## Luggage

20kg

## Luggage: On tour

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

## Equipment

A high factor sunscreen and good quality sunglasses are essential. Walking poles may be useful for steps and the walks around Petra. A personal water bottle and small torch are useful.

## 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 recognised 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 Leader 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 approximately 25.00JD (Jordanian Dinar) for gratuities for local staff.

### International Departure Taxes

The Jordanian government levies on all travellers a departure tax of JD10.00 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.

## Country Information

### 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

## 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 to 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](http://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.

## 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.