

# EXPLORE!

**BEST SELLER**

**Spice Trails of Petra**  
8 days

Jordan - Trip code TP



## Spice Trails of Petra

This walking tour covers some of the world's most magnificent historic and natural sites, including the rock-carved city of Petra and the breathtaking canyons of Wadi Rum. Follow in the footsteps of the ancient Nabateans walking along the old spice trails which connect Petra with the Mediterranean coast, and camp in Bedouin style tents. Discover other reminders of Jordan's past when visiting the Roman city of Jerash and the imposing Crusader castle at Kerak.

## Trip highlights

### ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

#### Simple

These are often small, family run establishments or campsites which provide a no-frills experience with adequate amenities and service standards. Sleeping arrangements are simple, sometimes with en suite facilities.

### WALKING GRADE:

#### Moderate

For those who are fit and active, these moderate walks are normally on good paths and tracks at low altitude. Days may include some fairly demanding ascents and descents, so previous experience is preferable but not essential.

**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 tour in Amman

Join tour today in Amman, the capital of Jordan.



**Accommodation: Toledo Hotel** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: None

## DAY 2 - Walking in Wadi Rum

From Amman we immediately head south on the Desert Highway to Wadi Rum. On arrival we load our bags into vehicles which set off to deliver them to our nightstop whilst we walk through one of the most powerfully evocative places in the Middle East, to our campsite. The legend of Lawrence of Arabia and his Arab revolt lives strongly here and scenes from the famous film were shot here - deep in the fabulous purple-black and yellow mountains that rise from the sands of the desert. We generally arrive in the late afternoon as the hot desert sun starts to set, revealing an evening of incredibly clear skies studded with 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. Today's 6.5km walk is expected to take around 2hrs with no noticeable ascent or descent.



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



Simple Camping



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

## DAY 3 - Exploring Wadi Rum further on foot

We spend the next day exploring the beautiful desert area of Wadi Rum. Starting from our desert camp, we walk in the footsteps of the early Nabatean traders. Spices, silks and perfumes were once carried along this same route. We shall see their inscriptions and

graffiti on the weathered pink granite mountains that we pass. The desert is another world, inhabited by the Bedouin people for generations. After an unforgettable day's trekking through this remarkable desert scenery of sculpted sandstone canyons and pristine dunes, we return to our camp and enjoy another night under the star-studded sky. Today's 17km walk is expected to take around 7hrs with 250m ascent and descent.



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



Simple Camping



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

## DAY 4 - Petra; walking in the Rose Red City

After breakfast there is an optional camel ride through a landscape of sandstone canyons. Non-riders are welcome to walk with the riders - quite a moderate pace, given the speed at which camels walk - or transfer ahead by 4WD to the road. From Wadi Rum we drive northwards to Petra. Our luggage is taken to our campsite and we look forward to a day and a half of exploring this dazzling site on foot. We first enter via the twisting and colourful Siq gorge arriving at the famous Al-Khazneh (The Treasury), and continue through the heart of the ancient city before heading up to our campsite in the Wadi Shamassat. Today's 13km walk is expected to take around 5hrs with 200m ascent and 450m descent.



**Accommodation: Little Petra Baidah Camp** (or similar)



Simple Camping



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

## DAY 5 - A further day exploring Petra and its surroundings

Today we head back to Petra to walk up to one of Petra's greatest monuments, Ad-Deir (The Monastery), set high above the city and almost hidden in the mountains. Following the 900 steps down into the heart of Petra, we hike to the High Place of Sacrifice. Here is a unique and unforgettable vantage point offering excellent views out over the whole city of Petra. Finally we descend into the site before returning to our camp. Today's 18km walk is expected to take around 7hrs with 850m total ascent and 800m total descent.



**Accommodation: Little Petra Baidah Camp** (or similar)



Simple Camping



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

## DAY 6 - Hike to Little Petra; King's Highway to Madaba

We set out today along the Desert Highway before joining one of the oldest trade routes in the world, the King's Highway, up to the impressive Crusader Castle of Kerak, imposingly sited on a hilltop. Kerak became famous in the time of the Crusades as one of a chain of fortresses in the Holy War against Islam. The castle was built in 1132 by Baldwin of Jerusalem, a Crusader king. Later in the afternoon, we continue to the small, mainly Christian town of Madaba where we spend the night. (Please note that on some departures we will visit the Crusader castle of Shobak instead of Kerak.)



**Accommodation: Mariam Hotel** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 7 - Visiting Mount Nebo, the Dead Sea and Jerash

Madaba is famous for its collection of extraordinary mosaics, including the Great Map of Palestine (6th century). Discovered in 1896, and only fragmentary, it contains a good picture of Jerusalem. From Jebel Neba (808m), better known as Mount Nebo - the point from which Moses saw the Promised Land - we descend to the lowest place on earth, the shimmering Dead Sea. Surrounded by barren hills, this unique water body has an amazingly high salt content (33%) that means no animal life survives and that it is almost impossible to sink. We end with a flourish as we finally drive northwards to ancient Jerash. Located in the Gilead Hills, it is considered to be the best-preserved city of the Decapolis, a confederation of ten Roman cities. One of the highlights of the Middle East, a triple arch gateway gives way to colonnaded streets, theatres, temples and baths. Particularly striking is the elegant forum - a fitting place to reflect on our exploration of this wonderful desert kingdom before we return to Amman.



**Accommodation: Toledo Hotel** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 8 - Tour ends in Amman

Tour ends in Amman after breakfast.



Meals Provided: Breakfast

# Walking and Trekking information

## DAILY DISTANCES

Day 2	6.5km	
Day 3	17km	
Day 4	13km	9km*
Day 5	18km	
Day 6	3km	

\*Optional camel trek

### Walking grade

Moderate

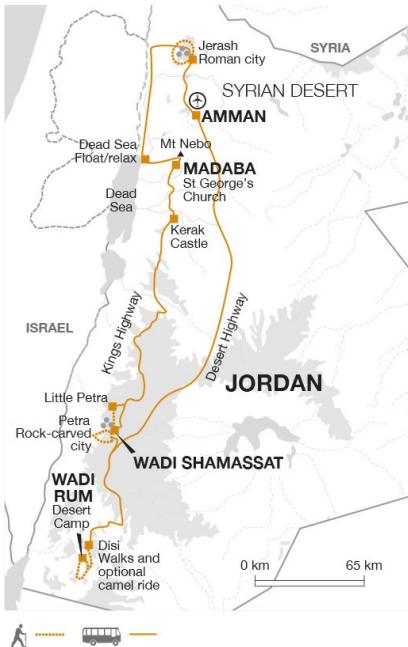
### Trek details

Walks on 4 days for between 2 and 6 hours each day along rocky paths and mountain trails. We have graded this trip as moderate.

### Max walking altitude (m)

1800

## Free Single Room Upgrade



Book any departure before the 20th December 2017 and you'll get a free single room upgrade.

[Find out more details here](#)



# What's included?



## Included meals

Breakfast: 7  
Lunch: 4  
Dinner: 4



## Transport

Bus  
4WD



## Trip staff

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



## Accommodation

4 nights simple camping  
3 nights standard hotel

# 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

Wadi Rum - Camel trek £28.00 Petra - Turkish bath £24.00 Petra by Night - £17.00

### Clothing

Lightweight clothing is essential in mid-summer, with a sun-hat and neck protection, though a jumper and light jacket are advisable for Wadi Rum and Petra. Early mornings can be very cold when camping in the desert. Winters in Jordan can be cold, so please bring suitable warm clothing including warm sleepwear. We recommend a waterproof jacket in winter. Bring a swimsuit if you wish to swim in the Dead Sea. 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 are ideal. Women should also cover their head and shoulders when entering a mosque and men should wear long trousers.

## Footwear

We recommend you bring lightweight walking boots with ankle support, make sure that your boots are worn-in and comfortable before the start of the trip. Also trainers or sandals for relaxing and general wear. We suggest that on international flights you either carry your walking boots in your hand luggage or wear them - should your luggage be lost or delayed, your own boots are the one thing that will be irreplaceable.

## Luggage

20kg

## Luggage: On tour

One main piece of baggage and a daypack.

## Equipment

Sleeping bags, blankets and mattresses are provided, but we suggest you bring your own sleeping sheet. A personal water bottle and a small torch are essential for the nights camping. Bring anti-bacterial hand wash, such as Travelproof's 'H2O-No' waterless hand scrub (available through Explore Trader catalogue); try to avoid anti-bacterial wipes as these can pose a disposal problem. Take walking poles if you normally use them.

## Tipping

### Explore 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. Accordingly, you should allow approximately 28.00JD (Jordanian Dinar). 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.

### 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.

## 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

### 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.

The camping during your trip is in traditional Bedouin style goat hair tents. It is communal camping and the tent is laid out with rugs, mattresses, pillows and sleeping bags. There is a chemical toilet and limited hot and cold water for washing but no showers. This is basic camping but a wonderful chance to experience life in a Bedouin style tent with some of the most amazing backdrops to your nights' sleep. Jordan's tourism infrastructure is well developed and standards are generally good. However, due to the recent considerable rise in tourism in Jordan, hotels are experiencing very high demand for 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 perfect for exploring. Please note that some hotel swimming pools in Jordan may operate separate timetables for men and women.

## 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.

**Maximum altitude (m)**

1800

**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.