EXPLORE!



Why book this trip?

Discover the rugged beauty, delicious food and rich heritage of Jordan. Explore Petra in depth, sleep like a Bedouin in Wadi Rum and float in the salty waters of the Dead Sea; the lowest point on earth.

- Mount Nebo Learn about Jordan's biblical heritage as we travel in the footsteps of Moses
- Petra Spend two full days discovering the historic and remarkable 'Rose Red City'
- Wadi Rum Eat a traditional Bedouin barbeque, sit around the camp fire and sleep under a blanket of stars.



MEALS
Breakfast: 8
Dinner: 1



TRIP STAFF
Driver(s)
Local Guide(s)



TRANSPORT 4WD Car



7 nights premium
hotel
1 nights premium
tented camp



TRIP PACE: Moderate

Itinerary

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

DAY 1 - Trip begins in Amman

Arrive in Amman, the capital of Jordan, which is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. Now home to almost half of the country's population, it is a fascinating city of contrasts, where the very ancient and the brand new collide.

You will be met on arrival at Queen Alia International Airport (AMM) by a representative, and driven to your centrally-located hotel, which is around 30 minutes from the airport. There are no activities planned today, so feel free to arrive in Amman at any time. For those booking their own flights, you will just need to let us know your flight details no later than three weeks prior to departure, in order to be met on arrival.

If your flight arrives earlier in the day, you may wish to explore the streets and souks of downtown Amman independently.



ACCOMMODATION:
Mena Tyche Hotel (or similar)

Grade: Premium Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE





DAY 2 - Guided visit to Roman Jerash; spend the afternoon exploring the Amman Citadel

A driver will meet you this morning for the short 30 mile journey north of the capital to the ancient city of Jerash. Populated for over 6,500 years, the city's golden age was in Roman times when it was conquered by General Pompey and became one of a confederation of ten important Middle Eastern cities, known as the Decapolis League. Now, because of the way it has been preserved in sand before its excavation last century, it is widely acknowledged as one of the best-preserved Roman provincial towns in the world. Walking around the colonnaded streets, soaring hilltop temples, handsome theatres and the chariot-racing stadium, it is easy to imagine Roman life carrying on around you. All this is just the tip of the iceberg - it is estimated that only about 10% of city has been uncovered.

After a guided tour of the site and a stop for lunch we'll travel back into the city to visit Amman's historical centre and spend some time discovering the Citadel - Jabal al-Qal'a. The Citadel stands on a hill, the highest point in Amman, and artefacts found at the site signify that the area has been a royal city for thousands of years and is believed to have been fortified during the Bronze age some 3,000 - 4,000 years ago. Earthquakes and invasions have certainly taken it's toll on the Citadel but two pillars of the Roman Temple of Hercules still stand strong, and some buildings of 7th century Umayyad Palace can still be explored.

The evening is free to relax. You may wish to take a short taxi ride to Rainbow Street, popular with Ammanis and tourists alike, this narrow, cobbled road is lined with coffee bars, souvenir shops, restaurants and bars. As the city is largely dominated by highways, Rainbow Street is a lovely escape that is best discovered on foot, plus a great place to try fresh, homemade falafel.



ACCOMMODATION:
Mena Tyche Hotel (or similar)

Grade: Premium Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 3 - Visit holy Mount Nebo and see Byzantine mosaics in Madaba before travelling to the 'rose city' of Petra

An early breakfast this morning ready for a prompt departure with your english-speaking driver to to Madaba - a town with a strong Christian heritage and aptly dubbed the 'City of Mosaics'. Around 90 minutes from the capital, Madaba is home to hundreds of Byzantine-era mosaics, the most famous of these is the 6th century map of Jerusalem and the Holy Land. Created with two million pieces of vividly

coloured local stone, it is believed to be the oldest surviving map of the holy land.

Continuing on for another 20 minutes, arrive at Mount Nebo; referenced in the Old Testament as the place that Moses once stood to look over the Promised Land. This sacred location is important to many devoted pilgrims and on a clear day offers views out across the Dead Sea, Bethlehem and Jerusalem.

Later this morning carry on travelling south, just as traders, armies and pilgrims have done before, along the impressive 5,000 year-old King's Highway to Kerak. Imposingly situated on a rocky outcrop next to the road and containing a maze of stone-vaulted halls and passageways, this ancient Crusader stronghold is the most famous among a chain of fortresses built for the Holy War against Islam.

This packed day of sightseeing ends with a short drive to Petra - without doubt Jordan's most valuable treasure. Look forward to a couple of days spent here to really get under the skin of this awe-inspiring site. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays there is the chance to take a candlelight tour of the ancient city, which your hotel can help to organise. Abandoned centuries ago, this other-worldly place is enhanced by the play of light and shadow to create an altogether magical experience.



ACCOMMODATION:

Petra Quattro Relax Hotel (or similar)

Grade: Premium Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 4 - A full day to discover the magnificent archaeological site of Petra

Over the next two days you'll have the opportunity to discover Petra and to soak up this mysterious city. The entrance fee for both days is included, giving you the chance to truly do justice to this jewel with an in depth visit.

Defined by John Burgon with the illustrious words 'A Rose Red City half as old as time', Petra is a UNESCO World Heritage Site as well as one of the new wonders of the world. This ancient city carved in the rocks has retained its grandeur throughout the centuries and although much has been written about it, nothing really prepares you for the impact of this unique site.

After a guided orientation tour of around 2-3 hours, which will take us to some of the key areas, you have the rest of the day to explore in your own time. Most of what can be seen today was built by the Nabataeans - an industrious Arab community who settled here more than 2,500 years ago, growing wealthy on tax proceeds from passing silk and spice trade. Petra's spectacular setting deep inside a narrow desert gorge adds to its majesty. The site is accessed by walking through a kilometre-long chasm (known as the Siq), the walls of which soar to a height of 200m. Petra's most famous monument, the Treasury, appears dramatically at the end of the Siq, carved out of the sheer, dusky-pink rock face. Miraculously well preserved, this massive 43 metre-high facade dwarfs everything around it and

perfectly represents the engineering genius of these people. The existence of this site had been kept secret for centuries by the local Bedouins and only revealed to the West by the Swiss explorer Johann Ludwig Burckhardt in 1812. After the decline of the city, due to shifting trade routes and a series of earthquakes, the Bedouins continued to use the sophisticated water system created by the Nabataeans to make the most of the water coming from the perennial stream and the flash floods; a precious oasis in the middle of an inhospitable desert.

While you wander through literally hundreds of tombs, temples and colonnaded streets, your mind finds it easy to picture caravans loaded with frankincense, spices and textiles travelling through the Siq. The site is excellent for photography and the best time to take pictures is either early to mid-morning or late afternoon, as this is when the angled sun highlights and enhances the natural red, pink and orange colours of the rocks.

The hotel in Petra is located in Wadi Musa, a 25 minute walk from the site. On Day 4, transport will be provided to and from Petra Visitor Centre, and on Day 5 the hotel also offers shuttle buses to take you to and from the site.



ACCOMMODATION:
Petra Quattro Relax Hotel (or similar)

Grade: Premium Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 5 - Full free day to explore Petra; take the chance to trek up the Royal Tombs

Today is free for you to discover more of Petra's beautiful and awe-inspiring buildings and scenery. You may choose to climb the steep path to the 'High Place of Sacrifice' for a stunning view over Wadi Araba and the Negev Desert, or trek up to the impressive 'Monastery' - Petra's largest monument.



ACCOMMODATION:
Petra Quattro Relax Hotel (or similar)

Grade: Premium Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



DAY 6 - Explore Wadi Rum desert by 4WD and camp in a luxury Bedouin camp under the stars

Today is all about embracing the Wadi Rum desert experience in its authenticity, as you have the once in a lifetime opportunity to live the lifestyle of the nomadic Bedouin people. This morning, leave Petra and head to the Wadi Rum Visitor Centre where you will transfer into 4WD vehicles for an exhilarating two hour jeep drive through the desert. This is a great chance to see the most spectacular and untouched parts of Wadi Rum.

Wadi Rum occupies a region of 74,000 acres and as described by T.E. Lawrence, is 'vast, echoing and God-like...'. Monolithic outcrops of granite rock and sandstone rise out of the desert with a drifting blanket of sand between them. It is at its most impressive at the beginning and end of the day when the soft light and blue sky create a coppery effect on the sand. The Bedouins learnt to live with this hostile environment 3000 years ago, choosing the partnership with the camel for their survival. They understood the importance of keeping on the move and interpreting the elements, in order to find food and water. This afternoon, take the opportunity to experience a camel ride and learn about this precious alliance between the dromedary and the nomads.

After sunset, 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 zarb, consisting of a chicken or a goat meat (vegetarian options available) 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, and ensuite shower and toilet facilities.



ACCOMMODATION: Space Village Luxury Camp (or similar)

Grade: Premium Tented Camp



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & DINNER

DAY 7 - Spend time by the Red Sea in Aqaba; an option to join a snorkelling trip

After all the exploration of the last few days, enjoy a relaxing day in Aqaba on the Red Sea. Famed for its preserved coral reefs and unique sea life, your driver will be on hand to arrange an optional snorkelling

trip.

If you don't have your sea legs, there are a number of beaches to choose from or you can spend the afternoon drinking tea in one of the many cafes.



ACCOMMODATION: City Tower Hotel (or similar)

Grade: Premium Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 8 - Visit the Dead Sea, the lowest point of Earth before travelling back to Amman

Depart Aqaba and travel for around four hours to the the Dead Sea. Officially the lowest point on the earth's surface, this unique water body has an amazingly high salt content (33%) which means that no animal life survives and it is almost impossible to sink. The experience of floating naturally is unique and relaxing on the calm sea. You'll spend a couple of hours this afternoon at a tourist beach, where food and drink can be purchased as well as the use of shower facilities.

Finally, drive on to Amman and spend the last night in the bustling capital with free time to do some last-minute shopping and sightseeing. To mark the end of your trip, you may choose to enjoy a traditional or cosmopolitan meal, washed down with some excellent Jordanian wine, in one of the capital's many restaurants.



ACCOMMODATION:
Mena Tyche Hotel (or similar)

Grade: Premium Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



DAY 9 - Trip ends in Amman

Your trip ends today, and you will be taken to the airport to meet your international flight. There are no activities planned today, so you are free to depart from Queen Alia International Airport (AMM), approximately a 30 minute drive, at any time. If your flight is departing later in the day, luggage storage facilities are available at our hotel.



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

Trip information

Climate and country information

Jordan

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 | Plugs | Religion | Language |
|------------------------|-------------|----------|----------|
| +2 | 2 Pin Round | Islam | Arabic |

Budgeting and packing

Optional activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

Petra - Petra by night JD17.00 pp; Ottoman bath JD25.00 pp;

Little Petra JD17.50 pp for return transportation from Petra.

Wadi Rum - Camel trek JD20.00 pp.

Aqaba - Snorkelling on coral reef including lunch and snorkelling kit JD35.00 pp; Snorkelling from Boat (snorkelling equipment included) JD35.00 pp; Berenice Private Beach club - entrance fee JD10.00 pp.

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 can be very cold when camping in the desert. 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 Moslem 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

Comfortable walking shoes or boots, trainers and sandals (good grip is vital for Petra).

Luggage

20kg

Luggage: On tour

One main piece of baggage and a day sack. Hotel porters are not always available, so don't overload yourself.

Equipment

A high factor suncream 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

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, your leader may organise a group's tips kitty for included activities and meals and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour.

Accordingly, you should allow JD20.00 (Jordanian Dinar) per person for group tipping.

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.

Jordan

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 | Dinner price | Beer price | Water price |
|-------------|--------------|------------|-------------|
| £10 | £15 | £4 | £1.5 |

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

Jordanian Dinar

Recommended Currency For Exchange

Sterling and US\$ are widely exchangeable 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

4WD, Car

Accommodation notes

In Amman we always endeavour to stay in a centrally located hotel with restaurant and pool facilities. Amman is not a very pedestrian-friendly city and many of the premium hotels are on large main roads. However, our chosen hotel will be a short taxi ride from the Citadel area and Rainbow Street where there is a selection of cafes and restaurants to explore on free evenings.

The hotel in Petra features a rooftop terrace and a swimming pool (open seasonally), as well as jacuzzis and a shuttle service to cross the 5 minute drive to the Petra Visitor's Centre

While in Wadi Rum you will stay in a luxury Bedouin-style camp located away from the roads, light pollution and noise of other camps. Each luxury tent has ensuite shower and toilet facilities and are furnished comfortably. There is also a communal restaurant tent where meals are served and Bedouin-style seating area for relaxing.

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In Aqaba, our chosen hotel is short walk from the beach and local amenities. Featuring an indoor pool and sauna, it's a comfortable place to stay during our time by the sea.

Please note that some hotel swimming pools in Jordan may operate separate timetables for men and women.

Essential Information

Government Travel Safety 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 citizens, check the latest Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office advice.

Please refer to our COVID-19 entry requirements page for any country-specific conditions of entry. Whilst we strive to update this on a regular basis we recommend you also check the FCDO website for the latest advice on entry requirements in this fast-evolving situation. Information can change at any time.

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.

Price Guarantee

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 and Passport Information

Jordan: The Jordanian government have announced that from 01 June 2015, all visa fees will be waivered for tourists of British, American, Australian, New Zealand 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 trips; however flight information, passport details and arrival date into Jordan all 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 advise their passport details at least 14 days prior to your departure date to Explore and 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 advise their passport details at least 14 days prior to your departure date to Explore and 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 advise their passport details at least 14 days prior to your departure date to Explore and 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 tourists of the above nationalities that do not advise their passport details and for all 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 £45) 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 be able to apply 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.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

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 receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The complimentary transfers will be arranged from the Explore designated airport or train station to your trips joining point, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. Generally the airport or station that Explore have selected will be the one that is closest to the town or city where the trip starts, or the one nearest to the joining point. It will be either an airport or train station but not both.

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, Polar, 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. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. 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.

Ability to swim

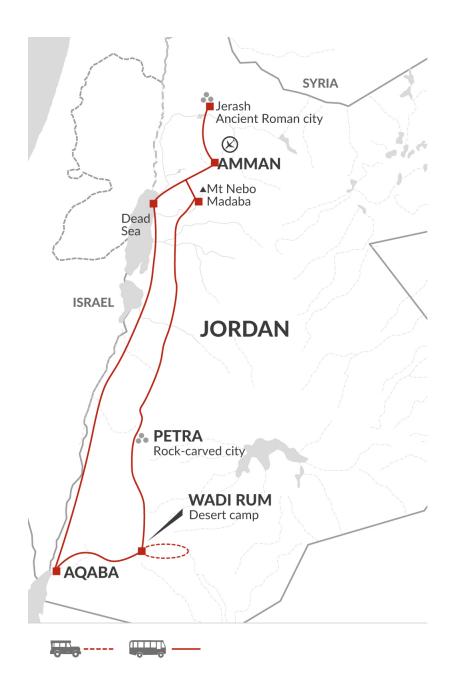
An ability to swim is essential for your safe enjoyment of the water based activities on this trip. If you wish to participate in these activities then we insist that you are able to swim.

Jordan

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. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. 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 Explore Travel Health and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

Additional Information



Tour Staff

Unlike our group tours our private journeys do not have a Tour Leader. However, you are still in safe hands as we work closely with our expert local suppliers on the planning and organisation of your holiday to ensure that you have a fantastic time. You'll be met on arrival in Amman by one of our english-speaking representatives, who will go through your holiday details and answer any questions you may have. The guides at Jerash and Petra are excellent, and will help to bring the destination to life. You will have all the information that you need to explore at your own leisure and there is always the reassurance that you have someone on hand with our 24/7 emergency contact number.

Please also note that if you're travelling in a private group of 5 people or more, it is a legal requirement in Jordan to be accompanied by a guide throughout your stay. In that case, you will have both a driver and a guide with you from start to finish.

Ramadan

In 2022, Ramadan runs from 02 April to 02 May. Read more about travelling during Ramadan.

Why book this trip

This trip is perfect for travellers who want to experience the highlights of Jordan for a fantastic price. Your desert camp can only be reached by 4x4, based far from any light or noise pollution; an excellent spot to enjoy the campfire, sit under the stars and experience a taste of traditional Bedouin living. Plus, two full days to explore the gem in Jordan's crown; the ancient archaeological site of Petra.

Reviews



AWARD WINNING EXPLORE LEADERS



PRICE GUARANTEE PROMISE



AIRPORT TRANSFERS