

EXPLORE!

Family The Lost City of Petra

JORDAN - TRIP CODE FJD

FAMILY

DAYS

9

DEPOSIT FROM

£168

PRICE FROM

£1675

FLIGHTS
INCLUSIVE

Why book this trip?

Lost cities, Crusader Castles and sleeping under the stars are all part of this action packed family holiday to Jordan. Re-live great moment's ancient civilizations exploring the well preserved ruins of Jerash, a Roman outpost and the Crusader Castle of Kerak. Walk through the ever narrowing Siq to discover the spectacular lost city of Petra. Spend a night in a traditional Bedouin camp in the Wadi Rum Desert, a magical place to stargaze and appreciate the wonders of the universe and take a dip in the Dead Sea to experience the sensation of floating on the surface of its salty waters.



INCLUDED MEALS

Breakfast: 8
Lunch: 1
Dinner: 3



TRIP STAFF

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



TRANSPORT

Bus
4WD



ACCOMMODATION

7 nights standard hotel
1 nights simple tented camp



TRIP PACE:

Moderate



GROUP SIZE:

12 - 18

Itinerary

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

DAY 1 - Join tour Amman

Join the tour today in Amman, the capital of Jordan. It 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 that rub shoulders comfortably with traditional coffee shops and tiny artisans' workshops. The people of Amman are multicultural, multi-denominational, well-educated and extremely hospitable. They welcome visitors and take pride in showing them around their fascinating and vibrant city.



ACCOMMODATION:

Toledo Hotel (or similar)



Grade: Standard Hotel



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

DAY 2 - Visit Jerash and Mosaic Workshop Visit

This morning we drive northwards to ancient Jerash, located in the Gilead Hills. One of Jordan's major attractions, it is a beautifully maintained Roman city, 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. It is estimated that this represents only about 10% of the entire city, the rest is still to be uncovered. We spend several hours exploring the site. We then travel onto the town of Madaba which was once a one of the most important Christian communities east of the Jordan River. Today it harbours a collection of extraordinary mosaics, including the incredible 6th century Great Map of the Holy Land mainly Jerusalem. Discovered in 1896, it contains detailed depictions of the important pilgrimage sites throughout the Holy Land, including Jerusalem, and is believed to be the oldest surviving map of Palestine in existence. We watch and learn the procedures of mosaic production from the specialists before returning to Amman. If time permits, you will be able to wander around the streets of the capital and discover its 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 that all rub shoulders comfortably with traditional coffee shops and tiny artisans' workshops.

The downtown area is much older and more traditional with smaller businesses producing and selling everything from fabulous jewellery to everyday household items. The people of Amman are multicultural, multi-denominational, well-educated and extremely hospitable.



ACCOMMODATION:
Toledo Hotel (or similar)



Grade: Standard Hotel



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 3 - Morning 'swim' in the Dead Sea, drive via Kerak to Petra

This morning we drive to the shimmering Dead Sea. At nearly 400m below sea level, it is the lowest point on earth. Surrounded by barren hills, this unique body of water has an amazingly high salt content (33%) which means no animal life survives and that it is almost impossible to sink! But don't take our word for it, try for yourself. There is also access to a hotel pool, beach, showers and the hotel restaurants and bars. We then head south following one of the oldest trade routes in the world, the King's Highway, which once carried the richly laden caravans of Solomon. We reach Kerak, imposingly positioned on a hilltop, which became famous in the time of the Crusades as one of a chain of fortresses in the Holy War against Islam. Built in 1132 by Baldwin of Jerusalem, a Crusader king, the castle finally fell to the forces of Saladin himself and who was so impressed with the courage shown by its defenders that he set them free,

we spend time touring the castle at Kerak, with stories of what life was like for the early crusaders. From Kerak we continue south to Petra, without doubt one of the most famous and awe inspiring sites in the Middle East.



ACCOMMODATION:
Petra Palace Hotel (or similar)



Grade: Standard Hotel



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 4 - Walking tour of Petra and Bedouin style dinner in Little Petra

Abandoned centuries ago, Petra was the rock cut stronghold of the Nabateans (and the final resting place of the Holy Grail - according to Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade). 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. Enhanced by the play of light and shadow, the sights are an altogether overwhelming experience. In the morning we walk through the Siq and enter this lost city, sighting the famous temple façade of the Treasury as we approach. A guided walking tour will take us to some of the key parts of this remarkable site after which the rest of the day is free to walk through one of the most impressive and exciting attractions of ancient history at leisure.

We return to Petra this evening to experience one of the highlights of the holiday, a private dinner in nearby Little Petra with a traditional Bedouin style setting inside or outside a cave (depending upon weather conditions). Imagine living among the ancient Nabatean people, with a traditional barbecue dinner including local mezze, seasonal fruit and desserts as we sit around a camp fire on Bedouin carpets with a blanket of stars overhead.



ACCOMMODATION:
Petra Palace Hotel (or similar)



Grade: Standard Hotel



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE





MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & DINNER

DAY 5 - Free in Petra, dinner with a local family

Today you have a free at Petra. Returning to the city you can 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. It is a place to lose oneself in the atmosphere of the past.

We visit a local family in Wadi Musa which is close to Petra for dinner and to learn about the local way of life and traditions. Your tour leader will explain how the meal is prepared as well as how local Bedouin tea and other traditional dishes are made. Dinner is likely to be a national dish of the country, such as Mansaf, which is lamb cooked in a sauce of fermented dried yogurt and served with rice.



ACCOMMODATION:

Petra Palace Hotel (or similar)



Grade: Standard Hotel



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & DINNER

DAY 6 - Four wheel drive to Wadi Rum and Bedouin experience

We spend today experiencing the beautiful area of Wadi Rum. We head off south for an exciting half-day four-wheel drive through stunning desert scenery. Travelling via the old Roman road, we explore the lesser-known northern areas of Wadi Rum, seeing natural rock bridges and viewing incredible rock sculptures on the way to our overnight camp. After lunch we rendezvous for an unforgettable trek, either on foot or you have the option of taking a camel. We ride and/or walk for about 2 hours through a landscape of sandstone mountains, white and pink coloured sands and a desert that is dripping in the 'Lawrence of Arabia' legend with scenes of the famous film being shot here. The desert has been inhabited by the nomadic Bedouin people for generations and we discover how the Bedouins of Wadi Rum live with explanations from our guide and the opportunity to visit a local Bedouin family and share a cup of tea with them. We learn about the Bedouin habits and way of life, their culture and the stories that have been passed down from previous generations. They believe that Wadi Rum is beautiful due to its magical landscape, and so we include time in this area with few other visitors which help us discover the silence and majesty of the desert. The Bedouin culture is also famous for story-telling and we get the chance to listen to stories about the past days and generations of those who used to live in the vast desert of Wadi Rum.

Before our night under the starry sky, we may be lucky enough to witness a spectacular desert sunset. We sleep in a single, large, traditional goat hair tent (the best protection against typical desert extremes of hot and cold) which is laid out with rugs, mattresses, pillows and sleeping bags. The evening is normally spent around a campfire, with spectacular desert stars overhead: Washing facilities and WC are available close by.



ACCOMMODATION:
Muhammed Mutlak Wadi Rum Camp (or similar)

Grade: Simple Tented Camp



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

DAY 7 - Travel to Aqaba with afternoon free to spend on the beach

Leaving Wadi Rum, we drive to Aqaba on the Red Sea. Aqaba is Jordan's only seaport and has had a long history of occupation and trade. King Solomon's ships left here loaded with copper whilst the Edomites and the Nabateans used the port as part of a trade route from Damascus to Egypt. The Roman 10th Legion was stationed here and during the 12th century the Crusaders made good use of Aqaba's strategic position. During World War I, the Arab troops under Prince Faisal used the fort as a base for attacks on the Ottoman forces. After checking into our hotel, the rest of the day is free for you to relax.



ACCOMMODATION:
My Hotel (or similar)

Grade: Standard Hotel



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 8 - Free day in Aqaba with optional sailing and snorkelling. Return to Amman

Today you have a free day where you may wish to enjoy the splendid coral reefs and clear warm waters for which Aqaba is famed. Aqaba has numerous watersports activities including sailing, snorkelling and glass bottom boats for hire, so there should be something for everyone. We drive on to Amman later on in

the day and spend our last night in the bustling capital with free time to do some last-minute shopping and sightseeing.



ACCOMMODATION:
Toledo Hotel (or similar)

Grade: Standard Hotel



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 9 - Tour ends Amman

Trip ends after breakfast today.



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

Trip information

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.

A selection of optional activities are listed below to help you budget for your Family adventure. Whilst the basic tour price you pay before you travel includes a great selection of highlights, we have also built in free time to allow you the flexibility to choose from a carefully selected range of additional excursions and activities or take time to relax, the choice is yours. At certain destinations along the way there may be several options to choose from and it may not be possible to fit all the activities in; your Explore Leader will be able to give advice on which are the most suitable for your family.

Petra:

Day 3: Live cooking course at the Red Cave restaurant followed by dinner JD25 per person

Day 4: Cave BBQ supper in Little Petra including transfers JD30 per person

Day 5: Return visit to Petra - no charge

Day 5: Visit to El Beidha and Siq al-Barid (known as Little Petra) 9km north of Petra, JD17 per person for transport and a local guide, minimum group size of 4 applies.

Day 5: Petra 'by night' (candlelit walk to The Treasury) JD17 per person, children under 10 free

Wadi Rum:

Day 6: Desert camel trek JD20 per person

Aqaba:

Day 7 or 8: Snorkelling on coral reef plus transport JD35 per person

Day 8: Snorkelling boat trip with lunch, tea and coffee. 4 to 5 hours in total with two snorkelling stops JD35 per person

Clothing

Lightweight clothing is essential in midsummer, 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 and it may snow, 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 and older girls 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.

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, a towel and small torch are useful for the nights in Wadi Rum. You may also wish to bring your own snorkelling equipment. Antibacterial hand wash, such as Travelproof's \ H2O-No\ water-less hand scrub (available through Explore Trader catalogue); try to avoid anti-bacterial wipes as these can pose a disposal problem

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

In this region, tipping is a recognised part of life across the service industry. Local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided.

To assist with this your Explore Leader may organise a group tips kitty for included activities and meals, they will then account for kitty use throughout the tour.

For this we suggest JD20 (Jordanian Dinar) per family member.

For all non-included services and meals on your trip please tip independently at your discretion.

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.

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 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

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 in Petra, including the standard of, is subject to change. However, we are confident that these issues are vastly outweighed by our close proximity to historical Petra perfect for exploring.

Our accommodation throughout this tour is in modern mid-range hotels with ensuite facilities, air conditioning, hair dryer, mini bar, direct dial telephone, TV and have use of a swimming pool and free Wi-Fi. We stay in the heart of Amman, on the edge of the old city centre and within walking distance of the downtown area before moving on to our accommodation in Petra. Enjoying a good location, the hotel is close to the entrance of the site itself which allows for lots of opportunities to explore. A highlight of our trip is our desert camp in Wadi Rum, set within a stunning location in a little visited part of the desert. 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. There is even a proper toilet and washing facilities! In Aqaba we stay in a bright, modern hotel with a rooftop restaurant and pool all close to the beach.

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

Family swimming

All the hotels have a swimming pool and there is a chance to swim in the Red Sea at Aqaba and float in the Dead Sea. The swimming pool at the Toledo hotel in Amman is open to the public and operates segregated swimming based on gender, a timetable is available at the hotel reception.

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.

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 waived 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 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 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 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, 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.

Family information



Crusader castles and desert camps: Jordan offers families one of the best introductions to the Middle East. Friendly and welcoming, with highlights by the dozen. Jordan is a compact country, travelling times are short and with direct flights from London just 5 hours, it's closer than you think.

Join us on an action packed nine day adventure as we explore amazingly well preserved Roman remains in Jerash, float in the Dead Sea, discover the true magic of the vast ancient city of Petra, hear tales of the Crusaders as we visit Kerak and the formidable Crusader Castle overlooking the Dead Sea, with time to relax on the coast in Aqaba at the end of the trip.

One of the highlights of the trip is the time spent in Wadi Rum, the location used in the film *The Martian*. Everyone, at least once in their life, should experience the thrill of sleeping out under a desert sky at night lit up with a million stars. The scenery here is truly awe inspiring with impressive rock arches, vast sand dunes, canyons contrasting against the red desert sand.

Triple Rooms: This trip allows the option for triple rooms to be included within the booking on all nights except the camping in Wadi Rum. If you would like this option, please ask our Sales team for further information.

Average Age: As a guide we have identified the actual average age of the children who have travelled on this trip over the last 5 years, to help you decide whether it's the right one for your family. The average age on this trip is 11 years old, this trip is suitable for children of all ages.



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