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10 Days/9 Nights

Departs Tuesday-Saturday



Biblical Jordan: Amman, Petra, Wadi Rum & Dead Sea

Discover all that Jordan has to offer through its famous biblical sites, stunning natural scenery, and beyond. Spend four nights in the buzzing capital of Amman, giving you ample time to explore northern Jordan, before visiting prominent biblical sites such as the Fortress of Machaerus and Bethany Beyond the Jordan. Immerse yourself in Jordanian culture with unique local experiences from baking bread in Petra to sleeping under the stars in Wadi Rum.

ACCOMMODATIONS

- 4 Nights Amman
- 2 Nights Petra
- 1 Night Wadi Rum Desert Camp
- 2 Nights Dead Sea

INCLUSIONS

- Private Amman Walking Tour with Market Visits
- Private Jerash, Ajloun and Anjara Tour
- Private Desert Castles and Unjimal Tour
- Madaba, Mt Nebo and Umm ar-Rasas Tour
- Private Petra Tour with 1 Day Entrance
- Bread Baking in Petra
- Wadi Rum Bedouin Jeep Tour
- Bethany (Baptism Site) Tour
- Private Transfers Throughout
- National English-Speaking Guide Throughout
- Daily Breakfast

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ARRIVE AMMAN:

Arrive in Amman and meet your private arrival transfer who will take you to your hotel.

(Accommodations, Amman)



AMMAN:

Due to Amman's modern-day prosperity and temperate climate, almost half of Jordan's population is concentrated in the Amman area. Begin your walking tour at the Royal Society for Conservation of Nature (Wild Jordan) where you will learn about the nature reserves throughout the country. Next, head downtown where you'll dine at the famous "Hashem" restaurant that caters to everyone from the poor to the rich and famous. After this once in a lifetime experience, discover another famous food place, "Habiba", where you'll sample Knafeh, a mix of goat cheese covered with dough and sprinkled with syrup leaves. Afterwards, visit the gold market and the Hussaini Mosque before visiting the vegetable market and the Nymphaeum. Finish off with a visit to the Citadel before returning to your hotel. The rest of the day is at your leisure.

(Breakfast & Accommodations, Amman)



AMMAN:

A close second to Petra on the list of favorite destinations in Jordan, the ancient city of Jerash boasts an unbroken chain of human occupation dating back more than 6,500 years. Conquered by General Pompey in 63 BC, it came under Roman rule as one of the ten great Roman cities of the Decapolis League and is now generally acknowledged to be one of the best preserved Roman provincial towns in the world. Hidden for centuries in sand before being excavated and restored over the past 70 years, the Roman urbanization of Jerash reveals paved and colonnaded streets, soaring hilltop temples, handsome theatres, spacious public squares and plazas, baths, fountains, and city walls pierced by towers and gates.

Proceed to Ajloun Castle (Qal'at Ar-Rabad), which dominated the three main routes leading to the Jordan valley. The castle also protected the trade and commercial routes between Jordan and Syria and became an important link in the defensive chain against the Crusaders, who unsuccessfully spent decades trying to capture the castle and its nearby village.

Before returning to Amman you will also visit the pilgrimage site of Anjara. It is believed that Jesus, his disciples and the Virgin Mary all passed through this area which is now a holy place for pilgrims and has been commemorated with a modern shrine, the Church of Our Lady of the Mountain.

(Breakfast & Accommodations, Amman)



AMMAN:

Today you will visit Qasr Amra, Qasr Kharanah, and Azraq, which date back to the 7th century. Amra is a World Heritage Site; its interior walls are covered in frescoes and mosaics. Kharanah's history is uncertain, but was likely a fort or trading caravanserais, and is remarkably well preserved. Qasr al-Azraq dates back to the

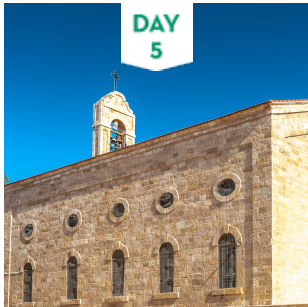
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13th century and was used as a base for a garrison of Ottoman Turks in the 16th century but may be most famous for being desert headquarters to T.E. Lawrence in World War I.

Jordan's desert castles are beautiful examples of both early Islamic art and architecture. Their fine mosaics, frescoes, stone and stucco carvings and illustrations, inspired by the best in Persian and Graeco-Roman traditions, tell countless stories of life as it was during the 8th century.

(Breakfast & Accommodations, Amman)



AMMAN TO PETRA:

Begin your day with a visit to the famous Mt Nebo, one of the most revered holy sites of Jordan and the place where Moses was buried. Initially, a small Byzantine church was built at the site by early Christians, which has now been expanded into a vast complex. During his visit to Jordan in 2001, the Late Pope John Paul II held a sermon here that was attended by some 20,000 faithful.

Continue on to Madaba, an ancient town in Jordan southwest of the capital Amman, where you will visit Saint George's Church. Madaba is known for its impressive Mosaic Map that covers the floor of the Greek Orthodox church. The mosaic panel enclosing the map was originally around 15.6 X 6m, 94 square meters, only about a quarter of which is preserved. Upon arrival in Petra the remainder of the day is at your leisure.

(Breakfast, Amman; Accommodations, Petra)



PETRA:

Today you will tour the "Jewel of the Middle East", Petra. Admire the dramatic entrance to the city, the Siq gorge, that measures over 1 kilometer in length, and is flanked on either side by soaring, 80 meters high cliffs. Just walking through the Siq is an experience in itself as the colors and formations of the rocks are dazzling. As you reach the end of the Siq, you will catch your first glimpse of the columns of Al-Khazneh (the Treasury).

Continuing through the Petra valley, you will be surrounded with outstanding architectural achievements, as well as natural beauty. Take in views of the massive Nabataean-built, Roman-style theatre, which could seat 3,000 people. There are also obelisks, temples, sacrificial altars and colonnaded streets, and high above, overlooking the valley, is the impressive Ad-Deir Monastery - reached by a flight of 800 rock-cut steps.

(Breakfast & Accommodations, Petra)



PETRA TO WADI RUM:

This morning after breakfast, head to a bread baking class where you will learn the secrets of traditional Jordanian bread making. Fresh bread is considered to be an integral part of Jordan life-no meal is considered complete without it! Afterwards, you will head towards Wadi Rum for an unforgettable desert camp experience. Break up your drive with an exciting Bedouin Jeep tour en route to your camp. Upon arriving in Wadi Rum, you will enjoy dinner before spending the night in your luxurious accommodations under the desert stars.

(Breakfast, Petra; Dinner & Accommodations, Wadi Rum)

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WADI RUM TO DEAD SEA:

This morning, you'll depart and head for the Dead Sea, taking a break at Mukawer, the hilltop stronghold of Herod the Great, the Roman-appointed ruler during the life of Jesus Christ. Continue on to spend your evening at your leisure at your Dead Sea hotel.

(Breakfast, Wadi Rum; Accommodations, Dead Sea)



DEAD SEA:

Today you will visit the site of John the Baptist's settlement at Bethany beyond the Jordan, the place where Jesus was baptized according to the Bible (John 1:28 and 10:40) and the Byzantine and medieval texts. The Bethany area sites formed part of the early Christian pilgrimage route between Jerusalem, the Jordan River, and Mount Nebo. This area is also associated with the biblical account of how the Prophet Elijah (Mar Elias in Arabic) ascended to heaven in a whirlwind on a chariot of fire. Following your visit, transfer back to your hotel at the Dead Sea. The remainder of the day is at your leisure to float in the salty waters or relax at your hotel spa.

(Breakfast & Accommodations, Dead Sea)



DEPART DEAD SEA:

After breakfast, head to Amman airport or on to your next destination.

(Breakfast, Dead Sea)

*** Itinerary and inclusions are subject to change*



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