

# Treasures of Jordan

**Tour Style:** Worldwide walking holidays

**Destination:** Jordan

**Trip code:** JDWHW

**Trip Walking Grade:** 2



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

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For Lawrence of Arabia-style adventures, incredible archaeology, and an immeasurable number of natural wonders, this calm corner of the Middle East delivers. Explore the ruined Roman city of Jerash, float in the salty waters of the Dead Sea, and trek across Wadi Rum's vast desert dunes before an evening under the stars in a Bedouin camp. There'll also be walks through the Great Rift Valley, wildlife-spotting in Dana Biosphere Reserve, and a visit to the 12th century castle of Ajloun. But the real showstopper is ancient Petra – the red-rose city of rock-hewn temples that was the country's first designated UNESCO World Heritage site in 1985.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

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- Full programme of guided walks and sightseeing led by experienced local leaders
- Comfortable accommodation
- Full-board (from breakfast on the second day)
- All sightseeing and entrance fees (as per itinerary)
- Air-conditioned transport
- Return flights from the UK including hold baggage and airport transfers

## HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

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- Exploring the ancient city of Petra
- Walking the canyon-flanked trails of the Great Rift Valley
- Trekking over the sand dunes of Wadi Rum
- Discovering the rich history of the Middle East from Roman ruins to Arabic strongholds
- Dining and sleeping in a traditional-style Bedouin desert camp
- Marvelling at the rocky landscapes of Dana Biosphere Reserve
- Floating in the Dead Sea



## ITINERARY

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### Day 1: Arrival Day

Arrival in Amman and transfer to our hotel for a 3-night stay.

### Day 2: Around Amman

Travel north of Amman to the Roman city of Jerash, one of the biggest and best-preserved Roman cities outside of Italy. Explore its colonnaded streets, amphitheatres, temples, and plazas before a visit to the ruins of Ajloun Castle. Originally built by the Ayyubid's in the late 12th century to defend against crusading Christian armies, it has since been destroyed and rebuilt many times due to its strategic location atop Mount 'Auf. Don't miss the magnificent views of the Jordan Valley. In the afternoon we return to Amman for the night.

### Day 3: Amman

Today ticks-off the highlights of Amman including Hashemite Square and the Roman theatre, before visiting Rainbow Street - the heart of Amman's art scene. In the evening, there's a taste of traditional Jordanian cuisine courtesy of a street food tour as we head downtown. Visit one of the oldest restaurants in the country for its famous falafel and hummus before enjoying a sweet treat for dessert with kunafa (cheese pastry soaked in sugary syrup).

## Day 4: Wadi Ibn Hammad And Dana Biosphere Reserve

**Distance:** 4 miles (6km)

**Ascent and Descent:** minimal

After leaving Amman we walk through Wadi Ibn Hammad, a narrow river gorge home to rare plant life and hot springs. Continue south to Feynan where we'll spend the night in the heart of Dana Biosphere Reserve.

Please note, you will be walking over rocks and pebbles in places, and sometimes wading through water. Walking poles are recommended.

## Day 5: Wadi Dana Trail

**Distance:** 8.5 miles (14km)

**Ascent and Descent:** 250 feet (70m) and 3,080 feet (940m)

This morning's walk takes us downhill from the terraced gardens of Dana village with its old Ottoman houses to the Great Rift Valley at Feynan. Along the way we'll pass through sandstone gorges and four distinctly different geological zones of Dana Biosphere Reserve. Keep your eyes peeled for rare wildlife such as the Nubian ibex, caracal wild cat, and lesser kestrel. Late afternoon we drive to Petra for a three-night stay.

## Day 6 - 7: Petra

Spend an unforgettable two days exploring the pathways of Petra on foot. Discover rock-hewn churches, grand buildings, and ceremonial sites scattered around this huge ancient city. Staggering in scale and splendour, what was once the prosperous capital of the Nabataeans is now a wow-worthy tourist attraction welcoming over 1.1 million visitors every year. The walk through the narrow canyon entrance known as the Siq leads to the intricate yet massive façade of the Treasury – one of the most iconic images of Petra.

**Day 6 - Distance:** approx. 6 miles (9.5km)

**Day 7 - Distance:** approx. 7 miles (12km), plus an optional ascent/descent 1,080 feet (330m) up 800 steps.

## Day 8 - 9: Wadi Rum

**Distance:** 4 miles (6km)

**Ascent:** 1,150 feet (350m)

Today we follow the Madras trail to the Royal Tombs and walk Wadi Farasa to Petra's basin. Reach the Place of Higher Sacrifice and there are awe-inspiring views across the whole of the Petra area. An afternoon drive through the southern desert takes us into the magnificent canyon of Wadi Rum. Arrive at a Bedouin camp for a two-night stay including a traditional feast under the desert's star-studded skies.

NB: This walk involves ascent and descent on rock-cut steps and paths are rocky in places. Approx. walking time 4 hours.

The following day there's a morning desert walk (approximately 1.5 hours each way) to a viewpoint on one of the many sandstone outcrops. In the afternoon, experience a 4x4 tour over the sand dunes for the chance to marvel at some incredible natural sights.

## Day 10: Dead Sea

Leaving the desert behind, we drive back north and visit the church of St George in Madaba, home to a stunning Byzantine mosaic floor. Continue to the famous Dead Sea for a night's stay on its shores and a chance to float in the salty waters.

## Day 11: Return Flight

Transfer to Amman for return flight to London.

## ACCOMMODATION

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### Corp Amman Hotel, Amman - Jordan

A 4-star hotel located in the heart of the business district, the Corp Amman has spacious, modern rooms and mod cons such as air-conditioning, Wi-Fi, TV, and tea and coffee-making facilities. Enjoy beautiful city views from the rooftop Mood Restaurant which serves Lebanese cuisine or visit the Le Boulevard Restaurant for a wide range of international dishes with a contemporary twist. The hotel also offers a gym, spa facilities, and an outdoor pool (seasonal opening).

### Petra Moon Luxury Hotel, Petra - Jordan

The Petra Moon Luxury Hotel boasts an enviable location just a skip away from the entrance to Petra. Be wowed by panoramic views from the rooftop terrace, relax in spacious well-equipped rooms, and enjoy quality dining in the restaurant. And when you need to cool off there's an outdoor pool (seasonal opening) perfect for a refreshing swim.

### P Quattro Relax Hotel, Petra - Jordan

The P Quattro Relax Hotel is ideally located just 5 minutes' drive from the entrance to Petra. Modern rooms are comfortable and well equipped with air conditioning, TV, tea and coffee making facilities, and minibar. Soak up views from the roof terrace where you'll find a pool and jacuzzi, hit the lounge where there's a menu of snacks and drinks, or enjoy buffet dining in the main restaurant for a wide selection of local and international cuisine. (26 April 2024 departure only)

### Feynan Ecolodge, Dana Biosphere Reserve - Jordan

Feynan Ecolodge is a sustainable nature retreat built to support the local Bedouin community. Surrounded by nothing but desert, the lodge blends seamlessly into this stunning landscape and the rooftop terrace provides spectacular views over the wadi (Arabic for valley). Simple but stylish rooms are all en-suite and in keeping with the environmentally friendly ethos are completely candlelit. By avoiding light pollution, the lodge makes the most of its remote location. On a clear night, you'll enjoy incredible views of the starry skies.

### Bedouin Camp, Wadi Rum - Jordan

There's nothing quite like a stay in a traditional Bedouin camp. More glamping than camping, the experience is designed to be as comfortable as possible without taking away from the exhilarating feel of staying out in the wilderness. You can expect low-slung tents, plush rugs, and plenty of Arabic hospitality. There'll be lots of delicious food, including meat and vegetables cooked using an underground oven known as a zarb. After enjoying a sumptuous meal, you can sip tea around the fire, and relax under a ceiling of stars.

### Crowne Plaza Jordan, Dead Sea Resort & Spa - Jordan

Our base for the final night of the tour is located on the shores of the Dead Sea. The hotel has well-equipped contemporary rooms, a large spa featuring the restorative properties of Dead Sea mud, and several swimming pools.

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## USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

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### Weather & Seasonality

Jordan generally experiences warm winters with cool evenings and hot summers. The best time to visit is spring and autumn with clear, dry, sunny days and warm, but not too hot, temperatures. It can be quite cool in the evenings in the central mountains and desert around Petra and Wadi Rum.

It can be quite cool in the evenings in the central mountains and desert around Petra and Wadi Rum, so make sure to pack some light fleeces to keep warm in these locations.

### Joining Instructions (With Flights)

Book your holiday 'with flights' and you can choose to depart from a range of UK airports\* to your destination. For latest flight times and prices please call us on 0203-974-8865 or email [reservations@hfholidays.co.uk](mailto:reservations@hfholidays.co.uk)

If you choose to book your flights with us, we automatically include return transfers between the destination airport and hotel.

### Joining Instructions (Without Flights)

If you prefer to book the holiday without flights and make your own travel arrangements you will still be able to make use of the return group transfers between the airport and hotel, which are included in the cost of your holiday. You must contact us on [+44 \(0\)20 3974 8865](tel:+44(0)2039748865) or email [reservations@hfholidays.co.uk](mailto:reservations@hfholidays.co.uk) at least 8 weeks before your holiday start date to provide your flight details if you wish to join the transfers. If you do not contact us, we will assume you are making independent travel arrangements.

If you are arriving ahead of the group, and are meeting them at the first hotel, please leave a message at the hotel reception for the HF Holidays' leader or local leader, detailing your room number, and a mobile telephone number if possible. The leader will contact you once the group arrives. If you are arriving after the group, a message will be left for you at the hotel reception, welcoming you and giving details of the time and place to meet the group.

### Essential Information

It's best to be prepared for all weather conditions. To make it easier, here is a list of items you should consider packing.

#### Essentials

- Walking boots
- Waterproof jacket
- Waterproof trousers
- Insulated jacket/top
- Walking clothing
- Walking socks (plus spares)
- Sunhat
- Gloves/mitts and warm hat
- Water bottle (minimum 2 litre capacity)
- Headtorch
- High-factor sunscreen (minimum SPF 30)
- Sunglasses with a dark lens
- Rucksack (15-30 litres)
- Mobile phone
- Personal first aid kit (containing your medication, blister plasters, etc.)
- Passport
- Visa (if applicable)

- Copy of your travel insurance policy
- UK Global Health Insurance Card (**formerly known as EHIC**)

### Recommended

- Collapsible walking poles
- Swimwear and travel towel
- Snacks
- Dry bags
- Rubbish bags
- Insect repellent

### Optional extras

- Camera
- Sit mat
- Flask for hot drinks
- Durable lunch box
- Gaiters
- GPS device

## Safety On Your Holiday

Once you have made your booking, you will receive a pre-holiday questionnaire where we ask for details of next of kin and insurance details. **You must complete and return this to us - we need to have this from you at least 10 weeks before travel.**

Please also inform us of any medical situation which may affect your enjoyment of the holiday. This is important because our leaders must consider both group and individual safety at all times.

Whilst out with the group, we respectfully request that you:

- Please listen to any safety instructions and other directions from the leader
- Keep group members in view, especially if weather or visibility is poor
- Please stay where you are if you become separated from the group. The leader will retrace their steps to find you.

Each leader carries a first aid kit but is not allowed to supply any medication including aspirin, paracetamol, antihistamines and antiseptic cream. You may wish to bring these items with you in your own kit (see Suggested Kit List).

In the unlikely event that your leader is incapacitated, please use any emergency kit in their rucksack and call emergency services on 911. Please then call our emergency number (sent in your final dispatch) and let us know there is a problem.

## Dietary Requirements

Please contact us as far in advance as possible if you have any specific dietary requirements and we will do our best to meet your needs.

If you require a specific meal on the flight, please let us know as soon as possible, and no later than 96 hours before travel.

## Vaccinations & Health

Before booking, you should check with your doctor to see if any health precautions are needed.

The following websites provide a wealth of information on travelling and health:  
[www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk](http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk) or [www.traveldoctor.co.uk](http://www.traveldoctor.co.uk)

Vaccines: Diphtheria, Hepatitis A, & Tetanus vaccinations are recommended. Typhoid and Rabies are sometimes recommended too.

## Passports & Visas

### Passports

A full passport, valid for six months is required to enter Jordan

### Visas

Irrespective of whether you are travelling on the group flight with us or independently, your visa is arranged for you. The Jordanian government have advised that there is no visa charge for people travelling to Jordan for less than 30 days, providing a minimum of 2 nights are in Jordan. Please ensure you provide us with your passport details at least 8 weeks before travel to ensure our local agent can arrange your visa on your behalf.

## Useful Information

Whilst you are in Jordan, we suggest you will need JD20-30 per person per day to cover incidental items such as drinks with meals, additional snacks and any small souvenirs you may wish to purchase.

### Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is a condition of booking. Therefore, if you have not already arranged insurance, it is imperative that you do so, and advise us of the insurance company and policy number.

We work with Campbell Irvine to provide you with competitive single and annual multi-trip insurance. Please see our website for more information and details of how to contact them for a quote: <https://www.hfholidays.co.uk/about-us/booking-information/insurance>.

For more information about healthcare abroad and its costs, please visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/>.

If you are arranging your own travel insurance, please ensure it is adequate for your specific itinerary. Generally, this should include cover for walking at altitudes over 2,000m.

Arabic is the official language of Jordan, and although English is also widely spoken having a few basic phrases should help you get by and is likely to be well received by any locals you may meet.

'marHaba' – Hi

'marHabtain' – Hi (response)

It's an important custom to also ask after a person's or their family's health when greeting them:

'kayf es-saHa?' or 'kayf il'ayli?' – How is your health? or How is the family?

'ma'a salaama/Allah ma'ak' – Goodbye

'aiwa/na'am' – Yes

'la' – No

'min fadlak/fadleek' – Please (request; M/F)

'Shukran' – Thank you

'bitiHki ingleezi?' – Do you speak English?

## Luggage

### Luggage Allowance

1 piece checked-in luggage (max 23kg). Please check details of your airline's baggage allowance, as shown

on your e-ticket.

Advice issued by the UK Foreign Office in 2017 indicated that several airlines flying from Jordan to the UK forbade the use of laptops and tablet devices in the cabin, and they must instead be stored in hold luggage. We recommend you follow this advice unless you are advised otherwise.

## Lost/Damaged Luggage

If your bag or its contents are damaged or lost while in the airline's care, this should be reported to the baggage service agents at the airport on arrival. They will assess the damage; in some cases, the airline may decide to settle your claim immediately.

You will be given a reference to quote to your insurance company if an immediate settlement is not possible - in many cases, baggage claims can only be accepted in writing. A baggage claim form must be obtained from the airport.

## Local Currency

The unit of currency is the Jordanian Dinar (JD)

## Local Time

GMT + 3 hours

## Electricity

Jordan has a very mixed approach to electrical sockets – European two- and three-pin plugs as well as British-style square three-pin plugs are all used across the country. Frequency is variable across the country so don't be surprised if things charge more slowly or aren't as powerful in some places.

## ATM Availability

ATM machines, accepting most major credit cards, are available in Amman, but are very scarce across the rest of the country. Credit cards are accepted in most of the hotels and larger restaurants, especially in the tourist areas of Petra and the Dead Sea. Traveler's cheques are not advised.

## Suggested Reading & Maps

### Suggested reading

- Lonely Planet, Jordan (Jul 2018, 10th edition)
- Lonely Planet, Jordan (Jul 2018, 10th edition) Lori Henry, Jordan: A Different Middle East (2011)
- Marguerite van Geldermalsen, Married to a Bedouin (2010)

### Maps

Although you won't need them, if you'd like any maps of the destination, you can obtain some in advance from The Map Shop: [www.themapshop.co.uk](http://www.themapshop.co.uk)

## TRIP NOTE VALIDITY

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These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred.



In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

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